

Sefton Council



**Health Impact Assessment  
of the  
Bootle Area Action Plan  
May 2024**

## **Introduction**

1. The Bootle Area Action Plan (AAP) is being prepared to address Bootle specific land use planning issues. A sustainability Appraisal (SA/SEA) has been prepared and an Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA). It is also important to consider the health impacts of an AAP. The link between planning and health has been long established; indeed, the planning system itself owes its roots to 19th/ early 20th Century public health legislation. It does however need to be acknowledged that the planning process on its own can only play a small role in addressing public health issues. Nonetheless, it can contribute towards improved health outcomes alongside other corporate health policy interventions.

2. Assessing health impacts is never straightforward because so many factors can contribute towards good quality health. Nonetheless, planning decisions can have both positive and negative impacts upon mental and physical health and this HIA will assess these.

3. Many public health issues are already addressed in the Sefton Local Plan (2017). However, as Bootle has specific health issues that often differ from the wider Sefton borough, these need to be considered as part of the Bootle Area Action Plan.

## **Bootle Health Issues**

4. The Bootle area has some specific health issues. The health of the population of Bootle is generally poorer than that in Sefton as a whole, for example, in relation to heart disease, obesity, morbidity and mental health. There are also health inequalities within the plan area. Many people lead inactive lifestyles. Measured against national Indices of Multiple Deprivation (income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services and living environment), all of the plan area is ranked within the 20% most deprived nationally, with much of the area in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally.

5. Some specific issues include:

- Some areas with high levels of poor air quality
- Areas with heavily contaminated land
- Poor air quality in many areas
- Lower life expectancy
- Large numbers of people with activities limited by poor health
- Higher than average numbers of children who are overweight

6. In the 2021 Sefton Ward profiles, Linacre ward<sup>1</sup> has 28% of residents who have activities that are limited by poor health and Derby has 25%. This is significant because it will result in more people have mobility issues and issues accessing work and leisure activities.

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<sup>1</sup> The Bootle AAP contains Linacre and Derby wards and part of Litherland and St Oswalds & Netherton wards

7. As can be seen in figure 1 (below), life expectancy in some of Bootle’s wards are significantly below than Sefton and England averages with people in Linacre ward, on average for eight fewer years than the national average. It should be noted that the Litherland ward also has lower life expectancy, but this is not as pronounced as Linacre or Derby.

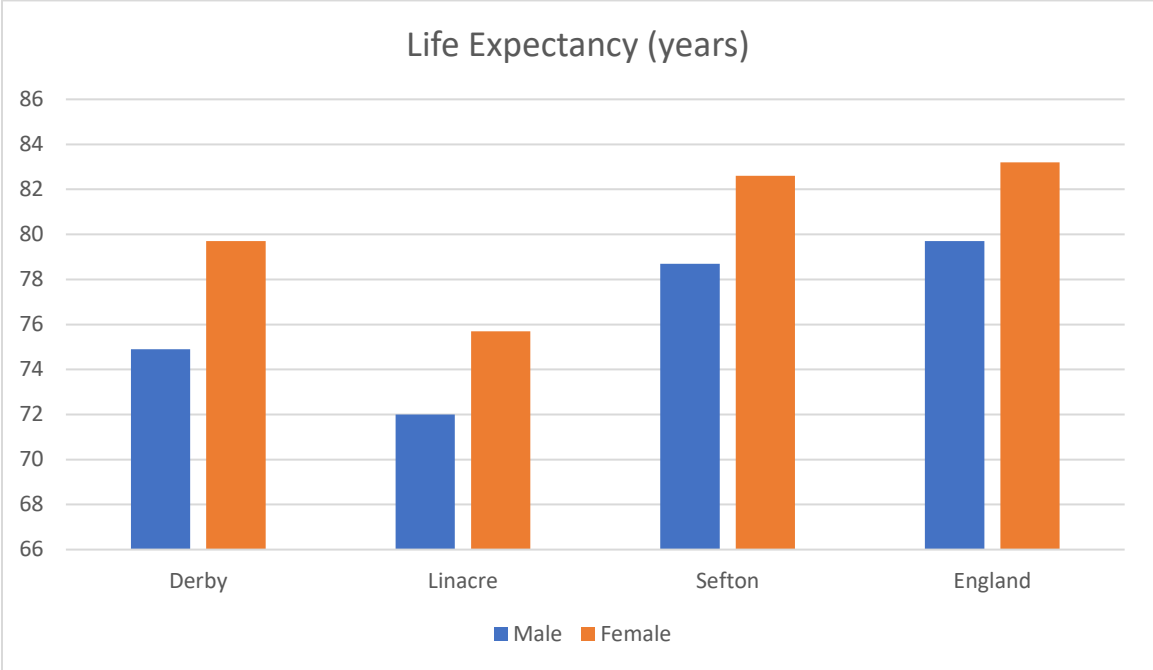


Figure 1 – Bootle Life Expectancy for the Derby and Linacre wards.

