Financial Investigation

AFI Jo White

Derby City Council

Agenda

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

- Understand the role of the Financial Investigator
- Money Laundering Offences
- Civil powers – cash/ assets/ bank account
- Confiscation and Restraint
- Crypto Currency

Aquisitive Crime

What is Acquisitive Crime?
“A crime committed to gain possessions”

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Criminal Property

“Property which constitutes a person’s benefit from criminal conduct, or it represents such benefit, and the alleged offender knows or suspects that it constitutes such a benefit.”

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Money Laundering

POCA 2002 Defines Money Laundering offences-

Section 329 Possession of Criminal Property

Section 327 Concealing/disguise/transfer/remove Criminal Property

Section 328 Arrangements relating to Criminal Property

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The trouble with Money Laundering….

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Where do criminals hide cash?

Businesses with-

- Low overheads
- Low/minimal staffing costs
- End product difficult to audit/quantify
- Stock ordering minimal
- Cash rich

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Cash Seizure

- **Suspect that the cash is recoverable property or is intended by any person for use in unlawful conduct**
- **Over £1,000**
- **AFI can seize using POCA powers**
- **Magistrates court within 48 hours**
- **Balance of probabilities**
- **Civil recovery**
- **Authority receives 50% of funds forfeited**

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Account Freezing Orders and Listed Assets

- **Similar process to cash seizures**
- **Over £1,000**
- **Freeze and then forfeit bank accounts if suspect recoverable property**
- **Listed Assets-**
  - **Precious metals**
  - **Precious stones**
  - **Watches**
  - **Artistic works**
  - **Face value vouchers**
  - **Postage stamps**

- **Authority receives 50% of funds forfeited**

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Confiscation & Restraint

- **Post conviction**
- **Lifestyle v Particular criminal conduct**
- **Benefit from criminality**
- **Restraint**
- **Revisits – POCA Section 22**

How else can I assist?

- **Financial intelligence**
- **Banking evidence**
- **Tracing nominals**
- **SAR database**
- **HMRC gateway**

