

2. Health and Wellbeing

Relevant Evidence Base

Coventry Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2012)
Coventry Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013)
Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2012)

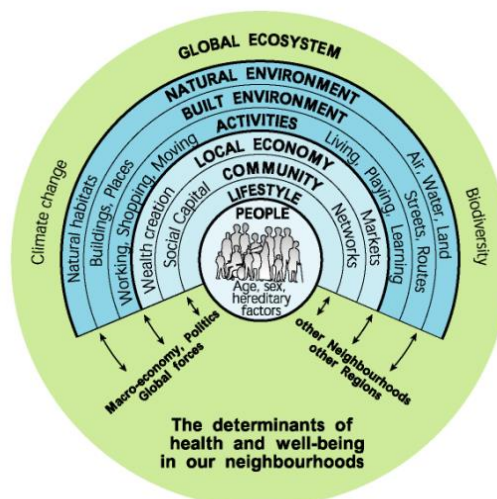
Introduction

This chapter sets out the policy and guidance to support the health and wellbeing of Coventry's population over the course of the plan period. It builds upon the NPPF's principle of achieving sustainable development and ensuring the health status and needs of the local population are fully understood and taken into account as part of development.

A key role of the Local Plan is therefore to provide for development in a way that supports and encourages active and healthy lifestyles. Health and Wellbeing has been identified as a cross cutting theme across the Local Plan and supports the Council's wider agenda of improving the health and wellbeing of all people living in Coventry.

Economic, social and environmental conditions influence the health of individuals and populations and are described in the NPPF. These factors cannot always be controlled by individuals and in turn they influence and often constrain the choices we make and the lifestyle we lead. These are known as social determinants of health and determine the extent to which a person has the right physical, social and personal resources to achieve their goals, meet needs and deal with changes to their circumstances. There is a clear link between the social determinants of health and health inequalities.

These are the social, economic and environmental determinants of health as described by Barton and Grant.



Barton, H. and Grant, M. (2006) A health map for the local human habitat. *The Journal for the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health*, 126 (6). pp. 252-253. ISSN 1466-4240

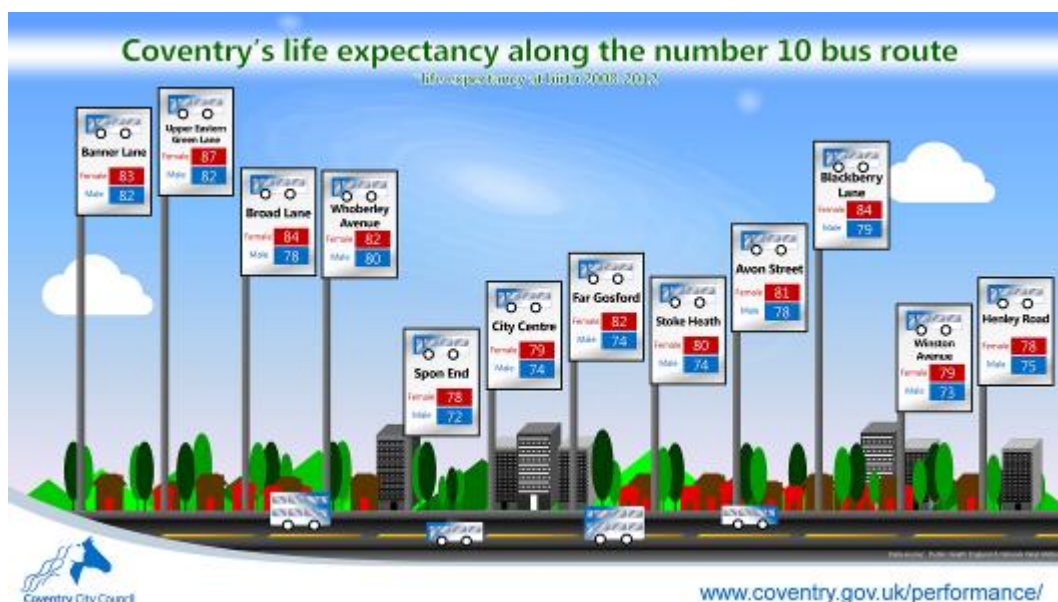
Being a Marmot City

In April 2013, responsibilities for public health were transferred to local government providing the Council with an opportunity to broaden its ownership of the health inequalities agenda. The Council committed to delivering rapid change in health inequalities and was one of seven cities in the UK invited to participate in the UK Marmot Network and become a Marmot City.

Professor Sir Michael Marmot's 2010 report *Fair Society, Healthy Lives* (The Marmot Review) identified a social gradient in health. This means that those living in the most deprived neighbourhoods die earlier and spend more time in ill health than those living in the least deprived neighbourhoods.

The Marmot Review also identified that reducing health inequalities requires creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities which is also identified in the NPPF through its presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The people of Coventry experience high levels of inequality. Men in the most affluent areas of Coventry will live, on average 10 years longer than men in the most deprived areas. The difference in life expectancy across Coventry can be demonstrated by following the city's number 10 bus route.



