

Hartley Parish Plan Background - Health

Introduction

Hartley is part of north Kent when it comes to health provision. We fall under the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Primary Healthcare Trust, who cover the boroughs of Dartford, Gravesend and also the northern parishes of Sevenoaks. I have found figures published in 2002 on a variety of health issues for the 52 council wards of the area. For the purposes of these, "Hartley" includes Hartley and Fawkham.

Sources

Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT: General Profile 1 (April 2002)

Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT: Profile (October 2002)

Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT: Coronary Heart Disease Profile (May 2002)

Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT: Deprivation Profile (November 2003)

Fertility and Mortality

Hartley has one of the lowest rates of fertility in the district at 48th of 52. There are 1,053 females between 15 and 44 and the number of births was 143, giving a rate per thousand of 45.3 against a district average of 61.9 (and over 100 in 2 Dartford wards). The low birthrate is probably explained by the big dip in the census figures for people aged 20-34 living in Hartley, which is the peak age for conception (29 is national average).

The number of teenage conceptions (ie. under 20) was 4 out of 185 females aged 15-19. A rate of 21.6 per thousand, putting Hartley 35th and well below the district average (Joyce Green was highest with 220.6 per thousand).

In total mortality between 1996 and 2000 was 103 people under 75 (including circulatory disease - 37, cancer - 41, respiratory disease - 8), and 290 over 75 (including circulatory disease - 128, cancer - 41, respiratory disease - 85). There were fewer than 3 infant deaths annually. The Health Trust publishes charts with more details.

The Health Trust has national targets to reduce mortality in the under 75s for Cancer (by 20%) and circulatory disease (by 40%). They aim to reduce mortality for all ages in accidents by 20% and suicides by 20%.

Child Poverty and Deprivation

This is included in health authority figures because of the links between low income and poor health.

In general Hartley is one of the less deprived wards both nationally and in Kent, although Ash and Longfield are more prosperous still. The two areas where the parish plan may need to look at are Access to Services and Housing, where Hartley falls in the bottom half of England's 8,414 council wards.

The figures published in 2003 are as follows (for rank 1=poorest):

| Measure | Score | Rank England (out of 8414) | Rank Kent (out of 366) | |
|--|-------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Income Deprivation <i>Percentage of ward in claimant households</i> | 13.43 | 5,015 | 226 | Ash 5667, Longfield 7522 |
| Employment Deprivation <i>Percentage of ward unemployed or unfit to work or on schemes</i> | 5.12 | 6,644 | 298 | Ash 6623, Longfield 7046 |
| Health Deprivation and Disability <i>Persons receiving incapacity benefit, attendance or disability living allowances; mortality and limiting long term illness ratios; proportion of low birth weights</i> | -1.06 | 7,353 | 327 | Ash 7995, Longfield 7448 |
| Education Deprivation <i>Those with no qualifications, children over 16 not in full time education, school league tables, English not mother tongue, truancy</i> | -0.7 | 6,557 | 307 | Ash 7656, Longfield 5692 |
| Housing Deprivation <i>Those in temporary or overcrowded accomodation; those in substandard private accomodation</i> | 0.19 | 3,456 | 178 | Ash 4522, Longfield 7119 |
| Geographical Access to Services <i>Access to Post Office, large food shops, GP surgery, primary school</i> | 0.32 | 2,802 | 131 | Ash 1744, Longfield 3241 |
| Index of Multiple Deprivation <i>Weighted index of the 6 above in proportion 25%, 25%, 15%, 15%, 10%, 10%</i> | 10.05 | 6,367 | 284 | Ash 6736, Longfield 7815 |
| Child Poverty Index <i>Percentage of children living in means tested benefit households</i> | 18.01 | 5,113 | 228 | Ash 5574, Longfield 7707 |

Hospital Admissions

Figures are only on a district wide basis. In 2000/1 there were 40,378 hospital admissions, divided as follows: birth (2,520), planned daycase (9,295), planned inpatient (8,763), emergency (15,063), maternity - mother (3,860), transfer (877). Figures are available for 25 different categories of preliminary diagnosis.

The one ward based figure published is for Coronary Heart Disease, where the admission rate for Hartley in the period 1998-2001 was 291 per 100,000 population - the 4th lowest out of the 44 wards included, but because of the small numbers involved and the statistical range of error involved, the health trust was reluctant to draw many conclusions from this.