

East Herts HWB Strategy 2019-2023

East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023

Foreword

The health of our citizens is something which should be at the centre of what we do. And seen through this lens district councils are, essentially, public health organisations. Parks, Housing, Environmental Health, Leisure, Planning, Community Safety and so many more functions have a clear and strong impact on the health of our population. Access to health care and the quality of that health care are just one aspect of what we need for our health.

Without what local authorities do directly, through their partners and with their allies, the health of the population would be worse. And the NHS cannot deliver a healthy population by itself. It needs what district councils and their allies do. And medical solutions alone are not enough. East Herts Council and its partners get this.

Once again East Herts have produced a strategy which combines a careful prioritisation of the work they will do with a sound reading of the population need and a focus on what the whole council and its partners can achieve by working together.

Imagination, passion and commitment are all present in this strategy. Personally speaking, it's great to see and exciting to be a part of.

Jim McManus

Director of Public Health for Hertfordshire

Preface

I am very pleased to introduce East Herts Council's updated Health and Wellbeing Strategy covering the five years from 2019 – 2023.

While voluntary organisations, the private sector, community groups and individuals themselves will all have a part to play in delivering the outcomes discussed in this strategy, I fully appreciate that there is much the council can do.

We recognise that the council's planning policies, and in particular the District Plan, can have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of both existing and new communities. The council's District Plan will help housing developers, housing associations, community groups, health providers and many others to create to new garden towns and well-planned extensions to our market towns. These new areas will be characterised by modern, high quality homes that promote good health, provide recreational open space and facilities designed to encourage journeys by foot, cycle and public transport with all the obvious associated health and wellbeing benefits.

At the same time, we shall work with the Health Service, Clinical Commissioning Groups and other agencies to make a reality of the Sustainability Transformation Plan for Hertfordshire and west Essex. The emphasis on prevention in the Plan underlines the key input the council can make to the wider promotion of health.

The challenges to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of our communities are great but the benefits within our grasp are greater still. I look forward to working with residents, stakeholders and all our partners in making East Herts an even healthier place to live, work and play.

Councillor Eric Buckmaster

Executive Member for Health And Wellbeing, East Herts Council

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1. Vision

Deciding on what public health means or what a good level of health and wellbeing represents involves many definitions. Perhaps pivotal is helping people stay healthy, promoting their wellbeing and protecting them from harm. These core elements are something that everyone should be able to enjoy.

Good health is about supporting the individual to live well in their environment and enabling access to services and opportunities which support a healthy lifestyle. Living a healthier lifestyle will build up health resilience and promote a life that is less affected by ill health.

Wellbeing is closely connected to our health and is associated with a sense of purpose and contentment; it often relates to our values and beliefs. A sense of wellbeing can be experienced through a mix of physical, mental, emotional or spiritual wellbeing.

East Herts Council is committed to helping individuals, families and communities to look after their health and wellbeing by ensuring East Herts is a district in which they can flourish.

This strategy focuses on the efforts and actions of East Herts Council but, of course, our work is closely interlinked with that of many other partners. Of particular importance, during the lifetime of this strategy, the council's District Plan will help housing developers, housing associations, community groups, health providers and many others to create new garden towns and well-planned extensions to our market towns, the aim being to ensure the design of these new neighbourhoods has a significant, positive impact on the health and wellbeing of East Herts' population.

Over the lifetime of this strategy, we and our partners will be working towards the delivery of the Hertfordshire and west Essex Sustainability Transformation Plan, the goal of which is that *'by 2021, we want residents of Hertfordshire and west Essex of all ages to live as healthily and independently as possible'*.

Put simply, enjoying good health for as long as possible must be the default position for the people of East Herts. The strategy lays out how we will work with others to encourage and enable people to make healthy lifestyles choices.

2. East Herts Council Corporate Vision and Priorities

Our Corporate Strategic Plan sets out our vision and corporate priorities. Our vision is to preserve the unique character of East Herts and ensure it remains one of the best places to live and work.

