

## Adults and Healthy Communities Block Overview for end of year 2006/7

**Increasing Life Expectancy and Reducing the Gap** - Overall our headline health inequality targets are on course:

- Life expectancy is slightly below the national average but has increased by around 1.5yrs since 1997. There is a gap of 3 years between our NR areas and the district as a whole, but this has decreased by 16% since 1998.
- The main causes of death are still heart disease and cancers but rates have dropped over the last few years.
- Infant mortality rate overall has continued to fall but very high rates in some parts of the district are still a major cause for concern.

**Older People** – by building on progress made in previous years:

- The Practice Active leisure Scheme (PALS) now has 75 weekly programmes and 2050 new patients joined in 2006/7.
- Over 200 local organisations were supported to deliver 150 social care projects in communities.
- More older people are supported to live at home.
- At least 15,800 pensioners on low incomes have benefited financially from the pensioner council tax reduction scheme introduced this year. Over 5,000 of these have asked for a benefit check and have been referred to local advice providers.
- The 'Lighten Your Load' campaign has helped nearly 900 pensioner households to increase their regular income, with over £1m being paid out.
- Partner organisations are working together to help people identify and deal with bogus callers.

**Access to Health and Social Care** – this area continues to improve and targets have been achieved for 2006/7. However, according to our Tracker Survey, overall public perception seems to be that it is getting less easy to access information and health & social care services. We are looking into the reasons for this and what we can do to change perceptions.

The Gateway to Care centre opened in Huddersfield in 2005 and is proving hugely successful. Through a range of social care, health and voluntary organisations working together, it offers information, support and advice about a wide range of issues to people with social care and health needs and their carers. People contacting the centre can also be referred to creative preventive support services such as benefits advice, health trainers, adult learning and community support groups. This successful model has now been set up in Batley, with one to follow in Dewsbury.

One area that is underdeveloped is mental health. The LPSB recognises that there needs to be a clearer focus on mental health services, consequently the Board is sponsoring the development of the vision for mental wellbeing services.

**A Decent Home**

- Our Decent Homes Programme continues to deliver major improvements for KNH tenants and we are on track to deliver overall programme targets on time.
- The Kirklees Affordable Warmth Strategy is now in place – one of the main ways of delivering this is the WarmZone Project, which will visit every household in Kirklees.
- We have commissioned a range of housing for older people, including 150 affordable units for extra care.
- We have remodelled our homelessness service to intervene early to prevent homelessness.

## Adults and Healthy Communities for end of year 2006/7

### Healthier Lifestyles

The number of people smoking continues to pose the single greatest risk to the health of local people. Our Smoking Cessation Service, as with many others across the Region, have not been able to achieve the target for 2006/7. The two former PCT services have now merged and anticipate improving performance in 2007/8.

- Over 340 food outlets have now achieved our 'Healthy Choice Award', recognised by the Food Standards Agency as a model of good practice.
- The Kirklees Walking Network has 35 weekly health walks and 105 volunteers.
- Park Wardens, improved public rights of way and investment in parks and open spaces.
- Piloting of the Counterweight programme to provide dedicated support to overweight and obese adults through primary care.
- Work is now well progressed to develop a coherent set of plans to tackle obesity, food and physical activity for both adults and children.

One area where there is major concern locally is lack of awareness and support for people who misuse alcohol – both chronic alcohol misuse and binge drinking. Consequently 3 of our Local Public Service Boards are collaborating to develop an alcohol strategy to guide our work over the next 3 years.

### More people managing their own health more effectively

- More than 100 people have completed the Expert Patient Programme in 2006/7, and as with several PCT led programmes this year has been a transitional one as the programmes are brought together.
- The numbers of women accessing cancer screening, especially cervical screening, are falling (both locally and nationally) and we are developing plans to address this.
- The whole area of long-term conditions is one where we recognise that major improvements are needed, particularly in relation to promoting self-care, and this will be the focus of significant activity in the coming year.

### More Vulnerable Adults and Older People Able to Live Independently

The Kirklees Supporting People Service offers housing related support to 6,525 vulnerable people, to enable them to become more independent and take control making choices about their lives. Supporting People received a one star (fair) with excellent prospects inspection result. This puts us in the top 26 nationally (out of 70-80 inspections) and we are well on the way to embedding some of the processes that gave us the 'excellent prospects'.