



Doncaster
Council

005b

Comprehensive Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (HIA) for Planning

Guidance Notes

About this guidance

This guidance and the accompanying pro-forma have been developed to assist with the process of carrying out a **Comprehensive Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment for Planning (HIA)**.

What is HIA?

HIA is a tool that can be used to estimate and assess the possible health and wellbeing implications, both intended and unintended, of development and planning proposals, and explore potential actions that could be taken to maximise positive and minimise negative impacts.

HIA helps to ensure that health and wellbeing is properly considered when preparing, evaluating and determining development proposals.

How to use the HIA tool?

It is intended that HIA tool be used in one of two ways:

- By developers and consultants when preparing development proposals to help shape and inform design choices and also to demonstrate the benefits of the proposal to health and wellbeing.
- By local authorities, health bodies and other statutory, community and voluntary sector organisations to evaluate development proposals and feedback on identified issues and areas for improvement in a consistent way, as well as to inform reports.

How to carry out an assessment using the HIA tool?

When using the assessment tool the length and detail of the answers you give should relate to the scale and complexity of the proposal.

The HIA form is made up of three sections which you should work through in order.

Sections 1.0

You should start the HIA process by identifying the specific population groups (**section 1.1**) and parts of the district (**section 1.2**) that will be most affected by the proposal.

Section 1.1

Population Groups: Consider which groups of the population would be affected by the proposal. Proposals will not affect all individuals or groups across the community in the same way.

Section 1.2

Parts of the District: Consider the geographical areas affected by the proposal. Consider which neighbourhoods, communities, townships, etc. the proposal will mostly affect and how.

Section 2.0

This section is where you can provide background information about the proposal being assessed.

Section 2.1

Proposal Summary: Here you should give a brief summary of the proposal being assessed.

Section 2.2

Involvement: In this section detail, to the best of your knowledge, who has been involved in the development of the proposal, how they have been involved and what the results of their involvement have been.

Section 3.0

This is the largest section of the HIA form and is divided into twelve **themes**:

- 3.1 Housing
- 3.2 Physical Activity
- 3.3 Diet and Nutrition
- 3.4 Air Quality and Noise
- 3.5 Transport
- 3.6 Crime Reduction and Community Safety
- 3.7 Illegal Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol
- 3.8 Economy and Employment
- 3.9 Climate Change and Biodiversity
- 3.10 Waste, Resources and Land use
- 3.11 Equality, Social Cohesion and Community
- 3.12 Access to services

Each of these themes is subdivided into several **categories**, for example the Access to Services theme is made up of the following categories:

- i. Demand for and access to healthcare services.
- ii. Demand for and access to other public and community services and facilities.
- iii. Access to buildings, spaces and services for people with mobility problems or disability impairment.

You should work through each category on the HIA form providing information relating to what extent and how the proposal affects that category and what action can be taken to maximise positive and minimise negative impacts. Each category is divided in to four columns where you can provide this information.

Impact: For each of the categories on the form think about what impact on that particular aspect of health and wellbeing the proposal will have and whether these impacts will be positive or negative. Think about the impact the proposal will have on each of the different groups and localities you identified in section 1, and if the impact is significantly different for different groups or localities assess each separately. This will help you to identify any aspects of the proposal that impact on any group or locality in particular, and if this may lead to the creation or exacerbation inequalities.

+	-
Proposal has a positive impact	Proposal has a negative impact

Certainty: Think about how certain you are about your assessment of each impact and what evidence you have to substantiate your assessment. As far as possible your decisions should be supported using available evidence. However, where there is no clear evidence, you should use your best judgement and may need to do further research. However, where this isn't possible, you need to be open and honest about this.

?	!
Assumed impact. You have a gut feeling but lack evidence and may need to do some further research.	Known impact. You know that your assessment is correct and is based on evidence.

Description of Impact: If you have decided that there is a positive or negative impact on a particular category then a description of the impact should be noted in this column, outlining any supporting evidence. Where you believe there is no impact, this should be noted on the form as evidence that this point has been considered.

