



Rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Tool for Planning - *Guidance Notes*

What is the HIA for Planning Tool?

HIA is a practical approach used to judge the effects a proposed development may have on the health and wellbeing of communities and/or different groups of people. The findings of HIAs are used to make recommendations to decision makers as to how any positive health impacts of a particular scheme may be increased and any negative impacts reduced.

This HIA for Planning Tool has been designed to simplify and streamline the process of carrying out HIAs of a development scheme or proposal.

Why use the Health Impact Assessment Tool for Planning?

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the purpose of the planning system as being “to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.” Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society is recognised by the NPPF and Securing the Future (UK Sustainable Development Strategy) *as one of the guiding principles* of sustainable development.^{1,2}

HIA promotes sustainable developments that support the creation of strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by:

- Demonstrating that health impacts have been properly considered when preparing, evaluating and determining development proposals.
- Ensuring developments contribute to the creation of a strong, healthy and just society.
- Helping applicants to demonstrate that they have worked closely with those directly affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community.
- Identifying and highlighting any beneficial impacts on health and wellbeing of a particular development scheme.
- Identifying and taking action to minimise any negative impacts on health and wellbeing of a particular development scheme.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework (2012), p.2

² Securing the future: Delivering UK sustainable development strategy (2005) p.16

How to use the Health Impact Assessment for planning tool?

The HIA for planning tool is divided into three sections grouped under variety of themes which should be worked through sequentially:

Impact Description

In this section give details of what impacts the development proposal may have and which groups of people will be most likely to be affected.

Impact Type

Think about whether the impact will be positive or negative.

Tick the + column for positive impacts and - for negative impacts. If the proposal will impact on different groups or populations differently please list these separately.

Impact Certainty

Think about how certain you are about your assessment for each impact. As far as possible your decisions should be supported using available evidence. Tick the ? column if you are uncertain an impact will occur and ! if you are certain / have evidence an impact will occur.

Recommendation

Write recommendations in this column detailing how positive impacts could be maximised and negative impacts minimised. This may include further research that is needed to improve the certainty of your assessment.

Where to get further help and advice?

If you need any additional advice regarding the HIA process for planning then please contact either:

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