



# VALUING NATURE

Valuing Nature Programme  
Health & Wellbeing Call Event  
14 July 2015

*Understanding the Value of the Natural  
Environment for Improving Human  
Health and Wellbeing*



# VALUING NATURE

## End User Interests

Policy & Practice Interests

Dr Ruth Waters - Natural England

Business Interests

Guy Duke - Programme Coordination Team  
Business Champion

Health Interests

Dr Angie Bone - Public Health England



# VALUING NATURE

## Policy & Practice Interests

Dr Ruth Waters  
Natural England

# Policy and Practice

NATURAL  
ENGLAND



Ruth Waters

# Natural England, an example of a customer...

- The NERC Act sets out Natural England's purpose: to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.
- Delivering for people and nature, an aspiration common for many organisations in the environmental sector



# What do we want? – Cake!



- We want to have our cake and eat it – great natural environment and multiple benefits for people
- We need to understand the implications of our current interventions on ecosystem services and health
- But also understand what interventions are required for different services and benefits
- And what are the trade-offs?
- How can we value these services and benefits in ways that inform decisions effectively? For example, in ways that value the breadth of benefits and don't bias decisions.

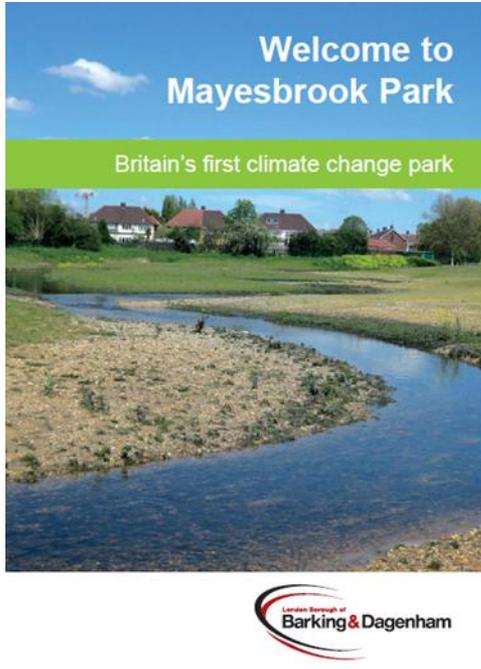


## A delivery perspective.....

- What is the link between the quality and characteristics of green space and its contribution to health and well-being?
- How do we manage urban ecosystems for health benefits?
- Does access to green space promote a more active lifestyle?
- How can we robustly but practically value these benefits to enable them to be incorporated into decision making?

20/06/2010

# More questions.....



- How might a healthy natural environment contribute to the management of pathogens?
- How can we manage the natural environment to mitigate and adapt to natural hazards and extreme events?
- What other benefits could we wrap into these ecosystem solutions and how can we value them?



## Working with us

- Policy and delivery customers are heterogeneous!
- We are intelligent customers with applied social, ecological and economic expertise
- We work with real people, decision makers and places and can bring that experience
- But we can co-develop, produce and participate in project development and research – please don't ask us to endorse applications we haven't been involved with at the last minute.
- Like any organisation, we have a finite capacity so will work with the most relevant projects,
- But most of us working in this sector would be pleased to be asked



# VALUING NATURE

## Pathways to Impact with Business

Guy Duke

Programme Coordination Team  
Business Champion



# VALUING NATURE PROGRAMME

Valuing Nature Programme Report No. 3



**Identifying Priorities for the  
Health & Wellbeing Funding Call:  
Pathways to Impact with Business**

May 2015

# Features of a good proposal likely to deliver business impact

- 1+ business partners in proposal
- Secondments to business
- Research objectives/activities designed with business, to deliver business impact
- Research extends through innovation towards market application
- Skills in team to present business case for uptake of research outcomes
- Synergies with business R&D
- Funding and/or in-kind support from business

# Building in business impact

- Research design stage
- Project implementation stage
- Communication & dissemination

# Business risks and opportunities – generic points

- Look at what has/has not worked well in business contexts
- Consider design of business processes, procurement
- Avoid introducing new concepts
- Differentiate between business sectors

# Natural hazards & extreme weather events

Examples of business risks and opportunities:

