

Professor Aidan Halligan

MA, MD, FRCOG, FFPHM, MRCP



In January, 2014, Aidan Halligan was appointed by Public Health England, the University of Manchester, Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to lead on improving the health of the poorest fastest across the North West. He is Principal of the UCLP NHS Staff College for leadership development working with the military.

Previously, he was Director of Clinical Governance for the NHS, and served in the Department of Health as Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England, with responsibility for issues of clinical governance, patient safety and quality of care across the NHS in England. Prior to this, he was Professor of Fetal-Maternal Medicine at the University of Leicester and Head of Obstetric Services at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Aidan is Chairman of Pathway, a charitable organisation that is developing health services for the homeless within the NHS. He is also Chair of the Faculty for Homeless and Inclusion Health, based at the College of Medicine, Guy's Hospital, London.

The London Pathway

The medical care of homeless people is a challenge for traditional health care delivery models. The relentless immediacy of the daily struggle for safe shelter and a warm meal relegates health needs to a distant priority. Common illnesses progress and injuries fester, leading to increased numbers of A&E visits and hospital admissions. Treatment plans that make sense for those with homes and family support are often unworkable for homeless people: bedrest is impossible, simple dressing changes difficult, medications hard to obtain and store, and adherence to regimens requiring multiple daily dosing is daunting. Recent work has calculated that homeless people in the UK attend A&E six times more than average, are admitted to hospital four times as often, and because their illnesses are often so severe, stay in hospital three times as long.

The London Pathway is:

- A model of integrated, person-centred healthcare for homeless people
- An organization to develop and champion health services for the homeless within the NHS
- A network of support for healthcare workers engaging with homeless people