

Child Health Information Development Project

Terms of Reference

To collate information across sectors concerning the health and health outcomes of local children and assess its fitness for the purposes of users

To develop and map a set of exemplar indicators of child health and health outcomes from public services for children across Tyne and Wear

To pilot and evaluate option(s) for improved creation and dissemination of inter-sectoral child health information.

Programme of Work

A series of representative indicators of children's health across the Health Action Zone were explored in some depth, in particular, for their social differentiation and relationships to indicators of social exclusion.

The exemplar issues chosen are:

- 1 Teenage pregnancy
- 2 Birthweight
- 3 Smoking
- 4 Incidence of serious injury
- 5 Prevalence and severity of handicap in children with cerebral palsy
- 6 Quality Protects

A consultation exercise with a sample of users examined the fitness-for-purpose and priorities for development across the full range of actual and potential indicators of child health outcomes. An option appraisal exercise was conducted on potential methods of access to and enhancement of such information sources within and without the Authorities and bearing in mind the requirements of the NHS Information Strategy. Following this exercise the recommended options were piloted and evaluated using quality indicators, pre-specified by users.

The work was led by Dr Philip Lowe, a senior research associate employed by the University of Newcastle and supervised by Professor Jarvis and Dr Cresswell, former Director of Public Health, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Close links were developed with the Health Authorities, Local Authorities and Community Paediatricians.

Timetable

Stage 1: Collation of data: in-depth studies of 6 exemplar issues with reports.

Stage 2: Sample survey of users: Option development, appraisal and reports.

Stage 3: Option pilot(s) and evaluation.