



Sustainable Development Unit



Public Health  
England

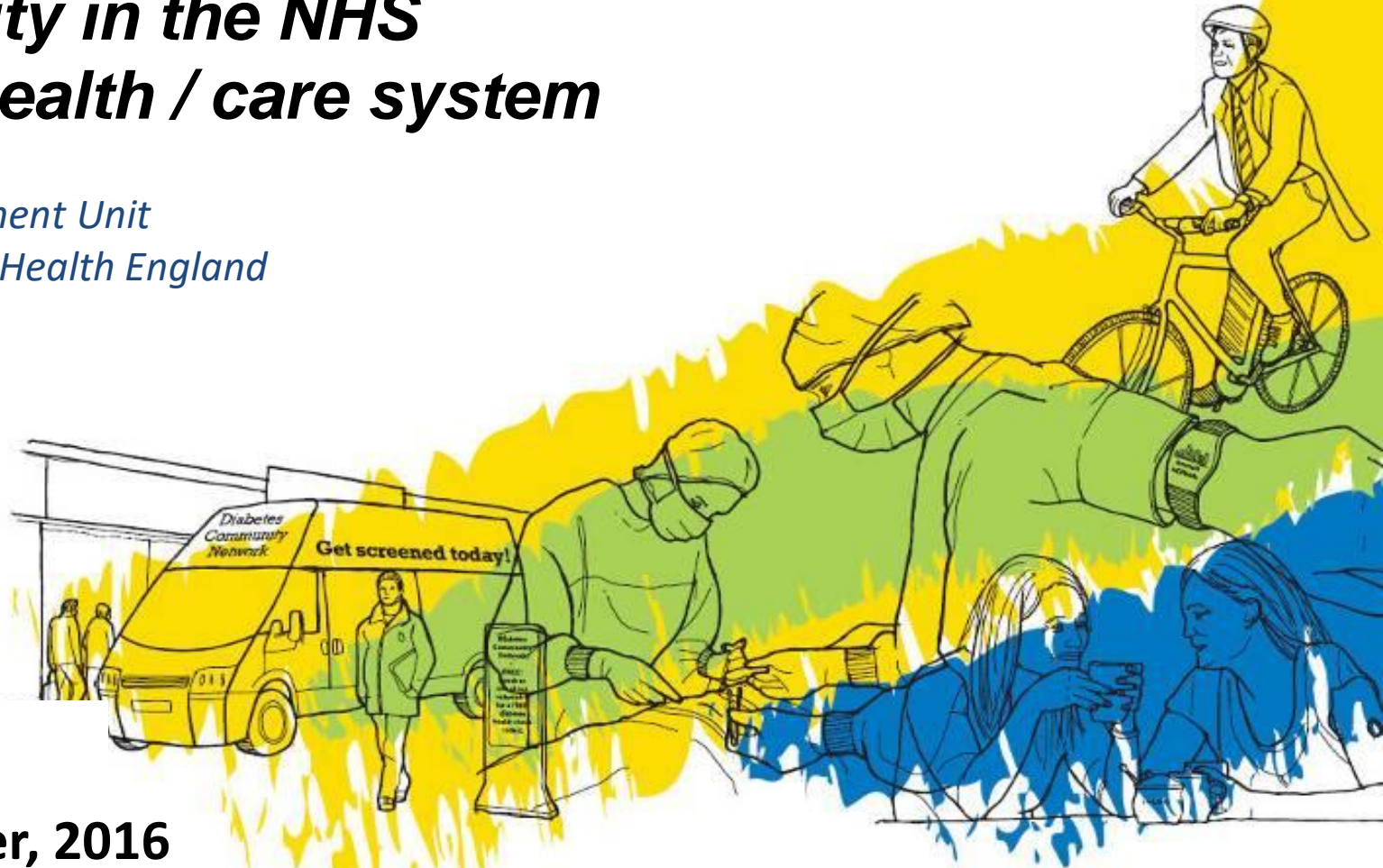


# ***Sustainability in the NHS and wider health / care system***

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**9-10<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

**MEDACT 2016 Annual Conference, Friend's Meeting House, London.**

“meeting the needs of the present...  
*...without compromising the ability of  
others, in future or elsewhere now, to  
meet their own needs”*

*“High quality health and care for all, now and  
for future generations”*

Climate change is not just a scientific and technical issue, it's a communication, engagement and political issue...



