

## **Tackling Health Inequalities**

### **The Spearhead Group of Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts**

The Public Health White Paper *Choosing Health – making healthier choices easier* [Choosing Health - Making healthier choices easier](#) sets out the importance of ensuring that as the country strives to improve its health a priority must be given to tackling health inequalities so that all groups in society benefit from improvements in public health.

The Public Service Agreement targets agreed in the [Spending Review of 2004](#) gave an increased profile to tackling inequalities in health (See Appendix 1)

The Government has set a Public Service Agreement target to address geographical inequalities in life expectancy, cancer, heart disease, stroke and related diseases. The targets aim to see faster progress compared to the average in the “fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators”. Achievement of the targets will be assessed on the outcomes for this Group in 2010. The Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts which are in these areas, the so-called **Spearhead Group**, has now been published.

The Spearhead Group is made up of 70 Local authorities and 88 Primary Care Trusts, based upon the Local Authority areas that are in the bottom fifth nationally for 3 or more of the following 5 indicators:

- Male life expectancy at birth
- Female life expectancy at birth
- Cancer mortality rate in under 75s
- Cardio Vascular Disease mortality rate in under 75s
- Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (Local Authority Summary), average score

The list of Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts in the Spearhead Group is attached at Appendix 2. Maps which highlight the Spearhead group areas are attached at Appendix 3.

### **Public Service Agreement inequalities targets**

**Note:** For further information on the full suite of PSA targets which form part of the 2004 Spending Review see [HMT Treasury](#).

#### **Extract from the Department of Health Public Service Agreement**

**Objective I:** Improve the health of the population. By 2010 increase life expectancy at birth in England to 78.6 years for men and to 82.5 years for women.

##### **1. Substantially reduce mortality rates by 2010:**

- *from heart disease and stroke and related diseases by at least 40% in people under 75, with at least a 40% reduction in the inequalities gap between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole;*
- *from cancer by at least 20% in people under 75, with a reduction in the inequalities gap of at least 6% between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole; and*
- *from suicide and undetermined injury by at least 20%.*

##### **2. Reduce health inequalities by 10% by 2010 as measured by infant mortality and life expectancy at birth. The single target is supported by the following two specific targets:**

- *Starting with children under one year, by 2010 to reduce the gap in mortality by at least 10% between “routine and manual” groups and the population as a whole.*
- *Starting with Local Authorities, by 2010 to reduce by at least 10% the gap between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole.*

##### **3. Tackle the underlying determinants of ill health and health inequalities by:**

- *reducing adult smoking rates to 21% or less by 2010, with a reduction in prevalence among routine and manual groups to 26% or less;*
- *halting the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole. Joint with the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; and*
- *reducing the under-18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health. Joint with the Department for Education and Skills.*

## **Inequalities in Public Service Agreements across Government**

In addition to focusing on overall improvements across government, PSA targets continue to address deprivation, particularly in key areas such as education and health through 'floor' targets or minimum standards. There is a strong correlation between these floor targets and the interests covered in the Programme for Action. The full set of PSA floor targets is set out below.

### **Public Service Agreement Floor Targets**

Floor targets for key government departments are aimed at levering up the performance of public services towards the national average in areas where delivery is unacceptably weak, particularly in deprived areas. This Spending Review refines and improves the suite of floor targets to ensure more effective targeting of mainstream resources to deprived areas and the continued improvement of key public services in those areas. The 2004 Spending Review delivers the following improvements to ensure interventions are prioritised for deprived areas and groups:

