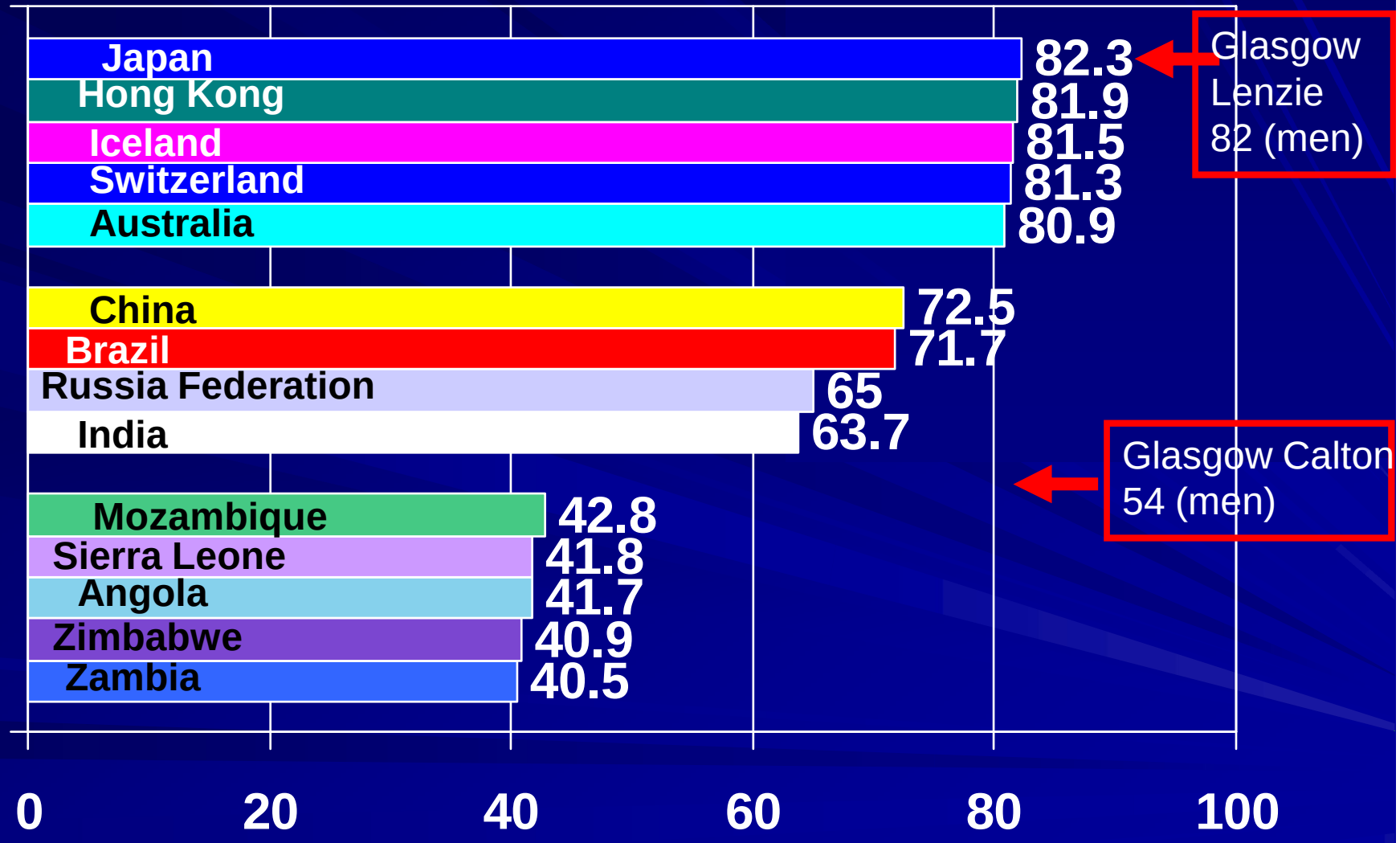
# Social and economic determinants of poor population health and health inequalities

Michael Marmot
UCL

Mayor's Health Inequality Strategy
9th November 2009

# Inequalities: Between Countries

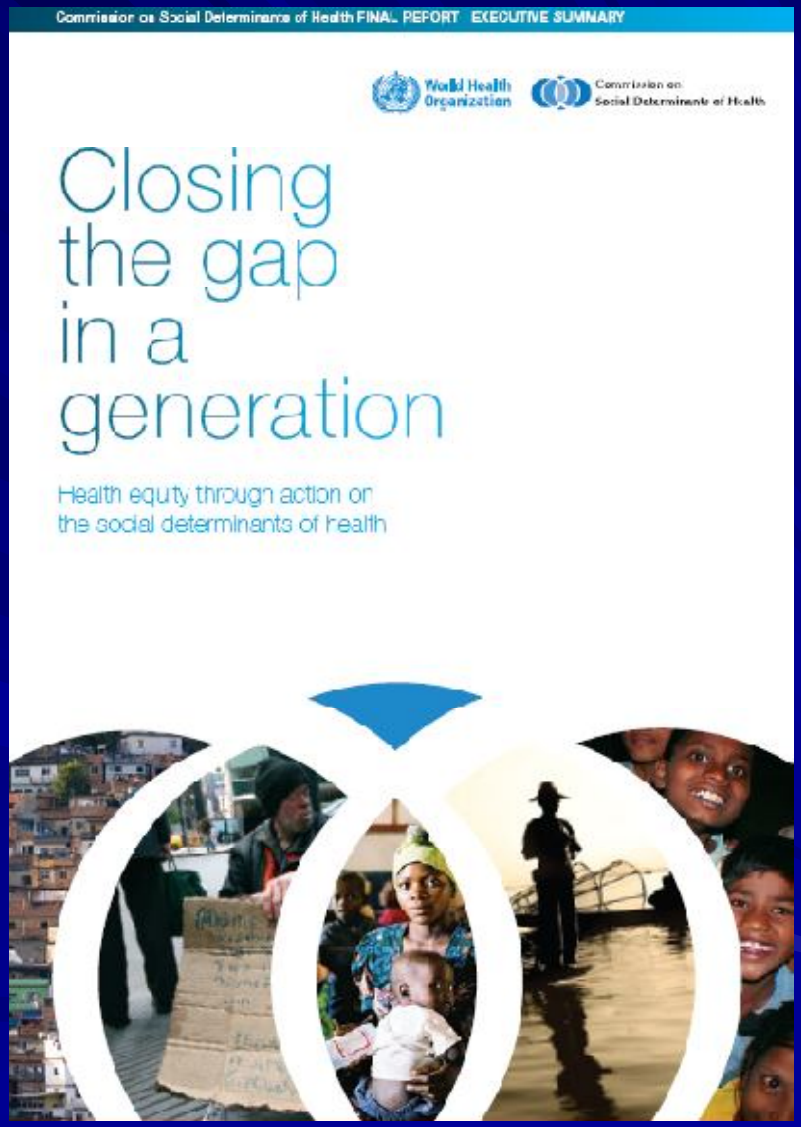
**Life expectancy at birth (men and women): selected countries**




National LE data HDP 2007/2008, Glasgow data: Hanlon et a l. 2006

# Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH)

- "a toxic combination of poor social policies, unfair economics, and bad politics is responsible for much of health inequity"