The image shows the top portion of The Guardian's website. The header is dark blue with white text and icons. On the left, there are links for 'sign in', 'become a supporter', 'subscribe', and a search icon. On the right, there are links for 'jobs', 'dating', 'more', and 'UK edition'. The Guardian logo is prominently displayed in the center-right of the header. Below the header is a navigation bar with various topic links. The main content area shows the start of an article under the 'Health and wellbeing' section.

sign in | become a supporter | subscribe | search | jobs | dating | more | UK edition

**theguardian**  
website of the year

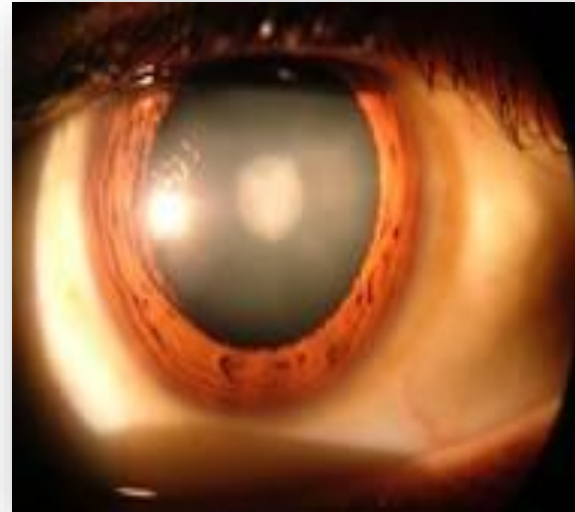
home | UK | world | politics | sport | football | opinion | culture | business | lifestyle | fashion | environment | tech | travel | all sections

**Health and wellbeing**

## Climate change isn't just about the environment – it's a health problem

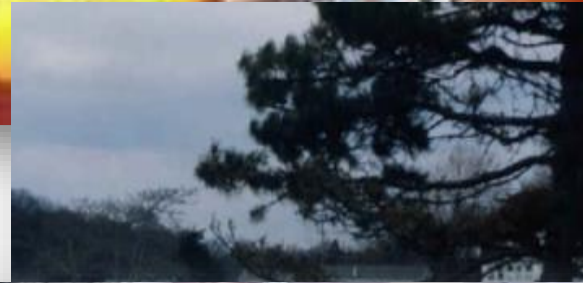
Framing climate change as a public health risk may be a way of pushing the debate from the green crowd into the mainstream

# Climate change increases disease levels directly...





...but when systems  
breakdown....



