

## **Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2004: Consultation Document**

Comments on the above document Altnagelvin Hospitals HSS Trust.

### *Section 4 Domains*

1. The domains adequately cover the areas to be measured. In order to provide meaningful comparisons with previous findings radical change to domains should be avoided.
2. None of the listed domains should be excluded.
3. Crime domain – depends on reported crimes to PSNI this is the only source of information. Some crime may go unreported, are the reported figures reliable enough to base a domain on?
4. Living Environment domain, the social environment indicators probably sits better in this domain along with housing issues in general.

### *Section 5 Indicators*

#### Section 5.3 Health Deprivation and Disability

The proposed indicator regarding emergency admission to hospital could be misleading, as there is evidence to suggest that a number of factors can affect the rate of emergency admission apart from the patient's conditions. These include GP referral rate to hospital and the appropriateness of the admission. Hospitals ability to effectively assess emergency referrals on arrival can also have an impact, as some potential emergency admissions may not, in fact, be admitted.

#### Super Output Areas

Will their use mean that comparison with the 2001 results is not possible? A level of consistency has to be maintained to ensure progress or otherwise in reducing deprivation can be measured.

A further measure relating to the incidence of chronic disease which frequently can cause disability and perhaps consequent deprivation, might be useful to include.

Measures relating to "health" rather than sickness should also be considered. It is recognised that this may be difficult to measure but consideration should at least be given to how this could be assessed in the future.

### *Section 7 Methodology*

Weights, the Trust would view education to be a major factor in reducing deprivation and would suggest the weighting under "Weights A" to be more appropriate. Again in terms of maintaining consistency the A weighting seems more appropriate.