Local Data for Local Action!
The All-Ireland Health and Wellbeing Dataset (AIHWDS)

Introduction
National data can mask important local variations. Currently there is no system for monitoring local health and social wellbeing across the whole island. Such a system has the potential to provide support for local action to improve health on the island of Ireland.

Method
Ireland and Northern Ireland’s Population Health Observatory (INIsPHO) adapted two existing sets of indicators to the island of Ireland: the English Health Poverty Index and the Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System.

The combined datasets comprise 82 measures of broad factors that influence health and wellbeing. The measures were compiled for each county in the Republic of Ireland (26 areas) and each Local Government District in Northern Ireland (26 areas).

The data have been included in the INIsPHO eData website (www.inispho.org/aihwds) where anyone with access to the internet can chart and map the data, or download it for later use.

How can these data be used?
The INIsPHO eData website can use these comprehensive local data to explore different types of questions. For example:

- “How do childhood vaccination rates vary across the island?”
- “Do areas with a high admission rate for alcohol abuse also have high admission rates for drug misuse?”
- “What is the profile of an area over a range of measures? How does this compare with another area?”

Who will find these data useful?
The data will support local authorities, the health service and partner organisations in the voluntary, community and private sectors, and be a guide for local and national action.

Specifically, the local data can be used for:
- Local needs assessment and health impact assessment
- Planning and delivery of health and social services
- Monitoring broad progress on tackling health inequalities
- National co-ordination of local efforts
- Raising awareness and stimulating debate about health inequalities.

Next steps
INIsPHO will facilitate a workshop with key stakeholders to explore how we can develop and consolidate existing data to form the core of an agreed suite of indicators that can be collated and regularly updated across the island.