

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020 Outcome 4 – Environment Progress Report

Compiled by: Completed by:	Helen Ross: Public Health, NCC Alison Challenger: Public Health, NCC Housing: Gill Moy, Nottingham City Homes Transport: Jennie Maybury, NCC Air Quality: Richard Taylor, NCC The Built Environment: Matt Gregory, NCC Parks and Green Spaces: Eddie Curry, NCC General: Nottm Green Partnership	Reporting period:	From: September 2016	To: July 2017
Board meeting:	July 26th 2017	Next meeting at which this Priority Outcome will be discussed:	September-December 2017	

Nottingham City Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020

Outcome 4: Nottingham's environment will be sustainable - supporting and enabling its citizens to have good health and wellbeing, including good air quality, parks and open spaces, active travel, housing and the built environment.

A. Housing: will maximise the benefit and minimise the risk to health of Nottingham's citizens
 Work with housing providers to support people to live healthy lifestyles, keep well and live supported at home when unwell.
 Improve housing standards and support vulnerable people who may be at risk of becoming homeless.

B. The Built Environment will support citizens leading healthy lifestyles and minimise the risk of negative impact upon their wellbeing.
 Consider the impact of planning decisions upon health and wellbeing.

C. Transport: Children and adults will be able to engage in active travel.
 Improve the City's infrastructure and encourage more people to walk and cycle, or use public transport.

D. Parks and Green Spaces: Children and adults in Nottingham will have access to and use of green space to optimise their physical and mental wellbeing.
 Improve the quality of our green spaces and encourage their use by the community.

E. Air Quality: Air pollution levels in Nottingham will be reduced.
 Raise awareness of the positive impact small changes in behaviour can have on the environment.

Background

The environment within which we live, work and relax plays a major role in our health and wellbeing. As well as benefitting our health, healthy environments support sustainability and create a place where people choose to live and visit.

Throughout the engagement events in planning for the strategy, citizens highlighted their concerns about air pollution, living in neighbourhoods where the built environment promoted healthy lifestyles like walking or cycling to work, and access to good quality parks and facilities for exercising or socialising.

A healthy environment is also supported by evidence, where it is well documented that poorer communities experience worse health and a higher burden of disease due to environmental factors such as poor air quality, housing or access to good quality services, leading to health inequalities and poorer outcomes.

In order to address citizen concerns, the range of issues pertaining to the environment were collated into a single theme. This would enable those working in these fields to come together and plan work across the system, gaining better understanding of the overlapping and supporting elements of one another's work, and towards improving outcomes for local people.

A group consisting of members from each of the areas above has been established to plan and direct the work for the environmental theme. A key feature is to consider the added value of a Health and Wellbeing Board collaborative approach and to bring together environmental and wider determinants aspects to the work of HWBB member organisations.

An implementation plan, including the full list of indicators and progress may be found in the appendix document.

Key progress

A. Housing and Health

The housing and housing related support sector is a crucial partner of health and social care. Locally, there are already many good examples of partnership interventions involving housing that are helping local people to improve their health and wellbeing and remain independent in accommodation of their choice. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy recognises that the environment people live in plays a major role in health and happiness. It is clear that access to suitable, stable and decent accommodation, with appropriate support, in safe and clean neighbourhoods is a key priority.

We are very proud to be one of the first local authority areas to follow the national recommendation to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to outline how health and housing partners can work together with local people to support delivery of positive housing, health and wellbeing outcomes¹. Good progress against the MoU action plan is being made and this is monitored regularly by the Health and Housing Partnership Group.

The Nottingham City Health & Wellbeing Strategy Environment Action Plan contains four housing priorities.

1. Develop joint housing actions to prevent hospital admissions, reduce re-admissions, and speed up hospital discharge

The Hospital to Home project has been successfully running since November 2015. A summary report of the first 17 months of the project was produced in March, <http://www.nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk/find-a-home/h2h/> On the basis of these outcomes the scope of the project has been extended and commissioned until March 2018.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are to develop further housing related interventions, including a common hospital discharge framework building upon the successful pilots ran in the City and in Mansfield. The aim is to develop a framework to support health professionals working in hospitals to aid and speed discharge and prevent readmission through the provision of more targeted housing

¹ Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) website *A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support joint action on improving health through the home*

support. The framework will also take an early intervention approach to support those at greatest risk of hospital admission with better housing option, and with the aim to keep them safe and well at home. The county wide housing project group is also working on protocols for 'Discharge to Assess' as clearly there is significant connectivity between this and the development of the housing framework.

