Rhwydwaith Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health Network Cymru



Creating Healthy Places and Spaces February 2022

Welcome

Welcome to the February edition of the e-bulletin.

Spatial planning and health have been inextricably linked throughout history, with the development of settlements and public health systems. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to challenges such as climate change have brought back into focus the need to consider how our built and natural environment can impact upon our health and well-being.

Following on from our successful conference our February e-bulletin focuses on initiatives which focus on changes to built and natural environments and the impact on health and wellbeing.

On 9th March the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit will hold a webinar to help participants to understand the contribution that planning and placemaking can make to address some of the major health challenges facing communities. Further information about this webinar can be found on our website.

We would love to hear about any additional information, case studies or tips to share with the wider public health community in Wales in future e-bulletins and our website so please get in touch with us at Publichealth.network@wales.nhs.uk or find us on twitter @PHNetworkCymru

Contact us

You can contact Public Health Network Cymru in a variety of ways

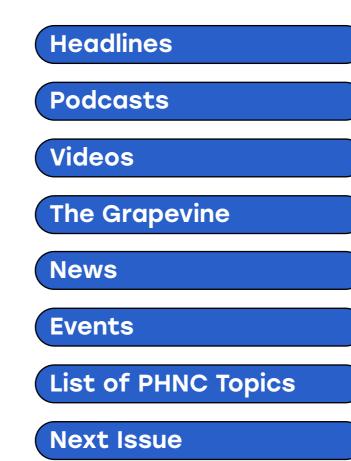
Email us publichealth.network@wales.nhs.uk

Write to us Public Health Network Cymru, Public Health Wales, Floor 5, Number 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

Social media Twitter: @PHNetworkCymru Facebook: Publichealthnetworkcymru



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Headlines

Planning and enabling healthy environments

Public Health Wales have published a suite of documents that will help inform and enable healthier future environments including strategies to help stem the rise in obesity in Wales.

Liz Green, Consultant in Public Health, Policy and International Health at public Health Wales, said: "This work was originally conceived as a tool for addressing increasing levels of obesity across Wales, through the future planning of the environments that people live and work in. With data suggesting that 58 per cent of adults in Wales are overweight or obese, the need for creating environments that enable and encourage healthy weight has never been more important.

"The COVID-19 pandemic, and the increased morbidity and mortality risk for those who are classed as obese, is another urgent call to shape environments and places that are health promoting and are not adding further to the obesity challenge.

"For example, increasing the number of and access to green and blue spaces, prioritising active travel over car use and creating buildings with adequate internal space that allows bike storage and kitchen facilities, are just some of the factors that can be added in at the planning stage, that encourage healthier behaviours and therefore healthier weight.

"This document recognises that addressing the broader determinants of health which impact on a healthy weight involves a consideration of how to create healthier environments as much as addressing health behaviours on their own. We greatly hope that this dual pronged approach will halt the trend of obesity in Wales and provide healthier lives for future generation."

'Planning and Enabling Healthy Environments' is a suite of documents that has been developed by health experts to assist local authority planning policy and development management officers, national and local public health team practitioners, environmental health representatives, national advocates and policy makers for planning and health, and developers in Wales to contribute to the creation of healthy environments, including healthy weight.

It provides context and information on the current barriers to creating healthy environments, relevant planning policy and different approaches for achieving these environments at national and local levels, and a series of case studies using examples from Wales and the United Kingdom (UK) of Local Authorities (LAs) who have already utilised innovative and practical actions to overcome the challenges that many people face in sustaining healthy lifestyles.

The resource provides a practical template for a Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Healthy Weight Environments, providing the context and information to contribute to and support local land use policies and Local Development Plans (LDPs).

It is for those who wish to use the planning system to work towards creating environments which achieve both planning and public health goals to address obesity, diet, physical activity, social cohesion and mental wellbeing.

Creating healthier places and spaces for our present and future generations

This resource, published by the Health and Sustainability Hub (PHW) in 2018, demonstrates how the health and wellbeing opportunities afforded by the natural and built environment, such as walking and cycling infrastructure, food growing and access to nature, can contribute to a thriving, sustainable Wales for current and future generations.

The resource was created to support Public Services Boards, public bodies, cross sector organisations and individuals to take forward actions that address and enhance the health and well-being opportunities afforded by the natural and built environment.

