

Housing

A Public Health Priority

Healthy Homes in Scotland
12th November 2019

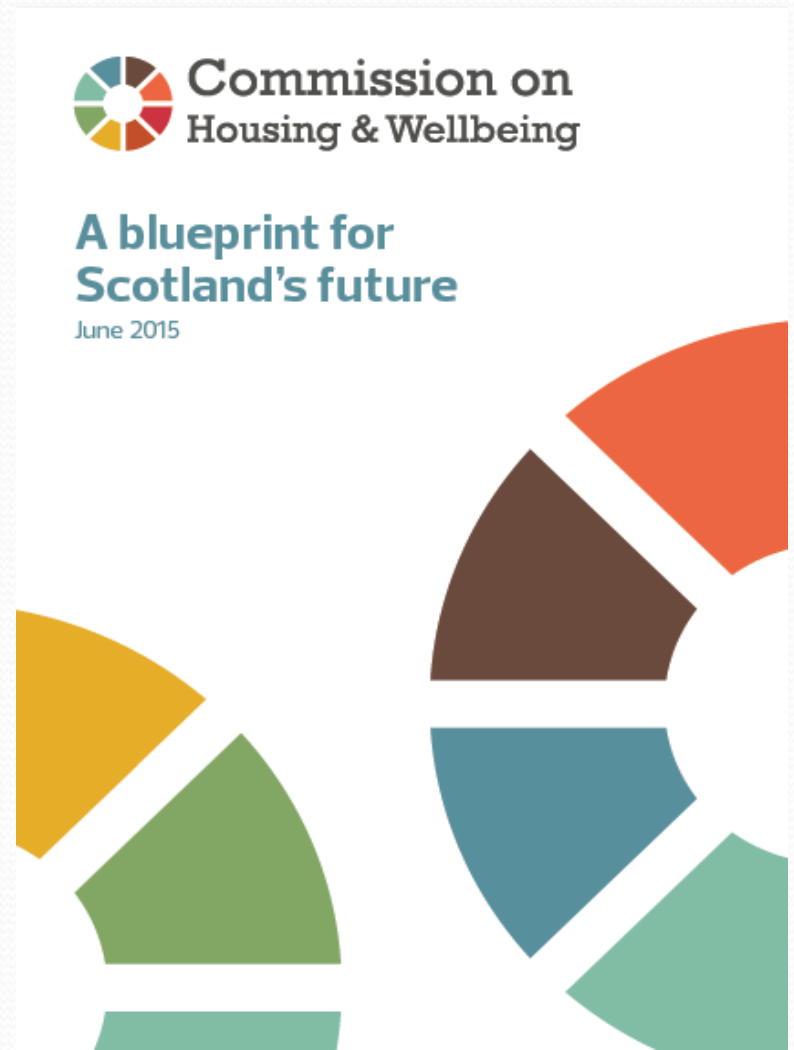


Housings Connections to Health

- Early pioneers of Public Health (e.g. Chadwick)
- Until 1951 housing policy was responsibility of Ministry of Health
- Central theme in key policy reports such as Black Report, Equally Well (inequalities)
- 2015 Commission on Housing and Wellbeing – focus on housing's central role in wellbeing across the life-course



Housing – the
bedrock on which
we build our lives
and reach our
potential for health
and wellbeing
across the life-
course



Highlighting key issues linking housing and health

- Housing condition and characteristics
- Housing within a place and community (next speaker)
- Housing as place of care and support
- Housing and homelessness
- Housing and the economy



Housing condition and characteristics

- Strong evidence for many different links
 - Overcrowding/ appropriate space
 - Energy efficiency and ventilation (air quality, humidity)
 - Home safety (trips, slips and falls, fires, poisonings, environmental tobacco smoke)
 - Food preparation
 - Affordability
 - Radon



Housing: Care and support

- Aging population, dementia, obesity
- Care at home
- Lack of local estimates of need and provision
- Health and care workforce
- Housing Contribution Statements



Housing and Homeless

- Very significant (can be catastrophic) health impacts
- Complex causes
- Affordable housing stock –necessary but not sufficient
- Need for other services and supports
- *Housing First Model*

Housing and the economy

- Economic benefits from investment in affordable housing are wide and varied:
 - Felt by the **individual**: through having a **secure, energy efficient, affordable home** – but also by those **employed directly in the house building industry**
 - Benefits extend to government: providing sufficient affordable housing has the **potential to reduce the housing benefit bill over the long-term**, as well as **creating stable environments** in which to achieve other health and social justice outcomes



Brief word on Inequalities



Social Determinants of Health

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which we are born, we grow and age, and in which we live and work.

These include...