Recommendations: If you have decided that there is a positive or negative impact on a particular category then you need to consider how positive impacts can be maximised and negative impacts minimised. This may include carrying out further research to improve the certainty of the assessment.

HIA Themes

The following section consists of a guide to each of the twelve themes that make up Section 3 the HIA form. It aims to outline how each of these themes link to the health and wellbeing agenda and give practical examples of how they can impact, both positively and negatively, on health and wellbeing.

Please note – You may need to copy and paste some of the web links directly into your browser.

Housing	
Links to Health Factors such as the location, affordability, condition, design and construction of homes can have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the people living in them. Inadequate or poorly designed housing that fails to meet the needs of its intended residents can cause or contribute to preventable injuries and a number of health conditions such as respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, cancer and mental health conditions such as depression.	
Potential positive impacts on health Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include: • Developing housing in an appropriate location (e.g. close to services and amenities appropriate to the needs of people living there and away from sources of noise and air pollution) • Providing quality affordable housing can result in people have a greater proportion of their income available to spend on their other health needs (e.g. heating, healthy food, leisure activities) • Use of good materials for noise insulation and energy efficiency can help to reduce noise pollution, energy waste and fuel poverty. • Ensuring homes are well orientated (e.g. to maximise natural light) • Ensuring homes are accessible and adaptable to support care in the community and independent living enabling people to remain in their homes despite changing requirements caused by age, disability or illness (e.g. Mobility problems or mental health problems such as dementia.) • Providing a range of housing tenures with good basic services and links to local amenities (e.g. shops, schools, and health services) can create diverse, sustainable communities and promote social interaction.	Potential negative impacts on health Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include: • Developing housing in an inappropriate location (e.g. in an isolated location with poor access to local services and amenities) • Lack of affordable housing can mean people on a low income will spend more on housing costs and less on other health needs (e.g. heating, healthy food, leisure activities.) • Poor insulation mean homes are difficult to keep warm in cold weather or cool in hot weather. This can exacerbate some health problems and contribute to fuel poverty and an increased impact on the environment. • Lack of soundproofing can result in noise pollution which can impact on health by interrupting sleep and contributing to mental health problems. • Overcrowded housing can contribute to poor mental health and an increase in accidents.
Further Information Doncaster Housing Strategy 2015 – 2025 Doncaster Housing Needs Assessment 2015 http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/housing/our-housing-plans-2 Housing in an ageing population http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/housing/housing-in-an-ageing-population WHO Housing and Health http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/Housing-and-health	

Physical Activity	
Links to Health There is strong and growing evidence that regular physical activity reduces the risk of various health conditions including obesity, diabetes, some cancers, high blood pressure, stroke and poor mental health. The amount of physical activity undertaken by the average person has fallen significantly in recent decades. This decline has been linked to various lifestyle changes including: • Less physically active jobs • Decline of walking • Increase in energy saving devices in public places, e.g. escalators, lifts and automatic doors • Greater use of the car for travel • Adults fears of children's safety in unsupervised outdoor play • Reduction in physical education and sport in some schools • Substitution of physical activity leisure with sedentary past times like television, computer games and the internet It is important to remember that physical activity is not just about sport, it is about everyone, regardless of their age, fitness or ability, becoming more active, more often. Physical activity includes a range of formal and informal activities including walking, cycling, gardening, dancing and outdoor playing.	
Potential positive impacts on health Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include: • Providing an attractive, safe, and convenient environment that is assessable to all, where physical activity can take place. • Creating and enhancing safe accessible routes, tracks and pathways that encourage people to walk or cycle to school, work and local amenities. • Providing adequate recreational facilities appropriate to the needs of local communities. • Providing and protecting green open space and ensure it is accessible to all. • Ensuring buildings are designed to promote physical activity opportunities, such as using the stairs or travelling there by bike. • When the road space is shared between drivers of motor vehicles and other road users (e.g. walkers, cyclists and playing children) can greater use of residential streets as a venue for physical activity be encouraged?	Potential negative impacts on health Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include: • Failing to safeguard open space and ensure it is assessable to all. • Creating fragmented communities that discourage social interaction and so contribute towards social isolation and mental illness. • Locating housing and employment sites far away from sport, recreation and other facilities/amenities. • Creating isolated developments without sustainable transport links (e.g. walking and cycling routes) to neighbouring communities, local services and amenities.
Further Information Get Doncaster Moving Strategy https://getdoncastermoving.org/strategy Design Council – Active by Design	

