

Health in All Policies: A Collaborative Approach

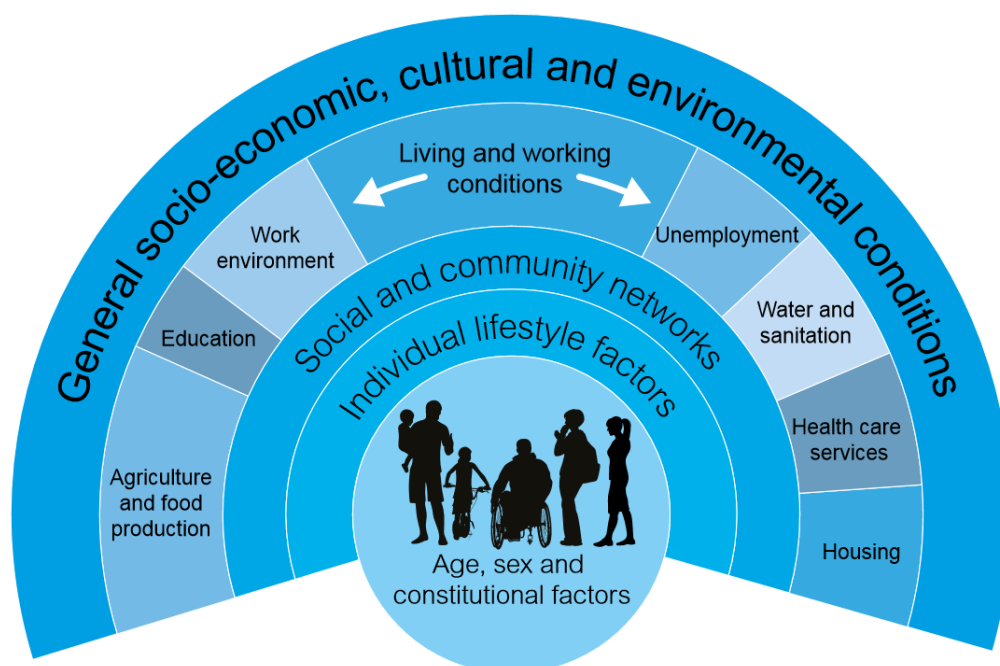
Introduction

Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a collaborative approach to improving the health and wellbeing of all people by encompassing health, equity, and sustainability considerations into decision-making across sectors and policy areas. The approach recognises that our greatest health challenges, such as chronic ill-health, climate change, health inequities between and within communities, and increasing health and care costs, are highly complex and influenced by policies and interventions across all sectors.

The World Health Organisation defines it as:

“An approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts in order to improve population health and health equity.”

Central to HiAP is the concept of addressing the social determinants of health which are key drivers of health and wellbeing and health inequalities. These are largely determined by living conditions and wider social, economic, environmental, cultural and political factors. Health in All Policies supports improved health and social outcomes and reduces inequity through collaboration between all those who have a responsibility to support and/or deliver public health across all sectors.



Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead (1991) - Institute for Futures Studies, Stockholm, Sweden

Context and Principles

Following the transfer of the Public Health function to local government in 2013, the Local Government Association in collaboration with Public Health England and the Association of Directors of Public Health produced a guidance document to support the development of HiAP across public

sector organisations in 2017 - *Health in All Policies; A manual for local government*¹. The transfer of public health to local government coupled with its mandatory responsibility in supporting the healthcare commissioning must be viewed as a huge opportunity to use all of our powers and functions to improve the health of our residents and reduce the inequalities that persist. We can make a real difference by working upstream to help prevent people developing the long-term illnesses and chronic conditions that worsen their quality of life and increase demand on public services. The diagram below, illustrates the relative contribution of the wider determinants of health:

Health Behaviours 30%	Socio-economic Factors 40%	Clinical Care 20%	Built environment 10%
Smoking 10%	Education 10%	Access to Care 10%	Environmental Quality 5%
Diet/Exercise 10%	Employment 10%	Quality of care 10%	Built Environment 5%
Alcohol use 5%	Income 10%		
Poor sexual health 5%	Family/Social Support 5%		
	Community Safety 5%		

Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, USA

There is a suite of local development and policy implementation, such as the NHS Long Term Plan (see Appendix 1), the Southend 2050 Vision (see Appendix 2), the Locality Strategy, Living Well in Thriving Communities, the new Primary Care Strategy coupled with an evolving commissioning landscape spanning from Southend, the South Essex economic and infrastructure planning corridor and the Mid and South Essex STP footprint. We have made progress in building some exciting alliances, which has provided a more meaningful reflective space on our approach in collaborating and thinking of how an integrated care system can operate more optimally. Now the time is ripe to utilise HiAP as a ‘tool’ to bring about a more systematic approach and in agreeing to some key principles to reiterate our commitments.

We can advance five key principles of HiAP that we can collectively identify with and seek opportunities for operationalising this approach within our local context and parameters:

- ✓ Promote health and wellbeing, equity, and sustainability
- ✓ Enable a more granular intersectoral collaboration
- ✓ Facilitative leadership to benefit multiple partners and deliver quality care
- ✓ Continuous engagement with stakeholders to design services and meet locality needs
- ✓ Create structural or procedural development to support better integration

How to implement a Health in All Policies approach

¹ <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/health-all-policies-manua-ff0.pdf>

There is no one "right" way to do Health in All Policies; HiAP is an approach that can be adapted to meet our changing needs and evolving commissioning landscape. A Health in All Policies approach identifies the ways in which decisions in multiple sectors impact on and affect health, and how better health can support the achievement of goals from multiple sectors. It engages diverse governmental partners and stakeholders to work together to improve health and wellbeing, preventing ill-health and reducing demand on public services, promoting workforce development and economic stability, transportation access and mobility, enhancing our digital capabilities, environmental sustainability, and educational attainment.

Following the publication of their report in 2017¹, the LGA and their partners developed a toolkit to enable local authorities to undertake a self-assessment of how well health and wellbeing is embraced within the organisation. In 2018, Southend Borough Council completed this self-assessment and are now in the process of ratifying the recommendations (see **Appendix 1** for a summary of the Council's self-assessment and recommendations) and developing a plan of action over the next 3-5 years. This toolkit can be modified and adapted to other organisations to enable this process to be completed.

To add further impetus in the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and in supporting its members to further capitalise on this approach, we should collectively aim to commit to a high level plan that can positively impact on our residents' broader living conditions contributing to reducing inequalities, demand on public services and improving their lives.

The Public Health team can provide support in this undertaking and in collating robust evidence based practical approaches (see some examples in Appendix 1 under the section entitled 'Health in All Policies in Action in Southend-on-Sea Borough Council') to support other local organisation in reviewing and implementing the Health in All Policies approach.

Key Recommendations for Endorsement by the Southend Health & Wellbeing Board:

1. That the Board endorses the five key principles in supporting the adoption of a Health in All Policies approach to further promote and cement local collaboration including locality working.
2. That the partners engaged in the activities of the Board will actively support a Health in All Policies approach to strategy development, programme delivery and process design reflecting the Health and Wellbeing priorities for the borough and the wider commissioning and service and infrastructure development landscape.
3. That the Board agree to a high level action plan and review progress in embedding Health in All Policies approach to tackle health inequalities, reduce demand on public services and improving lives.



Appendix 1 - NHS
Long Term Plan summ



Appendix 2 -
Southend 2050 Vision