

Public Health Spending by London Boroughs

March 2020

Introduction

Public Health grant allocations have been published by the Department of Health and Social Care. These allocate £0.66bn of funding to London boroughs. This note sets this figure in context relative to the size of London's population and explains how the level of spending on public health by London boroughs has changed in recent years.

Context: spending on public health by London boroughs since 2013/14

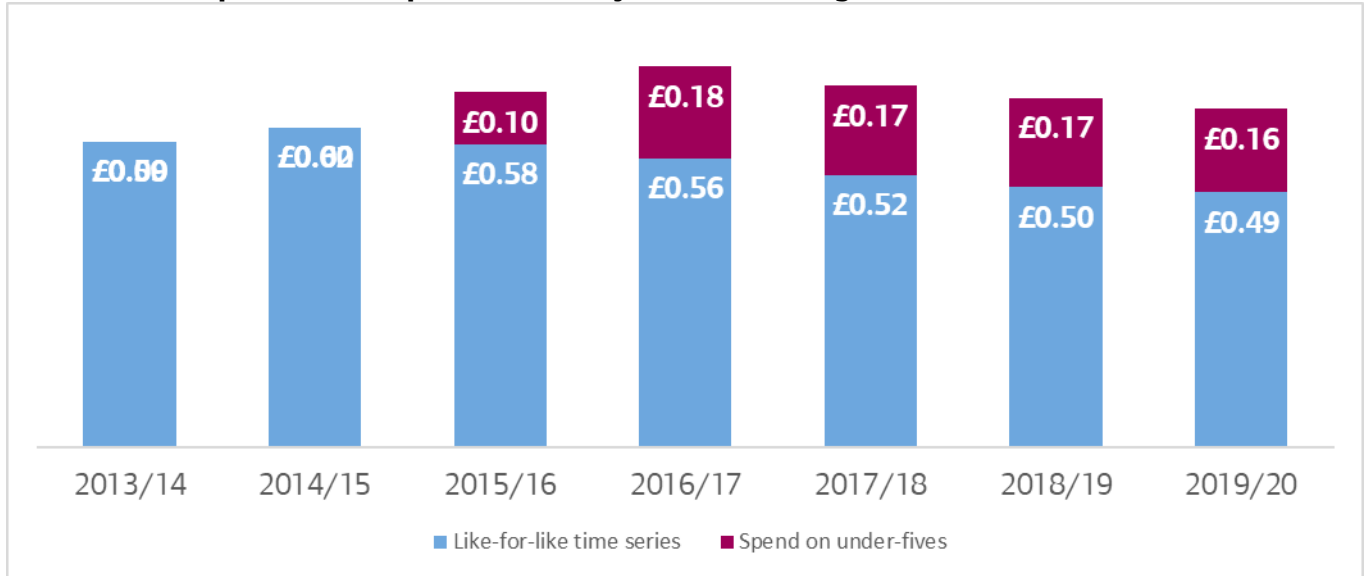
Responsibility for public health was devolved to local authorities in 2013/14. They are now responsible for improving the health of their local population and for public health services including most sexual health services and services aimed at reducing drug and alcohol misuse ([Heath 2014](#)).

In October 2015, further responsibilities and additional funding for children under the age of five were transferred to local authorities ([NCB 2016](#)).

The chart below shows how total spending on public health by London boroughs has changed since 2013/14, dividing spend into a like-for-like component, which excludes spend on children under five, and the additional spending on under-fives from 2015/16 (using the method in [King's Fund 2018](#)).

This shows that in real terms, like-for-like spending has fallen by 17 per cent since 2013/14. Including spend on under fives, real spending has fallen by 11 per cent since 2016/17. Equivalent figures for the rest of England are 15 per cent and 12 per cent.

Net revenue expenditure on public health by London boroughs, 2013/14 to 2019/20 (£bn)