# CSDH – three principles of action

**Structural drivers of those conditions at global, national and local level**

**Conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age**

**Monitoring, Training, Research**

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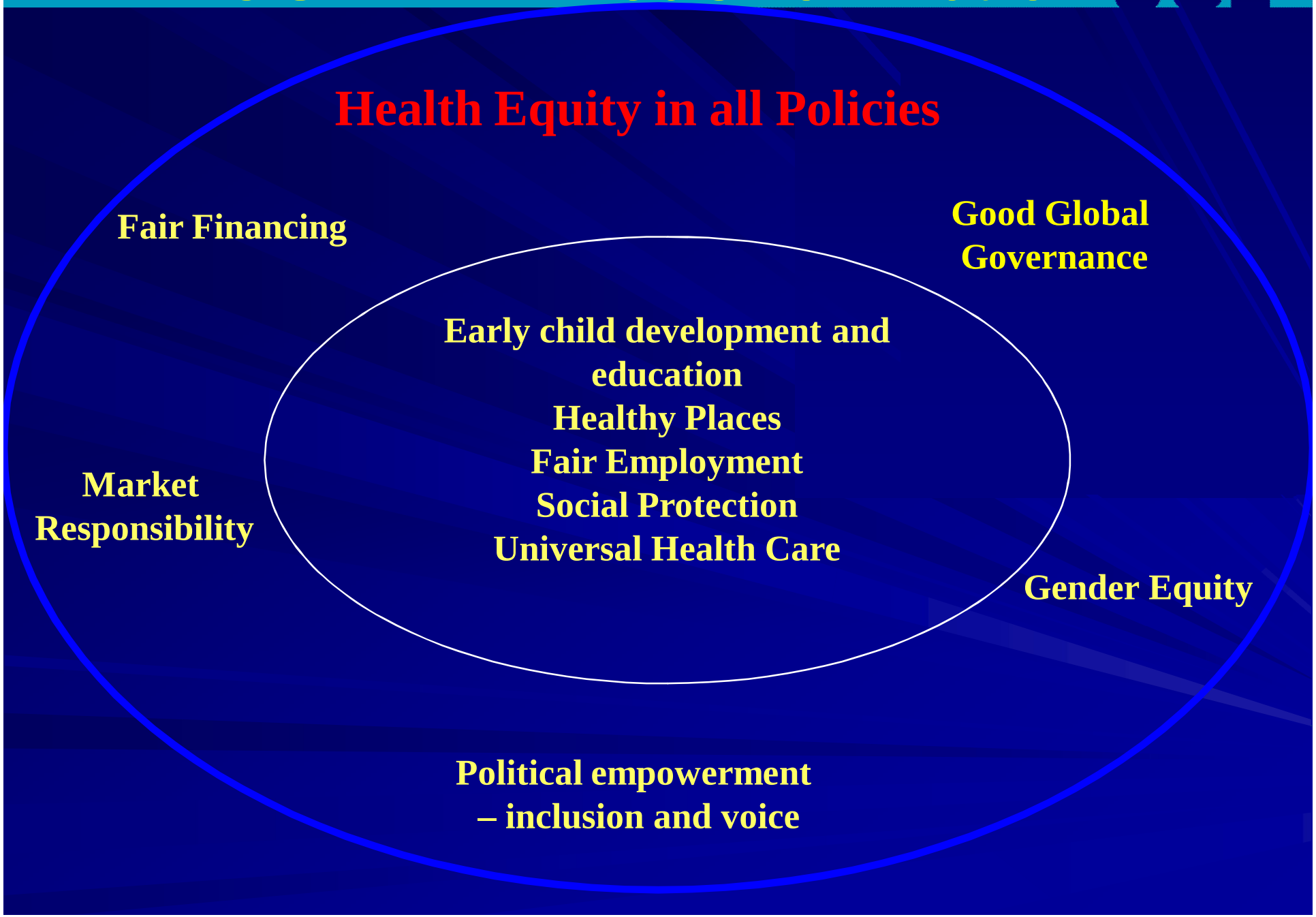
# CSDH – Areas for Action



**Summary:**

The evidence matters
•Importance of social justice.
•Empowerment at the heart

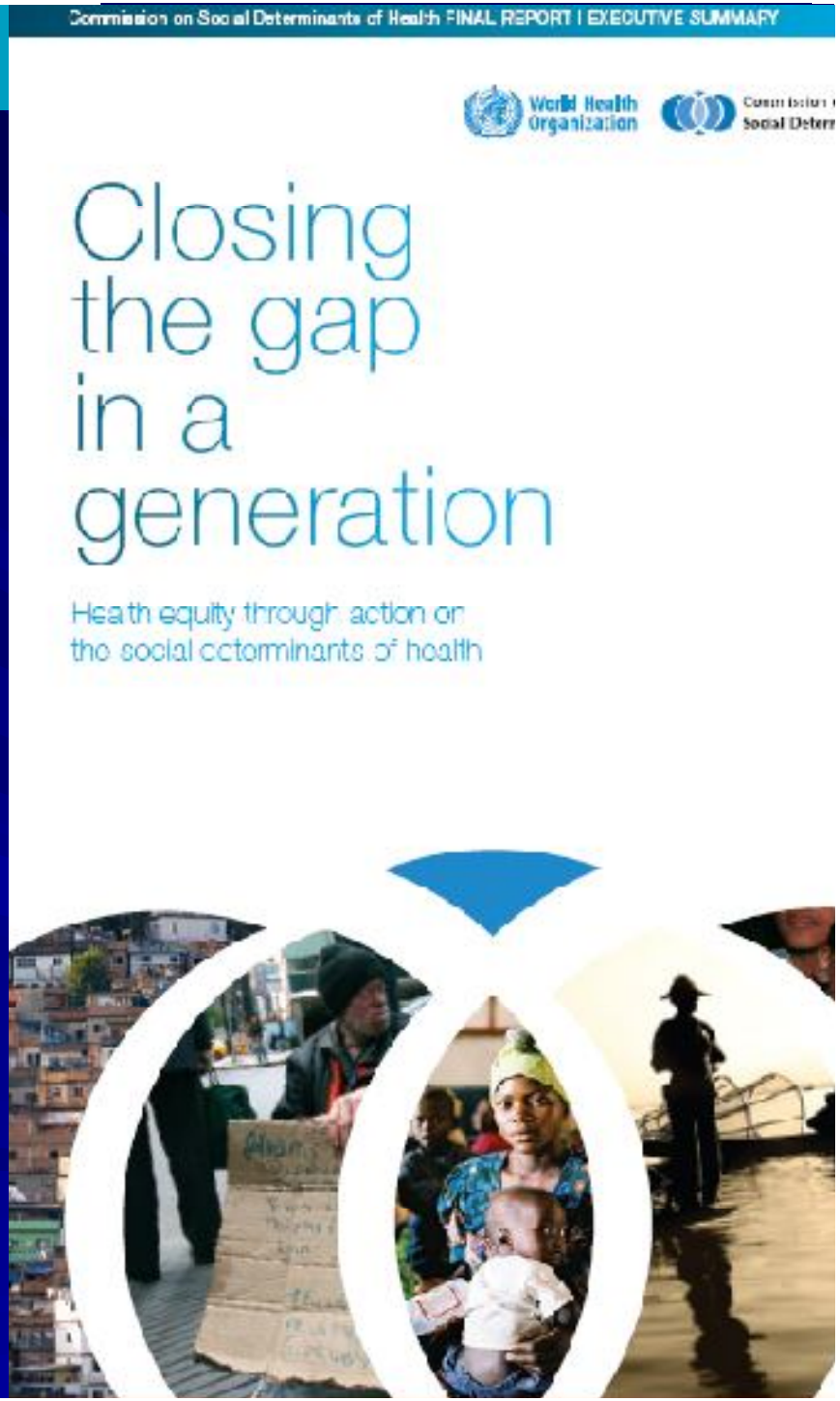
- •Material – income
- •Psychosocial – control
- •Political- having voice

•**Evidence**

- •Social determinants.
- •Social gradient.

