National and local initiatives for closer working between planning and health

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Health challenges ahead

“We're launching a campaign to get people to take up smoking again!”

DIAGNOSES
- Low energy
- Over-weight
- High blood pressure
- High blood sugar
- High cholesterol
- No sex life
- Depressed
- Drives too much

"Of course I have to drive him to school in a people carrier, he won't fit into anything else"
Built environment, healthy environment and healthy behaviour

(Townshend, 2016)
Planning challenges ahead

AN EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT OF TINY FLATS
25% AFFORDABLE
75% UNAFFORDABLE

DESIGNATED AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL PROFITABILITY

"AT LEAST WE STOPPED THEM SELLING OFF ALL THE PLAYING FIELD"
Incorporating health in land use plans and development decisions

National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012):

• the planning system must create healthy communities

• local planning authorities must work with public health colleagues to develop robust evidence that addresses barriers to improving future health and well-being.

• Viability test: Plan makers should consider the range of costs on development. This can include costs imposed through national and local standards, local policies and the Community Infrastructure Levy. Their cumulative cost should not cause development types or strategic sites to be unviable. Emerging policy requirements may need to be adjusted to ensure that the plan is able to deliver sustainable development (DCLG, 2014).
Best practice in England to integrate health in planning (pre 2012 research)

Best practice in England depends not so much on the planning system per se, as on:
- leadership
- commitment
- knowledge of politicians and practitioners involved.

The barriers to health integration:
- organizational and professional silos, ignorance, resources
- reactive planning regime

(Carmichael et al., 2013)
Lessons for practice

1. Planning agencies need to forge good partnerships with public health, transport, housing and economic development decision-makers, and develop proactive, healthy plans;

2. Design criteria could offer more comprehensive guidance to plan healthy developments;

3. The annual monitoring of progress against a wide range of indicators in the English planning system has offered so far an important mechanism for promoting healthier environments.

(Carmichael et al., 2013)
What direction for healthy planning?

- Restrictive planning policies: e.g. fast food takeaways?
- Finance: health cost of bad urban design, finance/viability of the land?
- Design: innovation, learning from good practice, co-benefit?
- Multi-level strategies: regional/local?
- Assessing potential health effects of plans and projects: HIA?
- Education of planners: shared knowledge base with public health?
- **Partnerships: closer working between planning and health at all levels?**
How to promote closer working between planning and health? National policy examples

- NPPF/ Health and Social Care (England, 2012)

- National Urban Policy (Commonwealth of Australia, 2011): liveable cities, healthy planning

- Health in all policies (South Australia): safe communities, healthy neighbourhoods, HIA methods

- Planning legislation: integrating health as a planning objective (NSW)
How to promote closer working between planning and health? Government agencies

- NHS England, Five Year Forward View (2014): improve population health within context of 200,000 new homes every year

- Healthy New Towns programme: 10 demonstrator sites, strong health/planning partnerships with vision and priorities

- Public Health England: developing place-based approaches to improve health outcomes and address wider determinants of health, tackle childhood obesity, promote integration of public health into planning strategies and teams.
How to promote closer working between planning and health? Non government sector

- National Hearth Foundation of Australia: Healthy by Design Guidelines 2004
- Planning Institute of Australia: Healthy Spaces and Places 2009
- The Cancer Council of Australia (eg shade guidelines)
- Faculty of Public Health and Royal Town Planning Institute (Joint statement on joint training)
- Design Council, TCPA...
- WHO Healthy Cities programme and WHO guidelines (eg HIA)
- Wellcome Trust’s Our Planet Our Health funding programme
How to promote closer working between planning and health ? Local level

- Healthy planning indicators in annual monitoring (England)

- Joining WHO Healthy Cities (Belfast, Stoke-on-Trent): strategic partnerships, shared learning

- Development of health action zones (housing, transport and economic units as well as health and planning) (Belfast)

- Preparation of best practice guidelines, policies (SPD design, hot food takeaway, HIA) (Bristol, South Glos, Stoke-on-Trent)

- Embedding of public health expertise in planning units and of planning in public health units /joint appointment
How to promote closer working between planning and health? Local level

- Planning for wellbeing and quality of life, integration between transport and spatial planning (Kuopio)
- Health integrated planning network (WMHPG): shared learning/issues
- City influence/authority over land ownership, infrastructure provision and the detailed pattern of development (Freiburg)
- Leadership/Community engagement
- Diversity of private, community, market and social housing development (Freiburg)
How to promote closer working between planning and health? Local level

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<th>Role of local public health teams</th>
<th>Local (Spatial) Plan development</th>
<th>Development management</th>
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<td>Work with planners to advise on drafting of Local Plans and policies on how to maximise health gain (for example promote active travel; access to green space; etc). Work with local NHS to ensure NHS infrastructure requirements are identified.</td>
<td>Work with planners (and developers) – especially at pre-application stage to influence emerging masterplan designs to ensure key local health issues are addressed, and outline requirements for section 106/CIL to support health and health infrastructure requirements.</td>
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<td>Ensure that appropriate references are made in plans from other statutory local (health) strategies – Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</td>
<td>Assess or prepare a Health Impact Assessment.</td>
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<td>Undertake a Health Impact Assessment on the emerging policies and plan.</td>
<td>Support local planners in any planning appeals which may arise.</td>
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<td>Support planners to prepare for/present evidence at an examination in public.</td>
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<td>Public Health England (PHE)</td>
<td>Work with local public health teams to advise and support (usually at PHE Centre level and only if requested).</td>
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<td>Provide national guidance and support (for example Obesity and the Environment briefings).</td>
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Fig. 1 An overview of public health involvement in planning

Source: Public Health England’s Healthy People, Healthy Places programme
References

