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 Scottish

'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

> What do I need to live my life?

of Belonging **Does my** neighbourhood have a positive identity and do I feel I belong here? **Perceptions of Safety**

Community

Identity & Sense

Can I easily move around my neighbourhood using a network of routes that prioritise walking and cycling?

Moving

Around

Public Transport Do I have a convenient public transport system that supports my everyday needs?

> **Facilities & Amenities** Do I have facilities and amenities that support my everyday needs?

How do I get there?

Engaged Communities Am I able to participate in making my neighbourhood as good as it can be?

Maintenance & Servicing Is my neighbourhood well

A Place Standard for Scotland: themes and assessment framework

'the 14'

themes

Greenspace

Do I have opportunity to perience ood qua

maintained with appropriate refuse storage and collection arrangements?

Social Interactions

Do I feel safe here?

Do I have opportunities and spaces within my local area to meet people and engage in community activities?

Is my experience good enough?

Visual Character

Do I live in an attractive neighbourhood **Does the** with a positive and welcoming character? experience when moving through,

climate?

Streetscape Setting layout of my neighbourhood create a positive making the most of location, setting and

Parking Does my neighbourhood have an appropriate level of car parking that is integrated in a way that avoids detrimental impact(s)?

Housing Mix Does the housing in my neighbourhood contribute to a positive social and physical environment?

and natural features within walking distance of my home?



Play

Does my neighbourhood provide a range of spaces and opportunities for play?

> Did we have this conversation at the right time?

www.healthscotland.com