

Cllr Ben Hayhurst and Jarlath O'Connell  
Inner North East London

Date: 8 November 2022

Dear JHOSC Chairs

**The Mayor's Six Tests – refresh**

I wanted to alert you to changes that we have made to the Mayor's Six Tests. I've been pleased to see that the tests, introduced in 2017, have continued to play an important role in challenging the NHS to ensure that any major changes to our hospitals and other health services result in the best quality of care for all Londoners. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, several reports have highlighted the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on people from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds. Many of these reports have also shown that this has only served to exacerbate health inequalities across London and the UK as whole.

The Mayor of London responded to this by commissioning a report from the Nuffield Trust at the beginning of the year. The [report](#) has taken an in-depth look at the available evidence and highlights the ways in which the Health Inequalities strand of the Mayor's Six Tests (HI Test), could be strengthened to better address disparities in access to, experiences of, and outcomes from healthcare services across our city. The report also recognises recent changes to the health and care system such as those introduced by the new Health and Care Act 2022, as well as other approaches the NHS has put in place to tackle ethnic disparities in healthcare. Leveraging the provisions of these new approaches, the report proposes a number of recommendations that have informed the Mayor's revisions to the HI test.

The Mayor's revisions to the HI test have been set out in his [response to the report](#) and has been sent to colleagues in the NHS. The revised HI test includes an additional supplementary question that highlights the role of the NHS as an anchor institution. In view of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, the Mayor recognises that the NHS can play a significant role in addressing wider of determinants of health, such as employment and as a significant procurer of goods and services. The NHS is a major employer in local communities, and by procuring locally, can enhance the local economy. The NHS is

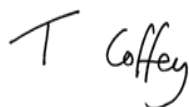
# GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY

already participating fully in the Mayor's Academies Programme, which will help Londoners to get the support they need to reskill to access good jobs and skills opportunities. The programme will target support to people from the most disadvantaged groups, who have been disproportionately affected by Covid, into entry level jobs as a first step towards a new career.

Beyond tackling health inequalities, the Mayor's response also sets out changes to the Hospital Beds strand of the Six Tests. The revised beds test recognises new opportunities afforded through the use of digital healthcare and sets out conditions that the NHS will want to reflect on when deciding on the number of beds to include in a healthcare facility. The Mayor has made these changes to ensure that London's healthcare facilities are built to an excellent standard. The changes will also ensure that our hospitals and care facilities are adequately equipped to deal with large scale health emergencies such as pandemics, while also being able to provide the best quality of care for all Londoners at all times.

I'm grateful to all those colleagues in the NHS who have actively contributed to this work. I hope the changes will be welcomed by those working on major services changes across London's health system. I believe the refreshed six tests will serve to champion improvements in the delivery of health and care services for all Londoners going forward.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Tom Coffey OBE**

**Senior Health Advisor to the Mayor of London**

GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY

City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE

Mobile: 07971167731

[London.gov.uk](https://www.london.gov.uk)

[|www.london.gov.uk](https://www.london.gov.uk)