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Levelling up life chances preconception

Why: STEM interventions and a national surveillance infrastructure are fundamental to tackling the disparities in preconception health that underlie disparities in life chances of the next generation. The Government's [Women's Health Strategy for England](#) has the ambition that "women and their partners are supported to optimise their health and wellbeing prior to conception to improve pregnancy outcomes and to give their child the best start in life".

Why now: The [UK Preconception Partnership](#) recently worked with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities to produce the first baseline national-level [report card on women's preconception health](#), identifying numerous opportunities to improve preconception health and reduce disparities in England.

Why scrutiny needed: Government has recognised the need to act, but the 10-year strategy has no plan for: 1) standardisation/quality improvement of routinely-collected data; and 2) how such data will inform implementation and evaluation of the Strategy's ambition to improve preconception health.

Why action needed: Life chances are deteriorating and disparities are widening – preconception intervention is fundamental to reversing these serious trends.

How to improve: Government should support development of a comprehensive national surveillance infrastructure for preconception health, informing implementation and evaluation of interventions that support preconception preparation for the next generation.

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