The table below clearly demonstrates the central importance of promoting health and wellbeing in the council's overall vision.

Priority	Outcomes we want to see
People - Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities	Residents living active and healthy lives Support for our vulnerable families and individuals Communities engaged in local issues
Place - Enhance the quality of people's lives	Attractive places Future development best meets the need of the district and its residents
Economy - Enable a flourishing local economy	Support our businesses and the local economy Vibrant town centres Working with others, to have achieved the right infrastructure for our businesses and communities

3. East Herts' Health Challenges

East Herts cover the eastern third of Hertfordshire. Around three-quarters of our population live in of the five main towns, separated by areas of rural landscapes and small villages.

The East Herts District Plan envisages around 18, 900 new homes being built in East Herts between 2011 and 2033. This will take the number of homes in East Herts to over 75,000.

While by many measures a relatively affluent district, East Herts does have its health challenges, including:

- **deprivation** – the health of people in East Herts is generally better than the England average, however this tends to mask pockets of deprivation. Five of the most deprived wards account for 16% of the population, representing around 23,000 individuals¹
- **weight** – in East Herts, around two thirds of adults are classed as overweight and/or obese. For children around one fifth of reception children and one quarter of year 6 children are classed as overweight and/or obese. Being overweight or obese is connected with a range of lifestyle conditions which can impact health significantly. Additionally certain medical interventions, if required, can be more difficult to carry out safely if someone is overweight or obese thus multiplying the negative impact on health. Balanced, healthy eating and regular physical activity can help maintain a good body composition²
- **physical inactivity** – while there have been clear improvements in adult activity and exercise levels, 20.5% of the East Herts adult population are still classified as inactive. Physical activity is one of the most important protective factors in supporting a healthy lifestyle and preventing those who already have long term conditions from worsening health.³ Physical activity is well evidenced in

¹ Source Public Health England Local Authority Health Profiles. 2017. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/0/gid/1938132701/pat/6/par/E12000006/ati/101/are/E07000242/iid/92443/age/168/sex/4>

² NCMP and Child Obesity Profile. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/national-child-measurement-programme/data#page/0/gid/8000011/pat/6/par/E12000006/ati/101/are/E07000242>

³ Department of Health Physical Activity Guidelines Factsheets 3 (Children and Young People 5-18 years) and Factsheet 4 (Adults 19- 64 years), 2011. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-physical-activity-guidelines>

contributing to overall health and wellbeing and therefore requires a strategic focus to help support individual, community and population increases in physical activity levels. Leisure facilities, open spaces and community partner projects can help to increase physical activity participation and encourage a range of health benefits. These are reflected in the council's Physical Activity Strategy

- **isolation and loneliness** – isolation and loneliness are becoming increasingly influential in the health outcomes of our residents. National Quality of Life data published in 2018 indicates that the main challenges for older people when seeking to maintain or enhance their quality of life are lower satisfaction with their health and lower engagement with an art or cultural activity. Health challenges or bereavement can lead to or exacerbate social isolation. Equally for many younger people, challenges include unemployment, loneliness, not having someone to rely on and a lack of sense of belonging to their neighbourhood. Recent research notes that: *“Feelings of loneliness are most strongly associated with poor mental health, but are also associated with long-term problems of stress, anxiety and depression. The risk associated with social isolation and loneliness is comparable with well-established risk factors for mortality (e.g. physical activity, obesity, substance abuse)”*⁴
- **dementia** – in Hertfordshire figures show that 4.4% of those people registered with a GP practice over 65 years old have dementia. In Hertfordshire Social Care's East and North Herts area, which includes the East Herts district, there are over 580, 000 people and 60 GP practices
- **mental health and wellbeing** - recognising the importance and value of this to our residents, staff and client organisations in enabling a healthy lifestyle
- **smoking** – East Herts adult smoking prevalence has fluctuated within a small range between 14.6% and 17.5% from 2012 to 2016, however in 2017 there was a noticeable reduction to 9.5%. This mirrored national and regional trends although the reduction in East Herts was more sizeable⁵
- **sustainable transport** – Department of Transport 2016 figures relating to East Herts show that among adults aged 16 and over, 15% cycle for work or leisure once a week and 76% walk. The Cole Green Way along with a number of circular routes around Hertford, Ware and Bishop's Stortford represent great opportunities for