Evidence demonstrates that in order to reduce such health inequalities and accelerate improvement in health outcomes in more deprived areas, it is crucial to consider the conditions which determine health, e.g. transport, housing, employment, income, environment and community. These conditions vary drastically across the city, with the poorer neighbourhoods being more susceptible to poor health and wellbeing.

Coventry City Council has therefore adopted the following Marmot recommendations through its designation as a Marmot City:

- a. Prioritise policies and interventions that both reduce health inequalities and mitigate climate change by:
 - Improving active travel;
 - Improving good quality open and green spaces;
 - Improving the quality of food in local areas;
 - Improving the energy efficiency of housing.
- b. Fully integrate the planning, transport, housing, environmental and health systems to address the social determinants of health in each part of the city; and
- c. Support locally developed and evidence-based community regeneration programmes that:
 - Remove barriers to community participation and action;
 - Reduce social isolation.

These recommendations will be addressed throughout this Local Plan, most notably in relation to:

- Sports and physical activity;
- Provision and protection of good quality green spaces;
- Better networks for walking and cycling;
- Promotion of healthy eating;
- Energy efficient homes;
- Combatting fuel poverty;
- Facilitating jobs growth;
- Improving air quality

Health Impact Assessments (HIA)

A HIA will be a useful tool in determining planning applications where there are expected to be significant impacts on health and wellbeing. They should be used to reduce adverse impacts and maximise positive impacts on health and wellbeing of the population, as well as assessing the indirect implications for the wider community. HIA's help to achieve sustainable development by finding ways to create a healthy and just society and to enhance and improve the places we live.

HIA's are usually forward looking and can be carried out at any stage in the development process but are best undertaken at the earliest stage possible. This should ideally be prior to the submission of planning applications to ensure that health and wellbeing is considered fully at the outset. Where this is not appropriate however they should form part of the material submitted to support the relevant planning application. This can be as stand-alone assessments or as part of a wider Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), or Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA).

Policy HW1: Health Impact Assessments (HIA)

1. All major development proposals will be required to demonstrate that they would have an acceptable impact on health and wellbeing. This should be demonstrated through a
 - a. HIA where significant impacts on health and wellbeing would arise from that proposal; or
 - b. HIA Screening Report which demonstrates that the proposed development would not overall give rise to negative impacts in respect of health and wellbeing.
2. All HIA's shall be undertaken in accordance with the Council's HIA Supplementary Planning Document.
3. Where a development has significant negative or positive impacts on health and wellbeing the Council may require applicants to provide for the mitigation or provision of such impacts through planning conditions and/or financial/other contributions secured via planning obligations and/or the Council's CIL Charging Schedule.

An appropriately robust methodology, such as that set out in the Department for Health Guidelines for HIA's (2010), should be followed in the preparation of all HIA Screening Reports. This will include thorough consideration of the impacts of the development on the health and wellbeing of those living and working in the city and visitors to the city. These guidelines will form a platform to support the Council's HIA SPD.

All HIA's and Screening Reports should be carried out to a level of detail appropriate to the scale and type of development being proposed whilst also having regard to the surrounding area. This will be considered on a site by site basis but will need to include explicit consideration of the impacts on different groups in the population. This reflects the fact that certain groups will be potentially more vulnerable to negative impacts from development thereby impacting on health inequalities. This includes those on a low income, minority ethnic groups, young people, those with disabilities and elderly people.

To support this process the Council will develop a HIA SPD. This will also build upon the current Health Impacts Tool Kit being developed by Birmingham City Council and which is expected to be rolled out across the WMCA in 2017. The development of this toolkit to date has involved partnership working with representatives from the development industry and Public Health England (PHE). Once launched it is expected to carry with it an associated accreditation supported by PHE. In the event that this tool kit is not rolled out across the WMCA or the toolkit is shown to be inappropriate for a specific development proposal, the HIA SPD will provide guidance as to alternative tool kits that will support health considerations in new developments across Coventry.

Major development proposals in particular are more likely to have a significant impact in terms of health and wellbeing, which is recognised by national guidance. As such a HIA will be required to support developments defined as follows:

- (a) the use of land for mineral-working deposits;

- (b) waste development;
- (c) all forms of residential development where:
 - (i) the number of homes to be provided is 150 or more; or
 - (ii) the site area is 5 hectares or more and it is not known whether the development falls within sub-paragraph (c)(i);
- (d) all forms of urban development (not involving housing) where:
 - (i) the area of development exceeds 1ha; or
 - (ii) in the case of industrial estate development exceeds 5ha.

Notwithstanding the identified thresholds, all developments, including those below them, will be encouraged and recommended to complete the toolkit identified above and/or have full regard to how health benefits can be realised through development as part of the design process. By considering the use of this toolkit for sites below the threshold this could carry added benefit, especially within some of the city's more deprived areas where health and wellbeing concerns are more concentrated and in areas where issues are more isolated and/or related specifically to the proposed development or location of development. This process will also help in the consideration of the Local Plans policies on air quality, green spaces and active travel. Any consideration of benefits or impacts should have full regard to both the existing and new population that may live and/or work in or around the proposed site.