

Performance Indicators – background notes

The role of the performance indicators is to underpin the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which has four key areas: Older People and Long-Term Conditions, Tackling deprivation and health inequalities, Mental health and learning disabilities, and Children and young people. Each indicator within the grouping has been chosen to illustrate the way in which the Health and Wellbeing is currently working either to prevent the need for future hospital care or to ensure that services provided are of a high quality, promoting the values of independence and choice and with the wellbeing of residents at their core. The current set of indicators are very much a work in progress, and the Health and Wellbeing Board will work together to ensure that the indicators selected provide the best possible measures of progress towards successful outcomes.

Older people as a group form a significant and diverse part of the city's population. With the growing demographic trend for this group, it is useful to understand the levels of preventive work around flu vaccination, preventable sight loss and falls, since failure to act in these areas could lead to increases in hospitalisation and loss of independence. Injuries due to falls in the 65+ group are largely fractures of the hip or pelvis, or head injuries, which are causative factors in the loss of independence. Equally, the national rise in dementia diagnoses means that there is likely to be a greater call on services for people with Alzheimer's and related illnesses.

Health inequalities – the link between health and deprivation is very clear, and the wider the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived, the less equal the area. For York, the gap for men is improving (i.e. decreasing) but the opposite is true for women. We acknowledge the effect that housing has on health and wellbeing, and use the measure of fuel poverty as one way of understanding those in greater need.

Mental health/Learning Disabilities – this is an area in which it is technically difficult to measure good outcomes, but we can monitor the support provided, with a view to timely intervention and to promote independence (the number of adults living independently who are in contact with mental health services) and look at the levels of need. The

Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) figures show the level of referral to “talking” therapies.

For children and young people, it is important for the long-term health of the city’s population that children have a good start in life. York already enjoys some of the highest educational and health outcomes in the UK, but it is worth noting that as the definition of “young people” is now being extended from 18 to 24, new patterns are being noted, in particular the rise in self-harm. This is a developing picture, and in order to be able to intervene to prevent harm, we will need to work closely with partners across the city to support health and wellbeing both in the short and long term.