

Latest research, news and events

Project of the month feature

**Global Action Plan's Ben Hudson and Hannah Battram explain why Key Messages around air pollution requires a targeted approach**

[Global Action Plan](#) are leading a partnership to design and demonstrate the use of a suite of up-to-date, impactful (accessible) science-based materials with and for 1) children and young people to help them better understand and act on air pollution, and 2) groups of adults with different needs and circumstances in respect to air pollution knowledge.

stand and act on air pollution, and 2) groups of adults with different needs and circumstances in respect to air pollution knowledge.

Recognising the fact that a “one size fits all” approach to air pollution education will not work, the team (Global Action Plan and a multi-disciplinary academic steering committee) conducted a review of grey and academic literature, opinion polls and a public attitude survey relating to air pollution and air quality. The aim was to understand which audiences are most vulnerable to air pollution, both in terms of their exposure and vulnerability to pollutants, and (where possible) to identify their current attitudes and behaviours in relation to air pollution. From this a set of priority sub-audience groups were identified. The team then set about working with co-design panels made up of representatives of each sub-group to develop materials that respond to their unique situation, needs and knowledge. For the adult audience sub-groups, it was apparent that tailored information was the best approach and the [Clean Air Planner](#) was subsequently created. Adjacent to this, GAP worked with 60 GPs (and allied health professionals) from across the country to create a suite of training resources and materials for GPs to engage with vulnerable patients on the topic of air pollution (read London Borough of Islington case study [here](#), (see [Knowledge Hub](#)). For the children audience sub-groups, the team created curriculum-linked resources for schools (Key Stage 1, 2, & 3), as well as materials for out of school groups (age 8-11) and independent use (age 10-14).

Domestic Burning Workshop 28th June 2023

The UKRI Clean Air Programme will be holding a one day workshop for invitees from across the UK and Ireland to review evidence around the sources and impacts of fine particulate matter from domestic burning. **View the full programme [here](#).**

Sessions: **Sources, Impacts and Behaviour, Solutions and Policy**

Speakers: **Professor John Wenger, Dr Gary Fuller, Dr Rohit Chakraborty, Dr Karen Exley, Dr John Eakins and Dr James Heydon.**

**Birmingham Clean Air Network's Conference 5th—6th July 2023**

Full programme now available [here](#)

Portal

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Gary Fuller

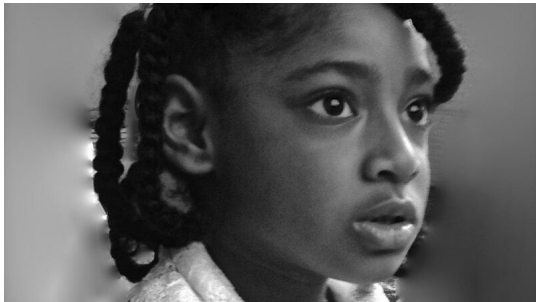


Stephen Holgate



Suzanne Bartington

Update from the Champions



Ella's Story

by

Professor Sir Stephen Holgate

I attended a unique meeting on Strategic Litigation and Public Health convened at the School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool, where the role and framing of public health evidence in strategic litigation cases was debated. Public health professionals have particular expertise, role and interest in generating and providing evidence on a wide range of issues, which is fundamentally important for litigation and community mobilisation to further strengthening partnership with public health and lawyers. They specifically wanted to hear about the successful second inquest of [Ella Adoo Kissi-Debrah](#), who tragically died from asthma in London aged only 9 years after suffering asthma for under 3 years.

It was in November 2020 when I presented the scientific and clinical case that led to a change in Ella's death certificate to include air pollution as a key contributor to her asthma. This was the first time air pollution had been stated as a cause of death on a UK death certificate. Through the untiring efforts of her mother, Rosamund, Ella's tragedy has been highly influential both in this country and overseas in showing how air pollution affects a single susceptible and vulnerable individual. So much so, that Philip Barlow KC, Assistant Coroner Inner South London, stated during the course of the inquest that the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern and that in his opinion there was a risk that future deaths could occur, unless action is

taken. He therefore issued a [Prevention of Future Death Report](#) that stated:

