developing a community profile:
GUIDELINES

**Community Health Impact
Assessment**

Investing for Health

EH+SSB

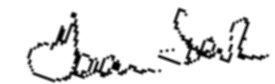HEALTHY CITIES
Belfast

foreword

In April 2004, Belfast Healthy Cities produced two Community Health Profile's, one for Ballybeen, the other for four wards within the Ards Peninsula. These profiles were one of the stages in the Community Health Impact Assessment pilot undertaken in these two areas. Funding for these pilots and profiles was obtained under the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) Investing for Healthier Communities Grants Programme.

The production of the profiles were recognised as a valuable source of information by the statutory, voluntary and community organisations in these areas, and seen as useful not only for the CHIA project, but also of use for other purposes. Following a number of requests for advice on collating a community health profile, the DHSSPS Investing for Healthier Communities Grants Programme agreed to provide additional funding to produce this handbook.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a framework which organisations or groups can use to guide the production of a community health profile in their own area.

The information contained within this handbook is not exhaustive but is based on the experience of producing the profiles in the two CHIA pilot areas, Ballybeen and four wards in the Ards Peninsula. The guidelines can be adapted to suit community need.

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1. Steps in developing a community health profile

Community profiling is a useful method to assist in the process of identifying the specific needs of an area, and can provide baseline information to help with target setting. It is important therefore to establish a clear purpose for the profile before deciding what information should be collected which is relevant to the community or project.

A partnership approach should be taken in the planning and development of a community health profile. The following steps may be used to guide this process:

- Set up a community steering group to oversee the development of the profile. Membership should be inclusive of the voluntary, community, statutory sectors working in the area, as well as local people living in the area where possible.

- Agree a template for the profile identifying clearly the areas under which information will be collected.

- Source data from the following key areas:

  - NISRA/NINAS website

  - Statistics branch within Government departments (all Government will have a statistics branch or research person)

  - Health promotion unit within health trusts and boards

  - Members of the community steering group should be involved in sourcing additional local information/ surveys or contacts. It is also useful to obtain local views/interpretation on statistics/information gathered for the profile. This qualitative information provides an additional layer of practical, local information, which statistics alone cannot convey.

- When statistics have been collated and interpreted by the person(s) compiling the profile, as a precautionary measure it is helpful to check the interpretation is accurate with the person providing the statistics.

- The community steering group should assist in the process of validating the profile, identifying any gaps and adding local views and interpretation to the information gathered.

- Gain the necessary written consent for the use of tables taken from websites/NISRA.

- Distribute the profile widely to all stakeholders involved in the process, including organisations where information has been sourced, as well as interested parties.

2. Profile Template

Within the two community health profiles produced by Belfast Healthy Cities, information was documented under the following headings: demography; health and health behaviour; housing; transport; employment; environment; crime and essential services; education; voluntary, community and private provision; health and social services provision; leisure and recreation services. These headings were chosen because a wide variety of factors have an impact on an individual's health and the overall health of the community, and therefore are relevant in the development of a holistic health profile.

The following twelve tables provide examples of information which can be collected for inclusion in a community health profile, the source of this information, and the area/level at which it is available or collected.

The information recorded in this template is only a flavour of what could be collected within a community health profile, and has been restricted to data which is readily available at a local level.

2.1) Demography

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected/available
Age of the population; population by gender; household composition; cultural diversity	NISRA (Census Output – age structure table) www.nisra.gov.uk/census/Census2001Output/ KeyStatistics/ keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency (*as census data is only collected every 10 years this is a limitation to its relevance over time*)
Population density (number of persons per area in hectares)	NISRA (Census Output – usually resident population table) www.nisra.gov.uk/census/Census2001Output/ KeyStatistics/ keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency

