

South Hams District and West Devon Borough Councils and Public Health

MEMBERS' INFORMATION SHEET – Update 2014-15

Purpose

- To update Members of the changes in public health legislation and the impacts that these have on SHDC and WDBC.
- To clarify the roles of both SHDC and WDBC in the new regime.
- To provide links to further information.
- To provide an overview of the Public Health Plan for both authorities.

Background

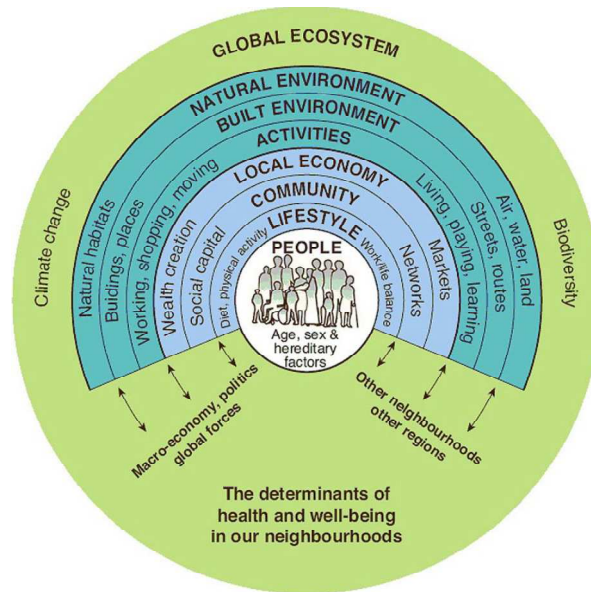
The Government's Public Health White Paper *Healthy Lives, Healthy People's* recognised the importance that local communities have in public health decision making and in tackling local health inequalities. The White Paper recognised that the nation's health profile is changing and that there are many reasons for health inequalities across the country. The White Paper also identified that many health issues can be dealt with at a local level and that the people who are responsible for health delivery services need to be more accountable to the people that they serve.

As of April 2013, upper tier local authorities have been given the responsibility for improving the public health of the populations they serve under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. As one of the requirements of the Act, a Director of Public Health who oversees the public health responsibility for the whole of Devon has been employed by Devon County Council. In addition a Health and Wellbeing Board has been set up at Devon County Council along with Clinical Commissioning Groups.

What is public health?

Public health is all about improving the health of a population and preventing ill health. A key concept behind public health is 'prevention is better than cure'. There are many factors that can impact on a person's health and their likelihood to develop illness or disease. These factors can be shown in the following 'Health Map' which

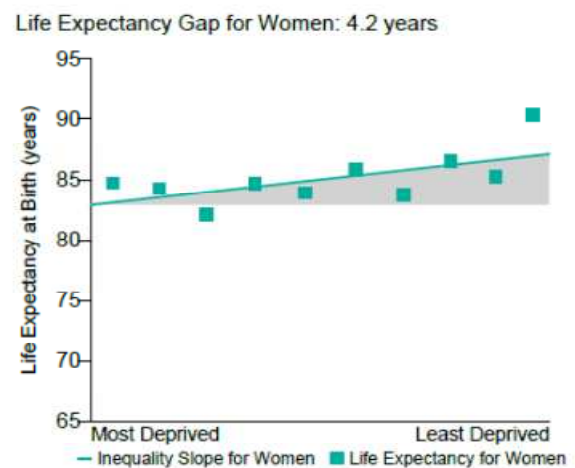
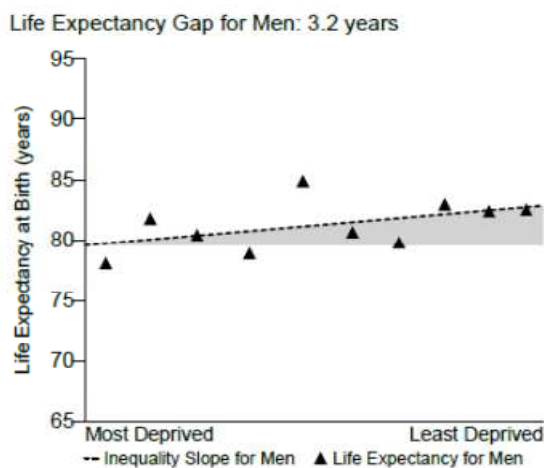
demonstrates that there is a huge range of determinants of health and wellbeing from global influences down to an individual's genetic make-up.



