



#### Walking Steps Up A Synergistic Approach to Transforming People 4 October 2011

Dr William Bird MBE

Non-communicable diseases represent a new frontier in the fight to improve global health. Worldwide, the increase in such diseases means that they are now responsible for more deaths than all other causes combined.

Secretary General United Nations 2011

#### The Perfect City





#### Meet Julie





#### Meet Julie's dad

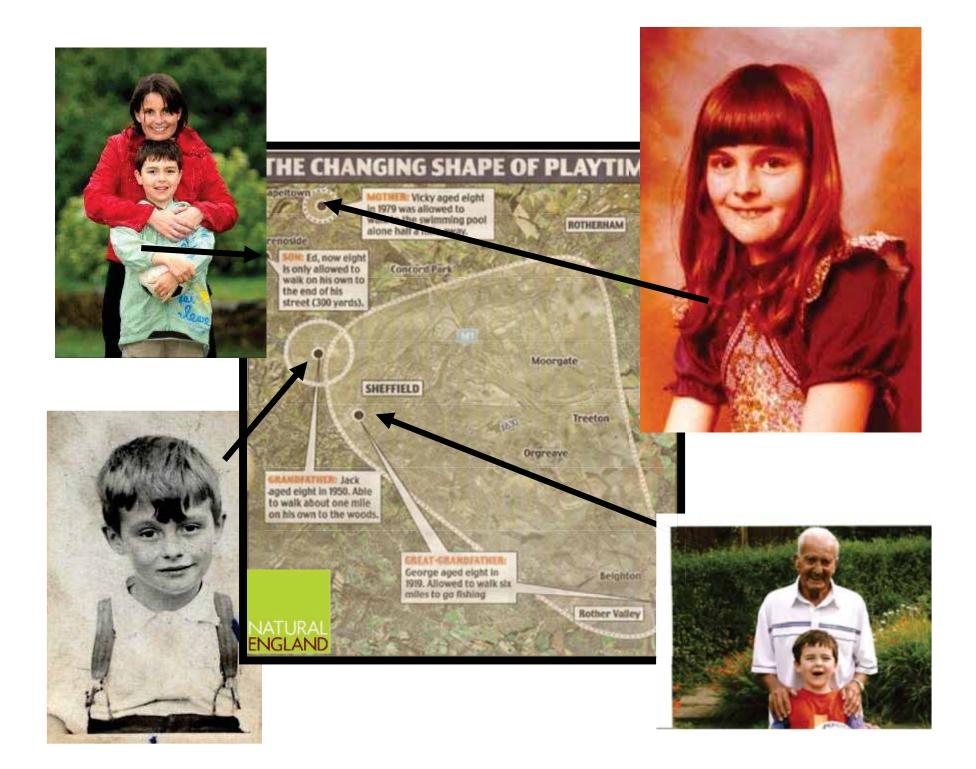




### Julie's grandmother





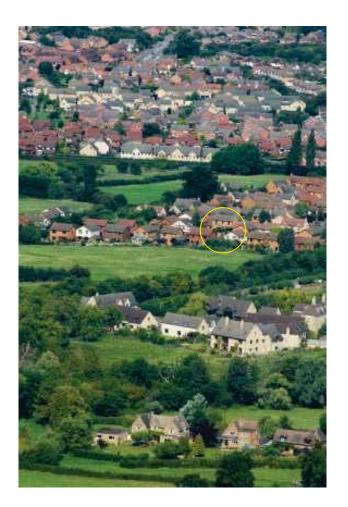


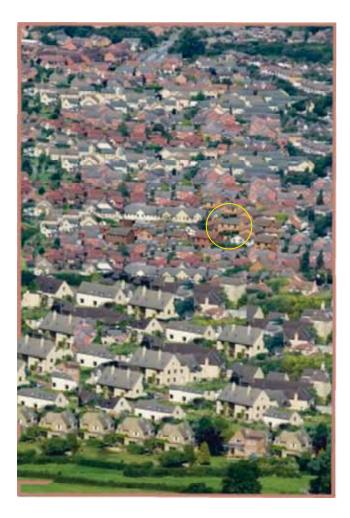




## freedom





















#### Purpose



