



## Impact of Indoor Air Quality on Children's Health across the Life Course

### Help us improve the air they breathe

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) is seeking your help to produce an evidence based report on the impact of indoor air pollution on children's health in the UK. Please consider making a donation to provide vital funds for advancing our work in this area of child health - making a real difference to the lives of children and their families here in the UK and across the world.

#### Background

In 2016 the RCP and RCPCH published the [Every Breath We Take: Impact of air pollution](#) report which examined the impact of exposure to air pollution across the course of a lifetime. The report starkly set out the dangerous impact that air pollution is currently having on our nation's health, with 40,000 deaths annually attributed to exposure to outdoor air pollution and a minimum of 9,000 deaths due to indoor air pollution in the UK. These figures are only the tip of the iceberg when looking at human illness driven by pollution. According to a recent Lancet Commission, Air Pollution is now [the number 1 public health challenge worldwide](#).

Both the RCP and the Lancet Commission reports also highlighted that indoor air pollution is often overlooked, and factors such as location of buildings in areas of poor outdoor air quality, building design, the building itself, its ventilation, the materials from which it is built and those with which it is decorated, faulty boilers, open fires as well as fittings, furnishings, cleaning and personal

care products can cause poor air quality in our homes, workspaces and schools.

The possible health consequences of exposure to poor indoor air quality include asthma, respiratory irritation, effects on the heart, and cancer, as well as headache, tiredness and loss of concentration. The quality of the air indoors in these spaces is important because it is here that our children, from foetus through childhood, spend the majority of their time. We need to take action now and protect our future generations.

In April 2017 the RCPCH hosted a workshop [Better homes, better air, better health](#) bringing together professionals across research, industry and the third sector. The workshop highlighted the need to strengthen understanding of the relationship between indoor air pollution exposure and health impacts, identify solutions to help tackle and reduce indoor generated air pollution and communicate this information clearly to the public.

**What next?** In light of this, the RCPCH is proposing to undertake a 17-month project to produce an evidence based report on the impact of indoor air pollution on children's health in the UK.

The project aims to start in the first half of 2018, and a working group will be established to commission systematic evidence reviews and drive the development of the report with the ultimate aim to raise awareness of the issues affecting the health of children exposed to indoor air pollution, generated outdoors and indoors, and develop evidence based solutions.



## How you can get involved

We need to raise £140,000 to carry out this important work. By contributing you will be acknowledged on the final report and have the knowledge that you helped enable this vital piece of work to happen. You will also have the opportunity to be instrumental in disseminating this important information and implementing recommendations across the UK. So far 4 UK Medical Charities have pledged to help; can you please?

If you wish to make a donation, as an individual or organisation, or require further information please contact:

**Angela Mensah**  
Research Grants Manager  
The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health  
5-11 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8SH  
Tel: 020 7092 6165  
[Angela.Mensah@rcpch.ac.uk](mailto:Angela.Mensah@rcpch.ac.uk)

## About the RCPCH

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health is a charity with a mission to transform child health through knowledge, innovation and expertise. To achieve this we need the help of our supporters; people like you, who care as much as we do about the welfare of children.

We are grateful for the support of our partners assisting with establishment of the working party.

**Thank you,**  
**Stephen Holgate CBE FMedSci.**  
**Chair of the RCPCH Indoor Air Quality Working Group.**

