



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



# Healthy Places

## Knowledge into Action for Healthy Planning

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@HiPNetworkUK

#PHEHealthyPlaces #healthyplanning

January 2020

# Learning objectives

1. Recognition of existing practice by Public, Private and Third Sectors on planning for health,
2. Appreciation that planning for health may not be sufficiently mainstreamed and reflected in policy and practice,
3. Why Health Impact Assessments in plan-making and decision-making should be required and considered an essential tool,
4. Awareness of how Public Health England is helping to support planning for health at national and local levels.



**Mentimeter**

*Be ready with your wifi-enabled device for your contribution to interactive polling throughout today's workshop.*

**Go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com), type in 37 69 64**



Enhance connectivity to existing  
transport infrastructure



Provision of a network  
of pedestrian



Provision of infrastructure to  
support local food production



Provision of public transport



Provision of a network  
of pedestrian



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of pedestrian



## Neighbourhood Design

### Quality of Evidence:

- ▲ Improved
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- Medium Quality
- Low Quality
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Association between a health impact & health outcome not obtained as part of the umbrella review.

### Best Available Evidence:

- \* In some instances, more than one piece of review-level evidence reporting on the same health impacts and/or outcomes was identified as part of this umbrella review. In such instances this table highlights findings of the review(s) which reported evidence of the best methodological quality.

### Population Groups:

- General Population
- Older Adults
- Children & Adolescents

**Disclaimer:**  
This diagram has been produced as part of a wider evidence resource, commissioned by Public Health England and developed by the University of the West of England. Please see the document Spatial planning for health: an evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places