2.2) Health and Health Behaviour

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected/available
Persons claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) as a proxy for disability	Social Security Agency/ DSD website www.dsdni.gov.uk/statistics-research/ geographicaldata.asp	Collected by male/female/age ranges per electoral ward level.
Population by long-term illness	NISRA (Census Output – households with dependent children and households with limiting long-term illness table) www.nisra.gov.uk/census/Census2001Output/ KeyStatistics/ keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency
Standardised death rates (listed per condition/disease)	Registrar General, NISRA www.nisra.gov.uk (general register office)	District council and health board level
Incidence of cancers	NI cancer registry www.qub.ac.uk/nicr/	Electoral ward level, district council level, and board level
Dental health recorded as dmf rates (decayed, missing and filled teeth)	Individual schools, HSS Trusts and Boards	Individual schools, HSS Trust level and board level
Immunisation – uptake rates of: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio at 2nd birthday (as a proxy for all primary vaccinations)	Child Health System - information can be obtained via the health boards	Electoral ward level, health and social services trust level and board level
Immunisation – uptake of measles, mumps and rubella at 2nd birthday	Child Health System - information can be obtained via the health boards	Electoral ward level, trust level and board level
Low birth weight incidence in singleton term births	Child Health System - information can be obtained via the health boards	Electoral ward level, trust level and board level
Teenage pregnancies	Child Health System - information can be obtained via the health boards	Electoral ward level, trust level and board level

2.2) Health and Health Behaviour (continued)

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected/available
Breast feeding (rates at discharge from hospital)	Child Health System - information can be obtained via the health boards	Electoral ward level, trust level and board level (Breast feeding rates at 7 months are also collected although inconsistencies currently arise in accuracy between areas)

Many more statistics on health and health behaviour are available at a Northern Ireland level or in some case at a trust or health board level.

These include figures on smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, physical activity, mental health, sexual health, oral health, and food and nutrition. However the lack of information available at a local ward or output level makes it difficult to produce a profile on a small geographic area.

2.3) Housing

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected
Housing stress as an indicator of social disadvantage	Noble Deprivation Indicators found on NISRA website www.nisra.gov.uk/whatsnew/dep/index.html	Electoral ward level (based on 1984 ward boundaries) (figures up to 2001 only)
Percentage of households without central heating as a proxy for fuel poverty	NISRA (Census Output – rooms, amenities, central heating and lowest floor level table) www.nisra.gov.uk/census/Census2001 Output/ KeyStatistics/ keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency
Homelessness figures	District Housing Plans/ Housing Executive www.nihe.gov.uk	District housing areas; District council area
Tenure – number of households which are owner occupied or rented	NISRA (Census Output –table) www.nisra.gov.uk/census/Census2001 Output/ KeyStatistics/ keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency
Social housing build programmes and social housing stock	District Housing Plans/ Housing Executive www.nihe.gov.uk	District housing areas; District council area
Area plans (these provide information on land use proposals for each district council)	Department of the Environment, Planning Service www.planningni.gov.uk	Area plans available for each district council area

The community steering group could provide information on local concerns regarding house prices, availability issues, and relevant local information.

2.4) Transport

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected
Car ownership (which has an impact on access to services)	NISRA (Census Output – Cars or Vans table) www.nisra.gov.uk/census/Census2001Output/KeyStatistics/keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency
Access to essential services (*defined by Noble as access to a post office, GP surgery, A&E hospitals, dentist, optician, pharmacist, library, museum and social security office)	Noble Deprivation Indicators found on NISRA website www.nisra.gov.uk/whatsnew/dep/index.html	Electoral ward level (based on 1984 ward boundaries) (figures up to 2001 only)
Mode of transport to work	NISRA (Census Output) www.nisra.gov.uk/census/Census2001Output/ KeyStatistics/keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency
Community transport – each operator should be able to supply information on the number of buses available, figures on passengers, and area covered	Community Transport Association www.communitytransport-ni.com	There are 18 community transport operators in Northern Ireland working in the following areas: Belfast; Ards Peninsula; Armagh; Coleraine; Cookstown; Craigavon/Banbridge; Downpatrick; Dungannon; East Fermanagh/South Tyrone; Foyle; Magherafelt; Mid Tyrone; Newcastle; North Antrim; Strabane, and SW Fermanagh
Public Transport –passenger numbers, and bus service provision	Translink www.translink.co.uk	Towns and villages

*The community steering group should be able to assist in listing the location of 'essential services' (see above for definition) and other services such as banks, and cash points, which are present in the area.

