

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	20th July 2011
3.	Title:	Health Inequalities
4.	Directorate:	Public Health

5. Summary:

The 2011 Health Profile¹ for Rotherham gives average male life expectancy as 76.6 years 1.7 years worse than the England average. Female life expectancy is 80.7 years 1.6 years worse than the England average. Life expectancy is 9.9 years lower for men and 5.9 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Rotherham than in the least deprived areas.

Smoking rates and levels of adult obesity are above the England average. The percentage of adults eating poorly or exercising regularly from the Health Survey for England are far worse than the England average.

The most recent Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008/9 shows that 17% of the Borough is now amongst the 10% most deprived areas in England compared to only 12% in 2007.

Rotherham's position regarding the wider determinants of health is consistently worse than the England average².

6. Recommendations:

Rotherham MBC hold a Health Summit to review its strategy for tackling health inequalities with partners from the NHS, voluntary and community sectors.

7. Proposals and Details:

The primary aim of the Summit will be to galvanise action to tackle these Health Inequalities in Rotherham. To promote integration and partnership working between the NHS, social care, public health and other local services including urban planning and transport to tackle Health Inequalities and to support democratic leadership of that process.

¹ DoH 2011 www.healthprofiles.info

² Yorkshire and the Humber Public Health Observatory Wider Determinants of Health Profile, Rotherham. Jan 2011.

Health inequalities arise because of a complex mix of economic, social and cultural factors as well as access to services to support the most vulnerable. People need safe warm housing to support their health across the public and private sector housing markets.

Rotherham MBC needs to assess the population need for health services and to act on the wider determinants of health through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This will enable all commissioners to deliver plans for joined-up services that are consistent with the strategy and lead to improved outcomes for Rotherham people.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy must ensure that there is influence on all services in the Borough to tackle the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.

Health improvement and prevention programmes need to work across life course pathways and work together with citizens, communities and partners to deliver improved health outcomes and reduced inequalities for Rotherham.

8. Finance:

Tackling Health inequalities is about co-ordinating the efforts, resources and support of the NHS, RMBC and all local partners and not just how the new proposed Public Health Budget will be spent.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

Over the last 10 years, all age all cause mortality rates have fallen across the UK and in Rotherham. The Health Inequalities gap in Rotherham has widened. We need to understand the demographic pressures and changes as well as the patterns of illness and disease that are continuing to cause health inequalities in Rotherham. This will inform the debate.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

Tackling Health Inequalities needs to be central to the work of the NHS and Local Authority. The *Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010* by Sir Michael Marmot (2010) was commissioned as a national review of health inequalities across England and the evidence base of interventions to address them. The review has a crucial relevance to the health of Rotherham residents as it sets out a framework for systematically thinking through how to reduce inequalities at a local level.

Marmot's review identifies six high level priorities for action and evidence based objectives within each of these.

Fair Society, Healthy Lives high level priorities are:

1. Give every child the best start in life
2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
3. Create fair employment and good work for all
4. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

Two things stand out: first the importance of tackling all of the social determinants of health taking a 'life course' approach and, second, doing more than just targeting the most disadvantaged, but addressing the whole social gradient.

Rotherham has a strong record of working with the Health Inequalities National Support Team and our colleagues at the Government Office to develop and performance review a robust health inequalities action plan. This has contributed to improvements in health outcomes across the Borough.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

Health Profile 2011 DH attached.

Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010 by Sir Michael Marmot (2010)

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