

What is Public Health?

Definition of Public Health

- *Public Health is defined by the Faculty of Public Health as:*

“The science and art of promoting and protecting health and well-being, preventing ill-health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society”



Public Health – the background

- **Milestones in British Public health**
- **1752** Pringle advocated good ventilation of barrack-rooms and good sanitation, described 'gaol fever' (typhus).
- **1796** Voluntary Board of Health in 1796 which recommended sanitation regulation
- **British population – 1701** c 5.5 m - **1810** c 9 m - **1851** c 18 m
- **1831/32** first cholera epidemic
- **1837** Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates introduced E&W
- **1841** Population - 45% < 20, less than 7% over 60
- **1842** *An Inquiry into the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Population of Great Britain* - Chadwick
- **1847/8** another major cholera epidemic
- **1848** The first Public Health Act in Britain -set up a General Board of Health, made corporate boroughs responsible for drainage, water supply and removal of nuisances
- **1854** Soho cholera epidemic stemmed by Dr. John Snow

The background continued

- **1866** The Sanitary Act - compulsion for local authorities to set up health boards.
- **1875** Public Health Act - compulsory appointment of MOH every sanitary district - dealt with food adulteration, sewers, drainage and epidemics.
- **1890** Housing of the Working Class Act was passed in 1890.
- **1906** School medical services and advice for mothers on the nutrition of infants.
- **1909** The first Council housing outside London
- **1912** National Health Insurance
- **1919** The Ministry of Health formed
- **1938** Variation in the incidence of tonsillectomy among British school districts- Dr. J Alison Glover.
- **1946** National Health Service Act

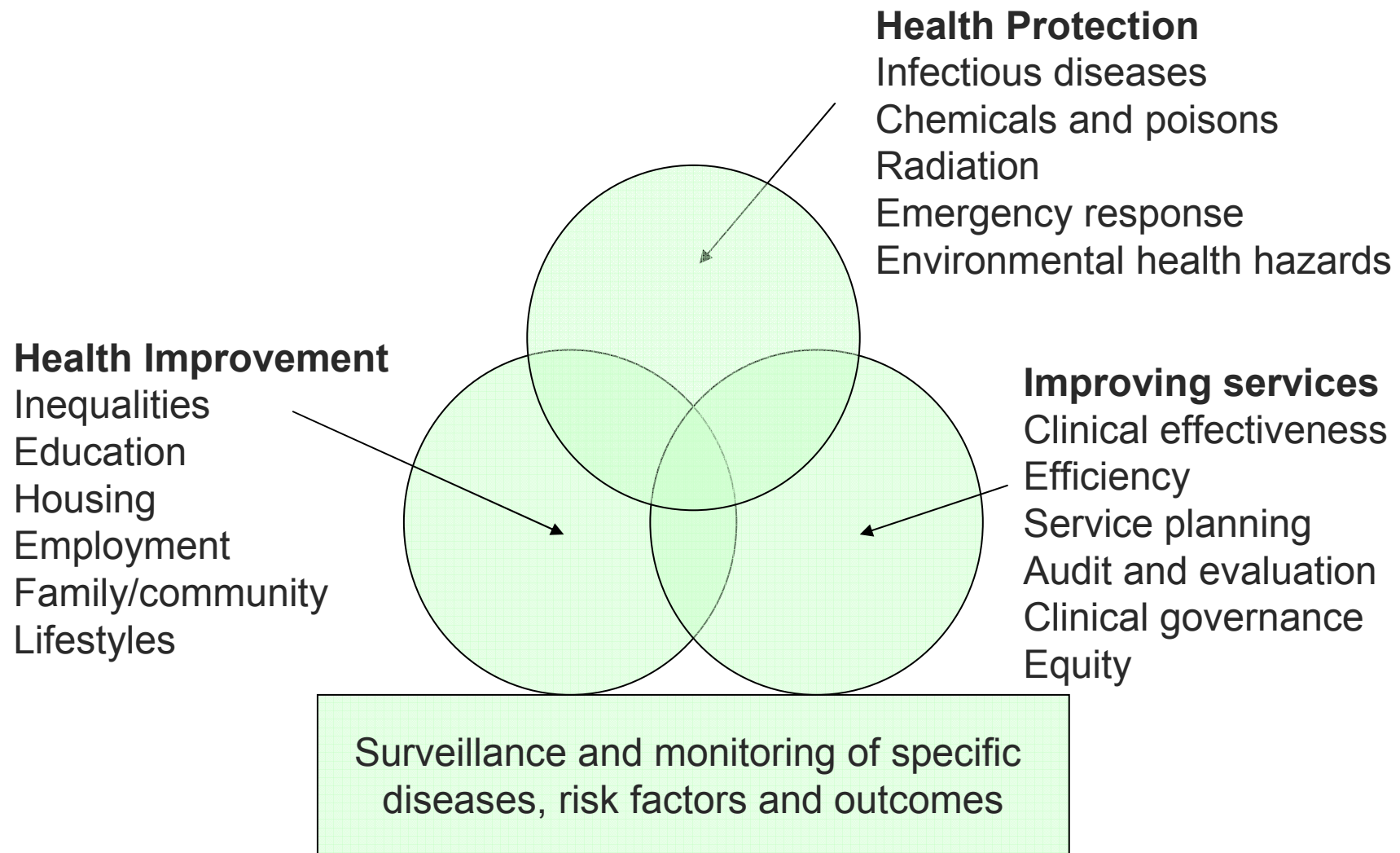
Public Health Practice



Public Health is a clinical practice that:

- works with populations rather than individual patients
- emphasises collective responsibility for health, its protection and disease prevention
- recognises the key role of the state, linked to a concern for the underlying socio-economic and wider determinants of health, as well as disease
- emphasises partnerships with all those who contribute to the health of the population.