- Temperature extremes and impact on water supply (link to toxins)
- Work on rainscapes (prevent surface water entering sewage systems)
- Business risks of water catchment management for enhanced H&W outcomes, e.g. soft vs hard (concrete) solutions



# Human exposure to pathogens and natural aquatic toxins

Examples of business risks and opportunities:

- Algal blooms in reservoirs
- Natural marine toxins in aquaculture, marine fisheries
- Insurance risks related to human exposure to pathogens



# Urban ecosystems

Examples of business risks and opportunities:

- Connecting blue and green corridors for flood control
- Delivery of multiple benefits from green space
- Urban landscape management to optimize H&W outcomes



# Specific opportunities to engage with business

- PCT will facilitate links by identifying specific opportunities to engage with business
- These opportunities will be publicised through the website
- PCT will assist interested businesses in making connections with research teams
- Paper provides links to other relevant initiatives.



# VALUING NATURE

## Health Interests

Dr Angie Bone

Head of Extreme Events & Health Protection  
Public Health England

# Public Health England

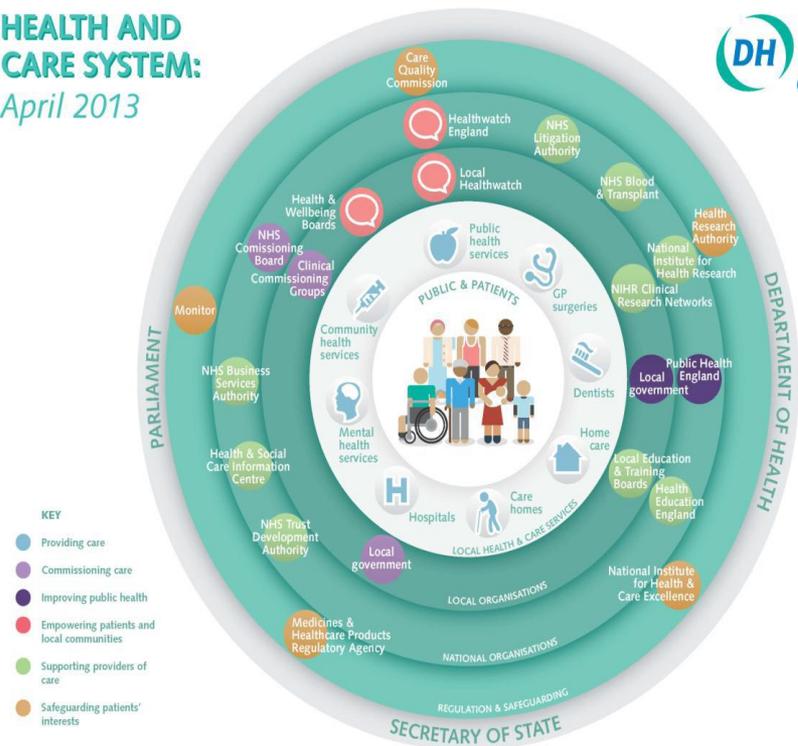
- What we do

- We protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities.

