

Evaluation of the Doncaster Active Travel Alliance

DATA



INTRODUCTION:

Partnerships are important in population health promotion, as positive outcomes can be achieved working together. The complex interplay of health determinants within a place requires organisations to work together and deliver population health approaches that are feasible in the local context (1). Local authority services play a vital role in shaping everyday lives and communities and rely on strong partnerships. Effective collaboration is therefore essential to their success (2).

DATA (Doncaster Active Travel Alliance)

- Is a local authority partnership that brings service areas together to align efforts, share expertise and coordinate initiatives that supports walking, wheeling and cycling across Doncaster.
- Plays a key role in ensuring that active travel is promoted as a core element of the council's long-term vision for healthier, more resilient communities.
- Is crucial for addressing the wider determinants of health that shape how communities engage with, benefit and access active travel.

METHODS:

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 19 key stakeholders serving as DATA partners. The qualitative data were transcribed verbatim and analysed thematically using an inductive approach.

REFERENCES

1. Cameron, A. et al. (2014) 'Factors that promote and hinder joint and integrated working between health and social care services', *Health & Social Care in the Community*, 22, pp. 225–233.
2. Redgate, S. et al. (2023) A realist approach to understanding alliancing within local government public health and social care service provision. *Eur. J. Public Health*, 33(1), pp.49–55.

AIM:

The evaluation aimed to examine DATA's collaborative approach to delivering its Active Travel Action Plan and to identify strengths and areas for improvement to inform future practice.

FINDINGS:

Findings revealed that the alliance has:

- Demonstrated a shared sense of purpose and partnership value.
- Influenced key active travel decisions.
- Enabled funding collaboration and alignment.
- Supported cross-team learning, knowledge exchange, and resource sharing.
- Highlighted the value of diverse expertise and multidisciplinary working.
- Identified a need to strengthen sustained ownership and engagement.

QUOTES

- "It is a kind of a forum that allows us to ensure purposeful alignment". (P18)*
- "We have had big achievements working collaboratively" (P6).*
- "DATA has improved my insights in shaping some of the work we have done". (P11)*
- "We're recognised as an example of best practise .. across council on this active travel agenda to get delivery and how it's enabled delivery" (P7)*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Strengthen role clarity across partners.
- Adopt a structured approach for inclusive engagements (meeting styles/format).
- Introduce practical measures like working groups to strengthen ownership and active participation.
- Ensure consistent monitoring of progress.

CONCLUSION:

The findings provide insight into the added value of partnership working within a local authority, highlighting that success relies on collaboration, role clarity and shared understanding.

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