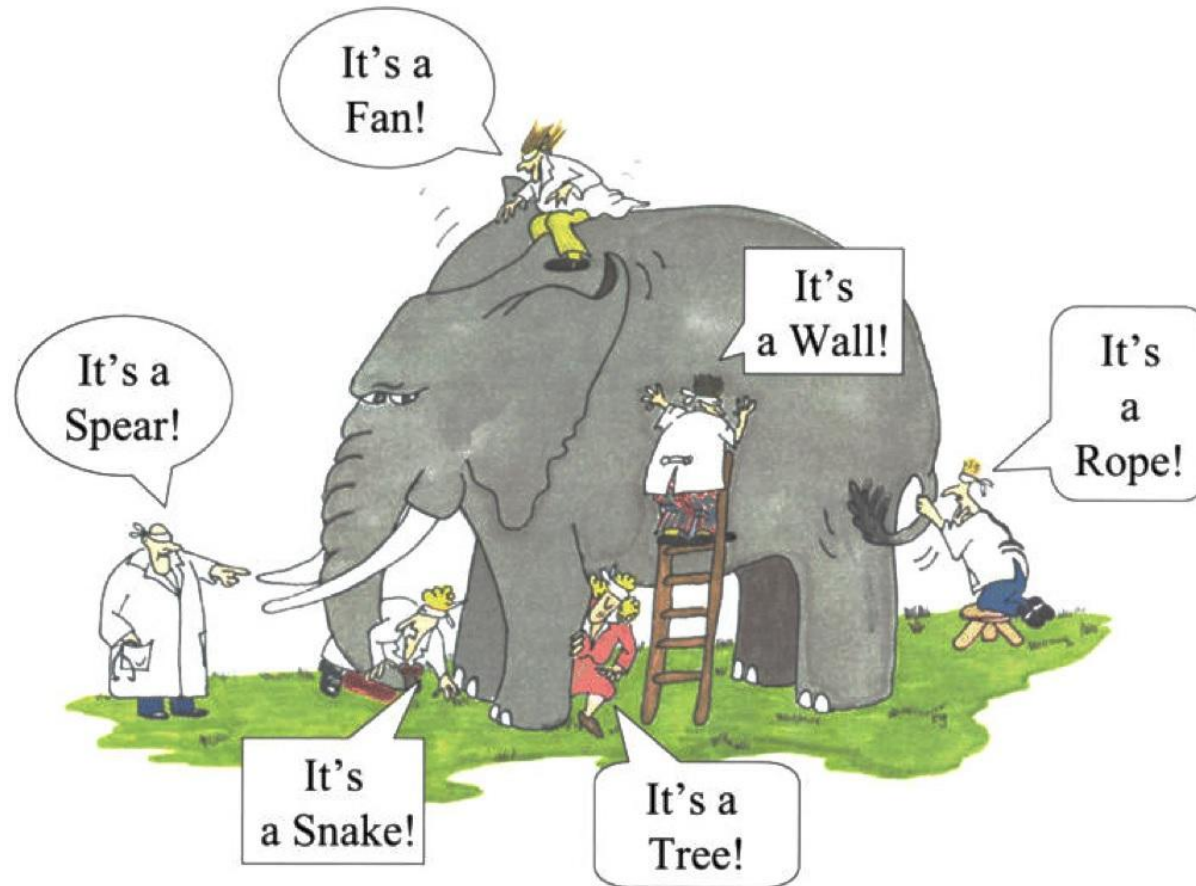


What are the priorities for children and young people's asthma care in 2025/26: importance of wider social/environment issues?

