



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Citation:

South, J and White, J and Trigwell, J and Kinsella, K and Harden, A and Bagnall, A (2016) An inter-sectoral map of UK policy promoting community engagement and empowerment in health. In: 9th European Public Health Association (EUPHA) conference, 09 November 2016 - 12 November 2016, Vienna. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckw171.013>

Link to Leeds Beckett Repository record:

<https://eprints.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/id/eprint/3429/>

Document Version:

Conference or Workshop Item (Supplemental Material)

The aim of the Leeds Beckett Repository is to provide open access to our research, as required by funder policies and permitted by publishers and copyright law.

The Leeds Beckett repository holds a wide range of publications, each of which has been checked for copyright and the relevant embargo period has been applied by the Research Services team.

We operate on a standard take-down policy. If you are the author or publisher of an output and you would like it removed from the repository, please [contact us](#) and we will investigate on a case-by-case basis.

Each thesis in the repository has been cleared where necessary by the author for third party copyright. If you would like a thesis to be removed from the repository or believe there is an issue with copyright, please contact us on openaccess@leedsbeckett.ac.uk and we will investigate on a case-by-case basis.

Reference

S201600707 (23/06/2016)

Type

Policy

Track

Health for All

Track 2

Health promotion

Type

Pitch

Session preferences

community public health policy participation

Title

An inter-sectoral map of UK policy promoting community engagement and empowerment in health

Presenter

Jane South j.south@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Presenter under 35

N

Authors

1. J South 2. J. White 3. J. Trigwell 4. K.Kinsella 5. A. Harden 6. A-M Bagnall

Affiliations

1. Centre for Health Promotion Research, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, UK 2. Centre for Health Promotion Research, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, UK 3. Centre for Health Promotion Research, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, UK 4. Centre for Health Promotion Research, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, UK 5. Institute for Health and Human Development, University of East London, London, UK 6. Centre for Health Promotion Research, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, UK

Abstract

Issue: Strengthening community action, as proposed in the Ottawa Charter, is key to achieving public health goals within a whole-of society approach to health. Community engagement is not a simple intervention as it is shaped by community contexts and policy agendas that can either constrain or enable local action. This has implications for developing an evidence base.

Description of problem: Changes in UK policy and programme funding have led to a fragmented evidence base and many participatory models not achieving sustainability. To inform an update of public health guidance, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence commissioned an independent, systematic scoping review to understand UK community engagement policy and practice. This paper presents findings from the documentary analysis of policy themes and concepts.

Results: After systematic searching and screening, 40 policy and 30 conceptual publications were included and extracted data then mapped onto a matrix. We found that UK policy interest in community engagement in health threads through multiple sectors including health, local government and volunteering. Policy focus was not static; new concepts (eg social action) have emerged since 2000, while others (eg health inequalities) have less prominence. Local government was identified as a key policy actor.

Community empowerment was a common theme but concepts were not used consistently.

Lessons: Community engagement in health has policy significance but can lack visibility because it is applied across multiple policy areas and is cross referenced to different concepts. This is important for promoting intersectoral action involving communities and for building healthy public policy. Our conclusions are that community engagement is best used as a broad organising concept as it covers a range of policy areas and terms. This needs to be accounted for in building an evidence base for participatory methods within and between countries.

Message 1

A mapping of UK policy since 2000 shows that community engagement in health can be promoted through a range of policy initiatives and sectors; however there is change through policy cycles

Message 2

The evidence base on community engagement can appear fragmented, results from this policy analysis help identify related concepts and terms.