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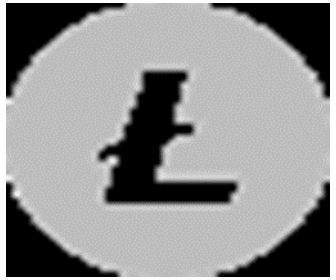
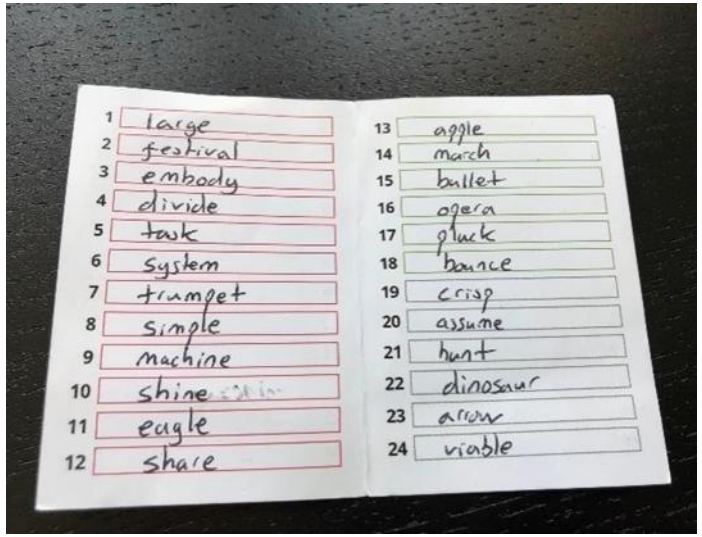
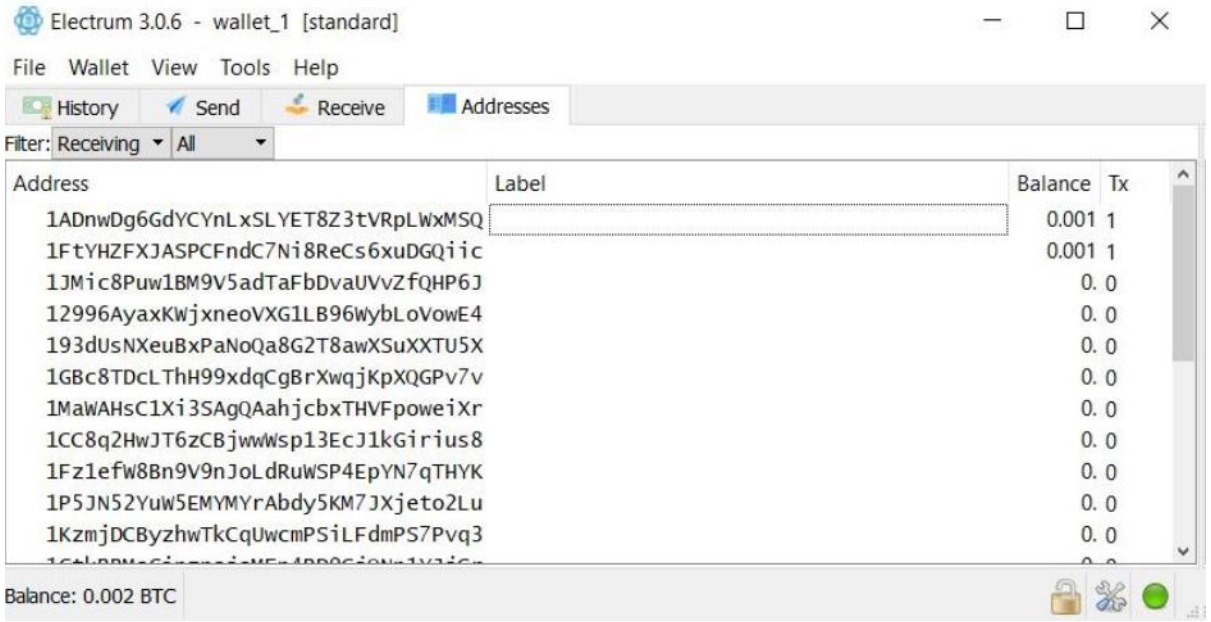
Crypto currencies







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Thank you for listening!

Questions?

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University of Sheffield

Neighbourhood-level interventions to reduce outdoor air pollution: evidence synthesis

Environmental Protection, East Midlands Council, 23.04.26

Emma Hock*, Lindsay Blank*, Simon Harvey +, Mark Clowes*, Liddy Goyder*, Andrew Booth* [*SCHARR, +Derbyshire CC]

Why did we do this work and what was our aim?