2. Enable local health, housing and social care partners to identify and fulfil their role in preventing homelessness, reducing repeat homelessness, and meeting the health and wellbeing needs of homeless people

The Homelessness Prevention Strategy Implementation Group has the main oversight for the delivery of this action and one of the core functions of the group is to support all sectors in realising how their actions can reduce the risk of homelessness. Levels of homelessness have increased in most areas across the country, including in Nottingham. The Homelessness Reduction Act finished passage through parliament in April 2017 and will bring in new legislation with requirements for all local authority areas to offer homelessness prevention solutions to all local residents. This will include a new duty across the public sector to ensure they are referring people at risk for support. Organisations represented at the Health and Wellbeing Board will need to engage in planning of new systems of delivery.

The refresh of the Homelessness Joint Strategic needs Assessment has been under development and will be concluded soon to inform both the social inclusion and mental health accommodation pathway commissioning reviews. Upcoming areas of focus include temporary accommodation minimisation strategy and use of Care Act assessments for homeless people – particularly those with multiple and complex needs.

3 Ensuring homes are safe and well managed protecting the health and wellbeing of tenants

The work of the environmental health and safer housing continues with many strands of activity to support improved housing and health. The single point of contact 0115 9152020 is well established and continues to be promoted. Key activities include the response to citizens who report poor housing conditions, a team in place to tackle rogue landlords that put citizens at risk, good progress on the licensing of houses in multiple occupation, the introduction of officers to support vulnerable tenants, proactive action to respond to homes and people affected by excess cold and risk of burglary, being part of Nottingham together supporting cohesion in communities, activity to prevent and respond to exploitation, safeguarding risks and crime where it involves poor housing management/ standards, the development of initiatives to contribute to homelessness prevention and to support landlords such as training and expansion of partnership approaches with both the public, private, community and voluntary sector.

The consultation on selective licensing has closed, the proposed scheme amended and an operational model has been established in readiness should this scheme be agreed by the Council and DCLG later in the year.

Key statistics from last year include 532 properties improved (removing hazards to health), 1,616 licences issued and 572 licensing compliance checks carried out. There have been some high profile prosecutions of landlords, unfortunately 44 properties have been closed and 9 having emergency works because of poor conditions.

4 Develop a programme of energy efficiency works, targeting poorly performing homes, to reduce the health impacts from cold homes and fuel poverty

A subgroup has been developed to build on existing good practice in Nottingham City to deliver this action, along with all the energy efficiency actions in the MOU and Sustainability and Transformation Plan for Nottinghamshire, and to coordinate activities on energy efficiency across the city. Two studies on housing around the city – a British Research establishment housing stock study and a European funded research project called INSMART – have now reported and work is underway to consider how these can be best aligned and utilised; along with mapping these with data on demographics and health to highlight priority areas for the strategy to target, where energy efficiency measures would

have the greatest climate change, energy and social impact.

B. The Built Environment

The consultation for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy raised a number of issues relating to the environment where people live and work. One of these was wanting to see fewer hot food takeaway outlets near schools.

The draft Local Plan which sets out local planning policies for Nottingham City Council, (Jan 2016) introduces a new policy which seeks to control hot food takeaways near schools where they are not within an established town centre. This policy is being developed as part of a holistic approach to tackling obesity in young people; including other strands such as active travel, access to open space, healthy food growing (allotments) etc., as there is no direct empirical evidence linking obesity and hot food takeaways in proximity to schools. However, lifestyle patterns are set when people are young, and the policy is seen as a way of influencing behaviours that could have an impact on food choices throughout life.

The consultation raised some issues which led to the policy being refined in that it is now proposed to apply only to secondary schools, as primary school pupils are unlikely to leave the school unaccompanied at lunch time, and are likely to be supervised on arriving and leaving school. The policy also now allows for hot food takeaways where it can be demonstrated there is no impact on a young person's obesity, for instance by restricting opening hours to avoid lunch times and school leaving times.

Progress with the Local Plan has been subject to some delay, but this delay is not a result of this policy, and it is now proposed to re-publish the Local Plan for consultation in late summer/autumn, with a view to formally adopting it in 2018 following an independent Public Examination, which will test the policy in the context of its supporting evidence.

