

Health in SEA in Wales: experiences to inform a post COVID-19 world

Liz Green

9th September 2020



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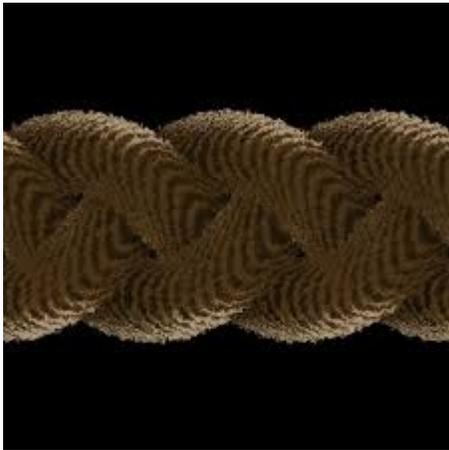
- Devolved nation: 3.3 million people
- Own Parliament; Can legislate for: health, social care, environment, spatial planning including land use and transport
- Focus on sustainable development - the SDGs are enshrined in unique legislation – Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Strategic enablers for health, SEA and improved plans

- Wellbeing of the Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – **7 Wellbeing Goals** including health, resilient communities and equality.
- **5 ways of working** including: integration, long term thinking, collaboration, involvement and prevention
- Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 – Health Impact Assessment (HIA) becomes statutory for specific plans and policies. Wide definition of health and wellbeing – **likely to affect Plans requiring SEA**
- Planning Policy Guidance -2019 – promotes an **integrated approach** to plan making; specifies the use of HIA
- Local Development Plan Manual 3 – 2019 – specifies the use of HIA
- Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU)

Health in SEA in Wales to date: 2 approaches

Health integrated in SEA



Health considered all the way through the SEA *as part of* the process

Standalone HIA alongside SEA



A separate HIA is carried out and *feeds into* the SEA process

Experience to date...

Health in SEA

- National Development Framework (NDF) – broad view of health i.e. wider determinants and inequalities
- Local Development Plans (LDPs) – Local spatial plans. Examples of standalone HIAs and integrated SEAs – Cardiff, Swansea, Wrexham, Denbighshire
- Wales Transport Plan – new plan being developed
- ‘Wales Waste Strategy’ and ‘Beyond Zero Waste’ – standalone HIAs recommend the further use of HIA within its action plans
- Wales Waste 3 Regional Plans

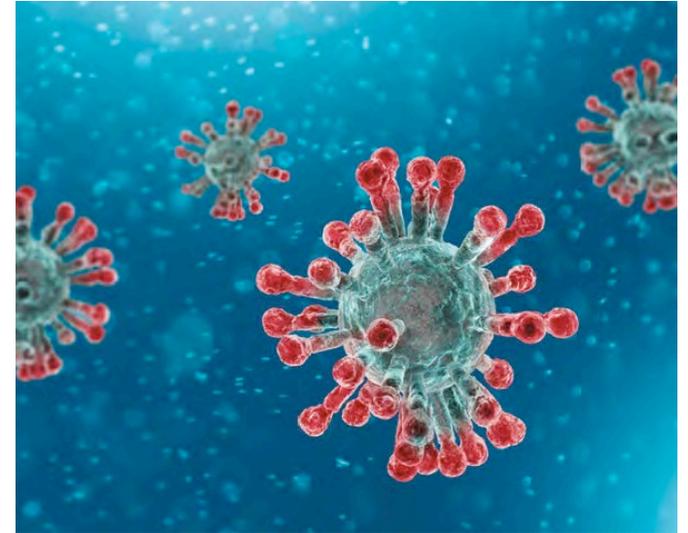
Lessons learnt

- Not all SEAs that are commissioned assess the wider health, community and social impacts nor the inequalities / groups affected by the Plans
- Guidance can be confusing – health not defined in tenders therefore narrow definition applied i.e. environmental health determinants; physical health i.e. active travel
- ‘Human health’ in SEA, yet ‘health and wellbeing’ in HIA in Wales
- WHIASU involvement strengthens health element including in policy drivers such as Planning Policy Wales
- Need for a specific guidance to support SEA and health integration in Wales – ‘HIA in LDPs in Wales: A toolkit for practice’ – section on SEA and health integration

So...

What does COVID-19 mean for SEA and health in the future...

- *'Lockdown' – 'HIA of the 'Stay at Home and social distancing policy in Wales response to COVID-19 pandemic'*
- *'COVID-19 and a post pandemic world: A HIA of Home and Agile working'*



Opportunity to protect health and promote population wellbeing

- View Plans through the lens of future pandemics, climate change ~~and~~ their health impacts
- Ensure integrated planning which explicitly considers wider societal health, wellbeing and inequalities including:
 - housing types / quality; access to green and blue space;
 - physical distancing measures;
 - greater home and agile working;
 - access to health / social care services both digitally and in person;
 - sustainable transport systems and active travel routes...
- Promotes sustainable economic development

