

Project PHR 10/3005/18

Health impacts of environmental and social interventions designed to increase deprived communities' access to urban woodlands: a mixed methods study

Topic guide for community focus groups and interviews

2015 - 2017

Note: the topic guide was produced for the first round of focus groups in 2015. Items added or amended in 2017 compared to the 2015 topic guide are highlighted in yellow.

WIAT FG Question Schedule

Welcome

Introduce researchers

Housekeeping notes (fire alarm and fire exit), consent forms, permission to record, let people know they can leave at any time.

Tell them approximately how long the focus group will last.

Project Introduction

We are here today to discuss your local woodlands. To do this we have a series of questions we will ask, to which there is no right or wrong answer. Each one of you may have a different answer to the same question, or you may have had similar experiences as what others describe.

We would like to hear the views of everyone here, so please give each other time to talk. However you may not feel like you want to respond to every question and this is also fine.

If we start to drift onto other subjects that are beyond the focus of this discussion, please don't be offended if we have to stop the conversation and bring it back onto the topic of the woodlands. This is only so that we are able to cover all the questions in the short time available and not because what you're saying isn't valuable.

If you wish to leave, please just let us know and we'll move onto another question or individually debrief you and end the session for yourself.

Introductions

To start with, can we each just introduce ourselves, for the purpose of the tape recording and to say hello!

Initial open questions

Map and pictures

1. Are you aware of this woodland [prompt – provide the name of the specific WIAT site]?

(If no – are you aware of any woodlands? Are they known by a different name?)

2. How close do you live to the woodland? [prompt – can you walk (if so how long) or do you drive (how long), how easy is the site to reach]

3. Can you see the woodlands from where you live?

4. Have you ever been to this woodland [WIAT site]?

DOES VISIT

Use and perceptions of the WIAT sites (before any intervention activity took place)

1. We are interested in knowing if participants have been to these/this woodland/s [provide name]: with whom, how often, when (day of the week/time of day), how long they visit for, what type of activities?
1. We are interested in knowing if participants have been to this woodland [provide name of WIAT site]:
 - a. with whom, how often, when (day of the week/time of day), how long they visit for, what type of activities?
2. Can you tell me what do you enjoy about the activities you do in the wood/s?
3. What do you think about this woodland [WIAT site]? What do you like/dislike [prompt for any mental wellbeing, physical wellbeing, social connections, do the woodland contribute to how the community looks and feels, or any problems such as too overgrown, too out of the way, nowhere to park]?
4. Do the participants own dogs? How do you think this affects your use of the woodlands? [prompt – does this affect whether you use woodland or not – i.e. makes you use woodland, makes you use woodlands more, makes you feel safer, enables you chat to other dog walkers]?
5. How do you feel when you've been to the woodland / or seen the woodlands? [prompt - do they make you feel less stressed? Other impacts on your wellbeing?]

DOES NOT VISIT

1. Why do you not visit the woodland?
2. Would you ever consider visiting the woodland? [prompt – why would you consider this? When would you consider visiting]
3. Do you visit any other natural or green space?
4. Can you see the woodlands from where you live?
5. Do you walk past the woodlands?

NOTE

1. Are you are going to the nearest wood to where they live or to a wood further away?
 - a. If you are going further – why? What has that woodland got that attracts you?

Changes to the woodlands

Describe the FCS Physical changes [Show photos]

1. Have you ever visited the woodlands before the changes **in late 2013 / early 2014?**
[prompt – how was your experience?]
2. **For those that didn't visit – did you hear of any changes being made to the woodlands?**
3. What do you think of the FCS physical changes to the woodlands? [prompt - did you feel invited? Were the changes for you? What changes would you make, is it missing anything?]

WIAT intervention questions: physical intervention – involvement and impact

1. Were you aware and/or involved in any consultation of the woodlands? [prompt – list of FCS consultation activities]
 - a. If you were involved how did you become aware of the consultation and what did you do [prompt – attend an event, meeting, visited the wood?]
 - b. Why did you get involved? [prompt – because you were asked, you wanted to have a say, you were interested in seeing improvements in the wood]
 - c. Do you feel you have benefited from getting involved and if so in what way?
[prompt – wanted your views to be heard, visited the wood for the first time, got to know who was in charge of the wood, or got to know neighbour/s]
2. If you didn't get involved did you see any physical changes made to the woodland and if so did you benefit from them? [prompt – if not did any of your family or neighbours mention any changes/benefits]
3. If you didn't get involved in the consultation would you have liked to if you had known about it? [prompt – how would you have wanted to hear about the opportunity, how would you have wanted to be involved]

WIAT intervention questions: social intervention – involvement and impact

In addition to the physical changes the FCS also organised different activities to encourage the local community to visit the woodland ... (list of FCS activities by site and photos)

1. Were you aware of any these activities, how did you hear about them [Prompt – word of mouth, local notice, flyer, local paper]?
2. What do you think of these activities? [prompt – did you feel they were aimed at everyone or particular groups i.e. children]
3. Were you involved or did you take part in any of these activities? (With whom, how often, when (day of the week/time of day), how long do you stay, what type of activities?)
4. Were the activities appropriate? At the right time of day/week, frequency?
5. Why did you go to this activity?
6. Do you feel you benefited in any way from getting involved in the activity/s and if so in what way? [prompt – brought the community together, I wouldn't have visited the wood otherwise, socialised with others in the community]
7. If you did not participate in any of the activities, why was that the case? [prompt – not heard about them, not interested]
8. Would you have gone to the activities if you had known about them? How do you find out about activities in the local area?

Intervention Site A Paths (Intervention Site A only)

1. Renfrewshire Council did some extra path works in 2015 leading to the woodlands (show photos)
2. Were you already using the woodlands before this path upgrade?
3. Has the new path work around the woodland made a difference? If so in what way?

Living by the Airport (Intervention Site A only)

1. How do you feel living by the Airport?
2. How does it impact you living under a flight path?

Impact of the woodland on everyday / community life

1. Have the woodlands made any difference to how you go about things in your everyday life?
2. Have the woodlands made any difference to how your neighbourhood feels – **do you feel there has been an improvement in the area** (i.e. neighbourhood identity)? [prompt – increased community pride, increased sense that the neighbourhood is being looked after]

Behaviour and Attitude / Change

1. If you got involved in the consultation or an activity or both did that lead you to do anything differently or think about the wood differently? [prompt – visit the woodland more than before, take an interest in the wood, talk to others about the changes you had seen or been involved in]
2. If you did not get involved in the consultation or activity but were aware of them and changes being made to the woodland, has that led you to do or think anything different about the wood? [prompt – visit the wood out of interest, feel good the wood is there for the local community]

Barriers to accessing woodlands

1. Do you feel there are any barriers or difficulties you face in accessing this woodland/s? [prompt for barriers related to information (do they know about the site), related to visiting the site alone (any safety fears), or related to lack of time]
2. Have you noticed any vandalism in the woodlands? Does this affect how you view and / or use the woodland?
3. Do you think there are any barriers related to using woodlands specifically – that is different from using other outdoor spaces?
4. Are there specific things that might help you to overcome these barriers to accessing the woodland? [prompt – less overgrown vegetation, more group activities, seeing more people use the wood]

Closing questions

1. Is there anything anyone would like to add about the local woodland/s that we have not covered today?

Thank you and closing statements