•**Action**

- •Improve conditions of daily living
- •Tackle distribution in power, money and resources.
- •Understand problem



# Since the end of the CSDH…

- Commission final report and recommendations Aug 2008
- Global Conference in London 2008 to promote uptake
- Regional meetings to discuss implementation – Europe, SE Asia, Latin America, Africa, Eastern Mediterranean, Western Pacific region,
- Countries and regions translate findings - Brazil, Chile, England, Canada, Slovenia, Nordic, Argentina, India…
- Cities
- EU presidencies
- World Health Assembly Resolution May 2009
- ECOSOC
- Research agenda

# Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010 - the Marmot Review

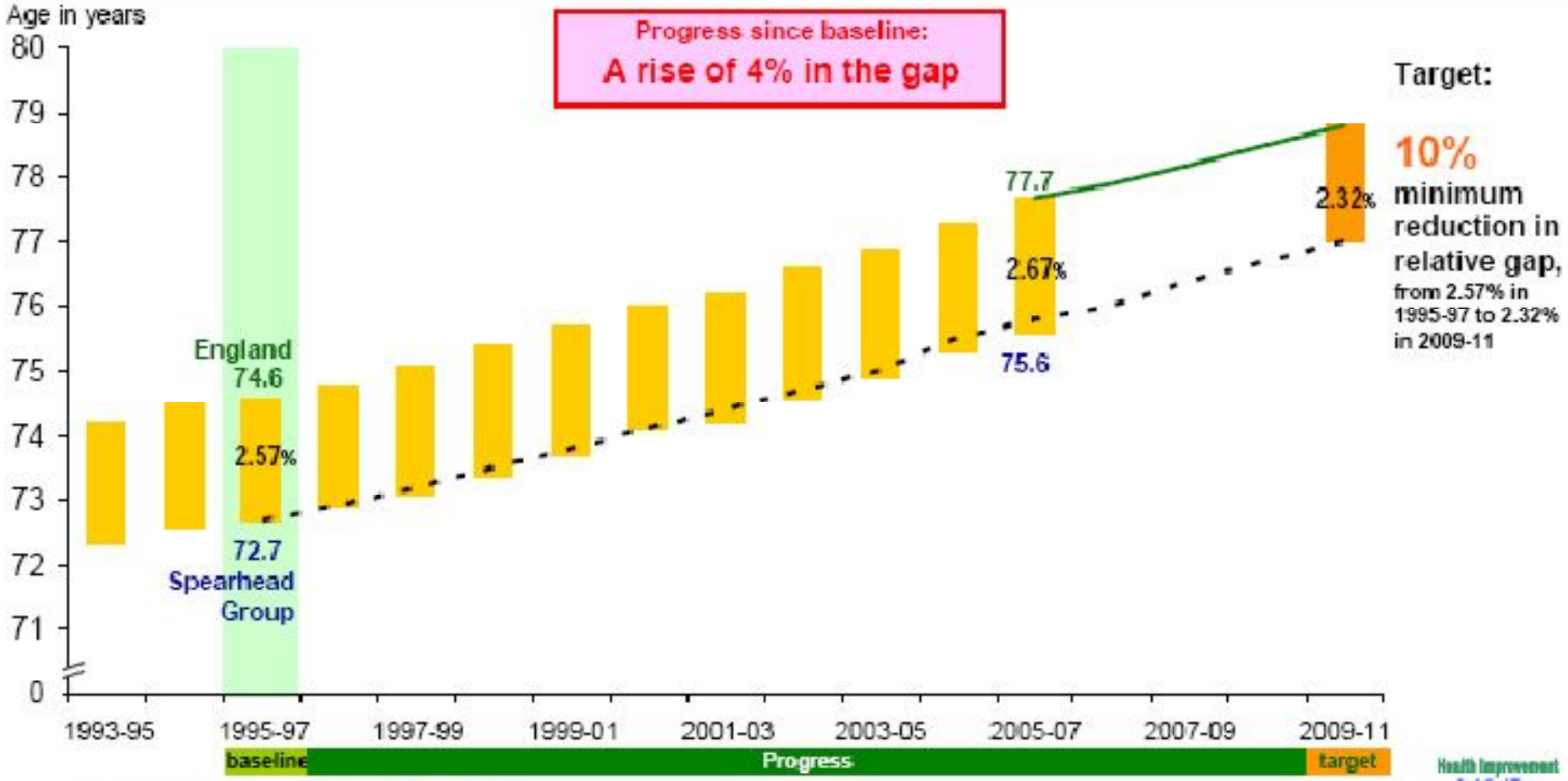
- Secretary of State for Health in England: set up a review, chaired by Michael Marmot, to advise on a health inequalities strategy based on the best global evidence

- **Timeline**
  - Announced November 2008
  - Preparatory work November to December 2008
  - Review Meetings January 2009 to September 2009
  - Report to Department of Health in December 2009

# Male life expectancy at birth, inequality gap*

England 1993-2007 and target for the year '2010'

Department of Health




Projection of life expectancy for England (exponential projection based on data for 1996-98 to 2005-07)

Target trajectory for Spearhead Group i.e to achieve target reduction in gap given observed/projected England life expectancy

