



Air pollution - an invisible threat.

Sue Huyton

CONCERNS ABOUT AIR POLLUTION ARE NOT NEW!



Progress, albeit slow progress!

1273 Use of coal prohibited in London as being "prejudicial to health"

And more

The Great Smog of London in 1952 is thought to have killed more than
10,000 people



Air pollution remains at hazardous levels in many cities but it is invisible and remains a hidden threat. We also now know that the health impact of air quality is more serious.

In London, the introduction of the Ultra Low Emission Zone, which charges drivers of more polluting vehicles, was attributed with a drop of 33% of toxic air pollution in the first six months after the measure came into place

Despite this, the capital still has some of the highest pollution levels in Europe . Nationally (House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee 2010) concluded air pollution contributed to up to 36,000 premature deaths a year)

GREATER MANCHESTER

- Polluted air contributes to 1,200 premature deaths across the region
- Across all Greater Manchester's (GM) ten local authorities there are unsafe and illegal levels of air pollution,
- 152 stretches of road having levels of nitrogen dioxide in breach of legal limits
- Private cars are responsible for 80% of total miles driven
- All ten Local Authority areas in the region have death rates of more than 4% each year that can be attributed to poor air quality
- Over 72,900 people are registered with chronic obstructive disease (COPD) and 217,230 people are registered with asthma.
- Costing up to £500 million every year – toxic air is expensive and bad for business. It is costing millions of pounds and putting an unnecessary burden on health services.

2021 HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR AIR QUALITY?



- 11 years delay in addressing illegal levels of air pollution
- GM still has illegal and unsafe levels of air pollution in all 10 LAs
- Contributing to 132,000 premature deaths across Greater Manchester.
- £5.5 billion cost to the local economy.
- Final plans for GM Clean Air Zone announced.
- Brexit and delay in Environment Bill.
- COVID-19 challenging health and economic environment = increase in health inequality.

THE LEGACY OF 2020

- 100,000 deaths to date from COVID-19
 - Extreme economic hardship
 - Pandemic brought with it further delays on progress towards cleaner air across the UK
 - Inner London is the only city in the UK that has restricted access to the most polluting vehicles on the most polluted roads.
 - Locally consultation on the CAZ was delayed -2024
 - Social injustice and a tension between Whitehall and the Town Halls was heightened and highlighted
- But covid restrictions brought
 - Cleaner air
 - Increased walking and cycling
 - Changes in working patterns for some sectors
 - Transformational change is possible where there is a political will
 - Resources and funding can be made available to facilitate this change
 - Will to build back better
 - Ultimately it was and is a health crisis that has brought the world to its knees
 - Raised the profile of the Regional Governance structures



ELLA'S STORY



A LANDMARK CASE



Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah: Air pollution a factor in girl's death, inquest finds



The Daily Telegraph

Toxic air pollution exceeded legal levels in 800 roadside locations last year



The government are under renewed pressure to explain how they will reduce air pollution and protect the people most at risk.

- Campaigning for tough new legal targets for pollutants through the Environment Bill .
- Policy report outlining recommendations.
- .Guidance for HCPs on how pollution is affects people with lung conditions.
- Shift towards holistic strategic public health approach rather than compliance.
- Better air quality monitoring.

Photo: Local real time air quality monitoring outside a health centre.

GM Metro Mayoral Elections

- **Call for the more stringent measures to be introduced in the pollution hotspots across all Local Authorities.**
- **Incentives for walking and cycling, as well as for public transport and cleaner vehicles.** We need not just cleaner vehicles but fewer vehicles on our roads.
- **Demonstrable progress to reach WHO levels for PM2.5 by 2030.**
- **Targeted action to reduce pollution outside schools, hospitals, and care homes** to protect those most at risk.
- **Clean air plans should be integrated with regional health plans** to improve respiratory care and take into the account the impact of COVID-19

USEFUL LINKS

Key stats and policy evidence

Lots of useful information on the BLF website at this link

Clean Air Campaign

Further information available on the following links:

- [Key statistics for Greater Manchester \(PDF, 2MB\)](#)
- [Asthma UK and the British Lung Foundation's consultation response \(PDF, 138KB\)](#)
- [Policy evidence from the local area \(PDF, 1.2MB\)](#)
- [Air pollution levels in Greater Manchester](#)
- [Greater Manchester's plans for a clean air zone](#)

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH



I'd love to hear more about air quality where you live, what happening already or any ideas you have.

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or more info on campaigning join us [Greater Manchester Air Quality Campaigns](#)