<https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/resources/guide/active-design-designing-places-healthy-lives>

Diet and Nutrition

Links to Health

Access to healthy, nutritious food has been shown to contribute to improving general health. A variety of studies have shown that a poor diet high in saturated fat, salt and sugar and low in fruit and vegetables can contribute to a range of health conditions including diabetes, heart disease, obesity, cancer and stroke.

Department of Health guidelines promote eating more fresh fruit and vegetables and cutting down on saturated fat, salt and sugar as a way to prevent chronic disease. However evidence shows that people on low incomes (e.g. older people, young families, unemployed people,) are the least able to eat well, so increasing health inequalities.

Potential positive impacts on health

Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include:

- Promoting a diverse range of food retailers in local shopping areas.
- Promoting small scale community projects that enable local people to locally access affordable, fresh healthy food and the skills to form this into healthy meals (e.g. food coops, community allotments, community cafes)
- Providing gardens and allotment sites which enable people to grow their own fresh food and promotes physical activity.

Potential negative impacts on health

Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include:

- Centralisation of shopping areas and the dominance of large supermarkets can act to reduce local food choice.
- Proliferation of fast and unhealthy food vendors in a particular area can make it harder for people to make healthy choices.
- Redevelopment of allotments, gardens and other similar facilities can result in people having nowhere locally to grow their own food.

Further Information

Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Strategy (page 16-18 obesity section)

<http://www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/doncaster-health-wellbeing-strategy-2016-2021>

Air Quality and Noise	
Links to Health Poor air quality can have a significant negative impact on health contributing to an increased incidence of chronic lung disease, heart conditions and, some evidence suggests, increased levels of asthma amongst children. Noise pollution has also been shown to have a detrimental impact on health contributing to hearing impairment, sleep disturbance and mental health problems such as depression and stress, and poor educational attainment in children with associated problems in later life (such as poor job prospects, a slack of skills and qualifications).	
Potential positive impacts on health Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include: • Implementing measures to minimise the impacts of construction traffic (e.g. controls on dust, noise and congestion). • Safeguarding areas of green space and planting trees to create “green lungs” in local areas with poor air quality. • Implementing measures to deter car use and/or restrict Lorries from specific routes (e.g. outside schools or hospitals) can help improve air quality. • Undertaking assessment of air pollution and excessive noise can help to identify potential problem areas where certain types of development could be avoided or specific controls be put in place. • Developing housing in an appropriate location away from existing sources of noise including commercial and traffic noise	Potential negative impacts on health Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include: • Locating developments that create excessive noise, dust or air pollution close to residential areas. • Locating residential areas close to busy roads or sites that create excessive noise or air pollution.
Further Information Environment Strategy http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/environment-strategy	

Transport	
Links to Health Reducing car dependency and the provision of convenient, safe, sustainable transport options (e.g. walking, cycling and public transport) can have a significant effect on health by encouraging participation in physical activity and social interaction, as well as reducing preventable road traffic accidents, noise and air pollution.	
Potential positive impacts on health Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include: • Implementing traffic calming measures can reduce road traffic injuries and create a safer environment that promotes greater participation in walking and cycling. • Locating developments close to local services and amenities encourages people to visit them using sustainable transport methods. • Ensuring developments have good links to the local public transport network. • When the road space is shared between drivers of motor vehicles and other road users (e.g. walkers, cyclists and playing children) can greater use of residential streets as a venue for physical activity be encouraged? • Integrating a variety of services (e.g. community centre, library, doctors and pharmacy) in a single location can reduce the need to travel	Potential negative impacts on health Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include: • Creating developments that are totally anti-car can have a negative health impact on those people who are unavoidable car dependant (e.g. due to illness or mobility problems) • Creating isolated developments without adequate public or sustainable transport links can increase car dependence and contribute to more congestion, road traffic accidents, noise and air pollution. • Giving priority to cars and other motor vehicles can create an environment that is intimidating to walkers and cyclists so discouraging physical activity and social interaction.
Further Information Get Doncaster Walking Strategy 2018 https://getdoncastermoving.org/strategy Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy 2011 - 2026 http://www.syltp.org.uk/strategy.aspx Doncaster Cycling Strategy 2013 http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/transport-streets-parking/cycling	

