



Buckinghamshire County Council

Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Public Health Services 5 October 2007

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4B OVERVIEW OF THE PRIORITY AREAS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH The Director of Public Health, jointly appointed by the County Council and Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust, will provide an overview of the priority areas for public health. Issues such as obesity, smoking, alcohol misuse and the health of vulnerable groups will be discussed in detail with a view to providing a potential area for review for a future working group.	1 - 16
Dr Jane O' Grady Director of Public Health	

Public Health Priorities in Buckinghamshire

Dr Jane O'Grady
Director of Public Health
Buckinghamshire



Buckinghamshire

- More affluent and therefore healthier than the national average
- Death rates and life expectancy better
- Overall death rates falling
- 13% have limiting long term illness vs 18% nationally



But ...

- Huge burden of preventable disease
- Stark preventable inequalities in health
- Ageing population
- Adverse social trends
- Significant population growth



Economic case for prevention

- Preventable ill health costs 19% of GDP
- Each 1% improvement in health saves £190m public expenditure, £700m for families, £110m employer costs
- Failure to achieve Wanless vision will threaten affordability of health and social care, life chances and prosperity
- UK - 35m working days lost to ill health and injury
- Sickness absence costs £12bn p.a. (£4bn in public sector) at least 16% of salary costs
- South East has highest sickness absence rates
- Sickness rates in health and social care highest of all sectors



Countywide Public Health Group Priorities

- Improving health where needed most
- Obesity
- Physical activity
- Alcohol
- Smoking
- Improving the Health of Vulnerable Groups
- Childhood poverty



Local Area Agreement

- Increase the proportion of smoking quitters from most disadvantaged groups
- Physical activity
 - Increasing the % of schools that achieve 2 hours sport and physical activity a week
 - Increasing the uptake of physical activity in young people and adults in the most disadvantaged areas
- Halting the increase in childhood obesity



Obesity

- shortens life by 9 years and estimated to be responsible for 9,000 deaths a year in England
- Obesity will increase diabetes by 54%, heart attack by 18%, stroke by 5% by 2023
- Obesity costs £3.7 bn (+overweight £7.4 bn) & 18 million sick days nationally
- 1 in 5 adults & 11% children obese and prevalence is increasing.



Physical Activity

- Decreases risk of premature death by 20-30%
- Prevention (up to 50%)& treatment of chronic diseases
- Impact on heart disease equivalent to smoking
- Improves mood, decreases anxiety & depression, improves sleep, slows cognitive decline
- Maintains mobility & independent living, prevents falls & slows bone density loss
- In Bucks hip fracture rates worse than England average
- 13.4% of adults in Bucks report achieving the recommended levels of physical activity

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Alcohol

- In Bucks Alcohol accounts for 598 (15%) of all deaths
- Increases stroke, cancer , liver disease, accidents and suicide
- One third of domestic violence linked
- Alcohol -1 in 6 A&E attendances, 35% A&E and ambulance costs, 1in 7 acute admissions, 12% in-patient resources
- Higher binge drinking than national average



Smoking

- Single greatest cause of preventable illness and premature death
- Accounts for 1 in 5 deaths nationally
- Impact on smokers and non-smokers
- Increases risk of low birthweight babies, meningitis, cancer, heart disease, osteoporosis
- Failing our smoking cessation target in Bucks



Improving the Health of Vulnerable Groups

- Socio-economically deprived people
- Children and young people
- Certain minority ethnic groups
- Older People
- Prisoners



Childhood Poverty

- Poverty key determinant of health before birth and into adult life
 - Poorer health
 - Poorer reading skills, more difficult school behaviour, poorer educational attainment, more drug misuse, more teen parent/lone parent, unemployed, homeless, involved in crime, reduced cognitive and emotional function
 - Die younger, more suicides
- Over 10,000 children living in income deprived households in Bucks



Vulnerable Groups

- Children and Young People's Plan
- Older people – benefits of promoting the health of people in their 50's
- Understanding the health of our minority ethnic groups
- Access to healthcare for offenders



Links

- Healthier communities peer review
- Joint strategic needs assessment
- A health & wellbeing strategy
- Local Area Agreement



Healthier Communities Peer Review

Part of IDeA Healthier Communities Programme –

aim of which is to support the enhanced role for local authorities set out in “Choosing Health” and “Our Health, Our Care, Our Say” to:

Our Care, Our Say” to:

- tackle local health inequalities

- provide leadership to promote well being

- foster a joined-up approach to health improvement across local government and through Local Strategic Partnerships/LAAs



Potential future topics for scrutiny

- Impact and contribution of practice based commissioning to improving public health
- Could focus on specific services e.g provision of weight management services, smoking cessation
- Provision of health care for offenders
- Contribution of other NHS bodies to public health