Actual Data — Target

Inequality Gap*, in years

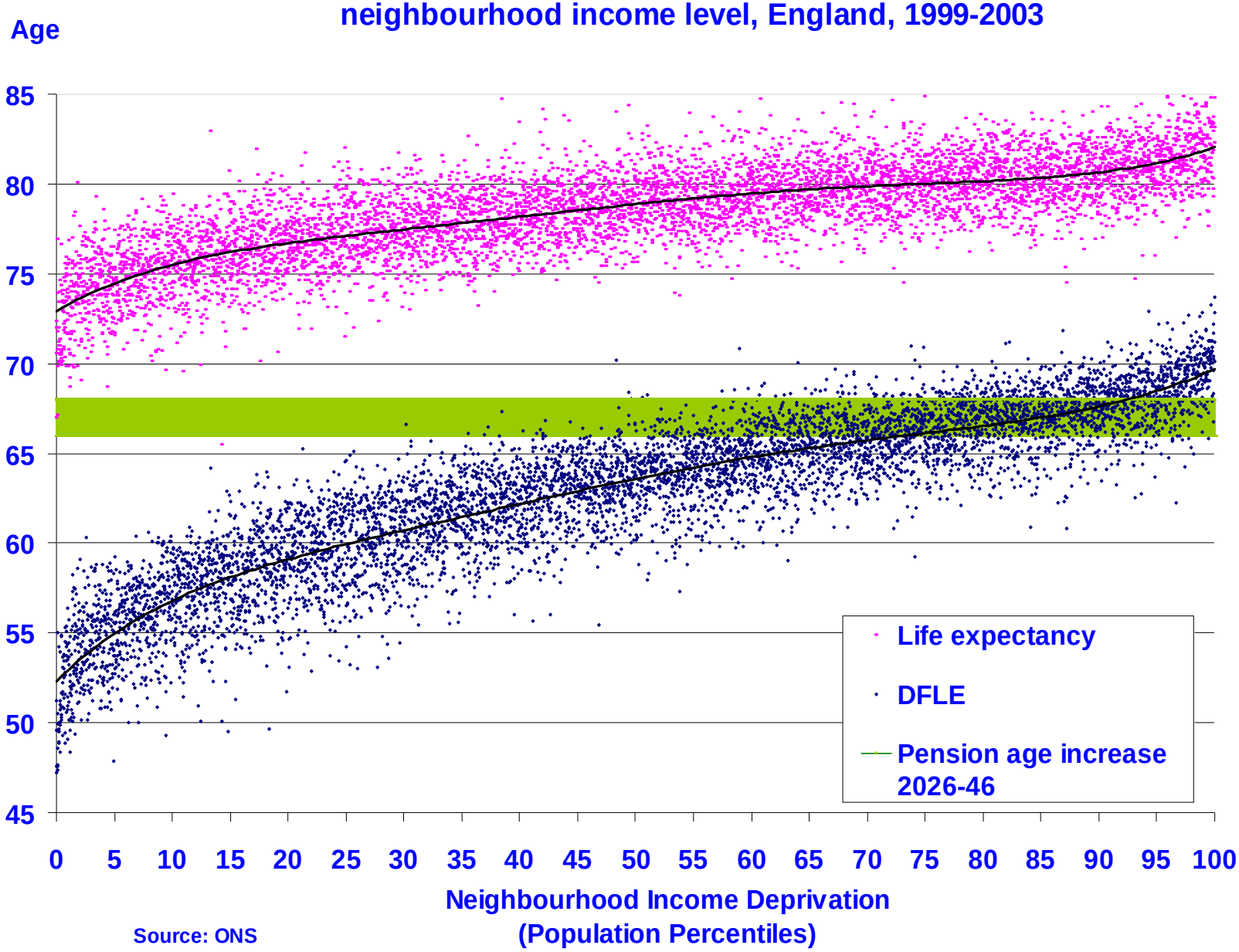
* The relative gap between England and the Spearhead Group (ie. the difference in life expectancy, as a percentage of the England life expectancy)

Source: ONS data (from sub-national life expectancy dataset based on abridged life tables)

Health Improvement Analytical Team HIAT Monitoring Unit

DH 2008

## Life expectancy and disability free life expectancy at birth, persons by neighbourhood income level, England, 1999-2003




Source: ONS

# The Review:

- Strategic: what sort of society we want…
- Mechanisms of delivery across government and locally
- Specific areas for policies
- Metrics and targets
- Need for evidence

Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post-2010

# Task Groups – Areas for Action

- Early Childhood development and education.
- Employment and work conditions
- Social Protection
- Built environment
- Sustainable development
- Social exclusion and social mobility
- Priority public health conditions
- Economic analysis
- Delivery systems

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# Reduce health inequalities and improve health and well-being for all

- Create an enabling society that maximises individual and community capabilities
- Ensure social justice, health and sustainability are at heart of policies
- Effective prevention and delivery

# Create an enabling society that maximises individual and community capabilities

- Give every child the best start in life
- Give all the chance to develop skills and opportunities to control their life chances.
- Create fair employment and decent work for all