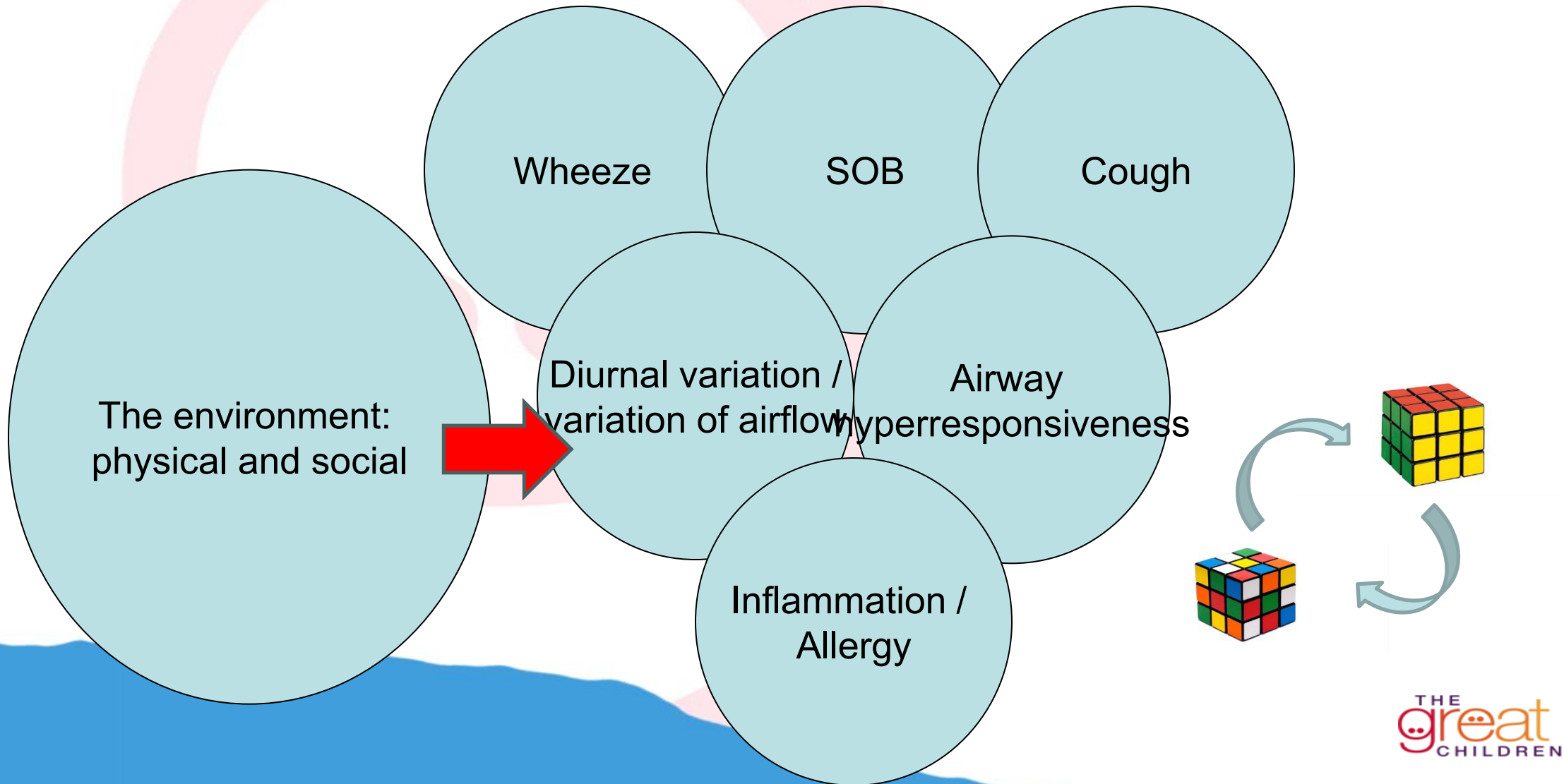
Story about asthma....

- Tamara's story





What is asthma?



Asthma priorities

1. Get an [asthma action plan](#) in place
 2. Understand how to use [inhalers](#) correctly
 3. Schedule an [asthma review](#) – every year and after every attack
 4. Consider [air pollution](#) and its impact on lung health
- Lessons from CYP who die due to asthma...

Asthma deaths and near fatal asthma n =54

April 2019 – March 2024 – NCMD England

Adverse medical factors

87% arrested outside hospital	48
65% ED or admitted in last year	34
87% had ≥ 3 SABA in the last yr	47
No action plan	10 / 36
No follow up within 2 days of admission	11/17
Issues of treatment delays	13

Adverse psychosocial factors

Death rate 4 x higher in children from most deprived area	
Death rate higher in those from ethnic background	
All exposed to air pollution > WHO guidelines	
PM2.5 – 9.6 mcgm/m ² at home and school (WHO <5; UK <20mcg/m ²)	
NO ₂ – 19.5 and 19.6 at home/school (WHO <10mcg/m ² ; UK,40mcg/m ²)	
Smoker/Vaper	2/ 22
Family smokers	32 (48%)
Known to social services	23/57 (34%)
WNB (DNA)	12/26 (39%)
Parental non-compliance	12/26 (39%)

[Child deaths due to asthma, anaphylaxis and allergies](#)

Asthma deaths and near fatal asthma n =53 2014

Adverse medical factors

No education/management plan	34
Under treatment with ICS	22
Inadequate GP FU	18
Inadequate PEF monitoring	12
Under treatment with prednisolone	8
No referral to specialist	2
No monitoring of repeat scripts	2
Doctor factors	2
Unconventional treatment	1
Failure to address asthma in an addict	1
Total pts with adverse factors	44 (83%)

