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# WHIASU *newsletter*

Welcome to the Autumn 2019 edition of the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading our articles and if you have any questions or queries please contact us on the contact details provided at the end of the newsletter.

## 01 Latest News

### i. WHIASU welcomes new team members



Since the latest edition of the newsletter which was published in January of this year, WHIASU have welcomed two new members to the team.

**Kathryn Ashton** has joined the team as a Principal HIA Development Officer on secondment for 1 day a week. During her secondment with WHIASU, Kath will be exploring how Health Impact Assessment can be used as a platform for Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis, and will also be providing advice, training and guidance on using HIA.

**Laura Evans** has been appointed Public Health Practitioner on a secondment for 3 days a week. Laura's main focus as part of her role will be to provide advice and guidance on HIA in Wales whilst also working on scoping and establishing a HIA Network of Practice and providing additional support to the team.



# 02 Key Achievements

## i) Brexit HIA Report

In January 2019 Public Health Wales published a Health Impact Assessment on the public health implications of Brexit for Wales, which was led by WHIASU. This [HIA](#) is a unique analysis, which assesses Brexit from a Welsh perspective using the public health “lens” of the social determinants of health and population health and well-being. It is the only HIA conducted on Brexit to date. The HIA has been extensively disseminated nationally and internationally, and WHIASU team members have presented on the Brexit HIA at a number of conferences and events.



## ii) Strategic priorities post-Brexit Workshop

WHIASU and the Policy Division jointly organised a post-Brexit Strategic priorities workshop along with Welsh Government which took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> August at the All Nations Centre. Liz Green delivered a presentation on the Brexit HIA Report and gave a detailed update on the changes since the report was published in January 2019.

## iii) WHIASU Training and Capacity Building Framework for Health Impact Assessment published

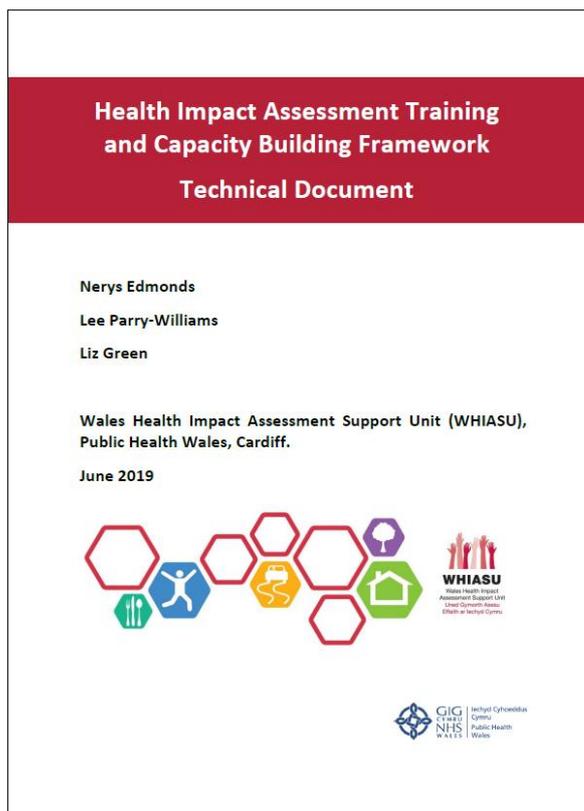
The Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit have published a framework for training and capacity building in HIA. The technical report sets out an underpinning framework for the WHIASU's approach to the design, development, delivery and evaluation of training and capacity building for HIA over the next five years.

The document details a newly developed ‘Skills and Knowledge Framework for HIA’ and a ‘Development Pathway for HIA’ which can inform workforce development and capacity building.

The framework has been developed with engagement and feedback from HIA practitioners from Wales and beyond. It has also been designed with the input of key stakeholders including Natural Resources Wales, Local Health Boards, planning officers, environmental health practitioners, and public health specialists.

The technical report can be downloaded [here](#).

The content will be adapted into a practical capacity building toolkit for public bodies in Wales later this year.