...people start hurting themselves  
...and each other





# Who produces the greenhouse gases?

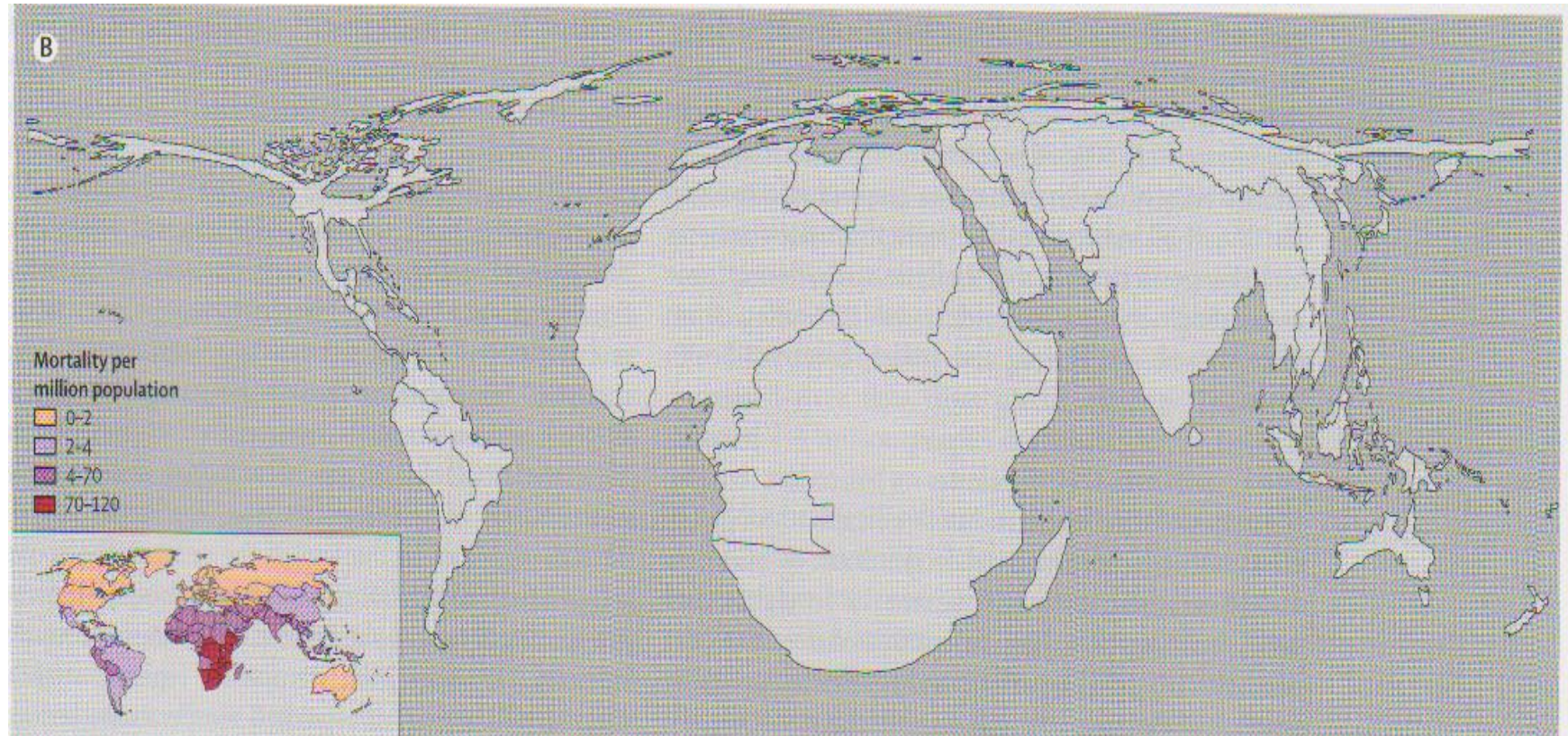


The world map reflecting production related to climate change.

“Climate Change presents the biggest threat to health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” The Lancet (373;9697 pp 1659-1734, May 16-22 2009).



# Who bears the burden?



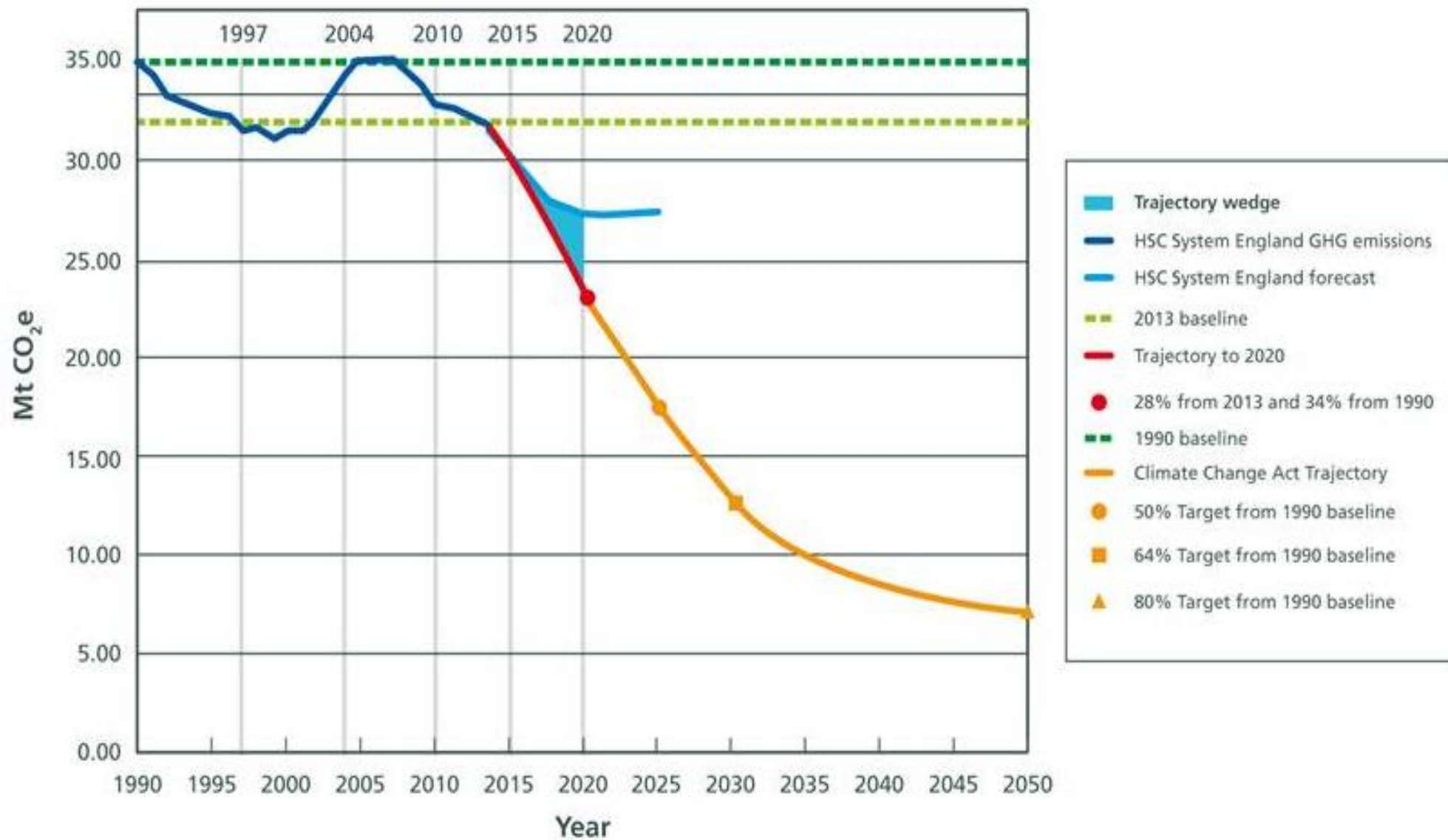
The world map reflecting mortality related to climate change.

