

Introduction to Health in All Policies & Health Impact Assessment in the context of Local Development Plans (LDPs)

Chair: Irene Beautyman

Tuesday 17th March 2026

1.30pm-3.30pm

Overview of session

Topic	Speaker
Welcome and context setting	Irene Beautyman, Improvement Service
Planning and health	Dr Meadhbh Maguire, Highland Council
Health and Health in All Policies	Dr Michelle Gillies and Dr Margaret Douglas, Public Health Scotland
Practical application of Health in All Policies – LDPs	Alison Challis, Midlothian Council
Questions and discussion	All participants and speakers
Health Impact Assessment	Helen Hassall, Public Health Scotland
Practical application of HIA – LDPs	Cheryl Williams, Public Health Wales
Questions and discussion	All participants and speakers
Further information, resources and support	Dr Michelle Gillies, Public Health Scotland
Sum up and close	Irene Beautyman, Improvement Service



Welcome, introductions and housekeeping

Irene Beautyman & Trevor Moffat
Improvement Service

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:



Recognise the why health matters in Local Development Plans.



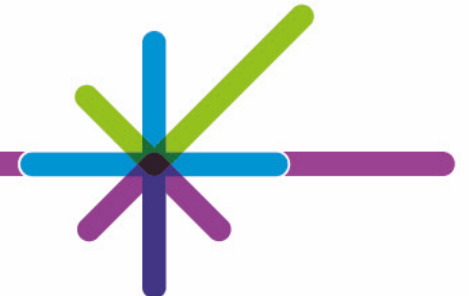
Define the concept of Health in All Policies (HiAP) and recognise the role of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) as a practical tool to support HiAP implementation.



Describe the stages involved in conducting an HIA and understand how HIA can be applied in practice.



Reflect on opportunities in their area to apply HiAP principles and/or undertake HIA as part of the Local Development Plan process.



Introductions and expectations for the session

Where are you from and
what hoping to learn from
today's session?



Current knowledge and understanding

Please rate your overall
knowledge and understanding
of Health in All Policies and
Health Impact Assessment on a
scale of 1 to 5?

1 being low knowledge and understanding and
5 being high knowledge and understanding



Planning and health

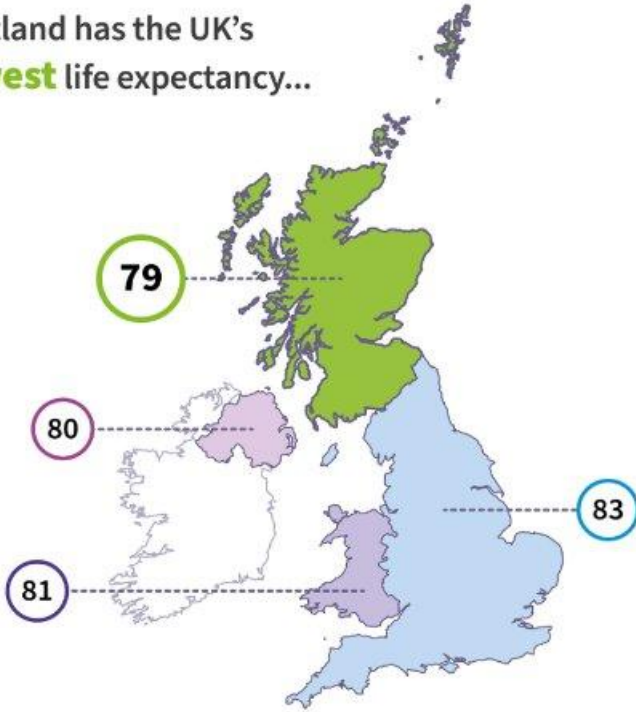
Dr Meadhbh Maguire
Highland Council

Introduction to health and Health in All Policies

Dr Michelle Gilles & Dr Margaret Douglas
Public Health Scotland

Scotland's Health Challenges

Scotland has the UK's
lowest life expectancy...



People are dying younger

The number of people dying early is increasing

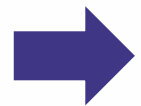
People are spending more of their life in ill health

The gap in life expectancy between the poorest and the wealthiest is growing

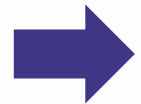


Health inequalities

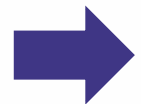
Health inequalities are differences in people's health across the population and between specific population groups that are:



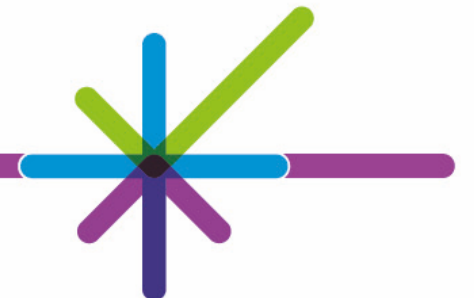
Systematic



Avoidable



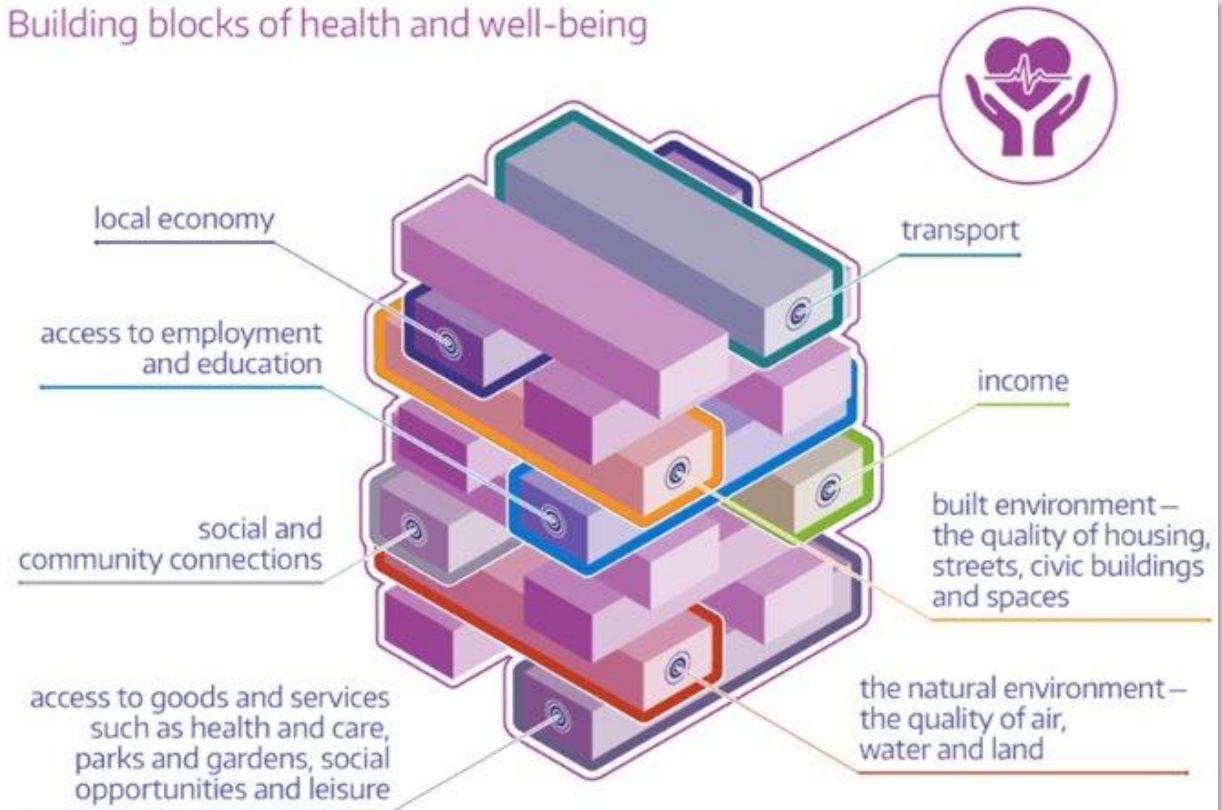
Unfair



The building blocks of health and wellbeing



Building blocks of health and well-being

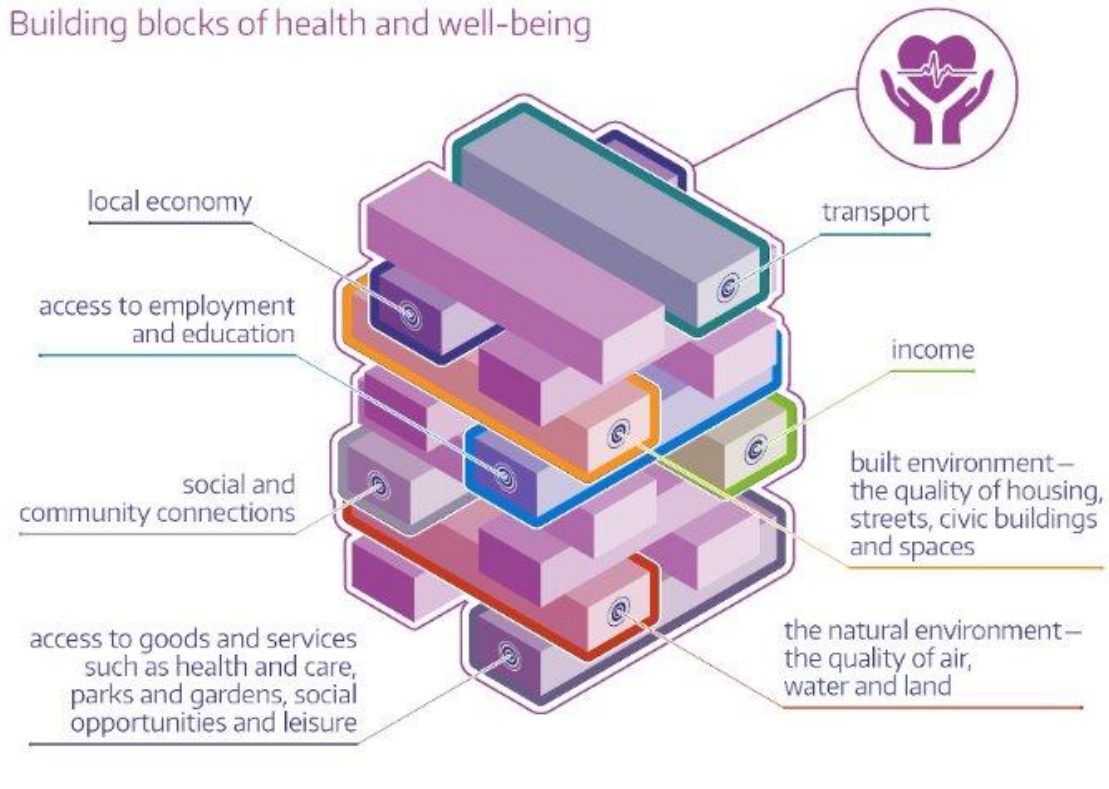


Rationale for Health in All Policies

‘A healthy, sustainable and equitable society will not result from the uncoordinated actions of individuals, but from planned and systematic action by communities, governments and international organisations.’

Fran Baum 2019

Building blocks of health and well-being



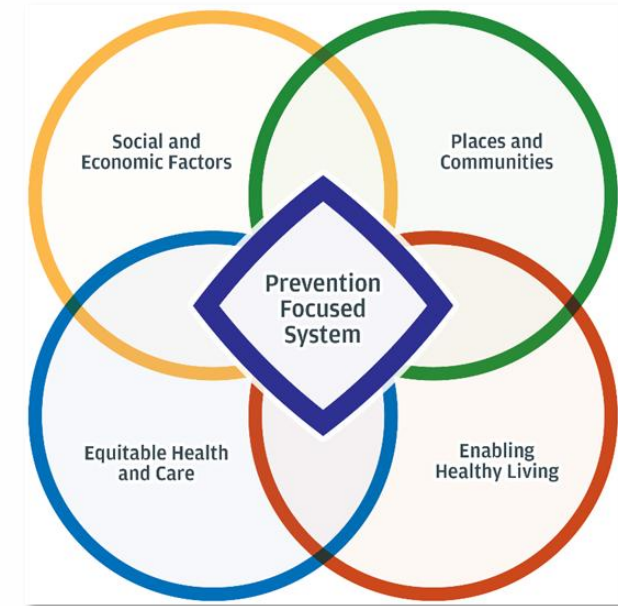
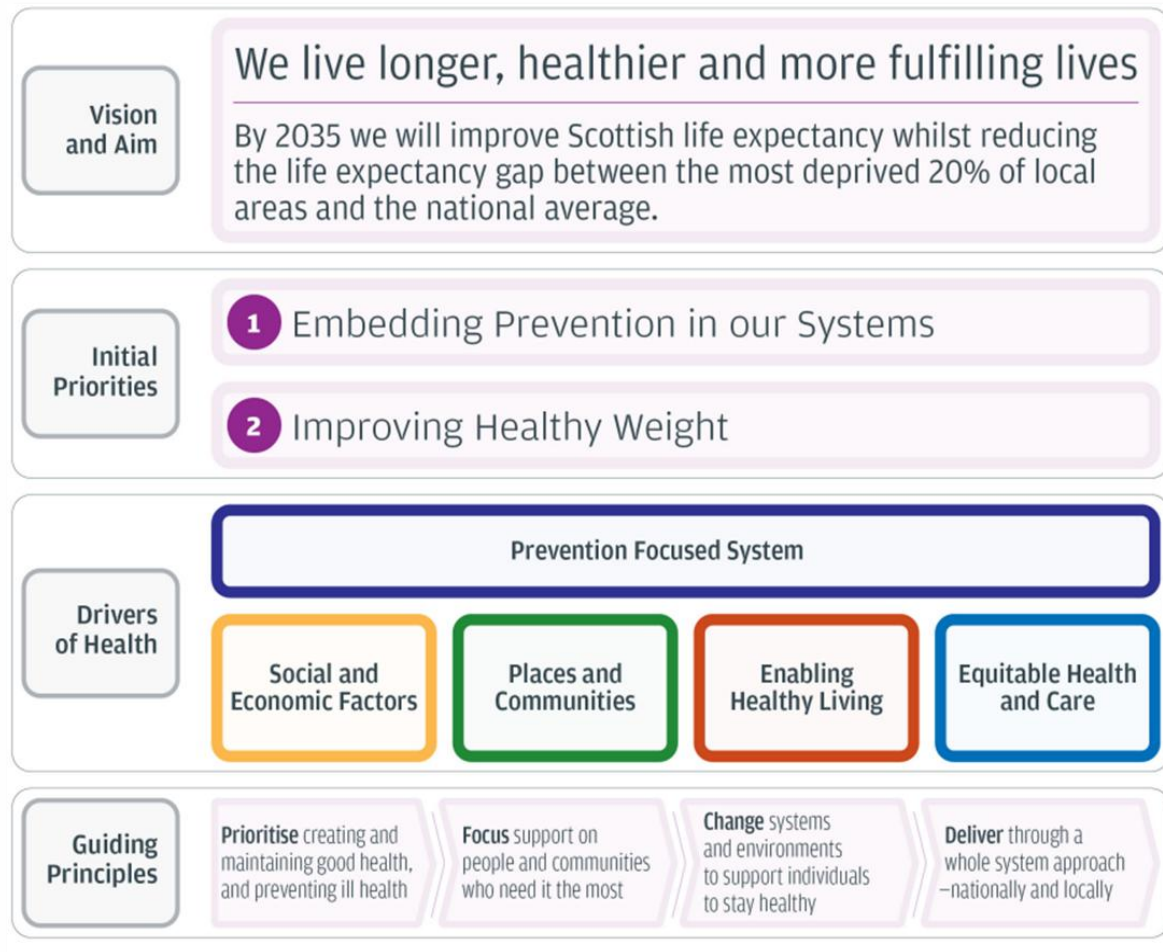
Scotland's Population Health Framework 2025- 2035