Adverse psychosocial factors

Poor compliance/monitoring	23
Smoker	16
Failed/refused appointments	15
Denial/poor perception	12
Depression	7
Addiction	6
Poor family support/housing	6
Psychiatric hx	3
Morbid obesity	3
No telephone	2
Total pts with adverse factors	38 (72%)

Health inequalities and asthma

Housing

- issues such as damp, mould and poor ventilation exacerbate asthma

Access to services

- we know that there are challenges across a range of inequalities with accessing care both in the community and acutely

Air pollution exposure

- lower income families are more likely to live in more highly polluted areas

High requirement of self-management

- this is more difficult for families living in poverty or facing hardships

Hospitalisation

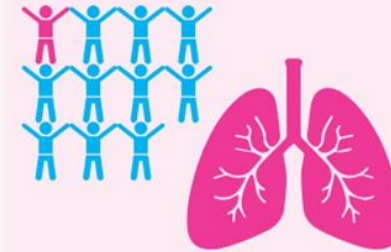
- we know that statistically those from lower income households are more likely to be admitted to hospital for their asthma

Role of RCPCH

Asthma is a national issue

Respiratory illness

- Around **1 in 11 children and young people live with asthma** (1.1 million) and the UK has one of the highest prevalence of emergency admission and death rates for childhood asthma.¹¹



RCPCH has a key role in medical education, professional standards, research and policy.

Our policy work brings together multi-agency responses- e.g. Drs can't directly solve housing issues, we have to work together

Working together nationally helps us to better understand the problems, draw conclusions from the data and identify efficient solutions

From left behind to leading the way: a blueprint for transforming child health services in England

- Children's services have been out of scope of NHS reform
- Demand has grown due to preventable and non-preventable ill health
- No equivalent increase in investment in children's service capacity or workforce number
- The result is children are waiting longer than adults to access services, paediatric services face poorer recovery, and families have growing barriers to accessing care



National Campaigning - Tobacco and Vapes

The problem:

- Growing concern from our members about the increasing popularity of vapes among young people.
- In 2024, 18% of 11–17-year-olds had tried vaping, compared to 11% in 2021, rising steadily from 3.8% in 2013.
- Exposure of CYP to nicotine can lead to long-term negative impacts on health, as well as long-term addiction.
- Data showed that disposable e-cigarettes were the product of choice for children and young people.
- Based on the information and evidence available, RCPCH called for a ban on disposable vapes in 2023.

National Campaigning - Tobacco and Vapes

Influencing change by:

- Advocating for action through targeted media activity to raise the alarm on youth vaping
- Becoming a trusted voice through responding formal Calls of Evidence and providing oral evidence for the Health Select Committee
- Building relationships by briefing MPs ahead of key debates and supporting the development of health plans
- Keeping the issue high on the political agenda with officials at the Department of Health and Social Care

Creation of resources - RCPCH Air Pollution Companion



Knowledge hub

For anyone interested in learning more about air pollution and its impact on child health.

Knowledge hub



Communication toolkit

For child health professionals who want to make talking about air pollution 'business as usual'.

Communication toolkit



Advocacy toolkit

For health professionals who want to advocate for broader systemic change to improve air quality.

Advocacy toolkit



Case studies

Explore our library of case studies highlighting projects and professionals working to improve air quality.

Case studies



Clean air community

Discover more about our national and international networks focused on air pollution and child health.

Clean air community



Clean air clinics

For policy makers, NHS leaders and child health professionals. Read more about these innovative clinics.

Clean air clinics



Reports - Clean Air, Healthy Childhoods

RCPCH policy report

Clean air, healthy childhoods: Innovative clinical responses to environmental health inequalities

RCPCH Clean Air Fund partnership



Summary of recommendations



For UK governments and administrations:

- Enact a Clean Air Act ensuring legal rights to clean air
- Meet 2005 WHO Air Quality Guidelines
- Expand Awaab's Law across the UK to cover private renters
- Fund air quality monitoring in schools and empower councils to act on breaches

For Local Authorities and housing teams

- Improve housing conditions with faster response to mould and damp complaints.
- Forge stronger partnerships with healthcare services.

For Boards, Trusts and Integrated Care Systems:

- Pilot 'hub and spoke' models to link specialist clinics with local services.
- Allocate time for detailed consultations and housing advocacy.

