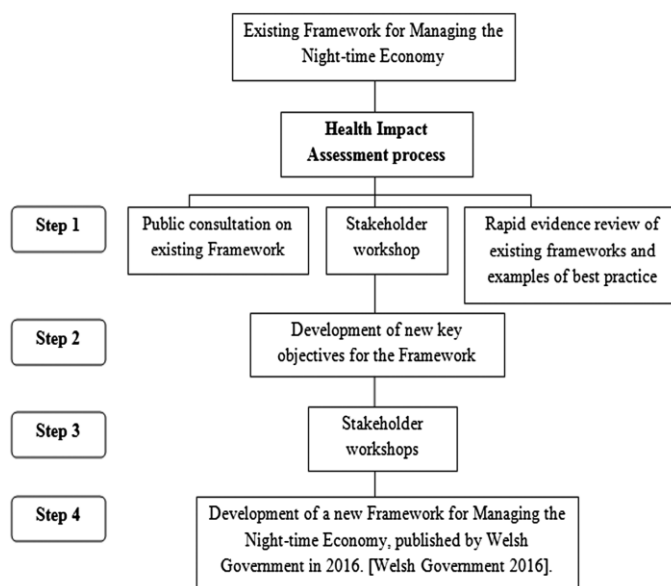


Background

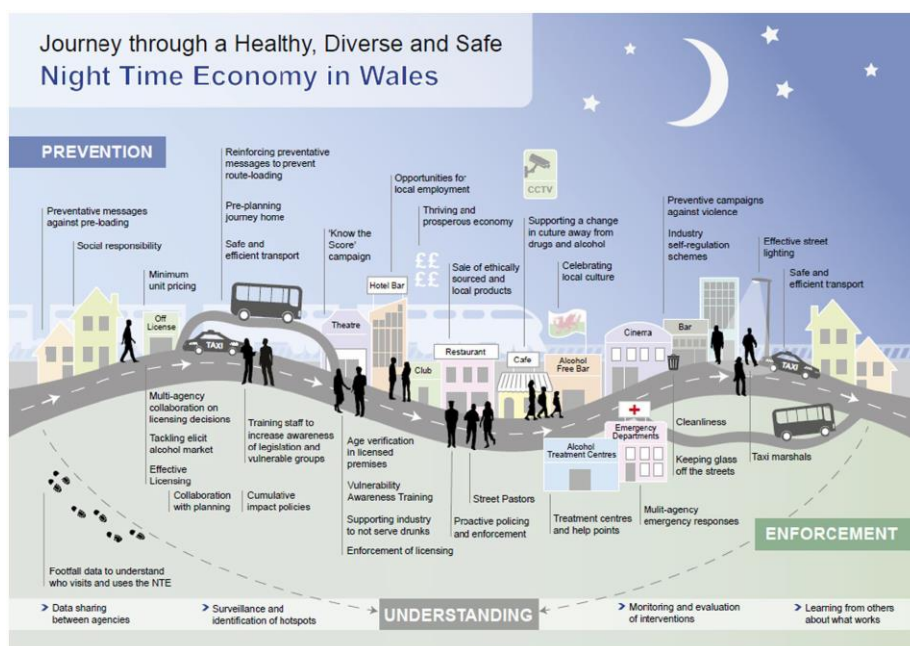
In 2016, the Policing and Health Lead for Public Health Wales approached the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) requesting assistance for the Welsh Government in conducting a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the draft Night Time Economy Framework. The Welsh Government acknowledged that a HIA would impartially assess the Framework for its effects on health and wellbeing, as well as complying with requirements placed on Public Bodies under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Liz Green and Lee Parry-Williams of WHIASU led a comprehensive HIA of the Framework, and were supported by a small steering group. The HIA was participatory and qualitative in nature owing to the use of several stakeholder workshops across Wales (see diagram). For the purposes of this Framework, the night time economy was defined as economic activity occurring between 6pm and 6am. This was the first HIA conducted on the night time economy globally.



Source: Kathryn Ashton, Janine Roderick, Lee Parry Williams & Liz Green (2018) Developing a framework for managing the night-time economy in Wales: a Health Impact Assessment approach, Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal, 36:1, 81-89, DOI: 10.1080/14615517.2017.1364024

Why Health Impact Assessment?

