

Lead Exposure and Poisoning in the UK



Key Messages

President Biden on lead from pipes “a clear and present danger to our children’s health”:

- The American Jobs Plan includes \$45 billion to fix lead pipes
- The UK has an estimated 6 million homes with lead pipes

but, pipes are not the worst risk, it’s lead paint, plus other sources:

- 82% of UK homes were built before lead paint was banned in 1992

Unicef estimate that between 180,000 and 280,000 UK children have elevated lead levels

Health impacts include:

- Reproductive – miscarriage, pre-term birth, low birth weight, delayed puberty
- Neurological - IQ loss, dementia, decreased hearing
- Psychological - problem behaviours, ADHD, autism, depression, anxiety, panic
- Cardiovascular – heart attack, stroke, increased blood pressure
- Renal – Reduced kidney function

This costs an estimated £8 billion each year – education, health care, lost earnings

In the USA, the CDC say: **Lead poisoning is 100% preventable**

What we would like from you

Raise with your party conference and/or Health and Social Care Working Group

Write to Jo Churchill and/or Sajid Javid and ask for:

Funding for a survey on the prevalence of elevated blood lead concentrations

Implementation of the recommendations in the LEICSS annual report

Inclusion of lead poisoning prevention in health policies:

- NHS Long Term Plan
- “Giving every child the best start in life” programme
- “Laying the Foundations for Healthy Homes and Buildings” white paper

Periodic biomonitoring programmes; as found in the France and USA

Help get access to APPGs - Healthy Homes and Buildings, etc

Endorse the Scaffell Project (Screen Children At-Risk for Elevated Lead Levels)

Join the LEAPP Alliance (Lead Exposure and Poisoning Prevention)

LEAPP Alliance (<https://leadsafeworld.com/leapp/>)

The mission of the alliance is to use our collective knowledge, experience and skill to promote lead poisoning prevention in the UK.

Includes 1 former government minister, 4 professors, 3 researchers, 3 parents, and others