

District Council's role in Health

District Councils have a long and proud history of providing public health services and supporting positive health outcomes for our communities.

Highlights of district councils' contribution to health outcomes include:

- Homelessness Prevention
- Affordable Housing
- Home Adaptations
- Provision of Leisure Services
- Provision of Public Open Space
- Environmental Health Function
- Resilience and Emergency Planning.

Common Environmental Health functions of District Council's

- Private sector housing: homes of multiple occupation licensing and control, overcrowding poor housing conditions.
- Manage local air quality.
- Investigate noise nuisance complaints.
- Food safety inspections and investigating food-borne illnesses.
- Ensuring the quality of private water supplies.
- Identifying, preventing harmful effects from contaminated land.
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, ensuring compliance
- Enforcing smoking bans under the Health Act 2006.
- Enforcement of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949,
- Enforcing the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010

Alongside the fundamental contributions made by front line services other Council services have an important enabling role for Public Health:

- **Planning:** the impact of planning and new developments has a significant impact on residents physical, social and mental health.
Through taking into account factors such as open space, air quality, cycle ways, footpaths etc. planning plays a crucial enabling role in local health outcomes.
- **Economic development:** there is a strong relationship between a strong local economy and positive health outcomes. District councils' have a key role as drivers of growth is thus this is central to healthy local communities.
- **Community empowerment:** the wider roles played by district councils in facilitating social support networks and community centered approaches has a positive effect on the health and wellbeing of local communities.

Kings Fund report

“District councils are the ‘sleeping giants of public health’ and should be seen as such by the NHS and other tiers of local government, according to a new report from The Kings Fund”.

“The future is establishing districts in the mainstream of health and social care policy.”

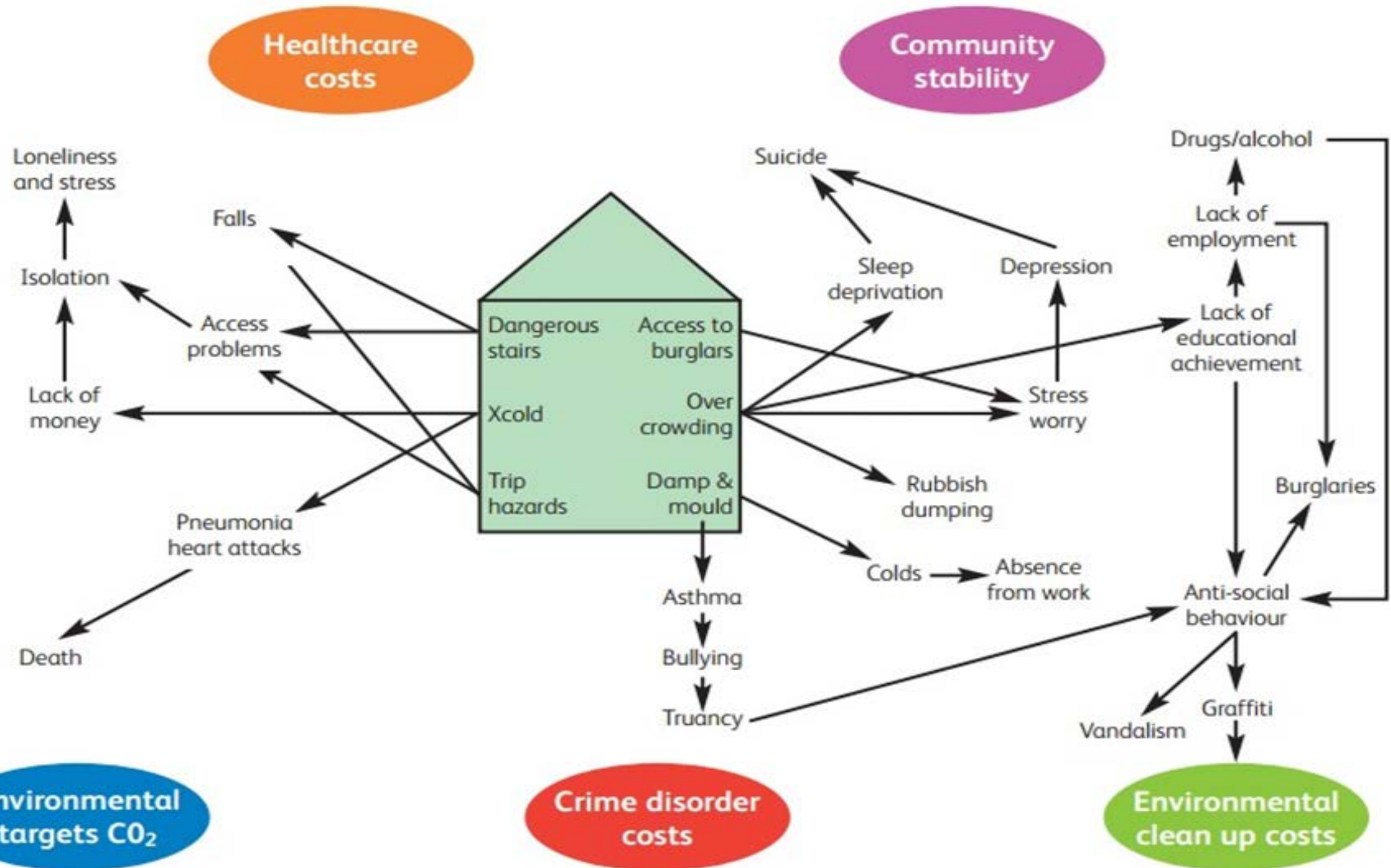
“district councils need to be able to support and enable their citizens to take more control over their own health, they will require more innovation to achieve this.”

Health Impact and Return on Investment of District Councils' Key Functions

What follows are some of the health impacts district councils can have when carrying out some of their core functions and examples of the positive economic impact these services have on the NHS.



The relationship between poor housing and health



Poor Housing



People living in the poorest
15% of the housing stock have
the biggest impact on local
health systems



An estimated cost of
£1.4 billion

Overcrowding



660,000 households in
England living in
overcrowded conditions

Every £1 spent dealing with
over crowding in 100,000
homes could save the NHS
£6.71million over 10 years



Fuel Poverty

60% of those in fuel poverty living in inefficient houses



Raising thermal efficiency 3% would lift 84% out of fuel poverty



Cold homes costs the NHS £1.36 billion. Per year.

Home adaptations



45% of accidents occur in the home

A Hip fracture costs the NHS £16,000 per patient

Every £1 spent adapting 100,000 homes could save the NHS £69.7m over the next 10 years



Handyperson Service



Every £1 spent invested in 100,000 homes could save the NHS £7.50 m over the next 10 years

Man made air pollution



Poor Air quality
costs the NHS
Over £20,000,000,000



Reduction in life expectancy of
up to 6 – 8 months

That's a greater impact
than passive smoking and
car accidents put together

Smoking Ban Enforcement



25% reduction of non smokers
contracting lung cancer.

Food Borne diseases

20,000 People are hospitalised every year



500 deaths are due to food borne disease every year



Estimated cost
£1,500,000,000 per year



Noise cumulative UK – wide impact



It has been estimated that stress and violence caused by excessive noise costs over £2,000,000,000 per year



Public Open Space



For every £1 spent p.a. by the Council society benefits on average £30.30 in health care provision as residents who use our green spaces tend to be healthier and fitter



For every £1 spent p.a. by the Council, society benefits £23.30 towards the cost of crime and anti-social behavior, as our green spaces offer activities and bring residents together

7 in 10 adults in our district either overweight or obese



Estimated cost of a population
being overweight or obese £27
billion per year.