C. Transport and Air Quality:

Rationale:

- There is strong scientific evidence regarding the negative impacts of air pollution on health and the Health and Wellbeing partners' forward strategies, operational policies and business plans need to respond to this challenge. Transport is identified as a key issue and accelerating transition to sustainable travel options including low emission vehicle fleets is a critical area for action.
- Nottingham City Council, (NCC) supported by local partners has been successful in securing a funding package from the Department for Transport (DfT), Office for Low Emissions Vehicles (OLEV) and Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) up to 2020 (Go Ultra Low, Access Fund and Air Quality Grant) to support the take up of ultra-low emission vehicles and active travel options through programmes targeted at communities and businesses. This includes an enhanced Totally Transport business travel support programme comprising expert advice, Workplace Sustainable Travel Grants and specialist services. Communicating the strategy and messages are key to delivering behavioural change and improvements to health and air quality.
- Establishing Clean Air Zones by 2020 will deliver concerted action in challenging areas and support alternative modes underpinned with action on other air pollution sources in the built environment. The timescale and process for the implementation of the Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is:

2017:	Early Consultation with Key Stakeholders and revise Plan Analysis to find Geographic extent of Clear Air Zone (CAZ)
2018:	Submit Proposals to Secretary of State (Jan -Mar) Secretary of State Sign off Finalise Legal Orders Public Consultation Detailed Design, Installation (signing and cameras)
2020:	CAZ in place

What has been achieved to date:

- A funding package of £7.8 million for 2016/17 – 2019/20 has been secured for Nottingham City (Go Ultra Low, Access Fund and Air Quality Grant), a series of high profile public and business events have been held since October 2016 to launch the Go Ultra Low Nottingham offer,
- NCC co-ordinated a citywide participation in the National Clean Air Day on 15th June including a workplace event at Loxley House promoting alternative commute and business travel options to NCC and DWP employees, and will shortly be launching its Totally Transport enhanced business support package to continue assistance for workplaces to adopt sustainable and low emission travel options.
- Procurement is in progress for delivery of a network of Community Cycle Centres from autumn 2017 to reach communities with low levels of physical activity along cycle improvement corridors and a programme of household personalised travel planning to promote and incentivise low carbon travel options in areas of air quality concern will be rolled out in spring 2018.

Next steps:

Nottingham City Council is looking for early adopters from the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and health and social care sector to work with us to reduce emissions of NOx and particulates by participating in our Totally Transport business support programme. Participants will become local exemplars of good practice whilst achieving both operational savings and improving health of staff and citizens. It is recognised that key partners including Nottingham University Health Trust and the universities have already been delivering on sustainable travel activities for a number of years and have a wealth of practical experience to share.

Another key area of influence for the Health and Wellbeing Board is commissioning and procurement of goods and services. Combining the buying power of public sector organisations could make a real difference and by working together to develop sustainable supply chains through commissioning and procurement strategies that comply with Social Value Act legislation would deliver real change through incremental steps e.g. using companies with lower emissions for services such as courier and delivery. Also embedding new ways of working such as meetings by Skype and delivery of outpatients services by telecare.

Key actions for Health and Wellbeing Board members are to:

- Participate in the Go Ultra Low and Totally Transport business support programmes to become early adopters of ultra-low emission fleets and sustainable commuter and business travel practices;
- Nominate an air quality travel and infrastructure change champion within each Health and Wellbeing Board organisation as lead contact for sign up to Go Ultra Low and Totally Transport activities and joint working on sustainable procurement good practice.
- Participate in our good practice networks and business events to share your organisations' expertise with local partners and cascade through your supply chains.
- Agree clear and consistent messages for all Health and Wellbeing Board partner organisations to use with their employees and customers to raise public awareness regarding health impacts of air quality and actions that can be taken to support implement of Clean Air Zone.

D. Parks and Green Spaces:

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Public Parks Inquiry produced a report in January 2017.

Key recommendations include:

- New sustainable funding solution to be found to help sustain the maintenance and upkeep/

quality of parks and open spaces.

- Parks and Public Health Teams to produce joint Greenspace/ health and well-being strategies;
- Economic evidence to be strengthened. Local authorities to produce Natural Capital Accounts

Key actions achievements up to end of June 2017

- 35 Green Flag applications submitted 2017
- 17 Community Green Flag applications submitted 2017 with improvements including:
 - New play area open at Clifton Central Park
 - Play area refurbishment at the Forest
 - New play area completed in the Meadows (“The Green”)
 - Landscape Improvements at Bulwell Hall Park
 - *Landscape Improvements to Hucknall Road linear walkway
 - New skate park at King Edward Park
 - A new café and restoration of the coach house at the Arboretum. The café is due to open before the summer holidays.
 - A new café is currently being constructed at Wollaton Park.
- Prioritised local investment plans have now been produced for each ward in the City. Local consultation to be carried out to help confirm annual programme of parks and green space improvements in each wards.
- Support the delivery of the Nottingham Open Space Forum (NOSF) charitable objective; NOSF have registered to become a registered charity.
- Nottingham Tree Improvement Programme community tree-planting has been completed citywide. Nottingham City Primary Parliament has been consulted about the Trees for babies initiative and the idea was well received.