⁴ Measuring National Well-being: Quality of Life in the UK, 2018. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/measuringnationalwellbeinglifeintheukapril2018>

⁵ Source Public Health England Local Authority Health Profiles. 2017. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/0/gid/1938132701/pat/6/par/E12000006/ati/101/are/E07000242/iid/92443/age/168/sex/4>

cycling. Public footpaths and bridleways provide plenty of opportunity for walking across the largely rural district⁶

- **public transport** – while every ward is served with a bus service, there is great variation in frequency. Added to this the timetable frequencies do not necessarily suit working age commuting times with some return services finishing by 4pm.

⁶ Transport Statistics Great Britain: 2016. 8th December 2016.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transport-statistics-great-britain-2016>

4. Working in Partnership

Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)

Nationally, NHS England has required Health services and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to draw up a wide-ranging plans to improve health and care over a broader area than that covering by an individual CCG or health care trust. East Herts falls within the area covered by the Hertfordshire and west Essex Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP).

Hertfordshire and west Essex's STP, 'A Healthier Future', brings together the challenges and opportunities that face NHS and care services in Hertfordshire and west Essex as they work together to improve health and wellbeing within the funds available. This is an opportunity for a range of partners working together in East Herts to contribute to the plan. It also recognises that we need to work as part of this whole system to improve health and wellbeing in Hertfordshire and west Essex.

The key challenges within the STP that are most significant for this health and wellbeing strategy are:

- living well and preventing ill-health
- transforming primary and community services
- providing health and care more efficiently and effectively health.

<http://www.healthierfuture.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/2016/December/A-Healthier-Future-Final.pdf>

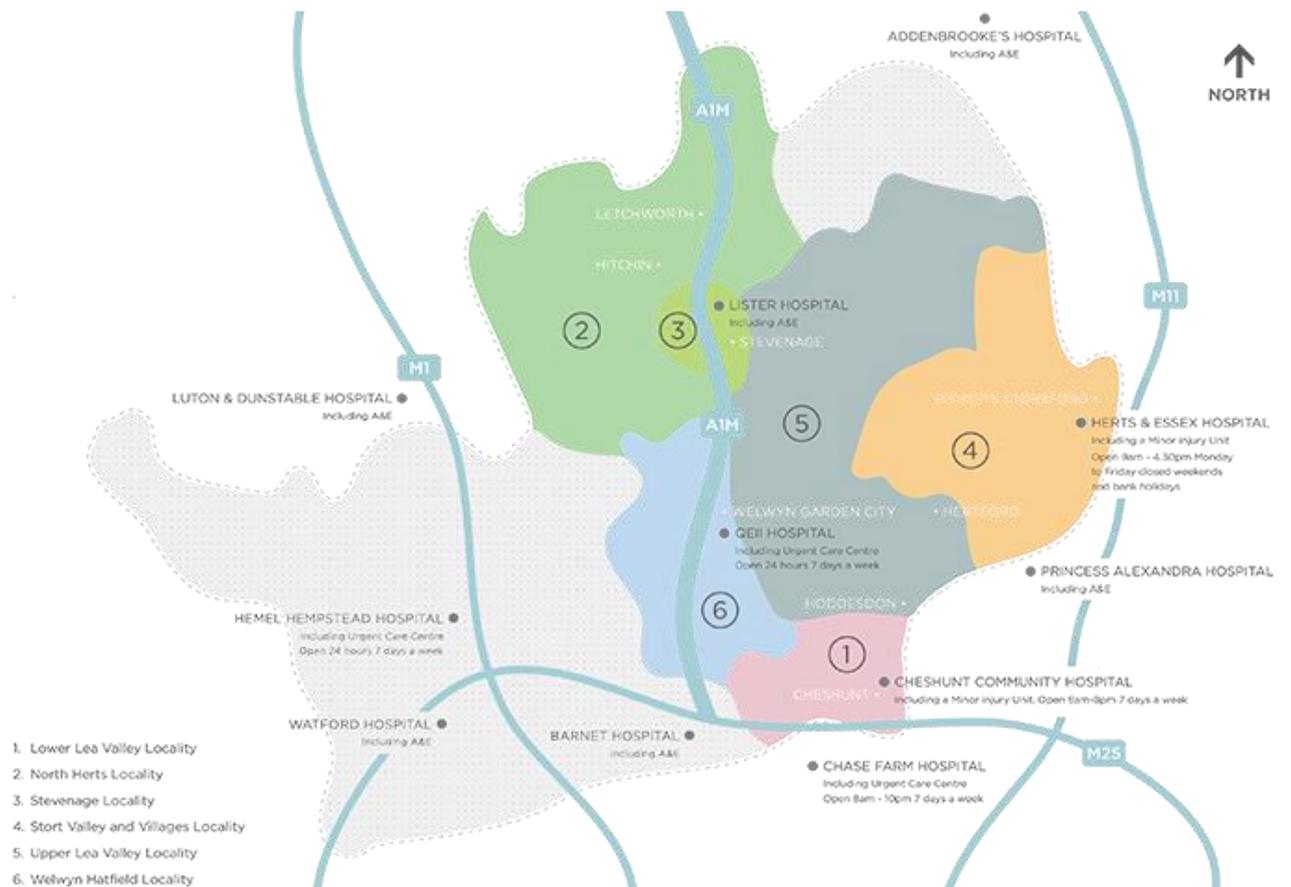
The links below provide information on the priorities of our partners or supporting strategies and the connection with the priorities contained in this strategy. Alignment of these joint priorities can enable better use of resources and delivery of targeted interventions.