Figure 2 below illustrates childhood obesity rates for the Derby and Litherland wards. As can be seen, there are high levels of childhood obesity, particularly at year 6 level. This is especially important because there is strong evidence linking childhood obesity to long-term poor health in later years. This has policy implications for childhood activities and diet.

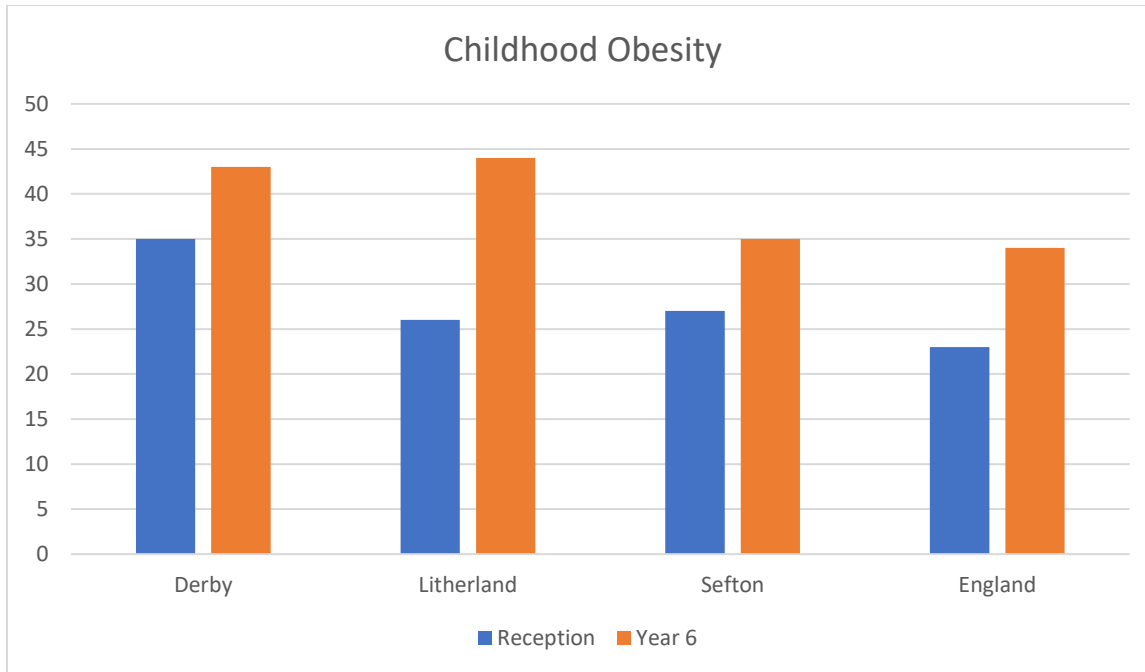


Figure 2 - Percentage of children who are obese at reception and year 6 age.

8. Poor air quality in some parts of the area contributes to respiratory and other health problems for residents. The main concern is nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate emissions from road traffic, including from freight vehicles. The Council has declared four air quality management areas (AQMA - for which air quality action plans are required) in the parts of Sefton which have poorest air quality. The Millers Bridge AQMA is entirely within the plan area. The Princess Way and Hawthorne Road AQMAs are partly within it.

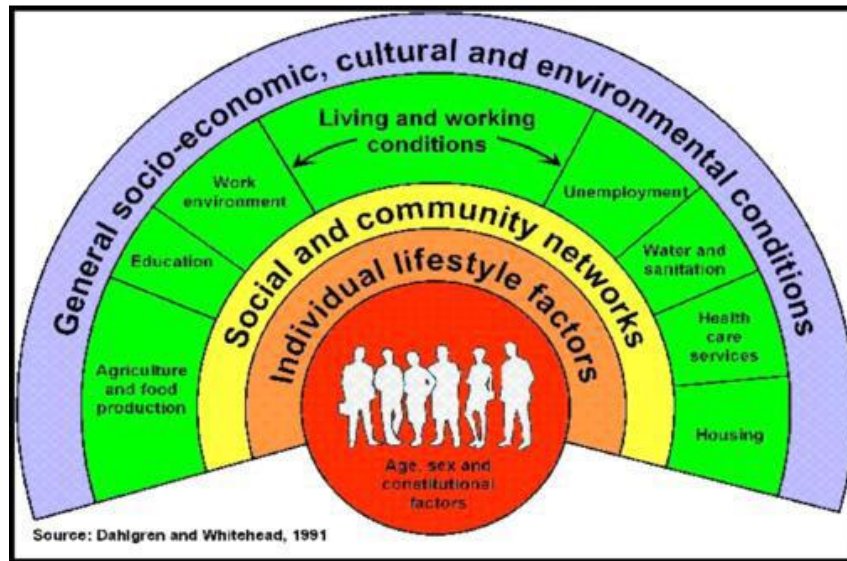
9. The contaminated land issues relate to the industrial legacy left by the old industry that used to be prevalent in Bootle. This is most severe along the corridor along the Leeds to Liverpool canal.

