

Healthy Urban Planning



Background to HUP

- International Movement
- Planning for people
 - Placing people's needs at heart of the urban planning process
 - Consider implications of planning decisions for human health and well-being
 - Seeks to enhance physical, mental, social and environmental well-being
- Reintegrate planning and health
- Balance social, environmental and economic pressures (similar to sustainable development planning)
- Infrastructure for people to optimise health

How Planning Can Affect Health

- Attractive environments with acceptable noise levels and good air quality
- Good water quality and sanitation
- Good quality housing
- Road safety and a sense of personal security
- Reduce emissions that threaten climate stability

How Planning Can Affect Health

- Access to diverse employment opportunities
- Access to high-quality facilities – educational, cultural, leisure, retail, health and open space
- Opportunity for local food production and healthy food outlets

How Planning Can Affect Health

- Opportunity for healthy lifestyles
- Social cohesion and supportive infrastructure for social networks

Aims of HUP in Glasgow

- Raise awareness of how planning can create an enabling environment to optimise health
- Provide and generate evidence on the links between planning and health
- Mainstream health in land use policy, plans and practice

Raising Awareness

- Training
 - Healthy Urban Planning
 - Health Impact Assessment
- Networks (local, national, international)
- Seminars and workshops

Providing Evidence

- Critical Reviews
- FAB Greenspace Study
- Let Glasgow Flourish
- Health and Well-being Survey
- Schools Survey
- Social and Economic Benefits Analysis

Mainstreaming health

- GCV Structure Plan
- GCV Common Health Action Programme
- Glasgow City Plan & Accompanying SEA
- GCV Green Network
- HIA of East End LDS

The Evidence – Direct Influences

- Traditional focus of planning & env. health
- Relatively robust evidence available
- Examples
 - Toxins in air
 - Infectious agents in water and food
 - Noise in the workplace or home environment
 - Road safety

The Evidence – Indirect Influences

- More complex
- Less robust evidence
- Environmental influences on activity, social networks & well being
 - Walkable (functional) neighbourhoods
 - Connectivity / Access
 - Accessible and safe greenspace
 - Neighbourhood quality
 - Safety

Some Obstacles to Success

- HUP relatively new concept
- Language barriers – professional jargon & concepts of health
- Working in “silos”
- Evidence gaps
- Lack of national planning guidance on health
- Health not a material consideration for planning applications

Next steps

- Mainstream HUP locally and regionally
 - Develop evidence base
 - Support for strategic integration
 - Develop practical examples (e.g. HIA)
- Work with other cities/regions to lobby for coordinated work between planning and health at national level
- Develop HUP in UK / Ireland and Europe

Envisioning Change