'Good physical and mental health and wellbeing enables us to lead purposeful lives, to build and maintain relationships with others, to contribute meaningfully to society and create a strong and sustainable economy. Improved population health is fundamental to making progression Scotland's National Performance Framework – our approach to national wellbeing.'



Scotland's Population Health Framework 2025- 2035



- Preventative Investment
- Accountability
- **Health in All Policies**
- Community Planning
- Marmot Places (CHES)
- Digital Population Health
- Research and Innovation
- Evaluation and Learning



What is Health in All Policies

An approach to public policymaking that systematically:

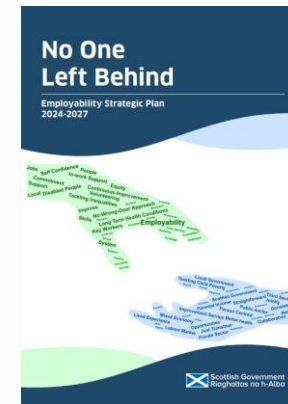
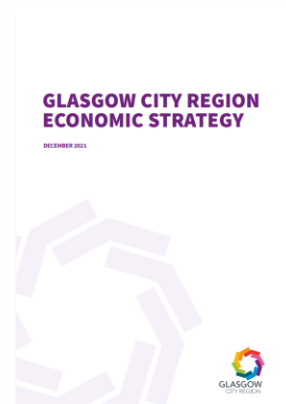
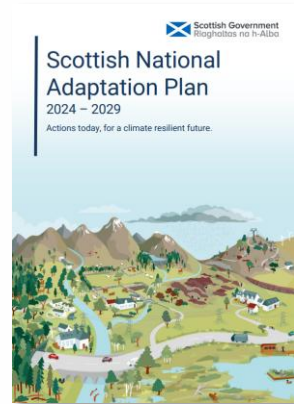
- Considers a policy or policy area
- Takes into account the range of impacts on health and health inequalities
- Enhances positive impacts and reduces negative impacts



What does this mean in practice?

Health in All Policies is

- ✓ A way of working in collaboration across public policies.
- ✓ Considers how decisions might affect people's health and health inequalities.
- ✓ Not about health taking over other agendas.
- ✓ Recognises everyone has a role to play in creating the conditions for good health.



Health in All Policies Position Statement

Background and rationale

- The building blocks of health
- Why this matters for decision makers
- What is HiAP?
- Benefits of HiAP
- Enabling environment for HiAP
- Overcoming challenges
- Differences from other approaches and related concepts
- Recommendations to embed HiAP

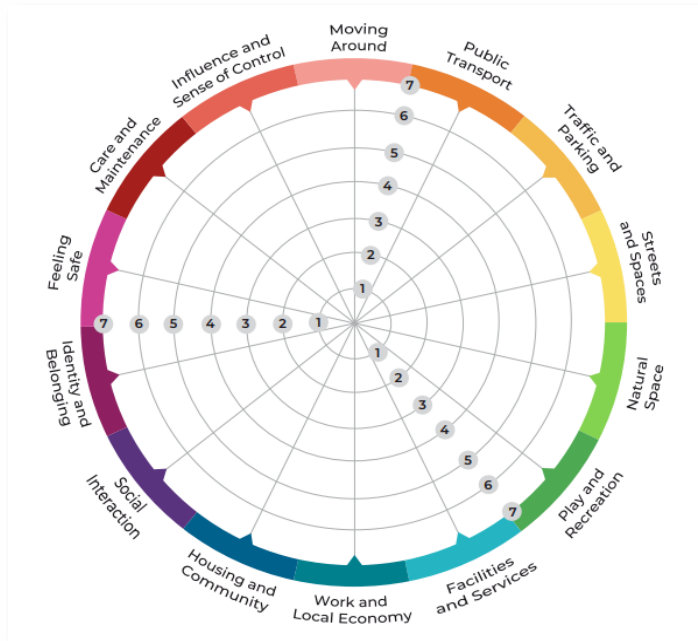
Implementation Guide

- Getting started with HiAP
- Levels of change
- HiAP partnerships and collaborations
- HiAP processes and tools
- Underpinning skills and tools
- Roles
- Case studies
- Sector summaries



