



## Help Remove Deprivation Stigma

Do you want to promote your community group, charity or company? Do you want to help us focus on the positives in your neighbourhood and not just the SIMD rank?

If you have spoken to the SIMD team lately you'll know we are looking at ways of removing the stigma of deprivation – no mean feat when the word itself features in your title.

Time and again users of SIMD and people living in the higher ranking areas tell us they don't believe it fully reflects where they live or work and we need to focus on the positives, not just the issues.

To change this, we need your help. We are planning to launch a new 'Introducing SIMD' booklet and will use this to focus on the work of three or four organisations who are working to improve local areas and help the people living there. It's about bringing out stories about the positive work being done in communities across Scotland, alongside info on how to use SIMD and understand the statistics. The booklet will be promoted at various events to the public, users and the press for the next few years.

If you would like the chance to be featured or wish to discuss this further, please contact us at [SIMD@gov.scot](mailto:SIMD@gov.scot)

## Notes from the team

We are now entering the busiest and most important stages in developing SIMD16. By the time we put together the August newsletter we will be publishing the long awaited next SIMD.

Following the release of SIMD16 we will roll-out more training events so let us know if you have a venue that you would like us to use and join us if you couldn't come last year.

*Alastair McAlpine,  
Statistician*

## Where is your nearest hospital?

If you live near the Scottish border do you go to hospital in England? This is one problem we have come across while quality assuring SIMD16. This issue, identified by NHS Dumfries and Galloway, got us reaching for our thinking caps. The questions we are asking ourselves are: if people who have accessed health services in England because they live in data zones near the border, do they affect SIMD rankings for health and if so, how do we deal with those areas?

Where we know there are problems, we can react to them appropriately and ensure the quality of SIMD16 is as good as previous editions. We also have a few statistical tools that we can call upon to improve the quality of data in issues such as this.

But to complete this first stage of vital checking we called upon analysts from each council area who, using their local knowledge, have helped us identify data issues that need further study. As well as health data we are also looking at issues affecting housing and education.

The high quality background data in SIMD is a resource used for research and evidence across many areas in the public, private and third sectors. Mostly people who are looking at local areas use the index. But many more rely on the data in the individual indicators for research work. To create the index and to help expert users, it is vital we thoroughly check all the data we publish.

We would like to thank all the local authority and NHS and other experts who are helping us quality assure the data across Scotland. Without their local knowledge it would be impossible to verify the data or identify where further investigation is needed. In the coming month we will continue to work with them to look at income, employment and crime data.

# EASY READ VERSION

## Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Newsletter 9      May 2016

If you would like to be added/removed to the mailing list for this newsletter click on the web link below.

WEB LINK → [Click here to open an email to SIMD@gov.scot](mailto:SIMD@gov.scot)

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