So what? Developing recommendations for policy, practice and research

David Miller

Imogen Pearce, Roger Cummins, Sue Morris, Jane Morrice, George Morris, Richard Mitchell, Catharine Ward Thompson, Jenny Roe,
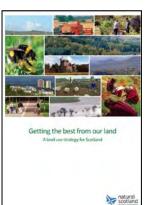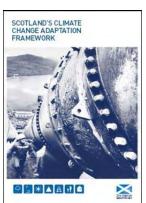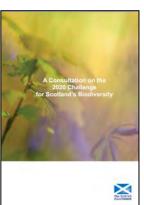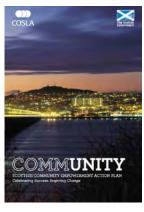
Policy and Practice

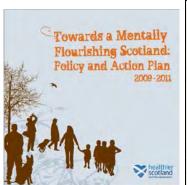Greenspace, health and well-being intersect a wide range of topics of policy and practice
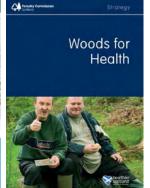
Policy and Evidence

Structured review of 55 policy related documents (to mid-2012)

Key words from objectives

(The Top 20!)

Associations with Greenspace

Key words (characteristics) linked to greenspace and quoted in policy documents

Health and Greenspace

Review of policy and strategies (2000 to 2009)

- Physical and mental health received relatively low attention in planning policies

- Health-related documents had strong emphasis on health and well-being of children (obesity a common topic)

- Most documents presumed links between health, activity and greenspace, but few had pointers to relevant evidence

- Notable references to health and well-being by Forestry Commission

Aims and Indicators

Aims or Indicators - Greenspace

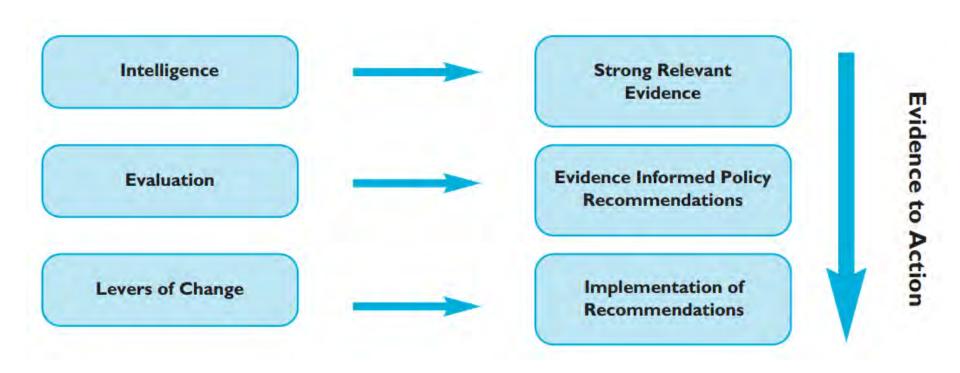Aims or Indicators – Health & wellbeing

Keywords associated with indicators

Good Places, Better Health

Intelligence, evaluation and levers systems

(Source: Good Places, Better Health, Implementation Plan, 2008)

Increasing Evidence

Example GreenHealth contributions to peer reviewed scientific literature

For example, morbidity and mortality, stress & destressing, individual and community well-being

… part of wider development of evidence base, e.g. EDPHiS

Health Inequalities
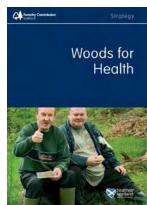
Example policy links: Strategic/Development planning, Curriculum for Excellence, Woods for Health

- Emphasis on increasing access and use of greenspace by children leading to their use as adults

- Increase access and use for different population groups (e.g. ethnic, ability, interest)

- Involvement in planning decisions, encouragement of social participation, aiding community well-being

- Plan for co-existence of multiple uses

What are the key barriers to access?