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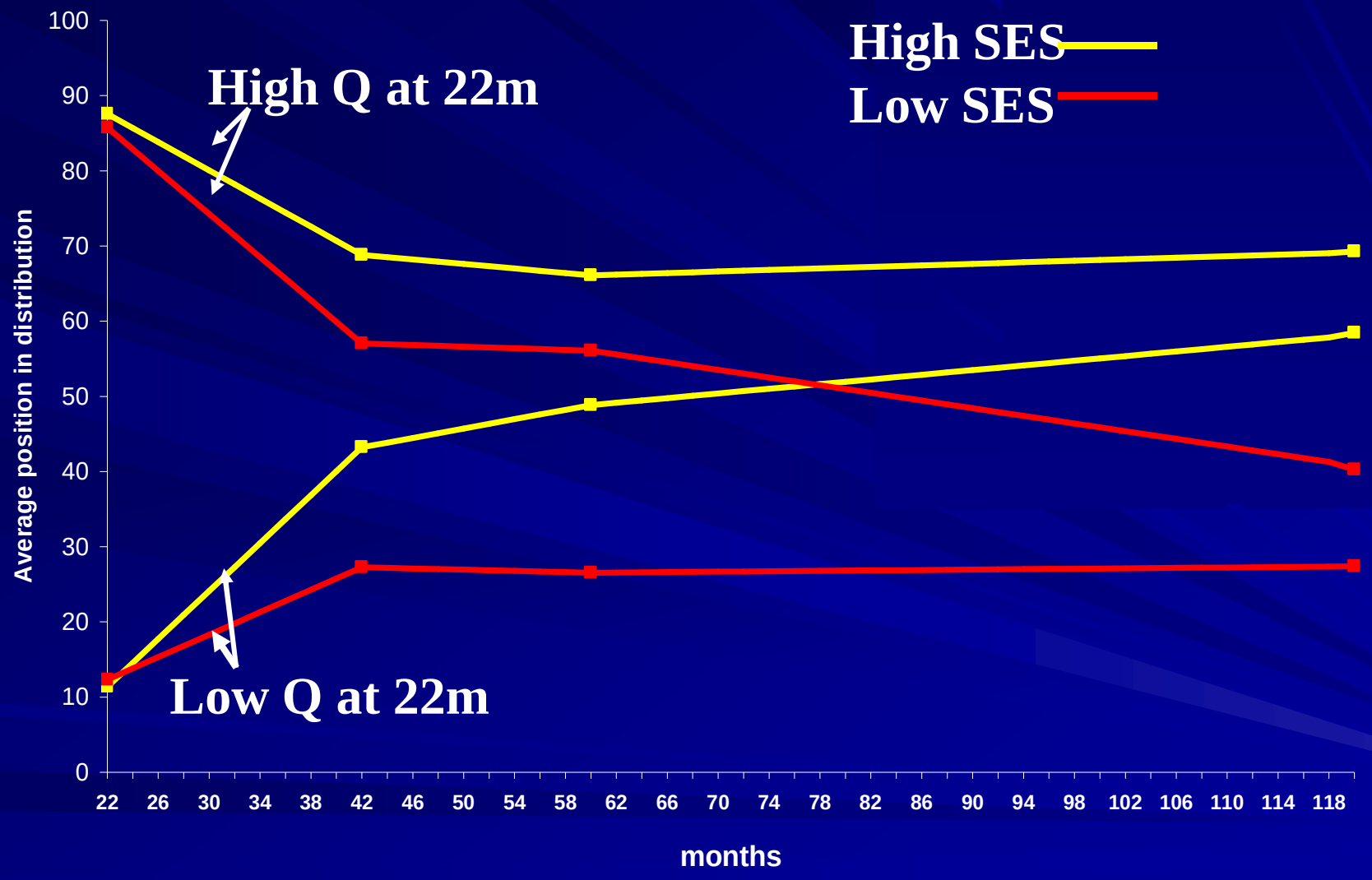
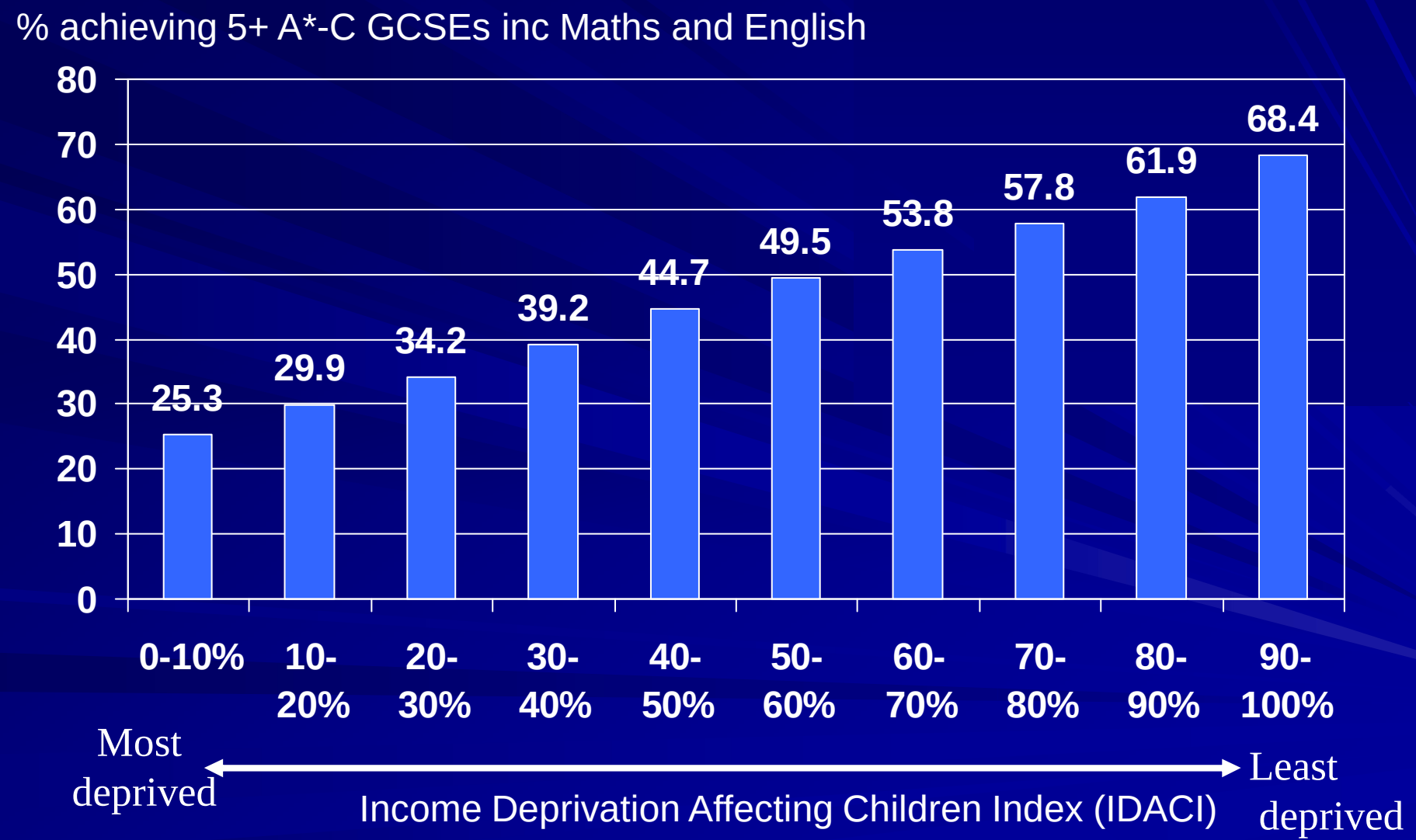
# Inequality in Early Cognitive Development of British Children in the 1970 Cohort, 22 months to 10 years



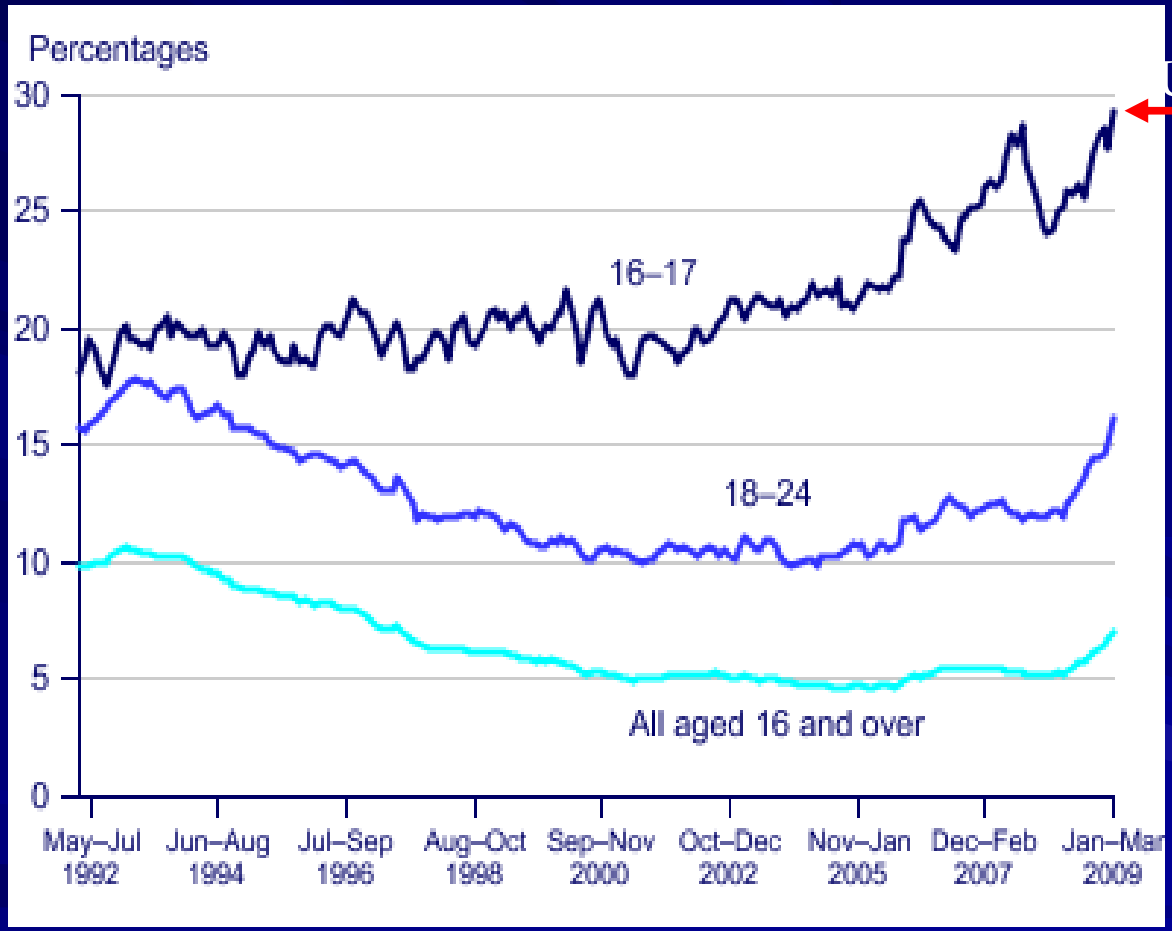

Source: Feinstein, L. (2003) 'Inequality in the Early Cognitive Development of British Children in the 1970 Cohort', *Economica* (70) 277, 73-97