# 03 Training

## i) Delivery of training and capacity building

The publication of the 'HIA Training and Capacity Building Framework' will be an important reference for the Unit when developing or reviewing the sessions, we deliver. To date this year the Unit has delivered a range of awareness raising and specific training such as the Introduction to HIA, Rapid Desk Top HIA and Quality Assurance. We also currently have 3 candidates part way through completion of the Comprehensive Competency Course. In addition, we have supported organisations/sectors such as Land Use Planning – LDP Development to undertake elements of the HIA process through 'learning by doing' to build capacity in readiness for the implementation of Statutory HIA. The Unit is also seeing an expansion in the sectors and organisations where they provide insight into HIA. Forthcoming sessions are to be held with Welsh Specialist Health Services and Welsh Government leads for Sustainable Land Management Grants.



## Next session of Rapid Desktop HIA Training

Dates: Day 1 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January /Day 2 Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – for full details and registration form please access WHIASU web site.

## ii) Introduction to HIA Training Sessions

There are 2 new Introduction to HIA sessions planned (S. Wales 24<sup>th</sup> October and N. Wales February 2020) to access details and registration use the links below.

### **Welsh -**

<https://whiasu.publichealthnetwork.cymru/cy/news/introduction-health-impact-assessment-training-session/>

### **English -**

<https://whiasu.publichealthnetwork.cymru/en/news/introduction-health-impact-assessment-training-session/>

The Unit is also planning to offer a Rapid Desk Top Training session in the New Year, this will be promoted shortly on our Website and via the Chartered Institute on Environmental Health Cymru. The Unit is always happy to discuss individuals and organisation's needs in relation to awareness raising and specific training for HiAP and HIA.

### Health Impact Assessment: Introduction or Refresher Session

Date: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Timing: 9.30am – 13.00

Location: The Innovation Room (6.1) Capital Quarter 2, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

OR

Date: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Timing: 9.30am – 13.00

Location: North Wales, (Venue to be confirmed).



Please state on your application, which sessions/venues you wish to attend.

Both sessions will be led by Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit

#### Session Overview

The session will cover: A basic understanding of HIA, what it is and how it is done; the underpinning values and components of a high quality HIA; an overview of HIA in the context of current policy in Wales; a case study of a HIA in Wales; and a practical introduction to screening.

#### Learning outcomes:

- Understand the purpose of HIA
- Know the policy drivers that support the use of HIA
- Know the benefits and outcomes that HIA can achieve
- Understand the HIA process and methods
- Know the resource, skills and knowledge requirements for completing a HIA
- Understands the ethical principles and values that inform HIA
- Identify opportunities for using HIA in practice
- Know how HIA can be applied in a range of contexts

# 04 Publications & Events

## i) Trade and Health Symposium

Liz Green and Nerys Edmonds, WHIASU are leading a the Trade and Health Symposium which will be taking place on the 7<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00 – 15.00 at the Life Sciences Hub.

The symposium aims to build and share knowledge on the new trade policy environment and its potential implications for health and well-being in Wales. A range of experts in public health and trade will share their insights, and the day aims help build capacity and networks for engagement in this key policy area for a "Healthier Wales".

For further details on the event and to register please click [here](#).

## Trade, Health and Well-being Symposium

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The Life Sciences Hub, Cardiff

10:30 - 15:00

[Registration opens at 10.00am](#)

As a result of the decision to leave the EU, the UK will be developing its own independent trade policy for the first time in over 40 years. This has significant implications for a range of the determinants of health and well-being in Wales including food standards, environmental protection, tobacco and alcohol regulations, as well as working conditions.

The symposium aims to build and share knowledge on the new trade policy environment and its potential implications for health and well-being in Wales. A range of experts in public health and trade will share their insights, and the day will help build capacity and networks for engagement in this key policy area for a "Healthier Wales".

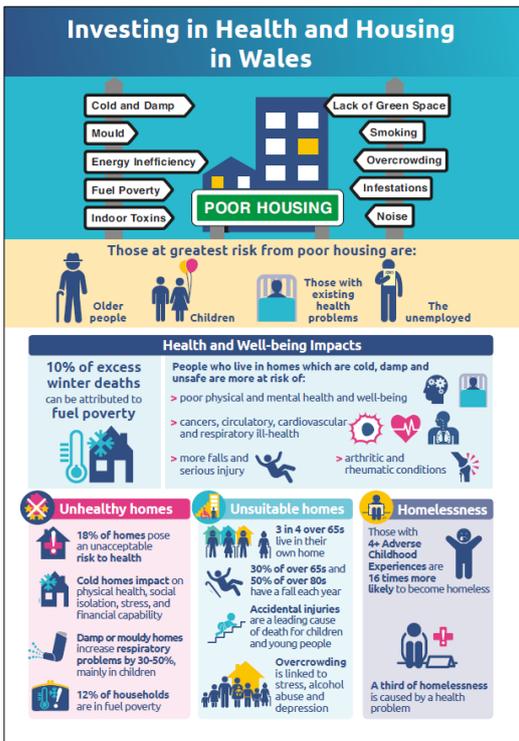
Audience: Policy makers, academics, public sector leaders, third sector, public health specialists, HHS, trade unions.