Clinical Commissioning Groups

The East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) operates within the East Herts Council area and these are important partners in terms of working together to address the health needs of our population and addressing similar priorities.

A locality is a group of GP practices working together in a particular area. The localities do not share borders with East Herts Council's district; the Upper Lea Valley locality covers the east of the district and the Stort Valley and Villages locality group covers the west of the district although both take in part of the North Herts Council area.

Map of the localities comprising the East and North Clinical Commissioning Group area



Upper Lea Valley locality group

The current priorities are listed below, with more information on the role and function of the Clinical Commissioning Groups can be accessed using the link below:

- improving early diagnoses and management of cancer
- improving the health and wellbeing of the frail and elderly
- reducing obesity levels.

<http://www.enhertsccg.nhs.uk/upper-lea-valley-locality-group>

Stort Valley and Villages locality group

The current priorities are listed below, with more information on the role and function of the Clinical Commissioning Groups can be accessed using the link below:

- improving patient experience of their access to primary care
- supporting our patients with long term conditions and end of life care
- reviewing cancer management to support early diagnosis.

<http://www.enhertsccg.nhs.uk/stort-valley-and-villages-locality-group>

NHS Trusts

Three NHS Trusts deliver services in or close to the East Herts District towns and villages.

East and North Herts NHS Trust

Please see link below for details of Trust strategy and priorities.

<http://www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk/about-the-trust/our-strategy/>

Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust

Please see link below for details of Trust strategy and priorities.

<https://www.pah.nhs.uk/article/948/Our-objectives>

Herts Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT)

HPFT is the provider for mental health and wellbeing services in Hertfordshire.