Health in All Policies: processes and tools

Place Standard Tool



Health Impact Assessment



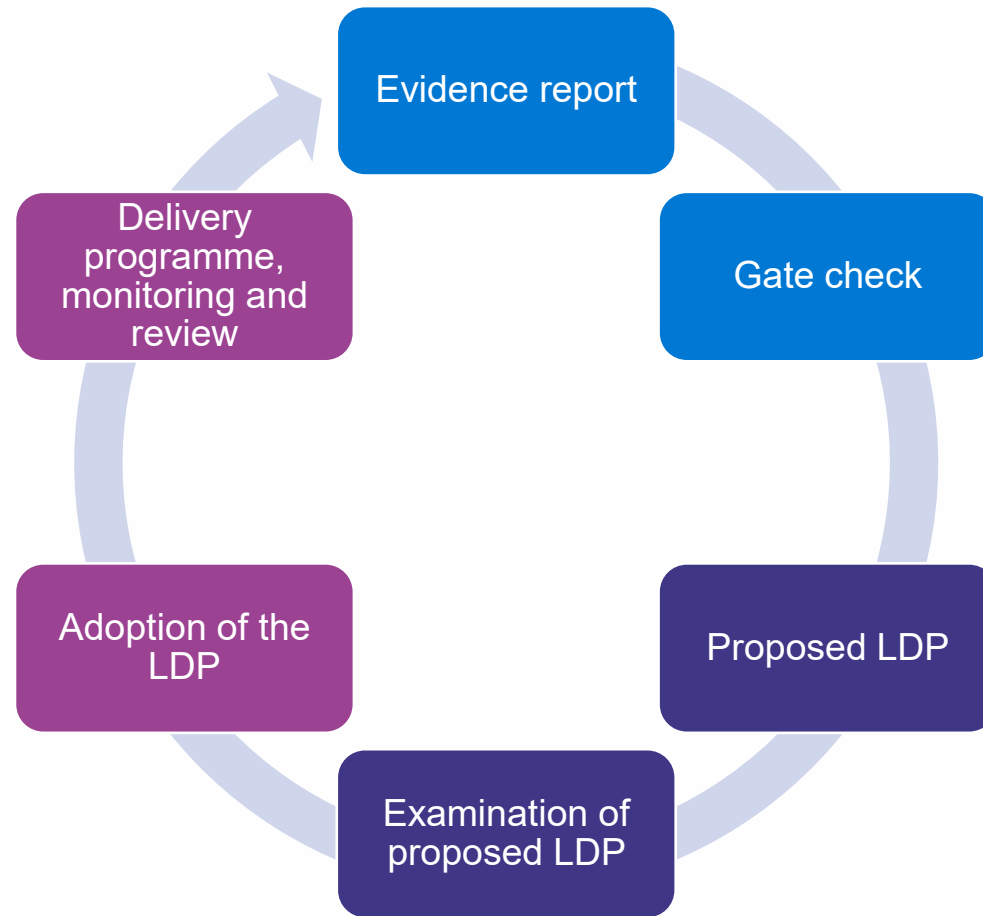
CHIA - Capital Investment Health Impact Assessment

Identifying Health and Equity Impacts in Capital Investment

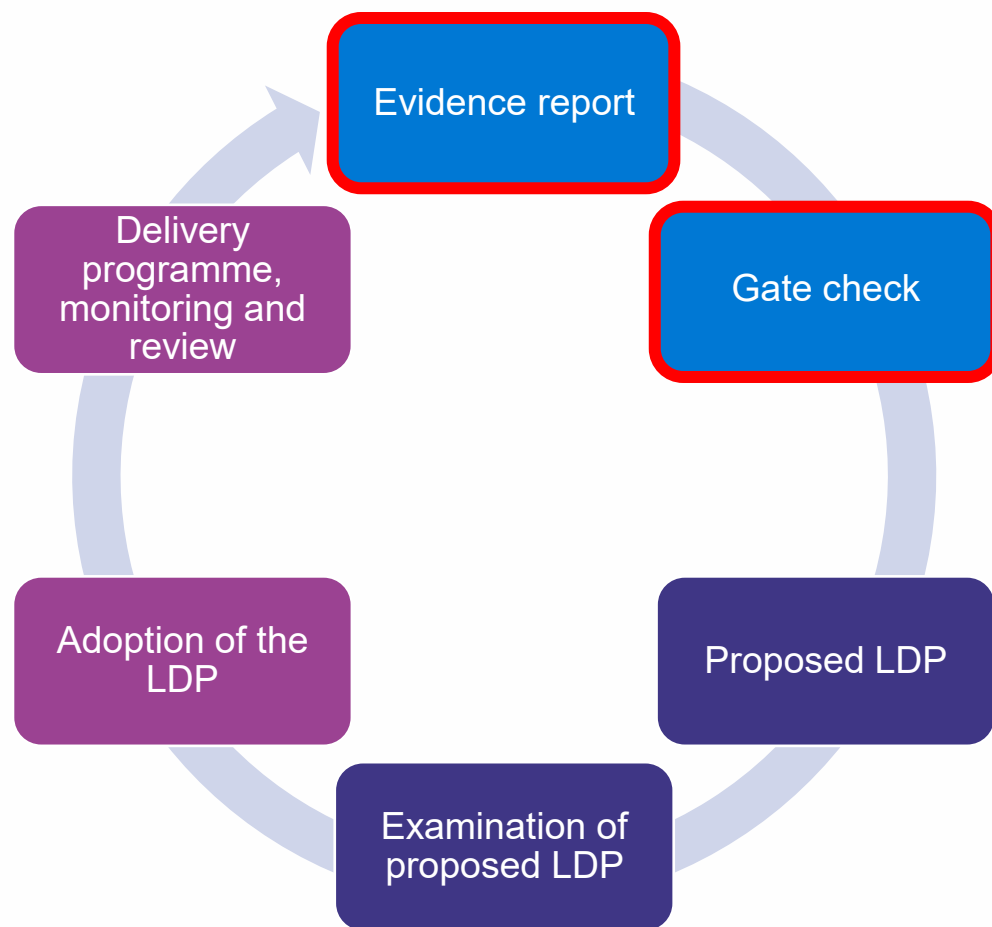
Other Impact Assessments



LDP process – opportunities to use a HiAP approach



LDP process – opportunities to use a HiAP approach



Phase 1: Evidence gathering

Public health and other evidence data

- Inequalities, socioeconomic impacts, relevant health determinants
- Health and wellbeing profiles