- in health, retaining the overall target on narrowing the gap in life expectancy, and introducing new floor targets to reduce the inequalities gap between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole by at least 40 per cent for cardiovascular disease and by at least 6 per cent for cancer, and to reduce adult smoking prevalence
- in education, more challenging floor targets to drive further improvements in schools in deprived areas, so that by 2008 the proportion of schools in which fewer than 65 per cent of 11 year olds achieve level 4 or above in English and maths is reduced by 40 per cent, whilst in all schools ensuring at least 50 per cent of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above in English, maths and science, and at least 30 per cent of 16 year olds achieve the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grades A\* to C;
- a new national target to reduce the proportion of young people not in employment, training or education by two percentage points by 2010;
- an improved target on self-employment in deprived areas;
- a new target to help tackle persistent pockets of worklessness, by increasing the employment rate across the Local Authority wards with the poorest labour market performance by one percentage point, and reducing the gap between the employment rate across these wards and the national average by one percentage point;
- a challenging target on tackling crime, especially in high crime areas;
- a new target on making public spaces cleaner, safer and greener in deprived areas and across the country; and
- an improved national target on neighbourhood renewal, on narrowing the gap between deprived areas and the rest in key outcomes on crime, health, education, worklessness, quality of public space and housing.

Source: Public Services Agreement White Paper 2005-08, page 8

**COMPOSITION OF SPEARHEAD GROUP**

## Notes

1. The Spearhead Group is identified in terms of Local Authorities (LAs) (those LAs in the 'worst' fifth of LAs for at least 3 out of 5 selected indicators).
2. 'Score' shows for how many of the 5 indicators an LA lies in the 'worst' fifth of LAs.
3. The indicators are: LE(M) - male life expectancy at birth, 1995-97; LE(F) - female life expectancy at birth, 1995-97; Ca - cancer mortality rate, under 75s, 1995-97; Ci - circulatory disease mortality rate, under 75s, 1995-97; IMD - Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (LA summary), average score.
4. The Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) shown are those which overlap geographically with LAs in the Spearhead Group (derived from information in the Standard Names and Codes (SNAC) 2003 file from ONS, based on boundaries as at 31/12/2003).
5. LAs and PCTs that overlap geographically are listed alongside each other (based on SNAC 2003 file mapping).
6. 'Overlap with Spearhead Group' is based on an estimate of the proportion of the PCT resident population lying in the Spearhead Group.
7. SHAs with no areas in the Spearhead Group are not listed.

							W = Whole PCT; P = Part of PCT				
LOCAL AUTHORITIES							PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS			SHA	GOR
	Score	LE(M)	LE(F)	Ca	Ci	IMD		Overlap with Spearhead Group			
00CH Gateshead	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5KF Gateshead	W	100%	Q09 Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	NORTH EAST
00CJ Newcastle upon Tyne	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5D7 Newcastle	W	100%		
00CK North Tyneside	4	✓	✓	✓	✓		5D8 North Tyneside	W	100%		
00CL South Tyneside	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5KG South Tyneside	W	100%		
00CM Sunderland	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5KL Sunderland Teaching	W	100%		
35UD Blyth Valley	4	✓	✓	✓	✓		TAC Northumberland Care Trust	P	Less than 50%		
35UG Wansbeck	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
00EB Hartlepool	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5D9 Hartlepool	W	100%	Q10 County Durham and Tees Valley	
00EC Middlesbrough	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5KM Middlesbrough*	W	100%		
00EE Redcar and Cleveland	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5KN Langbaugh	W	100%		

