



COUNCIL CABINET
25 APRIL 2006

Report of the Social Care and Health Commission

Tackling Health Inequalities

RECOMMENDATION

1.1 The Commission recommends that the Council Cabinet should:

- a) Conduct a feasibility into establishing a post dedicated to tackling health inequalities in partnership with the local PCTs
- b) Speed up the process for implementing smoking cessation in public places

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

2.1 The Social Care and Health Commission carried out a detailed policy review on Reducing Health Inequalities based on three of the most deprived areas in the city, namely Osmaston Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, Normanton Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Derwent New Deal for Communities. The final report published by the Commission in July 2004 made five high level recommendations to the DCP partners. These were:

- **The partner organisations should seek to address the key factors (determinants) linked to ill health in addressing health inequalities**
- **The partner organisations should continue to reduce the level of smoking in the city and the Council considers banning smoking in public places when legislation allows**
- **The partner organisations need to target intervention measures at the groups considered to be most at risk of developing health problems**
- **The Primary Care Trusts should prioritise tackling health problems associated with coronary heart disease, cancer and diabetes in line with national priorities**

- **The Environmental Health Division takes the lead to establish an agreed set of local priorities and indicators to address health inequalities**

- 2.2 At its last meeting, the Commission received a presentation from the Council's Assistant Director for Environmental Health and Trading Standards on the Public Health Strategy for Derby. This strategic document is produced jointly between the Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trusts and the City Council complements the Commission's topic review.
- 2.3 Tackling health inequalities is a local, regional and national priority. The Commission was informed that progress is being made in addressing the inequalities between the different sections of the communities. However, a recent publication by the East Midlands Health Observatory shows that the health gap between certain wards in Derby is as great now as it has ever been and may actually be increasing. For example, the difference in life expectancy at birth for males in the Arboretum ward (66) and Allestree wards (80), is approximately 14 years. The gap is also significantly large for females.
- 2.4 The main responsibility for tackling health inequalities lies with the primary care trusts under the NHS Plan and Priorities Planning Framework 2003-2006. However, due to the nature and scale of the problems, it is recognised that a multi agency response is required. Members were informed that a dedicated post is required to speed up the progress. The post could work with the key agencies in the city to develop and support the strategies aimed at addressing health inequalities.
- 2.5 Members were also informed that the PCTs will be receptive to the proposal for establishing a joint post to address health inequalities.
- 2.6 Smoking is widely considered to be one of the major contributors to ill health. At the time of review there were no restrictions on smoking in public places and therefore the Commission recommended that the Council consider banning smoking in public places when legislation allowed. On 14 February 2006, MPs voted by a majority of 200 to ban smoking in all enclosed areas except private houses, residential care homes, hospitals, prisons and hotel bedrooms. The smoking ban is expected to come into force in summer 2007.
- 2.7 Members there reaffirmed their recommendation and ask the Council Cabinet to implement measures for banning smoking in the city as soon as the legislation comes into force.

For more information contact:	Mahroof Hussain 01332 255597
Background papers:	e-mail mahroof.Hussain@derby.gov.uk
List of appendices:	None
	Appendix 1 – Implications

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. There will be some financial costs associated with establishing a post to address health inequalities which could be minimised through partnership working.

Legal

2. The Health and Social Care Act 2001 provides overview and scrutiny committees with the power to review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services within their area.

Personnel

3. The Council Cabinet is asked to conduct feasibility for a post to lead on tackling health inequalities.

Equalities Impact

4. Health Service provision is of concern to all Derby residents.

Corporate objectives and priorities

5. This report has the potential to link to all of the Council's priorities and key outcomes for 2006-09.