For Royal Colleges and medical schools:

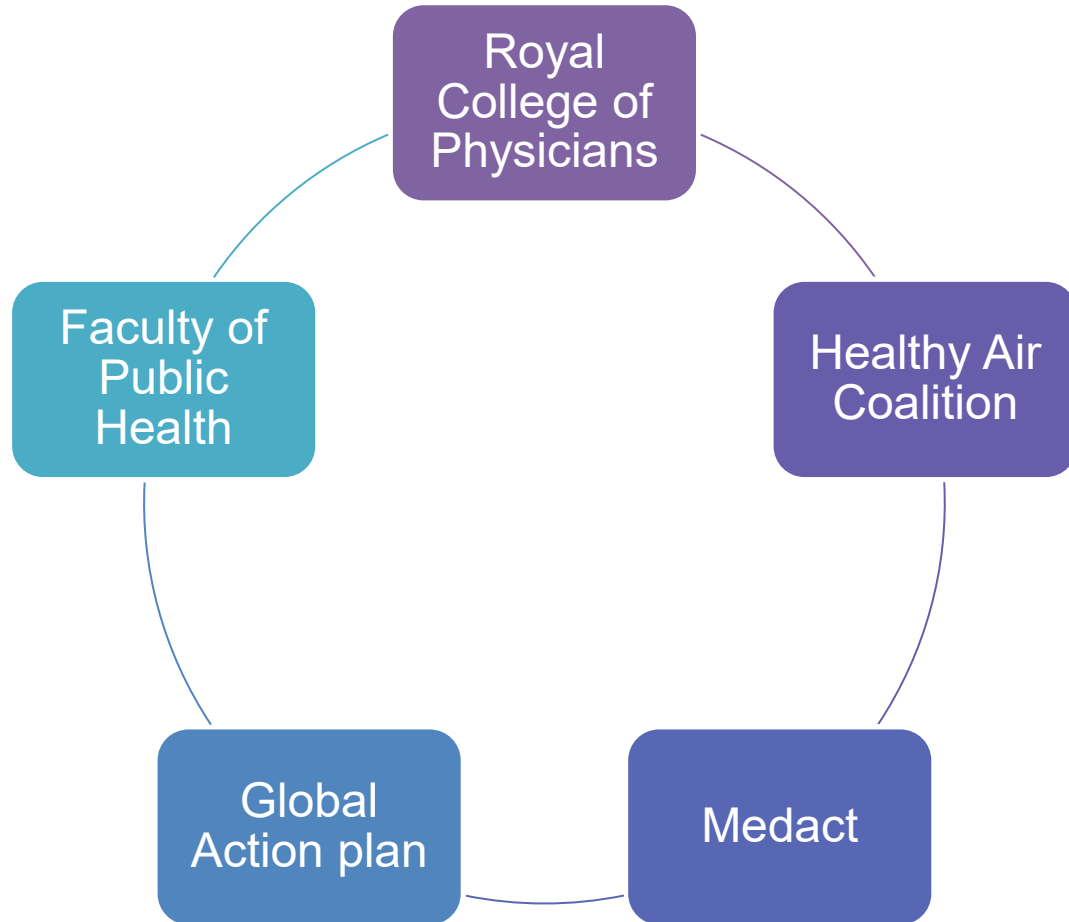
- Embed environmental health in core curricula
- Encourage research, CPD and education on environmental health across specialities
- Use RCPCH Air Pollution Companion to upskill healthcare professionals to have conversations with children and families on the impact of air pollution and the "talking to patients about air pollution" module of simulated conversations with children, young people and families.

For clinicians:

