

Perspectives in Public Health

proposed special issue on:
'Spatial planning for improved health and wellbeing'



Our physical and mental health, and wellbeing, is influenced by how the built and natural environment is planned, designed, constructed and managed. The practice of spatial planning for health and wellbeing refers to an emerging and pivotal role across the UK; borne out of necessity as our understanding matures around the impact of the environment on physical and mental wellbeing and not just from a mandated legislative perspective. But while we have learnt the lessons from past centuries with improved infrastructure, services and regulations, which have gone on to support improvements in health, there is an ongoing need to support planning practitioners.

Spatial planning is underpinned by a regulatory process of consenting land use development which also seeks to produce, translate and implement a vision for the future of a place that responds to the local challenges and opportunities. It is based on evidence, locally-led priorities and investment frameworks for social, economic and environmental wellbeing. There is now acknowledgment that to achieve healthier communities and build healthier places, spatial planning and public health professionals must understand each other's priorities, legislative and judicial frameworks, ways of working, and professional responsibilities more than ever before.

Planning for health is a broad but inter-connected set of issues, intrinsically linked to practice and implementation. This themed edition will seek to represent this complexity by considering (though not exclusively) the following place-based themes:

- Neighbourhood design
- Housing and buildings including water safety
- Transport and active travel
- Food environment
- Natural environment
- Health and Care settings
- Health implications of climate change and sustainability
- Workforce development on planning for health practice

The Guest Editor for this issue is Michael Chang, a chartered city planner and public health professional with more than 10 years of experience of policy development, guidance creation and stakeholder collaboration. We will be welcoming submissions based on practical case study examples which demonstrate transferrable learning and scaling up of applications in different contexts, and can provide useful foresight to what actions can be taken now to secure a healthier and more equitable future places and communities.

Author guidelines and information on article types can be found here: <https://bit.ly/304pYrc>.

The deadline for submissions is 23 September 2022. Authors should submit via our online submissions system: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pph>. Please contact Natalia at ncamicia@rsph.org.uk for more information.