“Climate Change presents the biggest threat to health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” The Lancet (373;9697 pp 1659-1734, May 16-22 2009).



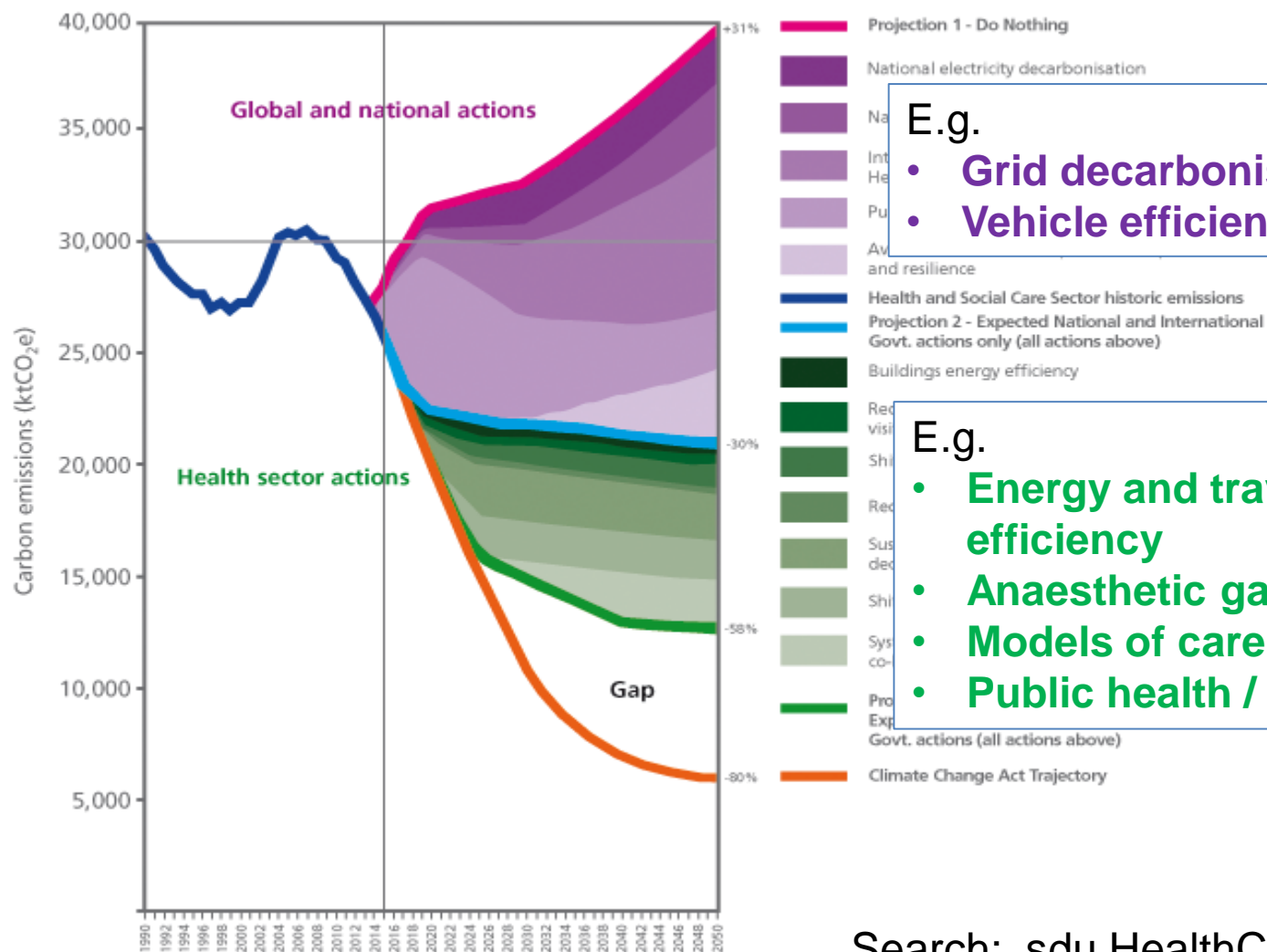
# Health and Social Care England Carbon Footprint