10. It should be noted that the reasons for poor health in Bootle may be related to many different issues. However much of Bootle falls into the bottom 10% national in the Indicators of Multiple deprivation and poverty is one of the biggest determinants of health.

### Health Impact Indicators

11. The health assessment has been undertaken by trying to assess the broad determinants of health. These are summarised in figure 3 (below).

12. To assess the health impact of the Bootle AAP it is necessary to identify health determinates which each policy will be assessed against. Health determinates are the social, economic, environmental and cultural factors that indirectly influence health and wellbeing (Department of Health 2010). The diagram below illustrates the health determinates relating to people and places.



13. Each policy will be assessed against its impact on the health indicator. The health indicators are taken from the Health Determinants. These are as follows:

#### Healthy lifestyle

14. Having a healthy lifestyle is important in providing good health and has all sorts of direct and indirect influences on good health. Factors that can be included in helping a healthy lifestyle can include:

- Provision of amenity space
- Provide infrastructure for Cycling and Walking
- Access to high quality leisure, recreation and health facilities
- Protect existing open/recreational space
- Provision of health food choices

#### Housing

15. Having appropriate and good quality housing that people can access is an important determinant in physical and mental health. Important factors include:

- Meet housing need for all including travellers, older people, disabled people
- Provision for affordable housing
- Adequate space provided - Reduce overcrowding
- Provide mix of housing

- Ensure amenity value of dwelling is maintained/improved

### Environment

16. A poor-quality environment can and does contribute towards poor health and the reverse is also true. This can help physical and mental health.

- Reduce Flood Risk
- Water security
- Sustainable means of transport
- Reduce need to travel and length of travel
- Mitigate existing pollution and minimise new pollutants
- Protect and enhance the natural and built environment

### Strengthen communities

17. The quality of a local community can have a number of impacts upon helping mitigate poor health and helping reduce health inequalities. Land use planning issues to consider are:

- Regenerating areas of deprivation
- Encourage community involvement in planning process
- Improve employment opportunities and range of employment types
- Access to high quality local cultural and community facilities
- Support existing communities and allow communities to grow
- Protect/enhance local character
- Interconnectivity of settlements and wider area
- Support local retail centres

18. The scoring in the table will be as follows:

Positive (marked as +) – The policy will have a positive impact on that health indicator

Neutral (marked as 0) – The policy will have no impact upon that health indicator

Negative (marked as -) – the policy will have a negative impact upon that health indicator

There is a short section of comments to explain the scores.

Bootle AAP Policy	Policy Name	Healthy lifestyle	Housing	Environment	Strengthen communities	Notes (where applicable)
<b>BAAP1</b>	Design	+	+	+	+	The policy covers a wide range of themes and is considered to be positive on all of the indicators.  Having good quality design, both for individual buildings and also for wider developments and how they link into the community is very important for good quality health outcomes.
<b>BAAP2</b>	Best Use of Resources	0	0	+	0	This policy scores highly for the Environment in that it helps priorities reducing waste and re-using materials
<b>BAAP3, 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>	Bootle Central Area policies including “Bootle Central Area”, “Bootle Town Centre”, Bootle Office Quarter” and “Civic and Education Quarters”	+	0	+	+	The town centre policies will improve community cohesion and make better facilities available and more accessible for locals, particularly those with poor mobility. The policy therefore scores highly.
<b>BAAP7</b>	Local Shopping Parades	+	0	+	+	Improvements to local shopping parades would have a number of



Bootle AAP Policy	Policy Name	Healthy lifestyle	Housing	Environment	Strengthen communities	Notes (where applicable)
						benefits for local communities including making shops and services available to people on foot rather than public transport or cars and having service for those with poor mobility.
<b>BAAP8</b>	Getting Around	+	0	+	0	The policy should help improving health through encouraging walking and cycling.  The policy will also help link places better and make development more accessible for those with limited mobility.
<b>BAAP9</b>	Nature	0	0	+	0	The nature policy will likely improve mental health through improved biodiversity with new schemes.
<b>BAAP10</b>	Healthy Bootle	+	+	+	+	This policy brings together the whole wide reaching health benefits of the AAP.