Please see below for a copy of the programme.

If you would like to book a place on the workshop please register [here](#).

\*Please note that spaces for this event are limited\*

Lunch and refreshments will be provided (please notify [Vicky Smith](#) if you have any specific dietary requirements).



**ii) New economic evidence report on health and housing**

A new report on health and housing has been published by a partnership between Public Health Wales, Community Housing Cymru, and the Building Research Establishment (BRE).

The report is the result of a literature review focused on evidence on the effectiveness of interventions designed to improve housing conditions, address homelessness, and the benefits of adaptations including; prevention of homelessness, reducing fuel poverty, reducing damp, and falls prevention.

The report looks at the impact of housing quality, unsuitable homes, and homelessness on health and well-being in Wales, and details the return of investment of specific housing interventions. The report also advocates the use of Health Impact Assessment in the planning system to ensure that health and well-being are key considerations in housing and built environment planning.

It will provide invaluable evidence to those undertaking Health Impact Assessments on housing interventions. You can download the report and infographic [here](#)

**iii) International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) Conference**

Liz Green, Programme Director for HIA/WHIASU presented at the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) Conference which was held in Brisbane from April 29th - May 2nd. Liz delivered 2 presentations one entitled 'From voluntary to statutory: The evolution of HIA in Wales' and second entitled 'More than a classroom: HIA training in Wales'

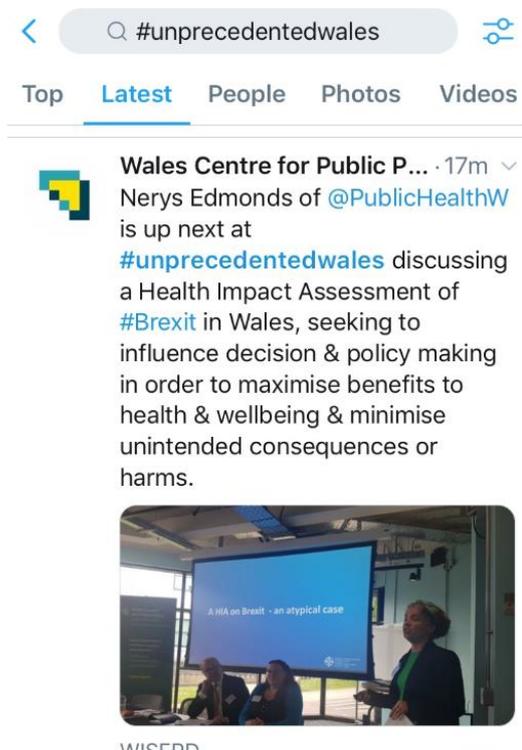
Liz also contributed to an invited interactive session to review and update the IAIA 'Best practice principles paper for HIA' and the HIA section meeting.



**iv) "Welsh Policy and Politics in Unprecedented Times"**

On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Nerys Edmonds from WHIASU presented on the Brexit HIA at an event organised by the Wales Centre of Public Policy on "**Welsh Policy and Politics in Unprecedented Times**" at Swansea University. All the presentations from the event can be accessed [here](#) including the presentation on the HIA of Brexit.

