

BSc Health and Social Care
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Health, Wellbeing and Sustainable Development
Report
Assignment 1
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Definition of Sustainable Development

The most used definition of Sustainable development is “Development that meets the need of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their own needs” which was first stated by chairperson Gro Harlem Brundtland in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit (Sustainable Environment, 2019). This insinuates that humans should think about how to better care for natural resources within our environment to the extent of how it affects the next generation's future needs. The UK was one of the first nations to adopt the principles of the Earth Summit and Agenda 21. In January 1994, the UK published its first Sustainable Development Strategy, which was then republished in 1999 as ‘A Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK’.

Public Health England created strategies for sustainable development. A healthy, sustainable, and affordable future relies on depends on how communities develop environmentally, economically, and socially, which are the three main fundamentals of sustainable development. This includes the several attributes that makeup to build a sustainable environment, which include health and wellbeing, quality education, clean water and sanitation, economic growth and so on.

The Four Shared Priorities

The UK government developed the 2020/25 Sustainable Development Plan with four main key priorities, which were identified in the ‘Secure the Future document.

1. Sustainable consumption and production

Sustainable consumption and production are about being able to achieve with less consumption of materials. Not only does this include understanding how goods and services are produced, but the impacts of materials and products and building people's awareness of environmental and social concerns also play an important role.

2. Climate change and energy

This priority aims to effectively change the way we use energy and discover the health impacts of climate change

3. Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement

Natural resources are essential for every community. This priority aims to develop a better understanding of environmental limits, environmental enhancement, and recovery where the environment is most degraded to ensure a decent environment for everyone and a more integrated framework of policies.

4. Sustainable communities

At a local scale, this priority aims to create sustainable communities that embody the principles of sustainable development. This will include working in cohesion with local partners and working to give communities more power in the decisions that affect them

(Public Health England, 2020).

17 Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1: No Poverty – more than 700 million people are living in extreme rates of poverty, being unable to fulfil the most basic needs including education and health. One of the main goals is to ensure that all families by 2030.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger – as of 2015, current estimates demonstrate that 8.9% of the world's population (equivalent to 690 million people) suffer from hunger and lack of nourishment. To lessen the extremely high rates of hunger, increasing sustainable food production and agricultural productivity through efficient and effective targets.

Goal 3: Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages – encouraging and promoting positive health and well-being is an essential element to developing a sustainable community. Before the COVID-19 pandemic began, a lot of progressions were made in improving the health and well-being of many people. The pandemic was the start of a global health crisis which has affected many people physically, mentally, financially, and socially. Increasing easier access to health services, improving hygiene and sanitation, and putting more funding into health systems will help to improve people's health and well-being.

Global targets for improving health and well-being

- To decrease the global maternal mortality rate to a lesser amount of 70 per 100,000 births
- The World Health Organisation should strengthen the Tobacco Control Framework in all countries
- To increase funding for health within recruitment, retention, developing and training in the health sector within developing countries

UK Targets for Improving Health and Well Being

- To improve air quality and tackle climate change by decarbonising transportation
- Enhance work opportunities, especially for those that are under-represented in the workplace
- Improve the environment through minimising waste, healthy plants and cleaner air and water
- Reduce the high levels of crime
- Help businesses bounce back from the effects of COVID-19 by implementing a safe and secure environment
- Reduce the levels of reoffending
- To build confidence in the transport industry and improve transport user's experience by ensuring that all travel is reliable, safe and inclusive
- Reduce high levels of poverty and homelessness through effective prevention and intervention services
- Increase levels of equality in the UK

Goal 4: Quality Education – many signs of progress has been made over the years when it comes to increasing the levels of access to schooling and education at all levels, especially for children. Despite this, in 2018, nearly one-fifth of the global population of children (roughly 260 million) were out of school, and more than half of all children and young people are not meeting the ability requirements in mathematics and reading. COVID-19 severely affected children, adolescents and adults from attending educational institutions, affecting just over 90% of students and teachers globally. Just over 1 billion children and young people were out of school during the year 2020.

