

Progress in Practice

Implementing Action for Sustainability

An appraisal toolkit to help integrate sustainability into development in the North West region

Summary

In 2002, the North West region produced a pioneering guide to help planners, investors, and decision-makers throughout the region evaluate and enhance their contribution towards regional sustainable development.

The goal of this guide – entitled *Implementing Action for Sustainability* – is to simultaneously maximise economic, social and environmental benefits of decisions for a more integrated and sustainable approach to development.

Now the tool is being taken up more widely with strategic health authorities across the region pledging to use it in £750 million worth of capital planning.

As Dominic Harrison, the HDA's regional associate director in the north west, puts it: "The health sector is going to have a massive impact on infrastructure, planning, education and employment across the region because of its commitment to integrated impact appraisal". More broadly, the health sector is now taking a lead on appraisals of local development projects (e.g. regeneration of Preston city centre) to ensure the wider determinants of health are considered.

Links: To download the toolkit for free go to:
www.set.iarna.co.uk/afs/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&news_id=6.

This case study includes material taken from the Health Development Agency's 2003 Annual Report, at:
www.hda-online.org.uk/documents/annual_report_2003.pdf.

David Woodyatt, project director for the £210 million Whiston Hospital scheme, has used the tool:

"I came to this as a sceptic. I am now a complete convert. The best thing you can do for someone's health is get them off the dole and in to work. It's changed our attitudes. As a team we have been able to recognise the benefits that we can bring over and above providing buildings for the NHS".

Implementing Action for Sustainability is the result of a collaboration between many regional partners including:

North West Regional Assembly (www.nwra.gov.uk), **the Environment Agency** (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest), **Warrington Borough Council** (www.warrington.gov.uk), **Government Office for the North West** (www.go-nw.gov.uk), **Health Development Agency** (www.hda-online.org.uk/html/about/north-west.html), **Cheshire County Council** (www.cheshire.gov.uk), **North West Development Agency** (www.nwda.co.uk), **Sustainability North West** (www.snw.org.uk/frameset.html), **the National Centre for Business and Sustainability** (www.ncbe.co.uk), and **the University of Liverpool** (www.liv.ac.uk).

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