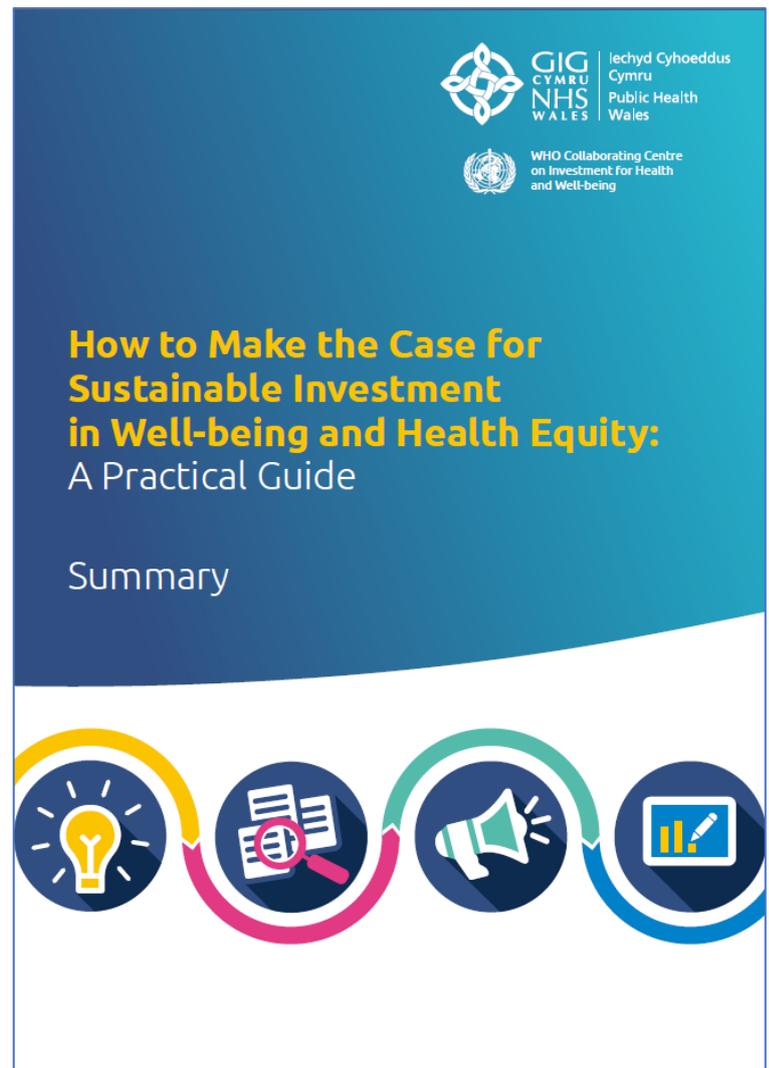
An evaluation of the Brexit HIA will be reported on in our next newsletter.



## v) A new Guide published to advocate for sustainable investment in well-being and health equity

In July 2019, a new practical guide was published on 'How to Make the Case for Investment in Well-being and Health Equity'. This guide is the first product developed under Public Health Wales' WHO Collaborating Centre (WHO CC) on Investment for Health and Well-being work programme and outlines four key phases on how to synthesize, translate and communicate public health economics evidence into policy and practice. The interrelated four phases guide the reader through the process of developing evidence-informed products, which are context and target audience specific. The guide aims to (i) prevent disinvestment in health; (ii) increase investment in prevention (public health); and (iii) and mainstream cross-sectoral investment to address the wider determinants of health and equity, driving sustainable development for prosperity for all.

This practical guide builds on the WHO Regional Office for Europe's Health Equity Status Report and the United Nations 2010 agenda for Sustainable Development. Key stakeholder, advocates for health equity, civil servants and other health and non-health professionals who have a role in forming, influencing or shaping national and subnational policy and practice will be enabled to develop healthy policy- and decision-making across different sectors and country settings.



### Resources:

The guide is available as a summary version here: [https://ihcc.publichealthnetwork.cymru/files/7915/6223/7713/WHO\\_CC\\_Investment\\_Guide\\_Summary\\_English.pdf](https://ihcc.publichealthnetwork.cymru/files/7915/6223/7713/WHO_CC_Investment_Guide_Summary_English.pdf)

The full version of 'How to Make the Case for Investment in Well-being and Health Equity: A Practical Guide' has been developed as interactive online (Pdf) document, easy to navigate and use. This version is available here: [https://ihcc.publichealthnetwork.cymru/files/9815/6223/7672/WHO\\_CC\\_Investment\\_Guide\\_Interactive\\_English.pdf](https://ihcc.publichealthnetwork.cymru/files/9815/6223/7672/WHO_CC_Investment_Guide_Interactive_English.pdf)

# 05 Team Updates



i) WHIASU/ Liz Green is currently finalising the update of the Brexit HIA for Wales. She is also leading Planning and Health work and actions to arise from the Wales Obesity Strategy HIA carried out in collaboration with Health Improvement, PHW and Welsh Government. This will be used to inform and influence the content and delivery of the final 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales' document.

Liz personally worked on 5 HIAs last year across a range of sectors including health care, development planning and government policy in tandem with Directing the Unit.

