



*“Through joint working we aim to reduce health inequalities”*

## Promoting health & well-being

**OUR AIM: A place where people are healthy, and feel positive about their lives and their future.**

### THE SITUATION NOW:

**Test Valley as a whole is a comparatively healthy borough. However there are pockets of relative deprivation which can have an impact on people’s health. In some areas life expectancy is up to 10 years lower than in other parts of the Borough.**

Many factors have an influence on people’s overall health and well-being. These include lifestyle choices, activity levels, housing conditions, relative income, education, employment and access to local services.

The Borough Council has a significant role to play in improving the health and well-being of the community, by promoting healthy lifestyles, providing opportunities for people to be more active, improving the quality and condition of housing, providing housing and benefits advice and assisting those in need, protecting public health, and enhancing and protecting the quality of the environment.

The Council works in close partnership with the local Health Trust, Hampshire Primary Care Trust (PCT); and Hampshire County Council to support health and well-being in the community. Through joint working we aim to reduce health inequalities in our most deprived neighbourhoods. The ‘Turnaround project’ is a multi-agency project looking at ways of improving quality of life within the Alamein Ward in Andover.

### THE OUTCOMES WE WANT TO ACHIEVE:

- **Improved standards** of housing across all tenures.
- **Support and advice** to improve quality of life for those most in need.
- **Targeted promotion** of healthier lifestyles including: healthy eating; increased levels of physical activity; and reduced harm from tobacco, alcohol and substance misuse.
- **Protection** of public health through our regulatory functions.

## KEY ACTIONS PLANNED FOR 2007/08:

1. **Assess the need** for extra-care schemes for older people as part of the development of the new Housing Strategy.
2. **Develop and continue** to support a range of initiatives to keep older, disabled and vulnerable people healthy and safe in their homes, e.g. energy efficiency advice, Safe Warm and Well (SWELL), disabled facilities grants, Benefits outreach referral role, work of the Home Improvement Agency.
3. **Work in the Alamein Ward** in Andover, as part of the Turnaround Project to reduce health inequalities in the most deprived neighbourhoods.
4. **Develop and continue** to support a range of healthy lifestyle initiatives to increase levels of physical activity, e.g. Health Walks, Exercise Referral schemes.
5. **Lead on the Hampshire wide** (LPSA 2\*) project to reduce childhood obesity by promoting healthy eating in schools.
6. **Develop and continue to support** a range of educational initiatives to encourage healthy lifestyles for children and young people e.g. Junior Citizen, Solar Car challenge, Primary Science Fayre.
7. **Implement smoke free legislation** by providing promotion and advice to businesses prior to 1<sup>st</sup> July, and undertaking visits to ensure compliance following the introduction of the ban.
8. **Implement a 'Scores on the Doors'** national Food Standards Agency model, giving residents website access to food premises hygiene scores using a traffic light coding system.
9. **Introduce a revised HMO** (Houses in Multiple Occupation) inspection programme following the implementation of licensing of HMOs.
10. **Renew partnership** working arrangements with the establishment of the new Hampshire Primary Care Trust (PCT).
11. **Carry out a Best Value Review** of Vulnerable People to identify priority actions to improve access to services and quality of life for vulnerable people in Test Valley.
12. **Make preparations** in advance of national changes to Local Housing Allowance.
13. **Review the Council's** concessionary travel scheme in the light of proposed changes to concessionary travel nationally from 2008.
14. **Work in partnership** with Hampshire County Council to improve transport options from Andover and surrounding areas to Winchester Hospital.

\* Local Public Service Agreement 2 (LPSA2) - Partners in Hampshire have agreed to stretch performance in specific areas. This separate agreement with government brings with it pump priming funding and potential to earn performance reward grants.

## MEDIUM TERM PLANS:

- **Achieve Decent Homes Standard** across all tenures by 2011.
- **Implement changes** to Local Housing Allowance.
- **Develop the Council's** outreach work in the community, enhancing the 'eyes and ears' role of visiting officers and front-line staff.
- **Promote healthy eating** and physical activity in community venues.
- **Engage with partners** in future community development projects in our most deprived wards.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

- **Achieving** Decent Homes Standard across all tenures by 2011.
- **Reduced** health inequalities across the Borough.
- **Increased** levels of physical activity (Sport England Survey).
- **Reduced** obesity levels (LPSA2).

### **Housing** and Council Tax Benefits:

- **Reduced** average number of days to process new claims.
- **Reduced** average number of days to process changes to circumstances.
- **Increased** percentage of new rent allowance claims where the first payment is made on time or within 7 days.