CO<sub>2</sub>e baseline from 1990 to 2025 with Climate Change targets



# How?

NHS, public health and social care system wedges to 2050



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## Sustainable Development in the health and care sector - annual performance maps

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These maps show progress made on sustainable development in the health and care system across England.

The maps show the current performance in each region which can be shown either by NHS or PHE area boundaries.

They pages contain a range of measures including:

- Board approved sustainable development management plans (SDMPs)
- Sustainability reporting
- Carbon emissions from building energy
- Water use
- Waste
- Whether providers are on track for carbon reduction targets
- Adaptation planning

### Summary of progress

These data and more will contribute to the system wide progress report within the January 2017 Healthcheck document

### Map Highlights:

#### Organisational Plans

- 54% of CCGs and NHS providers have a current governing body or board approved Sustainable Development Management Plan compared with 52% in 2014/15; providers (71%), CCGs (34%)
- 38% of NHS providers have a board approved Adaptation Plan, down from 42% in 2014/15
- 41% of NHS providers are on track for a 34% reduction by 2020, compared with 43% in 2014/15
- 60% of NHS providers have a board approved Healthy Transport Plan, down from 62% in 2014/15

#### Deliver

*Against an increase in inpatient activity of around 5% between 2013/14 and 2015/16, there has been:*

- A 0.5% decrease in the building energy carbon footprint between 2013/14 and 2015/16; there was a 2% increase last year (between 2014/15 and 2015/16). This fall has saved £66m 13/14-15/16

1. Board approved sustainable development management plans (SDMPs)
2. Sustainability reporting
3. Carbon emissions from building energy
4. Water use
5. Waste
6. Whether providers are on track for carbon reduction targets
7. Adaptation planning

<http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/policy-strategy/reporting/interactive-maps.aspx>

# *Why do some health/care organisations and health professionals take sustainable development and climate change seriously?*

1. To save money – one of the bottom lines?
2. To comply with regulatory and legal requirements?
3. To reduce risk and improve resilience
4. To have an ethical responsibility to take exemplary action in the face of scientific evidence?
5. To align with personal values of staff/leaders



# *Why don't we do more?*

1. We are very busy - focussed on the day job
2. We are focussed more on:
  - a) reacting to demand, problems and crises now
  - b) rather than: reacting to need, planning, preparation for tomorrow
3. We are doing a lot for health already (“moral offset”)
4. **We perpetuate systems that we are rewarded for activity, and treatment, not prevention or outcome**