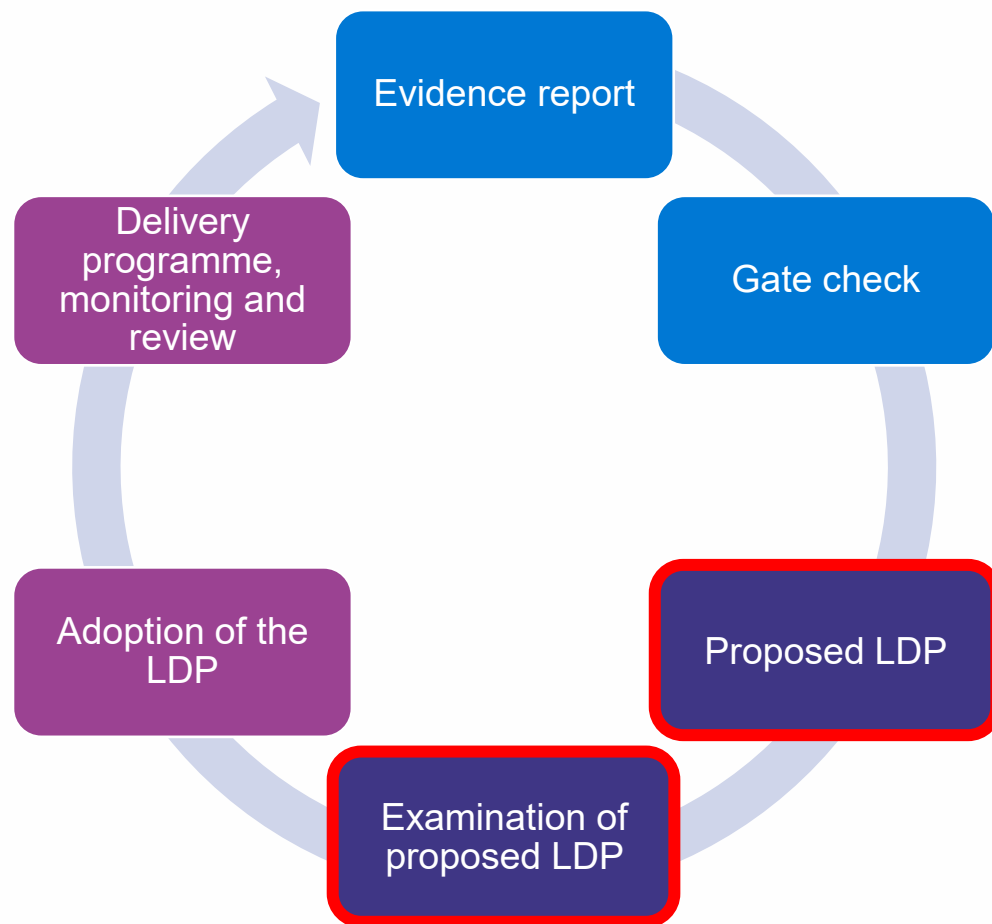
Place Standard Tool

- Structure early engagement
- Inform qualitative place-based evidence

Partnership groups

- Understanding of links to health and opportunities/constraints
- Development of shared priorities

LDP process – opportunities to use a HiAP approach



Phase 2: Plan preparation

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

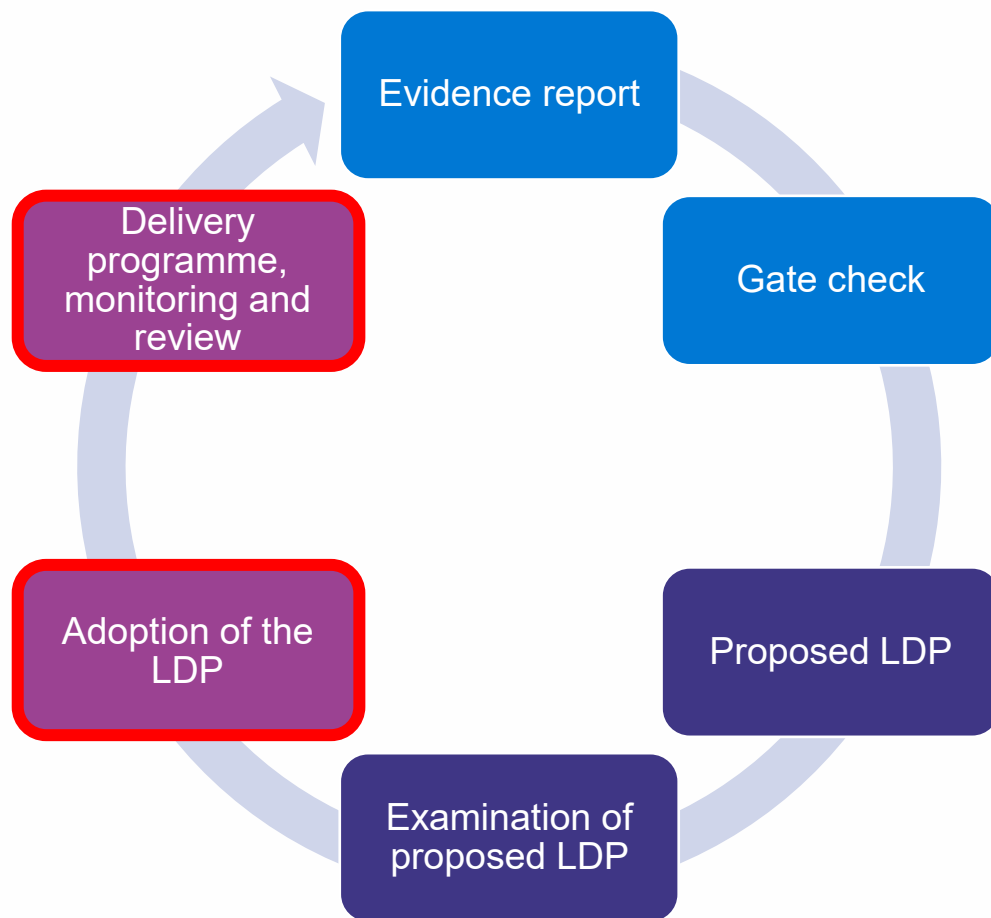
- Undertake on draft plan – focus on high-level direction or policies most relevant to health and wellbeing
- Highlight unintended consequences, inequalities and opportunities to maximise health/mitigate negative impacts

Place Standard Tool

- Test spatial options and inform site appraisal
- Support engagement on the proposed plan



LDP process – opportunities to use a HiAP approach



Phase 3: Adoption and delivery

Health impact assessment

- Use of recommendations to embed health considerations in the final plan
- Monitoring of actions and tracking of health and health equity outcomes

Place Standard Tool

- Follow-up
- Inform future Evidence Reports



Practical application of Health in All Policies in LDP development

Alison Challis

Midlothian Council

Questions & Discussion

Motivations to use a Health in All Policies approach

What would motivate you
(or has motivated you) to use
a HiAP approach as part of LDP
development?



Barriers to using a Health in All Policies approach

What are the barriers to embedding HiAP in LDP development locally?



Introduction to Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Helen Hassall, Public Health Scotland

What is Health Impact Assessment?

- Systematically judges the potential **impacts** of a policy on:
 - the health of a population and the building blocks of health
 - the distribution of those impacts within the population.
- Flexible, impartial and proportionate
- Supports Health in All Policies

Identifies **actions** to:



Maximise positive health and wellbeing impacts



Minimise negative health and wellbeing impacts



Reduce health inequalities



Guiding principles for HIA

Guiding principles help to ensure that a quality assessment is carried out.

HIA is endorsed by the World Health Organization.



