Health - The South West Region in context

Dr Gabriel Scally
Regional Director of Public Health
Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

SW has the most mature population in England ...
and ... as a rule older people have more illness

Figure 14: Percentage of population in each age group with Limiting Long Term Illness

Source: Census 2001, ONS
and ... the population is getting older.

Figure 6: Mid year population estimates and projections for the South West by broad age group: mid-1981 to mid-2003 (estimates) and mid-2004 to mid-2028 (ONS 2003-based projections)

Source: Census 2001, ONS
Life expectancy

Figure 9: Quintiles of life expectancy by ward, 1996–2000

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Years of life lost by life expectancy quintile

Figure 12: South West quintiles of life expectancy: years of life lost per 10,000 people under 75 from various causes, 2001–02

Underlying data: ONS
Resident Standardised Mortality Ratios

Standardised mortality ratios from "land transport accidents"
2001-2003
South West has high fatality rates from road traffic collisions.

In 2002, road fatality rate was traffic-lighted as ‘significantly above average’ in Association of Public Health Observatories report:
Index of Multiple Deprivation

East/west gradient

Overall affluence masks areas of acute deprivation.

In the SW there are:

- 6 super output areas in most deprived 1%
- 14 in most deprived 2%
- 37 in most deprived 5%
Key Service Areas 2006/07

- Health inequalities: progress towards reducing health inequalities by 10 per cent by 2010 with an initial focus on smoking cessation.

- Cancer waiting times: to continue to deliver maximum waiting times of 62 days from urgent referral to treatment and 31 days from diagnosis to treatment for all cancers by March 2007.

- Maximum waiting times: work towards guaranteeing no patient will wait longer than 18 weeks from GP referral to hospital treatment by 2008.
Key Service Areas 2006/07

- MRSA: deliver year-on-year reductions in MRSA infection rates.
- Patient choice: extend Choose and Book to account for 90 per cent of all GP referrals by March 2007 and to ensure all patients have a choice of at least four providers.
- Sexual health: enable all patients requiring access to a sexual health clinical to have an appointment within 48 hours of referral.
Opportunities arising from reconfiguration

- Primary Care Trusts now predominantly co-terminous with the top tier Local Authorities
- Joint PCT/LA Director of Public Health posts
- The opportunities that this creates…….
How can we make maximum use of this opportunity to help improve the health of our population in the South West?