Liz is currently co-organising the one day HIA Pre-Conference at the European PH Conference in Marseilles in November 2019. This is in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for 'Environment and Health', Bonn, the Institute of PH in Portugal, the Institute of PH in North Reine Westphalia, Germany and the EUPHA HIA Section leads.

<https://whiasu.publichealthnetwork.cymru/en/news/pre-conference-12th-european-public-health-conference/>

Liz will also be collaborating on a lunch time session on 'health in spatial planning' at the Urban City Design Conference 2019 in conjunction with Michael Chang, Programme Manager, Healthy Places Team, PHE. Please see link [here](#). Liz will also be presenting at The Lancet 'Public Health Research into Science' Conference in November.

Liz would also like to highlight that WHIASU and the CIEH have awarded their 130<sup>th</sup> joint Rapid HIA training course



ii) Since Ed's secondment commenced in September 2018, he has been kept very busy! The one day a week secondment from Public Health England has been complimentary in helping Ed broaden his specialist environmental public health knowledge to focus on the wider health and wellbeing determinants both in policy and practice.

Ed notes that 'it has become increasingly clear a 'health in all policies' approach is vital both at national and local level to ensure the decision-making process incorporates health considerations. In fact, Health Impact Assessment is a practical demonstration of this! It's not just a question of meeting a requirement or an obligation is it very much a democratic and transparent decision-making process whilst getting to see and understand other people's viewpoints'.

So far, Ed has been involved participating in, and the facilitation of, Health Impact Assessment workshops on a range of aspects including Welsh Government's obesity strategy; the Public Health Implications of Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling in Welsh Public Bodies and a Local Development Plan for a local authority. The outcomes of these workshops and the forthcoming reports (published in Autumn 2019) again 'bring home to the value of engagement, looking at both the positive and negative benefits of proposals but also the unintended consequences which are not always thought of! This proves the value of Health Impact Assessment.'

Using WHIASUs Quality Assurance Review document Ed has been able to assist a local authority in reviewing a Health Impact Assessment. This has helped facilitate further discussion on wider health determinants with stakeholders.

Ed has met and will continue to meet a wide variety of professional colleagues who are all committed in bringing forward the health agenda and is grateful to have the opportunity to expand his portfolio. Ed will be kept busy for the rest of his secondment.



iii) **Advancing Health and Health Equity: Lessons from Around the Globe Convening and 2019 APPAM International Conference: Public Policy in an Era of Rapid Change – Barcelona. Lee writes:**

‘WHIASU were in contact last year with The Pew Trust who are undertaking a project focused on Health Impact Assessment (HIA) in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/health-impact-project> . We felt it was an opportunity to share learning and experience. The initial discussion led to an invite to WHIASU to contribute to a Convening they were organising in Barcelona on *Advancing Health and Health Equity: Lessons from Around the Globe*. Lee attended on behalf of the Unit and contributed to a session on *Statutory and Cross-Sectorial Approaches to Advancing Health and Health Equity*. Lee also attended the *APPAM International Conference: Public Policy in an Era of Rapid Change* – that preceded the Convening.

The sessions at the conference were interesting and covered a range of topics including climate change, evidence based public policy, structural determinants of social inequities. The central point throughout regardless of the topic was the need to change the ways we do things. This resonates very much with the direction in Wales, the WBFG Act and emphasis on the 5 Ways of Working.

Given the conference was research focused one of the key conclusions was researchers must do more to ensure that their work is translated into action and public policy researchers and practitioners can do better with the right approach and tools. Throughout the presentations, the use of HIA was highlighted as one of the tools to support equity focused policymaking. The three links below provide a flavour of the issues discussed.

Discussion on Structural Determinants of Social Inequities - <http://www.appam.org/the-root-causes-of-social-inequality-and-how-policy-leaders-can-change-the-narrative/?CategoryId=1>