# Per cent achieving 5+ A* - C grades inc Maths and English at GCSE by IDACI decile of pupil residence: England 2007




Source: DCFS 2009

# Trends in unemployment rates for young people in UK (seasonally adjusted) 1992 - 2009




Unemployment rates at 29.3% for ages 16 and 17

Office for National Statistics

# Ensure social justice, health and sustainability are at heart of policies

- Ensure healthy standard of living for all.
- Create sustainable communities and places that foster health and well-being.
- Strengthen the role and impact of prevention.

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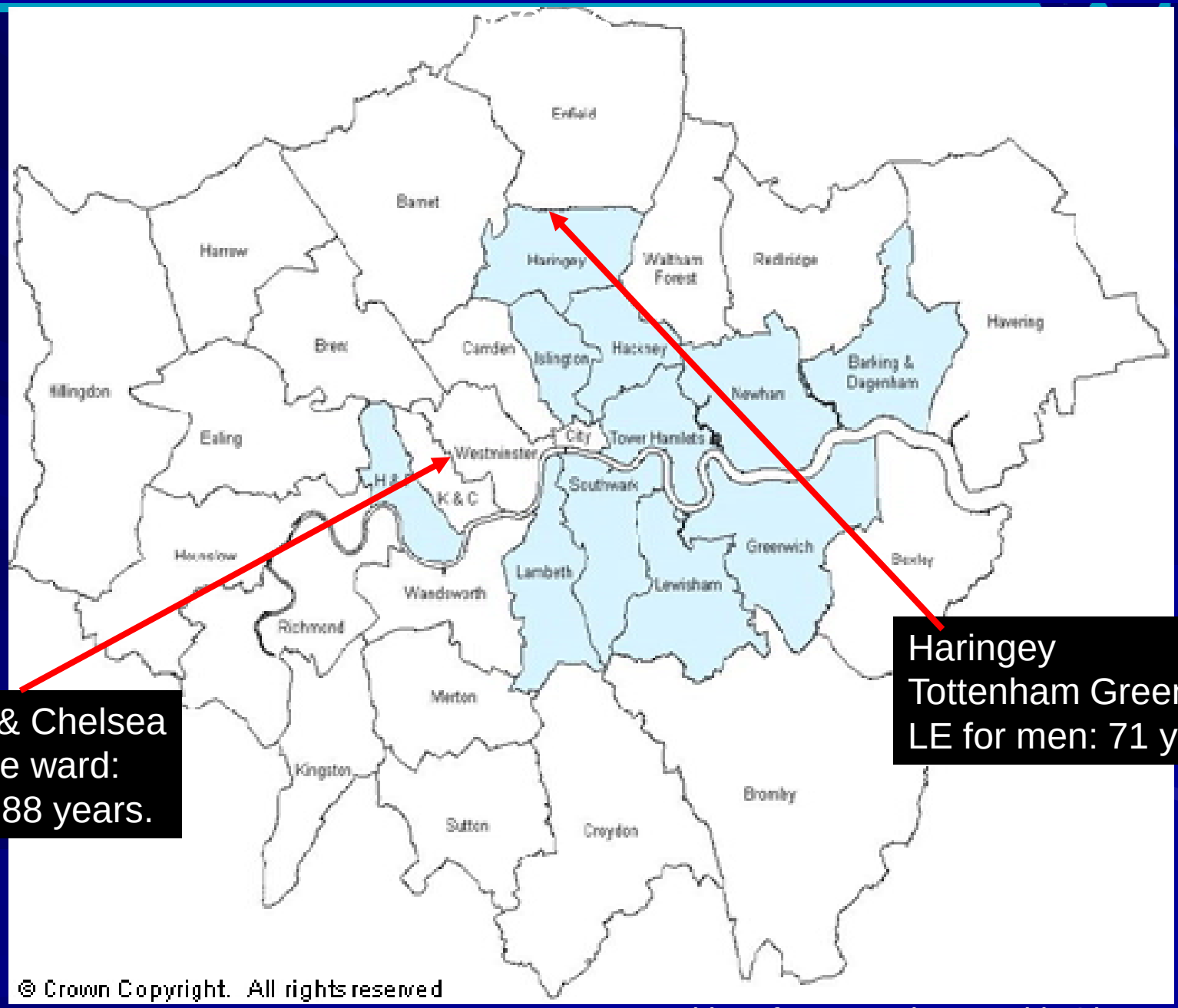
# Life expectancy at birth for selected London electoral wards,