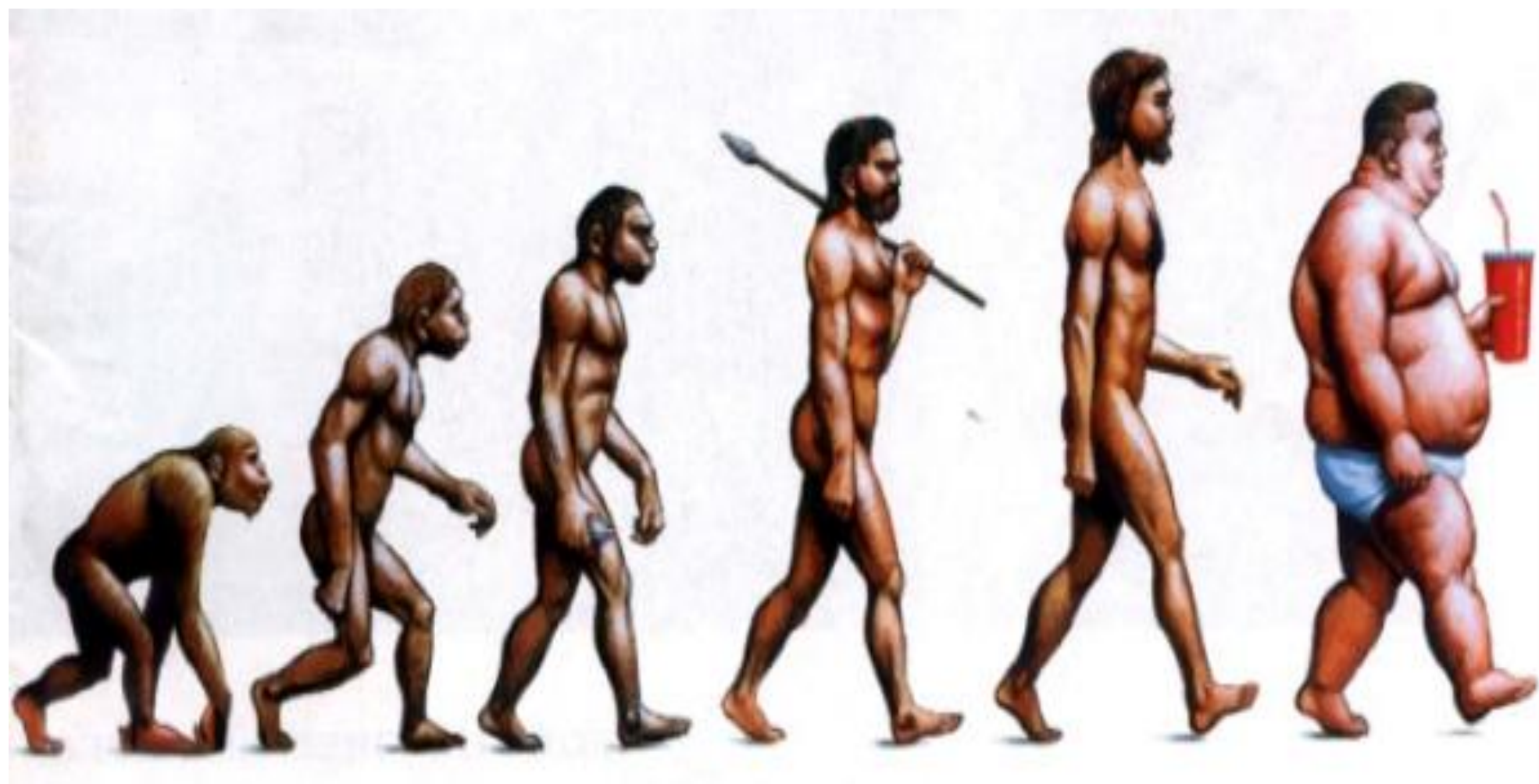
# *Why should we do more?*

Most actions which address the long term health and environmental risks of climate change on health and well-being ALSO deliver immediate gains (e.g. health and wellbeing, money, other resources/capitals...)

= “Health co-benefits” – *three examples:*

1. Sustainable food system: What we eat
2. Active travel: How we move and what we breathe
3. Well insulated and energy generating homes and more
4. Aesthetic, biodiverse, safe, shared spaces/places





