Tackling health inequalities in Wales

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The presentation will cover…

- Introduction
- Policy context in Wales
- Approaches to tackling health inequalities
  - Targets and indicators
  - Policy gateway process
  - Facilitating partnerships
  - Demonstration projects
  - Targeted programmes
- Future plans
  - NHS reforms
  - Public Health Strategic Framework
- Concluding remarks
Female life expectancy at birth

![Graph showing female life expectancy at birth over years with a trend line for highest and lowest LA in Wales.]
Male life expectancy at Birth – 2005-7

Wales = 76.8
Small distance, big difference

Life expectancy 75.2
Life expectancy 78.6
The policy context in Wales

  - health inequalities acknowledged and described
- Targeting Poor Health (2001)
  - dual strategy of:
    - action within the NHS, including NHS resource allocation favouring those most in need
    - wider strategic action
  - notes inequalities and action being taken in other policy areas
- Designed for Life (2005)
  - commitment to reducing, and where possible eliminating, inequalities in health
  - health inequalities strategy to be published by 2010
- One Wales (2008)
  - recognises the need to work harder to improve the well-being of all vulnerable and disadvantaged in Wales
Health gain targets 2002-2012

Targeting health improvement for all

Health gain targets
National high-level targets and indicators for Wales

Health gain targets
Coronary Heart Disease (CHD)
The health outcome target for CHD is:
• to reduce CHD mortality European Age Standardised Rate (EASR) in 65-74 year olds to 6000 in 2012.
The health inequalities target for CHD is:
• to improve CHD mortality in all groups and at the same time aim for more rapid improvements in the most deprived groups.

Mental health
The health outcome targets for mental health are:
• to increase the mean Mental Component Summary Score (MCS) for Wales to 50 by 2012, and
• to reduce the EASR from suicides at all ages (including undetermined deaths) by at least 10 per cent by 2012.
The health inequalities target for mental health is:
• to increase the mean MCS score for carers by one point by 2012.

Cancer
The health outcome target for cancer is:
• to reduce cancer EASR mortality in those aged below 75 years by 20 per cent by 2011 (excluding non-renewable skin cancer).
The health inequalities target for cancer is:
• To improve cancer mortality in all groups and at the same time aim for more rapid improvements in the most deprived groups.

The health of older people
The health outcome targets for older people are:
• to reduce the EASR for stroke mortality by 20 per cent in 65 to 74 year olds by 2011, and
• to reduce the EASR for heart failure in the 75 and over age group by 10 per cent by 2012.
The health inequalities target for older people is:
• to increase the present rate of moderate-to-vigorous exercise undertaken by people aged 50 to 64 to 30 minutes on five days a week by 2012.

The health of children
The health outcome targets for children are:
• to reduce assessed personal-to-person spread of measles, mumps and rubella by 2010; and
• to reduce child (aged 0-14) pedestrian injuries from motor vehicle accidents by 15 per cent by 2012.
The health inequalities target for children is:
• to reduce the incidence severity and mortality rates of pneumonia among under-5s in socio-economic group 9 by 2012.

The rationale for the health gain targets are outlined on the Welsh Assembly Government website.
www.cmo.wales.gov.uk/content/work/health-gain-targets/index-e.htm
Health inequalities target for coronary heart disease

Target: to improve CHD mortality in all groups and at the same time aim for a more rapid improvement in the most deprived groups.

Sources: Statistical Directorate, Health Solutions Wales.
Health inequalities target for cancer

Target: To improve cancer mortality in all groups and at the same time aim for a more rapid improvement in the most deprived groups.

