



Whole System Community-Centred Public Health List of resources

There is increasing interest in the UK around applying ideas on complexity and systems thinking to public health and to care systems. The project 'Community-Centred Public Health – Taking a Whole System Approach' has built on this emerging thinking and practice, but with a focus on the contribution of communities to health and wellbeing. This list of resources highlights other frameworks and tools that are available to support whole systems working with communities. The list was generated through contacts with key stakeholders during the project and a search by Public Health England's Knowledge and Library Service.

Health Foundation – Complex Adaptive Systems

The Health Foundation has been working with the concepts of complex adaptive systems for nearly a decade. An [evidence summary](#) published in 2010 gives an overview of the concepts, underpinning theories and practice related to complex adaptive systems [1]. Recent work has a focus on prevention, looking at obesity and mental health, and the use of [system mapping](#) [2].

Lankelly Chase – Systems Behaviours

Lankelly Chase Foundation advocates systems thinking to respond to complex issues such as homelessness, mental ill health and poverty [3]. Their [approach to change](#) is based on nine system behaviours relating to perspectives, power and participation [4]. A report of the [Systems Changers Programme](#) focuses on the contribution of front line workers to system change [5].

Commissioning in Complexity

Developed from research with commissioners and charitable foundations, [A Whole New World: Funding and Commissioning in Complexity](#) sets out a case for an alternative model of commissioning, recognising that people's lives are complex and outcomes are best achieved through more joined up local systems [6]. The latest report, [Exploring the New World: practical insights for funding, commissioning and managing in complexity](#), illustrates the principles with examples from local areas [7].

New Local Government Network – The Community Paradigm

The New Local Government Network (NLGN) [Community Paradigm](#) is a conceptual framework for change in local government based on the principles of empowering and

resourcing communities and developing a collaborative culture oriented to prevention and community assets [8]. An accompanying report, [Community Commissioning: Shaping Public Services through People Power](#), sets out an approach based on learning from [Big Local](#) and other examples of participatory decision-making [9].

The King's Fund - A Vision for Population Health

The [Vision for Population Health](#) is a conceptual framework explaining the core elements of a public health system [10]. The King's Fund argue for a greater emphasis and spend on prevention, a system approach that strengthens the connections between four pillars of population health, and for local leadership to mobilise communities and involve them in decision making. The King's Fund also publish a [communities and health explainer and linked reading list](#).

Locality – Supporting Local Economies

'Keep it Local' is a Locality campaign [11] to promote local economies and encourage investment in community anchor organisations. The report [Powerful Communities, Strong Economies](#) uses an Economic Resilience model that is 'citizen-centric' and collaborative [12]. A 2016 briefing '[Keep it Local: five step guide for councillors and commissioners](#)' sets out the principles of local commissioning to build social value and community capacity [13].

Asset-Based Approaches across a System

[Think Local Act Personal](#) (TLAP) have published a number of resources to support asset-based working and community capacity building. The ten features of an [asset-based area](#) form a framework for considering realignment of services [14], which can be used alongside a series of [how-to guides for creating an asset-based area](#) [15]. Other publications exploring a shift to asset-based working in local systems include a Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) evidence briefing with a model for the development of [asset-based places](#) [16] and a [theory of change](#) to reframe and mobilise assets developed from work with areas and practitioners who have successfully introduced asset-based approaches [17].

Learning from NHS England Vanguard & Healthy New Towns

NHS England have initiated several programmes to stimulate and embed more integrated health and care systems. The [new care models programme](#) was established in 2015, with fifty vanguards across England [18]. Some vanguards have taken a whole system prevention focus working in localities and neighbourhoods [19]. [Healthy New Towns](#) focuses on the built environment and designing new places that support better health and care [20].

'Encouraging strong and connected communities' is one of three priorities. [Putting Health Into Place](#) is a series of resources based on learning from the 10 demonstrator sites.

NHS Scotland – The Place Standard

The [Place Standard](#) is a framework and tool for assessing the quality of places across a range of aspects, from physical environment to social factors such as inclusion, safety and empowerment [21]. The tool is designed to be used in different types of areas to support dialogue with a range of stakeholders including communities and public sector organisations.

A growing body of examples from practice

As well as PHE's [community-centred public health practice examples](#), there are other examples of local areas that have taken a whole system, community-centred approach to improving health and wellbeing [7]. Some key reports that provide evidence of change, as well as describing the 'how' and 'why' of a whole system approach, are:

- [Tapping the Potential](#) – reporting on a new collaboration to improve health and care in Somerset, that was focused on integration of voluntary and community sector organisations [22]
- [Well North](#) - a place-based initiative aimed at addressing health inequalities through community empowerment, local enterprise and innovation [23]. A [Well North Legacy Report](#) details the change process and learning from ten pathfinder sites in the North of England [24].
- King's Fund case study on the [Wigan Deal](#) - setting out the elements of and outcomes from transformational, citizen-led change in Wigan [25]
- [Bromley by Bow case study](#) – a set of evidence-based resources showing how a community-centred approach to prevention links primary care services with the activities of the Bromley by Bow Centre, a community hub in East London
- A summary of UK [place-based working](#) initiatives and key learning from the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS), Scotland [26].

Further information

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