

Wellbeing 'evidence' in policy practice

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Policy Context...for local action

- Do work on “health and wellbeing”
- Originally understood as ‘health and social care services’
- But increasing shift to think more about the societal conditions that create positive wellbeing and good health
- In general phrase ‘health and wellbeing’ used as if one construct not two



In Newcastle...

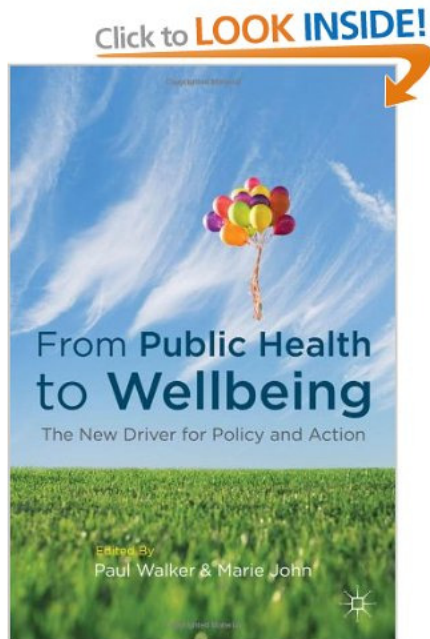
- History of giving ‘primacy’ to wellbeing
- In local discourse, ‘wellbeing’ comes first (“wellbeing and health” rather than “health and wellbeing”)
- Now our statutory health and wellbeing board called “Wellbeing for Life Board”
- wellbeing seen as primary policy driver



Wellbeing understood in context of understanding of health

- ‘Health’ = lack of disease, disability or ‘risk’ (negative conception); so wellbeing is an even further point on a continuum
- ‘Health’ = about physical health; so wellbeing about mental health
- ‘Health’ = positive conception; so it is the same as wellbeing
- ‘Health’ = as resource for life; as integral to wellbeing

Wellbeing as a 'new shared turf'?



Sustain
-ability

Beyond
GDP

Wellbeing...
Multiple dimensions; multiple
perspectives; multiple research
disciplines; multiple professional
groups PLUS societally owned
and created

Evidence of...

the 'state' of wellbeing

- Want to understand wellbeing - particularly how different for different communities
- Focus on using numbers as tool to 'describe' – rather than 'measure'
- But also other ways of engaging people in conversations about their wellbeing and what shapes it (evidence as 'side product')
- Describe through lens of 'determinants' of wellbeing, drawing on public health models

Evidence of...

what improves wellbeing

- Acknowledge can't "deliver" it - it is both 'subjective' and 'emergent'
- Individual level "five ways to wellbeing" helpful
- Community and 'city' focus on creating the conditions which are seen to be associated with positive wellbeing (and better health)



Evidence of...

appropriate management & policy practices

- Current 'risks'
 - Dressing up 'old practices' and 'existing priorities' in wellbeing clothes
 - Can't get away from linear cause-effect thinking
- Need to be able to
 - Examine practices (including discourse) through new lenses
 - Gain confidence to understand and act in world of interdependence and multiple perspectives



Thank you

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