

# The effectiveness of Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning on health outcomes: A systematic review and stakeholder involvement.

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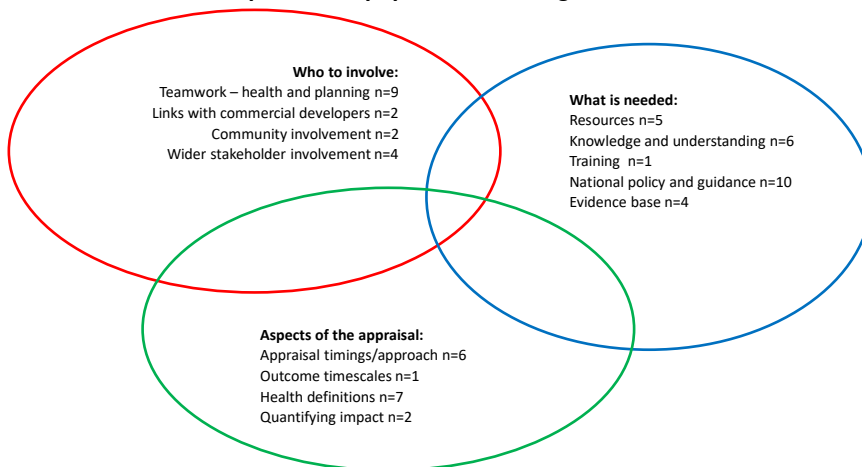
## About the research

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a decision support method used for promoting health and wellbeing used in urban spatial planning. There is a lack of evidence on the capacity of HIA to achieve health benefits in England, and no national guidance on the use of HIA.
- The aim was to undertake an evidence synthesis and use stakeholder consultation to understand the relevant factors and mechanisms in which HIA may lead to health outcomes in a population.
- We focused on UK evidence along with HIA frameworks from outside the UK. We developed a typology of key factors and considered whether any existing frameworks for conducting HIA might be applicable in England.
- We involved a stakeholder group of planners, local and national government public health specialists, academics, and commercial HIA providers (n= 38 in total) in two workshops to identify grey literature sources and to interpret the potential suitability of the identified HIA frameworks for developing national guidance.

## Key findings

- From 5117 unique records we considered 147 full texts from databases, and 58 grey literature sources. We include a total of 19 UK studies, plus 7 additional non-UK HIA frameworks.
- The evidence described qualitative factors which influence HIA effectiveness. These can be grouped into three categories:
  - [1] Who to involve: Teamwork – health and planning n=9; Links with commercial developers n=2; Community involvement n=2; Wider stakeholder involvement n=4.
  - [2] What is needed: Resources n=5; Knowledge and understanding n=6; Training n=1; National policy and guidance n=10; Evidence base n=4.
  - [3] Aspects of the appraisal: Appraisal timings/approach n=6; Outcome timescales n=1; Health definitions n=7; Quantifying impact n=2.
- Our final stakeholder workshop identified the challenges in using existing frameworks to develop national guidance for England; including the lack of national policy imperative, and the challenges in developing an effectiveness evidence base.
- The literature did not link the use of HIA in spatial planning directly to UK health outcomes.

## Themes included in UK qualitative papers considering effectiveness of HIA:



## Implications of the research

- Evidence exists which could inform the development of national guidance for conducting HIA in spatial planning in England.
- However, this evidence is not able to link the use of HIA in spatial planning directly to health outcomes.
- The qualitative themes identified in our review could however inform future discussion about the feasibility of developing the evidence base to include direct measures of health.
- A key challenge is motivating stakeholders to engage with developing the evidence base.

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