



## Hengrove and Stockwood Neighbourhood Partnership Wednesday 20 June 2012

### Stockwood Healthy Neighbourhood Check

Places where we live, work and spend leisure time can have a profound impact on our health and the health of our communities. Some places limit our choices to lead a healthier lifestyle and some places support our health and wellbeing. To engage local residents and other stakeholders in looking at this the Bristol Partnership's Healthy City Group have organised a number of walkabouts over the last couple of years.

These have been in Avonmouth (September 2010) and Lockleaze (November 2010), Greater Bedminster (May 2011) and St Jude's and Old Market (October 2011). The next ones are planned for Stockwood (18 July 2012) and Lawrence Weston (5 September 2012). The neighbourhoods have been selected in consultation with the Public Health community-based health improvement teams.

The objectives for the neighbourhood visits are to:

- Identify factors in the area which support health and those which limit choices for healthier lifestyles and identify associated actions
- Identify key local health and environmental planning issues where members of the Healthy City Group can provide information, resources and contacts to benefit the local community
- Develop a more joined-up understanding of health in neighbourhoods and identify common issues that may require a strategic whole Bristol response
- Foster processes for joint learning and building of relationships between local neighbourhoods, people who work in them and the Healthy City Group

The Healthy Neighbourhood check has been developed from the experience of using the Place Check rapid assessment tool ([www.placecheck.info](http://www.placecheck.info)) and giving it an explicit health focus and is based on three simple questions:

1. What keeps us healthy?
2. What detracts from good health?
3. What are the opportunities for change?

These questions are asked against health priorities that have been identified in Bristol's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and are linked to the environment, along side any neighbourhood specific issues (see table overleaf) and consideration of health inequalities.

Health priorities	Some possible environmental implications
<b>1. A growing and ageing population</b>	Accessible walking routes, Seating, Public toilets
<b>2. Children's needs</b>	Play areas – formal (play grounds) and informal (streets, parks, woods) Safe routes to school
<b>3. Increasing healthy lifestyles and improving housing</b>	Physical activity and active travel, Access to healthy food, Quality of housing
<b>4. Better planning</b>	Access to open space, Mix of uses, Places for social interaction Noise and air quality
<b>5. Reducing how much we rely on petrol and oil for energy</b>	Active travel Renewable energy Flood risk
<b>6. Neighbourhood specific issues</b>	

Examples of neighbourhood issues from elsewhere include:

- Community severance by the major arterial roads on all sides
- Provision, accessibility and quality of green space, including access to opportunities for food growing and play
- A healthy life course approach: the neighbourhood as a healthy setting for young families with kids, for teenagers and for an ageing population
- Isolation and poor links to other communities, services and employment opportunities
- Supporting social and cultural networks and activities
- The car drenched nature of the urban realm versus street life and activity
- Quality of local housing

The format for the session is:

**9:30 am** – introduction to the neighbourhood health check and the health issues of the area at a local community venue.

**10:00 am** – walkabout the area in small groups using the Healthy Neighbourhood check

**11:30am** – return to the community venue for a plenary where to share how we assessed the area and what might be done with the results.

The outcome of the visit is a photo-report with recommendations for action.

**Recommendation:** The report is noted.

**Report Author:** Stephen Hewitt, Healthy Urban Team  
Bristol City Council/NHS Bristol

Wednesday 30 May 2012