

**Your invitation to an  
'open space' event on  
20th October 2009**

**Venue: The DW  
Stadium, Wigan**

**Timing: 9.30am for 10am start  
till 4pm including lunch**

**From social injustice to  
health, wealth and  
wellbeing for all in the  
North West: how can we  
work together to make  
this a reality within a  
generation?**

## **What's it about?**

Closing the gap between the health and wellbeing of those who are the most and the least well off in our communities in the North West has proved difficult even when the financial environment appeared more favourable than it is now. Many of the decisions taken in the past have inadvertently created some of the health problems that we face today. So closing this gap in a generation is a major challenge.

Tackling these challenges is not only a matter of social justice as described by the Global Commission on the social determinants of health, but is crucial for building a solid, sustainable economy with a healthy workforce and functioning, capable, self-reliant communities. These are not just issues for the North West but affect the whole country, although not to the same degree as in some parts of the North West. In December 2009 a major national review on how to close the health gap in a generation will produce its recommendations. (See <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/gheg/marmotreview>) The commitment in the North West is to feed into this review and, importantly, to hit the ground running with implementing its conclusions. If there is to be real and sustained change, a radical rethink is required, based on maximum participation from everyone with something to contribute and on creating new conversations about how best to work together. People involved so far in planning for this event are asking:

- How do we involve the whole community to enjoy life and live longer?
- How can we give every child born in the North West the best possible start?
- How can we support public demand for social justice?
- How can we best beat the impact of the recession?
- How do we move from theory and evidence about the gap to realistic local action?

We want to find the people in the North West who want to make a difference to health inequalities, help to connect them and ensure that we have used the latest evidence to  
**MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



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## Organisations involved so far in planning the event:

4NW

Centre for Local Economic Strategies

Churches' Officer for the North West

Department of Health North West

Environment Agency

Food Standards Agency North W

Groundwork NW

Harvest Housing

Manufacturing Institute

Natural England

NHS Central Lancashire

NHS Cumbria

NHS Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale

NHS Knowsley

NHS North West

North West Development Agency

Oldham Community Services

Oldham Council

Our Life North West

Rochdale Council

Stockport Council

University College London (Review of Health Inequalities in England)

Tameside Council

Trafford Council

Voluntary Sector NW

University of Central Lancashire

Lancaster University

## Who else should attend?

These are such critical issues, affecting every aspect of life in the North West.

We need your help to ensure that as wide a range of people as possible, across all communities, hear about this event.

Please pass the invitation onto as many people as you can.

## Why should I come?

If these questions and issues matter to you, come to this unique event where you will join others in setting an ambitious agenda for action. The people who come will be a cross section of people who care about closing the health gap.

## What will happen on the day?

You will not be creating 'to-do' lists for other people – but being a part of making things happen. We will be working in 'Open Space' – a method used all around the world as a way to hold better, more productive meetings. There will not be any speakers; the people who come to the day will set the agenda for themselves. So people who expect a highly managed, carefully controlled day may find the format unusual. Most of the time will be spent in flexible small groups; discussion will focus on the topics people suggest; every discussion will produce a report. Everyone there will participate in prioritising ideas from these reports. Action groups will form to take these forward after the event.

## How do I book a place?

To request your place email Pam Wright:  
[p.wright@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:p.wright@lancaster.ac.uk)

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Ruth Hussey**

**Regional Director of Public Health/Senior Medical Director**



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