

Review and Synthesis: Cultures of Evidence

Protocol

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Review question

What are the attitudes to, views and understandings of research evidence among practitioners and policy-makers in policy fields which fall within the scope of local authorities in England and are relevant to the urban built environment (see below for further detail)?

Methods

Systematic review. EPPI-Reviewer will be used to manage data. The process may take a two-stage format using phased inclusion criteria; see under 'screening' below. In particular, the final criteria may or may not be limited to studies using a qualitative methodology.

Searching

The following database sources will be searched:

- Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA)
- Campbell Library
- Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)
- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)
- Cochrane Methodology Register (CMR)
- Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Science (CPCI-S)
- Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Social Science & Humanities (CPCI-SSH)
- COPAC
- Criminal Justice Abstracts
- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE)
- EconLit
- Enviroline
- Health Technology Assessment (HTA) database
- MEDLINE
- MEDLINE In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)
- NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED)
- OAISTER
- OpenGrey
- PAIS International
- PsycINFO
- Science Citation Index (SCI)
- Social Care Online
- Social Policy and Practice
- Social Science Citation Index (SSCI)
- Social Services Abstracts
- TRID (Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) database and International Transport Research Documentation (ITRD) database)
- Zetoc

The search strategy will take the following form (see Appendix 1 for an example full search strategy):

1. Policy Areas AND Policy Maker Attitudes
OR
2. Policy Areas AND Policy Makers AND Evidence Based Research
OR
3. Policy Areas AND Policy Makers AND Qualitative/Ethnographic Research
OR
4. Policy Areas AND Evidence Based Policy.

Hand-searching of key journals for the last five years will also be conducted (journal list to be confirmed).

Screening

The inclusion criteria will be as follows:

1. Does the study concern one of the following policy fields: housing; transport; urban planning and regeneration; crime and disorder; alcohol and food licensing; or trading standards? [See Table 1 for further detail on the policy fields covered.]
2. Does the study report substantive empirical primary data on attitudes, perceptions, beliefs or behaviours (using any methodology including quantitative methods such as surveys, multilevel modelling etc., and/or qualitative methods such as interviews, focus groups, ethnography etc.)? [Studies must involve the collection of primary data from respondents. Secondary research such as document analysis will be excluded. Systematic reviews which meet all other criteria will be retained for reference scanning – use code ‘SYS REV’]
3. Was the study conducted in a high-income country (OECD member)?¹
4. Does the population included in the study include practitioners, local policy-makers, or anyone with a local-level decision-making role? [Studies of public involvement in decision-making will be included. Studies of national-level policy-makers will be excluded (but state- or province-level included). ‘Decisions’ refers to any decision with an impact on others – individuals’ decisions about their own lives are not included.]
5. Does the study report substantive data concerning views, attitudes or knowledge about the policy-making or decision-making process, or about the implementation of specific policies, interventions or programmes, about evidence or research, or about research utilisation? [Data on views about the content of policy will be excluded.]
6. Does the study report substantive data concerning views, attitudes or knowledge about evidence, research, information or data, and/or the utilisation of these? [Initially we will interpret this broadly, such that ‘evidence’ includes all forms of formal or explicit knowledge, information or data; criterion (7) will then limit to research evidence.]
7. Does the study report substantive data concerning views, attitudes or knowledge about research evidence (conducted by academics in university settings)?
8. Does the study report qualitative data (e.g. interviews, focus groups, ethnography)?

Table 1. Policy fields included / excluded

Include	Exclude
Housing (generally)	Residential care for older people, learning disabilities, mental illness etc. (but include studies of community-based housing for these populations); construction engineering
Policing, crime prevention, community safety	Criminal justice (i.e. courts; sentencing; judicial system generally); offender rehabilitation / probation (unless some broader community-level crime prevention component); prisons; forensic science (but include forensics as part of policing practice)

*Provisional include at abstract level; may reconsider subsequently

¹ These are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA

[Table 1 cont'd.]

