

Environmental Design Research Association Conference EDRA53

"Before the hospital" - Design as preventative healthcare: exploration of USA/UK regulatory and multi-sectoral practices in designing healthier equitable communities and places

Michael Chang FRTPI, HonMFPH, FRSPH

Setting a central shared narrative on prevention through the design of the built and natural environment

“What we know concerning the preferences of people, and the effect of buildings on their health and happiness, should be factored in from the very outset, in every large-scale development. And the planning process must be re-engineered so as to overcome the delays and uncertainties that have deterred the kind of investment in house-building that is now needed”.

Reference: Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission, Living with beauty; promoting health, well-being and sustainable growth – January 2020

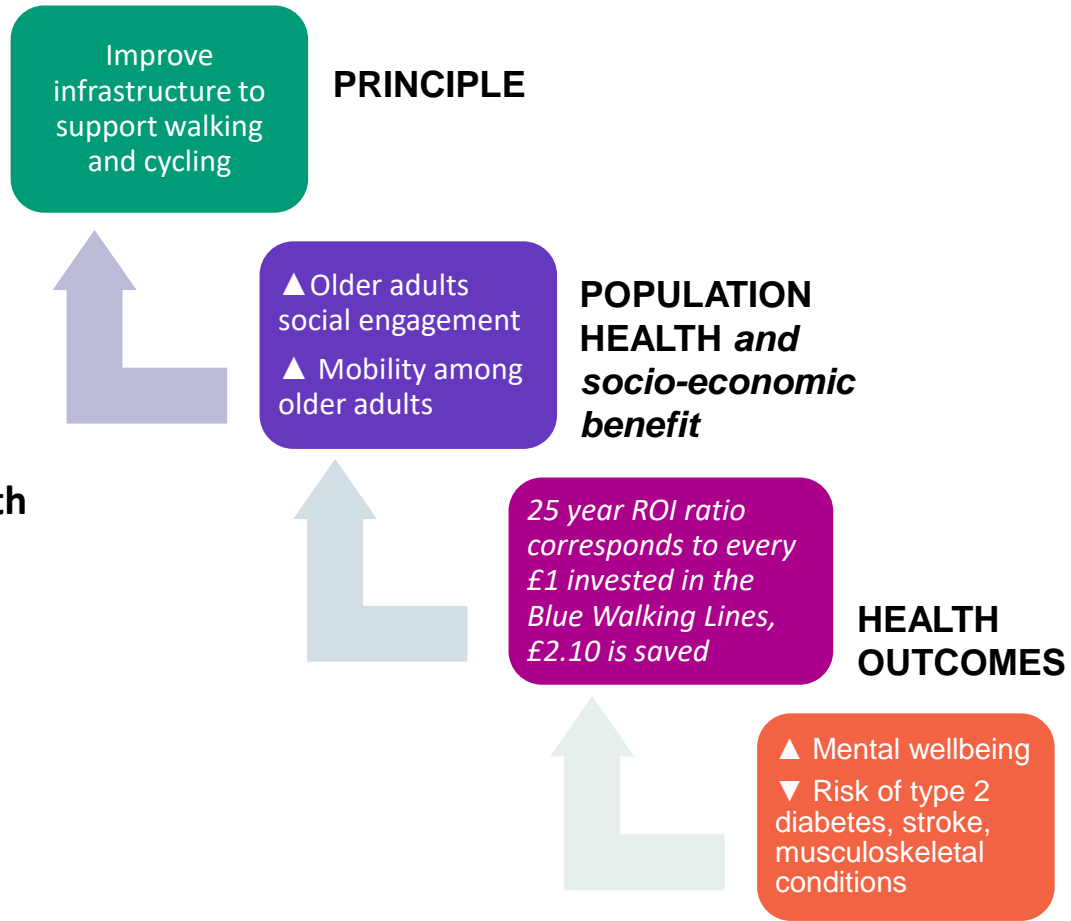


Reference: UK Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, National Design Guide – Updated January 2021

Re-engineered narrative around the impact on the wider determinants of health, inequalities and healthy places

“Follow the evidence-base pathway by strengthening the use of health-oriented impact assessments in spatial planning can be a powerful lever to improve public health and wellbeing, and ultimately reduce inequalities. By bringing such health considerations to the fore, they can add value to the planning process”.

