

Press Release - State of Bury's health revealed

Death rates from cancer, heart disease and stroke have fallen, but smoking is still proving to be a menace on the health of people in Bury. These are some of the findings of the Bury Health Profile.

The Health Profile produced by the English Public Health Observatories, shows that over the last decade, the rates of all causes of death in Bury have fallen, including early deaths from heart disease and stroke. Deaths from cancer have also fallen, and are now on a par with the average rates for England.

The Health Profile gives a picture of health in Bury and is designed to help NHS organisations understand the local community's needs, in order to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

The Profile highlights that although progress has been made in some areas, life expectancy in Bury varies significantly depending on where you live in the town. Life expectancy is 10.5 years lower for men and 8.3 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Bury, compared to the least deprived areas.

The survey looks at a range of areas with indicators including community issues such as deprivation and crime; children and young people's health including smoking in pregnancy and childhood obesity; adults health and lifestyle including smoking and healthy eating; disease and poor health, life expectancy and cause of death.

The findings suggest that Bury is significantly better than the averages for England for a number of areas including; the number of physically active children; obese adults; hip fractures in those aged 65 and older; road injuries and deaths and violent crime.

Areas where improvements could be made, where Bury fares worse than the England average include; smoking in pregnancy rates; tooth decay in children (age 12); the number of adults smoking and smoking related deaths; deaths from heart disease and stroke and life expectancy for both men and women.

Dr. Peter Elton, Director of Public Health for NHS Bury said: "I am delighted to see that people are living longer in Bury as fewer people die prematurely from cancer and heart disease. Despite this we need to do more to reduce the big differences between the affluent and deprived parts of Bury."

"Bury has many initiatives that help people to become more active, eat more healthily and to stop smoking. The Health Profile will give us a greater understanding of the needs of different communities and will help us to develop better, targeted support so that people can stay healthy in the future. By improving their lifestyles individuals can reduce their risk of serious conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke. It's good news that in some areas we fare better than the England average, but there is more we need to do to support people to live healthier lives both now and in the future."

ENDS

Date: 7 July 2011

FOR PRESS & MEDIA ENQUIRIES: contact Caroline Dearden, Corporate Communications Manager on **0161 762 3106** or email communications@bury.nhs.uk

Notes to editor:

View the Health Profile for Bury here: www.healthprofiles.info