HIAs are scalable, flexible and can be applied in a number of settings and policy areas. Although a HIA had not previously been used in the context of the night time economy, it was recognised that the benefits of cross-sector collaboration, tackling inequalities and acknowledging the social determinants of health would strengthen the updated Framework. By using a mixed methodological approach, a HIA is able to produce recommendations based on a combination of published research, organisational knowledge and community and lay experience. This was exemplified when qualitative data from a stakeholder workshops highlighted that the Framework needed more emphasis on early intervention and prevention rather than the traditional reactive approach taken by the police and other emergency services. This desire was translated into three key proactive objectives which underpinned the revised Framework. Furthermore, an info graph (above right) was designed in response to the request for the recommendations of the Framework to be available in an innovative and accessible format. These two examples clearly show how a HIA can produce tangible products by listening to the voices of stakeholders.



Source: Kathryn Ashton, Janine Roderick, Lee Parry Williams & Liz Green (2018) Developing a framework for managing the night-time economy in Wales: a Health Impact Assessment approach, Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal, 36:1, 81-89, DOI: 10.1080/14615517.2017.1364024

This desire was translated into three key proactive objectives which underpinned the revised Framework. Furthermore, an info graph (above right) was designed in response to the request for the recommendations of the Framework to be available in an innovative and accessible format. These two examples clearly show how a HIA can produce tangible products by listening to the voices of stakeholders.

During the workshops, stakeholders identified several vulnerable groups which could be affected by the night time economy and they used the wider determinants of health to consider the positive and negative health and wellbeing impacts of the Framework. The discussion also covered any opportunities, gaps or unintended consequences of the Framework, and recommendations were made for mitigation. A brief literature search was conducted by Liz Green on topics such as tackling crime and substance misuse, regeneration, and design and planning.

Summary of Impact on Lifestyle - The Framework has the potential to positively influence all aspects of lifestyle. Dancing was viewed as a good source of exercise, and 'sober raves' were seen as a new trend amongst young people. Several local support services such as health centres and street pastors were already operational. A discussion around the geographical concentration of drinkers highlighted that support services can be stretched too thinly if drinking establishments are distributed across a whole city, whereas concentrated areas of drinking can lead to increased anti-social behaviour and crime. It was recommended that the Framework included the revised alcohol unit guidance as well as guidance on the use of e-cigarettes in licensed premises.

Summary of Impact on Social and Community Influences – The Framework presented an opportunity to change cultural norms and perceptions of the night time economy which could play an important role in individuals' and families' decisions to access it. The student population was seen as an important group to concentrate on by involving welfare officers.

Summary of Impact on Mental Wellbeing – A possible unintended consequence of support centres could be the creation of a dependency culture and less reliance on personal responsibility. The stakeholders questioned whether the Framework was concentrating too heavily on the negative effects of the night time economy on mental wellbeing and therefore recommended the inclusion of evidence on the positive aspects from socialisation opportunities etc.

Summary of Impact on Living Environment – Diversification is key to a thriving night time economy and is perceived as an attractive business proposition. It was recommended that areas of good practice in Wales were investigated regarding diversification. CCTV was viewed positively as it can aid early intervention, prevent crime, and identify perpetrators, however it was recognised that some local authorities are cutting back on its use due to decreasing budgets. A cost benefit analysis was recommended to support its use in proactively preventing crime and protecting citizens. Adequate street lighting and the litter generated by the night time economy were also discussed.

Summary of Impact on Economic Conditions – Bar and door staff are advised to identify and monitor individuals who are drunk and may have pre-loaded. This can lead to longer waiting times to enter premises and receive service, which can cause frustration. It was recommended that the Framework's guidance was strengthened on workplace training and support initiatives to improve quality and standards in this area.

Summary of Impact on Access to Services – Transport in and out of the night time economy was discussed as a critical part of the framework. Buses manned by volunteers for student use and the provision of taxi marshals were seen as good practice. Town and city centre regenerations provide opportunities to create designated pick up/drop off points in proximity to public toilets, taxi/bus links and sheltered areas.

Summary of Impact on Macro-economic, Environmental and Sustainability Factors – The Framework was noted to be missing the wider substance misuse policy context. The South Wales Violence Surveillance Data initiative was discussed as good practice which should be rolled out across Wales. This initiative gives authorities the ability to evidence the impact of interventions.

This information and evidence was used to support the drafting of new aims and objectives for the Night Time Economy Framework. The three new aims were; 1) *to support the development of a systematic approach to gain a sound understanding of the night time economy based on intelligence and accurate information*, 2) *to promote a sustainable environment and support prevention strategies to create a healthy, safe and diverse night time economy in Wales*, 3) *to support effective multi-agency management of the night time economy and enforcement at the local level*.

The [full HIA report](#) and [journal article](#) titled 'Developing a framework for managing the night-time economy in Wales: a Health Impact Assessment approach' provide further details of the process undertaken in developing the Night Time Economy Framework and are available to read on the [WHIASU website](#) along with a wide variety of other HIA reports.