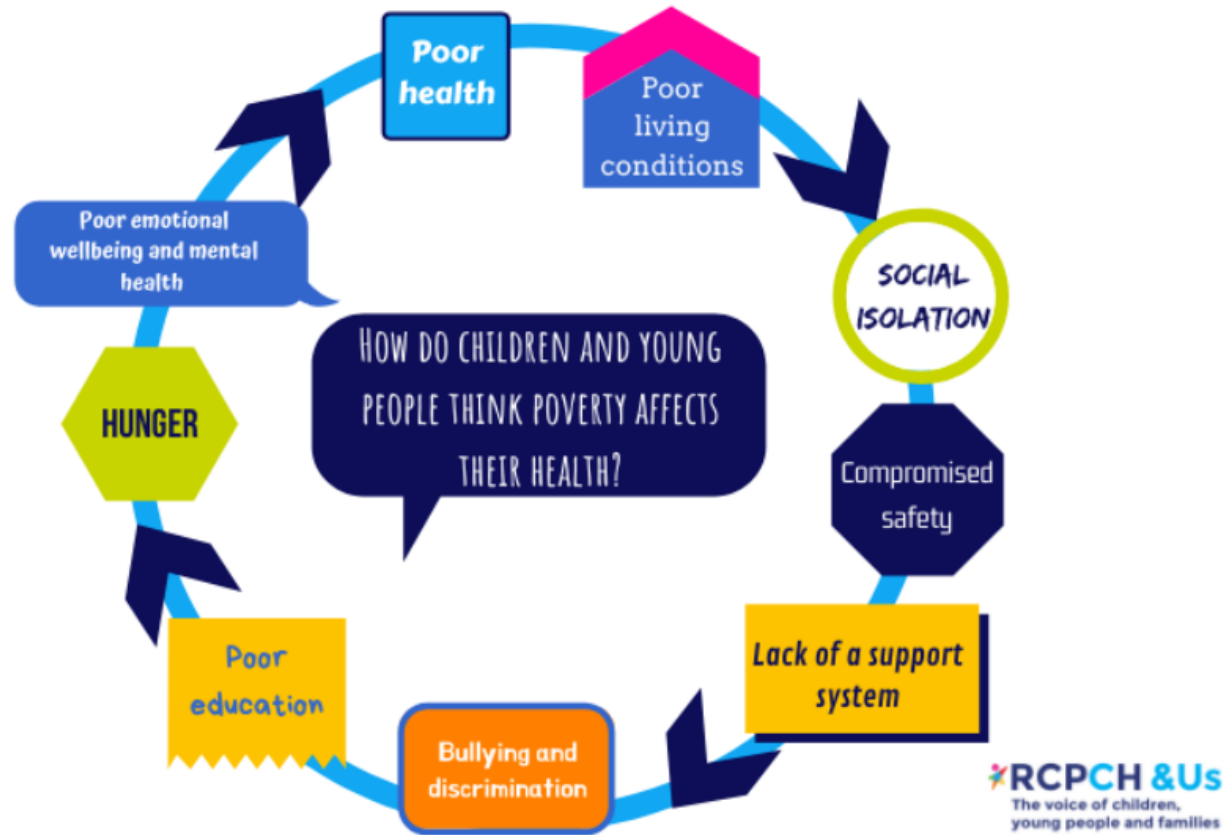
- Incorporate environmental history into routine care
- Complete accredited CPD activity on environmental impacts on health and health inequalities
- Use evidence-based tools to advocate for healthier environments

Published June 2025

Coalition work - Clean Air Policy



RCPCH & Us



Asthma priorities

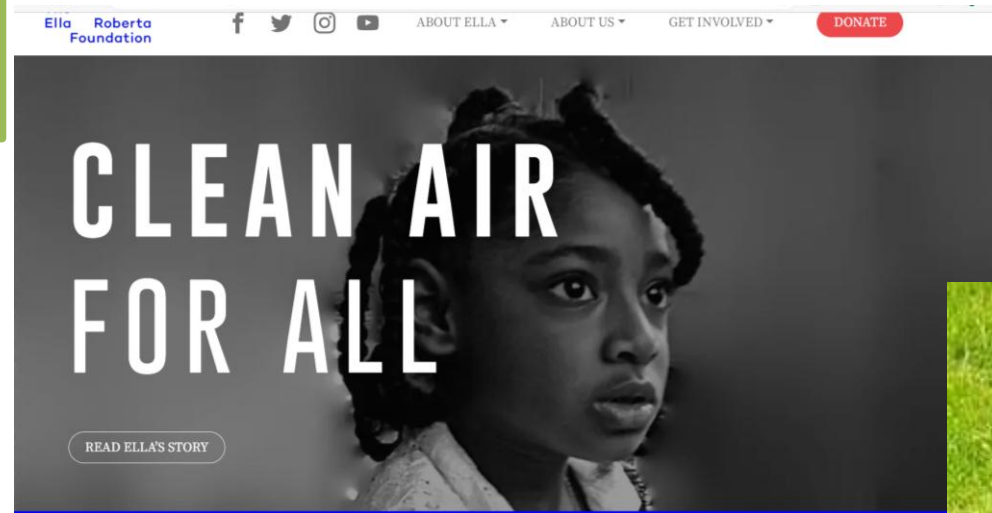
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- Social environment: [access / education](#)
 - Physical environment: [pollution / housing](#)
 - Lessons from CYP who die due to asthma...

“The majority...are preventable”

Lest we forget....



Tamara



Ella



Awaab