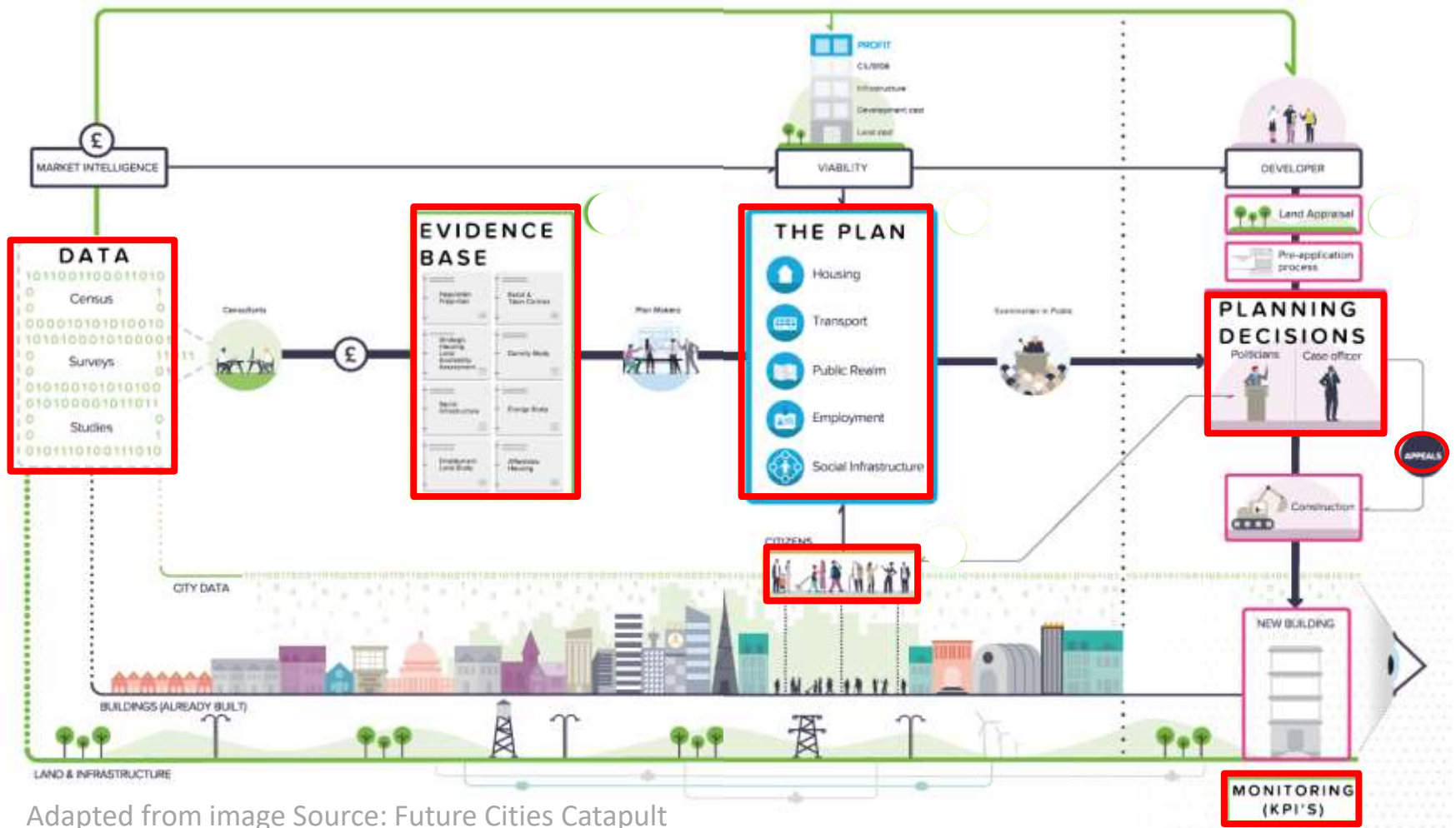
**PLANNING TODAY**

**WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INPUT**

**Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

**Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

**Health Expertise**



Adapted from image Source: Future Cities Catapult

# What does national planning policy say about wellbeing, health protection and healthcare infrastructure in general?

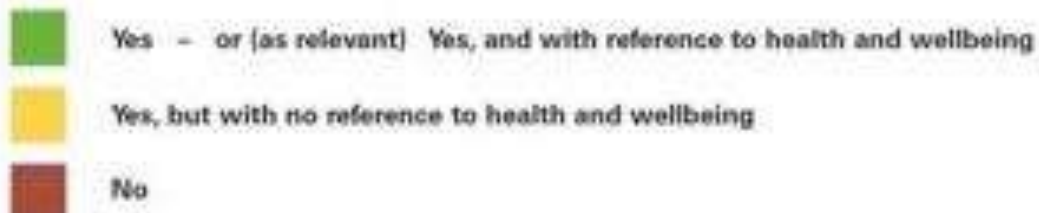
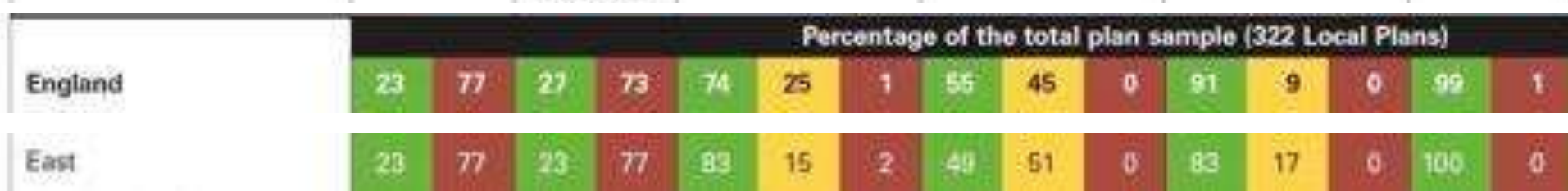
Too many to detail BUT here are main important policy hooks:

- 1. Para 91 c)** Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places... to enable and support healthy lifestyles (to) address identified local health and well-being needs  
[This refers to the statutory Joint Strategic Needs Assessment +](#)
- 2. Para 92 b)** planning policies and decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.  
[This refers to the statutory Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy +](#)

**Planning Practice Guidance – Healthy and Safe Communities**

# State of local planning for health policy

	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy in planning	Health needs assessment in planning	Promoting sustainable transport	Requiring good design	Providing open space, play and recreation opportunities	Healthcare infrastr're provision
	Does the Local Plan reference the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy?	Does the Local Plan take into account the local health needs set out in the JSNA?	Does the Local Plan promote opportunities for active travel?	Does the Local Plan require good design in development?	Does the Local Plan provide opportunities for open space, play and recreation?	Does the Local Plan set out provision for healthcare infrastructure?