<u>Creating healthier places and spaces for our</u> <u>present and future generations</u> The six elements to planning healthy weight environments are:

- 1. Movement and access
- 2. Open spaces, play and recreation
- 3. Healthy food
- 4. Neighbourhood spaces and social infrastructure
- 5. Buildings, and
- 6. Local economy.

The full resource can be found here: https://phw.nhs.wales/news/newresource-to-help-build-healthierenvironments-and-combat-obesity-inwales/



Making sustainable places: What role can the planning system play?



Senedd Research service have summarised what placemaking means in a Welsh context. The article provides links to policy perspectives and information on Local Development Plans and the National Development Framework.

Making sustainable places: What role can the planning system play? (senedd.wales)

Streets for Health

Cardiff Council has an ambitious policy to make every street for every citizen a healthy street: working in collaboration with Living Streets this project looked at making that a reality.

<u>Changing how we move around a growing</u> <u>city</u> is Cardiff's transport vision for the next ten years and includes a commitment to:

"Rolling out a 'streets for health' initiative across the city, to enable all streets to be reclaimed as public spaces and become healthy, green, safe, child friendly, to encourage walking and cycling, with high quality pedestrian crossings, biodiversity, planting and sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), and provide improved access for everyone, particularly those with restricted mobility". Urban Habitats worked in collaboration with Living Streets on this commission to provide a team that integrated Urban Habitats' community health knowledge with Living Streets' expertise in community engagement and co-production.

Activities included:

- Approach to prioritising investment by health need.
- A community health profile of a pilot area.
- Community drop-in sessions.
- A pop up parklet at a community market.
- Community survey.
- Street audits with residents and stakeholders.
- A capacity building workshop with about 50 local authority staff.

• A report & recommendations to the local authority.

A range of sources of data including public health data and participatory community events were used to provide a range of evidence sources including the lived experience of community members.

The approach included understanding the health priorities for the city of Cardiff and using public health and other relevant sources to develop a method for prioritising street level interventions for health and wellbeing impact considering where the greatest need was. To our knowledge this is a novel approach to prioritising funding for interventions.

Capacity building and understanding for the Streets for Health initiative within the local authority was also important: a halfday participatory workshop was undertaken with about 40 staff from a range of services including transport policy, play services, highways, and others.

From this initial data gathering a draft prioritised list of interventions was proposed and one of these in the Plasnewydd area was developed in more detail. An approach of community asset mapping was used, including listening to the lived experience of community members. This comprised a series of public drop in events including at a Saturday market, community street audits, and school street audits with a local primary school. Living Streets expertise in community and school engagement was supported by Urban Habitats to frame questions and activities to health and wellbeing outcomes.

The learning and engagement from these events were an important outcome. Findings were also presented to Cardiff Council as a joint written report combining both health and wellbeing context and goals alongside actionable street audit findings.

As a legacy for this project Living Streets Cymru supported the establishment of a grassroots Living Streets Local Group of residents which is now active in promoting walking and healthy streets in the area.

What we learned:

This was a valuable opportunity to bring together Living Streets expertise in working with communities and street audit with Urban Habitats focus on wellbeing and health outcomes. So for example it was really valuable to integrate our understanding of pathways to health impact into the community survey.

This project involved taking an adopted policy and then turning that into actionable guidance. The work highlighted the importance of this being a systemic and ongoing series of activities to bring policy into reality on the ground. Community discussions and valuing lived experience are important outcomes and can provide a quick way to start to make progress in health impact even if physical changes take longer to implement.

Our mapping technique developed existing approaches using stickers with relatable questions and statements was very successful and worked well for starting discussions.

For further information please see the Urban Habitats <u>website</u>.

Creating Healthy Places and Spaces – Jo Breckon, Co-Director, Studio Response

Research increasingly finds that creativity can improve health, and the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board has embraced this approach by placing art at the heart of the Grange University Hospital. More than 60 artists, designers and makers have created site-specific artworks at the Grange to enhance the wellbeing of patients, visitors, staff and the community.

Curated and commissioned by <u>Studio</u> <u>Response</u>, the artworks create a calm and welcoming environment that foster a unique identity for the hospital, expressing the vibrancy and diversity of the people and places it serves. Many of the artworks serve a practical as well as an aesthetic purpose. Large-scale glass panels by artist Catrin Jones, integrated wayfinding illustrations and artist-led signage make navigating the hospital less stressful by creating distinct spaces.