<http://www.hpft.nhs.uk/services/>

Hertfordshire County Council Public Health

Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) Public Health Service is the accountable body for the delivery of public health services in Hertfordshire. East Herts Council works closely with the HCC Public Health team

The HCC Public Health Service has identified the following strategic priorities:

- **starting and developing Well** - support and services we provide for children and young people
- **keeping Well** - encouraging and supporting people to live healthy lives, getting them to take responsibility for their own health and helping them make positive choices about their weight, diet and mental health
- **influencing and advising** - focusing on how our public health experts can share their expertise and give professional advice to other organisations to help them design and deliver services
- **working collaboratively** - the need for us to work with each other in order to get things done.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/health-in-herts/news-events-and-campaigns/new-public-health-strategy.aspx>

Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health & Wellbeing Board brings together the NHS, public health, adult social care and children's services, including elected representatives and Hertfordshire Healthwatch, to plan how best to meet the needs of Hertfordshire's population and tackle local inequalities in health. The Board's priorities are divided into four main sections and relate to each major stage of life; they are:

- children – starting well
- young people – developing well
- working age adults – living well
- older people – living actively and independently.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/partnerships/health-and-wellbeing-board.aspx>

Voluntary and charitable sector partners

Partnership working is more important than ever before, particularly given the pressures on funding across the public sector and the consequent need to stretch existing resources as far as possible. Alignment of priorities, increased discussion and greater understanding of organisational approaches to address health and wellbeing can all help reduce the call on primary care services and acute hospital admissions.

5. East Herts Health and Wellbeing Priorities

The council has considered the circumstances and drivers discussed in the earlier sections of this strategy to draw up the priorities for the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England⁷, known as the Marmot Review, along with more recent policy approaches, such as the 2016 Health in All Policies (HiAP) framework, have also informed our thinking. The Marmot Review concluded that reducing inequalities, and in doing so bettering health and wellbeing across communities, *“will require action by central and local government, the NHS, the third and private sectors and community groups. National policies will not work without effective local delivery systems focused on health equity in all policies”*. We believe our revised Health and Wellbeing Strategy is a key way in which joined-up working can be fostered locally.

Our health and wellbeing priorities are to:

- 1 help all children to start off well**
- 2 empower children, young people and adults to achieve their life potential**
- 3 promote healthy working environments**
- 4 promote positive health and wellbeing for all**
- 5 create healthy places and sustainable communities**
- 6 strengthen health improvement and ill-health prevention**
- 7 use the council’s power of influence.**

⁷ “Fair Society, Healthy Lives” - Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post-2010; The Marmot Review, February 2010. www.ucl.ac.uk/marmotreview

We recognise that the council can contribute to delivering our priorities in a number of principle ways, these being as:

- a **provider** of public health assets and services

As a council we have physical resources such as buildings and open spaces which can be used to help meet our health and wellbeing priorities. Furthermore, our partners have access to many resources such as community assets and buildings

