

## Foreword

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In 2001 the Eastern Health and Social Services Board will produce the first Health and Wellbeing Investment Plan for the population living in the Board area. This new approach to integrated planning will build on important regional initiatives including "Investing for Health", "Targeting Social Need", Equality and Human Rights.



The goal of this report is to provide details about the health of the Board's population that can inform the development of the Health and Wellbeing Investment Plan. The report describes how the size of the population is changing, sets out deprivation patterns within the Board area and what we know about behaviours which impact on health. Trends in major causes of illness are described which will impact on priorities for development in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services.

There are good news stories in relation to our health including the continuing fall in deaths from ischaemic heart disease. The report sets out the large differences in socio-economic status for people in different parts of the Board and the continuing need to tackle underlying causes of ill health through partnership with many agencies and engagement of the community. Continuing to develop this way of working further supports the statutory requirements placed on the Board as a result of Human Rights and Equality legislation.

The first Health and Wellbeing Investment Plan will provide a major opportunity to focus action to improve health. I trust that this report will help ensure the plan targets those areas where there is great potential to improve the health of the public in the Board area.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Stewart".

**Dr David Stewart**  
Director of Public Health

This report is available on our web site at [www.ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk](http://www.ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk)

It can be made available on CD, large print, Braille or audiotape in minority ethnic languages (for those who are not fluent in English) and in other formats on request.

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