

To Whom It May Concern:

Impact on Urban Health is a part of Guy's & St Thomas' Foundation, one of the largest health foundations in the UK. We are focused on making urban areas healthier places for everyone to live. We focus our efforts in inner-city London in areas that experience the widest health inequalities. Our programmes are geared towards addressing complex health issues that disproportionately impact people living in cities – childhood obesity, multiple long-term conditions, the health effects of air pollution, and adolescent mental health. We aim to generate evidence and learnings which can benefit people in urban areas across the UK and around the world.

We have been working in Walworth since the start of our childhood obesity programme, with the aim to significantly improve the quality of food options in the areas with high levels of childhood obesity. We have also supported a number of projects across our four programmes to improve the built environment in Southwark. The Child-Friendly Newington project is a key project within the built environment portfolio. The focus on community and resident engagement and community informed design has and continues to provide us with invaluable insight about how to work closely with communities to re-design public spaces that prioritise children's and families' health and wellbeing.

Our childhood obesity programme has increased the focus on breaking the link between low income and poor nutrition, by improving the quality of food options in lower-income neighbourhoods. However, this project, and the lessons it provides about community buy-in to influence and enhance the built environment are highly relevant and important to our work across Impact on Urban Health. We have invested in the delivery of this project to help us better understand the impacts of these changes on local children and families and to inform work across our programmes. To do this, we want to work with Southwark Council to ensure there is continued community engagement and consultation, and robust monitoring and evaluation of the project's impact on local communities and residents in order to inform similar projects other stakeholders would like to deliver in London and further afield.

We look forward to continuing to work with Southwark Council to support the delivery of this important work.

Rebecca Sunter

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Childhood Obesity Programme
Impact on Urban Health