



Information sheet: Frome Gateway Regeneration Area and TRUUD: ‘Tackling the Root causes Upstream of Unhealthy Urban Development’

What is the TRUUD Project?

TRUUD is a 5-year research programme (Oct 2019 – Sept 2024) seeking to understand how prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases, such as cancers, diabetes, respiratory illness and mental ill health (including those linked to air pollution, and the climate and ecological emergencies) might be fully considered in decision-making for new urban environments. It brings together researchers across five universities, with expertise in public health, urban development, economics, policy studies, management/business studies, systems engineering, and public engagement.

What is TRUUD doing at Frome Gateway?

Bristol City Council is a partner of TRUUD and Bristol is a case study area for the research project, alongside Manchester and Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Dr Anna Le Gouais is the Researcher-in-Residence in Bristol City Council, working on the Frome Gateway regeneration project. Anna’s role is to bridge between the universities and the Council, to enable relevant and impactful research to improve population health. Anna is employed by the University of Bristol (Population Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School) and seconded part time to Bristol City Council. She has a background in civil engineering and recently completed a PhD at the University of Cambridge with the MRC Epidemiology Unit exploring decision-making for new walking and cycling infrastructure and open spaces in different contexts.

As part of the Frome Gateway project team Anna is involved in the evaluation of the Frome Gateway regeneration framework, including the health and wellbeing impacts that it will have on local people. She is learning from stakeholders involved in the project to understand about factors influencing decision-making for urban development, using Frome Gateway as a case study. The research explores the role of the private sector in urban development, considering decision-making issues affected by finance, land ownership and development control, and how health-related issues may be influential. It is also interested in learning how members of the public can influence urban development decision-making, with a focus on health inequality.

TRUUD is also valuing economically the impacts on health from different urban environments and will explore how this type of evidence may influence creation of healthier places.

Data collection, management and confidentiality

As an embedded researcher, Anna seeks to understand urban development decision-making, using Frome Gateway as a case study. She will engage with a range of local authority officers, partner organisations, private sector developers and members of the public. This includes observing relevant meetings, as well as through discussions and project work. The embedded researcher role can be considered an ethnographic method of research, but it can also be described as ‘action research’ because it aims to influence and participate in project work to support creation of healthy urban development.





Anna may take notes in meetings or following events and anonymised summaries of issues, reflections on attitudes and topics to explore further may be shared with other TRUUD researchers, whilst adhering to confidentiality requirements. She will ensure all sensitive material remains confidential, with all research data stored on University of Bristol IT systems. No identifiable information of individuals, names of external organisations, or site specific details will be shared externally, including names of developers. Meeting attendees may request for Anna to not be included in meetings, or to leave for parts of a meeting. If attendees do not wish for specific conversations to be noted, then they may request them not to be included within notes and Anna will fully adhere to these requests.

Sharing research findings

Research findings will periodically be shared with Bristol City Council and other external organisations where requested. Research findings will be published in academic journals and conferences, and accessible summaries produced for wider dissemination. No individuals or third party organisations will be identified in any research findings. This is in accordance with the ethics application approved by University of Bristol's Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee (REF: 94162).

If you would like to find out about the findings from this research study please sign up for updates about the TRUUD project at <https://truud.ac.uk/contact/>

Other TRUUD activities

The wider TRUUD research programme involves over 200 interviews and 20 workshops with public, private and third sector stakeholders to understand the system of urban development decision-making. The project will develop, test and refine interventions for improved population health associated with urban development. TRUUD will also be holding annual conferences, industry roundtables and parliamentary events to invite wider engagement.

For more information and to get involved see <https://truud.ac.uk>

Further information

For further information about the Researcher-in-Residence role and the TRUUD project please contact:

Anna Le Gouais: anna.le-gouais@bristol.gov.uk

For concerns or complaints please contact either Abigail Stratford: abigail.stratford@bristol.gov.uk (Head of Regeneration, Bristol City Council) or Daniel Black: daniel.black@bristol.ac.uk (Director of TRUUD, University of Bristol).