2.5) Employment

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected
Persons claiming job seekers allowance	DSD website www.dsdni.gov.uk/statistics-research/geographicaldata.asp	Electoral ward level, information published on website twice a year
Deprivation score by income (score constructed using counts of adults in families in receipt of means tested benefits)	Noble Deprivation Indicators found on NISRA website www.nisra.gov.uk/whatsnew/dep/index.html	Electoral ward level (based on 1984 ward boundaries) (figures up to 2001 only)
Economic activity (employed part/full time; self-employed; unemployed; student), and employment by household (lone parent households broken down by gender)	NISRA (Census Output) www.nisra.gov.uk/census/Census2001Output/ KeyStatistics/keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency
Economic inactivity – figures are categorised for men and women under the following: retired; student, looking after home/family; permanently sick/disabled; and other	NISRA (Census Output) www.nisra.gov.uk/census/Census2001Output/ KeyStatistics/keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency
Areas of employment – occupation and gender by industry	NISRA (Census Output) www.nisra.gov.uk/census/Census2001Output/ KeyStatistics/keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency

The community steering group should assist in gathering information on specific employment issues and concerns in the area. The local job centre will provide information on activities offered in the area. The following website will provide a link to the 35 job centre offices in Northern Ireland (www.jobcentreonline.com/).

2.6) Environment

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected
Air quality	District councils - links to all councils through the following website: www.oultwood.com/localgov/northernireland.htm	Monitoring stations spread throughout the country
Radiation (ionising; radon and non-ionising	Department of the Environment (DOE) website – Environment and heritage service - www.ehsni.gov.uk/environment/radiation/radiation.shtml. Information also provided by district councils.	Results recorded at district council level
River quality	DOE – Water Management Unit	Assessments completed on all rivers and results provided on request
Bathing water quality	DOE website – Environment and heritage service www.ehsni.gov.uk/environment/environment.shtml	27 sites are monitored throughout NI – water quality is tested on 20 occasions between June and mid-September - results are provided on request
Noise complaints	District councils - links to all councils through the following website: www.oultwood.com/localgov/northernireland.htm	Ward level, district council area
Current provision in relation to: civic amenity sites; recycling points; waste collection; parks and open space belonging to the council	District councils - links to all councils through the following website: www.oultwood.com/localgov/northernireland.htm	Ward level, district council area

The community steering group should be able to highlight areas of concern in the area in relation to environmental issues and any issues relating to the provision of amenities in the local area.

2.7) Crime

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected
Number of domestic violence offences	Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI) statistics branch (see also www.psni.police.uk)	Results recorded per district command unit – provided on request
Notifiable offences (e.g. burglary, criminal damage, sexual offences, fraud etc)	PSNI statistics branch www.psni.police.uk/index/statistics_branch.htm	District command unit area, ward level, and area covered by each police station
Number of women seeking help for domestic violence	Women's Aid federation www.niwaf.org/	Numbers collected for each refuge centre

Information on localised policing surveys which have been performed can be obtained from local District Policing Partnerships (www.districtpolicing.com/).

2.8) Essential Services

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected
Number and type of incidences attended by the fire brigade	Northern Ireland Fire Brigade HQ – Statistics Branch www.nifb.org.uk/	Recorded per fire station each month – available on request
Ambulance service provision	Ambulance service head quarters www.niamb.co.uk/	4 divisional control centres in Northern Ireland
Location of police stations and district command units. Opening times for the public for each police station.	PSNI website www.psni.police.uk/ Individual police station	Northern Ireland. Each police station
Policing in partnership with the community (in a number of areas inspectors employed by the district council work in partnership and performs joint patrols with police officers to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour)	Community Policing Unit within district command units	N/A
Number of road traffic fatalities	PSNI statistics branch www.psni.police.uk/index/statistics_branch.htm	District command unit – figures are not available at ward level