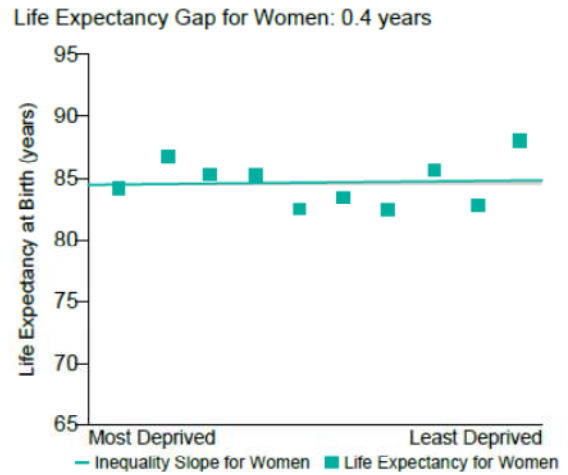
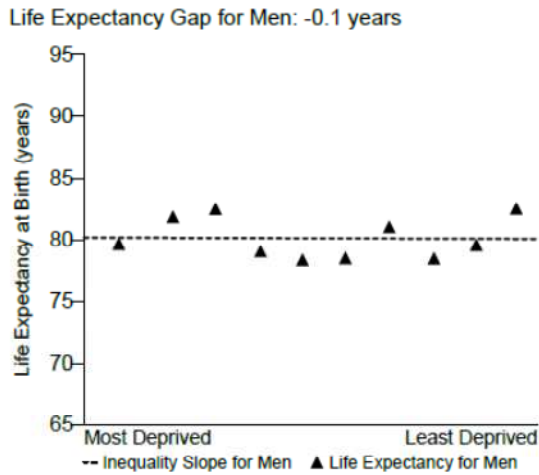
As the diagram shows, the Councils have a significant impact on public health determinants and health & wellbeing through the services that we provide.

What are health inequalities?

Health inequalities are differences in health between different population groups in an area. Typically health inequalities reflect population differences in circumstances and behaviours that are usually socially determined. This is demonstrated in the Health Profiles for West Devon and South Hams in 2012 which show that life expectancy in the more deprived areas is lower than life expectancy in the least deprived areas as shown by the following graphs:



South Hams Health Profile 2012



West Devon Health Profile 2012

Devon County Council’s Health and Wellbeing Board has committed itself to promote health equality through a collaborative approach with the borough, district and city authorities in Devon to oversee the impact of local actions on the range of health and wellbeing outcomes and progress to reduce health inequalities. Improvements aimed for include increased life expectancy; and reduced differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities – including differences between and within local authorities.

Devon County Council produces a Public Health Plan for South Hams and West Devon which is a mechanism for monitoring and prioritising health and wellbeing issues across both areas. The plan guides the work of the Public Health Team in Devon County Council and colleagues working in the NHS, local authorities, and other organisations, identifying both priority issues and priority communities within local areas. A number of areas of health and wellbeing have been identified in the report as being those that will have the greatest impact on health inequality in South Hams and West Devon as follows:

- 1) Reducing smoking.
- 2) Increasing the proportion of the population that are a healthy weight.
- 3) Detecting and treating disease earlier, such as heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer.

- 4) Targeting preventative interventions at those vulnerable groups with the worst health, including those who may be at risk of domestic or sexual violence and abuse.
- 5) Investing in the health and wellbeing of children and young people.
- 6) Improving mental health and emotional health and wellbeing, and preventing loneliness.
- 7) Increasing income levels and employment, and reducing poverty.
- 8) Improving the quality and warmth of housing.
- 9) Reducing misuse of substances, including alcohol and drugs.
- 10) Helping people in their neighbourhoods to live healthier and happier lives.

The Public Health Plan for 2013-14 can be found at the following internet link: <http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/jsna/himp/>. There is a draft Plan for 2014-15 which is currently in the process of being agreed on with DCC>

Who is the Director of Public Health for Devon and what are her responsibilities?

Dr Virginia Pearson is the Director of Public Health for Devon and works closely with Clinical Commissioning Groups, local NHS providers, and the eight District Councils in Devon, as well as the Police and the voluntary sector. One of the responsibilities of the Director of Public Health is to produce an annual report on the public health of Devon's occupants, including South Hams and West Devon residents. The latest report can be found at www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/aphr/.

What is the Health and Wellbeing Board?

The Devon Health and Wellbeing Board is a forum for key leaders from the health, public health and care systems to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities.

Board members collaborate to understand communities' needs, agree priorities and encourage commissioners to work in a more joined up way.

The Board has a duty to encourage integrated working for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in its area.

