

# Yorkshire-HIA Network

Supporting professional development in HIA

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Department of Public Health, Faculty of Health Studies, University of Bradford

## Welcome Message

I am pleased to welcome you to the maiden newsletter of the Yorkshire Health Impact Assessment Network (**Yorkshire-HIA Network**). The newsletter will be produced and distributed bi-monthly to update on issues relevant to HIA practice and wider developments in public health and healthy public policy. It will contribute to achieving the Network's primary purpose to support professional development in HIA by bringing people together to learn, share practice, and further develop knowledge and skills. Yorkshire-HIA Network is an open space for colleagues to share their work, explore challenges and opportunities in HIA and ask for advice from others in the field.

Interested to join the Network, please do via the website: <https://yorkshirehian.co.uk/>

I trust you will give your support and contribute to our collective work to improve health and tackle inequalities within our various communities of practice.

Thank you.

Dr Marcus Chilaka  
(Yorkshire-HIA Network Coordinator)



University of Bradford – hosting institution for the Yorkshire-HIA Network



Photo of participants at the 1st Bradford HIA workshop held at the University of Bradford in May 2024

## A stitch in time with health impact assessments (HIAs)

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a key systematic approach to predicting the magnitude and significance of the possible health and well-being impacts, both positive and negative, of plans, policies and projects. This is based on the understanding that a community's health is not only determined by its health services, but also by a wide range of social, economic, psychological, and environmental influences (the determinants of health). HIA uses a range of structured and evaluated sources of qualitative and quantitative evidence that includes public and other stakeholders' perceptions and experiences as well as public health, epidemiological, toxicological and medical knowledge.

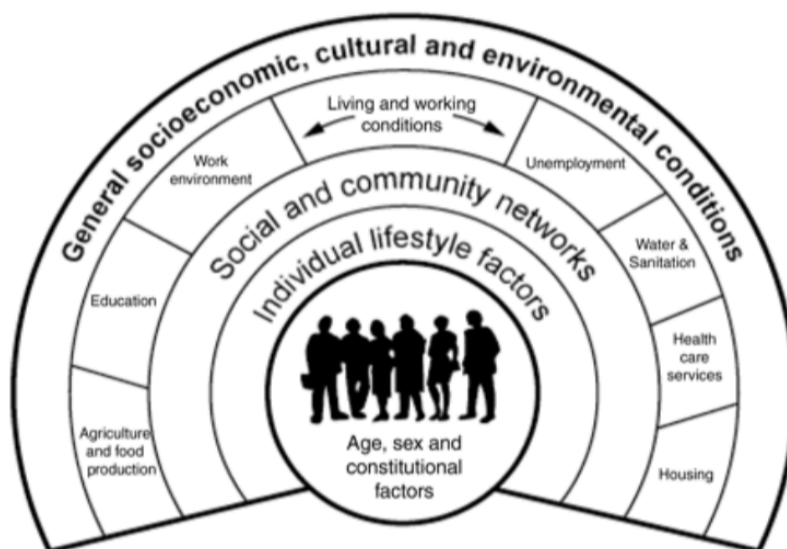


Diagram illustrating the wider determinants of health

Source: Dahlgren G and Whitehead, *Policies and strategies to promote social equity in health*. Institute of Future Studies. Stockholm. 1991.

The Health Impact assessment Report will include a recommendation of measures to enhance identified positive impacts and also mitigating the negative effects, which would contribute towards

overall improvement in the health and well-being of the people who are affected by any given policy, project or development endeavour. In this respect, a health impact assessment can be seen as a stitch in time (preventive) public health approach which is increasingly being required in the planning process.

Additionally, a key component of the HIA process is the engagement of relevant stakeholders and local community members in generating evidence, which would in turn facilitate meaningful community participation in health and development of the affected communities.

Furthermore, the health impact assessment will illustrate the causal pathways through which the phenomena under consideration can affect the health and well-being of the populations under focus, based on the wider social, economic and cultural determinants of health.

## Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership. The SDGs recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.



## Following are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere</li><li>● Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</li><li>● Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</li><li>● Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</li><li>● Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</li><li>● Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</li><li>● Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</li><li>● Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</li><li>● Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries</li><li>● Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</li><li>● Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</li><li>● Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*</li><li>● Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</li><li>● Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</li><li>● Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</li><li>● Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</li></ul> |
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The 17 SDGs are **integrated** in the sense that they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

## Multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments

The achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets will require all hands on deck. It will require different sectors and actors working together in an integrated manner by pooling financial resources, knowledge and expertise. In order to achieve the sustainable future we want, a cross sectorial and innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships will play a crucial role. Partnerships for sustainable development include multi-stakeholder initiatives voluntarily undertaken by governments, intergovernmental organizations, and voluntary sector organisations and other stakeholders. Given that **Partnership Approach** is a key strategy for achieving the SDGs, the Yorkshire-HIA Network will make its contributions by creating the opportunities for learning and collaboration between members and with other relevant external people and organisations.

Further Reading: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Sustainable Development Goals:  
<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

# Upcoming Events/Activities

Event	Date	
HIA Short Course at University of Salford on 15 January 2025	15 January 2025	<a href="https://shop.salford.ac.uk">https://shop.salford.ac.uk</a>
HIA Practitioners Webinar	23 January 2025, 3:00–4:00 pm	
2nd Bradford HIA Workshop	May 2025	

**Enquiries:**  
**Dr Marcus Chilaka**  
Assistant Professor of Public Health

Department of Public Health, Faculty of  
Health Studies, University of Bradford  
Email: [m.chilaka@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:m.chilaka@bradford.ac.uk)  
Tel: 01274233252