# Wellbeing



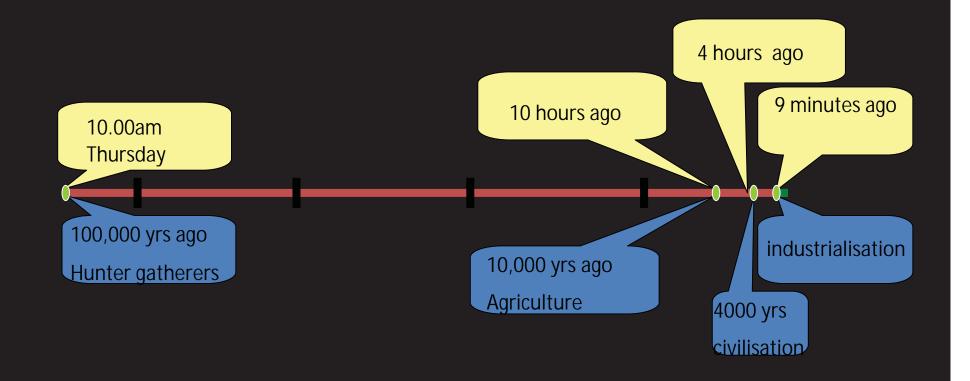


# People Place Purpose



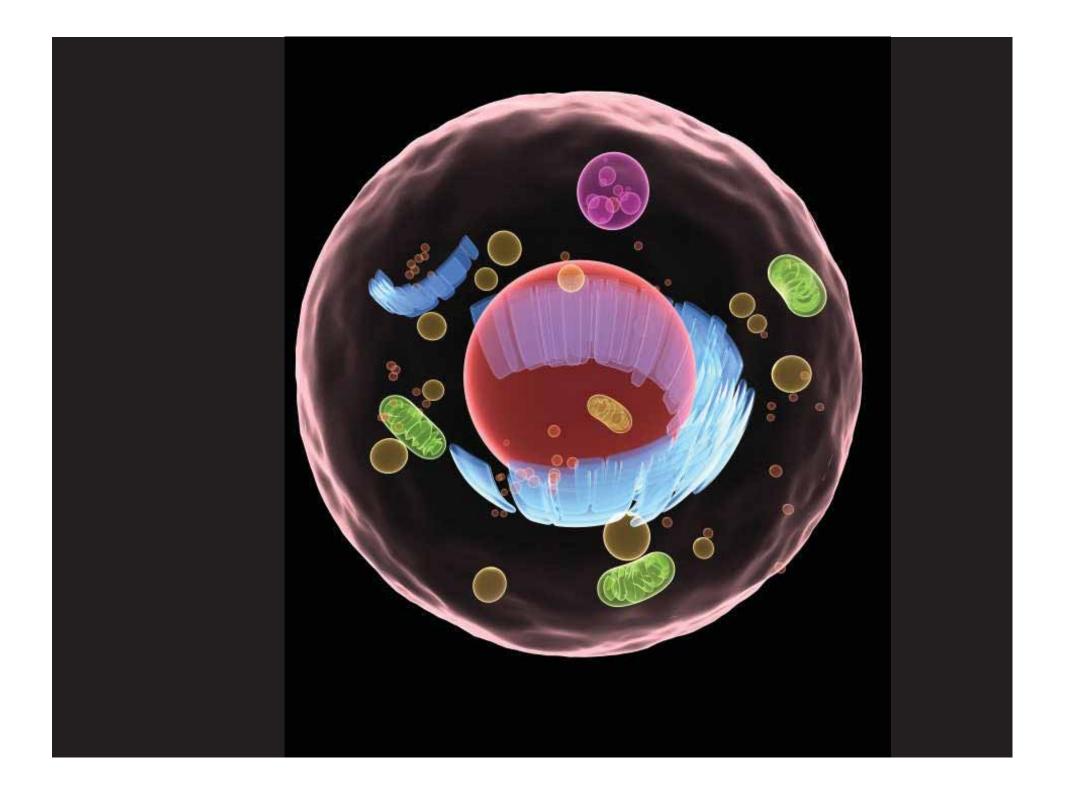
### **Chronic Stress**

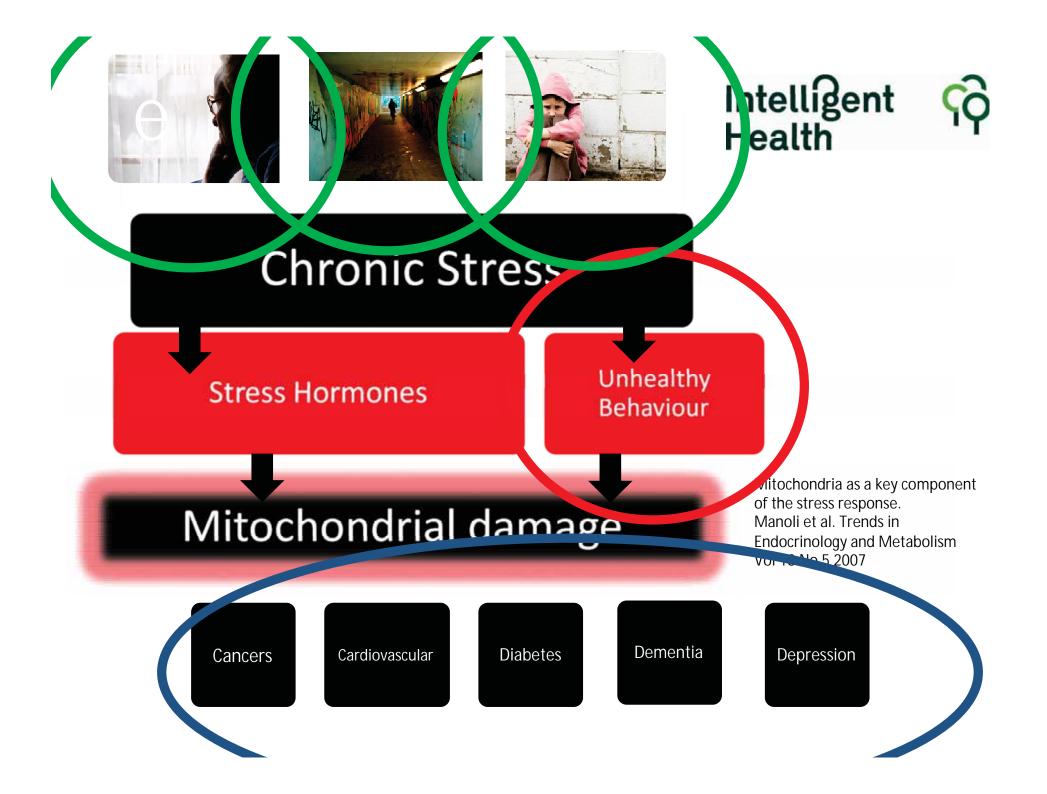
If we take an hour to equal 1000 years then from Thursday to now is 100,000 years; the time from the origin of mankind to today.