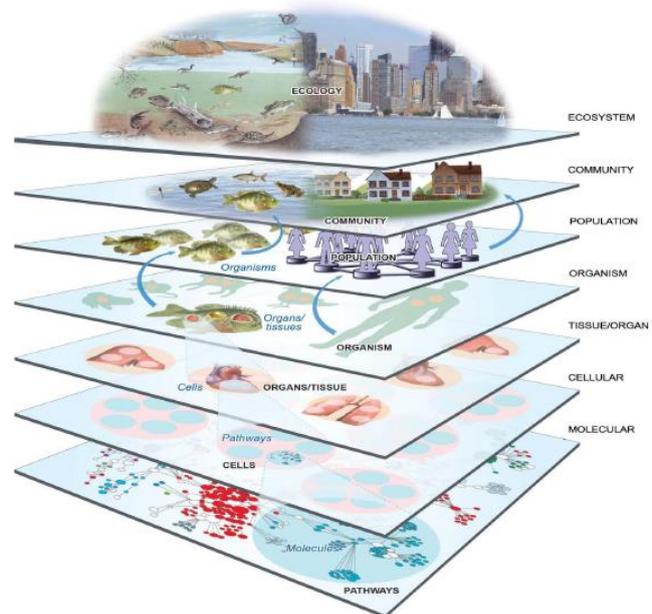
Climate and ecological Crisis and the case for a change in approach - <https://www.healtheffects.org/sites/default/files/Burke.pdf>

The Convening Day was good as it was an opportunity to hear and learn how others have approached Health in All Policies and HIA. Aspects of work in Wales was referenced such as the ground breaking policy WBFG Act and introduction of statutory HIA. It was acknowledged that having a unit such as WHIASU was helpful in supporting and expanding the understanding and use of HiAP and HIA, i.e. translating the theory into practice. This was in part due to the recognition that a lot of the discussion relating to HiAP and HIA is from an academic perspective. It was also a reminder that the central issue we are all working to address, inequalities is the same but sectors and regions are at different stages and more mature in some approaches and require work in others’.



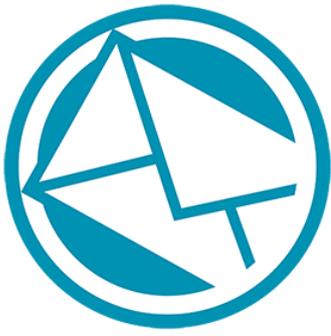
paper- policy change for addressi

**A Systems Approach to Environmental Health**



## 06 Other Useful Reports

- **Urban green space interventions and health: A review of impacts and effectiveness.** Full report (2017): <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/urban-health/publications/2017/urban-green-space-interventions-and-health-a-review-of-impacts-and-effectiveness.-full-report-2017> “The findings show that interventions to increase or improve urban green space can deliver positive health, social and environmental outcomes for all population groups, particularly among lower socioeconomic status groups. Yet, there is a need for better inclusion of health and equity outcomes in studies on green space interventions, and an improved monitoring of local green space management and related health and equity impacts.”
- **Spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with good health and wellbeing:** <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-44097-3> “Compared to no nature contact last week, the likelihood of reporting good health or high well-being became significantly greater with contact  $\geq 120$  mins (e.g. 120–179 mins: ORs [95% CIs]: Health = 1.59 [1.31–1.92]; Well-being = 1.23 [1.08–1.40]). Positive associations peaked between 200–300 mins per week with no further gain. The pattern was consistent across key groups including older adults and those with long-term health issues. It did not matter how 120 mins of contact a week was achieved (e.g. one long vs. several shorter visits/week).”
- **A pragmatic public health-driven approach to enhance local air quality management risk assessment in Wales, UK**  
Brunt H, Jones S J (2019) Environmental Science and Policy 96, pp 18–26,  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2019.02.008>  
This project aimed to develop and test application of a practical method for carrying out air pollution risk assessment in the context of wider health determinants. The piloted tool - called Health and Air Pollution Risk Assessment/Area Prioritisation (HAP-RAP) - offered a contemporary public health-driven approach to risk assessment intended to complement existing prescribed air quality management approaches.
- **Implementing health in all policies: lessons from around the world, The health Foundation, August 2019**  
Health in All Policies is an established approach to improving health and health equity through cross-sector action on the wider determinants of health. This publication provides insight from case studies from around the world to illustrate how this approach has been implemented.  
  
health Foundation  
Implementing health
- **Fairer and Stronger – rebalancing the UK Economy, UK 2070 Commission, May 2019:** <http://uk2070.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/FIRST-REPORT-UK-2070-EXECUTIVE-SUMMARY.pdf> The UK 2070 commission is an independent inquiry into the deep-rooted spatial inequalities in the UK. This is the inquiries first report summary.



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For more information and guidance on HIA, please visit our [website](#).