\* Middlesbrough PCT contains Middlesbrough LA and part of Redcar and Cleveland LA. Langbaugh PCT contains the rest of Redcar and Cleveland LA.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES							PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS			SHA	GOR
	Score	LE(M)	LE(F)	Ca	Ci	IMD		Overlap with Spearhead Group			
00EF Stockton-on-Tees	4	✓	✓	✓	✓		5E1 North Tees	W	100%		
20UB Chester-le-Street	4	✓	✓	✓	✓		5KC Durham and Chester-le-Street	P	Less than 50%		
20UD Derwentside	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5KA Derwentside	W	100%		
20UF Easington	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5KD Easington	W	100%		
20UG Sedgefield	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5KE Sedgefield	W	100%		
20UJ Wear Valley	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5J8 Durham Dales	P	50 to 90%		
00EX Blackburn with Darwen	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5CC Blackburn with Darwen	W	100%	Q13 Cumbria and Lancashire	NORTH WEST
00EY Blackpool	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5HP Blackpool	W	100%		
16UC Barrow-in-Furness	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5DD Morecambe Bay	P	Less than 50%		
16UD Carlisle	4	✓	✓	✓	✓		{ 5D5 Eden Valley { 5D4 Carlisle and District	P P	Less than 50% 50 to 90%		
30UD Burnley	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	5G8 Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale	W	100%		
30UJ Pendle	4	✓	✓		✓	✓					
30UM Rossendale	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
30UG Hyndburn	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	5G7 Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	P	50 to 90%		
30UK Preston	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	5HD Preston	P	Over 90%		
00BL Bolton	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	5HQ Bolton	W	100%	Q14 Greater Manchester	
00BM Bury	4	✓	✓	✓	✓		5JX Bury	W	100%		



LOCAL AUTHORITIES							PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS			SHA	GOR	
	Score	LE(M)	LE(F)	Ca	Ci	IMD		Overlap with Spearhead Group				
00FA Kingston upon Hull	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	{	5E5 Eastern Hull 5E6 West Hull	W W	100% 100%	Q11 North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER
00FC North East Lincolnshire	3	✓		✓		✓		5AN North East Lincolnshire	P	Over 90%		
00CX Bradford	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	{	5AW Airedale 5CF Bradford City 5CG Bradford South and West 5CH North Bradford	W W W W	100% 100% 100% 100%	Q12 West Yorkshire	
00DB Wakefield	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	{	5E7 Eastern Wakefield 5E8 Wakefield West	W W	100% 100%		
00CC Barnsley	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		5JE Barnsley	W	100%	Q23 South Yorkshire	
00CE Doncaster	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	{	5CK Doncaster Central 5EK Doncaster East 5EL Doncaster West	W W W	100% 100% 100%		
00CF Rotherham	4		✓	✓	✓	✓		5H8 Rotherham	W	100%		
00FY Nottingham	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		5EM Nottingham City	W	100%	Q24 Trent	EAST MIDLANDS
17UC Bolsover	3		✓	✓		✓		5EG North Eastern Derbyshire	P	Less than 50%		
32UD Lincoln	3	✓	✓		✓			5D2 West Lincolnshire	P	Less than 50%		
00FN Leicester	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	{	5EJ Leicester City West 5EY Eastern Leicester	W W	100% 100%	Q25 Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	
34UB Corby	4	✓	✓	✓	✓			5LV Northamptonshire Heartlands	P	Less than 50%		