Crime Reduction and Community Safety	
Links to Health Crime and the fear of crime can have an equally important impact on health contributing to social isolation and mental health problems, as well as acting as a barrier to physical activity, social interaction and access to local services. • Perceptions of the crime and feelings of personal safety have the potential to limit how people live their lives and this can lead to them becoming increasingly isolated (e.g. fear of crime can act as a barrier to people going out alone, after dark or visit certain areas.) • Poor design which ignores crime and community safety issues can create an intimidating environment that people do not want to use, while conversely creating a safe, attractive accessible space can encourage a mix of different people to use the space, this use building a sense of community empowerment and ownership which in turn can discourage crime and antisocial behaviour.	
Potential positive impacts on health Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include: • Promoting mixed use of buildings and public spaces encourages their positive use by a wide range of community members promoting a sense of community ownership and empowerment. • Providing effective lighting can limit the opportunities for antisocial behaviour. • Involving local communities in the planning and design of developments can identify actual and perceived safety issues as well as creating a sense of empowerment and ownership/stewardship. • Creating a pedestrianised area encourages people to interact socially. • Creating formal and informal play and recreation areas can help divert people from crime and antisocial behaviour.	Potential negative impacts on health Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include: • Excluding certain individuals or groups from using certain buildings or public spaces can create feelings of alienation, inequality and isolation that can lead to antisocial behaviour. • Failure to involve local communities in the planning and design of developments can result in potentially important safety issues being missed and lead to people feeling powerless, uninvolved, uncooperative and antagonistic towards those developments. • Creating areas that are unsafe or feel unsafe discourages their use and further increase the perception that they are unsafe. • Creating an area where priority is given to cars can create an area that is intimidating to pedestrians and perceived as unsafe. • Creating an area with ineffective lighting can encourage crime and antisocial behaviour.
Further Information Safer and Stronger Doncaster Partnership http://www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/safer Design Council – Design out Crime https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/resources/case-study/design-out-crime South Yorkshire Police www.southyorkshire.police.uk	

Alcohol, Tobacco and Illegal drugs

Links to Health

Pubs, bars and clubs contribute to community life and also generate valuable revenue to the economy. However alcohol misuse is a major cause of illness, injury and death. A number of studies identify a clear link between alcohol dependence and various health conditions including cancer, liver disease, high blood pressure and mental illness, while the number of alcohol-related deaths in the United Kingdom has been consistently increasing since the early 1990s. Alcohol misuse also has a social and economic impact on health and wellbeing, contributing to increased levels of crime and antisocial behaviour, such as vandalism and domestic abuse, as well as impacting on people's economic circumstances, with studies identifying an association between alcohol misuse and unemployment.

The use of tobacco, including smoking and passive smoking, has long been known to have major negative impacts on health contributing to a range of medical conditions including lung and other types of cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and coronary heart disease. A medical study on smoking found that, on average, men who smoked throughout their lives died 10 years younger than those who had never smoked.

Illegal drug use can contribute to a range of social and health problems affecting drug users, their families and society as a whole. It has been estimated illegal drug use is responsible for between 1,300 and 1,600 deaths a year in the UK, as well as contributing to a range of other physical and mental health problems. The social impacts of illegal drug use can include an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour. Drug users are estimated to commit between a third and a half of all acquisitive crime.

Potential positive impacts on health

Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include:

- Limiting number of licensed premises and / or shops selling tobacco in a specific area
- Creating public spaces that are well lit and highly visible can act to discourage overt drug use, selling of drugs and other forms of antisocial behaviour
- Fitting fluorescent blue lighting in toilets can help deter intravenous drug use in those areas
- Provision of appropriate housing and support can contribute to improved outcomes for drug users in a number of areas, such as increasing engagement and retention in drug treatment, improving health and social well being, improving employment outcomes and reducing re-offending.

