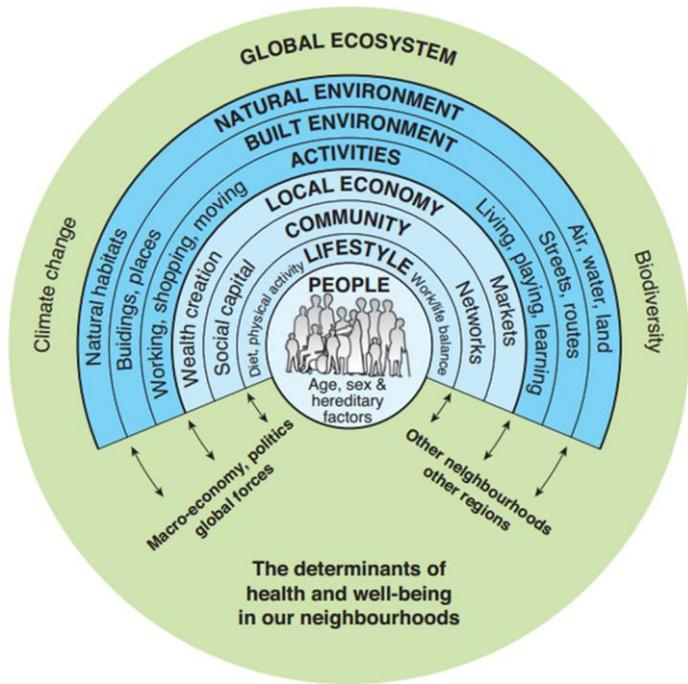


What kind of health metrics do we need to plan healthy places

Prof Alister Scott BA PhD MRTPI



GIP Annual conference 12 July 2018

Green Spaces: Healthy Places



Feedback from 150 participants



1. What current health metrics do you use (if any) to inform decision making for better uptake of GI
2. What particular metrics do you need to help your policy and decision making ?
3. How should we use health metrics in policy and decision making?"
4. How can we better link GI characteristics and functions to health metrics?

1 what current health metrics do you use?

- Established data sources and surveys (e.g. census: index of multiple deprivation; Active lives survey; MENIE survey; obesity survey)
- Health frameworks : Qalys (quality adjusted life years); IDM (interactive domain model)
- Extant GI standards (Angst, Green Flag).
- Bespoke metrics dominate : with site surveys featuring in terms of visitor numbers, usage and activities.
- Use of perception data including user self assessment.

2. What particular metrics do you need to help your policy and decision making?

- **economic based metrics** capturing the value of GI both in terms of the ecosystem services provided and consequential multiple/co-benefits
- Input/enhance **current health metrics** into GI assessments rather than create new ones.
 - link between trying to assess the NHS costs forgone by GI interventions also appear with stronger **metrics to social prescribing**
- Measuring value of nature as spaces for innovation and inspiration
- Importance of **identifying metrics assessing quality** as opposed to quantity (eg planting 11 million trees) and best value (cheapest)

3. How should we use health metrics in policy and decision making?

- **decision support tools;** care over design, use and interpretation.
- used to **improve extant/proposed planning guidance, policy (local plans) and outcomes;** including building regulations.
- important for **investment** and securing more funding.
- **feed into existing decision systems** such as appraisal (monetary valuation) and health investment.
- **target those in most need** as opposed to those who were already benefitting;
- investment in **new spaces and retrofit GI**

4. How can we better link GI characteristics and functions to health metrics?

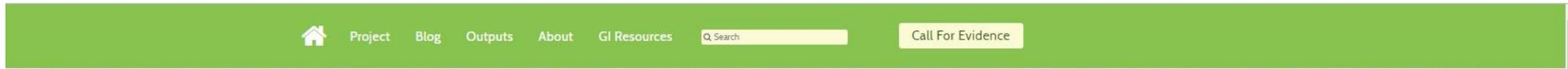
- Too much focus on evidence: **more on translating the evidence in more accessible formats** (via hooks) to better influence decision makers.
- Preaching to a converted audience; **need to engage missing stakeholders**
- **Training** and CPD on value(s) and benefits of green spaces
- **Linking metrics within extant approved standards** such as BRREAM
- Demonstration sites with longitudinal data and sensors to **show on the ground what good looks like with access to all evidence**
- Using both **quantitative and qualitative data** where peoples experiences and stories equally mattered.
- Understanding and **building upon peoples connections with nature** and to find out what sparks improve such connections. E.g. Gardens

Metric fallacies : health warnings!

- Fallacy of creeping data and metric incrementalism without knowing the actual problems you want solved.
- Fallacy of quantity metrics: need to engage with quality
- Fallacy of top-down imposed metrics rather than bottom up shaped
- Fallacy of target driven metrics not those on securing behaviour changes and delivery
- Fallacy of silos ; need to get all the “suspects” (stakeholders/influencers) into the room via cross sector partnerships
- Fallacy of reinventing wheels rather than building on existing



Contact



Key questions underpinning this fellowship:

1. What does good green infrastructure actually look like in planning policy and decision-making processes?
2. How can we translate existing NERC and other research science associated with GI cumulatively into additional pathways to impact to address key policy and practice challenges and opportunities?
3. How can we demonstrate and evaluate the added value of GI in planning policies and interventions?
4. How can we change/influence behaviour(s) of key actors in the planning arena regarding their valuation and use of GI in policy making and practice?

My role as a NERC Knowledge Exchange Fellow

As a knowledge exchange fellow I see my role as a catalyst integrating multiple planning policy and practice viewpoints across key stakeholders who use/shape the planning system.

These participants will co-produce the project's outputs within a managed process that is developmental, pragmatic and peer reviewed; delivering a suite of guidance, tools and resources that mainstream GI in policy and decision making thereby embracing the government's economic growth and quality of life agendas.

- Alister.scott@northumbria.ac.uk
- @profalister (twitter)
- NERC fellow
<https://mainstreaminggreeninfrastructure.com/index.php>