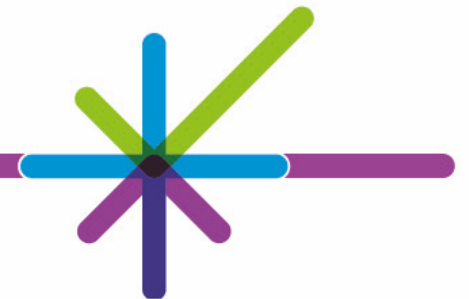
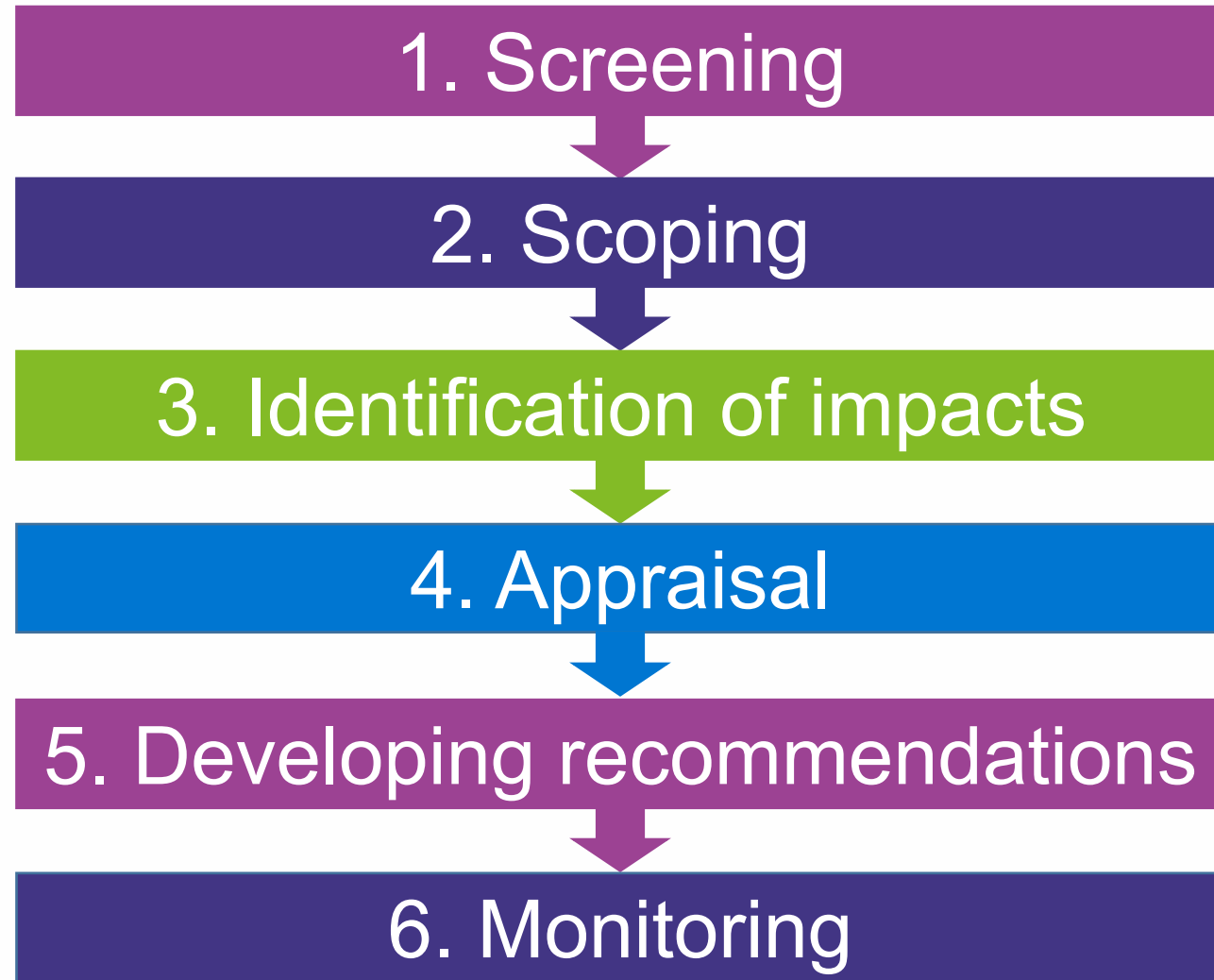
Why use HIA?

Undertaking an HIA has the following benefits:

- Involvement of people affected by decisions.
- Increase stakeholders' understanding of the factors that shape health and cause health inequalities.
- Better awareness of how decisions affect health and communities.
- Evidence-based planning and decision-making.
- Improved health outcomes.
- Greater equity in health.
- Improved collaboration and partnership working across sectors.

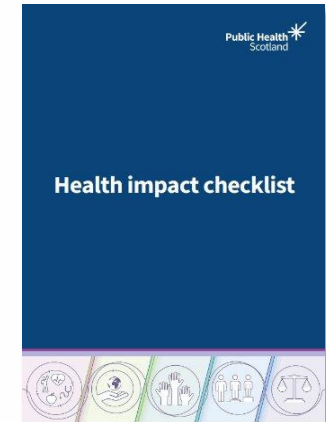


HIA process



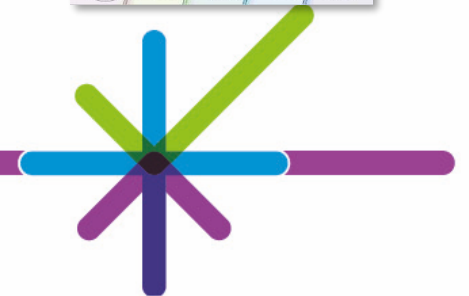
Stakeholder workshop

- ✓ Structured discussion to identify health impacts using a checklist.
- ✓ Health impact checklist considers different population groups and health determinants.
- ✓ Not definitive but often provides insights into how impacts arise.



Who to involve?

- People with knowledge of the policy
- People with relevant expert knowledge of the policy area
- Affected communities and interest groups



Population groups

Protected characteristics

People living in poverty

Other vulnerable populations

Health determinants

Economic environment

Social environment

Equality

Physical environment

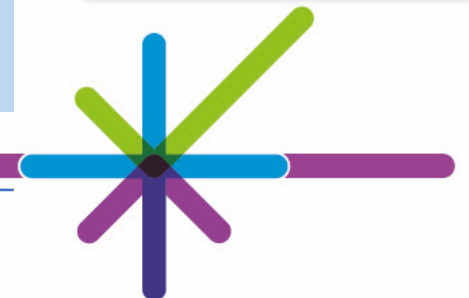
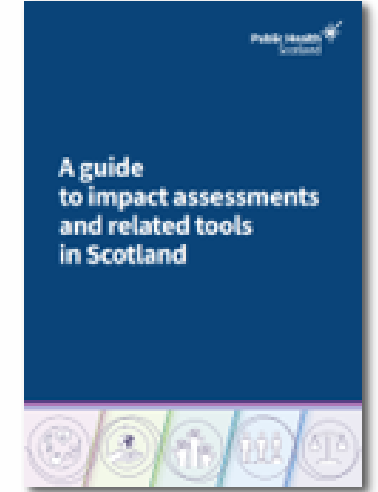
Access to and quality of services