Potential negative impacts on health

Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include:

- Failure to provide housing for those with drug or alcohol dependence can have a range of negative consequences for local communities, including increases in drug-related crime, visible signs of drug use, homelessness, public drinking and begging.
- Creating areas with high densities of temporary accommodation such as hostels and bed and breakfast hotels can create communities of illegal drug users that can act to exacerbate illegal drug use.

Further Information

Doncaster Drugs Strategy

<http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/health-wellbeing/substance-misuse-drugs-and-alcohol>

Doncaster Alcohol Strategy

<http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/health-wellbeing/substance-misuse-drugs-and-alcohol>

Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Strategy

<http://www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/doncaster-health-wellbeing-strategy-2016-2021>

Economy and Employment	
Links to Health The Government aims to ensure the planning system promotes and secures economic growth in order to create jobs and prosperity, building on the country's inherent strengths. Income and employment are recognised to have a critical effect on health. Evidence shows that those who experience poverty, low income and unemployment are less able to make healthy choices and so have poorer health than those living in better socio-economic conditions. Job security, working conditions, opportunities for employment advancement or simply being in paid employment, can all impact on health and wellbeing. While employment that provides job satisfaction and sense of making a contribution can also play a part in improved mental wellbeing, as well as helping people to build wider social networks.	
Potential positive impacts on health Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include: • Providing range of varied jobs appropriate to the skills present in local communities can ensure those local communities derive maximum economic benefit from those opportunities. • Providing childcare and other support services close to workplaces can make available job opportunities more accessible to a wider range of people. • Providing safe, attractive and pleasant work places • Creating employment opportunities in accessible locations results in a wider range of people being able to access those opportunities (e.g. with good public and sustainable transport links to nearby communities). • Providing support for new start-up businesses can help to generate a greater variety of employment opportunities and support entrepreneurship. • Ensuring areas are not dominated by a single large employer but have access to range of varied employment opportunities.	Potential negative impacts on health Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include: • Creating employment opportunities in inaccessible locations with poor transport links can greatly limit who is able to access those opportunities. • Areas that are too reliant on a single employer or lacking in job variety can stifle the aspiration and limit employment opportunities of the local workforce and as a result have a negative impact on health and wellbeing. • Developments in areas with poor infrastructure can make less competitive or attractive business locations, discouraging investment in an area. • Lack of new business start-up facilities in an area can hinder entrepreneurship and limit investment. • Creating employment opportunities that are inappropriate to the skills of the local resident workforce results in that workforce deriving little economic benefit from those opportunities.
Further Information Doncaster Borough Strategy http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/the-council-democracy/doncaster-growing-together Doncaster Economic Growth Plan http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/business-investment/doncaster-inclusive-growth-strategy	Employment Land Availability http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning Employment Land Review http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning Institute for Health Inequalities www.instituteofhealthequity.org

Climate Change and Energy Usage	
Links to Health A growing body of evidence suggests there is potential for global climate change, caused by human activities such as burning fossil fuels for energy, to have a significant impact on health and wellbeing. Increasingly cold winters and hot summers, along with extreme weather phenomena such as flooding, can all impact on health. For example by exacerbating the symptoms of certain health conditions and by contributing to an increased incidence accidents. Taking action now limit climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through better transport and energy-use choices can result in improved health. (World Health Organisation, January 2010)	
Potential positive impacts on health Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include: • Creating sustainable drainage systems can safely deal with surface run off and minimise the risk of flooding • Creating energy efficient well insulated buildings can reduce carbon emissions • Developments that use renewable energy sources (e.g. solar, wind, biofuels) for all or part of their energy needs reduces carbon emissions • Referring to sustainability standards such as BREEAM, CEEQUAL and the Code for Sustainable Homes when designing developments	Potential negative impacts on health Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include: • Building development on flood planes can increase the risk of flooding • Buildings constructed with poor quality materials can be less energy efficient and so contribute to increased carbon emissions.
Further Information Doncaster Affordable Warmth Plan https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s15688/Item%2013%20-%20Doncaster%20Affordable%20Warmth%20Strategy%202018-2021.pdf Flood Risk Management http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/transport-streets-parking/flood-risk-management Development and Flood Risk SPD http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/development-and-floodrisk-spd Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/development-and-floodrisk SuDS http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/development-and-floodrisk Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) WORKING but is this the correct page? www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/code_for_sust_homes.pdf The Health Impacts of Cold Homes and Fuel Poverty http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/the-health-impacts-of-cold-homes-and-fuel-poverty BREEAM www.breeam.org CEEQUAL www.ceequal.com	