Other commissions focus on staff wellbeing including artworks within the junior doctors' mess and pharmacy department that help to provide non-clinical space for rest and relaxation. Howard Bowcott's outdoor sculptures encourage people, particularly staff, to make use of the hospital's extensive grounds. The artwork incorporates a dedicated staff seating area designed to provide a place of peace and sanctuary, and a series of waymarkers which lead people out and around the grounds. The inclusion of directional arrows and distances on the waymarkers encourage people to be active and use the site for their daily walk.

There is a growing body of evidence that the natural environment has a positive impact on wellbeing, and the creation of garden spaces has been an important aspect of the arts programme. Artist Cecile Johnson-Soliz' Healing Garden responded to a request from clinical staff for a space where patients in critical care beds could be taken to spend time outside among the sights, smells, sounds, textures and tastes of nature. For the Children's Nature Garden, Cecile planted large, colourful flowers, including 500 daffodils. It is a space where young people can gain respite, learn and play in a natural environment to aid recovery and relieve stress. The Health Board's play specialist, Bev Trinder, who is based at the hospital said "it enables us to use the beautiful surroundings we have at the Grange to help children's wellbeing and recovery".

Many artworks within the building respond to the inspirational natural landscape that surrounds the hospital. Illustrator Shaun Doyle's integrated artworks appear throughout the hospital, where they help to embed the arts programme into the fabric of the building. Images inspired by local landscapes and wildlife make the paediatric spaces, which can be clinical, feel less frightening. Positioned at a perfect child's perspective, his delightful characters run along the corridors introducing colour, character, warmth and a gentle playfulness. In radiology, imaging rooms used mainly for children benefit from large-scale liquid laminated wallpapers which provide a distraction from the clinical procedure.

Clare Payne, senior nurse, neonatal services, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, said

"The artworks that have been installed in our neonatal intensive care unit at the Grange really lift the environment for staff and make a huge difference for families visiting or staying with their baby."

Working with nature to promote wellbeing and the health of the planet

Cardiff University is committed to improving the health, wealth and wellbeing of the communities we serve as well as promoting environmental sustainability and diversity. In one of our engagement projects, supported by Accelerate Wales (a funding scheme aligned with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, which helps to translate innovative ideas into practical measures) we have joined forces with a thriving social enterprise, Cynon Valley Organic Adventures, near Abercynon, to explore the impact of green social prescribing on health and quality of life.

The University is supporting the creation of a nature trail at CVOA's five-acre community woodland and garden, to explore the history of the site, which has evidence of pre-Roman occupation. We are assisting the design of a Celtic Roundhouse and supporting the creation of a Roman wellbeing garden, featuring medicinal plants and a medieval wildflower meadow, rich in pollinator friendly species. We will also develop educational resources to explain the history and biodiversity at various stations along the trail. It will highlight how local wildlife benefits us all, such as by counteracting the impact of climate change. To find out about the many more commissions that make up the Grange Arts Programme, and the artists, designers and makers who contributed, please visit www.Artforthegrange.com

Creating the trail is only part of the story. In addition to providing a nature-based resource we are also using the various activities as a vehicle through which the mental health of volunteers can improve. This will be achieved by Green Prescribing, an approach in which local healthcare professionals and link workers refer individuals to nature-based activities – such as gardening, horticulture and conservation work – to improve physical and mental health outcomes.

Janis Werrett, who is the community lead for the project said:

"We're delighted to be partnering with Cardiff University and Accelerate to create a nature trail that will help measure the benefits of green prescribing. I know from personal experience that as you nurture nature, nature nurtures you back. Three of us set up CVOA in 2018. As we cut back five years of nettle growth and fixed up fences across our site, our wellbeing began to improve. Just as the garden grew, we grew healthier and happier with it."

Les Baillie, the Cardiff University lead said: "Green prescribing is very topical, but there is a need for more robust scientific evidence to help society gain a better understanding

of the benefits it can bring to people's lives. We are working with local GPs, healthcare professionals and patients in the Cynon Valley to assess how connecting with nature promotes health and wellbeing. Recording patients' and volunteers' experiences of building and interacting with the nature trail will generate some real-world data on the benefits of this type of approach."

Ultimately, we would like to see similar community-led approaches blossom across the country.