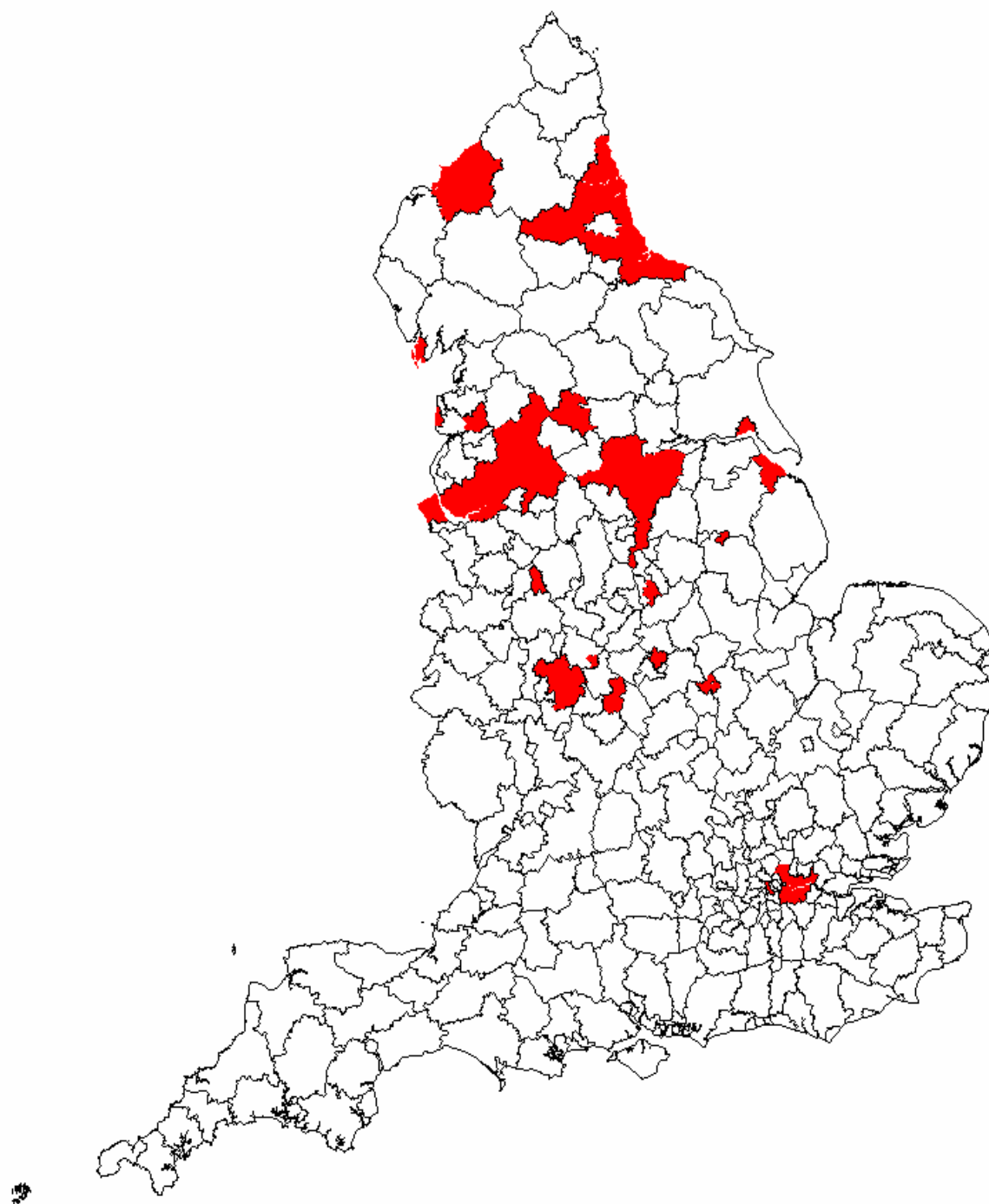
LOCAL AUTHORITIES							PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS				SHA	GOR
	Score	LE(M)	LE(F)	Ca	Ci	IMD			Overlap with Spearhead Group			
00GL Stoke-on-Trent	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	{	5ME North Stoke	P	Over 90%	Q26 Shropshire and Staffordshire	WEST MIDLANDS
							}	5MF South Stoke	P	Over 90%		
41UK Tamworth	3	✓		✓	✓			5DQ Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth	P	Less than 50%		
00CN Birmingham	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	{	5M1 South Birmingham	W	100%	Q27 Birmingham and the Black Country	
							}	5MW North Birmingham	W	100%		
							{	5MX Heart of Birmingham Teaching	W	100%		
							}	5MY Eastern Birmingham	W	100%		
							{	5MG Oldbury and Smethwick	W	100%		
00CS Sandwell	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	{	5MH Rowley Regis and Tipton	W	100%		
							}	5MJ Wednesbury and West Bromwich	W	100%		
00CU Walsall	3	✓			✓	✓		5M3 Walsall Teaching	W	100%		
00CW Wolverhampton	4	✓	✓		✓	✓		5MV Wolverhampton City	W	100%		
00CQ Coventry	4	✓	✓		✓	✓		5MD Coventry	W	100%	Q28 West Midlands South	
44UC Nuneaton & Bedworth	3		✓	✓	✓			5MP North Warwickshire	P	50 to 90%		
00AN Hammersmith & Fulham	3	✓		✓		✓		5H1 Hammersmith and Fulham	W	100%	Q04 North West London	LONDON
00AP Haringey	4	✓	✓		✓	✓		5C9 Haringey	W	100%	Q05 North Central London	
00AU Islington	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		5K8 Islington	W	100%		
00AB Barking & Dagenham	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		5C2 Barking and Dagenham	W	100%	Q06 North East London	