Waste, Resources and Land Use	
Links to Health Developments that take measures to ensure the best use of resources (e.g. available land, fuel, materials) and reduce, recycle or reuse any waste created, including construction waste, not only have the potential to improve the quality of the environment but can also contribute to improving health and wellbeing. While caring for and maintaining the quality of our water and land resources and keeping them free from pollution or damage is vital to sustaining our environment in both the short and long term which also has an impact on general health outcomes.	
Potential positive impacts on health Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include: • Ensuring locally recycled and renewable materials are used wherever possible including in the construction process. • Encourage/maximise reduction, reuse and recycling of resources. • Implementing measures to sustain or enhance biodiversity • Making best use of existing land	Potential negative impacts on health Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include: • Disposal of hazardous waste can impact on health of nearby communities. • Sending waste created by a development to be processed offsite can create more traffic, related carbon emissions, dust and disturbance • Protecting green space provides place to participate in physical activity.
Further Information (Joint) Waste Plan http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/barnsley-doncaster-rotherham-joint-waste-plan Doncaster's Waste Strategy http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/bins-recycling-waste/waste-strategy-2	

Equality, Social Cohesion and Community	
Links to Health National Planning Policy Framework recognises the important role the planning system can play “in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.’ Inequalities and divisions within society can lead to inequalities in health with poorer, marginalised and disadvantaged people within society having generally poorer health. Living in a fair and equal society with a strong sense of community can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. Although no development can build in community spirit, good design can create an environment that supports local community members to interact, socialise, organise and work together.	
Potential positive impacts on health Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include: • Creating buildings and spaces where people can meet formally and informally can help to stimulate the creation of social networks • Creating mixed use developments can stimulate interaction between different social groups with a community (e.g. Parent and Toddler Group and Older Peoples group based in same space) • Encouraging people to walk to local facilities rather than travelling by car encourages them to interact more.	Potential negative impacts on health Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include: • Placing a busy road or other development through the middle of a community can act to split that community in two and hinder social interaction between the severed parts • Removing facilities (e.g. library, post office, community hall) from a community can remove opportunities for social interaction and the creation of social networks within communities
Further Information Doncaster Joint Strategic Needs Assessment http://www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment Institute for Health Inequalities www.instituteofhealthequity.org The Marmot Review: implications for Spatial Planning http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/the-marmot-review-implications-for-spatial-planning	

Access to services

Links to Health

Good health is not only dependant on having access to quality health care services, access to other quality public and community services such as schools, social services, libraries, community facilities and other local and central government services has an major impact in health too.

Hard to access public services (e.g. those that are far away from a specific community or development) can act to limit the extent to which certain groups(e.g. people with mobility problems, older people, young families and people on low incomes) can access those services. This can cause significant problems as these groups are often the people who are most in need to these services.

Accessible public services also provide opportunities for social interaction which can improve mental wellbeing and enable independent living.

Potential positive impacts on health

Ways proposals can have a positive impact on health include:

- Assessing the demand a new development will generate for new and existing public services so mitigating action can be taken.
- Ensure developments have convenient transport links to all essential public services.
- Integrating a variety of services (e.g. community centre, library, doctors and pharmacy) in a single location can reduce the need to travel and also create a hub for the local community to interact socially.
- Basing services in buildings that are safe and easily accessible encourages people to access those services.
- Involving local people in the planning of local services can help to highlight unforeseen issues and give people a sense of ownership and engagement with those services.
- Ensure services are in buildings that are accessible to all

Potential negative impacts on health

Ways proposals can have a negative impact on health include:

- Having under provision of services or different services spread over a wide area can greatly increase the need to travel which can be a particular problem to people dependant on public transport.
- Poor planning and design can lead to buildings and spaces with poor accessibility the services they contain. This can particularly impact on certain groups such as elderly, women, children and people with impairments.
- Excluding local people from decisions around the planning of local services can result in them feeling detached from those services and increases the chance of those services being underutilised.