Source: TCPA, State of the Union, 2019

# Getting Research into Practice (GRIP)

- Identify the nature of the challenges:
  - Professional and technical
  - Economic and financial
  - Contextual
  - Political and organisational.
- Conducted qualitative and quantitative studies:
  - Interviews with local authority public health and planning teams from each of the nine PHE Centres and experts.
  - Nation-wide survey of public health and built environment professionals.





# GRIP main findings – the challenges

91%

- Existing evidence is not translatable to practice at the local level

89%

- Lack of resource and capacity at local authority level
- Quality of place versus quantity of units

85%

- Communication and cultural gap between planners and public health professionals

81%

- Lack of monitoring and evaluation of planning decisions

79%

- Disconnect between government agencies responsible for providing leadership on spatial planning and health

# GRIP main findings – the recommendations

- 1 • Improved national guidance and stronger policies for place making and health
- 2 • Engaging politicians with healthy spatial planning
- 3 • Taking a holistic view of health and place
- 4 • Articulating the wider benefits to multiple stakeholders
- 5 • Strategic partnerships between public health and planning agencies at national level
- 6 • Funding high-quality research with practical application at the local level



Public Health  
England

# Public Health England (PHE)

Our mission is to protect and improve the nation's health and to address inequalities.





# Role of Healthy Places programme

**National Lead – Aimee Stimpson**  
**Specialist Advisor – Carl Petrokofsky**

**Spatial Planning**  
Michael Chang

- Getting Research into Practice Local Authority Engagement
- Health Impact Assessment in Planning research and guidance
- London School Superzones
- Planning for Healthy Weight Env Template

**Nationally-Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)**  
Andy Netherton

- Nationally-Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) PHE statutory responses
- NSIP Health & Wellbeing Tool (PHE internal only)

**Housing**  
Rachel Toms

- Supporting government, incl. BEIS's Fuel Poverty Strategy
- Standards and regulation
- E-learning module
- Housing and Health MoU

**Transport**  
Angela Hands

- Support DfT's review of cycling infrastructure design note and Highway Code
- PHE input into DfT Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy
- Support Transport related projects with OGDs and third sector

**Natural Environment**  
Harmony Ridgley

- Update to Improving Access to Green Space evidence review
- 25-Year Environment Plan: mental health & wellbeing strand
- 25-Year Environment Plan: Green Infrastructure Standards

**Comms, Events, Support & Collaborations**  
Wasima Nazmin

- Influencing national policies & strategies
- Webinars: Capacity-Building: Training & Development
- External Events and Workshops
- Healthy Places Knowledge Hub

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code **37 69 64**

## What is the primary purpose, function or benefit of the use of Health Impact Assessments in the Planning Process?

 Mentimeter

Strongly disagree

To meet national policy and guidance requirements requirements.

To meet local policy and guidance requirements

To help reduce local health inequalities and promote wellbeing

To aid discussions with planners/ developers.

No added purpose, function or benefit to existing assessments.

To supplement gaps in existing assessments.