LOCAL AUTHORITIES							PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS			SHA	GOR
	Score	LE(M)	LE(F)	Ca	Ci	IMD			Overlap with Spearhead Group		
00AM Hackney	4	✓		✓	✓	✓	5C3 City and Hackney	P	Over 90%		
00BB Newham	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5C5 Newham	W	100%		
00BG Tower Hamlets	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5C4 Tower Hamlets	W	100%		
00AL Greenwich	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5A8 Greenwich	W	100%	Q07 South East London	
00AY Lambeth	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5LD Lambeth	W	100%		
00AZ Lewisham	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5LF Lewisham	W	100%		
00BE Southwark	4	✓	✓	✓		✓	5LE Southwark	W	100%		

**Geography of the Spearhead Group**

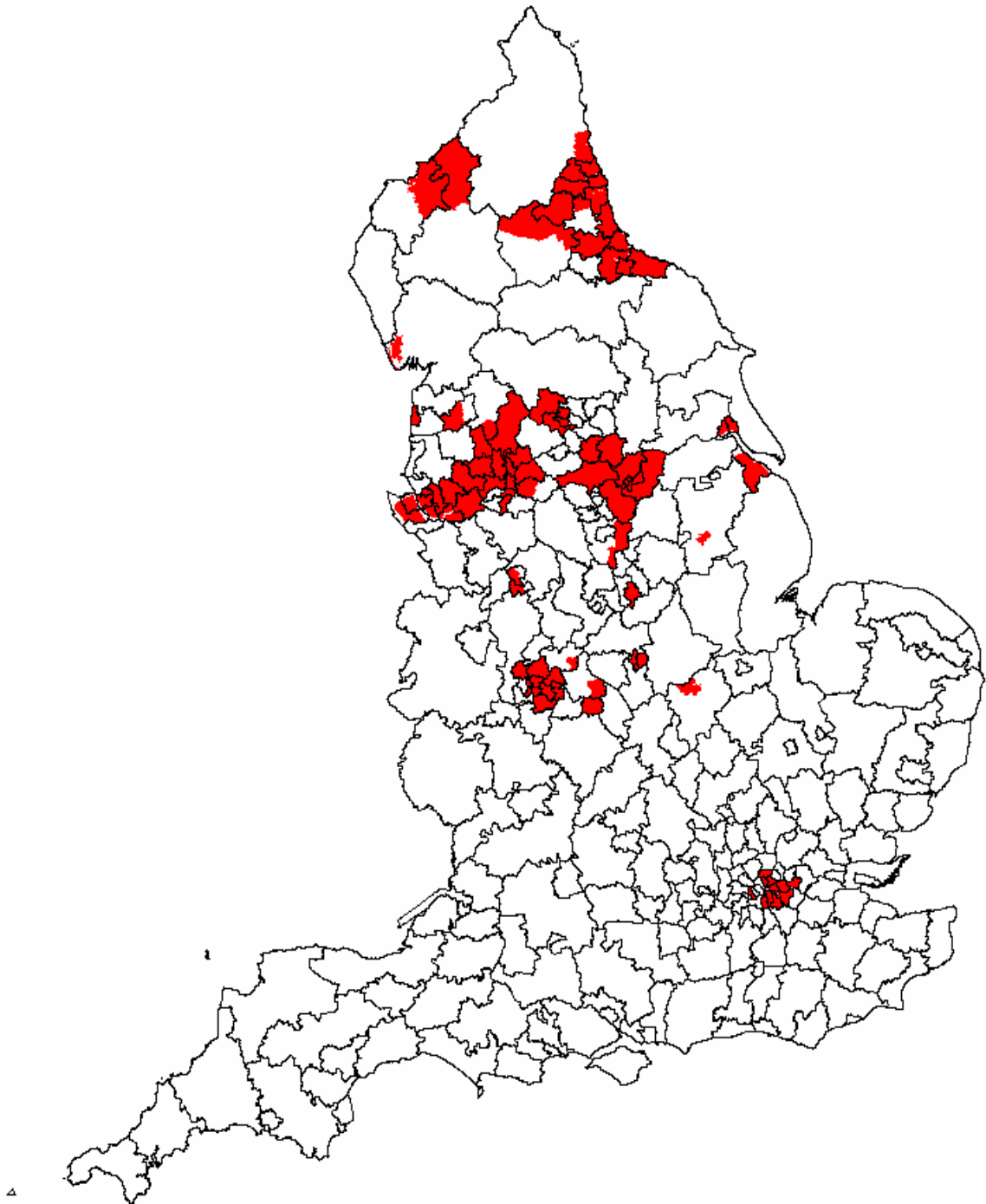
The maps below show the Spearhead Group by Local Authority and PCT areas, for England as a whole and London enlarged.