Sources: Statistical Directorate, Health Solutions Wales.
Child poverty milestones and targets

- Designed to measure progress eradicating child poverty by 2020 across 5 themes including health
- Progress since baseline assessed in 2008
- Little or no change on health indicators
  - infant mortality
  - low birth weight
  - under 16 teenage conceptions
  - 5 year olds with dental caries
  - child pedestrian injuries (5-14 year olds)
### The One Wales Policy Gateway Tool – Final Stage

- This process is designed to make sure that the development and implementation of an activity, be it policy, strategy, programme or project, is contributing in the round to addressing the needs of Wales and the Assembly Government’s objectives as set out in *One Wales*.
- The headings below contain prompts to help you consider issues key to developing successfully integrated policies.
- Strategic Policy Division should be invited to your session.

#### The One Wales Policy Gateway Integration Tool

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Completed By</th>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Undermining - significantly undermines the objective.</td>
<td>Fair - makes some direct or significant indirect contribution to the objective.</td>
<td>Good - makes a significant positive contribution to the objective.</td>
<td>Neutral - does not contribute to the objective.</td>
<td>Potential – potential for improvement in delivering the objective</td>
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#### The One Wales Policy Gateway Integration Tool

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<th>What contribution does this activity make to:</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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**1. A Healthy Future**

1a Ensuring equal access to health care services and facilities within communities

1b Addressing the root causes of health problems and preventing ill health

1c Reducing health inequalities

1d Enabling people to enjoy healthier fulfilling lives

1e Maximising health and well-being and minimising potential health risks

1f Creating social and physical environments that encourage and support health and well being

1g Reducing the causes of accidents

1h Providing access to, and availability of, good quality and affordable food of known origin

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**2. A Prosperous Society**

2a Developing a dynamic and enterprising economy for areas of Wales to create and attract high added-value businesses

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In this section, note the strengths and trade-offs of key criteria. Note also the spatial dimensions, where relevant.
Facilitating partnerships (1)

**Communities First**

- Welsh Assembly Government’s flagship programme to improve the living conditions and prospects for people in the most disadvantaged communities (around 150)
- Long term programme (at least) 10 years
- Local people themselves decide what is intended and are helped to make it happen
Facilitating partnerships (2)

- **Health, Social Care and Well being (HSCWB) Strategies**
  - Local authorities and local health boards required to formulate and implement HSCWB Strategies, in partnership with NHS Trusts and the voluntary sector

- **Local Service Boards**
  - Address key issues where services need to work better together across sectoral or organisational boundaries to integrate services and respond to citizen’s needs
Demonstration projects

**Sustainable Health Action Research Programme (SHARP)**

- Attempt to develop learning and add to evidence base on partnership driven and community based action research approaches to tackling broad social determinants of health
- Focused on communities with the highest incidence of ill-health and premature death, social exclusion and poor life chances
Community Food Co-operative Programme

- To supply from locally produced sources as far as possible, quality affordable fruit and vegetables to disadvantaged communities through the development of sustainable local food distribution networks
- Only 42% of all adults in Wales eat 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetable a day. Consumption tends to be lower among children and people on low incomes
- Minimum of 75% of food co-ops in Communities First areas
Community Food Co-operative Programme

• Initial 2 year pilot in North and South East Wales April 2004 - March 2006
• From April 2007 expanded to cover all of Wales

Volunteers
NHS Reforms (1)
We are changing the system in 2009

Welsh Government

Replace by fewer organisations

10 NHS trusts

22 Local Health Boards

GPs, etc.

voluntary organisations

private organisations
NHS Reforms (2)

The NEW system

2009

Welsh Government

7 NEW Local Health Boards - not 22

2 NHS trusts - not 10

GPs, etc.

Voluntary organisations

Private organisations
Public Health Strategic Framework

- Improving quality and length of life and improving equity of health
- Public Health Strategic Framework – strategic focus on public health to 2020
- Set out clearly the nation’s ambitions for better health and well being
- Help to harness all of the strategic activity of the Welsh Assembly Government and set it into a public health context
- Provide a vision to which all sectors in Welsh society will be asked to contribute.
In conclusion

‘Health inequalities remain significant in Wales…… we have to recognise that our problems are serious and deep-seated’

Chief Medical Officer for Wales

Annual Report 2007
Diolch yn fawr –
Thank you very much

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