

Bassetlaw Partnership for Health Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership

Formed in 1996 and up for renewal in August 2011, Bassetlaw Partnership for Health (BPfH), part of the Bassetlaw Strategic Partnership, is the formal partnership for improving health and well-being in the Bassetlaw district.

Bassetlaw as a district has a strong tradition of working effectively in partnership to improve the health and well-being of its population. This has been driven through formal and informal partnerships, involving the health services, local authorities, the voluntary and community sector and the private sector.

Membership of the BPfH is extensive, bringing together individuals, organisations and groups with an interest in improving the health of local communities. The partnership's work is determined by local

health needs and priorities driven through working groups.

In order to improve the health of the population they serve, BPfH ensure that joined up action is taken with other partnerships at district and county level to address the important lifestyle and environmental determinants of health.

The aims of the BPfH for 2009-2011 were:

- To reduce early deaths
- To reduce the inequalities gap between the mortality rate in the worst fifth in Nottinghamshire and England
- To address young people's health as a preventative measure for the future.

The priority areas for the BPfH are:

- To reduce smoking prevalence and the impact of second-hand smoke
- To reduce the prevalence of obesity



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- To reduce sexual health infection rates
- To address adverse effects of alcohol
- To improve emotional health, well-being and social inclusion
- To promote health-wellbeing and active life in older age
- To deliver on cross-cutting themes of importance to health

The priorities focus on areas in which a joined up partnership approach will have a greater impact on health improvement than if member organisations worked alone. The priorities were developed from locally determined needs, with actions to achieve them delivered by BPfH sub groups.

One example of this is the Bassetlaw Stop Smoking Service, which through free local NHS support has enabled thousands of local people to stop smoking.

Advisors offer an individual support service for any smokers who want to stop,

including advice, on-going support and access to treatment including free nicotine replacement therapy.

The service offers a variety of support to suit everyone, from groups to one-to-ones, with specialist services for pregnant smokers and their families, workplaces and young people.

Schools receive sessions on educating pupils about the dangers of smoking and the harmful effects it can have on their bodies. Young people are also provided with the knowledge and information necessary for them to make responsible choices in relation to smoking and equip them with the social skills to resist the pressure to smoke by their peer groups and society in general.

For further information on Bassetlaw Partnership for Health visit www.bpfh.info or email partnershipofficer@bcvs.org.uk.