



PRESS RELEASE – 16 February 2010

BUILDING HEALTH: PLANNING AND DESIGNING FOR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Conference reflects Marmot recommendations on health and built environment

The Marmot Review into health inequalities in England '*Fair Society, Healthy Lives*', published on 11 February proposes ways to reduce health inequalities in England post-2010. *Policy objective E – Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities* recommends the full integration of planning, transport, housing, environmental and health systems to address the social determinants of health in each locality. In January 2010 a number of built environment and public health professionals came together in a national conference held at the University of the West of England, Bristol, to consider just these issues.

Building Health: Planning and designing for health and happiness drew attention to the growing evidence base, reinforced by the Marmot Review, on communities and the built environment as key settings to deliver both human and planetary health.

As well as case studies from the UK and Europe delegates took part in masterclasses supported by evidence papers produced by UWE's WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Urban Environments.

The Conference also pre-empted two other key themes in the Marmot Review: training in health for planners, transport, housing and other professionals, and ensuring that Primary Care Trusts play a central role as stakeholders in local planning processes. Conference delegates representing a range of disciplines within the public, private and voluntary sectors came together to discuss these issues and

consider their implications across different sectors, in order to understand how to make our everyday environments more healthy.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) emerged as a key tool for ensuring that opportunities to promote health and well-being are fully explored and integrated throughout the planning and delivery of any new development.

Conference details

The conference was organised by The Architecture Centre, Bristol in partnership with Department of Health – South West, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities and Urban Policy, University of the West of England. Hosted by the Institute for Sustainability, Health and Environment at UWE.

A high-profile line-up of speakers included Irena Bauman, Director of Bauman Lyons Architects and author of *How to be a Happy Architect*; Wulf Daseking, Director of City Planning in Freiburg, Germany; Professor Mike Kelly, Director of the Centre for Public Health Excellence at NICE; Dr Russell Jones, Public Health Programme Manager at the Glasgow Centre for Population Health. The seven masterclasses were led by equally experienced speakers and chairs.

For more information see:

www.architecturecentre.co.uk/events/buildinghealth.htm

Notes to Editors:

1. Images

High resolution images are available on request from Jodie Marks or Lottie Storey at The Architecture Centre: jodie.marks@architecturecentre.co.uk or lottie.storey@architecturecentre.co.uk

2. The Architecture Centre

The Architecture Centre aims to increase people's awareness and enjoyment of architecture and the built environment, and to demonstrate the value of good design through its exhibitions, events, education and outreach programmes. The Centre is situated on the waterfront in Bristol with two exhibition spaces, a meeting room and shop. The Architecture Centre is funded by Arts Council England, CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), and creating:excellence,

and is a founding member of the Architecture Centre Network. Centre address: Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA. 0117 922 1540. www.architecturecentre.co.uk

3. Department of Health – South West

The Department of Health – South West works to improve the health of people living in the region, and to reduce the inequalities in health between particular communities, by tackling the population wide reasons that affect health such as the quality of the places where people live, opportunities for education and employment, access to healthy food and physical activity.

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4. University of the West of England

The University of the West of England's WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Urban Environments promotes healthy and sustainable settlements through research, teaching, consultancy, knowledge exchange and publications.

www.bne.uwe.ac.uk/who/default.asp

The Centre is at the core of the UWE Institute for Sustainability, Health and Environment, which provides a focus for research, teaching, consultancy and training in the intimately linked areas of Sustainability, Health and Environment.

<http://www.uwe.ac.uk/ishe/>

5. Health Impact Assessment

The WHO Collaborating Centre has developed a web resource to provide resources and support for planners, public health professionals and other related professions in the application of Health Impact Assessment.

<http://www.bne.uwe.ac.uk/who/hia/default.asp>

6. Conference supporters

The conference was supported by a wide range of organisations including: Bristol City Council, CABA (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), Forum for the Future, Homes & Communities Agency, Institute of Highways and Transportation,

Natural England, RTPPI (Royal Town Planning Institute), South West Councils, South West Regional Development Agency, South West Strategic Health Authority, Sustainability South West, Sustrans and the West of England Partnership.

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