



HOUSING VISION

Research to identify the contribution to Health Outcomes by Regional Housing Policy

Client: West Midlands Regional Housing Executive, WM DoH
In collaboration with GLHS

INTRODUCTION

This project identified the contribution that could be made to health outcomes by regional housing policy. It included a review of emerging national and regional health plans and policies; a comprehensive review of the literature; and an analysis of housing-related interventions to improve health.

A key output was the identification of regional housing policy areas that could be developed to support the delivery of better health outcomes in the West Midlands region.



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

This project, completed in May 2010 by Housing Vision with GLHS was to identify the contribution that could be made to health outcomes by regional housing policy.

The brief was to:

- present an understanding of the main housing and health issues;
- provide evidence of the positive impact housing can have on health and vice versa;
- identify the factors that will influence the effectiveness of a response; and
- present available housing policy options.

PROJECT APPROACH

The main features were:

- A review of existing and emerging health plans and policies at national and regional level, and consultation with a small sample of key health stakeholders in the West Midlands region, to establish vision and direction.
- A review of evidence from Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs), Strategic Housing Market Assessments (SHMAs) and research from Urban Living, the Birmingham and Sandwell Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder.

- A review of literature on the housing-health interrelationship, an evaluation of the relevance and potential of a range of data on housing, neighbourhoods, and demographics; and evidence of European, national and regional housing-related interventions to improve health. These detailed analyses informed the policy options arising from the research.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The key output of the work was the identification of regional housing policy areas that could be developed to support the delivery of better health outcomes.

For example, how could more be made of housing in preventing ill-health and promoting health?

Could policy and action be targeted to achieve a combination of health, well-being and economic objectives?

And could a common perspective be developed on the housing-health relationship to inform the development of integrated housing and health policies?

The aim of these and other policy questions was to encourage the embedding of health impacts in housing policy, for example by 'designing in health' to new or re-modelled housing environments.

SO WHAT?

All Housing Vision output has to pass our simple "So what" test – "So what does this mean for the client or householder?" and "So what practical applications can this information be used for?".

This test means that everybody is able to understand how the research and analysis has been conducted **and** the final results; how conclusions have been reached **and** how they can best be applied.

So, it's as simple as that.

So what for this project ...

The project successfully identified and highlighted the links between housing and health, and informed the options available to strengthen the health impact of housing through policy change at the local level.

TESTIMONIAL

"The most successful aspects of the project were its comprehensiveness and a well written report - which couldn't have been improved on."

WHAT WE OFFER

Introduction

Established in 2001, Housing Vision has completed over 100 projects for local authorities and housing associations; for the private sector and for sub-regional consortia, regional and national bodies including the CRC and HCA. We can offer the following core services:

Dynamic Area Profiles

GIS-based profiles of user-defined areas incorporating demographic, housing, health, education and socio-economic data to provide 20 year projections of change.

Site/Place-Based Housing Market Assessment

We have undertaken over 50 Assessments to determine the market potential of sites proposed for

development, including affordable housing requirements.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment

We have completed analyses of housing need and housing market dynamics at local authority and sub-regional levels throughout the country.

Neighbourhood Sustainability Appraisals

We construct social, economic and housing profiles to determine the sustainability of local housing areas, then identify the interventions required to secure their future.

Research and Intelligence

We undertake challenging and original research, for example a sheltered housing sustainability toolkit and analysis of the interrelationship between housing and health.

Policy Review, Analysis and Revision

We specialise in reviewing and refining policies, for example, a project to evaluate the effectiveness of delivering affordable housing in the Bristol sub-region.

Strategic Development

We work with officers and stakeholders to develop housing and related policies and strategies at sub-regional, local authority and neighbourhood levels.

Testimonials

We work hard for and with our clients, and here are just a few of their views:

"The report produced by HVC was very, very good. It was clear, could be read and understood by a wide range of people".

"One of the most successful aspects was the working relationship and communication; the sense of joint working and good engagement".



HOUSING VISION

For further information please contact Dr Richard Turkington at:

e: info@housingvision.co.uk

w: www.housingvision.co.uk

m: 07714 106386

t: 01886 833118

f: 01886 830102