#### Obesity



# 25% of adults in Canada are obese

25% of children in Canada are overweight or obese



This costs Canada \$4.3 billion

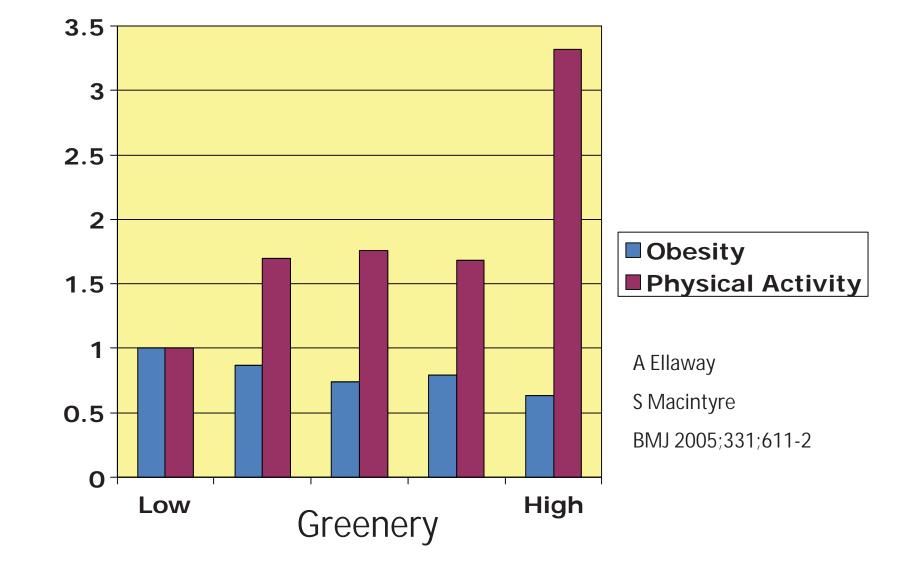
## Diabetes



- 1.9 million Canadian men and women have diabetes. This represents about 1 in 17 Canadians - 5.5 % of all women and 6.2 % of all men.
- Cost is \$8 Billion
- Up to 80% of cases of type 2 diabetes can be prevented







Odds Ratio

#### **Benefits of Physical Activity**



++ = Strong effect + = Slight effect • = no effect

	CHD	CVA	Diabetes	Depression	Colon Cancer	Breast Cancer	Hip Fracture	Lung Cancer	Dementia	Prostate Cancer	Mortality
Physical Inactivity	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	++
Smoking	++	++	•	+	+	•	•	++	++	•	++
Cholesterol	++	+	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•
Hypertension	++	++	•	•	•	•	•	•	++	+	++
Diet	++	++	++	•	++	•	+	•	•	•	++

#### Benefits of Physical Activity

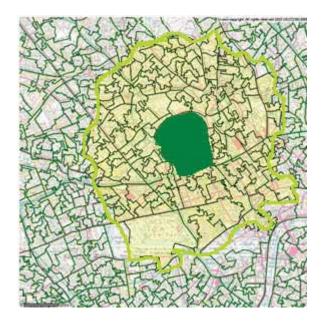


#### Each QALY costs:

- £17,000 for statin supplement
- £9,515 for smoking cessation
- £440 for physical activity

# Cost benefit of PA in a Park

- Regents Park contributes 6.1% of recommended activity for every person within a 2km radius
- The population within 2km of The Regents Park is 199,480 = 0.62% of the UK population
- The Regents Park is therefore a health resource that provides opportunity for physical activity valued at £4.1 million and £643,000 to the economy and NHS respectively each year.



REF: Internal report for Royal Parks Agency London 2009

#### Obesity and Green Space

The difference in the weight gain between children living near green and non green areas was 5.1kg for girls aged 16yrs and 5.9kg for boys.





REF Bell et al 2008 Am J Prev Med 2008;35(6):547–553)

### Mental Health



- The economic cost of mental illnesses in Canada for the health care system was estimated to be at least \$7.9 billion
- \$6.3 billion was spent on uninsured mental health services and time off work.
- In 1999, 3.8% of all admissions in general hospitals (1.5 million hospital days) were due to mental ill health.