Reference: Public Health England, Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning. A guide for local authority public health and planning teams – October 2020



Reference: Public Health England, Spatial Planning for Health. An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places – July 2017

Using spatial planning to identify, level up disparities of poor health and demonstrate impact: example of healthy food policy

Past and current trends

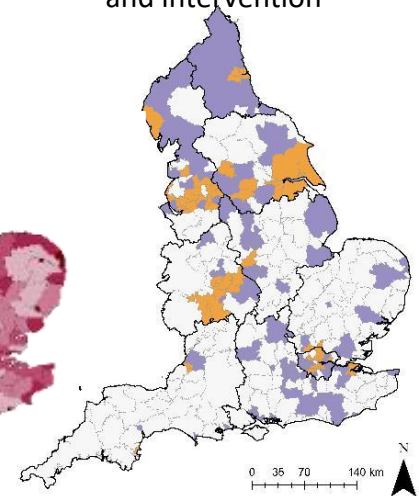
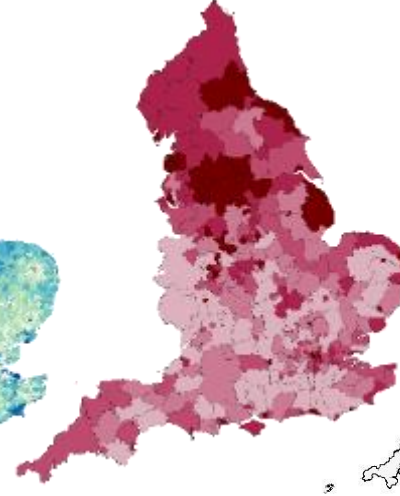
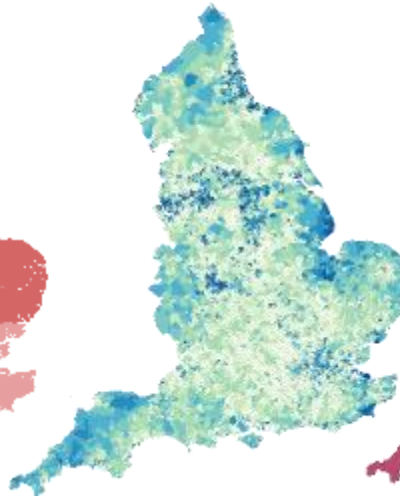
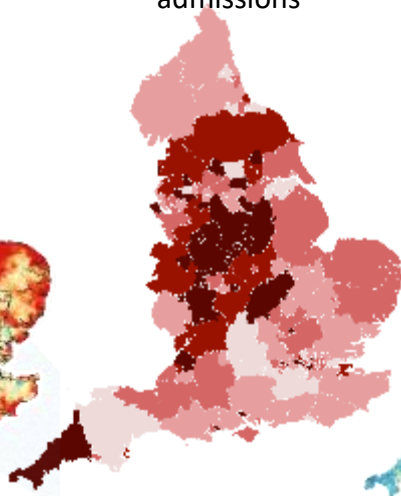
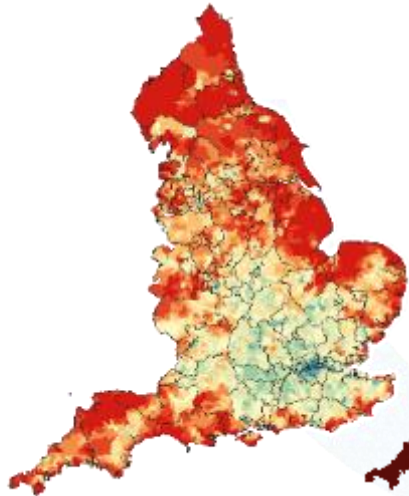
Heart Disease

Obesity-related admissions

Deprivation

Fast Food

Planning Principle and intervention



Sources: [Chief Medical Officer](#)

[NHS England](#)

[Office for National Statistics](#)

[Public Health England](#)

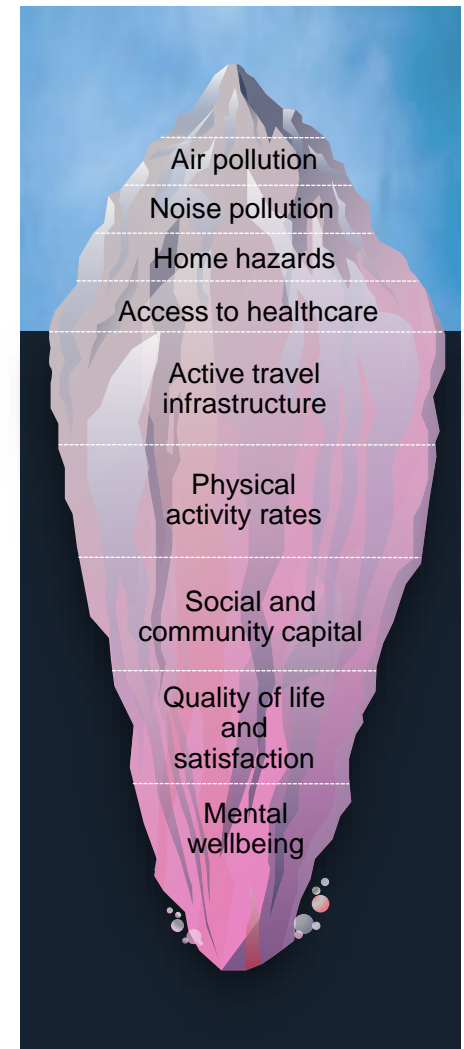
[University of Cambridge](#)

Future projected outcomes

Can the use of health impact assessments and standardised metrics achieve health net gain?