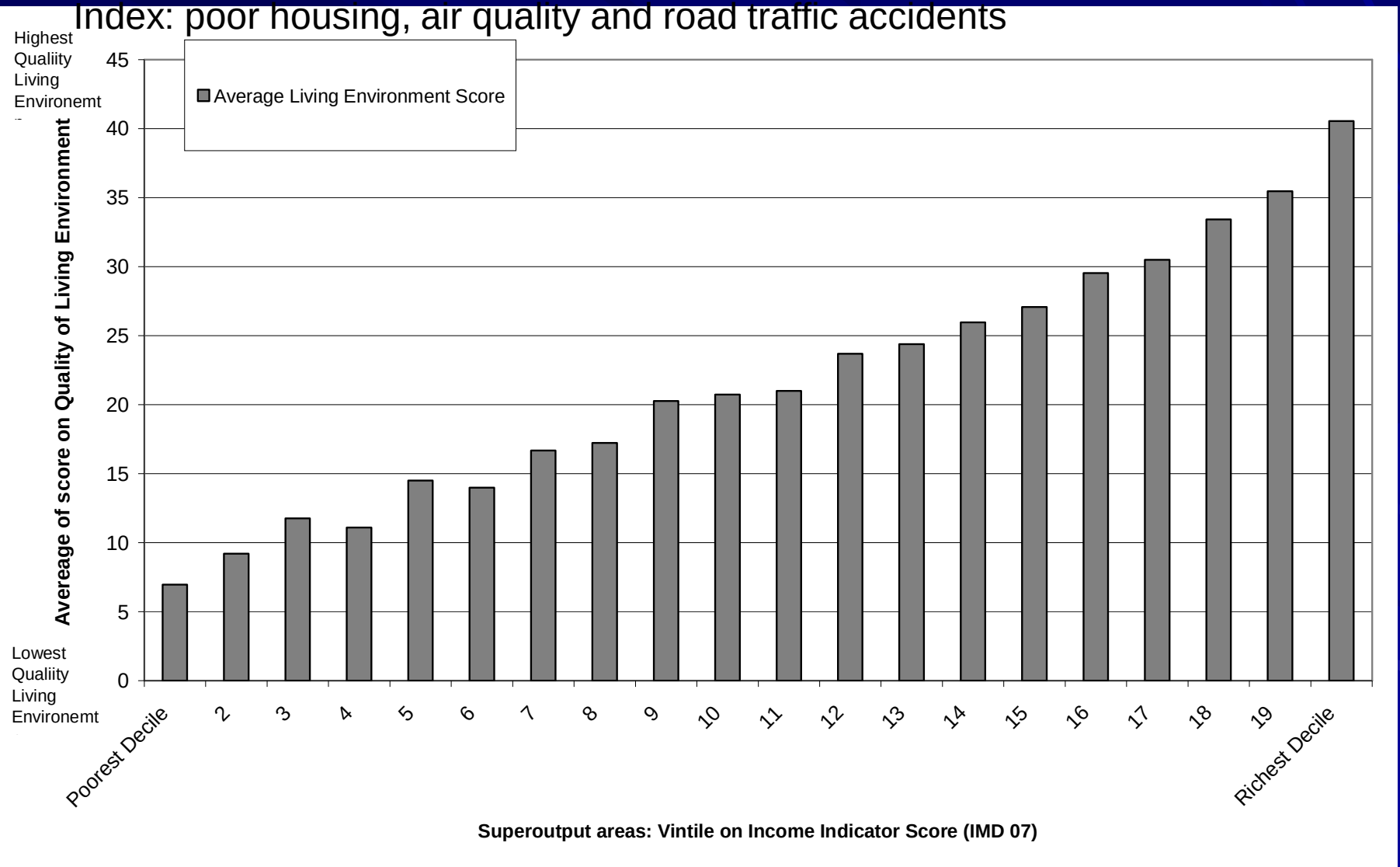



Kensington & Chelsea
Queens Gate ward:
LE for men: 88 years.

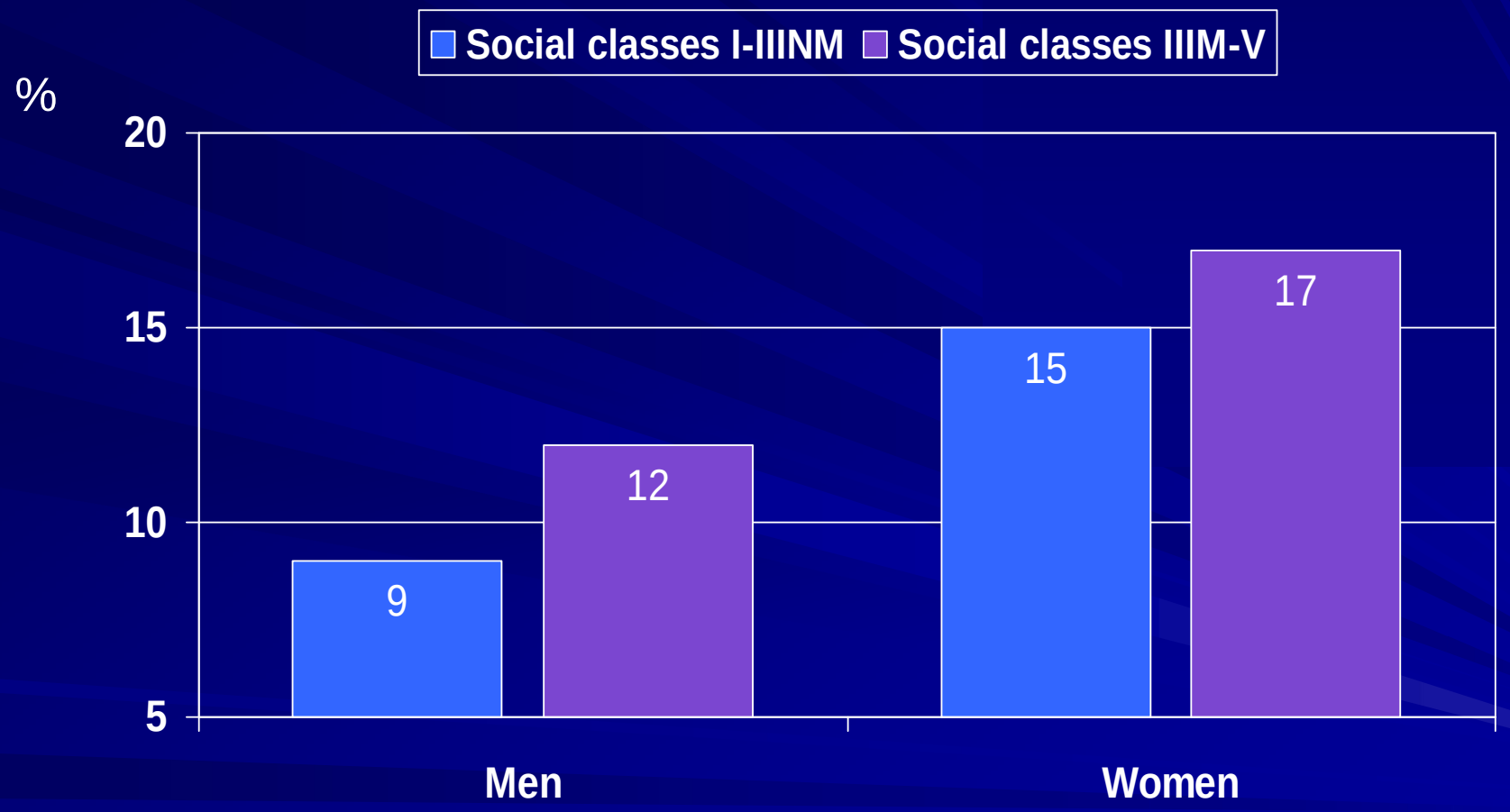
Haringey
Tottenham Green
LE for men: 71 years

Areas in blue are known as "Spearhead Authorities" (data from London Health Observatory)

