The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) is an independent, multi-disciplinary organisation, incorporated by Royal Charter, dedicated to the promotion and protection of collective human health and well-being. Through advocacy, mediation, empowerment, knowledge and practice we advise on policy development, provide education and training services, encourage scientific research, disseminate information and certify products, training centres and processes.

We have over 6,000 members and almost 100,000 people take our qualifications each year in subjects such as food hygiene, health and safety, nutrition and health improvement. We also run conferences in food safety, hospital hygiene, water, infection control, occupational medicine and nutrition for the elderly. Our publications include the journals Public Health and Perspectives in Public Health. We work in all areas of public health policy, and we link with many other organisations. We run an accreditation service for health and safety related products and we also manage the second largest food packaging certification scheme in the UK.

The Faculty of Public Health is the membership organisation for the leaders in UK public health. We work closely with our specialist members to stimulate national and international debates on promoting, protecting and improving public health. We set the standards for the education and training of public health specialists through a five-year multidisciplinary training programme and continuing professional development.

The FPH publishes the respected academic journal, the Journal of Public Health, as well as a quarterly members’ magazine and regular policy documents on subjects as varied as alcohol, obesity, children and smoking, nutrition labelling, asylum seekers’ health and the health impacts of climate change.

Our annual conference regularly attracts the biggest gathering of public specialists in the UK and this year will be held in London on 4 July.

We are a faculty of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom and have a membership of more than 3000, based around the UK. FPH is a registered charity.
The next few months will be filled with manifestos, promises and commitments as the UK readies itself to face a tightly contested general election. So why are the Faculty of Public Health and the Royal Society for Public Health challenging all the political parties to define their policies for election? So why are the Faculty of Public Health and the Royal Society for Public Health challenging all the political parties to define their policies for election?

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A Minimum Price of 50p per Unit of Alcohol Sold
Alcohol consumption in the UK has doubled over the last 40 years. The average consumption of alcohol in a population is directly linked to the amount of harm. Consumption is strongly linked to affordability: as price has fallen, consumption has risen. Alcohol is now 69% more affordable than in 1980. Tackling price and availability are the most effective alcohol policies. It has been proven that transfats (industrially produced trans fatty acids) can increase the risk of developing cardiovascular disease later in life. Reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease later in life.

Ban Smoking in Cars with Children
Evidence shows that air inside a car can be 23 times more toxic than a home environment in the context of passive smoke, and smoking when driving distracts a person from concentrating on the road ahead and cars around them. Smoking in a car with a child on board is an offence in several Australian regions, in parts of Canada and the United States, and is under consideration in the Netherlands and South Africa. When? By 2011

Chlamydia Screening for University and College FresherS
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are rising, with rates of Chlamydia up by 150% between 1997 and 2007 and amongst under-25s. The national Chlamydia screening programme could be boosted by targeting students on entry to university or college. This would also highlight the importance of sexual health at a key point in their lives. When? By 2013

20 MPH Limit in Built-Up Areas
A 20mph speed limit in built-up areas would have manifold benefits. It would reduce pedestrian and cyclist casualties, encourage people to walk more, including children, but also to cycle more because it would be safer, and discourage people from using polluting cars because of the “frustration” of having to drive slowly. When? By 2011

A Dedicated School Nurse for Every Secondary School
School nurses play a vital role in adolescent and child health. An RCP survey in 2009 reported that 84% of school nurses consider their workload too heavy, with on average each covering 2,500 pupils, or one secondary school and six primary schools. There are lessons to be learned from Finland, which has a relatively low level of teenage pregnancy and where teenagers are taught to take responsibility for their own health by organising appointments with a school nurse themselves. A dedicated school nurse for every secondary school can also help identify at-risk teenagers. School nurses could be the health champion for every school. When? By 2012

25% Increase in Cycle Lanes and Cycle Racks by 2015
Making roads safer for people to cycle on will help reduce cardiovascular disease and decrease carbon emissions as more people use bikes instead of cars on short and medium distance journeys. The economic benefits of walking and cycling in cities show a cost benefit ratio of 20:1 with likely savings including a reduction in deaths due to heart disease and stroke. Planning controls should include stipulations to build appropriate cycle storage facilities spearheaded by supermarkets and hospitals. When? By 2015

Banning Transfats from Foods
Banning transfats from foods is a relatively easy way to help protect the public. The introduction of new legislation in 2006 resulted in 72% of all foods containing transfats with 90% of food manufacturers operating in England.

Stop the Use of Transfats
It has been proven that transfats (industrially produced trans fatty acids) can damage health. As with cigarettes there is no known safe level of consumption. Banning transfats from foods is a relatively easy way to help protect the public. The introduction of new legislation in 2006 resulted in 72% of all foods containing transfats with 90% of food manufacturers operating in England.