“Adoption of a “net health gain” principle in any new policy or work programme which affects air pollution. If this is adopted, then any new development or proposal for change to existing developments will intend to deliver an overall benefit to people’s public health. The impact would be that the considerable amount of housing and other community developments that is currently underway would by default be well designed to reduce pollution, support walking, cycling and clean public transport, as well as providing charging points for future ultra-low emission vehicles”.

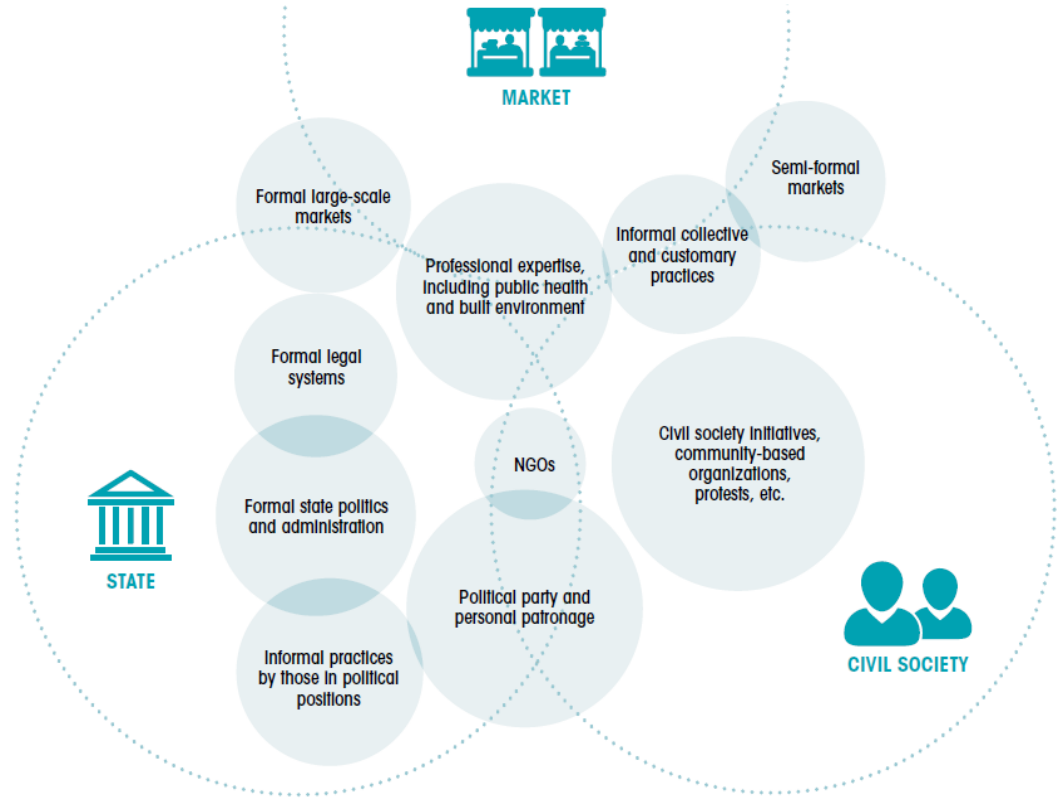
Reference: Public Health England, Review of interventions to improve outdoor air quality and public health – March 2019



Role of health-first framework to mobilise those influencers through trans-disciplinary actions and equalise stakeholder collaborations

“Local planning authorities should ensure that they have access to, and make appropriate use of, tools and processes for assessing and improving the design of development. These include workshops to engage the local community, design advice and review arrangements, and assessment frameworks such as Building for a Healthy Life”.

Reference: UK Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, National Planning Policy Framework – Updated July 2021



Reflection on the guiding principles to demonstrate impact on tackling health disparities through systemic health-first urban development and environmental design

PUTTING HEALTH INTO PLACE

How to create healthier new communities; with lessons from NHS England's Healthy New Towns programme



Acknowledgements

Michael.Chang@bristol.ac.uk
@HiPNetworkUK

My research is part of TRUUD. TRUUD is supported by the UK Prevention Research Partnership, an initiative funded by UK Research and Innovation Councils, the Department of Health and Social Care (England) and the UK devolved administrations, and leading health research charities."

Weblink: <https://mrc.ukri.org/research/initiatives/prevention-research/ukprp>

Check out the Health and Wellbeing in Planning Network
<https://healthinplanning.wordpress.com>

My participation in EDRA is supported by the Bristol Doctoral College.

bristol.ac.uk

