

Doncaster Public Health and Local Planners: a conversation worth having

Evidence shows we have a growing number of people living with preventable long term conditions. We can link many of these conditions with behaviour and lifestyle choices:

- more driving, less walking / cycling
- sedentary lifestyles
- more people relying on takeaways or ready meals

How we plan and design the environment can help address some of these modern day challenges.

Ways to address the modern day challenges through planning design:

- make it easier for people to walk or cycle by making sure roads and paths are laid out appropriately
- look at how green space is designed into developments
- review our high streets and shopping areas, making sure they include a variety of shops and services and look attractive
- work places can include facilities that encourage people to travel more actively

Challenges of Engaging Planning

- Differences in culture
- Robust evidence
- Planning policies do not consider Public Health indicators
- Finding the right people to build the relationship
- Understanding the health structure (NHS, CCG, PH)
- Balance of priorities

Successes

- Health chapter in draft Local Plan
- Raising profile to Planning Committee, Planning Team and Health and Wellbeing Board
- Health Impact Assessment process introduced for new planning applications
- Hot Food Takeaway Policy developed and evidenced
- Engaged with two Developers
 - 1 rapid HIA completed
 - 1 developer involved in Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) 'Reuniting Health with Planning' Developers and Well-being; gaining a business perspective on building healthy places
- Joint work with CCG / Planning / Public Health (future Primary Care provision)

The Road to Success

- Start the conversation
 - Informal chats and sharing of perspectives
 - Formal presentations to each other
 - Sharing of resource and evidence
 - Learning by doing
- Lucky break
 - Planning colleagues understand and are interested in how the environment impacts on people
- Opportunities
 - New Local Plan and policies (right timing)
 - Planning colleagues and Planning committee willing to engage
 - Health Impact Assessments
 - Pre-application discussions

Opening Doors

Dedicated staff from both teams offering:

- Routes to Planning Team, Developers and Planning Committee
- Route to Health and Wellbeing Board, supporting evidence, facilitated wider joint working opportunities

Authors

Caroline Temperton, Public Health Improvement Co-ordinator
Teresa Hubery, Senior Planning Officer
Emma Wilson, Public Health Improvement Officer
Doncaster Council

For further information email: publichealthenquiries@doncaster.gov.uk or localplan@doncaster.gov.uk