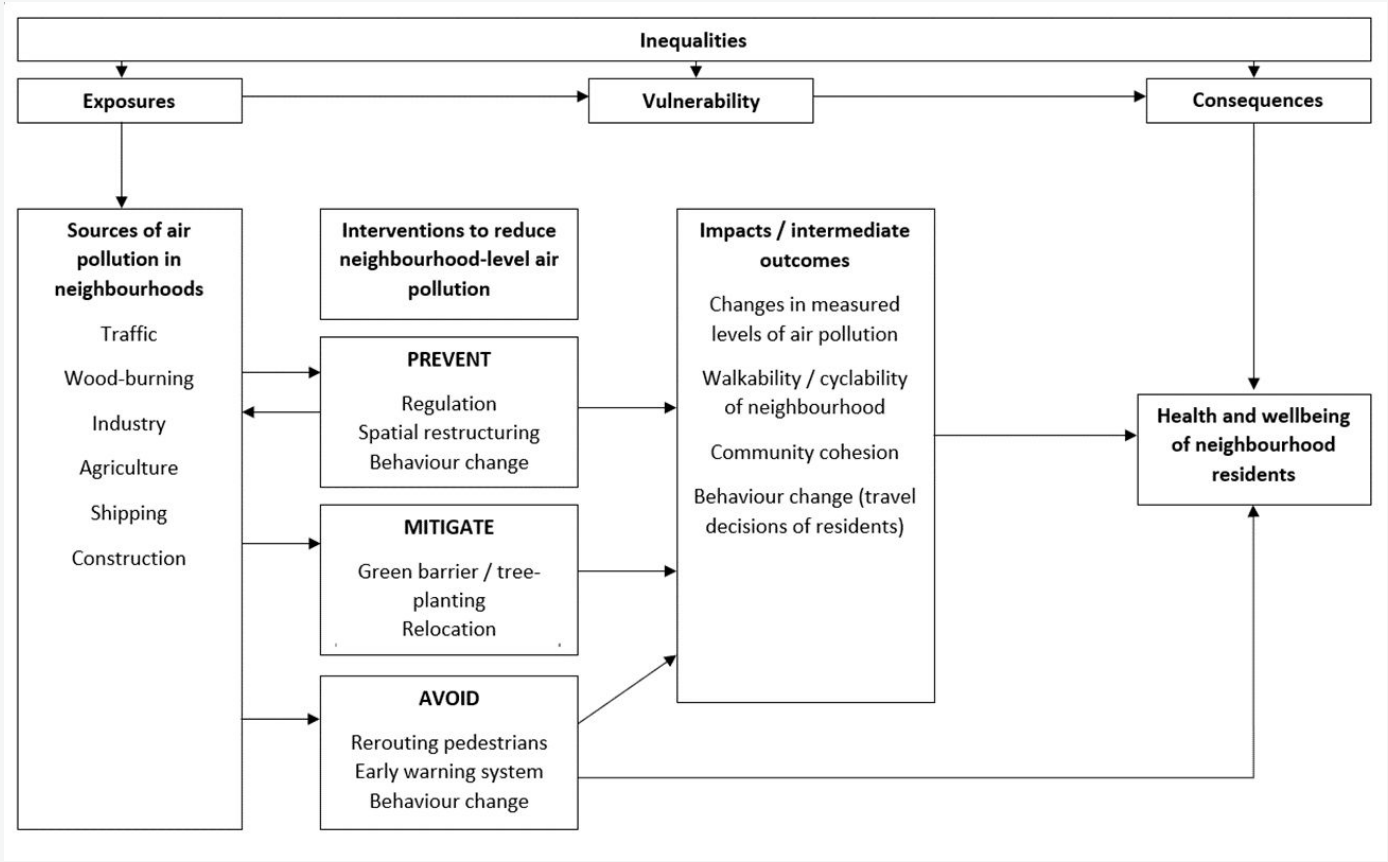
- Commissioned by NIHR: Neighbourhood-level interventions to reduce outdoor air pollution - proposed by Derbyshire CC
- Public Health Review Team https://phrt.sites.sheffield.ac.uk/

- 12-month evidence synthesis to build on previous work

- To identify, appraise and synthesise research evidence that examines the effectiveness and acceptability of neighbourhood-level interventions to reduce outdoor air pollution.

- Focus on evidence from OECD countries since 2015 (PHE review).
- Focus on local initiatives

Initial conceptual framework



How much evidence did we find?