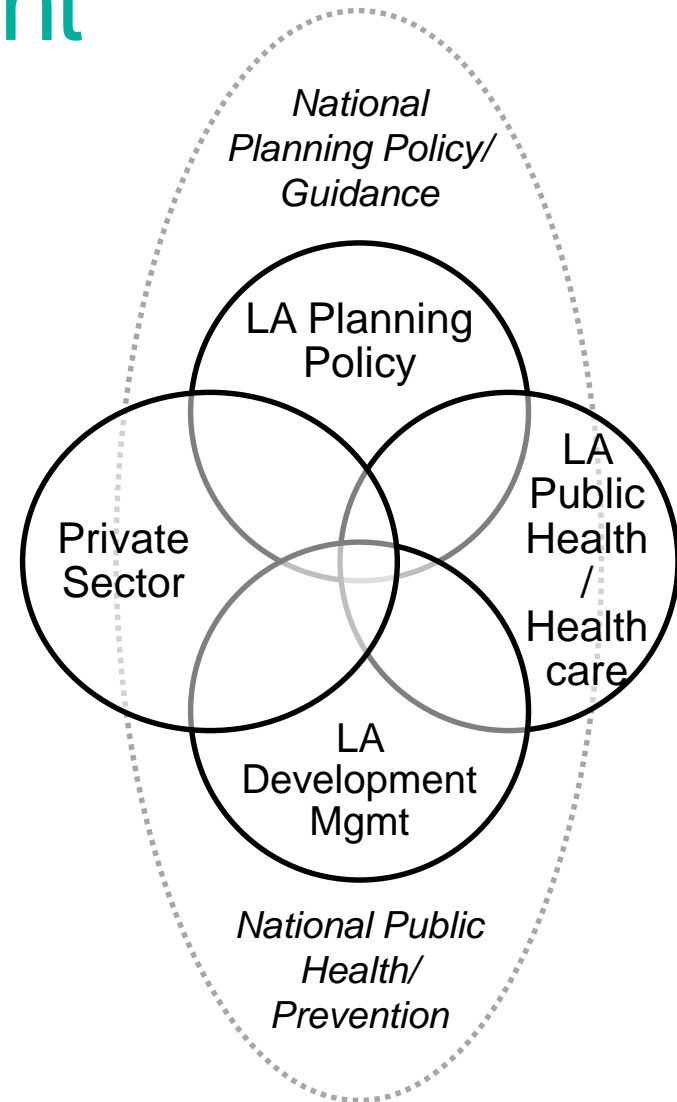
To make the case for health-promoting interventions.

Strongly agree



# Health Impact Assessment

- Benefits of HIAs in the planning system have been recognised (Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution report in 2007 on 'The Urban Environment')
- Local public health teams becoming more engaged in the planning and development processes, and many see HIAs as a useful mechanism to rally around and promote their use.
- HIAs in planning are generally undertaken by commissioned consultants, often commissioned by the developers themselves. Consultants have created their own assessment frameworks, often based on a range of existing frameworks ie WHIASU, London HUDU.



# Use of HIAs – state of local policy

## National and regional picture on the state of local planning policy

### Examples of 'Triggers' used in examples:

- developments which are classified as 'major', with ten or more housing units,
- proposals that include hot-food takeaways,
- cases where there are sensitive or vulnerable populations that may be affected by a proposal.

Does the Local Plan require an HIA when a planning application is submitted?

% of LPAs

England	30	70
London	55	45
South East	14	86
South West	46	54
East	38	62
West Midlands	17	83
East Midlands	25	75
Yorkshire and the Humber	19	81
North East	25	75
North West	30	70

# HIA policy context

## National

- Prevention Green Paper (2019) – use of HIAs on non-health policies,
- MHCLG Planning Practice Guidance: Healthy and Safe Communities (2019)
- Regulations on SEA/SA, EIA on population and human health
- Duty on local authorities to improve health of people in the area (Section 12 Health and Social Care Act 2012)

**Key Question: Is there a case for further encouraging/ requiring the use of HIAs in the planning and development processes?**



**Yes, when used to effect and at the right stage of the process, Health Impact Assessments can help put people's health at the heart of planning and development of new and renewed places.**

