

### **Healthier Communities Strategic Partnership – Update**

The purpose of the Healthier Communities Thematic Partnership (HCTP) is to work jointly to add value to individual agencies' work and to improve our ability to deliver on healthier communities priorities. We want to continue to improve the health of all North Yorkshire residents, but we need to improve the health of the worst off at a faster rate so that we can narrow the gap in health outcomes and in life expectancy between our most and least deprived communities. Much of the work of the partnership is cross-cutting and links closely to the work of the other thematic partnerships. The HCTP meets jointly with the Adults Strategic Partnership because of the close links between the groups' remits. Our current priority areas are reflected in the LAA. These include:

- Physical activity

This work is being led by North Yorkshire Sports Partnership. Our goal is to increase the number of adults participating in sport or active recreation for 30 minutes at least 3 times a week. This is acknowledged to be the minimum amount of physical activity an adult needs to maintain or benefit their health. In 2006/7 only 22.7% of residents were achieving this level. District figures range from 18.6% in Scarborough to 25.9% in Hambleton. The England average is 21%.

- Childhood obesity

Being overweight or obese can have a severe impact on an individual's health and is linked with diabetes, cancer and heart disease as well as other problems. The cost to the individuals, families, services and society as a whole is enormous. In North Yorkshire 15.8% of Year 6 children were at risk of obesity in 2006/7. This ranges from 11.9% in Richmondshire to 18.5% in Ryedale and 18.9% in Scarborough.

- Alcohol-related harm

The LAA target is to reduce hospital admissions for alcohol-related problems, although work in this area has a wider focus. Partnership work is led by the York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum. Partners have recently agreed the North Yorkshire and York Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008-11, which sets out in detail how alcohol misuse is being tackled across the county. It is available at [www.nyypct.nhs.uk/stayinghealthy/alcohol](http://www.nyypct.nhs.uk/stayinghealthy/alcohol).

Another important area of work recently has been the North Yorkshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The JSNA is a joint responsibility for the PCT, Adult and Community Services and Children's Services at NYCC. It uses data, evidence and public views to assess the health and wellbeing needs of North Yorkshire's population to influence joint commissioning. The JSNA is currently in draft but is due to be signed off by the relevant bodies during September and October. Once finalised it will be available at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/jsna](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/jsna)

For further information about the HCTP please contact [helen.christmas@nyypct.nhs.uk](mailto:helen.christmas@nyypct.nhs.uk)

**Peter Brambleby, Chair of Healthier Communities Strategic Partnership  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2008.**