Include	Exclude
Urban planning, regeneration (including economic regeneration and community-level employment programmes)	Macroeconomic and international trade policy
Resource management; air pollution; flood defence; environmental health *	Forestry; national parks; wildlife management; agriculture
Event management *	Disaster readiness; emergency response
Alcohol / food licensing	
Trading standards	
Social welfare (benefits)	
	Education (unless school-based crime prevention with some police involvement)
	Social care; child protection (unless some police involvement)
	Healthcare; public health / health promotion (except environmental health)
	Drug treatment / rehabilitation (unless some police involvement)
	Arts and culture; libraries

*Provisional include at abstract level; may reconsider subsequently

A random sample of 10% of abstracts will be double-screened initially, and if agreement is adequate, subsequent abstracts single-screened. All full text references will be double-screened. When abstract screening is complete we will reconsider whether to include material excluded by criteria (7) and/or (8), depending on the volume and nature of the evidence.

Quality assessment

Quality assessment will be conducted according to the tools in the NICE Public Health Methods Manual.

Data extraction

All standard methodological dimensions and full findings data will be extracted. Qualitative data will be thematically coded using the thematic coding facility in EPPI-Reviewer.

Data synthesis

For qualitative evidence, a thematic synthesis will be conducted, using an open code set. For quantitative evidence (if included), a narrative synthesis will be conducted.

Appendix 1. Example search strategy (Social Policy and Practice):

1. (urban regeneration or urban policy\$ or built environment\$ or urban planning\$).de.
2. (urban or built environment\$ or environment\$ design\$).ti,ab.
3. housing\$.de.
4. (housing or house or houses or tenant\$1 or tenanc\$).ti,ab.
5. (crime\$ or community safety\$).de.
6. (crime\$ or criminal\$ or police\$ or policing).ti,ab.
7. community safety.ti,ab.
8. (transport\$ or highway\$ or traffic\$).de.
- 9 (transport\$ or highway\$ or road\$ or vehicle\$ or traffic\$).ti,ab.
- 10 regeneration\$.de.
- 11 (regenerat\$ or re generat\$).ti,ab.
- 12 ((renewal or redevelop\$ or re develop\$ or revitali\$) adj4 (town\$ or city or cities or neighbo? r\$)).ti,ab.
- 13 (licens\$ or trading standard\$ or consumer protection\$).de.
- 14 ((alcohol\$ or drink\$ or beverage\$ or food) adj2 (licens\$ or label\$)).ti,ab.
- 15 ((trading adj2 standard\$) or (fair adj2 trade) or (fair adj2 trading)).ti,ab.
- 16 (consumer\$ adj2 (protect\$ or advoca\$ or safety)).ti,ab.
- 17 or/1-16
- 18 ((policy mak\$ or decision mak\$ or policy decision\$ or practitioner\$) and (attitude\$ or views or perception or experience)).de.
- 19 ((government policy\$ or local authority planning\$ or local government planning\$ or local government policy\$ or regional policy\$) and (attitude\$ or views or perception or experience)).de.
- 20 ((policy mak\$ or policymak\$ or policy actor\$) adj3 (attitude\$ or perception\$ or perceiv\$ or perspective\$ or belief\$ or believ\$)).ti,ab.
- 21 ((policy mak\$ or policymak\$ or policy actor\$) adj3 (view or views or viewpoint\$ or experience or experiences or understand\$ or accept\$ or recogni\$)).ti,ab.
- 22 ((policy develop\$ or policy position\$) adj3 (attitude\$ or perception\$ or perceiv\$ or perspective\$ or belief\$ or believ\$)).ti,ab.
- 23 ((policy develop\$ or policy position\$) adj3 (view or views or viewpoint\$ or experience or experiences or understand\$ or accept\$ or recogni\$)).ti,ab.
- 24 ((decision mak\$ or decisionmak\$ or policy decision\$) adj3 (attitude\$ or perception\$ or perceiv\$ or perspective\$ or belief\$ or believ\$)).ti,ab.
- 25 ((decision mak\$ or decisionmak\$ or policy decision\$) adj3 (view or views or viewpoint\$ or experience or experiences or understand\$ or accept\$ or recogni\$)).ti,ab.
- 26 ((plan or planner\$ or planning) adj3 (attitude\$ or perception\$ or perceiv\$ or perspective\$ or belief\$ or believ\$)).ti,ab.
- 27 ((plan or planner\$ or planning) adj3 (view or views or viewpoint\$ or experience or experiences or understand\$ or accept\$ or recogni\$)).ti,ab.
- 28 ((practitioner\$ or manager\$) adj3 (attitude\$ or perception\$ or perceiv\$ or perspective\$ or belief\$ or believ\$)).ti,ab.
- 29 ((practitioner\$ or manager\$) adj3 (view or views or viewpoint\$ or experience or experiences or understand\$ or accept\$ or recogni\$)).ti,ab.
- 30 ((government\$ or authorit\$) adj3 (attitude\$ or perception\$ or perceiv\$ or perspective\$ or belief\$ or believ\$)).ti,ab.
- 31 ((government\$ or authorit\$) adj3 (view or views or viewpoint\$ or experience or experiences or understand\$ or accept\$ or recogni\$)).ti,ab.
- 32 ((council\$ or committee\$ or administrator\$ or board\$ or technocrat\$) adj3 (attitude\$ or perception\$ or perceiv\$ or perspective\$ or belief\$ or believ\$)).ti,ab.
- 33 ((council\$ or committee\$ or administrator\$ or board\$ or technocrat\$) adj3 (view or views or viewpoint\$ or experience or experiences or understand\$ or accept\$ or recogni\$)).ti,ab.
- 34 or/18-33
- 35 17 and 34
- 36 evidence base\$.de.
- 37 (evidence adj2 base\$).ti,ab.
- 38 (evidence adj3 (inform\$ or utili\$ or implement\$)).ti,ab.
- 39 (evidence adj3 (program\$ or method\$)).ti,ab.
- 40 (evidence adj2 (disseminat\$ or transfer\$ or translat\$)).ti,ab.