- provision of the best available evidence to decision makers;
- improvement of health and reduction of inequalities;
- opportunities to strengthen features of a proposal which will positively impact on population health;
- the promotion of cross-sectoral cooperation;
- a participatory approach which values community views;
- flexibility; and
- links with sustainable development and resource management

WHO Health Impact Assessments: Why Use HIAs? [www.who.int/hia/about/why/en/index1.htm1](http://www.who.int/hia/about/why/en/index1.htm1)

## ... but across England..

- There is no clear national policy requirement (Except in PPG) unlike in Wales where public bodies are required to undertake HIAs, so there is no clear national guidance/ support
- Policy-makers are not aware of the benefits of and the need for health promotion and health impact management in development.
- The health sector has not effectively played its role as custodian of health in major development projects.
- Health officials have not been able to demonstrate the adverse effects of health and wellbeing on capital projects in economic terms.
- Trained personnel are often not available locally to investigate, undertaken, plan and evaluate the process and outcomes. Similar to quality assure HIAs undertaken by consultants.
- Evidence on health and wellbeing emanating directly and indirectly from development projects are often inadequate.

# PHE Project Overview

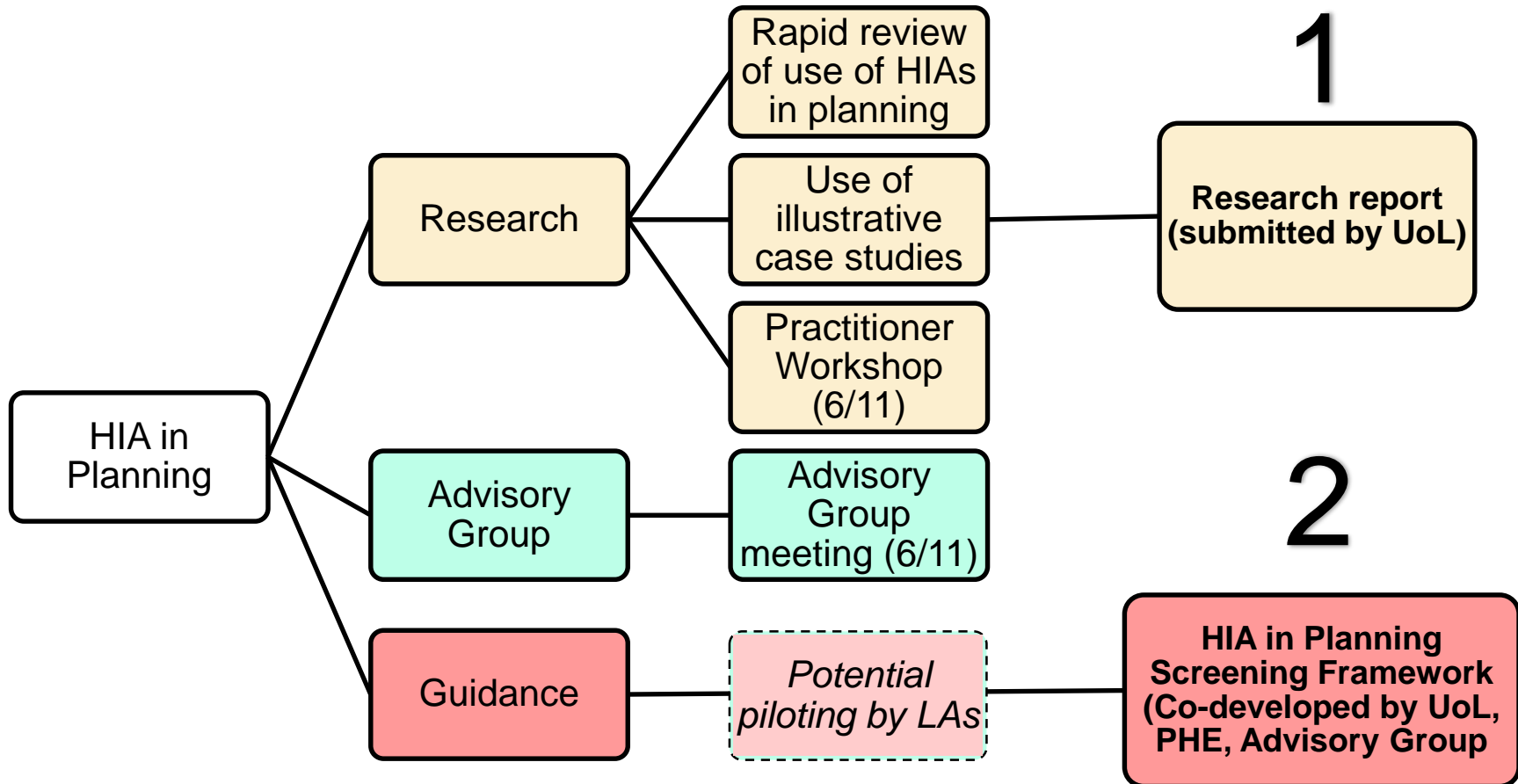


Project objectives

Project strands

Project activities

Project outputs





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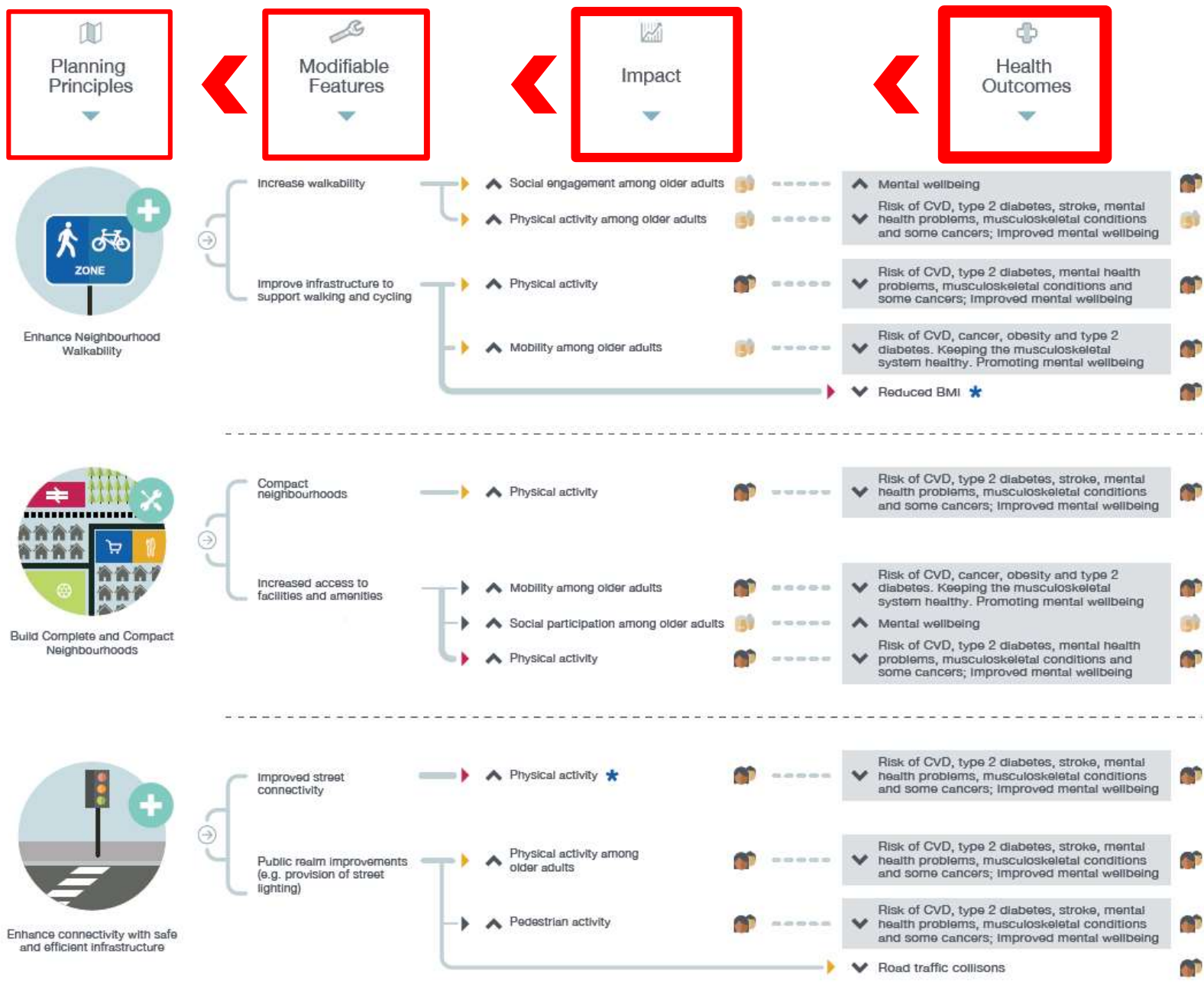
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# Summary: call for action for Essex planners