Global Targets for Quality Education

- To make sure that all children are receiving the best primary and secondary education, and they have access to quality early years development
- To ensure that all adults and older adults can have access to affordable education, such as university
- Substantially increase the number of young people and adults who have relevant skills for entrepreneurship and employment

UK Targets for Improving Quality Education

- Support people to improve and develop their skills and productivity within the workplace
- Enable effective education standards so that children and young people are prepared with the relevant skills, knowledge, and qualifications
- High-quality local services should be enabled, in which the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people are supported
- Enabling the best start in life for children through high-quality childcare and early childhood education
- Tackle economic loss by increasing employment across the UK

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – not only does gender equality make for a harmonious living environment, but it is also a fundamental human right. More women are in positions of leadership, fewer girls are forced into marriage, more girls are going to school and laws are reforming to enhance gender equality. Although these gains are being noticed, there are still many challenges that need to be resolved, such as the high levels of sexual and physical violence, in which 1 in 5 girls between the ages of 15 to 49 report suffering from this experience. Some of the main targets this goal aims to achieve are to undertake reforms to give women equal rights and economic resources, enhance the use of enabling technology to help the promotion of empowering women; and adopt and strengthen policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality.

Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all – majority of people who live in rural areas lack basic needs such as having access to safe drinking water and hand-wash facilities. According to WHO (World Health Organisation), there are many effective ways to avoid poor hand hygiene and reduce the spread of infections, such as regular hand washing – although there are still many people without safe water sanitation. Some of the main targets this goal aims to achieve include supporting and strengthening local communities in improving sanitation and water management, improving the quality of water by halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, reducing pollution, and minimising the release of hazardous materials and chemicals and increasing safe recycling re-use.

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy – when it comes to affordable and renewable energy, more attention is needed towards improving safe and clean cooking technologies and fuels, to increase electrification across developing countries such as sub-Saharan Africa. Some of the targets this goal aims to achieve include doubling the global rate of improving efficient energy and ensuring universal access to new, reliable, and affordable energy facilities.

Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work for all – when economic growth is sustained and inclusive, it can help to develop decent jobs for all people and improve the standard of living. The International Labor Organization predicts that just about half of the global workforce is at risk of losing their livelihoods. The COVID-19 pandemic raised financial and economic shocks which caused disruptions to the financial market, industrial production, and commodity prices. Some of the main targets this goal aims to achieve include allowing all women, men,

young people and people with disabilities to receive equal pay for work of equal value and increasing Aid for Trade support in developing countries.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation – industries, innovation and infrastructure play a key role in generating employment, promoting new technologies and enabling effective resources. Just over half of the world's population use technology has access to online services and lives in an area covered by a mobile network. Some of the main targets this goal aims to achieve include facilitating sustainable development of infrastructures through financial and technical support and increasing access to information in developing countries.

Goal 10: reduce inequality within and among countries – some communities in particular countries face consistent and various inequalities. Many researchers have found that COVID-19 has amplified these existing inequalities, with low-income families and Black and Ethnic Minorities being affected the most. Some of the main targets this goal aims to achieve include that despite an individual's race, origin, sex, age, disability, ethnicity and religion, political, economic, and social inclusion are empowered and promoted; and to progressively achieve greater equality by adopting social protection and wage policies.

Goal 11: make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable – more than half the world's population has been living in cities since the year 2007. Share has been set to increase by 60% by 2030. Some of the main targets this goal aims to achieve include ensuring that everyone has access to affordable, adequate and safe housing and expanding public transport by providing more access to sustainable, accessible and safe transport systems, especially for children, women, older people and people with disabilities.

Goal 12: ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns – it is estimated that one-third of the food that is produced every year by consumers and retailers leaves food to rot in bins or spoils. this goal aims to implement a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. By 2030, they aim to achieve efficient use of natural resources and significantly reduce waste generation through reuse, recycling, reduction, and preventative methods.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change – climate change more or less affects every country around the world. It affects lives daily as sea levels are rising and weather patterns are constantly changing. Some of the main targets this goal aims to achieve include integrating measures of climate change into national planning, strategies, and policies, and improving raising awareness of climate change and its early signs.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources – a key feature of a sustainable future includes careful management of our drinking water, rainwater, coastlines, weather, climate, some of our food and the air we breathe. By 2025, this goal aims to significantly minimise marine pollution of all kinds and address the impacts of ocean acidification.

Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss – the earth's surface has been hugely affected by human activity by roughly 75%. According to the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service (2019), around 1 million plant and animal species are faced with threatening extinction. Some of the targets this goal aims to achieve include taking urgent action to decrease the degradation of natural habitats and increase global support to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels – according to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in 2018, the highest level of persecution, conflict and people fleeing war exceeded 70 million people. Some of the main targets of this goal includes significantly

reducing all means of death rates and violence everywhere, and to prevent trafficking, exploitation, abuse and all forms of violence against young people and children.

Goal 17: Revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development – a strong and effective global partnership requires inclusivity at a local, national, regional and global scale that shares similar goals and visions of putting people and the environment at the core for sustainable growth.

Global Targets for revitalising Global Partnerships

- To support developing countries by improving domestic capacity for revenue collection such as tax, and organise additional financial resources
- To execute investment campaign schemes for the least developed countries
- To promote environmentally safe and sound technologies to developing countries
- Increase levels of international support by supporting national plans to implement each development goal in developing countries
- To improve the trade of developing countries
- Apply policy coherence and coordination while developing a stable global macroeconomy
- To promote and build on efficient private, civil society and public partnerships

UK Targets for Revitalising Global Partnership

- To maintain taxpayers' consent through equal treatment, and to prevent and protect society from harm
- To globally extend and amplify the UK's influence through the successful application of the ASEAN dialogue associate status

(United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, 2022).

London Borough of Hounslow

Statistics

- Since 2020, there has been a 168% increase in the number of people out of work and a poverty rate of 25%
- The borough is home to 13,000 small and medium-sized businesses, with a £3.57 gap in wages
- There are currently 86,000 people under 25 living in the borough
- The borough is in the top 10% of areas in England for youth social mobility (The Corporate Plan for Hounslow, 2021).

Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

One of the main goals the London Borough of Hounslow sets out is to make sure residents are healthy and active. The council are currently launching a new leisure service which includes promoting high-quality housing, working closely with NHS partners, making sure communities have easy access to green spaces to support activity, supporting residents with health problems such as diabetes and tackling the root causes of health inequalities (Hounslow Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, 2022).

Key issues and challenges

- In 2014, it was estimated that only 11% of 15-year-olds in Hounslow were meeting national recommendations on physical activity. In 2016, 40% of year 6 children in Hounslow were classified as overweight
- There were 466 accidents and emergency accidents among children under 14 years old in 2016, which has increased by 7% since 2013
- It is predicted that 200 premature deaths a year are caused by poor air quality
- Since 2016, levels of obesity and lack of physical activity continue to be high as 120,000 (57%) of adults in the borough were significantly overweight
- People with underlying long-term health conditions continue to be on the rise as there have been 60,000 cases of hypertension, 21,000 diabetic patients, 26,500 asthma patients and 10,000 coronary heart disease patients, including undiagnosed cases (Hounslow Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, 2022).

Key goals and targets

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013-2017) was the first initiative plan to develop approaches to tackling health and wellbeing inequalities among Hounslow residents. Health and Wellbeing Board partners agreed to develop 3 high-level outcomes:

- Reduce gaps in life expectancy among communities – this includes increasing the uptake of cancer screening, supporting those who want to give up smoking and putting in place the NHS Health Checks programme
- Every child should have the best start in life – this includes minimising levels of childhood obesity, improving oral health among children under 5 years old and achieving herd immunity for routine childhood immunisations
- Adults preserve good health and independence for longer – this involves implicating new approaches to long-term health conditions, a new structure of mental healthcare and lower bed-based care (Hounslow Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, 2022).

Goal 4: Quality Education

In recent years, many children have been successful academically, physically and emotionally within the borough, although there still needs to be an improvement. The council are working on improving support for families, expanding the number of mental health services for young people, working with educational institutions, focusing on early interventions, and providing special help to children who need extra support (Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report, 2020).