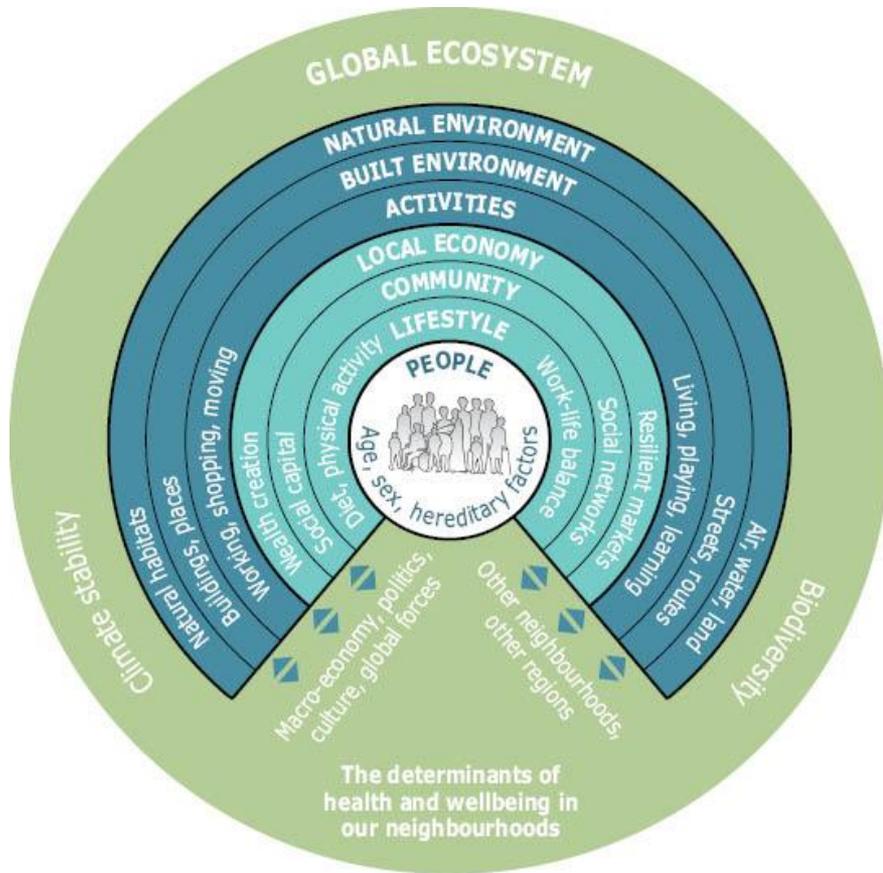
- What is 'public health'?

- the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organised efforts of society

HEALTH AND  
CARE SYSTEM:  
April 2013

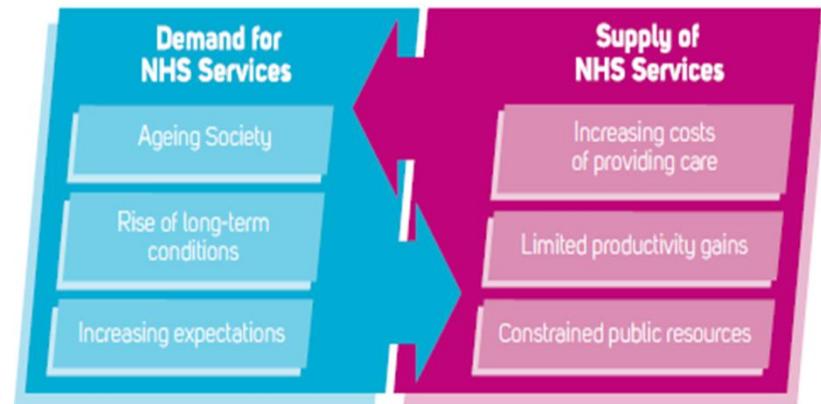


# Health system pressures



Barton, H. and Grant, M., (2006) A health map for the local human habitat, Journal of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Public Health, 126 (6) pp252-2

Future pressures on the health service



A call to action, NHS England, 2013

*‘the future health of millions of children, the sustainability of the NHS, and the economic prosperity of Britain all now depend on a **radical upgrade in prevention and public health**’.*

NHS England, Five Year Forward View, 2014



# Natural Hazards and Extreme Weather Events

- How big/how long-lasting are the health and social costs of extreme weather (not just ‘what are’)?
- What interventions are most valuable in protecting and improving health?
- Which population groups benefit most and how should they be prioritised?
- How do we value individual and community resilience?



# Human exposure to pathogens and natural aquatic toxins

- How do we best value trade-offs between benefits to health of natural environment and biodiversity and potential human health risks?
- How do we quantify these risks and value interventions to mitigate them?
- How do we value surveillance for these risks?
- Behaviour change (public and professional) is important for risk management – how should that be valued?



# Urban Ecosystems

- What is the 'dose' needed to protect and improve health
- What is the impact on health service use?
- How do we best value trade-offs?
- How do we incentivise professional and public behaviour change and what is its value?

# Summary

- ‘Health’ has large number and variety of end-users, with differing emphases; often users and providers of research; local as well as national
- Use our language, pressures and levers if you can for best engagement
- Help us manage prioritisation and trade-offs: quantification helps!
- Scientific evidence is usually only one factor in decision-making



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Find out more:

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