You can find out more about the project by viewing a short video which can be accessed via the following link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-**YDIFgVDA1k**

To find out more about the project visit the Cynon Valley Organic Adventure website

https://cynonvallevorganicadventures. co.uk

Alternatively you can contact Les Baillie at Bailliel@cardiff.ac.uk

Books and Resources

Shaping our neighbourhoods – Hugh Barton

The third edition of Shaping Neighbourhood combines all aspects of spatial planning of neighbourhoods and towns whilst emphasizing positive outcomes for people's health and global sustainability

System-shifting design – Design Council

System Shifting Design (October 2021) sets out emerging practice observed from designers who are working to deliberately and generatively to create new systems of health, wellbeing, homes and community. These designers are choosing to take this new approach rather than looking to improve on current systems. Developed over 18 months, Design Council and The Point People brought together 38 designers working at the cutting edge of their practice to explore what 'next practice' around systemic design looks like, and how the

design system itself might need to change to allow more designers to work in this way.

https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/ resources/guide/download-our-systemsshifting-design-report

Podcasts

Listen to our latest podcast

Basic Income, Health and Wales

Where has basic income been introduced and for whom, and what can we learn from these experiences? What health impacts can we anticipate, and how will basic income impact upon the wider determinants of health?

More Podcasts

Valleys Regional Park

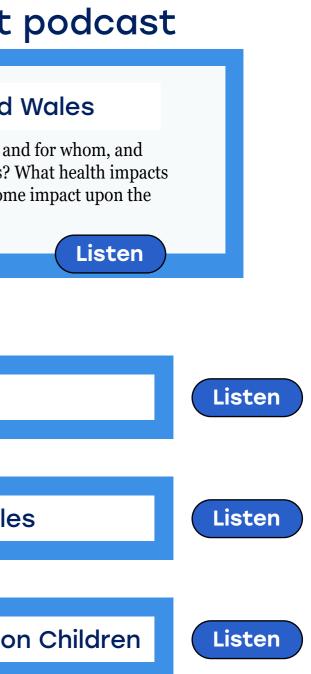
Vaccine Hesitancy in Wales

The Impact of COVID-19 on Children

See all podcasts

Contribute to our Podcast?





If you are interested in recording a podcast with us, get in touch via email: publichealth.network@wales.nhs.uk

Videos

Watch our latest video



More Videos

How can social businesses help us recover from Covid as well as tackle climate change?

In this webinar we heard from Glenn Bowen who is the Enterprise Programme Director for the Wales Co-operative Centre. Glenn gave an overview of social enterprises, cooperatives and employee owned business and the opportunities for co-ops and social enterprises in health and social care and the renewable energy sector.

Watch



How might new trade agreements affect public health in Wales?

Trade agreements have the potential to affect health and well-being in Wales in many ways from the food we eat to our healthcare services. job market and ability to invest in public services. They may also affect the ability of the Welsh Government to improve public health through new policy.

Watch



Climate Change, the Welsh Perspective

Climate change is the greatest global health threat facing the world in the 21st century and affects many of the social and environmental determinants of health - clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter.



The Grapevine

Pembrokeshire Out and About Network

PembrokeshireishometothePembrokeshire Coast National Park. Both Pembrokeshire and the National Park have an international reputation for landscape, wildlife, and cultural heritage. Pembrokeshire is well placed to provide settings for activities promoting good health and well-being, including 'active' benefits such as walking and 'passive' benefits such as those derived from 'tranquillity' and inspirational scenery.

The new Pembrokeshire Out and About Network is responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that saw many not only reducing their social contacts and activities, but vulnerable groups shielding which in turn had an impact on activity levels, social isolation and a decline in both physical and mental health. The Network will help organisations supporting health and wellbeing to know and learn more about the opportunities within Pembrokeshire to engage in outdoor settings to discover nature and heritage. The Network will enhance knowledge regarding the opportunities afforded by the rights of way network, open access spaces and other low or no cost destinations. The Network will support participants to enable individuals, groups and communities they work with to maintain their health and wellbeing and mitigate against some of the

See all videos

negative impacts of poverty and inequality through opportunities and engagement with the outdoors. The Network will focus on helping participants learn from each other to build knowledge and skills to support outdoor activity and access such as:

- Accessible walking routes
- Understanding maps
- Provision of and support to use specialist outdoor access and safety equipment
- Developing materials to engage service users and support outdoor access
- Developing understandings about how to successfully motivate people to get outside
- Learn about travel
- Establish gaps in provision and where opportunities may be.