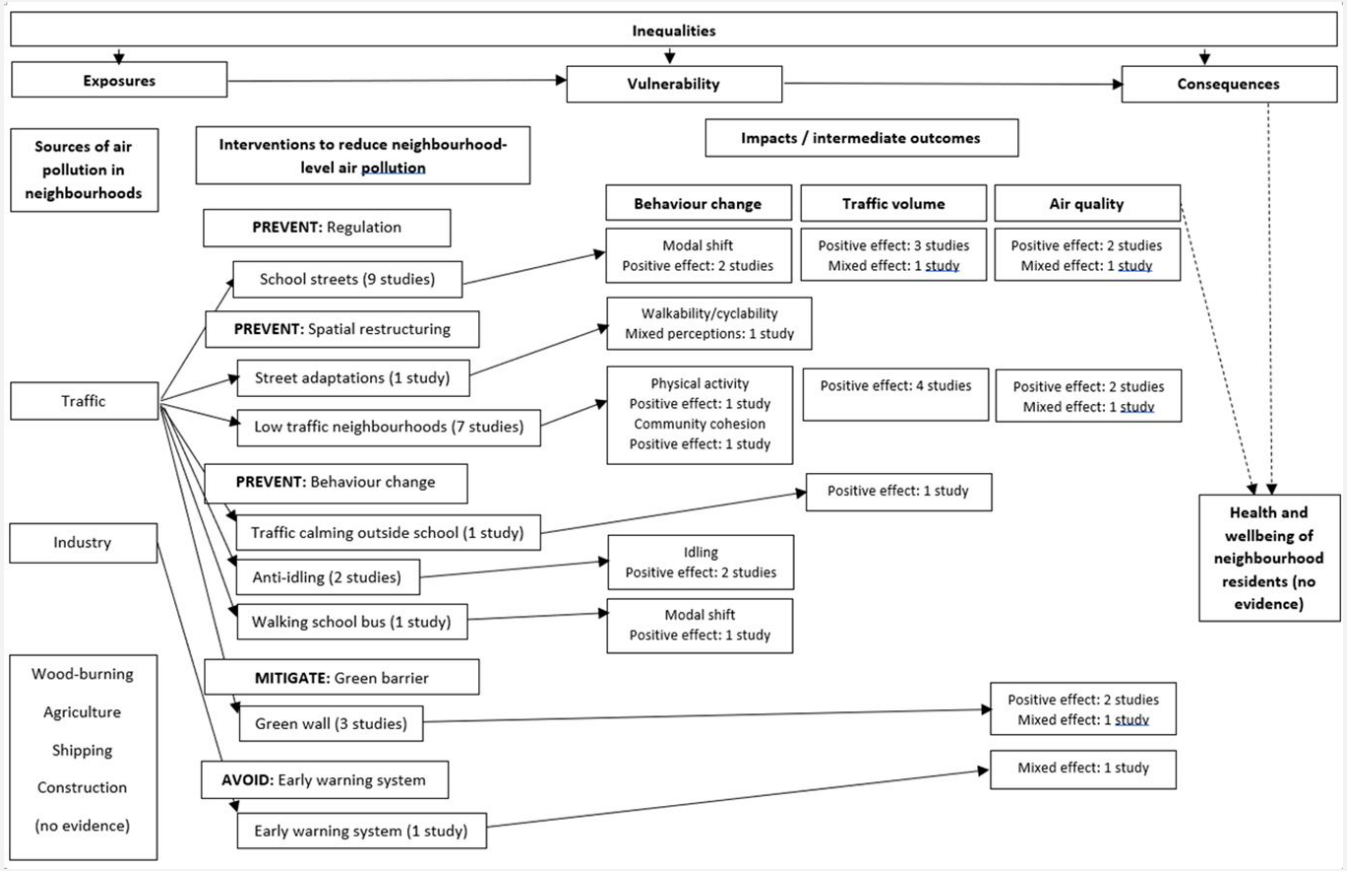
Database searches generated 8912 records, and 103 reports/websites were identified through grey literature searches and via stakeholders

24 included studies, in 26 papers/reports

Local actions included:

- School streets (closing streets near schools in school hours)
- Low traffic neighbourhoods/Superblocks (road closures)
- Street adaptations
- Walking school bus
- Anti-idling signs
- Green wall
- Early warning system (for factory to reduce emissions due to wind)

Review findings - framework



School streets (8 studies) [Prevent: Regulation]