- The national limits for Particulate Matter are set at a level far higher than the WHO guidelines. The evidence at the inquest was that there is no safe level for Particulate Matter and that the WHO guidelines should be seen as minimum requirements. Legally binding targets based on WHO guidelines would reduce the number of deaths from air pollution in the UK.
- There is a low public awareness of the sources of information (such as UK-Air website) about national and local pollution levels. Greater awareness would help individuals reduce their personal exposure to air pollution. It was clear from the evidence at the inquest that publicising this information is an issue that needs to be addressed by national as well as local government. The information must be sufficiently detailed, and this is likely to require enlargement of the capacity to monitor air quality, for example by increasing the number of air quality sensors.
- The adverse effects of air pollution on health are not being sufficiently communicated to patients and their carers by medical and nursing professionals. The evidence at the inquest was that this needs to be addressed by medical schools and health profession organisations.

This case has had and continues to have great impact worldwide in raising awareness of the dangers of air pollution and what needs to be done to deal with this public health crisis. It also emphasises how powerful a voice single individuals can be in providing a catalyst for change. With this as an example, on June 12th 2023, it is noteworthy that US youths are taking the state of Montana to court for supporting the fossil-fuel industry rather than protecting the environment and their health. [Held v. Montana](#) is the first of its kind to go to trial in the United States, and the latest example of frustrated citizens worldwide taking legal action to force their governments to act on air pollution and climate change.

Update from the Regional Champions



Heather Price

Neil Rowland

Paul Lewis

Anil Namdeo

Doug Booker



Clean Air Team Away Day



From left to right; Sonia Emslie, Susan Jenkins, Heather Price, Paul Lewis, Doug Booker, Stephen Holgate, Gary Fuller, Suzanne Bartington, Anil Namdeo and Neil Rowland.

The Clean Air Champions, Regional Champions and Hub Team all met for the first time at an away day at the National Oceanography Centre (NOC), Southampton on the 16th May 2023. The event provided the team with the opportunity to collaborate on the progress of the Clean Air Programme, plan future events and map out activities until the end of the funding period; 2025.

Glasgow Smogware project uses dust pollution to create thought provoking pottery

Heather Price joined ceramists Ruth Impey and City of Glasgow College artists to celebrate Clean Air Day with “Smogware” pottery, tea sets made with dust particles collected from around the city. Dirt particles harvested from car brakes, engines and tyres were used to stain the ceramic glaze, making it safe and providing a tangible reminder of air pollution issues every time you sipped your tea. [More information here.](#)

Dr Heather Price talks to 2,000 Scottish school pupils about improving air quality

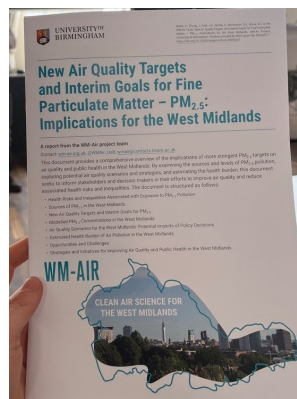
As part of Glasgow Science Centre’s Curious About Festival, Heather delivered an on-line session to 2,000 school pupils on ‘What can YOU do about air pollution’. The talk offered various ways in which pupils could reduce air pollution and encouraged pupils to consider walking or cycling to school instead of travelling by car.

Heather explained: *“I wanted to show young people that there are small changes they can make to their everyday lives to improve the air they breathe as well as highlight how, by working together, we can make even bigger changes”.*

The talk also included the work Heather did to raise awareness among the young people of Mukuru, Nairobi, Kenya, where air pollution has become a serious issue.

Heather said *“It was fantastic to have an opportunity to engage so many young people about the topic I’m so passionate about.”* Listen to the full talk [here.](#)

West Midlands Clean Air Day Event: New PM2.5 Targets & Implications



Suzanne Bartington and Douglas Booker joined the WM-Air Team at The Exchange on Clean Air Day. The implications of the new targets for PM2.5 across the

West Midlands was the focus of the discussions as well as an opportunity to network with other air pollution colleagues and experts. Visit [here](#) to find out more.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY £3k Baverstock Bursary travel scheme for Early Career Researchers

Visit [Clean Air Programme Funding opportunity](#) and to complete an application form.