

## Foreword

It gives us great pleasure to present the first Public Health report to be jointly produced by Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Public Health Departments. This is a major step forward in our work together and demonstrates the way the departments are currently working together to tackle shared public health problems. The main aim is to provide detailed information to those responsible for the planning and delivery of health care for the people of the three districts. The focus is on measuring progress against Health Improvement Plan targets, particularly those relating to inequalities in health.

The information within the report shows that the health of the three districts continues to improve with reductions in the three main causes of death: cancer, coronary heart disease and respiratory disease. However there are still significant health inequalities within the three districts with deprived areas having higher death rates than more affluent ones. The rise in lung cancer deaths in women is also a matter of great concern. As the vast majority of these cancer deaths are smoking related the reduction of smoking in females must continue to be a key area for action.

The report also provides key educational targets for the three districts in recognition that health is determined by a wide range of influences other than just health services and lifestyle. We hope that this holistic view of health will promote even greater cooperation between agencies in their efforts to develop joint strategies and targets.

We are grateful to the public health staff and others who have worked together to produce this excellent resource for the three districts. As always we welcome and value highly, comments about any public health matter discussed in the report and look forward to hearing the views of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham people.



**Dorothy Birks**  
Director of Public Health  
**Barnsley Health Authority**



**John Radford**  
Director of Public Health  
**Doncaster Health Authority**



**Tim Patterson**  
Director of Public Health  
**Rotherham Health Authority**