1. Ensure all local plans can support the delivery of local public health/ healthcare priorities set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy,
2. Ensure health, wellbeing and care needs of the local community inform all development plan policies and decisions on planning applications,
3. Being aware of inter-connections with other statutory assessment requirements – SEA/ SA, EIA and even EqIA, and other assessments ie transport and noise.
4. Working in partnership with the local Public Health team – where and can they can help share the load in the process?
5. Ensure monitoring of health-relevant indicators/ processes are built into the AMR or implementation of planning permissions.

PHE can/ will support where we can – so please get in touch with us!



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**Sign up Knowledge Hub: PHE Healthy Places**

**<https://khub.net/group/healthypeoplehealthyplaces>**

**email [healthyplaces@phe.gov.uk](mailto:healthyplaces@phe.gov.uk)**

# Supplementary: Health in EIA briefing (2017)

- Complete Annex 1 - EIA Engagement Action Plan for your local authority. By completing this Plan a public health team will ensure it is ready to proactively engage with an EIA from the outset at screening (Stage A) right through to formal consultation (Stage D), which can pay dividends for local public health.
- Keep a watching brief on larger projects (especially EIA projects) submitted to your local planning authority.
- Public health teams can engage with their planning colleagues (e.g. in the local planning authority) to advise on health issues in local spatial planning and sustainable development. There are many opportunities for such engagement including, but not limited to:
  - the drafting of plans that set the framework for development;
  - advice on the individual project proposals themselves;
  - sharing sources of information (e.g. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Authority Monitoring Report).

**The first step:** Set up a meeting between your local authority's public health and planning teams to discuss how health is currently considered in planning and EIA.



Protecting and improving the nation's health

**Health and Environmental Impact Assessment:**  
A Briefing for Public Health Teams in England





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# Healthy Places

Workshop: Reviewing examples of Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) to learn more about healthier planning

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Programme Manager – Planning and Health

@HiPNetworkUK  
#PHEHealthyPlaces #healthyplanning

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# Where planning and public health overlaps



**Environmental Public Health**



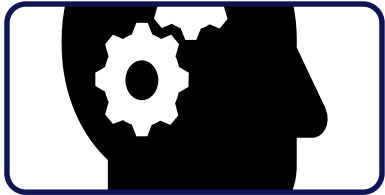
**Air quality, noise and light pollution**



**Physical Activity, obesity and nutrition**



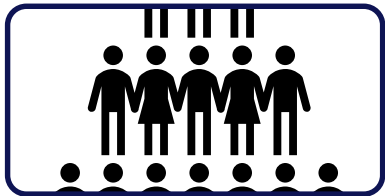
**Active travel, healthy food environment, green spaces**