The Network will be coordinated by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and will have representatives from a number of public, 3rd sector, volunteer and, community led organisations and groups.

The Network has been developed to align with the objectives and priorities of the Pembrokeshire Public Services Board (PSB). One of the key statutory functions of the PSB under the Well-being of Future Generations Act is to produce a Well-being <u>Plan</u>. This plan sets out how the PSB will work together to improve the well-being of

people and communities in Pembrokeshire, now and in the future. The Key PSB project area the Pembrokeshire Out and About Network aligns with is 'Celebrating the great outdoors' and to use this key asset to support all elements of individual and community well-being by:

- Promoting the environment as a health asset to improve health and well- being, addressing social isolation, improving mental health and wider health benefits through projects such as social and green prescribing
- Increase opportunities for young people to use the outdoors as a learning environment, particularly for young people in the County with limited access
- Using the outdoors as a mean s for supporting cultural and recreational activities and events



The Network seeks to promote getting out and about outdoors and will:

• Co-ordination and co-working between statutory services and voluntary or other third sector services is enhanced in order to build knowledge and skills in how to help service users and communities access the great outdoors for health and wellbeing

- Information, resources and best practice can be better shared so that organisations are better placed to reach out to their service users and community groups
- Build the connection, appreciation and understanding of people in Pembrokeshire to the landscape and nature.

In doing so the network will help the coproduction of:

- Physical activity levels and sedentary behaviour is reduced in those least active
- Maintaining or increasing physical activity by those at risk from low levels of physical activity due to health or social issues
- Enhanced opportunities to help people connect with others through social activity whilst out and about outdoors and therefore reduce social isolation, benefit mental health and wellbeing.
- Wider policy aims of active travel are supported and help to meet public health and other goals (e.g. to reduce traffic congestion, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions)

If you work or volunteer in Pembrokeshire supporting health and wellbeing and would like to know more please contact

hannahb@pembrokshirecoast.org.uk

Walk of the Week

Ceredigion is blessed with over 2500km of Public Rights of Way and the pandemic has highlighted how important these are for people to access the countryside for exercise and wellbeing. How to promote the availability of these paths to more people, has always been tricky but the use of social media is reaching a new audience.

Each week Ceredigion County Council post a 'Walk of the Week' feature on their social media pages. As well as a stunning photo, the post contains links to an e-leaflet within the Councils Walks and Rides page. These e-leaflets contain a little more information about a route including distance, type of surfacing and terrain, route profile, any furniture you may expect to see, accessibility by bus, suggested start point, safe parking, any facilities nearby, as well as a simple route map. The extra information helps local people and visitors to the county decide if a route might be suitable for them to explore. Routes range from 1 mile upwards with some suitable for wheelchair users and those with pushchairs. Some are much more challenging, crossing open countryside, with steep slopes and tricky terrain and needing careful navigation.

Since the feature began, around 40 routes across the county have been

highlighted, with some being posted under Winter Walks and Autumn Walks titles. Nearly 60 'promoted routes' are now available on the council's website. Ultimately these will also include GPX files to allow for easier navigation without a map.

The posts are available to view in English and Welsh under the Caru Ceredigion area of the council's website – please scroll down to find them and can be shared with any interested parties: <u>Caru Ceredigion - Ceredigion</u> <u>County Council</u>

The Walks and Rides page can be seen here: <u>Walks and Rides - Ceredigion</u> <u>County Council</u>

Or by scanning this code:



For further information please contact: <u>Jill.Lowry@ceredigion.gov.uk</u>

Platfform - For mental health and social change

We are a registered charity that has been working in mental health for over 30 years. Our mission is to be a platform for connection, transformation and social change and our vision is sustainable wellbeing for all.

We work with people experiencing challenges with their mental health, and with communities who want to create a greater sense of connection, ownership and wellbeing in the places they live.

We're driven by the belief that a strengths based approach is the foundation to sustainable wellbeing for everyone. We do not believe that people or communities are "broken" or in need of fixing.

Our work takes a trauma informed approach to understanding mental health and emotional distress, and we see the mental health, and wider health, social care and public sector systems as no longer fit for purpose. Based on illness and deficit models, they deny people the hope and agency to heal.