School street closures generally had a positive effect on:

- Traffic volume (5 studies)
- Air pollution levels (3 studies)
- Modal shift - families walking/wheeling (2 studies)

Two studies reported a mixed effect

No studies reported a negative or neutral effect

Some studies reported that traffic was higher on nearby roads, but this increase was not as large as the reduction on the school road

Low traffic neighbourhoods (8 studies) [Prevent: spatial restructuring]

Street closures generally had a positive effect on:

- Traffic (5 studies)
- Air pollution levels (2 studies)
- Modal shift away from motorised transport (1 study)

Some studies reported that traffic was higher on nearby roads, but this increase was not as large as the reduction on the blocked road

One study reported mixed findings on air pollution but increased activity levels and improved community spirit of people living there

Street adaptations (1 study) [Prevent: spatial restructuring]

One study that looked at the creation of a cycle lane from traffic space reported mixed findings on how the cycle lane was perceived and used – locals and business owners reported choosing to cycle and use the cycle lane, some reported dangers and inconvenience

Anti-idling (2 studies) [Prevent: Behaviour change]

Anti-idling messages had a positive effect on idling in both studies (more people turned off their engines when stationary)

Air pollution was measured in one study but not reported in either

Walking school bus (1 study) [Prevent: Behaviour change]

More families walked or wheeled to school and fewer families travelled to school by car

Traffic was not counted

Air pollution was not measured

Traffic calming by school (1 study) [Prevent: Behaviour change]

Positive effect on traffic volume

Negative impact on perceived safety

Potentially confounded by the pandemic

Green barrier (3 studies) [Mitigate]

Two studies reported positive effects on air quality

One study reported mixed effects on air pollution levels, depending on the wind direction

Early warning system (1 study) [Avoid]

Mixed effects on air quality

- Large factory asked to reduce its emissions by 10% on ‘wind days’
  - wind expected to blow towards the neighbourhood nearby for a sustained period of time (3+ hours)
- Reduced air pollution levels relative to a ‘control’ neighbourhood
- Effects differed by time of day and whether or not wind was forecast

What impact did these initiatives have on inequalities?

Three studies reported that their intervention took place in areas of high deprivation (one green barrier study, one low traffic neighbourhood study and one school streets study).