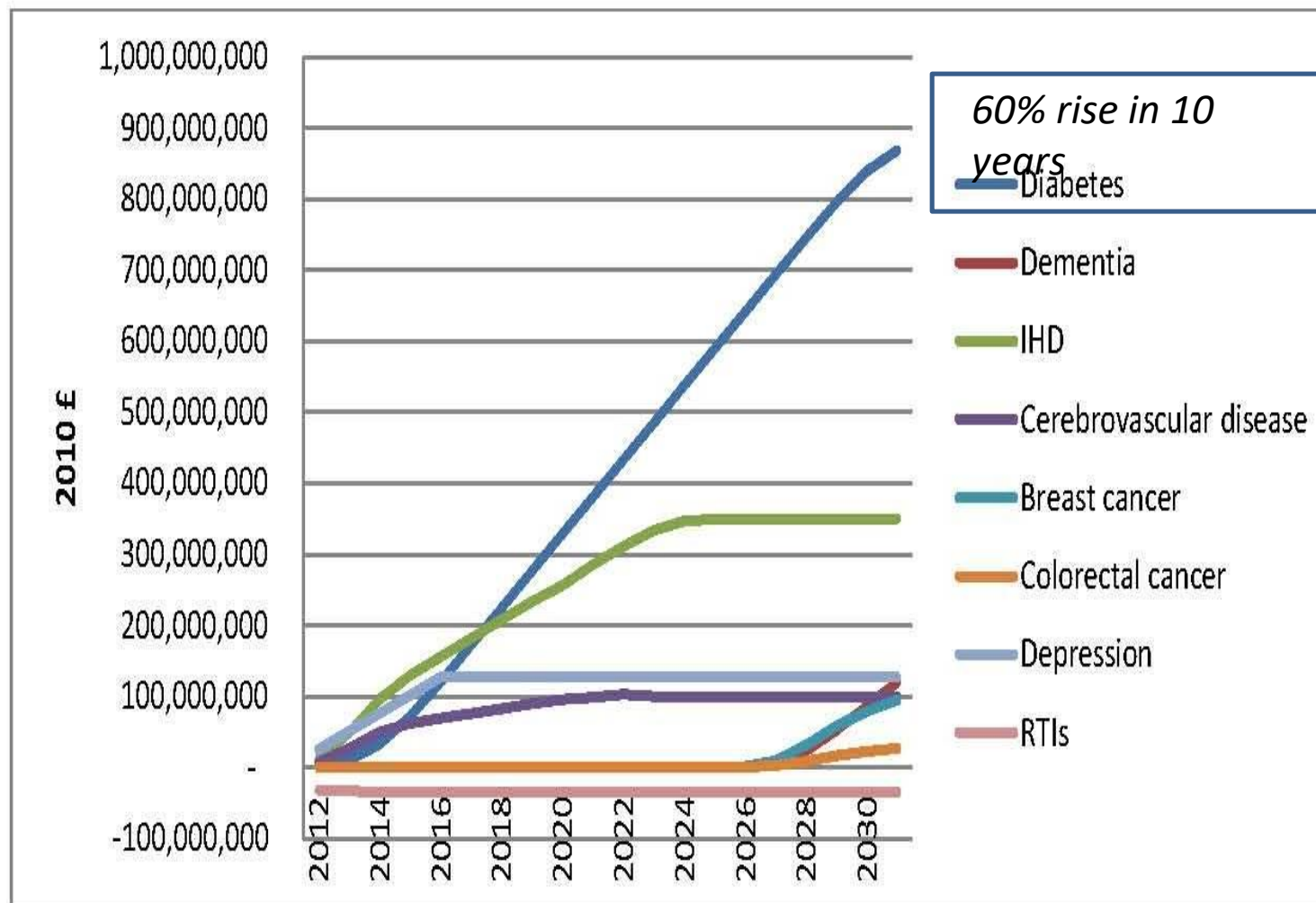
**THIS ONE  
RUNS ON FAT  
AND SAVES YOU MONEY**



**THIS ONE  
RUNS ON MONEY  
AND MAKES YOU FAT**



**Figure 1: Potential annual NHS expenditure averted by year and health outcome from Increased Active Travel scenario**

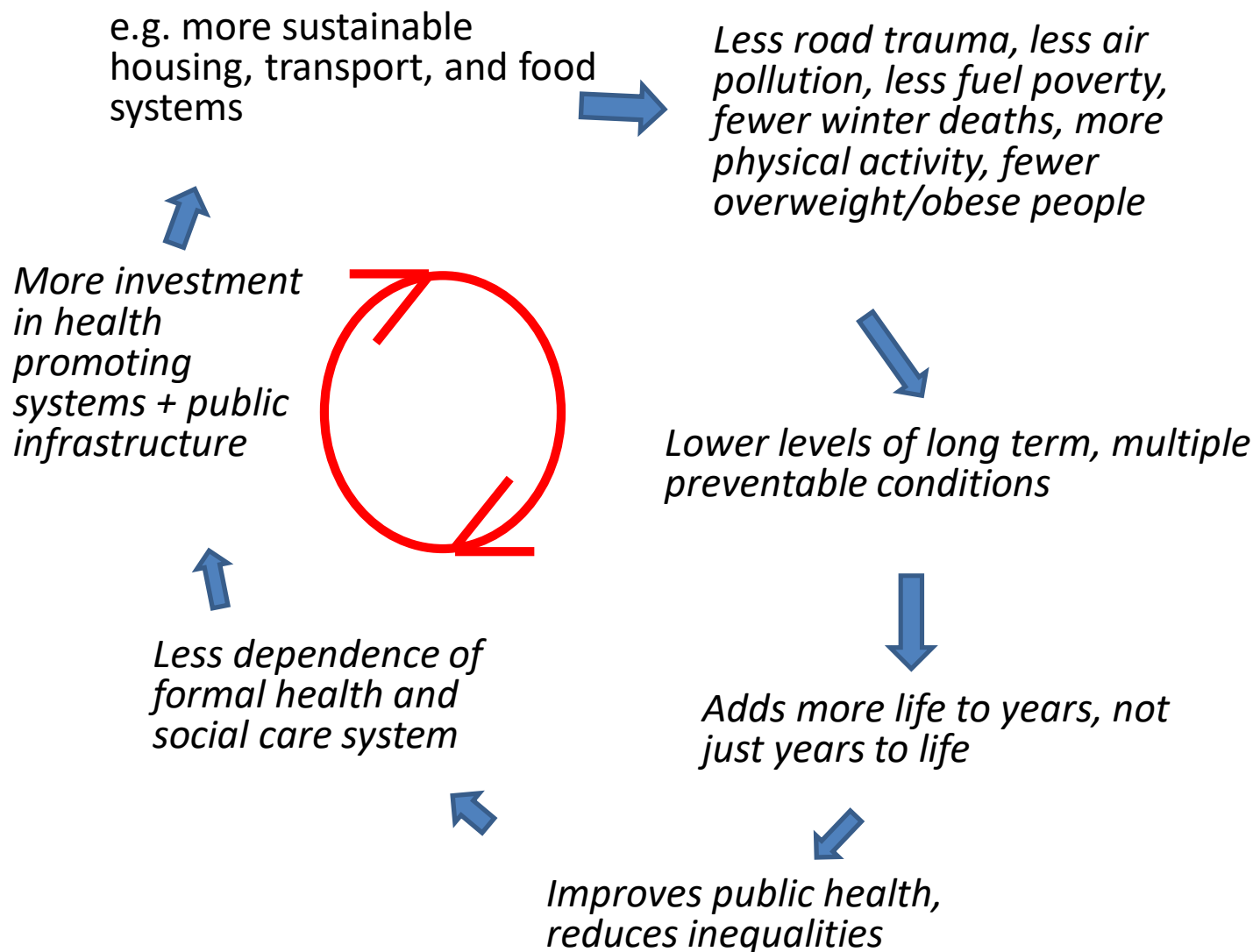






40,000 early deaths across the UK per annum attributable to air pollution.  
(60,000 if NO<sub>x</sub> from e.g. diesel engines included)  
Average 8 month loss of life for every person  
Especially lung disease and stroke

# Virtuous circle for health



# England's health system approach:

1. Reduce harm, pollution, GHG emissions...
2. Improve people's control over their health and resilience.
3. Embed the future in every contact and contract: *normalise and formalise*



- **Embed in law**
- Embed in definitions of quality
- Embed in reporting
- Embed in models of care
- Embed in training and workforce development
- Embed in governance and risk registers
- Embed in business cases with clear RoI
- Embed in leadership and partnerships...
- *Embed in business as (un)usual*

# Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

“...all public bodies in England and Wales are required to consider how the services they commission and procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.”

*As an employer, buyer, partner, exemplar...*

# Global opportunities for sustainable health and care systems

## 1. COP21

- Paris agreement - ambitious achievement, to keep global warming well below 2°C.
- Seen by WHO as public health treaty and an historic opportunity for WHO and the entire health community’.
- *“Health recognised as a (human) right”*
- *“Social, economic and environmental value of voluntary mitigation actions and their co-benefits for adaptation, health and sustainable development.”*

## 2. Sendai Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction

## 3. Sustainable Development Goals

- *“Global Goals for Health”*



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