



**tcpa**

## Reuniting health with planning - TCPA Project Completion Report

### Overview

The Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA) and Andrew Ross have completed the 'Reuniting Health with Planning' project. The project consisted of research towards a handbook publication and the planning and delivery of a series of five regional events between July and October 2012. The background and starting point for the project was the scale and significance of the reform agenda in both town & country planning, and to the national health service and public health. The geographical scope only covers England.

The project had generated more interest than anticipated and was the first of its kind since the twin introduction and roll out of the reform agendas. The handbook reflected a snapshot of current practices from a selection of six case study areas and key messages were highlighted. It was clear that while public health professionals were generally more aware of changes to planning and the health policies in the National Planning Policy Framework, planners were less aware of and lesser recognition of the relevance of public health reforms to their planning functions. Nevertheless the handbook and seminars proved to be effective as the starting point and forum for initiating, developing and strengthening new and existing networks and relationships in the new policy and institutional landscape in the Local Authority.

The project was funded by the Planning Exchange Foundation, NHS Bristol, First Ark Group, Sandwell PCT through the Public Health Learning Network for the West Midlands, Luton Borough Council, the Hyde Group and the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit. It was also supported in each of the seminar locations by the respective authorities and organisations, including Gateshead Council, University of West England, and NHS East of England.

### The Project Deliverables

The project delivered the following outputs:

- Printed publication titled: ***'Reuniting health with planning – healthier homes, healthier communities. How planning and public health professionals can work together to implement health and planning reforms in England'***, July 2012
- Launch event, TCPA, London, 12 July, 13:00 – 16:00
- South West seminar, Bristol City Council, Bristol, 17 July, 9:30 – 16:00
- North East seminar, Northern Design Centre, Gateshead, 5 September, 13:00 – 16:00
- West Midlands seminar, BVSC, Birmingham, 13 September, 9:30 – 13:00
- North West seminar, Huyton Suite, Knowsley, 26 September, 13:00 – 16:00
- East of England seminar, NHS East of England, Fulbourn, 3 October, 13:00 – 16:00
- Associated materials for publicity and seminars, including a flyer and presentations.

### The Project Outcomes

The project outcomes can be presented quantitatively, primarily through seminar attendance and composition of attendees, and qualitatively through the links made as a result of the project.

#### *Quantitative*

1500 printed copies of the handbook were printed. Most were handed to attendees at the seminars but hard copies were also sent to Chief Planning Officers and Directors of Public Health in England. Copies were also sent to individuals and organisations who requested hard copies including across the border from the public health lead in the Scottish Government.

A breakdown of the seminars is provided below, including a snapshot of feedback from feedback forms. However feedback mechanisms varied with bespoke feedback mechanisms used by NHS Bristol and UWE, and the NHS East of England.

- Total of 327 individuals + speakers attended the London launch and five regional seminars
- Attendees came from a range of organisations and authorities, including the local authorities, local NHS and PCTs, planning and health consultants, and Government agencies.
- The breakdown of professionals was about 45% planning and local authority officers, 37% public health professionals, and 18% from others, including councillors, academics, voluntary sector and housing associations.

### *Qualitative*

While it was clear that there are already existing good work in this agenda by various expert organisations and academic institutions, the project has made important contributions to reuniting health and planning, in particular as a result of the TCPA's national profile and respected status in the planning committee and through the regional seminars.

The West Midlands Public Health Learning Network had used the handbook as the starting point for developing their programme and engagement activities, and is seeking to share and exchange learning and experience with Knowsley. NHS East of England and Luton Borough Council is exploring a similar regional arrangement as the West Midlands network as a result of the seminar, and is seeking to share and exchange learning with Sandwell.

## **Publicity and Dissemination**

In addition to the standard dissemination method of posting hard copies to all Chief Planning Officers and Directors of Public in English local authorities, the TCPA also undertook the following innovative and contemporary methods of communication and promotions:

- Kate Henderson, TCPA Chief Executive was asked and wrote an online article for the Guardian Leader's Network on the importance of recognising the links between the planning and public health reforms.
- Michael Chang and Andrew Ross wrote an article for the July/ August edition of the Town & Country Planning journal to introduce the project and highlight its rationale and relevance to practitioners. Professor Peter Roberts OBE wrote about the project in his regular T&CP column in the same edition.
- An article to round up the project and identify potential opportunities and pathways forward will be submitted for the November edition of the journal. This will be submitted to the Foundation as an appendix to this report.
- Tony Fyson, TCPA Trustee, showcased the publication in his regular column for *Planning* magazine with a wide circulation to every town planner registered with the RTPI.
- Information was circulated to TCPA members in monthly bulletins.
- Tweets from @theTCPA by the Communications Manager to generate awareness.
- External networks were also utilised and as part of the promotional activity for each regional seminar, including the RTPI, CIH, regional health and planning groups.
- A dedicated web page was created on the TCPA website and all information, articles and links mentioned above are available for free access at [www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/reuniting-health-with-planning-healthier-homes-healthier-communities.html](http://www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/reuniting-health-with-planning-healthier-homes-healthier-communities.html).
- Andrew Ross produced a briefing for the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU), September, available at [www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/reuniting-health-with-planning/](http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/reuniting-health-with-planning/)

## **Legacy**

The project had a further reaching legacy than anticipated at the start of the project with expectation from practitioners and key planning and health organisations for a Reuniting Health with

Planning Phase 2. TCPA has made links to and already been involved in conversations with the UK Healthy Cities Network and the West Midlands Public Health Learning Network in relation to contributing to their future work programme. Officers from local authorities have also come forward expressing an interest to deliver events, including Knowsley, Stockport, Medway and London Borough of Waltham Forest, as well as for the UK Health Cities Network's CPD event for councillors and an invitation to speak in Berlin at the 'Together for Healthy Equity from the Start' event.

The TCPA had also 'rediscovered' our roots of public health in the Garden Cities agenda in a 1930s pamphlet titled 'Health and Garden' by Norman Macfayden, published in the Town & Country Planning journal. The Association will explore ways to link the public health agenda more closely with our core Garden Cities work in 2013.

The TCPA will also explore the degree of influence and impact of extending geographical coverage to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland given the TCPA has representatives working in those nations.

## Project Images



*(From top left) Professor Peter Roberts chairing the Launch Event, Chris Weston from Central Lincolnshire presenting, Presentations at the Bristol event, and Market Place presentations in Bristol.*

## Contact Details and Further Information

For further queries and to discuss it in detail, please contact Michael Chang at [michael.chang@tcpa.org.uk](mailto:michael.chang@tcpa.org.uk). Visit the Reuniting Health with Planning project page at [www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/reuniting-health-with-planning-healthier-homes-healthier-communities.html](http://www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/reuniting-health-with-planning-healthier-homes-healthier-communities.html)