Communities
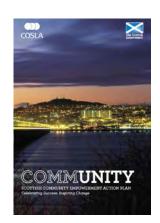
Example policy links: Community Planning, Community Empowerment, Land Reform, Land Use Strategy

- Identify mechanisms to support social use (e.g. coordination)

- Provide common purpose, sense of achievement, ownership of greenspace use, foster responsibility for local environments **(e.g. Placemaking)**

- 'Extension service' for community empowerment and engagement

- Models of ownership: 'buy-out', lease, access

What are suitable forms of 'ownership'?
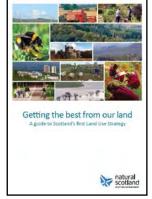
Planning & Communities
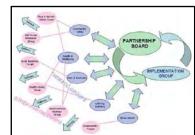
Example policy links: Land Use Strategy, Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, Community Planning

- Increase community access to different kinds of greenspace, so allowing different types of interactions

- Increase use of greenspaces for raising public awareness of nature in local environments, so help connect people to the land and effects of seasons

- Indicators for use in future Single Outcome Agreements (monitoring and reporting on greenspace access)

What are useful indicators of community access?

Multiple Functions and Services
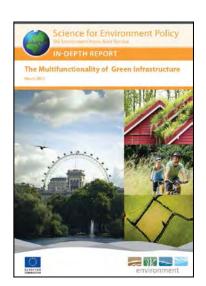
Example policy links: Land Use Strategy, Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, National Planning Framework 2

- Support mechanisms for delivery of multiple benefits from green spaces

- Integrate multiple benefits through spatial planning at micro / site scale

- Social, environmental and economic benefits from green and blue spaces as part of 'green infrastructure'

- Community recognition of trade-offs between services (e.g. disturbance, safety, habitat protection)

What are the trade-offs people make?
What are the motivations?

Data

Example Policy link: Provision of environmental data (EU INSPIRE, Land Use Strategy)

• Research has generated new data (e.g. surveys)

• Substantially assisted by One Scotland Agreement – e.g. enables Scottish Greenspace Map, Ordnance Survey

• Significantly drawn on other existing public data - Scottish Health Survey, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

• **Capability for the research reinforces need for increasing access to environmental data - e.g. via Scotland's Environment Web**
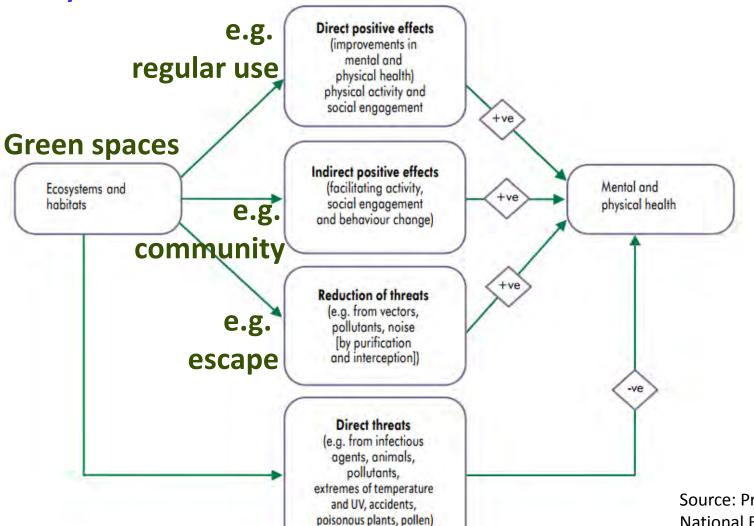

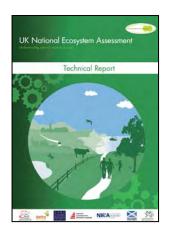**What is the next priority for data?**
What are the gaps in the tools?

Ecosystem Services

Since 2009, greater emphasis on links within and between ecosystems

e.g. regular use

Green spaces

e.g. community

e.g. escape

Source: Pretty et al. (2011) National Ecosystem Assessment (Ch. 23)