

Guidance on how to do HIA

Whilst there is no one definitive methodology for carrying out HIA, there is general national and international consensus on the overall approach and methods used. There is also significant guidance available and numerous examples of 'best practice'. Typically, HIA involves the following key stages.

1. SCREENING: Is HIA necessary?

Screening involves a quick review of possible health impacts of a particular policy or proposal. This quick review could be based on the Healthy Urban Planning checklist or established determinants of health.

“Screening should consider:

- Who and the likely size of the population that may be affected positively or negatively by the policy/proposal?
- What determinants of health - e.g. employment, housing, education, safety, community cohesion - may be affected positively or negatively by the policy/proposal?
- Whether further health research or evidence is needed to properly inform the policy/proposal?”

Early discussions with the local planning authority and public health professionals can help screen proposals before an application is submitted and judge whether an HIA is needed.

2. SCOPING: How to undertake the HIA?

The scoping stage will identify the methodology and depth of the HIA as well as populations and geographies to be considered in the HIA. It will include:

Setting the timescales for HIA

Consider what time-frames are available to carry out the HIA. This may depend on statutory planning timescales.

Deciding and justifying the depth of the HIA

Key questions include (but is not limited to):

- What HIA methodology and analysis and report template will be used?
- Will there be a HIA advisory group involving key professional and/or community stakeholders who will help inform the scope and recommendations of the HIA?"
- What population groups and geographical areas will be covered?
- Will all the determinants of health be considered equally or will there be a focus on some specific ones?
- Will the baseline profile include information on the determinants of health as well as on the health and well-being status of local communities? Will this information be at various geographical levels – city, district, ward, neighbourhood zones, super output areas, as appropriate?
- Will there be a HIA-specific community consultation or involvement activities e.g. a community workshop or public meeting?
- Will a literature review of the evidence on health and wellbeing impacts be undertaken?
- Will there be a quantitative, qualitative or both quantitative and qualitative analysis of health impacts?

Identifying who should be involved

HIA should consider the different population groups likely to be affected by the policy/proposal. Comprehensive HIA should involve these groups as part of the assessment process. This will include key stakeholders and consultees; communities – both existing and new (where possible); and other individuals with a particular knowledge of the local area.

For proposals (planning applications), this community involvement could form part of the pre-application consultation stage.

For policy-making, this community and stakeholder engagement will form part of the statutory consultation procedures.

The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) provides the minimum

standards for public consultation, including details of who should be consulted as well as techniques of community involvement.

3. ANALYSIS: Identifying and prioritising health and wellbeing impacts

Collecting baseline data and information

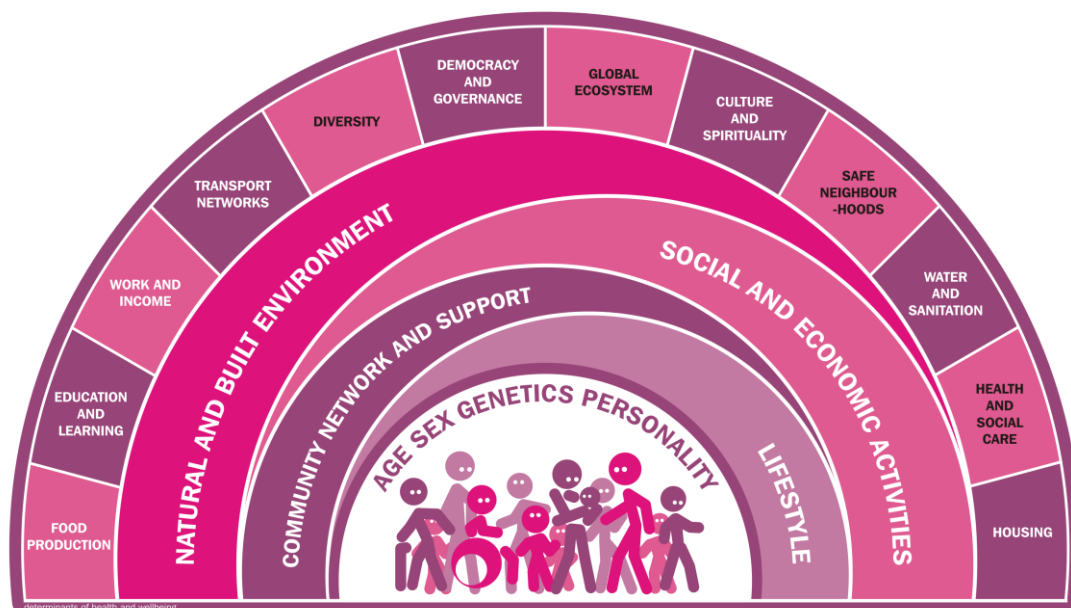
Collection of baseline data should create a local profile from which health and wellbeing impacts can be analysed. This should identify key health and wellbeing issues in Stoke-on-Trent generally and specifically in the proposal/policy area as well as information on the key determinants of health and wellbeing acting on Stoke-on-Trent and the policy/proposal area. Support is available from the local authority (Healthy City Team) in helping to identify this baseline data and information.

