



Contact details

Liam Flynn
Adult Social Services
County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG

liam.flynn@derbyshire.gov.uk
01629 532424

Derbyshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Executive Summary 2008



Executive Summary

This JSNA is an analysis of the health and wellbeing needs of the people in Derbyshire. It illustrates health conditions and social care issues that Derbyshire people experience now, and those that they may face in the near future. It deals in particular with health inequalities across Derbyshire.

There is an increasing body of robust and reliable information available that details the health needs of the people who live in Derbyshire¹. Rather than duplicate the work, the JSNA makes full use of these sources. These Profiles substantiate earlier work carried out and published in The Health of Derbyshire.

In order to illustrate health in Derbyshire comparisons are made with England averages and between the districts of Derbyshire. It should be noted that even though an issue may be “significantly better” than say the England average, it does not necessarily mean that it is not therefore an area of concern.

The detailed profiling work shows that:

1. Generally the health of people in Derbyshire is the same or better than the average for England. There are, however, a number of areas where overall Derbyshire’s health indicators are significantly worse than the average for England.
2. During the later part of the 1990s, premature death rates from heart disease and stroke were higher compared with England as a whole, but have since declined to be in line with the rate for England. Early death rates from cancer have decreased over the period from 1996 to 2005 in line with the rate for England.
3. Health inequalities remain an important issue and plans to reduce them are very important. The story for Derbyshire is that in the main the health of the “better off” is good. However, substantial health inequalities exist and, to improve the health of the population as a whole, we need to target improving the health of those who are less affluent. Whilst health indicators suggest that overall health is improving, health inequalities may actually be increasing. The major causes of health inequalities continue to be heart disease and stroke, cancer, chronic chest conditions, mental health and other causes of limiting long-term illness.

4. Services should intervene earlier in the lives of children in need and put more emphasis on prevention.
5. Disabled children’s services need to be improved.
6. There is a need to put more emphasis on safeguarding to protect vulnerable children and vulnerable adults.
7. There is a well-known association between being a looked after child and poor education, training and employment outcomes. We need to achieve better outcomes for children that we look after.
8. There will be a large rise in the number of older people living in Derbyshire. Assuming that disease rates remain consistent, the simple fact is that there will be a large increase in the demand for health and social care. In the long term this means there has to be a much greater emphasis on effective preventative care and health promotion to prevent future ill-health.
9. The rise in the numbers of older people living with poor health (and with learning disabilities) means that more effective support must be put in place for carers, particularly elderly carers. The last Census identified over 17,000 people providing in excess of 50 hours a week of care to a relative, spouse or neighbour.

10. There are a number of pathways to bring about better health for all. These include providing more effective treatment for those who are ill, improving access to treatment so that conditions are identified sooner, and providing better care for those who live with an illness. Much more emphasis needs to be placed on prevention. The simple solution to this is about changing lifestyle and, equally importantly, addressing the wider determinants of ill health such as those that stem from socio-economic conditions and environments in which people live and grow up.

A key section of the JSNA deals with issues topic by topic. It asks the question in each case:

- ▶ What is the problem?
- ▶ What is the size of the problem?
- ▶ What works?
- ▶ What are we doing now?
- ▶ What should we be doing?

The answers to this last question give the recommendations for commissioning and planning.

This section of the JSNA will be supplemented with further sections on specific topics as these are developed. In that respect, it is not fully complete now, but gives a good idea of how some key areas have been working and what their recommendations are. New topics will appear on the JSNA web-site.