

## **Health Inequalities in Oxfordshire – Results of the Diagnostic Summary of the Presentation – November 2007**

The Audit Commission Phase 1 review of Health Inequalities (HI) in Oxfordshire was undertaken from June to October 2007. The 'buy-in' from Oxfordshire Health and Local Government partners was excellent.

The Phase 1 work collected evidence in relation to seven 'Key Lines of Enquiry' (KLoES) to assess the effectiveness of current approaches to HI issues within Oxfordshire. These KLoES were:

- Delivering strategic and operational objectives
- Delivering in partnership
- Using information and intelligence to drive decisions
- Securing engagement from the workforce
- Performance management
- Corporate responsibility
- Other findings

The Phase 1 review concluded that:

- The health picture:
  - **Health overall is relatively good compared to elsewhere .... But ....**
  - **Averages mask variations in trends, and there are growing problems**
  - **There are some significant local inequalities**
  - **The four key local challenges all have health inequality aspects**
- A good start has been made in Oxfordshire and some important building blocks are now in place, namely:
  - **Recently developed strategic approach**
  - **Extensive needs assessment with data informing strategies and priorities**
  - **Formation of the Health and Well Being Partnerships Board**
  - **Implementation of some initiatives (e.g. health trainer role) .... But ....**
  - **Not clear whether, at this stage, actions are narrowing the gaps**
- Areas for future development include:
  - **Further development and refinement of the Partnership**
  - **Ensuring HI resources are used effectively**
  - **Establishing clear and robust HI performance management**
  - **Determining evaluative process to measure progress**

As a result of Phase 1 it was recommended that Phase 2 of the review focuses on:

- Evaluating the effectiveness of the Partnership, including HI Benchmarking
- The effectiveness of pooled budgets and joint funding arrangements

Subject to agreement by all partners, it is suggested that that this work is conducted during October/November 2008. The co-operation of all partners within the Phase 1 review was greatly appreciated by the Audit Commission