The Board has the following terms of reference:

- ensure the delivery of improved health and wellbeing outcomes for the population of Devon, with a specific focus on reducing inequalities
- promote the integration of health, social care and public health, through partnership working with between the NHS, Social Care Providers, District Councils and other public sector bodies
- promote an integrated health improvement approach to public health service provision
- provide a local governance structure for the local planning of and accountability for all health and wellbeing related services
- assess the needs and assets of the local population and lead the development of the statutory Devon Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in partnership with Clinical Commissioning Groups
- similarly, produce and update a Devon Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to provide a strategic framework to meet the needs identified in the JSNA.
- promote joint and joined-up commissioning and pooled budget arrangements, where that makes sense as a means of promoting integration and partnership working across areas.
- ensure that all commissioning plans and policies reflect the health and wellbeing priorities identified through the joint needs assessment process.

At present Robert Norley (Chief Environmental Health Officer – Exeter City Council) and Cllr Philip Sanders (West Devon BC) sit on the Health and Wellbeing Board to represent the lower tier authorities in Devon.

The Board has produced a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Devon 2013-2016.

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Devon 2013-2016

The strategy produced by the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board explains the priorities that have been set to tackle the needs identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to improve the health of Devon's population. The Strategy has set initial priorities for joint action to reduce health inequalities.

Four priorities have been identified in the Strategy and will be reviewed and refreshed each year. These priorities are listed as follows:

1. A focus on families in particular poverty, targeted family support, domestic and sexual violence and abuse, education outcomes, and transition from children's to adults' services.
2. Lifestyle choices specifically alcohol, contraception and sexual health, screening services for cancer and other conditions, physical activity, healthy eating and smoking, and high blood pressure.
3. Independence in older age especially fall prevention, support for people with dementia, and carers' support.
4. Social capital and building communities to develop community co-operation. Specific priorities include mental and emotional health and wellbeing, the home environment, social support, offender health, and housing.

A copy of the strategy can be found at:

<http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/strategies/>.

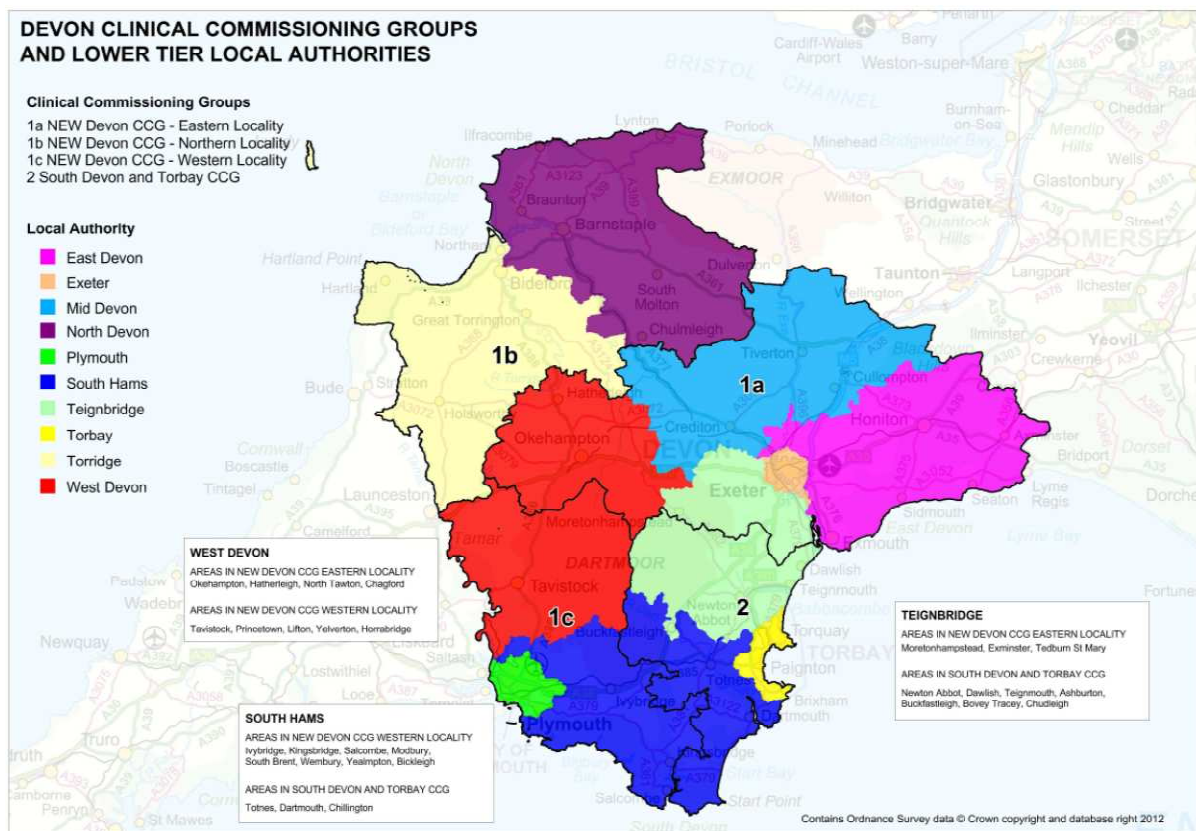
Further information about the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Devon can be found at the following link: <http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/jsna/about/>.