What can board members do to influence and further develop this agenda?

- Support to establish a “Nottingham Trees for Babies” initiative: engage with businesses, public sector and the community to plant a tree for every child born.
- Ensure Parks and Green Spaces are recognised for their health and wellbeing benefits and included in social prescribing referral's. Could Public Health / CCG / Health Trusts help to fund the production of a **Nottingham Natural Capital Accounts**
- Help to identify a Health Sector Green Space Champion to join the NOSF as a charitable Trustee

General:

The Nottingham Green Partnership is now developing the Nottingham Sustainable Development Action Plan which will promote joint green SMART initiatives.

1. Cross-cutting principle

- Nottingham Green Partnership reviewed the action plan and identified a number of points and recommendations for the Health and Well-being board arising from the Environment Action Plan that can be shared with the Action Plan leads which are detailed in their report.
- The Lowland Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership launched an economic report on 29 March 2017 that makes a strong case for taking an environmentally led and coordinated approach to future development in the Trent Valley in order to maximise its economic potential. The report recognises the impact of outdoor environments on health and wellbeing and the potential for natural environments to improve mental and physical health (and reduce health inequalities)².

Question for the Board: *How can the Health and Wellbeing Strategy contribute to these developments and how can the learning from this report be applied?*

² RPA and the Planning Cooperative (2016): The future economic value of the Trent Valley, Final Report, March 2016, Loddon, Norfolk, UK.- <http://ldnlnp.org/trent-valley-economic-report-launched/> accessed April 2017

2. Funding:

- Nottingham Green Partnership could consider having a standing item at future meetings to support *Joint bids for funding that support improvements in air quality, increased access to greenspace, active travel and healthier housing.*
- If the ERDF bid being made by NCCs' Energy and Sustainability Policy team, for energy efficiency measures for small and medium-sized enterprises are successful, resources could be promoted to those care homes in Nottingham that meet the criteria; enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding 50 million euro, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding 43 million euro." This could help participating Care Homes to reduce unnecessary expenditure on energy.

3. Commissioning and Procurement Share good practice with colleagues who commission services in organisations such as the NHS nationally agreed standard contract ³ NHS England (2016) which asks its providers to:

- Take all reasonable steps to minimise its adverse impact on the environment. (SC18.1)
- Maintain a sustainable development plan in line with NHS Sustainable Development Guidance.
- demonstrate its progress on climate change adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development, including performance against carbon reduction management plans,
- Provide an annual summary of that progress to the Co-ordinating Commissioner (SC18.2).
- give due regard to the impact of its expenditure on the community, over and above the direct purchase of goods and services, as envisaged by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 (SC18.3)

Examples of how health inequalities are being considered in this reporting period

An environment that supports health and healthy lifestyles not only supports physical health but mental health and wellbeing also, particularly regarding access to green space and settled and secure housing being a factor in protecting mental health.

There is also a need to understand that people with mental health problems may be at higher risk of health inequalities relating to poor housing and homelessness.

Amendments to the action plans (report appendices)

The action plan has been updated with only minor amendments that help to make the content more accessible.

³ NHS England Standard Contract Team *NHS Standard Contract 2017/18 and 2018/19 Service Conditions Service Conditions (Full Length)* November 2016 (SC)18 Sustainable Development
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2-service-conditions-fl.pdf> accessed April 2017

For consideration/discussion

This theme consists of a wide range of environmental issues which have brought many areas together to form a single plan. Much has been achieved though there remain many further opportunities that may bring partner organisations together to consider how to improve the environment to towards improving the health of Nottingham citizens.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- provide support and representation at the Environment Steering Group
 - sign up to clean air days (annual events)
 - take a lead on issuing consistent messages to the public through individual organisations and jointly about these actions and the reasons for them in ways that the public will understand
 - identify ways that members are exemplars for the actions within the Environment Action Plan and promote and share their good practice
 - commit champions from HWBB organisations to the actions and particularly to developing a joined up approach to Sustainable Procurement
- How can the HWB Board support the group to make health connections to maximise impact of the project?