## Spearhead Group areas - Local Authority Districts



Source: ONS (mortality, life expectancy data);  
ODPM Index of Multiple Deprivation

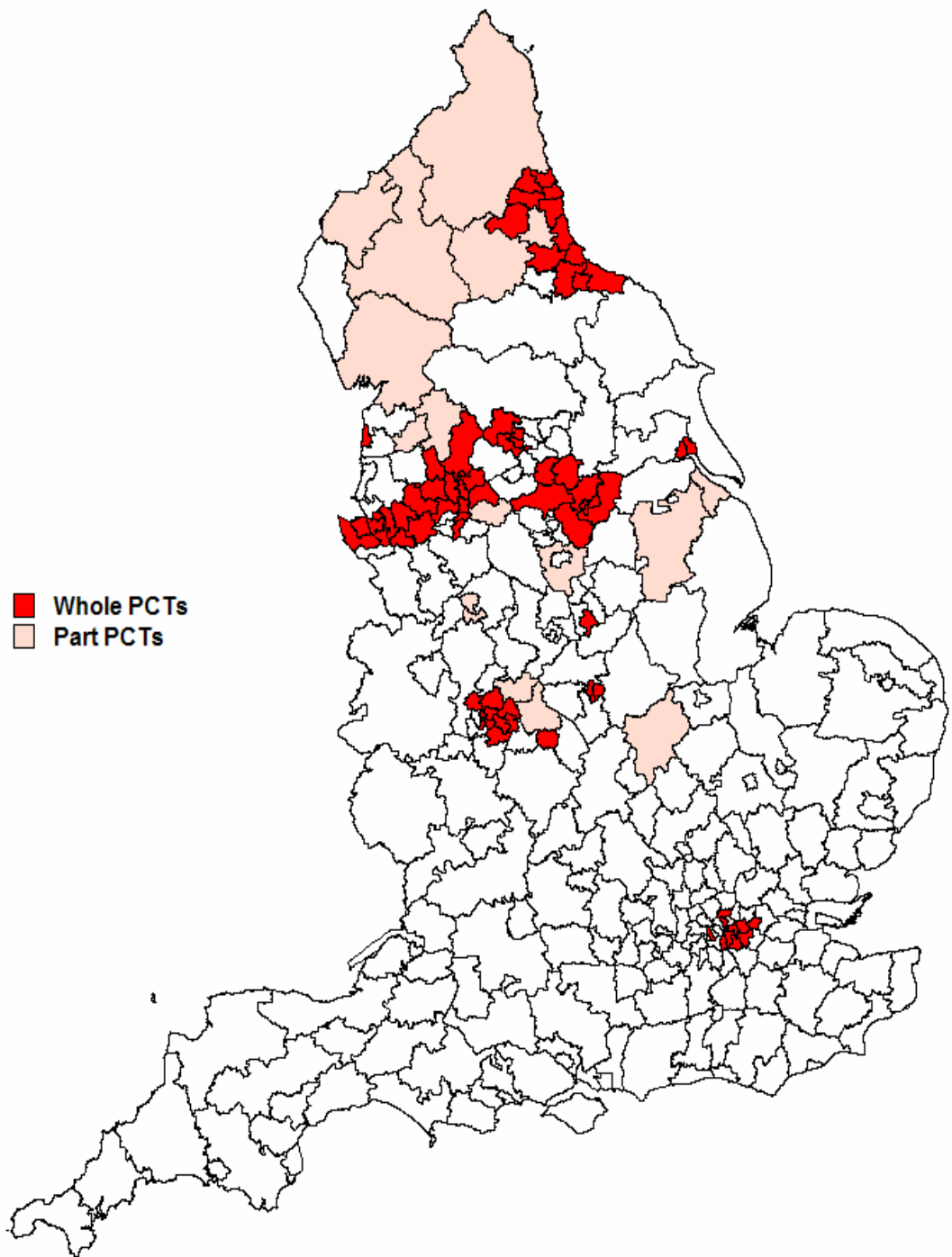
**Spearhead Group areas - LAs mapped onto PCT boundaries\*  
(including whole and part PCTs)**



