Public health and wellbeing in West Sussex

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What is public health?

The purpose of public health is to:

• Improve health and wellbeing in the population
• Prevent disease and minimise its consequences
• Prolong valued life
• Reduce inequalities in health

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What is public health?

This is achieved through:

• Taking a population perspective

• Mobilising the organised efforts of society and acting as an advocate for the public’s health

• Enabling people and communities to increase control over their own health and wellbeing

• acting on the social, economic, environmental and biological determinants of health and wellbeing

• protecting from and minimising the impact of health risks to the population

• ensuring that preventive, treatment and care services are of high quality, are based on evidence and are of best value.

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Key public health challenges

- **Obesity**
  Estimated number of obese people aged 18 years or over is 144,070

- **Alcohol**
  Alcohol related hospital admissions have risen from 657 per 100,000 population in 2002/3 to 1272 in 2007/08

- **Teenage pregnancy**
  The conception rate has been decreasing since 1998, although is yet to return to its low levels of 1994 and 1995.

- **Health inequalities**
  Gap in life expectancy of over 12 years at ward level

- **Cardiovascular disease**
  NHS Health Checks - systematic and integrated programme of vascular risk assessment and management

- **Looked after children / safeguarding**
  Implementing recommendations of vulnerable and looked after children needs assessment

- **Ageing population**
West Sussex Health & Wellbeing Partnership Board

• Oversight of all wellbeing activity in West Sussex

• Links with seven local health & wellbeing partnerships

• Championed by John Marsland (Chief Executive Chichester District Council)

• The board’s three key priorities:
  – Alcohol harm reduction
  – Increasing access to employment for those with mental health problems
  – Supporting people to retain independence at home
Local Area Agreement (2008-11)

Targets led by public health directorate:

- NI 39 – Reduce the rise in alcohol-related hospital admissions
- NI 120 – Reduce all age all cause mortality
- NI 175 – Improve access to out-patient services in rural areas north of the Sussex Downs by public transport, community transport, walking and cycling

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Local Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (LNIA)
LNIAs

Seven priorities with action plans led by Local Strategic Partnerships:

• Parenting (top priority identified)
• Education
• Health inequalities
• Financial inclusion

• Anti-social behaviour
• Community cohesion
• Local environments

Three agreed LAA Local Indicators for LNIAs:

• To widen participation in family and wider family learning in LNIAs
• To widen participation in adult and community learning in LNIAs
• To reduce the gap between the age-standardised years of life lost (YLL) (under 75 years) ratios for people in LNIAs and non-LNIAs