

Public Health in Partnership

Edition 2

The Champs Public Health Collaborative exists to improve the health and wellbeing of Cheshire and Merseyside's population of 2.7 million. Led by Cheshire and Merseyside local authority directors of public health, with the ICB director of population health for over 20 years, we have worked together on priority areas that will shift the dial.

Headlines

Political support for reducing health inequalities through All Together Fairer in Cheshire and Warrington and the Liverpool City Region. Read [more](#)

Over 11,000 children helped with dedicated supervised toothbrushing programme. Read [more](#)

Champs Collaborative featured by LGA as case study for good practice in tackling health inequalities. Read [more](#)

Programme Spotlight - All Together Fairer

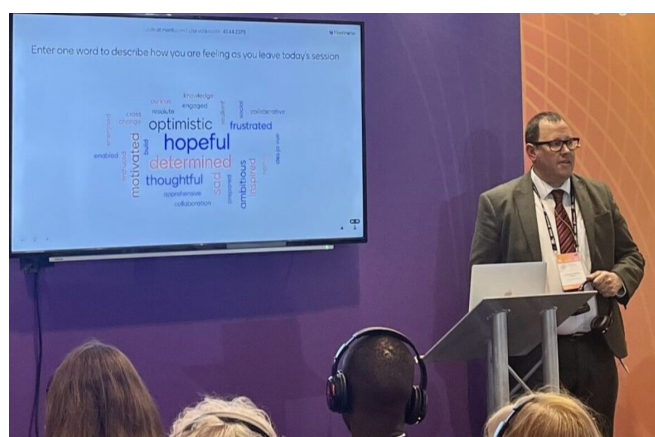
Over recent months, the [All Together Fairer programme](#) has been harnessing relationships across Cheshire and Merseyside – locally, nationally, and even internationally – to advocate for change and showcase the subregion's unique collaborative model for tackling health inequalities.

A key focus of the programme is reducing child and family poverty, an issue that continues to rise across the subregion. Independent analysis shows more than 111,000 children under 16 in Cheshire and Merseyside are now living in poverty, with 64% from working households – figures above the national average.



Working as one to build a fairer,
healthier Cheshire and Merseyside

Cheshire and Merseyside's work was featured at the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference in Liverpool in July, where the Collaborative hosted a dedicated workshop in the Innovation Zone. Professor Matt Ashton (Director of Public Health for Liverpool) and Nasima Patel (Director of the subregion's DCS Change and Integration Programme) presented on the region's unique model of collaboration. They shared examples including Warrington's Poverty Truth Commission and the mobile food pantries in St Helens, which aim to reduce stigma and improve access to support. Delegates also discussed findings from the [Collaborative's independent Rapid Situational Analysis on Child and Family Poverty](#) and took part in a live engagement exercise – leaving the session feeling "determined", "optimistic" and "hopeful".



In the same month, the Collaborative welcomed Clare Brookes, Head of the National Child Poverty Unit, and her team to Cheshire and Merseyside. They met families in Sefton to hear first-hand experiences and joined a roundtable with regional leaders, who called for greater investment in early years and family services, underpinned by protected public health funding and full NHS pay award coverage.

The Collaborative also hosted the Korea Institute of Child Care and Education (KICCE) exchanging insights on data monitoring, local strategies, and the importance of place-based collaboration.

In partnership with the Heseltine Institute at the University of Liverpool, a new policy briefing – [Tackling child and family poverty through a place-based lens](#) – highlighted the power of systems-based approaches to drive structural change. The work also featured in The MJ article '[Championing the fight against poverty](#)', recognising Cheshire and Merseyside's leadership in addressing this urgent challenge. Together, these efforts demonstrate how Cheshire and Merseyside is turning partnership into progress – using collaboration, evidence and lived experience to build a fairer future for all children and families.



During the [Institute of Health Equity Network's third annual conference](#), the Champs Public Health Collaborative proudly hosted a 30-minute inspirational session titled "Let's Be All Together Inspired." Led by Professor Matt Ashton (Director of Public Health for Liverpool and Co-Chair of the All Together Fairer Board) the session highlighted positive work happening across Cheshire and Merseyside that is driving meaningful progress in health equity.

Prior to this session the Collaborative hosted a private breakfast meeting with Sir Michael Marmot where Steve Rotheram (Mayor of the Liverpool City Region) and Councillor Louise Gittins (Leader for Cheshire West and Chester Council and Chair of the Cheshire and Warrington Joint Committee) signalled their commitment to using All Together Fairer as a framework for tackling inequalities in their devolved areas.

Events

Watch now: Champs Collaborative All Together Smoke Free event - Fairer Lives, Healthier Communities: Ending Smoking Together

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