Policy analysis

HIA should include an examination of national and local health policies that relate to the policy/proposal.

Analysis of health and wellbeing impacts

The analysis of health and well-being impacts is based on a health impact table or matrix that analyses the potential health and wellbeing impacts in terms of key health and wellbeing outcomes and determinants using a significance criteria to prioritise the likely and significant impacts.



Analysis of the health impacts often takes the form of a checklist or matrix.

Key questions considered in the analysis include (but is not limited to):

1. What the individual impacts of the proposal are on the selected health determinants.
Consider:
 - Qualitative and Quantitative impacts
 - Whether the impacts are positive, negative or neutral.
 - The likelihood of the impact occurring
 - The significance of the impact
2. When the impacts will take place.
Consider:
 - Design phase
 - Construction/ Implementation phase
 - Operational phase
 - Decommissioning phase
3. Who will be affected by the policy/proposal.
Consider:
 - How the policy/proposal will impact on different population groups?
 - How particularly vulnerable groups may be affected?
 - How many people will be affected?

4. RECOMMENDATIONS: Opportunities to improve health and well-being

On the basis of the analysis of health and well-being impacts, recommendations should be developed which aim to minimise the potential negative health and well-being impacts (mitigation measures); and maximise the potential positive health and well-being impacts (enhancement measures).

These recommendations should suggest modifications of policies/proposals so as to achieve health benefits and should be prioritised based on the significance and scale of impact on health and well-being.

Developers/proposers should take ownership of these recommendations and incorporate them into their planning for the design, construction and operation phases of development or policy.

Inevitably, recommendations arising from the HIA may conflict with other areas of 'planning', such as urban design, transport, environmental impact, etc. The decision-maker will take a balanced view taking into account all relevant considerations.

5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Recommendations in the HIA should identify measures for monitoring the health

and well-being impacts during and after the implementation of a policy/proposal and how the health and wellbeing benefits of the policy/proposal could be evaluated during or after the life of the policy/proposal.

HIA Best Practice

This webpage highlights the key steps of the HIA process that need to be undertaken by those involved in writing planning policies and undertaking large scale major development or masterplan proposals in Stoke-on-Trent.

The Council will assess all HIA's submitted with planning applications, with support from the Healthy City Partnership. The HIA will be considered along with all other planning application documentation.

HIA Peer Review Service

Staffordshire University in partnership with Stoke-on-Trent City Council have developed a HIA Peer Review Service to ensure that HIAs undertaken for development projects within Stoke-on-Trent are to a high standard and appropriately consider the full range of social and environmental determinants of health as well as health inequality and health equity issues.

The HIA Peer Review Service is currently being piloted and it is envisaged that developers will pay to have their HIAs peer reviewed before they place their planning applications.

Examples of HIAs undertaken in Stoke-on-Trent

Examples of HIA's undertaken in Stoke-on-Trent can be found on the Stoke-on-Trent Healthy City Partnership website

www.healthycity-stoke.co.uk

Recent examples of HIAs undertaken within Stoke-on-Trent include:

- Middleport Regeneration Masterplan Options HIA
- City Waterside East Regeneration Masterplan Options HIA
- Leek Town Centre Regeneration HIA
- North Staffordshire 'Streetcar' Bus Rapid Transport Scheme HIA
- City Centre and Etruria Road Corridor Area Action Plan HIA
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council Local Transport Plan 3 HIA

Other examples can be found at the Department of Health HIA Gateway website hosted by the Association for Public Health Observatories at:

www.hiagateway.org.uk

Recommended HIA guides

The HIA Gateway website also has a list of HIA consultants that can undertake your HIA.

Below are links to key HIA guides that we recommend developers, project proponents, consultants and policymakers read through and work from (in publication year order):

- HIA guidance 2009 - IPHI Ireland - 2009.pdf
https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D636057_869148_800555
- HIA of greenspace a guide - GS HS SNH Scotland - 2008.pdf
https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D636057_869148_11447
- Critical guide to HIA more than a statement of the crushingly obvious- WMPHO England - 2007.pdf
https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D636057_877849_804698
- HIA of transport initiatives a guide - HS Scotland - 2007.pdf
https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D636057_869148_11444
- Improving health and reducing inequalities a practical guide to HIA - WAG Wales- 2004.pdf
https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D636057_869148_12554

- HIA of housing improvements a guide - HS MRC Scotland - 2003.pdf
https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D636057_869148_11441
- Merseyside guidelines for HIA - IMPACT England - 2001.pdf
https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D636057_869148_11480
- HIA a guide for local authorities - CoSLA PHIS Scotland - 2001.pdf
https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D636057_869148_11434