



Tackling Root causes Upstream of
Unhealthy Urban Development

How can (weak) local leaders instigate the co- creation of innovative solutions and public value?

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Introduction

- 'Weak' local leaders?
- Co-creation
- healthy urban development in England
- TRUUD project
- Case Study sites
- Urban Development

Policy Context

- English Devolution
- Mayoral Combined Authorities
- Three Obstacles for Mayors
- Levelling Up
- Health and Social Care Integration
- Integration and innovation

Literature

- Co-creation
- Complex Social problems
- Public value
- Strong and weak systems of local government
- Torfing
- Sorensen
- Ansell
- Ferlie
- Bulkeley

Method

- TRUUD Phase One
- Transdisciplinary
- Mapping the system
- Key Concepts
- Interviews
- Key Stakeholders
- 132 Interviews
- Team Coding / Analysis

Initial Findings

Actors at Local Government and Central Government level do not understand what health means for urban development or how it relates to them.

Power to make a change in the problem space is dispersed.

No one actor has control or the resource.

Health sector is on the outside and critical actors do not see health as their problem.

There are no incentives to get involved

Economic valuations were seen as an important ways to build awareness or the problem, change perceptions and behaviours.

They would incentivise actors to engage - this was felt from actors from state, market and civil society.

Initial Findings

Elected mayors could have an important role in facilitating change in this problem space through a process of co-creating.

Respondents referred to the need for 'brave' politicians, place based initiatives, facilitative leadership.

Mayors uniquely placed to do this but cannot rely on formal powers/remit. Need to use soft or facilitative powers and evidence.

The currently underutilised method of monetisation could be an effective soft governance tool to instigate actors' interest in this problem space by showing them that they have a stake.

The two new WPs – Levelling Up and Health and Social Care - provide a vehicle/political narrative for a more permissive environment.

Conclusions

- Local leaders have political legitimacy and affinity with place, combined with persuasive evidence, could offer a way to instigate co-creation in this complex problem space
- Evidence reveals that elected mayors are uniquely placed to champion economic valuations as a persuasive 'soft governance tool' to fulfil this task
- Identify a particular form of soft governance tool - economic valuations - that can be used by weak local leaders to instigate co-creation when they lack formal power and resource.
- offer an empirically informed assessment of the opportunities and challenges facing weak local leaders in the co-creation of innovation and public value

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

