

# Human Health

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## 1.1 Human Health

### Policy Context

#### Luton's Community Plan 2002-2012

The Plan aims to involve local people in promoting the strategic vision for the town and identifying local needs and priorities. It also aims to assist in co-ordinating services provided by public, voluntary and community sectors, local communities and private organisations and helps to ensure that the local organisations work together to meet the needs of the local community. Sustainable communities with access to services.

#### Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Improve services, such as doctors, in local neighbourhoods;  
Encourage people to adopt a healthy diet;  
Improve the condition of housing;  
Reduce pollution; and  
Improve people's incomes.

#### South Bedfordshire District Council Community Strategy

#### Objectives, Targets and Indicators

#### Mid-Bedfordshire Council Community Strategy

The plan has split the community vision into 9 topics: Community safety, Housing and building communities, Improving the environment Improving health, Promoting leisure, Strengthening the economy, Developing opportunities and skills, Creating better transport and Including everyone-

#### Objectives, Targets and Indicators

The plan's vision has the following elements::

- Community safety- A Mid Bedfordshire that, in 2011, is safer than it is today and where people feel that it is safer.
- Housing and building communities- To work together in Mid Bedfordshire and beyond to promote and secure housing solutions which meet the needs of people in Mid Bedfordshire.
- Improving the environment- In 2011, Mid Bedfordshire should be cleaner and greener
- Improving health- By 2011, we would wish to have improved the health of Mid Bedfordshire people overall and to have reduced the gap in health experience between the most well off and the poorest.
- Promoting leisure- A Mid Bedfordshire which enjoys a more diverse mix of accessible leisure, sporting and cultural activities suitable for all ages and abilities

### Community Plan for the Borough of Bedford 2004-2010

The production of this, the second Community Plan for the Borough of Bedford, has been co-ordinated by the Bedford Partnership Board, the Local Strategic Partnership for the Borough. The over-arching aim is "*Working Together to Improve Health and Well-Being*" and the objective is to lay the foundation stone for an improved quality of life for everyone who lives, works or visits the Borough.

### Objectives, Targets and Indicators

The plan's vision has the following elements::

- Community safety- Safer place where all people will feel secure. People will respect each other, and nobody's freedom or opportunities will be constrained by crime.
- Housing and building communities- To provide more housing opportunities in the district, supporting people in need today and planning for the future – and to do everything to create better living environments and prevent neighbourhood decline.
- Improving the environment- Businesses and people in South Bedfordshire will save money by minimising waste, reducing excess packaging and wherever possible, products will be re-used or repaired. When this is not feasible, excellent local recycling facilities will mean that only the non-recyclable waste is sent to landfill sites. People in South Bedfordshire will use renewable resources to provide all their power needs.
- Improving health- The health of the population as a whole will be improved and especially the gap in health experience between the most well off and the poorest in society will be reduced.

## Baseline Review

- 1.1.1 The 2001 census provides an indication of the state of health by providing numbers in relation to good health, fairly good health and poor health as well as information on the percentage of people with a limiting long term illness.
- 1.1.2 The percentage of people residing in Bedfordshire with good health is high (72.54%) in relation to the East of England Region (70.35%) and England and Wales (68.55%). Mid Bedfordshire has the highest percentage (74.19%) of the population with good health and Luton has the lowest (69.64%). For people residing in Bedfordshire considered to be not of good health the percentage is low (6.72%) in relation to the East of England Region (7.60%) and England and Wales (9.22%). Luton has the highest percentage (8.05%) of people not in good health.
- 1.1.3 Of the percentage of the population not of good health, 14.29% are classified as having a limiting long-term illness, of which 10.19% are of working age. These percentages are both lower than those for the East of England region, 16.21% and 11.40%, as well as for England and Wales, 18.23% and 13.56%. Bedford has the highest percentage (15.59%) of people with long-term limiting illness, where as Luton has the highest percentage (12.33%) of people of working age with limiting long-term illness.

## Sources of data

- Bedfordshire County Council – [www.bedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk) (accessed 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005)
- Office for National Statistics, Neighbourhood Statistics – [www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk) (accessed 26<sup>th</sup> August 2005).

## Trends

- There is no readily available information on health trends from earlier censuses. The consultees involved in the scoping consultation report agreed that there were no significant issues identified in relation to human health. Therefore additional work to identify trends has not been undertaken.

## Data Gaps

- The data gathered is from the 2001 Census. There was little information relating to human health issues for Bedfordshire and Luton.

## Implications for minerals planning and SA in Bedfordshire

### Key issues arising from the policy context:

How the Minerals Local Development Framework should address health:

- 1.1.4 The MDPDs should take account of the needs to conserve green areas for informal and formal recreation, and to site development away from communities, where possible, in order to minimise those affected by air (inc. dust), noise, and vibration.

Relevant objectives for the SA:

- Ensure that the plan contributes where possible to improvements in access to and the quality of health services.
- Limit the impact on air pollution and noise levels in the local area.

### Key issues arising from the baseline review:

- 1.1.5 There are no significant issues identified in relation to human health. The population is generally in good health with a low percentage not in good health. Of the population not in good health a moderate percentage has limiting long-term illness. In Luton this affects a greater percentage of the population of working age compared with other areas of the county.

### Key issues arising from the scoping consultation:

- opportunities to increase recreational activities (i.e. restoration to parkland etc)
- pollution potential, e.g. brickworks using brick clay cause emissions – link to air quality
- less advantaged people may be less willing to communicate illness (i.e. go to doctors)
- potential for anxiety as a result of mineral working (e.g. will it become a landfill?)
- opportunities to improve wellbeing through environmental improvements
- direct health benefits from increased exercise

- the health implications of all proposed methods of managing waste should be taken into account. This includes the health and safety of those working in the waste industry as well as those living and working in proximity to waste management activities.
- creating new wildlife habitats provides public benefits; including amenity for local people, improved quality of life and enhanced health and well being. Time spent in natural environments is known to increase people's ability to recover from stress, illness and injury. Accessible green space also encourages regular physical activity which provides considerable benefits for public health
- Health implications of transporting minerals, especially by road and through congested towns. Affects social inclusion if the routes are through less affluent areas