Commercial and environmental influences

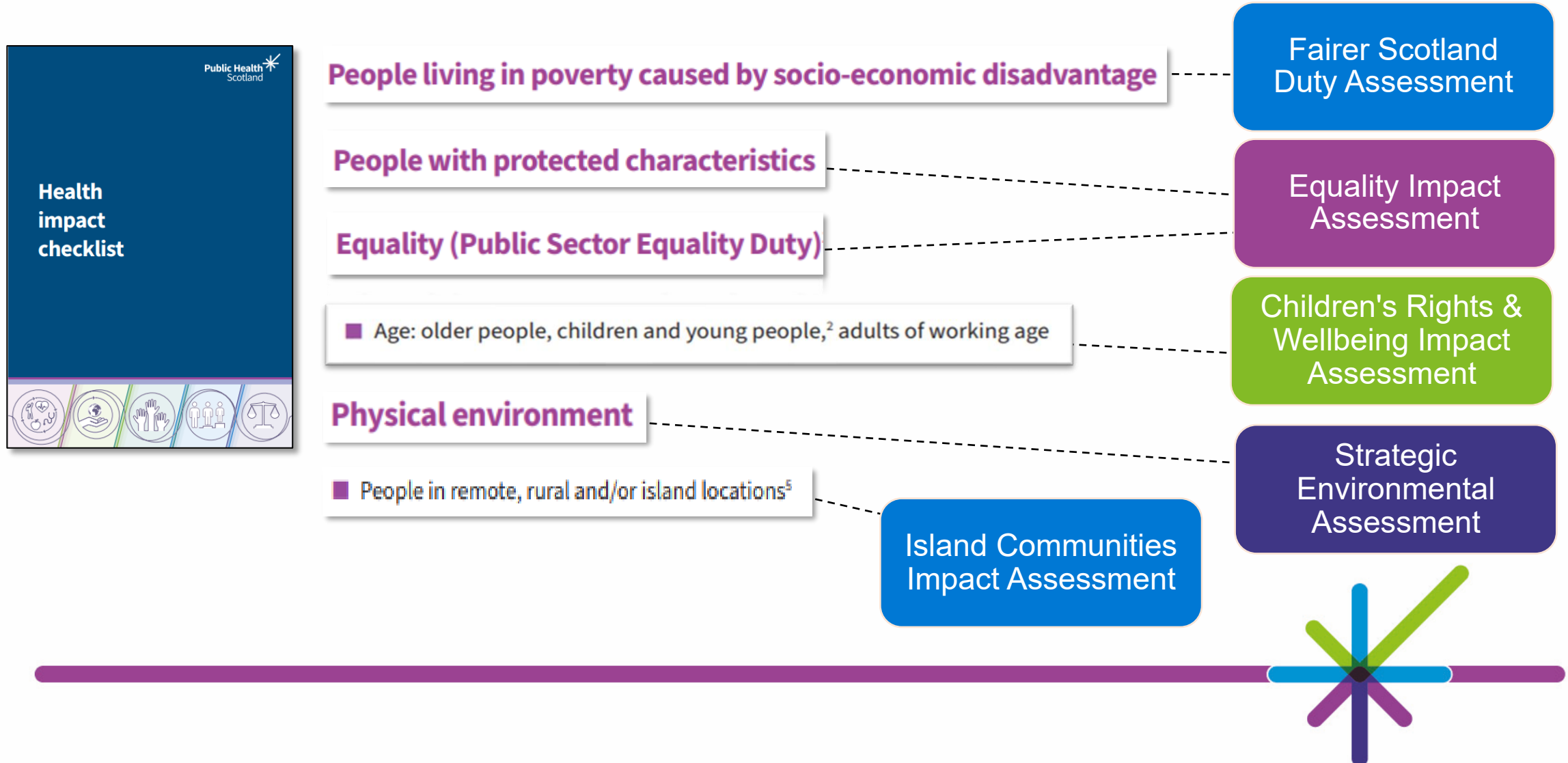


Impact assessments used in Scotland

Impact assessments aligned with statutory duties	Other impact assessments and tools
Equality Impact Assessment	Health Impact Assessment
Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment	Capital Investment Health Impact Assessment
Island Communities Impact Assessment	Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Place and Wellbeing Assessment
Environmental Impact Assessment	Place Standard Tool
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Sustainable Development Impact Assessment
Consumer Duty Impact Assessment	Climate Change Impact Assessment
Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment	Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment
Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment	



How can HIA support related impact assessments?



Strategic Environmental Assessment and HIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Health focus: **human health**
- Consideration of effects on health arising from environmental conditions
- Tests significant effects of the plan
- Statutory requirement of LDPs

Health Impact Assessment

- Health focus: **population health**
- Consideration of impacts on population groups and building blocks
- Develops actions to improve outcomes
- Non-statutory but good practice

Avoiding duplication



- ✓ Align scope of assessments early
- ✓ Cross-reference and be proportionate
- ✓ Understand any differences and trade-offs



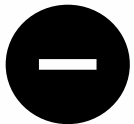
Integrated Impact Assessments



- Two or more assessments are combined in one.



- Streamlined process.
- Reduced duplication where there is synergy between assessments.



- Some areas may be less thoroughly considered than others.
- Potential that the exercise becomes 'tick box'.

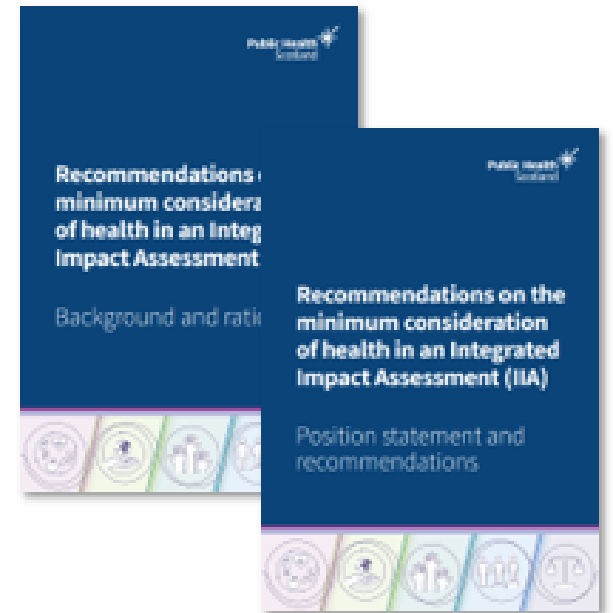


- The legal requirements of any statutory duties being incorporated still need to be met.



Minimum consideration of health in an IIA

- ✓ There is systematic consideration of how population groups may be affected differently.
- ✓ A range of social, economic and environmental determinants of health and health inequalities are considered.
- ✓ A stakeholder workshop takes place to identify potential impacts on health.
- ✓ The assessment team involves public health staff with an understanding of HIA and/or colleagues with a sound understanding of what influences health and health inequalities.



Options for considering an HIA of an LDP

High-level
plan direction

Priority policy
sections

Key places or
growth areas

Integrate
within existing
assessments



Practical application of Health Impact Assessment in LDP development

Cheryl Williams

Principle Public Health Practitioner, Public Health Wales

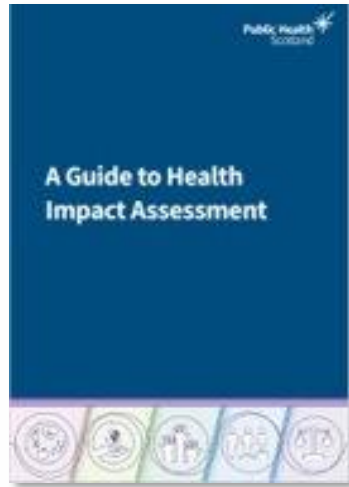
Questions & Discussion

Support to use embed HiAP/HIA

What support would help you most in the next 6–12 months to embed HiAP and HIA in LDP development?



