

The Association of London Environmental Health Managers (ALEHM)

Business Plan 2022-24

History of ALEHM

ALEHM was established in 2005 with the aim of supporting senior managers (mainly Chief Environmental Health Officers) within Environmental Health across London. The organisation has since morphed into a support for EH Leads rather than senior managers, as Local Authority management and team structures have changed drastically since the start of austerity. There is no longer the role of “Chief Environmental Health Officer” that was prevalent in councils up until the early 2000’s.

Goals and objectives

ALEHM's core objectives centre around protecting and improving the environment and public health in London by undertaking the following:

- (a) Providing a policy and strategy forum for London borough environmental health managers, leads, and staff to develop and deliver environmental health services within London.
- (b) Assisting in the development and promotion of coordinated environmental health services for London.
- (c) Identifying the training needs of London's environmental health services to develop and deliver appropriate training.

Alehm also has 5 charitable themes and provides benefit to the general public and residents of London by:

- a) Identifying and establishing partnerships to maximise the use of resources and improve the effectiveness of service delivery to benefit of the public and residents of the London boroughs.
- b) Supporting members in the development and maintenance of their policy and strategic knowledge to assist with the design of effective services that meet legislative requirements benefiting the public;

- c) Support services by coordinating the technical groups to ensure the expertise in environmental topics is maintained, best practice is shared and developed and that staff are properly trained to enable them to deliver a complete service to the benefit of the public;
- d) Promoting learning by helping to maintain adequate numbers of suitably qualified and competent staff that reflect the demographic makeup of the capital and are essential to delivering sustainable services which safeguard the wider environmental health, benefiting the public.
- e) Building capacity by maintaining an organisation that is effectively governed and satisfies statutory requirements to deliver its objectives for the benefit of the public.

Business structure

Alehm employs 3 part time employees, a manager (15 hours per week), a co-ordinator (20 hours per week) and an administrative officer (12 hours per week). Until August 2023 there was also a project officer employed for 3 hours per week. We also employ the services of a minute taker when required.

Day to day operations and priorities for 22-24

Item	Detail
Partnership working	<p>We aim to work with partners to establish and develop alliances that will help us to improve the effectiveness of environmental health related service delivery. Examples of partnerships are listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. - GLA Licensing and Regulation sub-group Created during the Covid pandemic to bring enforcers, policy makers and business representatives together, Alehm’s vital role in this dynamic and strategic group enables issues faced by enforcers to be raised and discussed and potential resolutions identified through sharing of information, lobbying and training while ensuring regulatory activity is aligned with business needs.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. OPSS Strategic Regional Network London's SRN is chaired by Valerie Simpson at LBHF and Sarah Newman at LB Bromley. Funded by OPSS, it pulls together enforcers from the regions into a national regional network of regulators. 3. GLA – HCC project. Healthier Catering Commitment: The HCC group represents over 20 London local authorities and public health teams, and the aim is to make small changes to the food offered in fast food and takeaway premises to make it slightly healthier. It also aims to provide healthier options to make it easier to make healthier choices. Alehm has helped coordinate the project and maintain its momentum by supporting the chair, minute taking and attending business meetings to promote the aims of the group with food producers and distributors. Financial assistance is received annually with a grant of £25,000 from the Greater London Authority. Though this has been subject to review and approval this year. A small proportion of Alehm's costs were covered by this funding, although Alehm also invests internal resources into this project. 4. Support the All-borough Health and Safety Liasson Group (ALBHSLG). This is a very dynamic and active group , the Alehm manager works closely with the Chairs of this group to maintain the momentum and assist with co-ordination. 5. The National Association of Chief Environmental Health Officers (ACEHO) was established in 2020, this group gained momentum during the pandemic and all local authorities from across the country are now active members. Alehm will continue to represent London at this group, as it takes on a more formal role with Government support to represent the local authority environmental health network in the future. We are working with ACEHO to establish how we can further support. 6. A possible new project with Trading Standards around estate agents is also being discussed.
Benchmarking	Benchmarking is carried out on a variety of topics and results shared with all boroughs.
ALEHM free themed meetings	Regular themed meetings with speakers 5 times a year covering: Housing, Food, Health and Safety, Environmental Protection, Management etc.
Training	ALEHM will continue to deliver a variety of training spanning all areas of environment health with relevant up to date topics keeping abreast of change.
CPD days	4 CPD days a year covering Housing, Noise, Health and Safety and Food which are very popular and well received.

Support services	Sector groups and All borough Liaison meetings
Projects	The HCC project has been running for a number of years. Alehm will look to develop further projects and review its involvement with HCC.
Respond to emerging events and consultations	eg FSA consultation – coordinated response. Damp/mould training identified as a priority for PSH officers following the tragic death of a toddler caused by damp/mould in the home.
Student EHO support	A student working group is being formed with a working group of LA's, students and apprentices and links with Universities
Newsletter	This is sent out twice a year, the first has gone out.
Social media	To update our LinkedIn and Facebook account pages
Legislation	Distribute a list of all relevant legislation for boroughs to have as a reference the first list has been sent out, and copies of authorizations will also be shared
ALEHM website	Update and improve website to make more user friendly for members.