- 41 (evidence adj3 (facilit\$ or uptake)).ti,ab.
42 empirical evidence.ti,ab.
43 (research adj2 base\$).ti,ab.
44 (research adj3 (evidence or knowledge or utili\$)).ti,ab.
45 (research adj3 (inform\$ or implement\$ or translat\$)).ti,ab.
46 (research adj3 (disseminat\$ or transfer\$)).ti,ab.
47 (research adj3 (facilit\$ or uptake)).ti,ab.
48 or/36-47
49 (policy mak\$ or decision mak\$ or policy decision\$ or practitioner\$).de.
50 (government policy\$ or local authority planning\$ or local government planning\$ or local government policy\$ or regional policy\$).de.
51 (policy mak\$ or policymak\$ or policy actor\$ or policy decision\$).ti,ab.
52 (policy develop\$ or policy position\$).ti,ab.
53 (decision mak\$ or decisionmak\$).ti,ab.
54 ((practitioner\$ or manage\$) adj3 (policy or policies or decision\$ or decide)).ti,ab.
55 ((government\$ or authorit\$) adj3 (policy or policies or decision\$ or decide)).ti,ab.
56 ((council\$ or committee\$ or administrator\$ or board\$ or technocrat\$) adj3 (policy or policies or decision\$ or decide)).ti,ab.
57 ((plan or planner\$ or planning) adj3 (policy or policies or decision\$ or decide)).ti,ab.
58 ((government\$ or authorit\$) adj3 (plan or planner\$ or planning)).ti,ab.
59 ((council\$ or committee\$ or administrator\$ or board\$ or technocrat\$) adj3 (plan or planner\$ or planning)).ti,ab.
60 or/49-59
61 17 and 48 and 60
62 (qualitative\$ or ethnog\$ or participant observation\$).de.
63 (qualitative adj2 research).ti,ab.
64 (ethnography or ethnographic or ethnographical\$ or ethnographies).ti,ab.
65 ((participant\$ or nonparticipant\$ or non-participant\$ or non participant\$) adj3 observ\$).ti,ab.
66 or/62-65
67 17 and 60 and 66
68 35 or 61 or 67
69 (evidence base\$ adj2 (polic\$ or practice\$)).ti,ab.
70 (research base\$ adj2 (polic\$ or practice\$)).ti,ab.
71 17 and (69 or 70)
72 68 or 71

Key to symbols and commands used in OvidSP interface:

\$=truncation

.de.=descriptor heading

.ti,ab.=terms were searched for in either title or abstract

adj3=words must appear within 3 words of each other

or/1-16=combine sets 1 to 16 using OR