Lead in the UK Still Here, Still Harming



Why is action on lead still needed?



180,00 to 280,000 lead poisoned children (1)

<u>Little or inadequate:</u>

Costs £6 billion per year (5,6)





55% of homes built before lead paint was labelled. 82% before most lead paint was banned. (2,3)

Compliance

still with lead pipes (7)





Lead from petrol is still here (4)

Testing
Screening
Lead-Safe Servi

Lead exposure from many other sources (8)

9 million homes



Associated Health Impacts (9)



Reproductive – miscarriage, pre-term birth, low birth weight, delayed puberty



Neurological - IQ loss, lower academic achievement, decreased hearing, essential tremor



Psychological - problem behaviour, ADHD, depression, anxiety, panic



Cardiovascular – heart attack, stroke, increased blood pressure



Renal - reduced kidney function

The good news:

Lead poisoning is 100% preventable.

(10)

Three cheap and simple initiatives that would be a good start:

- Home surveys to include lead exposure risk assessments before sale or rent
- Place leaflets in professional and DIY outlets that sell paints and abrasives
- GPs to be educated on conditions related to lead exposure and encouraged to provide blood tests



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(1) <u>Unicef</u>, (2) <u>Government housing report</u> (3) <u>UK legislation</u> (4) <u>Resongles et al</u> 2021, (5) <u>Unicef</u> (6) <u>World Population Review</u> (7) <u>HHSRS, 2004</u> (8) <u>EPA</u> (9) <u>US National Toxicological Programme Monograph on Lead</u> (10) <u>USA Centres for Disease Control</u>

1 9th May 2022