



# Exploring Our Futures - Bulletin #2

## What does the future hold?

The Exploring our Futures project is preparing local services for the future, by looking at what health and care in Lambeth and Southwark might be like in 2030. The project is a collaboration between local organisations, instigated and funded by Guy's and St Thomas' Charity. Anyone interested in the future of care and health in the area can get involved.

In this event we looked at the wider population and environmental drivers that will shape the health and social care system in Lambeth and Southwark over the next 30 years. The world is changing fast. Rapid technological advance is influencing every aspect of our lives. The rise of social media brings new power to consumers and is changing how we relate to each other. The wider economic and political environment is uncertain as economic power shifts from West to East, the Euro is under question, oil and other reserves start to run out and global warming begins to impact. Within Lambeth and Southwark the underlying trends in the health and wellbeing are also concerning. These include:-

- high rates of obesity and in some social groups, persistently high rates of smoking
- less stability at work, with particular challenges for young people who experience high rates of youth unemployment
- less affordable housing - with changes to housing benefit potentially having a significant impact locally
- 50% rise in single person households and just under a 50% rise in lone parent households in Lambeth and Southwark
- significant growth in the numbers of people with chronic disease and disability with the number of people over the age of 85 expected to grow by 72% by 2035.

There is uncertainty about the social makeup of the population in Lambeth and Southwark in the future due to the degree population mobility and the influence of the position of London as a global city. Even with this uncertainty, the curbs on public sector spending expected over the next 10 years suggest a significant gap between funding levels and demand. For example, in social care, current trends would suggest that within five years the entire local authority budget could be consumed by adult and children's social services. Against this backdrop attendees identified some key opportunities and challenges for Lambeth and Southwark in the future:-

### Opportunities identified

- intelligent more mobile technology could empower service users as well as support better and more consistent professional decision making
- data can provide new insight and enable more personalised and proactive services, particularly for those with greatest needs
- a more informed and less deferential population could drive service innovation
- as traditional professional and organisational demarcations break down, innovative social partnerships across Lambeth and Southwark could begin to tackle social and health problems at source, particularly if primary care is engaged more fully in local health improvement
- the 'burning platform' created by the short/medium term financial position as well as a huge hurdle to be overcome could also be used to drive innovation

### Future Challenges: Risks noted

- if mobile technology becomes the lynchpin of service delivery there is a need to ensure the digital divide is bridged and does not grow further
- there is a risk of more atomised boroughs and greater inequalities
- the scale of the financial hurdle could drive not innovation but a sense of helplessness - services are cut not transformed.

Visit the project website  
for various videos and slides

<b>STRATEGY INSIGHT EVENT</b> 29 March 2012 (afternoon)	<b>HORIZON SCANNING SESSION</b> 4 May 2012 (morning)	<b>OUR POSSIBLE FUTURES CONFERENCE</b> 24 May 2012 (all day)	<b>FUTURES TESTING EVENT</b> 11 July 2012 (all day)
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