Bootle AAP Policy	Policy Name	Healthy lifestyle	Housing	Environment	Strengthen communities	Notes (where applicable)
						The policy does not in itself propose any specific public health measures but brings together how development can address health issues. It is noted that good and bad health can be determined through a wide range of reasons and this policy tries to bring together the broad spectrum of those that are related to land use planning.
<b>BAAP11</b>	Parks, Public Open Space and Playing Fields	+	0	+	+	Improving access to, and quality of, open space, will have wide ranging health benefits with both mental and physical health benefits.
<b>BAAP12</b>	Employment Land Provision	0	0	0	+	Improved access to jobs is beneficial to health as poverty is one of the biggest determinants of poor health.
<b>BAAP13</b>	Protection of Employment Land	0	0	0	+	Protecting access to jobs is beneficial to health.

<b>Bootle AAP Policy</b>	<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Healthy lifestyle</b>	<b>Housing</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<b>Strengthen communities</b>	<b>Notes (where applicable)</b>
<b>BAAP14</b>	Limiting the impact of Industry on Residents	0	+	+	0	Commercial operations can have a bad impact upon mental and physical health. This policy will be beneficial.
<b>BAAP15</b>	Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development	0	0	0	+	Providing access to employment and skills for local people will likely have health benefits as poverty is a strong determinant of health. For young people, being well trained and skilled and in work can help mental health.
<b>BAAP16</b>	Housing Land Provision	0	+	0	+	<p>Providing good quality housing will normally be beneficial to health.</p> <p>The policy seeks to provide for a variety of housing needs for Bootle and is considered positive.</p>
<b>BAAP17</b>	Affordable Housing and Housing Mix	0	+	0	+	Providing housing for people in need of affordable housing should improve health outcomes.

Bootle AAP Policy	Policy Name	Healthy lifestyle	Housing	Environment	Strengthen communities	Notes (where applicable)
<b>BAAP18</b>	Housing for Older People and Supported Homes	0	+	0	+	Providing appropriate housing for older and younger people that fits the needs of the area will likely have beneficial health outcomes.
<b>BAAP19</b>	Conversions to Flats and Homes in Multiple	+	+	0	+	The policy seeks to improve living conditions for residents and neighbours. Likely to be beneficial to health in most areas.
<b>BAAP20, 21, 22 &amp; 23</b>	Site specific policies including: "Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor", "Bootle Village", "Open land between Irlam Road and the Asda Store" and "Coffee House Bridge".	0	+	+	+	These site specific policies will likely uplift the quality of the area.  The Hawthorne Road corridor is where there is a particular prevalence of land that are subject to historic ground contamination issues and these need to be carefully managed to avoid any issues for future residents and site users. The Local Plan policies do address these issues comprehensively.
<b>BAAP24</b>	Environmental Improvements	0	0	+	+	This policy will likely improve the environmental quality of the area.

Bootle AAP Policy	Policy Name	Healthy lifestyle	Housing	Environment	Strengthen communities	Notes (where applicable)
						This can have community benefits lifting physical and mental health.
n/a	AAP Objectives	+	+	+	+	The objectives are wide ranging but cover a whole range of health outcomes. The new objective 15 puts young people's issues high on the agenda but doesn't specifically address health issues.
<b>Summary</b>	All of the AAP will be likely to directly or mostly, indirectly lead to improved health outcomes. It is important that the AAP is properly monitored so that it can be assessed whether these health benefits are achieved. There are no important health disbenefits connected to the AAP.					

## **Summary and Recommendations**

19. The Health Impact Assessment has identified that overall, the plan will have a positive impact upon public health. Few of the policies will have strong definable impacts as most public health benefits from land use planning will be indirect and hard to quantify. However, they are still likely to be beneficial to physical and mental health.

20. Policy BAAP10 Healthy Bootle shows that public Health through land use planning is very much recognised and supported and is the most direct attempt within the AAP to address public health issues directly.

21. The AAP has a running theme of regeneration throughout with the town centre policies and the site-specific policies being the most regeneration focused. This is important because poverty is one of the biggest determinants of health. Indeed, poor health in Bootle is likely to often be linked to poverty.

22. Many of the environmental and accessibility improvements will likely result in a range of physical and mental health benefits.

23. It is recommended that various health indicators that are already used to monitor the Sefton Local Plan in the Annual Monitoring Report, are continued to see if any discernable patterns emerge post-adoption of the AAP. However, it is likely that it will remain difficult to assess the precise causes of changes of public health, whether positive or negative.