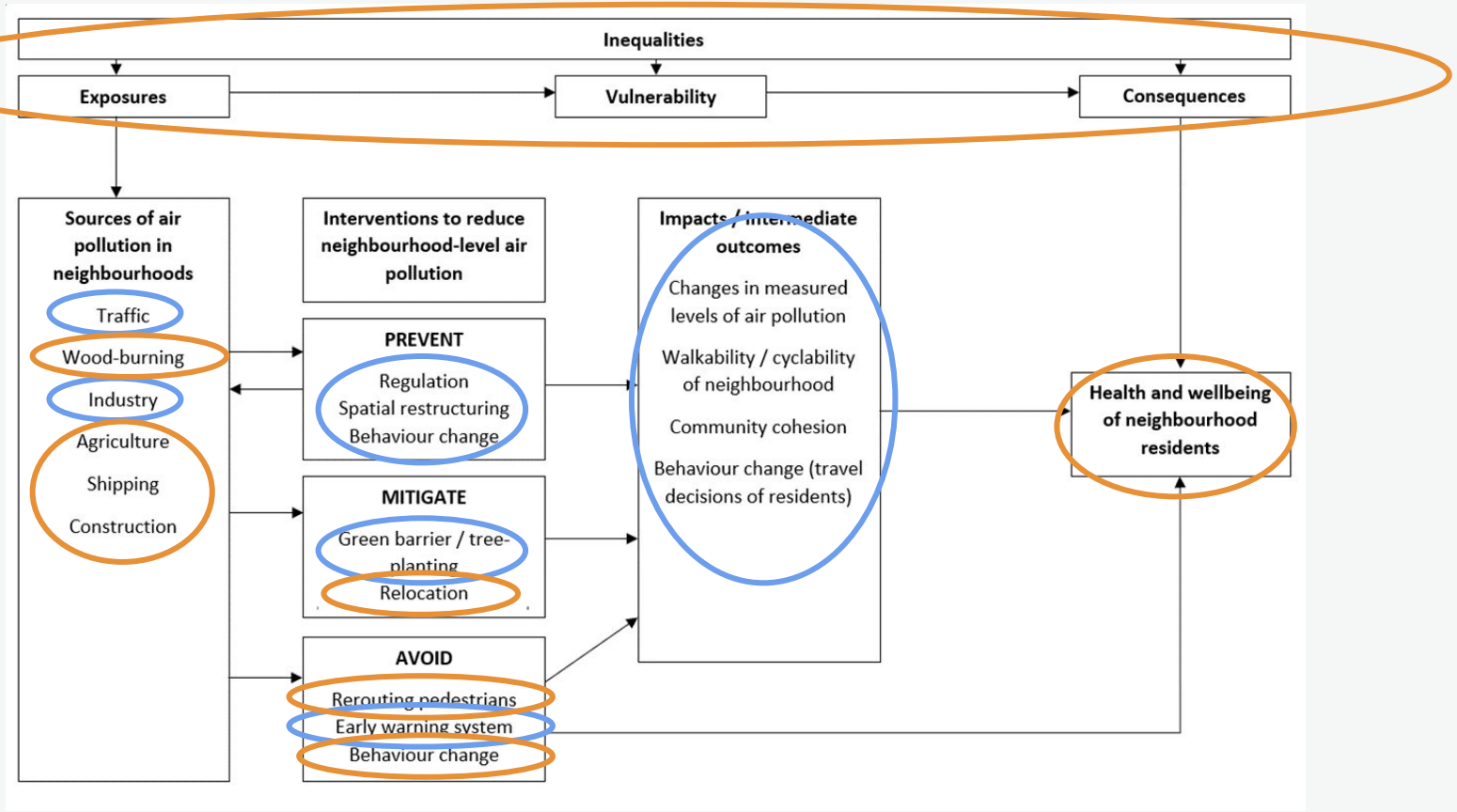
One study reported that a low traffic neighbourhood study disadvantaged those who rely on motorised transport for accessibility.

One study (cycle lane) reported that:

- those with less control (e.g. with jobs involving walking/driving at night) may have been disproportionately disadvantaged;
- those more socially/economically disadvantaged would have been less able to use the cycle path (less likely to own a bike).

Most studies did not mention inequalities.

Evidence coverage and gaps



Difficulties we faced

We know that a large number of neighbourhood-level initiatives have been implemented, however…

- Not evaluated
- Evaluations not available/easy to find
- Not measuring what we were looking at

Evidence identified was of largely poor quality

- No comparison site
- No baseline measures
- Potentially confounded by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Potentially confounded by citywide/regional initiatives (e.g., ULEZ)

Where is the evidence?

A good study would…

- Assess air quality and perhaps also health
- Take measurements before and after the initiative has been implemented, preferably with a comparator
- Pre-plan and conceptualise how the intervention is going to work in advance (e.g., logic model)
- Report as much detail as possible about the context
- Consider extraneous elements - e.g., seasonality, school term

Small projects are valuable - can each make a contribution to a large evidence base.

Implications for Environmental Health Practitioners

- Help to build the evidence base - publish your work (even on your own website)
- design it well - support the case for scaling up and for future investment in research
- Use neighbourhood level interventions to build community support for air quality improvement
- Think about the target population and health inequalities (exposure, vulnerability and consequences) and use data sources such as JSNA to give context
- Think about the wider benefits to health and environment
- Think about your audience and getting wider influence.

Thank you!

Questions? Thoughts?

How would you use these review findings?

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