

A Place Standard for Scotland

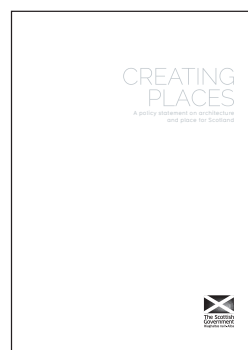


Place can significantly influence the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, affording an opportunity for improving outcomes and tackling inequalities.

In Scotland, a single project to deliver a Place Standard has been established by fusing the goals and resources of two initiatives:

Good Places Better Health: an ongoing initiative launched in 2008 as the Scottish Government's strategy on health and the environment

Creating Places: a Scottish Government policy statement on architecture and place



'The purpose of the Place Standard is to ensure that all places in Scotland nurture the wellbeing of the people within them.'

Method

The project is being delivered in partnership by Scottish Government, NHS Health Scotland and Architecture and Design Scotland. It provides a unique example of the integration of health considerations into wider policy areas and takes a social determinants approach to reducing health inequalities, through action on place.

The Place Standard will support communities and the public and private sectors to work together to deliver high quality, sustainable places. A specific aim is to maximise the contribution of place to reducing health inequalities across Scotland. Background work and stakeholder engagement have led to the development of draft themes, expressed as questions that can be asked of a place. These questions are represented in the Place Standard 'compass'. In practice, they can be used as a framework for subjective assessment in the form of a 'spider diagram'. Crucially though, the purpose of the questions is not to produce a score, but to prompt and structure conversations in order to identify local priorities and opportunities for action.

Next steps

Ongoing stakeholder engagement and consultation will refine these themes and test the utility of the Place Standard. An iterative development process will lead to the delivery of the Place Standard in 2015.

'The Place Standard for Scotland provides an important opportunity to tackle health inequalities through action on the environment.'

Draft Place Standard framework compass and guiding principles

