Integrating Health and Well-being into SEA in Wales: The National Development Framework

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Welsh context

Emphasis on:

- Health and well-being
- Addressing inequalities within population
- Sustainable Development
- Citizen centred public services
- Partnership working
- Integrated agenda

- Devolved Powers include: health, planning, social services and social care
- Ability to legislate for these through Assembly Bills and Acts
Strategic drivers and enablers for health and planning

• Wellbeing of the Future Generations (Wales) Act (WFGA) 2015 - Sustainable Development focus
• Consideration of ‘Health in All Policies’ (HiAP)
• Planning (Wales) Act 2015 – duty for Welsh Government to prepare a National Development Framework – spatial plan for Wales
• ‘Prosperity for All’ (2018) - Welsh Government (WG) long-term Strategy
• Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 – includes statutory requirement for HIA for public bodies
• WHIASU - specialist unit for HIA and HiA
Welcome to the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit

This site provides information on the Wales HIA Support Unit, health impact assessment (HIA) and the process as practiced in Wales, news and recent developments. It provides a resource to those currently practicing HIA and those who are new to it and looking for information and evidence. There are details of completed HIAs in Wales and other HIA activities from the Unit plus links to useful resources.

read more
The National Development Framework (NDF)

- Wales Spatial Plan – ‘sets the strategic direction of development through the Planning system’ from 2020-2040.
- Deliver Wales priorities i.e. decarbonisation, resilient ecosystems, economic development; health and well-being.
- Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) to be carried out – full SEA/SA/HIA and other assessments.
- Consultants appointed BUT Welsh Govt leads for Welsh Language; Equality; and Health Impact Assessments.
- Preparation started 2015; Adoption Autumn 2020.
Process
Welsh Government led, WHIASU / PHW advice and support

- Pre Assessment:
  1. Meeting with Head of Planning Policy, WG
  2. Training in HIA and HiAP with WG Policy and NDF leads (2016)
  3. Scope set

- Comprehensive HIA integrated throughout the SEA stages
- Focus on social determinants of health, well-being and inequalities - not just potential environmental or bio-physical
- Evidence - quantitative / health intelligence / qualitative data
- Use of evidence/information from other assessments
- Public involvement / consultation
- Feedback through all stages from PHW

Welsh Government led, WHIASU / PHW advice and support
Currently...

- Preferred Strategy published and consulted on August – November 2019
- WHIASU - information and advice provided prior to this in all stages Issues and Options; Scoping document
- PHW submitted consultation responses and attended events
- Meeting to discuss the ISA and the health impact and inequalities elements post consultation response
- Feedback included in the next stage
Benefits

• Creating effective, sustainable, strong, health informed plans to meet Wales long-term needs
• Supports WG strategies and integrated agenda in practice – meets WFGA requirements
• Strengthened partnership working and solidified relationships including involving new health partners
• Mobilisation of HIAP and supports the use of HIA in planning policy
• Explicit consideration of health, wellbeing, inequalities and sustainable development
• Informed decision making process for spatial options and the developing national strategic plan
• ‘Added value’ to NDF
Challenges for all

- Limited capacity of WHIASU, PHW and WG
- Define scope and what is meant at the start by health - SDOH and inequalities
- Create strategic advocates to actively support health and HIA inclusion
- Need for health and HIA to be seen as important as other assessments
- Public health lens needed and **not simply** health care infrastructure planning or bio-physical and environmental health impacts
- Health intelligence data important – availability?
- ‘Speak’ planning and health - ensure ‘translators’ on board
Final Reflection

Wales is unique....

- Few states have the **enabling context** and **support structures** in place like Wales...

  SO...

- **Create long-term relationships** between planning policy and management and health systems leaders – ‘help them to help us’

- **‘Speak planning and health’**

- Create **strong guidance** for health inclusion and be explicit in what /who is required re health and health involvement

- Revisit the **terminology in SEA Protocol** – is ‘Human Health’ enough to enable a holistic health and well-being and inequalities focussed SEA?