2.9) Education

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected
Population by range of qualifications	NISRA (Census Output – qualifications and students table) www.nisra.gov.uk/census/Census2001Output/ KeyStatistics/ keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency
Destination of school leavers (into higher, further education, or employment/ unemployment)	Department of Education (DENI) www.deni.gov.uk	Electoral ward level, school – available on request
Uptake of free school meals	NISRA, GIS Neighbourhood statistics www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/	Electrical ward level and above
Number of children with special needs	Education and Library Board for the area	Per school
Current provision of further education courses being delivered in the area	The following website address provides links to a wide range of colleges, universities, education sites, awarding bodies, and educational bodies http://www.fento.org/nations_regions/n_ireland.html	N/A
Independent providers of adult education – provision of courses	Workers Education Association (WEA) – e.g. building communities; essential skills; creative learning and opportunities for women learning www.wea-ni.com NICVA – e.g. management development courses www.nicva.org/	N/A
Library services available and usage of library services	The following website provides information on the location and contact details for all the libraries in Northern Ireland, as well as information on life long learning and links to eGovernment: www.ni-libraries.net/ Information re the usage of library services can be obtained from the appropriate Education and Library Board for the area	N/A

The community steering group should be able to provide information on local concerns re provision of education services or access to these services.

2.10) Voluntary, Community and Private Provision

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected
Provision of unpaid health care	NISRA (Census Output –health and provision of unpaid care table) www.nisra.gov.uk/census Census2001Output/KeyStatistics/keystatrep.html	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency
Nursing and residential home provision –number of places available	Health and Social Services Trust – community care unit	Per nursing/residential home
Lone parents in employment	NISRA (Census Output – lone parent households with dependent children table) www.nisra.gov.uk/census Census2001Output/KeyStatistics/	Electoral Ward level; output level; local District Council; Health and Social Service Boards; Education and Library Boards; Parliamentary Constituency
Number of childminders versus the child population, and overall re-school provision	Health and Social Services Trusts	Electoral ward level, trust and board level
Voluntary provision of services for children	Some examples include: Sure start, Lifestart, Youth Action NI	N/A
Voluntary provision of services for older people	Some examples include: Age Concern - they have day centres throughout the province. Engage with Age – working in East Belfast; Help the Aged working regionally. Housing Associations provide supported housing for the elderly.	N/A

The community steering group should assist in collating a full list of voluntary/community groups working in the local area as well as community networks.

2.11) Health and Social Services Provision

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected
Information on the location of GP surgeries and hospitals; role of the health boards, health agencies e.g. action cancer and health councils; links to the DHSSPS; information on how to find a health service dentist; information on pharmacies and local health and social care groups (LHSCG's).	All of this information is available on the following website: www.healthandcareni.co.uk/index.html - it also provides links to other relevant websites. In addition, local health and social care group (LHSCG) primary care investment plans often give more specific information on the service provision in their area.	Provision in the whole of Northern Ireland
Location of community services at a local health and social service trust (HSST) area – e.g. services for adults, children, mental health services and services for those with a disability.	Links to HSS trusts can be found through the following website: www.healthandcareni.co.uk/index.html	Links to 12 HSS trusts on this website
Number of hospital episodes	NISRA – GIS neighbourhood statistics www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/	Ward area and above
Out of hours GP services	www.asadoc.com – GP cooperative covering County Down, Armagh, Tyrone and Fermanagh. www.dalriadadoc.org.uk – GP cooperative covering the Northern health and social services board area. www.ehssc.org/outofhours7.htm – provides information on the doctor on call services in the Eastern health and social services board area	N/A

Local concerns or issues relating to health and social care provision can be obtained from the community steering group.

2.12) Leisure and Recreation Services

Information	Where to source this information	Area/level collected
Leisure, recreation and sporting services available through the district council	Local district council – links to all the district councils can be found through the following website: www.oultwood.com/localgov/northernireland.htm A number of district councils provide a full listing of services on their website.	District council
Tourist attractions in the area and visitors to these attractions – affects the local economy. Events attracting tourists organised by the district council	Local district council – links to all the district councils can be found through the following website: www.oultwood.com/localgov/northernireland.htm	District council

Local views on the availability and access to leisure services in the area can be obtained from the community steering group.

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