Further Information

Institute for Health Inequalities

www.instituteofhealthequity.org

Glossary

For the purpose of the document and the HIA Process the following terms are defined as follows:

Active Travel	Forms of travel and transport that focuses on physical activity (walking and cycling) as opposed to motorised and carbon-dependent means. Source: www.sustrans.org.uk
Biodiversity	A term which simply means the variety of life in a specific area or environment.
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method for buildings. It sets the standard for best practice in sustainable design and has become the de facto measure used to describe a building's environmental performance. Source: www.breeam.org
CEEQUAL	Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment and Award Scheme. An assessment and awards scheme for improving sustainability in civil engineering, landscaping and the public realm, and celebrates the achievement of high environmental and social performance.
Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH)	A code developed by the government enable a step change in sustainable building practice for new homes. Source: www.planningportal.gov.uk
Geodiversity	The variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils, landforms and natural processes. Source: Natural England
Green Lungs	An area of green open space (e.g. woodland, parkland) within a town, city or other urban area maintained for its benefits to health and the environment.
Health	A state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Source: World Health Organisation
Health Inequalities	The differences in health outcomes experiences by different groups within society. People who experience poverty, low income and unemployment are less able to make healthy choices and so have poorer health than those living in better socio-economic conditions.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)	The Doncaster Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a summary of the current and future health and wellbeing needs of people in Doncaster. It is a key planning and commissioning tool for use within the health community in Doncaster. It covers a breadth of topics focusing, from health and social needs, to wider factors affecting the wellbeing of our community. The Doncaster JSNA can be found at: http://www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment
Physical Activity	Any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure (e.g. walking, cycling, playing active sports, gardening) Source: World Health Organisation.
Proposal	The development or planning proposal being assessed.
SAP Rating	Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) Rating has been adopted by government as part of the UK national standard for calculating the energy performance of buildings and is a means of reliably estimating the energy efficiency performance of a home. SAP ratings are expressed on a scale of 1 to 100 - the higher the number, the better the rating.
Social Interaction	People mixing and communicating either formally or informally (e.g. children playing together, people meeting and chatting at the local shops.)
Social Isolation	Being lonely and/or distanced either physically or emotionally from the people around you.
Sustainable Travel	Forms of travel which have less environmental impact than cars (e.g. walking, cycling or public transport)
Wellbeing	Mental health is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community. Source: World Health Organisation

Useful sources of on-line information

Public Health Profiles

Public Health England Fingertips provides health profiles for geographical areas throughout England.

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/>

Neighbourhood Statistics

The Neighbourhood Statistics Website is a free to access online data resource. It contains datasets that describe the characteristics of a neighbourhood, with a particular focus on deprivation. The website includes results from the 2001 and 2011 Census and other official government statistics.

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>

NOMIS

A website site providing access to the most detailed and up-to-date labour market statistics from official sources for local areas throughout the UK.

<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

Doncaster Joint Needs Assessment

The Doncaster Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is an on-going process that aims to identify the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the local population.

<http://www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment>

Doncaster Data Observatory

The core purpose of the Doncaster Data Observatory is to provide an easily accessible, single repository for a wide range of validated data and analysis.

<http://www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/doncaster-data-observatory>

Useful Contacts

Advice and support to carry out a Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment for planning is available from the Doncaster Council Public Health and/or Planning teams.

Clare Henry

PublicHealth Improvement Specialist

Email: clare.henry@doncaster.gov.uk

Tel: 01302 734463

Caroline Temperton

Public Health Improvement Officer

Email: caroline.temperton@doncaster.gov.uk

Tel: 01302 734481

Teresa Hubery

Senior Planning Officer

Email: teresa.hubery@doncaster.gov.uk

Tel: 01302 734857