# Living environment by neighbourhood income: England



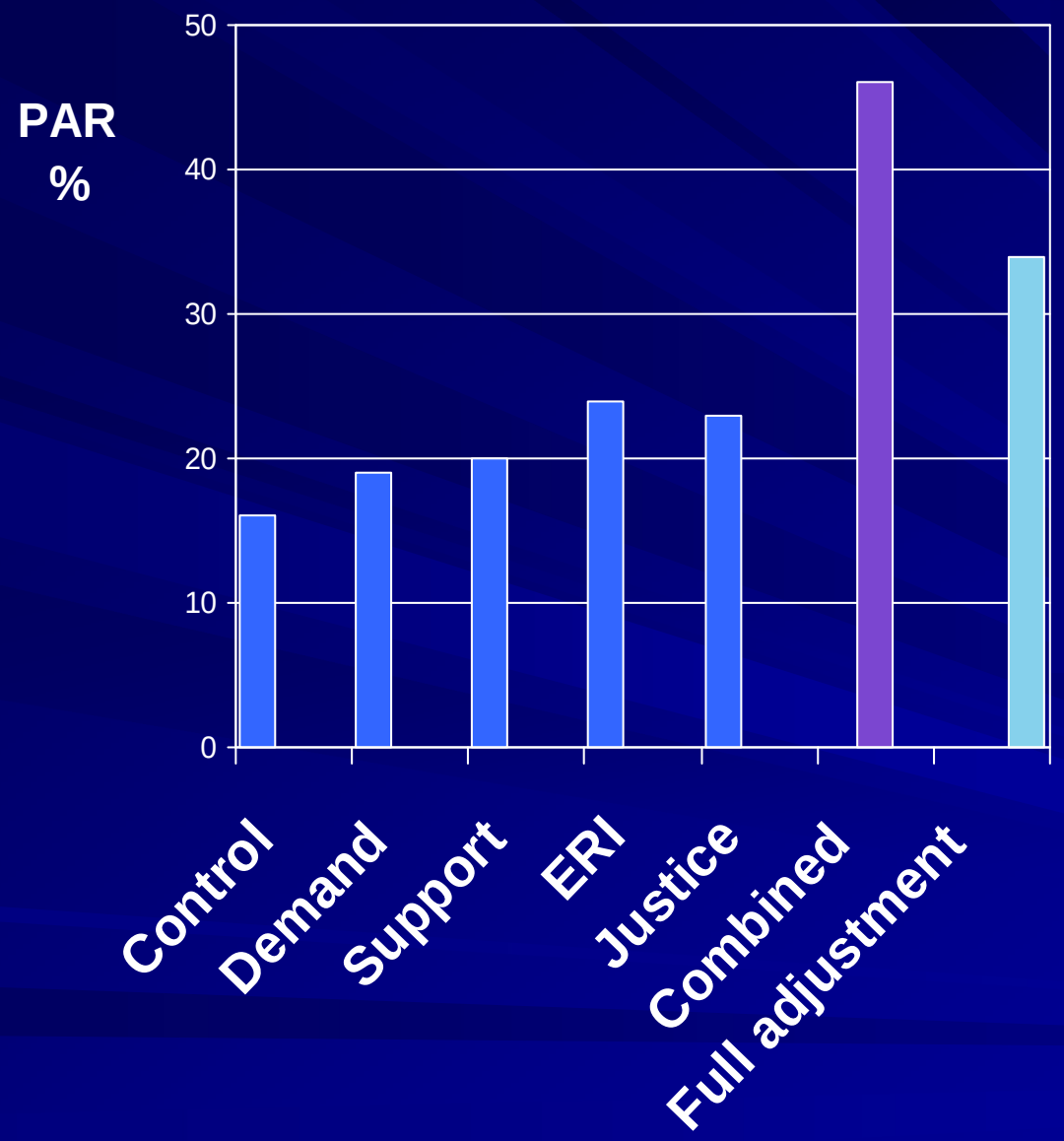
# Mental illness* and social class: England




*High GHQ score

Source: Health Survey for England, DH; the data is the average for 2004 to 2006; England; updated June 2008

# Population attributable risk* for poor mental health




- Each domain
- Combined
- Full adjustment

PAR for all combined*

**46%** *95% CI 37%-53%*

adjusted for other predictors

**34%** *95% CI 24%-43%*

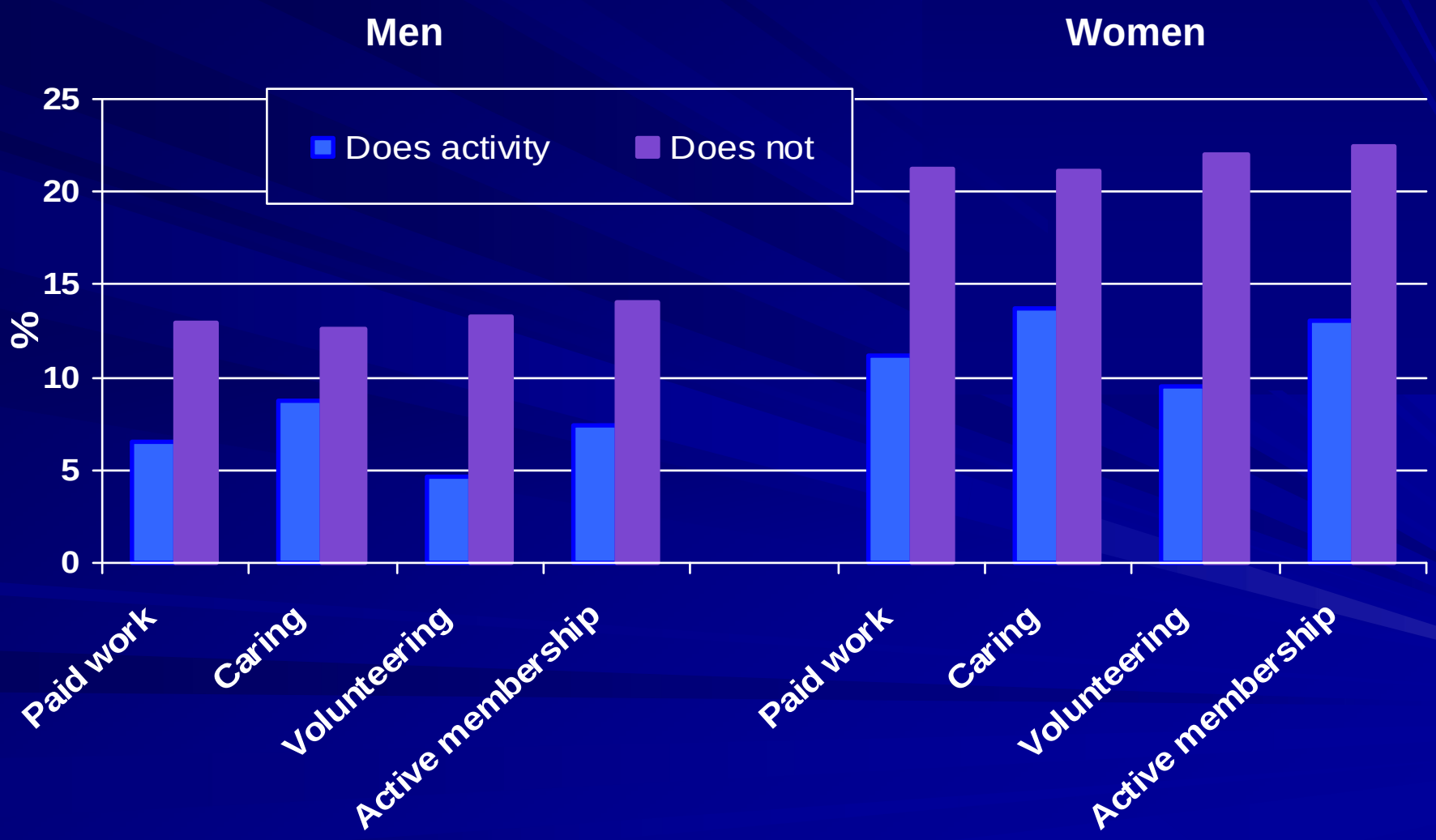
**calculated from odds ratios adjusted for age, sex, employment grade*

J Head et al,2007

ELSA English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

UCL

# % depressed (CES-D 4+) by participation in activities: ELSA



# Effective prevention and delivery

- Strengthen the role and impact of prevention on the social gradient.
- Effective delivery systems based on evidence

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# United Nations, ECOSOC meeting July 2009

- "…Yet, inequities in health outcomes persist within and among countries. Most of the difference is attributable to the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age."

Thank you

For further information, please visit

www.ucl.ac.uk/gheg/marmotreview