Key issues and challenges

- The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a substantial decrease in the number of childcare services, which had a large financial impact on many families with children and private early year providers
- Families in high levels of deprivation have been more vulnerable to the temporary closure of these services
- Take-up applications for early education and childcare services as low as 1%
- There has been a significant increase in families accessing Universal Credit, which became challenging for the council due to the number of eligible free entitlement places becoming available
- There was very little access to out-of-school childcare settings such as holiday clubs, after-school school clubs and breakfast clubs. Before the pandemic, many working-class parents were heavily reliant on these services to meet their childcare needs outside of school hours.

Key goals and targets

- To provide additional support to childcare and early year providers who may need to remake their models of structure to facilitate change of parent's needs, for example, parents who will start working from home
- To deliver more health promotion and social media posts related to the take up of childcare as a choice
- To support the most vulnerable children appropriately (Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report, 2020).

Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve these goals

To shape and deliver positive outcomes, the borough is working together with public, private, and voluntary sectors to not only provide better public services and local leadership but to also build a digitally optimised Council that delivers benefits for all people. Counsellor Steve Curran and Chief Executive for Hounslow Niall Bolger developed 'A Fairer, Greener, Stronger Borough: The Corporate Plan' to create a better partnership for a better sustainable environment for all.

Key issues and challenges

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the borough of Hounslow faced a large number of unemployment cases as more people found themselves to be at risk if they stayed at work. Other long-term impacts such as mental health significantly affected children and young people as they were not able to focus on studying at their full academic potential. The pandemic also affected other social-economic factors such as housing and income (London Borough of Hounslow Corporate Plan, 2021).

Key goals and targets

- They will work in partnership with local organisations to ensure all residents in each community are receiving the right support that is best for their needs through a 'Community Solutions approach
- They will help to encourage residents to look for volunteering opportunities in the borough and give more support to their staff while engaging with other local Councillors to shape local areas
- They will maximise the use of their facilities, for example, buildings that are not used to widen access for more spaces needed for accessible community activities and services.
- They will reshape the organisation and make sure every professional understands that the community is a fundamental element of their role (London Borough of Hounslow Corporate Plan, 2021).

Policies

The Health and Social Care Act 2012

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established the first legal obligations when it comes to preventing ill health and health inequalities in partnership with NHS organisations. The act suggests that local authorities should develop the right strategies to improve the health and well-being of individuals. London-wide strategies such as 'calls to action focus on population groups who experience different levels of health disparities, highlighting the need for better parity outcomes (Legislation Health and Social Care Act, 2012).

The Social Value Act 2012

The Social Value Act 2012 allows those who organise public services to give contracts on the circumstance of fore fronting wider economic, environmental and social benefits to communities. The

coordination approach provides opportunities to develop better facilities by commissioning with local communities' authorities (Legislation Social Value Act, 2012).

Recommendations/conclusion

Although the borough is a safe place with low crime rates, councillors are increasingly developing measures to keep the borough safe and secure. This includes working with the police to focus on high crime rate areas that involve robbery, keeping those who have been exploited safe such as victims of domestic abuse, and tackling modern slavery, financial abuse and hate crime.

There may be some organisational boundaries, but London has plans to continue developing a better and stronger integrated care system that will make sure care and support are easy to access for each local community. Local authorities will work with the government to develop community collaboration so that residents also have a say in making decisions. These decisions include supporting other local neighbourhoods, making more services available online, regenerating London boroughs and saying what matters.

The UK should continue to eliminate barriers and overcome challenges that hinder high-quality healthcare, childcare, education, equality, and workplace enforcement to develop and maintain a sustainable environment for all. They must also build new frameworks that promote and support children, young people and adults from all backgrounds and communities through the use of diversity commitments and inclusive behaviours. The UK must also strengthen the system's policies for having access to clean water, sanitation and energy sources, poverty and homelessness prevention, climate control and enabling a safe and sustainable environment for all.

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