

# Msc Health Policy, Planning and Financing

## 40th anniversary programme

Health Policy, Planning and Financing – Journey from 1986 and beyond

### Venue: John Snow Lecture Theatre, LSHTM campus

- 17:30 - 18:00 **Registration**
- 18:00 - 18:05 **Welcome to LSHTM**  
Dr Tracey Chantler and Professor Liam Smeeth, Director of LSHTM
- 18:05 - 18:10 **Introduction to panel event**  
Dr Mrigesh Bhatia
- 18:10 - 18:30 **The development of the field of health policy, planning and financing in low and middle income countries**  
Prof. Dame Anne Mills, LSHTM
- 18:30 - 18:45 **The development of the field of health policy, planning and financing in high income countries**  
Prof. Sir Julian Le Grand, LSE
- 18:45 - 19:05 **Panel contributions**  
**Chair:** Prof. Dame Anne Mills, LSHTM  
**Alumni:**
- Dr Anna Dixon, MBE, MP, Shipley constituency, UK
  - Dr Josep Figueras, Director Emeritus of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
  - Imogen Sharp, former civil servant (DoH), PhD candidate, LSHTM
  - Dr Uju Mabel Onyes, Director Health Financing (Global) at Last Mile Health
- 19:05 - 19:45 **Panel and audience discussion**
- 19:45 - 19:50 **Announcements**  
Dr Mrigesh Bhatia
- 19:50 - 19:55 **Invitation to alumni presentations at LSE**  
Dr Justin Parkhurst
- 19:55 - 20:00 **Thanks**  
Dr David Lugo-Palacios
- 20:00 - 21:00 **Drinks reception**

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### Speakers



Professor Dame Anne Mills is Emeritus Professor of Health Economics and Policy at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). Educated at the Universities of Oxford (MA), Leeds (Diploma) and London (PhD), she began her career as an ODI Fellow and Health Ministry economist in Malawi, then researched NHS planning at Leeds University before joining LSHTM in 1979. She built up a large programme of research in global health economics at LSHTM, and is a worldwide authority on health economics and health systems. Her work has helped shape health systems, with particular engagement in South Africa, Tanzania, India and Thailand. She has contributed to strengthening health-economics capacity in universities, institutes and governments. She was the first Director of the LSHTM/LSE MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing, and has supervised numerous PhD students.

She has served as LSHTM's Deputy Director and Provost, President, International Health Economics Association, and member of international commissions including WHO's Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. She chaired the NIHR Global Health Policy and Systems Research Funding Committee, and co-chaired the FCDO Research Advisory Committee. She received a CBE for services to medicine in 2006, and is a Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences and of The Royal Society. In 2015 she received a DCMG in recognition of her services to international health. Her other awards include the Galen Medal for Therapeutics and the Prince Mahidol Award for Medicine.

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Prof. Sir. Julian Le Grand has been a professor of social policy at the London School of Economics since 1993. He is currently a member of the LSE's Marshall Institute.

From 2003 to 2005 he was seconded to No 10 Downing St to serve as Senior Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister. From 2007 to 2009 he was Chair of Health England: the National Reference Group for Health and Well Being for the UK Department of Health. From 2011 to 2013, he was Chair of the UK Cabinet Office's Mutuals Task Force. As well as these positions, he has acted as an adviser on health policy to the President of the European Commission, the World Bank, the World Health Organisation and HM Treasury. He has been a Trustee of the Kings Fund, the Vice-Chairman of a major teaching hospital, a Commissioner on the Commission for Health Improvement, and a non-executive director of several health authorities. He was one of the principal architects of the UK's public service reforms in the early 2000s empowering users and introducing contestability into health care and education.

Julian was awarded a knighthood in the 2015 New Year's Honour's list for services to social sciences and public service.

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### Alumni speakers



Dr Anna Dixon MBE is the Labour Member of Parliament for Shipley constituency in West Yorkshire. She is a member of the Public Accounts Committee, Co-Chair of the APPG Carers and APPG Housing and Care for Older People, and Chair of Christians on the Left. Anna is a member of Community Trade Union, Labour Women's Network, and the Fabian Society.

Prior to being elected Anna worked in a range of senior leadership roles in the health and social care sectors. She has nearly 30 years' experience in health and social care, with expertise in ageing and public health. She held a number of senior positions including Director of Strategy and Chief Analyst at the Department of Health and Social Care and Director of Policy at the King's Fund. She also worked internationally for the World Health Organisation and European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

A former Chief Executive of the Centre for Ageing Better, Anna led the development and delivery of both organisational and national strategies. She received an MBE for services to wellbeing in later life in the 2021 New Year's Honours List. Anna chaired the Archbishops' Commission on Reimagining Care (June 2021-Jan 2023) and served as a member of the Advisory Group to the Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland (Sept 2020-Jan 2021). She was a founding trustee of Helpforce, a charity which supports volunteering in health and care and served as the Chair until 2025.

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Dr. Josep Figueras, MD, MPH, PhD (Econ), FFPH, is Director Emeritus of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and currently serves as Ambassador for the European Health Union Fellowships program. He was the founding director of the Observatory and, in addition to his work with the World Health Organization, has served major multilateral organizations such as the European Commission and the World Bank. He has served as a policy advisor in over forty countries across the European region and beyond.

Josep is a member of several governance, advisory, and editorial boards, including the Governing Board of the European Health Forum Gastein. His research focuses on health systems and policy, including comparative health systems, performance assessment, public health policy, and knowledge translation.

He is an Honorary Fellow of the UK Faculty of Public Health and has received numerous awards, including the Edward Kennedy Health Policy Award from Trinity College, the Spanish Ministry of Health Award, the European Health Forum Gastein Star, the Andrija Stampar Medal for Excellence in Public Health, and a Doctorate Honoris Causa from Semmelweis University.

Currently, he is a Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics and the NOVA National School of Public Health in Lisbon. He previously directed the MSc in Health Services Management and lectured at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

He obtained his PhD in health policy and financing from the University of London (LSE/LSHTM) and began his career as a specialist in Family and Community Medicine in Spain.

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Dr. Uju Mabel Onyes is a health economist and physician with over a decade of experience in health financing and health systems strengthening across Africa. She currently serves as Director of Health Financing at Last Mile Health, where she supports governments to design and finance sustainable community health systems and advance progress toward universal health coverage. Her work focuses on health financing reforms, advocacy, public financial management, investment cases, and strategic purchasing, and she has collaborated with ministries of health and development partners across multiple African countries to strengthen primary health care systems and mobilize resources for community health. She holds an MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (2019) and is a trained medical doctor.