## Pills or activity ?



The Chief medical officer (UK) states that "Physical activity is effective in the treatment of clinical depression and can be as successful as psychotherapy or medication" (DH 2004)

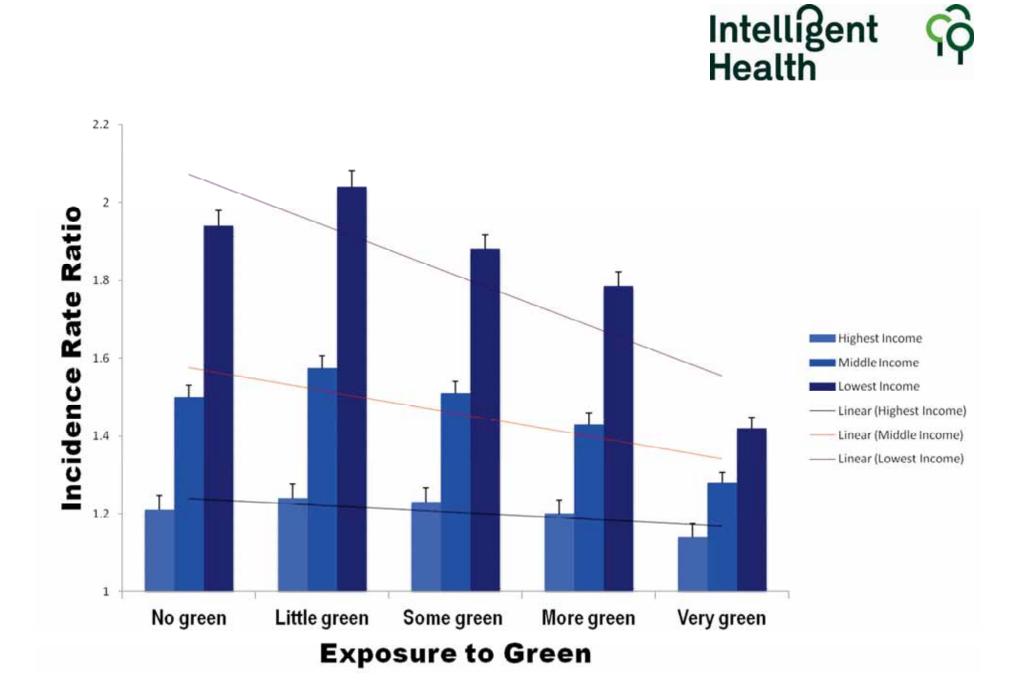


### Fair Society Healthy Lives



- The budget for new road building, if used differently, could provide 1,000 new parks at an initial cost of £10 million each.
- One thousand new parks could save approximately 74,000 tonnes of carbon, based on a 10 hectare park with 200 trees.





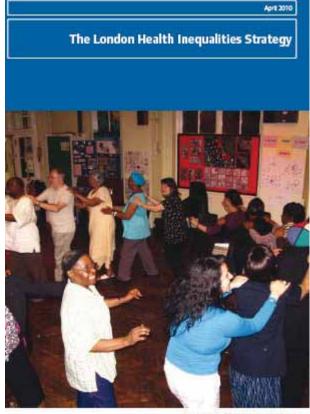
#### Life Expectancy in Brent (London)





#### London Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy





MAYOR OF LONDON

The Mayor's Commitment

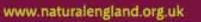
"Raise the awareness of the Health Benefits of access to nature and green spaces and extend these benefits to all Londoners."



#### **Our Natural Health Service**

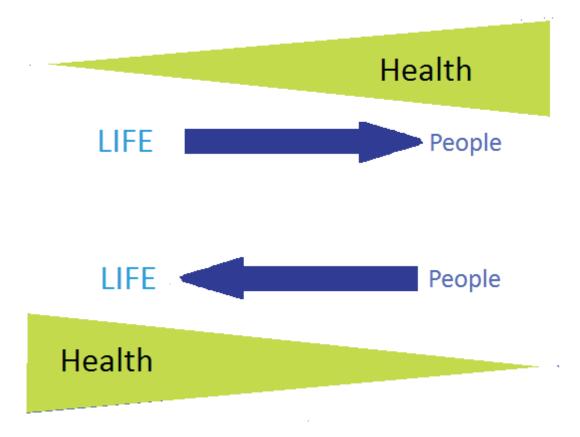
The role of the natural environment in maintaining healthy lives





