

EXPLORING NEIGHBOURHOOD CHANGE

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT ABOUT?

We were interested in what it's like to live in four parts of Glasgow: Drumchapel, Easterhouse, Bridgeton & Dalmarnock and Anderston & Finnieston.

We wanted to know what quality of life they provide, how they have changed in the past few decades and what people think and hope the future might hold.

We wanted to better understand what kinds of regeneration can improve quality of life, health and wellbeing, from a resident's point of view.

WHAT DID WE DO?

In each of these four parts of the city, we asked groups of local people to design and carry out their own research projects into quality of life. We also interviewed people who lived there, worked in community development or had some decision-making power in each of these areas.

Finally, we looked at statistics, books and reports about these areas held by Glasgow libraries. We used this information to write up a history of each area and looked at what was similar and different about their stories.

WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

The biggest challenges facing residents were poverty and access to decent work opportunities.

Having support from friends and neighbours and a strong, positive sense of identity from the neighbourhood helped people cope with and recover from these challenges.

Five aspects of the neighbourhood made it more likely that people would have access to this kind of support:

- A high quality physical environment
- A steady pace of change
- Enough housing for community growth
- Enough support for community activities
- Resident control over the neighbourhood

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Who is involved in regeneration and how it is carried out are at least as important as what changes in the physical environment. Physical regeneration can have a big impact on people's relationships and how they feel about themselves.

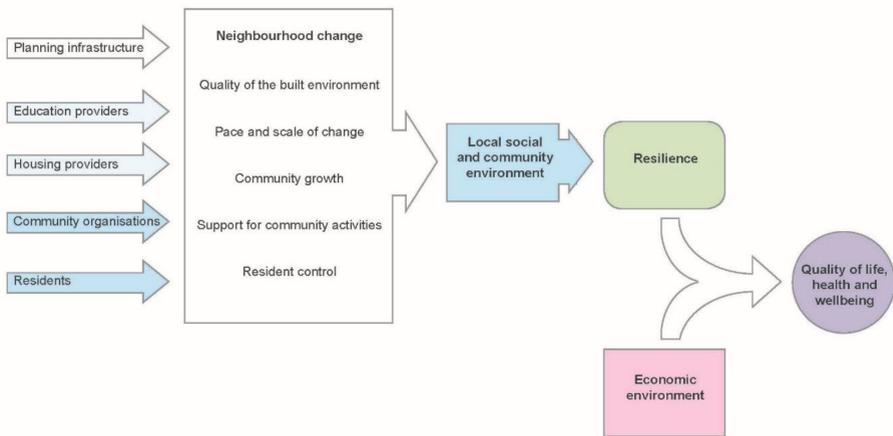
Because of this, neighbourhood regeneration can make it easier for people to cope with poverty, but it can't take poverty away. This is because poverty is caused by problems in the wider economy, not the neighbourhood.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Quality of life, health and wellbeing are likely to be better when:

- Residents are more involved in shaping their own neighbourhoods, so that they can create stronger social and community environments.
- Local organisations and local government provide better support for residents to get involved in shaping their neighbourhoods.
- Physical and community planning structures give residents genuine control over decision-making.
- Physical and social regeneration projects focus on the social and community impacts of what they do and how they do things.

Pathway from neighbourhood change to quality of life, health and wellbeing



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

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🔍 Search 'exploring neighbourhood change' at www.gcph.com