Source: ONS (mortality, life expectancy data);  
ODPM Index of Multiple Deprivation

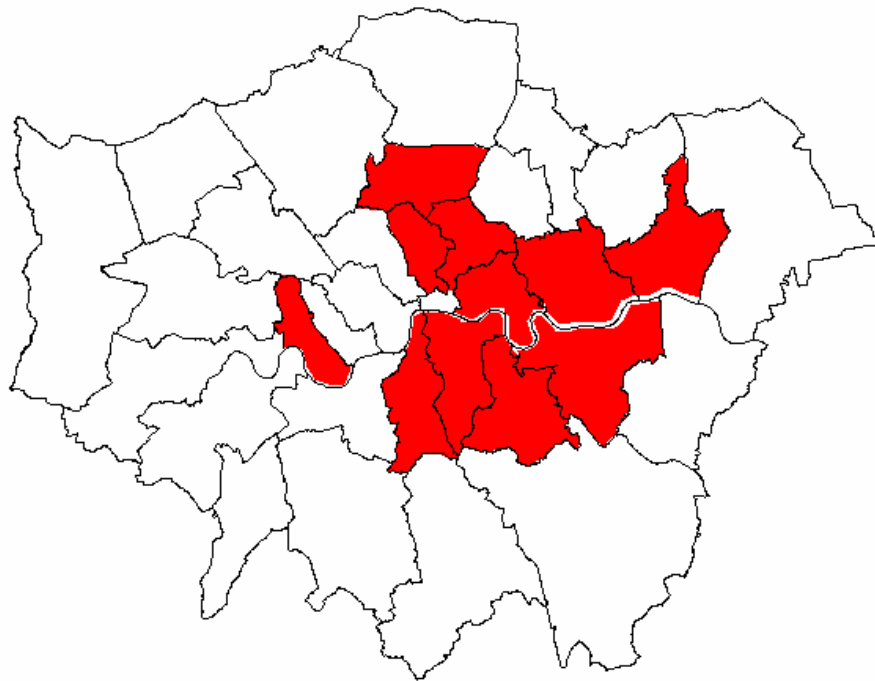
\* Note - underpinning data are based  
on Local Authorities

### Spearhead Group areas - Primary Care Trusts (whole and part)



Sources: ONS (Life expectancy, mortality data)  
ODPM (Index of Multiple Deprivation)

**Spearhead Group areas (London) -  
Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts**



Source: ONS (mortality, life expectancy data);  
ODPM Index of Multiple Deprivation