

East Sussex LINK is pleased to announce that we are commissioning a new research project entitled:

Urban and Rural Health – Understanding the Impact of Primary Care Provision on Health Outcomes across Local Communities in East Sussex and will be delivering the project by March 2012.

We have outlined details of the research project below and will be running some research training for those interested in becoming research participants in the project. If you (or any of your members) would like to be part of our research team or receive further information (including the full research proposal) please contact us on the details below.

URBAN and RURAL HEALTH

Understanding the Impact of Primary Care Provision on Health Outcomes across Local Communities in East Sussex

Research Purpose

To identify whether there is an actual or perceived divide in primary care provision between urban and rural areas and what, if any, impact this has on health outcomes across local communities in East Sussex.

Initial Findings

Initial research has highlighted that urban areas experience disadvantage primarily based on their socio-economic and health status, whereas rural areas experience disadvantage related primarily to their geographic location and accessibility to services.

It has become apparent, through the initial literature review and discussions undertaken as part of the research proposal, that these community experiences form only one part of four areas that initial research has identified as potentially impacting on primary care provision and, as a result, health outcomes across East Sussex which are as follows:

- Situations: Urban & rural areas differing experiences of primary care provision
- Structures: Distribution of and barriers of access to primary care provision
- Services: Quality of current primary care provision
- Systems: Impact of current health and social care landscape on primary care provision.

Initial conclusions drawn from the literature review and initial discussions with service providers acknowledge that, although the impact on health outcomes across local communities is not yet fully determined, primary care provision is important (especially taking into account the current political and economic climate's impact on the local health and social care landscape) and that tackling the inequalities that exist across communities in East Sussex is a priority.

In order to achieve the research's main purpose and test the viability of the initial proposal's findings, a research hypothesis has been created.

Hypothesis:

The level of primary care provision available to local communities across East Sussex has a direct impact on their health outcomes, with disparities being determined not by urban or rural status but rather by four main areas that impact upon primary care provision – Situations, Structures, Services and Systems.

Research Aims and objectives

Aim:

To understand the impact of primary care provision on health outcomes across local communities in East Sussex through the exploration of disparities between access to and quality of primary care services experienced by urban and rural areas.

Primary Objective:

To test the research hypothesis outlined above and answer the research outcomes stated by delivering the following outcomes:

Situation: To gather the primary care experiences of urban and rural communities across East Sussex and, through this process, to provide an up to date analysis of the needs of local communities.

Structure: To develop a profile of current primary care services available to local communities across East Sussex and to identify any gaps in provision.

Service: To assess the quality of primary care provision across East Sussex by undertaking a systematic review of local primary care facilities and holding in-depth discussions with local service providers.

System: To identify the impact of the current health landscape on the provision of primary care across East Sussex by undertaking a review of current systems and health and social care climate.

Any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Catherine Herriott catherine.herriott@thecountylink.net