As part of a growing social movement, we're working towards a fundamental shift in the way that public services are provided, so that they support people towards sustainable wellbeing and the life of their choice.

Having operated in Wales as Gofal for 30 years, as of 24th July 2019 we are Platfform.

FROM HERE SUPPORT YOUR CLIENTS BACK TO **EMPLOYMENT**

GUIDANCE TOWARDS FULL POTENTIAL

One-to-one peer mentoring support in the community as a pathway to employment

WHO'S THIS FOR?

t's for people who have experienced ment health challenges - like anxiety or depressior or who are in recovery from substance o

Over 25: Unemployed for more than 12 months or receiving ESA or Universal Credit

16 - 24: Not in education, employmen

WHO ARE PLATFFORM?

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VOLUNTEERING

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FMPI OYMENT

We work with participants on person nent and improving existing trengths, moving them

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CONTACT US

s@platfform.org 01443 845975



Dros iechyd meddwl a newid cymdeithasol

For mental health and social change



The Welsh Government funded Short Term Unemployed—Out of Work Service is here to support anyone who has become unemployed due to the current Covid—19 pandemic. Anyone that has become unemployed since March 2020;

- Live in Cardiff or The Vale of Glamorgan
- mental health; and
- Is looking to get back into work.

Platfform Peer Mentors can help support people with job searching, applications and CV's, interview preparation; or accessing training, qualifications, volunteering; to regain employment.

Contact the Short Term Unemployed OoWS at:

stuoows@platfform.org or call 01443 845975

platfform.org For mental health and social change

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Gwasanaeth Di-Waith

Out of Work Service

Is suffering from or has a history of substance misuse or facing challenges with

News

25-02-2022

New guidelines to support disabled children to be more active

24-02-2022

Mental health programme Time to Change Wales extended by three years

Read

Read

Read

24-02-2022

Winter of Wellbeing: sporting activities to get young people active in winter

17-02-2022

Basic income for care leavers in Wales, pilot announced



15-02-2022

Schools around Wales are getting in the fitness groove with street dance – thanks to the help of UDOIT!

08-02-2022

Coronavirus vaccine hesitancy linked to childhood trauma





Events



09-03-2022 2pm-3pm



Creating Healthy Places and Spaces Webinar

This webinar from the Welsh Health Impact Assessment Unit will help participants to understand the contribution that planning and placemaking can make to address some of the major health challenges facing communities.



26-04-2022 9:30am



ACE: Building resilience in the face of adverse childhood experiences

This course is aimed at professionals working with children & young people who are interested in building an understanding of ACE's.





21-03-2022 -01-04-2022



Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel will run for 10 days from 21 March to 1 April 2022 and is open to all primary and secondary schools in the UK, including SEN schools.



14-06-2022



Improving Health and Increasing Activity Conference

This conference will focus on how to adopt a preventative health approach across your community through the promotion and prescription of physical activity.

Topics

See all topics

Accidents and injury prevention Adverse Childhood Experiences Air Quality Alcohol and substance use and misuse Approaches and methods in public health practice Arts and health



Behaviour change Biodiversity and greenspace Built environment Cancers Cardivascular conditions Carers Children and young people Climate change Communicable diseases Community Community assets COVID-19

Debt and benefits Diabetes Diet and nutrition

Early Years Education and training Employment Environment Ethnicity Evaluation

Foodborne communicable diseases Fuel Poverty Further, higher and tertiary education

G Good, fair work

F

Health in all policies

Health inequalities Health related behaviours Homelessness Housing Housing quality Human rights and social justice

Income and resources Influenza

Learning difficulties LGBTQ+

Maternal and new born health Men Mental health conditions Mental ill-health Mental wellbeing

Natural environment Non-communicable diseases



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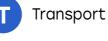
Offenders Older adults Oral health

People

Physical activity Planning Poverty Precarious work Preschool (including WNHPSS) Prevention in healthcare

Respiratory conditions

School (Including WNHPSS) Sexual health Sexually Transmitted Infections Smoking and vaping Social capital Spirituality Stress, coping and resilience Suicide and suicide prevention Sustainable development Systems thinking in public health





Water and sanitation Wellbeing of Future Generations Wider determinents of health Women Working age adults

Next Issue

The impact of co-operatives and social enterprises on health and well-being

