

Shaping Places for Wellbeing

Recommendation Embedment, Capturing and Sharing of Learning

Workstream Summary Report



As a Programme we identified 6 areas of the Programme journey where we felt evaluation could help national replication. We identified these areas as workstreams, and a Project Lead picked up and led each of these pieces of work.

In each of our Project Towns we undertook Place and Wellbeing Assessments, which brought together a group of stakeholders to inform decision-making by identifying how a plan, policy or proposal will affect a place and its impact on the wellbeing of people and planet. Following the Place and Wellbeing Assessment session, reports are written detailing the discussion and the agreed recommendations. The next step is to take these recommendations forward.

This report summarises the approaches taken to ‘recommendation embedment’ throughout the lifetime of the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme. All Project Leads and Community Link Leads were interviewed and asked to share their experiences of recommendation embedment.

Note – Fraserburgh are not included. At the time of writing this report they had not completed any Place and Wellbeing Assessments.



Process taken to follow up on recommendations

A range of approaches were taken across the Project Towns in the follow-up from a Place and Wellbeing Assessment as it hadn't been done before and we were learning as we went through the process. The following highlights the key themes that came out of the conversations:-

- Follow up with the owner of the plan
- Methods for presenting the recommendations to the Steering Group and owner of the plan were different and included:
 - Listing the recommendations in tables, in Word documents and spreadsheets.
 - 'Proposals of support' documents were created outlining how the recommendations could be taken forward and what support the Programme could offer.
 - Slides were created presenting the recommendations back to the Steering Group.
 - Miro board was used as a more interactive method with the Steering Group.

Tracking recommendations

The process of storing and tracking recommendations adapted over the course of the Programme. An Excel spreadsheet recommendation tracker was introduced in 2023 and used consistently.

Key themes across recommendations

The Research Team at the Improvement Service supported with this piece of work as well as some Project Towns undertaking their own reviews. It highlighted that there were similar 'overall themes' coming throughout the recommendations.



Learning from recommendation embedment

As highlighted before there have been different approaches taken across all the Project Towns to recommendation embedment. This resulted in the conversations being wide and varied in terms of the Project Lead and Community Link Leads experiences. The following aims to highlight the key learning that came out the Project Towns:

Engagement with plans author/owner

Everyone agreed that having good engagement with the plan's author/owner was key to taking forward recommendations.

Setting out our intentions from the start

The importance of setting out at the outset that we will be supporting taking forward recommendations was raised as key.

What people think is within their gift to change

A key challenge that came up throughout the discussions was about what people feel is their gift to put in their plan or change. It was highlighted that stakeholders felt they were working in their silos and didn't always have time for discussion with those other partners, this highlighted the importance of collaboration.

Capacity

Capacity was a key challenge raised in terms of stakeholders not always having time to read the report, understand the recommendations, the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes, and familiarising themselves with our work.

Ownership over recommendations

Another key theme that came out throughout the conversations was around who felt ownership of the recommendations and did they resonate with the owner/authors. It needs to be clear from the outset about who is taking forward



the recommendations. A few raised the question of how useful the report and recommendations are. In some cases, they felt the Place and Wellbeing Assessment session was enough for those involved as it brought together the right people.

Indirect results of recommendations

This led to some Project Towns mentioning that they were taking forward pieces of work that had come out of conversations outside of the Place and Wellbeing Assessments. The Project Lead went back to see how they could relate this to the recommendations. Highlighting whether the recommendations need to form the work going forward or whether there are other ways to embed the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes into thinking.

Wording of the recommendations

It was agreed that the wording of the recommendations developed over the course of Phase 1 of the Programme and more recent reports had a stronger focus on what partners the recommendation involved and what it was trying to influence. There was a change in the action/doing word of the recommendation and overall, it was agreed that this made them easier to take forward.

Timeline of the Place and Wellbeing Assessment

What made the process of taking forward recommendations unique across all the Place and Wellbeing Assessments was where in the plan/strategies timeline the Place and Wellbeing Assessment took place. It was not always possible to progress recommendations in some Project Towns where the recommendations had focused on changes to a plan, but there wasn't a new plan being developed.

Prioritisation of recommendations

A few Project Towns experienced feedback from those involved in the Place and Wellbeing Assessment who said that there were too many recommendations.

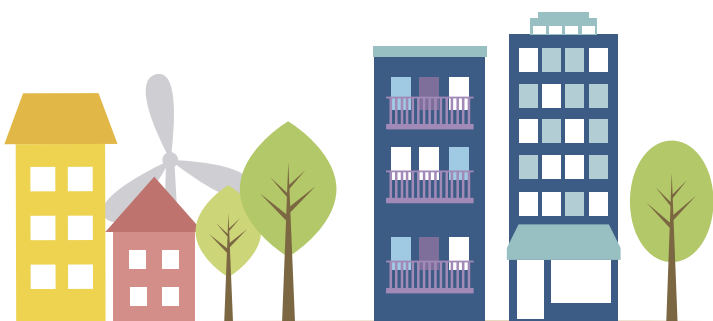
Type of document

The type of plan/strategy/proposal being assessed influenced how easy it was to take forward the recommendations. Those that were local and spatial focused, such as a Masterplan, meant there were more tangible recommendations to take forward. The more strategic documents, recommendations that weren't focused on changing the plan were harder to take forward.

Future considerations

- Set expectations before the Place and Wellbeing Assessment so partners know they will be taking forward recommendations after the session.
- Ensure the author/owner of the plan is committed to taking forward the recommendations and asks what support they will need.
- Set out from the beginning what is within our gift as a programme to support with and examples of how we can support taking forward recommendations.
- Make sure there is scope for changes to the plan/strategy/proposal or a future plan and what the timelines would be if the recommendations are focusing on changes to the plan.

There was concern that we are not creating systems change by focusing on the recommendations, as we need to get the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes into people's everyday thinking and more thought is needed on change management approaches.



Conclusion and next steps

This summary report captures the learning from the Project Leads and Community Link Leads in the Ayr, Alloa, Clydebank, Dunoon, Dalkeith, Rutherglen Project Towns. It illustrates the variety of approaches taken to embedding the recommendations in Phase 1 of the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme up to June 2024.

For more information about the Shaping Places for Wellbeing place-based approach, please contact Irene Beautyman, Place and Wellbeing Partnership Lead, below. Alternatively, follow us on [LinkedIn - Planning and Place-Based Approaches](#), to keep up to date with the Planning and Place-Based Programmes from within the Improvement Service, and X [@place4wellbeing](#) to recap on the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme's journey.