**Mental Health**



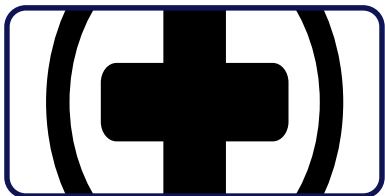
**Access to daylight, green spaces, public spaces**



**Communities and lifecourse**



**Lifetime homes and neighbourhoods, accessibility**

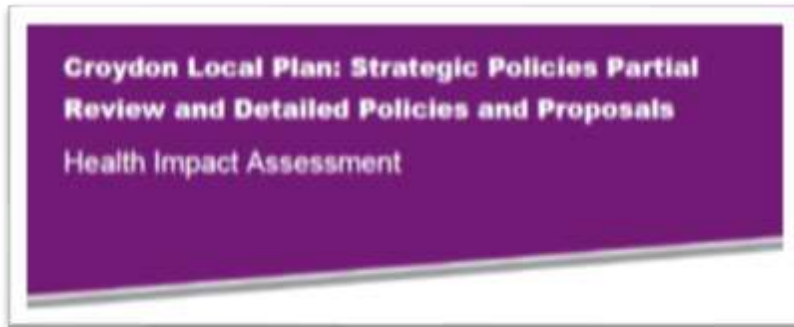


**Healthcare public health**

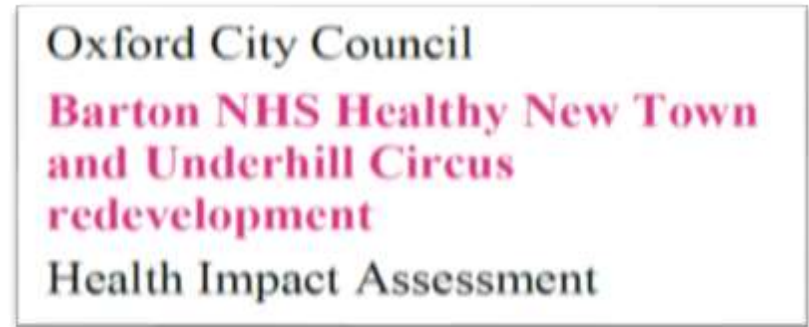


**Healthcare services and facilities**

# 1. Plan-making



# 2. Development



- HIAs as a process can apply to Strategies, Plans and Policies, and Projects,
- One example of HIA undertaken on a Local Plan prior to adoption in 2018
  - to inform the Proposed Submission version.
  - undertaken by the Public Health and Spatial Planning teams
- One example of HIA undertaken on a Major Development Proposal:
  - to support fulfilling potential as an exemplary initiative to improve physical and mental health and well-being of existing and future communities.
  - undertaken by an externally-commissioned consultant

# Group work

## What to look for in the HIAs:

- The methodology for undertaking the HIA. Is it different between the local plan and development examples?
- Is it primarily focused on national/ local policy compliance?
- Is it primarily focused on promoting health of the affected population? What are the health issues forming part of the scoping stage criteria?
- What are the references, data and resources used in the HIA? Are these up to date and relevant?
- Potential duplication or overlap with other existing assessments.
- Mechanisms/ processes for monitoring or evaluation.

## Discussion and reflection:

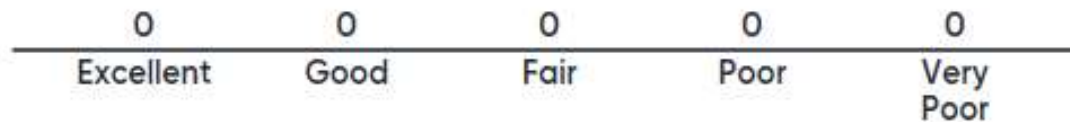
- Do the HIAs reflect the type of HIAs that you have come across?
- Can you any perceived/ actual benefits in doing HIAs?

# Workshop feedback

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code **33 19 45**

**Essex (8/01/20): How useful and informative was the course today?**

 Mentimeter



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