

Being Part of It: the Contribution of Environmental Health to Health Challenge Wales

Health Impact Assessment

Improving health and well-being is one of the most important priorities in the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic agenda *Wales : A Better Country. Health Challenge Wales* is encouraging organisations and individuals to join the national effort to improve health.

There is a particular emphasis on helping organisations to consider how their services and actions affect people's health. This involves looking at the wider determinants of health, which include, for example, the environment, employment, housing and transport.

Using health impact assessment is one way of supporting organisations inside and outside the health sector to identify what the connections are between their work and people's health and well-being. It is a very flexible and proactive approach to ensure that when plans are made and decisions are taken, the potential impacts on people's health and well-being have been considered. In this respect, there is a strong link between the practical application of health impact assessment and *Making the Connections*, which has making services more citizen-centred as one of its core principles. Health impact assessment also provides opportunities for improving health and reducing inequalities in health.

The Welsh Assembly Government supports the development and use of health impact assessment in Wales and is working with partners in the Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit, the Wales Centre for Health, Local Government, Local Health Boards and the National Public Health Service Wales to progress this development. In 2004, the Welsh Assembly Government published guidance to help organisations use health impact assessment.

- [Improving Health and Reducing Inequalities: A practical guide to health impact assessment](#) [PDF]

The Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit at Cardiff University is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and works in partnership with the Wales Centre for Health.

If you would like to discuss how you could use health impact assessment, please contact:

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