#### Our Natural Health Service







# Life Supply



- The Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages said in his annual report of 1845:
- "a Park in the East End of London would probably diminish the annual deaths by several thousands.... and add several years to the lives of the entire population".
- Queen Victoria agreed, and with the backing of 30,000 signatories a brand new park was opened in 1850.





# Life Supply



 NHS Forest: Aim to plant 1.3 million trees in and around hospitals, health centres and local communities over next 3 years.





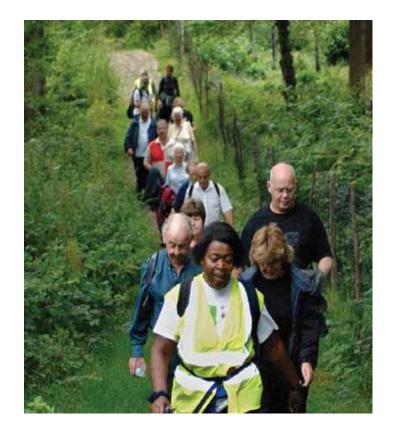
#### Every GP practice to plan their Natural Extension. Natural England / NHS Alliance Health

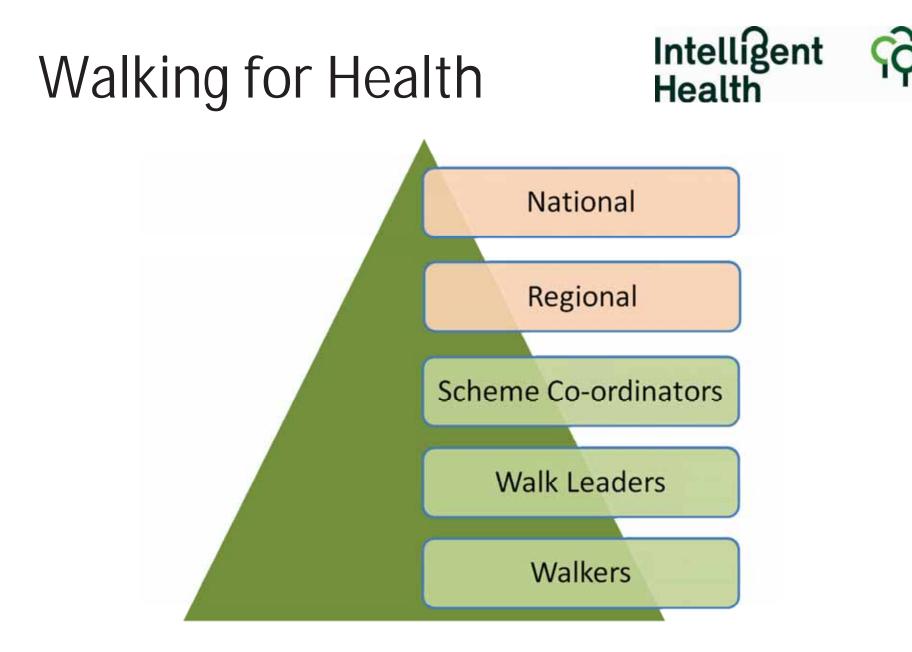




#### Demand for Life

- Europe's largest walking scheme
- About 175,000 walks a year in 650 schemes (England only)
- 1.8 million contacts a year
- About 10,000 active volunteer walk leaders











#### London 2012 Legacy



- From 2013 any school or city can enter the annual International Walk to School Competition.
- This will match any school with any other school anywhere in the world.
- Children will lead the example of reducing CO2 improving air quality and increasing physical activity.











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## Life is Good