Childhood experiences



Housing



Education



Social support



Family income



Employment



Our communities



Access to health services

Each of these factors impact on our health and wellbeing

A fairer society is a healthier society

Housing and Health Inequalities

- Housing has an important influence on health inequalities
- Many people do not live in a home that is warm, dry and affordable. Evident for those worst off in society
- There is more work to do to ensure that housing across tenures provides a sufficient number of quality, affordable homes to meet the needs of people in Scotland



Housing and health inequalities

NHS Health Scotland is a national Health Board working with and through public, private and third sector organisations to reduce health inequalities and improve health. We are committed to working with others and we provide a range of services to help our stakeholders take the action required to reduce health inequalities and improve health.

Key messages

- Housing has an important influence on health inequalities in Scotland. This is through the effects of housing costs, housing quality, fuel poverty and the role of housing in community life.
- Many people do not live in a home that is warm, dry and affordable.
- There is more work to do to ensure that housing across tenures provides a sufficient number of quality, affordable homes to meet the needs of people in Scotland.

Key actions

- Strengthen and grow a social rented sector that is accessible to all those who need it.
- Meet Scotland's requirement for new homes in a way that increases the availability of affordable homes across all tenures.
- Raise and maintain the quality of existing housing across all tenures to ensure that every home in Scotland is warm, dry and energy efficient.
- Deliver the vision of a Scotland where fuel poverty is eliminated.

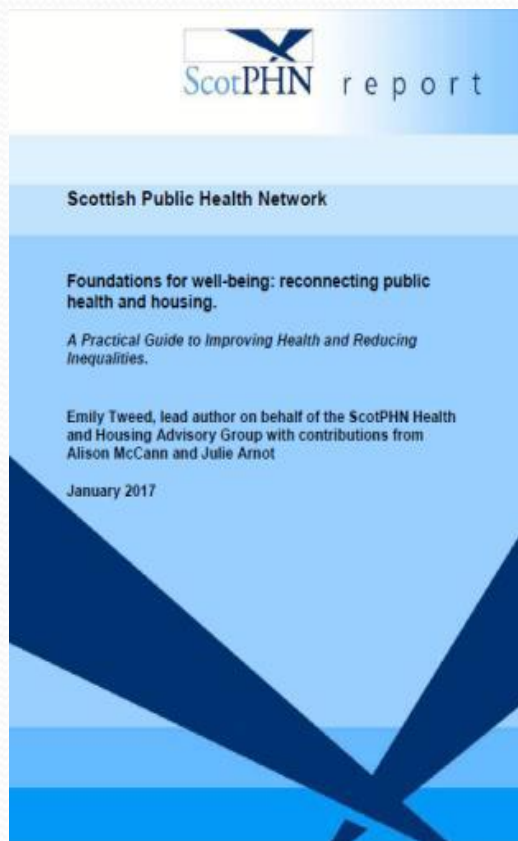
Inequality Briefing 5 Nov 2016

A series of briefings to promote action to reduce health inequalities.

Where we live.....

- Can promote our health if it is.....
 - **Affordable** and provides a **stable** and **secure** base
 - A place where we feel **safe** and **comfortable**
 - Able to provide for all the **households requirements**
 - **Connected to community, work and services**
- Where an individual lives is strongly related to their health outcomes
- Sharpe et al (2018) *Whole System Approaches Integrating Public Health and Housing* (International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health)

Re-connecting Public Health and Housing



Foundations for well-being: Reconnecting Public Health and Housing (ScotPHN) 2017

- ‘Colleagues from both sectors should seek public health representation in key strategic forums and planning processes relevant to housing, in order to maximise the potential contribution of good housing to improving health and reducing inequalities’
- ‘Public health teams should also consider the contribution good housing can make to local priority areas identified through Community Planning, and how this contribution can be embedded into Local Outcome Improvement Plans and locality plans’

Scottish Health Promotion Managers (SHPM's)

- The SHPM's *'work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Scotland by targeting resource to promote equity in health inequalities'*
- Bridge links across NHS Territorial Boards
- Priorities – Diet & Obesity (healthy weight), **Housing**, Community Empowerment, Mental Health
- Scoping the landscape
 - Housing overview – NHS Board activity
- Housing and Health Regional events – 2018
- Sponsor *Healthy Homes Working Group*

Opportunities for Health

- Informing and contributing to National policy
- Contributing to local strategy
- Networking and co-ordination
- Facilitating access to relevant data
- Build and disseminate the evidence base for housing and health
- Training and development for staff



Summary

- Public health in Scotland is reforming. Place and communities will be at the heart of this (this includes housing)
- Housing and homelessness significant public health issues
- Continuing evidence that housing is fundamental to health and wellbeing
- The housing and health sector have an important partnership role to play



Working in Partnership

Lets share our experience and knowledge

