



Heat and community resilience

PHE Heat, Health and Sustainability event
4 July, 2019

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The Urban Heat project (2015 to 2017)

JRF



Objectives

- Local impact (action)
 - Elicit knowledge and ideas about heatwave resilience from community groups and share this with local statutory institutions and bodies
- Strategic impact (research)
 - Draw and disseminate learning – about heat resilience and community resilience – that will have broader strategic impact at regional and national levels, and thus in other locales



Three case studies

Dalston, Hackney (with Age UK)

Ivybridge, Hounslow (with SWLEN)

Tooting, Wandsworth (with TTT)

1 Local, London-wide and national policy engagement for learning and relationship building

January to September 2015

Objectives

- 1 Learn about institutional structures and plans
- 2 Build relationships

Activities

- 1 Review institutional documents and plans
- 2 Formal and informal engagement with more than 30 stakeholders



2 Participatory action research (PAR)

May to October 2015

Developing VCS ideas for community resilience
May to July 2015

Objectives

- 1 Introduce topic
- 2 Build group's capacity and confidence
- 3 Elicit ideas and knowledge
- 4 Identify local issues and resources

Activities

A two-participatory workshop process with around 15 representatives of VCS groups

Sharing VCS ideas with local institutions
September to October 2015

Objective

To share the VCS ideas and knowledge with local policy actors

Activity

A third participatory workshop with around five VCS group representatives and 2-6 local policy actors



Interviews with 'vulnerable' people
June to July 2015

Objective

To gain a deeper insight into the understandings of heatwaves of 'vulnerable' people

Activity

Fourteen in-home interviews with 'vulnerable' people, within an appropriate ethical framework



3 Local policy engagement for practical impact London-wide and national policy impact for dissemination

October 2015 to July 2016

Objectives

- 1 Work with local policy actors to implement action from the PAR
- 2 Engage with London-wide and national policy actors for dissemination of ideas and knowledge

Activities

Ongoing participation in policy and practice events, meetings (face-to-face and telephone), telephone conversations and email communications



Key findings



**Action
research**

**Successes
Challenges**



Heat as a Cinderella issue



The capabilities of the VCS





Local institutions

Crowded local policy contexts



'Austerity'



Communication



Urban planning



Thank you!
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