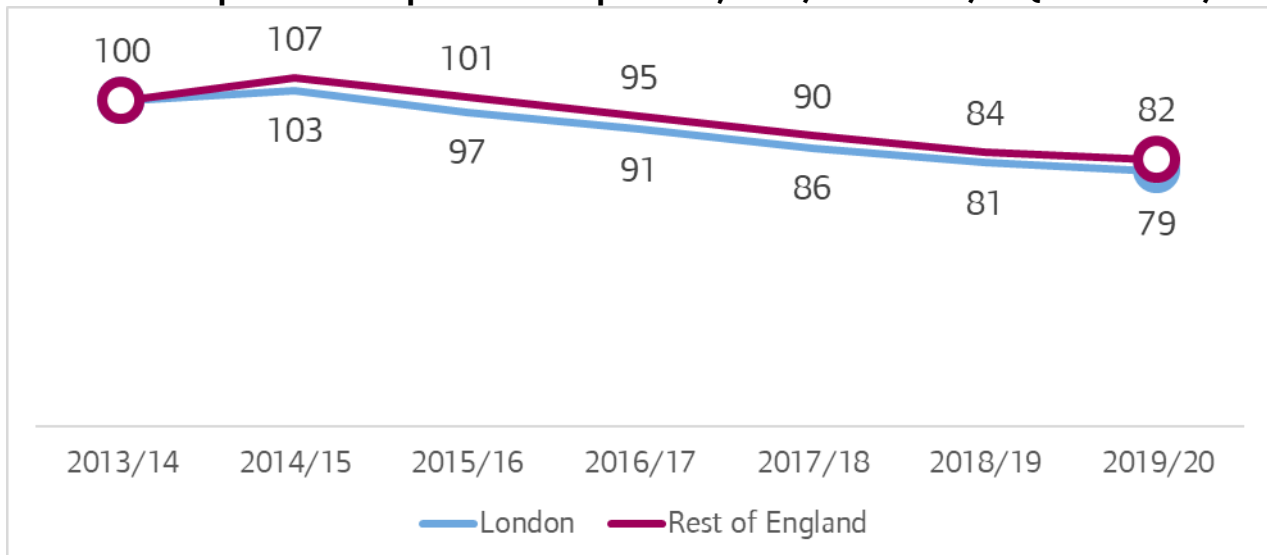
Source: Analysis of local authority revenue, expenditure and finance, 2013/14 to 2019/20, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP March 2020 (Budget), HM Treasury

Notes: data is in 2019/20 prices. 2019/20 figures not final.

London has higher per-capita spending on public health than the rest of England. In 2019/20 London boroughs have budgeted to spend 39 per cent more per head; £55 versus £40.

Comparing how real spend per head has changed since 2013/14, in London it has fallen by 21 per cent on a like-for-like basis, compared to 18 per cent in the rest of England (see chart below). Both follow a similar pattern.

Net revenue expenditure on public health per head, 2013/14 to 2019/20 (Index: 2013/14=100)



Source: Analysis of local authority revenue, expenditure and finance, 2013/14 to 2019/20, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP March 2020 (Budget), HM Treasury; ONS and GLA population projections; ONS population estimates

Notes: data is in 2019/20 prices. Excludes new spend on under fives from 2015/16 on. 2019/20 figures not final.

2020/21 Public Health Grant Allocation

In 2020/21, London boroughs will be allocated £0.66bn of public health funding through the public health grant, compared to £0.63bn in 2019/20.

The Department of Health and Social Care have provided estimates of what this funding means in per head terms, using 2016-based population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics.

The table below compares the 2019/20 and 2020/21 figures in real terms, using both the ONS population projections and our own GLA Population Projections, which the City Intelligence Unit regard as a better estimate of London's population.

Regardless of the choice of population denominator, while funding per head is higher in London, the real per head change in funding between 2019/20 and 2020/21 is lower than in the rest of England. Using ONS population projections, real funding per head will grow by 2.1 per cent in the rest of England, versus 1.3 per cent in London.

Table comparing 2019/20 and 2020/21 public health grant allocations, using ONS and GLA population projections for London, and ONS population projections for the rest of England

	London	Rest of England
2019/20		
Cash terms	£0.6	£2.5
Real (2019/20 prices)	£0.6	£2.5
Real per head (ONS projections)	£69.7	£52.9
Real per head (GLA projections)	£70.9	
2020/21		
Cash terms	£0.7	£2.6
Real (2019/20 prices)	£0.6	£2.6
Real per head (ONS projections)	£70.5	£54.0
Real per head (GLA projections)	£71.7	
Percentage change		
Cash terms	4.2%	4.7%
Real (2019/20 prices)	2.2%	2.7%
Real per head (ONS projections)	1.3%	2.1%
Real per head (GLA projections)	1.2%	

Source: [Department of Health and Social Care Public Health Grants to Local Authorities: 2020 to 2021](#); GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP March 2020 (Budget), HM Treasury; GLA population projections

CITY INTELLIGENCE

Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queens Walk
London SE1 2AA

Tel 020 7983 4000
Minicom 020 7983 4000
Email Spencer.Thompson@london.gov.uk

MAYOR OF LONDON