

Conference Theme: Land, Housing, Informality

Title: Three phases of municipal housing transformation on a London estate: ideology and impact

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Abstract:

The complex links between housing, poverty and health are recognised yet do not always play out positively in creating sustainable places to live. Based on archival and contemporary literature research, this paper traces the history of three stages of municipal (social) housing transformation in one London estate – Stonebridge Park – reflecting on what can be learnt and applied in contemporary policy and practice. Questions around the state as housing provider and manager remain contested and ideological, despite evidence that decent housing in planned environments has been successfully provided in many places. In Stonebridge Park since the 1920s, substantial efforts were made to address inadequate housing conditions, including overcrowding, frequently related to poverty. However not all developments were successful in fully addressing housing and related social determinants of health. By the 1960s, a top down and extensive area redevelopment approach did not engage the local community in the pursuit of an ‘ideal’ living environment, presenting multiple and complex challenges over time. However, the most recent award-winning housing and environmental planning and regeneration of this estate sought to be sustainable, offering a new partnership approach to both housing and health to help shift the longer-term fortunes of this once highly deprived place. This paper highlights some key developments across a century with a changing and diverse population, the effects on health and behaviours and how progress is being made and evaluated, providing lessons for elsewhere, in particular, the need to reintegrate housing and health policy in new, evidence based, sustainable ways.

Keywords:

Housing, Housing and Health, Public Health, municipal housing, social housing, Stonebridge, London

References:

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Biography

Currently Associate Professor in Public Health at the University of Greenwich, London, Dr Jill Stewart spent a decade working in housing in local government before taking her first academic post in 1999. Her research and teaching work largely focuses on housing and health, including its history and the environmental health housing workforce, featuring across a range of publications, media and conferences. Jill is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) and a Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner, a Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing, a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health and an Associate of the Faculty of Public Health. She is co-chair of the London Public Health Housing Network and a member of the CIEH Housing Advisory Panel. She is a founding member of the Environmental Health Research Network.

Photograph



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