Further information - HIASU Publications



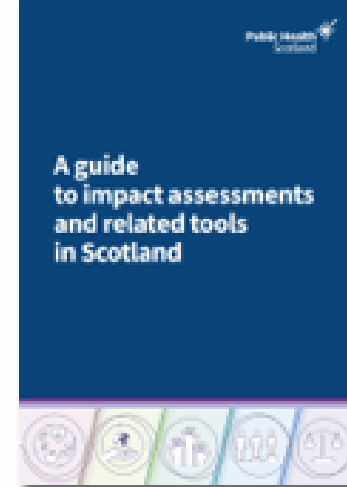
[A Guide to Health Impact Assessment](#)



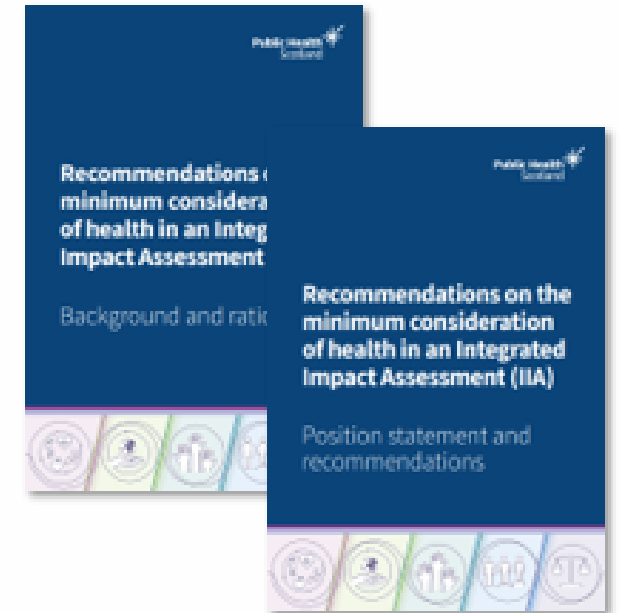
[Health Impact Checklist](#)



[Introduction to Health Impact Assessment](#)



[A guide to impact assessments and related tools in Scotland](#)



[Recommendations on the minimum consideration of health in IIA](#)



HIASU Resources

www.publichealthscotland.scot/hia

Case studies

Highland and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) Regional Transport Strategy 2024

Health impact assessment case study

Videos

What is Health Impact Assessment?

- Systematically judges the potential **impacts** of a policy on:
 - the health of a population and the building blocks of health
 - the distribution of those impacts within the population.
- Flexible, impartial and proportionate
- Supports Health in All Policies

Identifies actions to:

-  Maximise positive health and wellbeing impacts
-  Minimise negative health and wellbeing impacts
-  Reduce health inequalities

World Health Organization. Gothenburg Consensus Statement. World Health Organization; 1999.
International Association for Impact Assessment. Health Impact Assessment International Best Practice Principles, 2021.

Evidence guides

Scottish Health and Inequality Impact Assessment Network (SHIAN) Report

Health and Transport: A Guide
2018

Scottish Health and Inequalities Impact Assessment Network
Spatial Planning for Health and Wellbeing Collaborative Group

is
Improvement Service

Argyll and Bute Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy: a 20 Minute Neighbourhood Rapid Scoping Assessment

Margaret Douglas
Irene Beautyman

Completed HIAs

Public Health Scotland

Population health impacts of the rising cost of living in Scotland

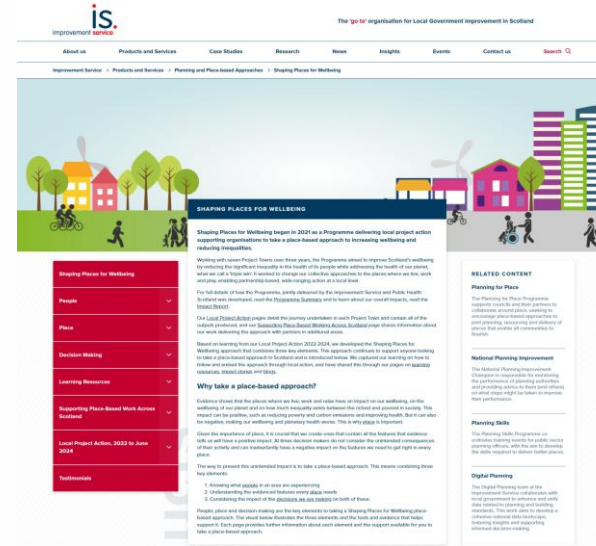
A rapid health impact assessment
Publication date: 6 December 2022

Other resources

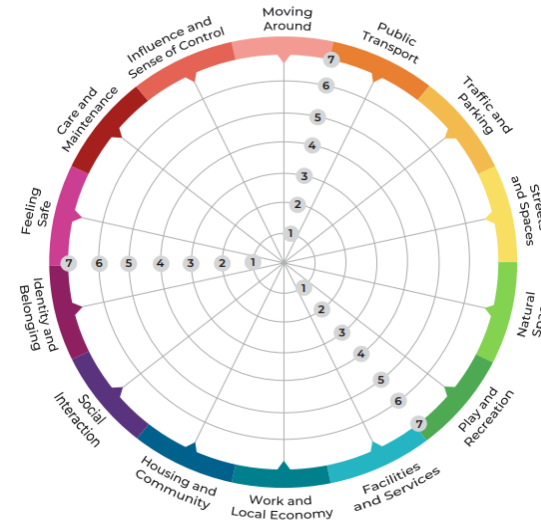


HIA & LDPs: A Toolkit

Planning Healthy Places



Shaping Places for Wellbeing



Place Standard Tool



Scottish Health and Inequalities Impact Assessment Network (SHIAN)

Why join SHIAN?

SHIAN is a national network for people who want to:

- Understand how policies and plans affect health and inequalities
- Apply Health in All Policies and Health Impact Assessment in real-world settings
- Learn from others working across sectors
- Share tools, examples and experiences

SHIAN is welcoming new members from across all sectors - join us!

Contact
phs.healthimpactassessment@phs.scot
or join the Teams channel to become a member.



Additional support



HIASU focus is on capacity building to increase local skills and confidence to undertake HIA.



Contact us if you're interested in further support – what does that look like? Let us know your timescales and links with public health/health improvement



phs.healthimpactassessment@phs.scot



Knowledge and understanding at the end of the session

Please rate your overall
knowledge and understanding
of Health in All Policies and
Health Impact Assessment on a
scale of 1 to 5?

1 being low knowledge and understanding and
5 being high knowledge and understanding



Thank you and close

Irene Beautyman

Planning for Place Programme Manager, Improvement Service

www.publichealthscotland.scot/hia

phs.healthimpactassessment@publichealthscotland.scot

