

# OUR VISION FOR THE NEXT GOVERNMENT

We are at a critical time for health in the UK, with the nation's health getting poorer and inequalities widening. We're calling on the next government to implement preventative measures to build a healthier and more productive future for all.

## Health is wealth: tackling inequalities

Health inequalities are causing disease, poverty, and mortality rates to rise. Tackling the drivers of ill health should be at the centre of the next government's agenda. We propose:

- Investing in the Public Health Grant, which has been cut by 26%, to prioritise prevention services locally.
- Lifting the two-child benefit cap and creating a national child poverty strategy to help hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty.
- Expanding access to nutritious food for primary and secondary school children through the Free School Meal Programme (FSM), National School Breakfast Programme, and the Healthy Start Voucher scheme.
- Implementing the planned Tobacco and Vapes Bill to create a smokefree generation and reduce preventable deaths.
- Introducing Minimum Unit Pricing and empowering local leaders to restrict advertising to help minimise alcohol-related harm.
- Building a food system where healthy foods are affordable and easily available.





## Utilising the wider public health workforce

To reduce pressure on the NHS we need a wealth of people doing public health. RSPH has identified 1.5m individuals within the wider public health workforce to achieve this. We propose:

- Having a public health qualified person in every setting to positively impact over 5 million people annually and bring prevention into the heart of our communities.
- Creating a national workforce strategy to fully harness the wider public health workforce to ensure a joined-up approach, tying together industry, public health and the wider workforce.

## Creating healthy places to work

More people than ever are leaving the workforce due to ill health, which is costing the economy. By improving the health of the workplace, employers can realise the benefits for all. We propose:

- Incentivising businesses to provide core wellbeing services at work, occupational sick pay and occupational health support.
- Providing employees with flexible working arrangements, improved pay, and better training for line managers on supporting staff who have health conditions.
- Ensuring people who aren't well enough to work aren't being sanctioned, stigmatised or plunged into poverty.