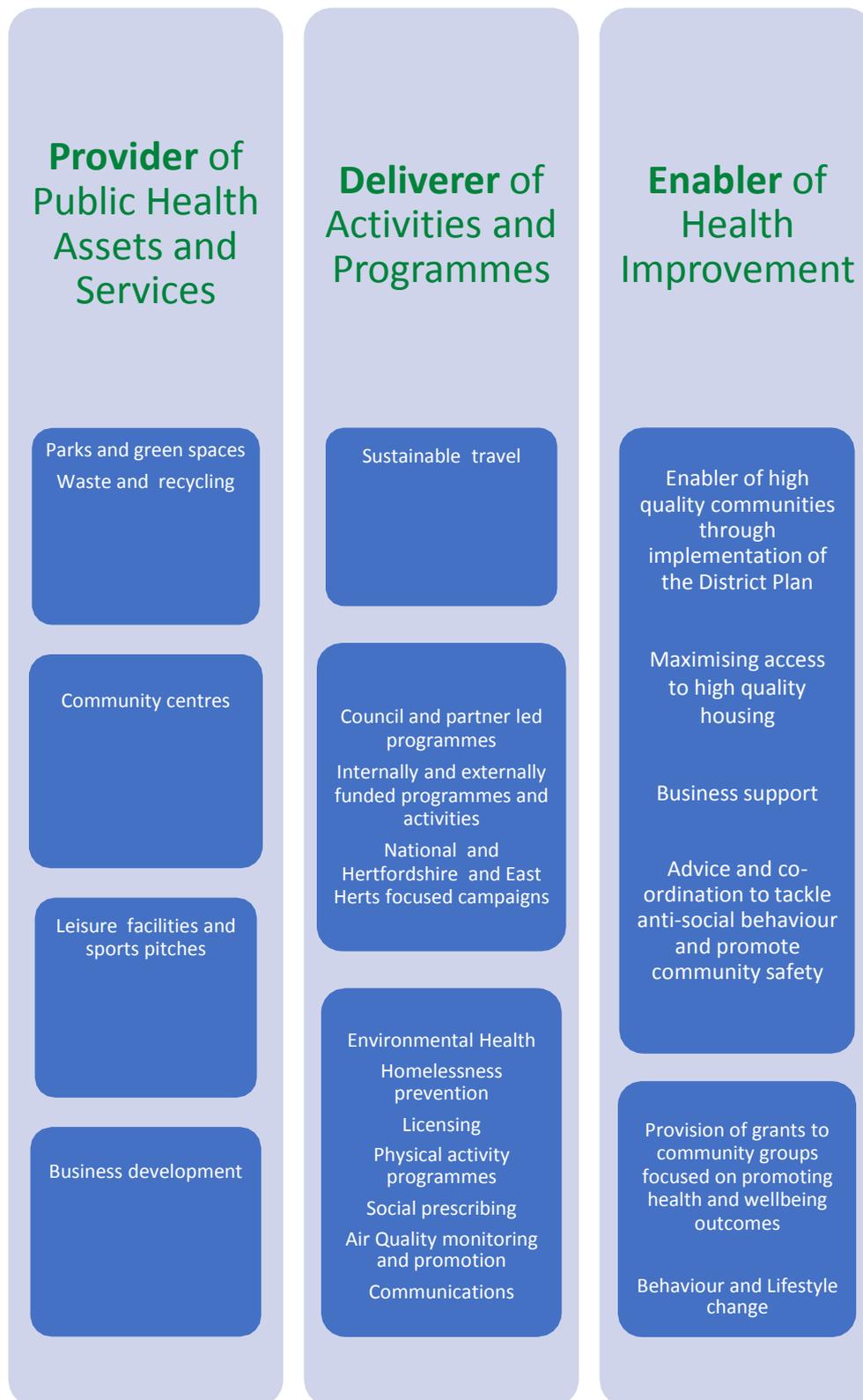
- a **deliverer** of public health activities and programmes

The council has the opportunity to deliver activities and programmes, often in partnership, which can further achievement of our health and wellbeing priorities.

- an **enabler** of public health improvement

The council can use its influence and resources to enable communities and individuals to achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes and have more choice in improving their own health.

The ways in which East Herts Council can deliver its health and wellbeing priorities



Working together with a purpose

The council recognises the need to challenge and motivate all those involved in bettering the health and wellbeing of local people. We need to continually ask ourselves:

- how can we **harness new technology** to support health and wellbeing improvement?
- how can we be **creative** about increasing the effectiveness and personalisation of services?
- how can we **stretch resources** while maintaining and improving the quality of services?
- do we have services that the council or its partners can develop into a marketable products to benefit the health and wellbeing of people? The **income** received from selling these services could then be re-invested to help sustain services
- how can we **help individuals and communities direct their available resources** towards maintaining and improving their health and wellbeing?
- how can the council foster a '**whole systems**' way of thinking in which cause-and-effect relationships impacting on health and wellbeing are better understood thus encouraging different stakeholders join up their efforts to make an impact on the whole system?⁸
- how can the council best exert its **place-making** potential to deliver real uplifts in health and wellbeing? Exerting influence through the council's District Plan is a great example of this.⁹

⁸ Whole Systems Leeds Beckett. <http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/wholesystemsobesity/a-whole-systems-approach/>

⁹ Health in all policies – a manual for local government. <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/health-all-policies-manua-ff0.pdf>

6. Health and Wellbeing Resources

A wide range of public health information is readily available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phe-data-and-analysis-tools-a-to-z/phe-data-and-analysis-tool-a-to-z>