Role of the Clinical Commissioning Groups

The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are a core part of the Government's reforms to the health and social care system. In April 2013, they replaced primary care trusts as the commissioners of most services funded by the NHS in England. They now control around two-thirds of the NHS budget and have a legal duty to support quality improvement in general practice. CCGs are groups of GPs that are responsible for designing local health services by commissioning or buying health and care services including elective care, urgent care, and most community health services. The CCGs play a key role in promoting integrated care and, as members of the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board, in assessing local needs and strategic priorities.

South Hams District is covered by two CCGs: New Devon CCG – Western Locality and South Devon & Torbay CCG. West Devon Borough is covered by New Devon

CCG – Eastern Locality and New Devon CCG – Western Locality. The following map highlights which CCGs cover each local authority in Devon.



Further information about the CCGs can be found on their websites using the following internet links:

NEW Devon CCG: <http://www.newdevonccg.nhs.uk/>

South Devon and Torbay CCG: <http://southdevonandtorbayccg.nhs.uk/#>

Existing public health work of South Hams District and West Devon Borough Councils

Many of the services provided by both Councils revolve around preventing illness, exposure to harmful substances, and protecting and improving the public's health. Traditionally the work of the Environmental Health and Housing Section centres around protecting public health.

In addition to the work of the Environmental Health and Housing Section, other services within the Council have a huge impact on residents' health and wellbeing. These services include:

| Service Area | Key Functions relating to Public Health |
|-----------------------|---|
| Building Control | Protection from harm caused by dangerous buildings and structures |
| Community Safety | Providing a crime-free and safe environment |
| Community Development | Improving links within communities leading to improved services |
| Development Control | Regulation and strategic management of development |
| Economic Development | Improving economic status leading to improved employment prospects for residents |
| Emergency Planning | Management of incidents impacting on potentially large numbers of population |
| Environmental Health | Public protection from biological, physical and chemical hazards to health |
| Housing | Provision of affordable housing Homelessness services Assistance in finding housing |
| Landscape and Leisure | Provision of facilities for exercise |
| Revenues & Benefits | Provision of financial assistance for those in need |
| Waste Management | Removal and disposal of waste |

The following diagram demonstrates how district councils are the key stakeholders in improving the wider determinants of health, providing health improvement, and health protection:



(District Councils' Network 2013)

Public Health Plan for West Devon and South Hams

The Public Health Plan 2014-15 for both authorities is currently in draft form. The Plan identifies work that is carried out across all services that contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents and addresses the priorities of the Devon Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Public Health Outcomes Framework, including projects that have been implemented or will be using the public health grant from DCC. In order to carry out this work Public Health Plan working groups consisting of key players across both Councils has been formed to discuss and formalise how our work contributes to the public health priorities for Devon, including identifying new interventions and strategies that can be incorporated into the Plan.

The Public Health Plan is a 'live' document to enable it to be amended in response to any changes to the Devon Health and Wellbeing Strategy and emerging public health arrangements. The Plan can be viewed on the internal 'S' drive in a folder called 'Health and Wellbeing > Devon County Council'.

Devon County Council has allocated a £40 000 grant per year for both authorities to enable the Councils to achieve the following:

- To undertake specific public health focussed work locally to help people live healthy lifestyles, make health choices, and to reduce health inequalities.

- To make improvements in wider factors that affect health and wellbeing and health inequalities.

The key objectives of the Plan are to:

- Be informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Reflect the national public health outcomes, local authority public health commissioning responsibilities and the Devon Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities.

Tina Henry and Nicola Glassbrook from DCC are our designated Public Health Specialists who are assisting in this work and are responsible for assuring the intended spend is in line with the Public Health Plan. Officers are currently evaluating how best to support the Health and Well Being Board's priorities within the context of the plan for later discussion with Members.

Current Projects and Future Proposals

Switch and Save – community energy switching scheme

Health Impact Assessments of Our Plans

Fuel Poverty Project

Mental Health Training

Mental Health Toolkit

Development of specific Public Health Policy for both authorities in line with Our Plan and the Public Health Plan

Development of webpage on Health and Wellbeing

More Comfort with Less Cost scheme

Sign up to NHS Workplace Wellbeing Charter

Further Information

Various documents can be found on the S drive in the folder called 'Health and Wellbeing'. If further advice and information is required please contact either Georgina Fox, Nicola Glassbrook, or Tina Henry.

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