Public Health Practice



Key Competency areas of Public Health professionals

The nine key areas are:

- Surveillance and assessment of the population's health and wellbeing
- Assessing the evidence of effectiveness of health and healthcare interventions, programmes and services
- Policy and strategy development and implementation
- Strategic leadership and collaborative working for health
- Health Improvement
- Health Protection
- Health and Social Service Quality
- Public Health Intelligence, Research and Evaluation
- Academic Public Health



50 0 50 100 150 200
Yards
X Pump • Deaths from cholera



The Practice of Public Health is:

- Consultant lead
 - Consultants must be
 - Either on the General Medical Council Specialist register or
 - On the UK Public Health register
 - Have been through a formal interview process with Faculty of PH assessors as members of the interview panel (AAC process)

General
Medical
Council

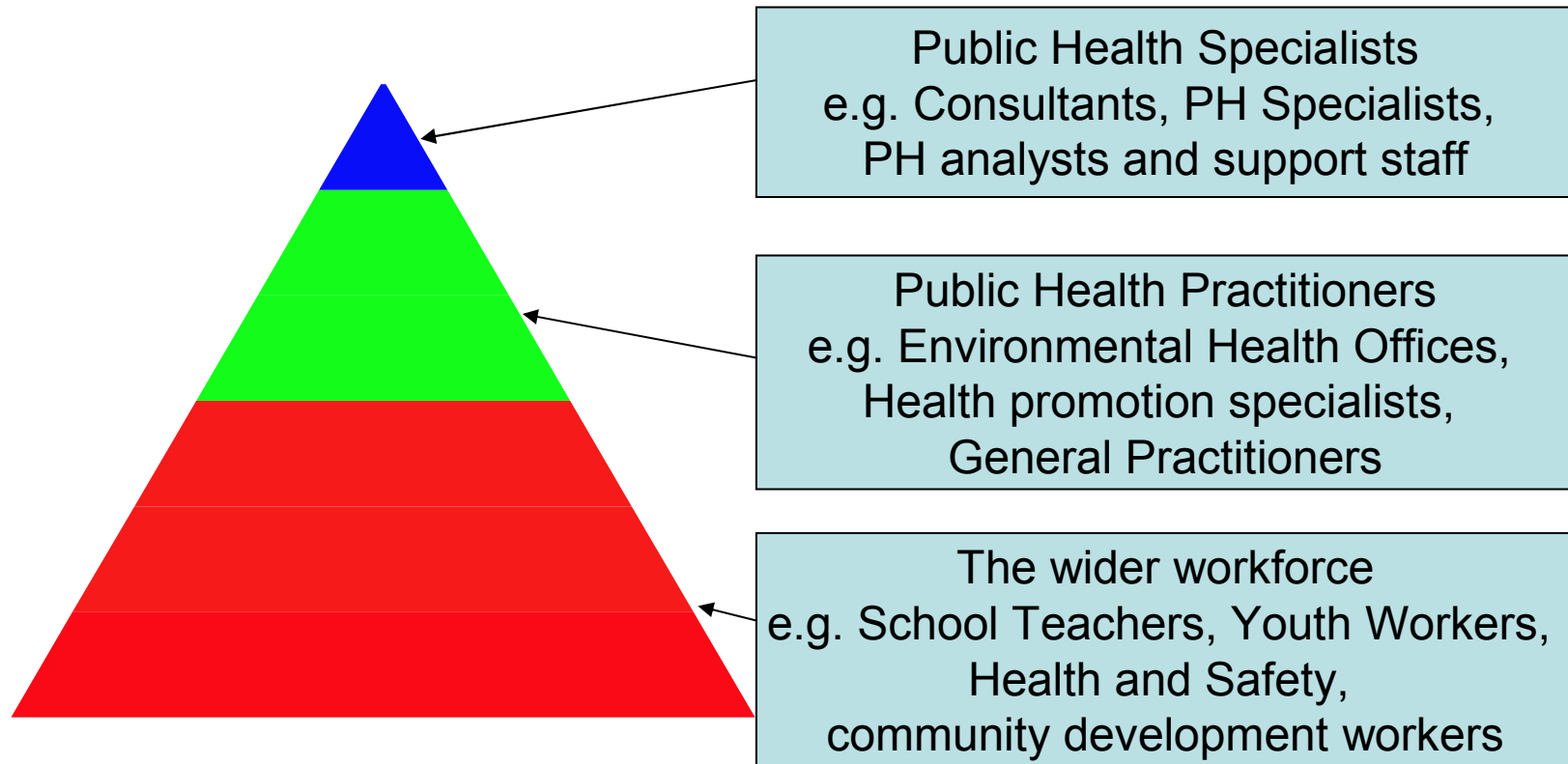
Regulating doctors
Ensuring good medical practice

UKPHR

Public Health Register



The Public Health Workforce

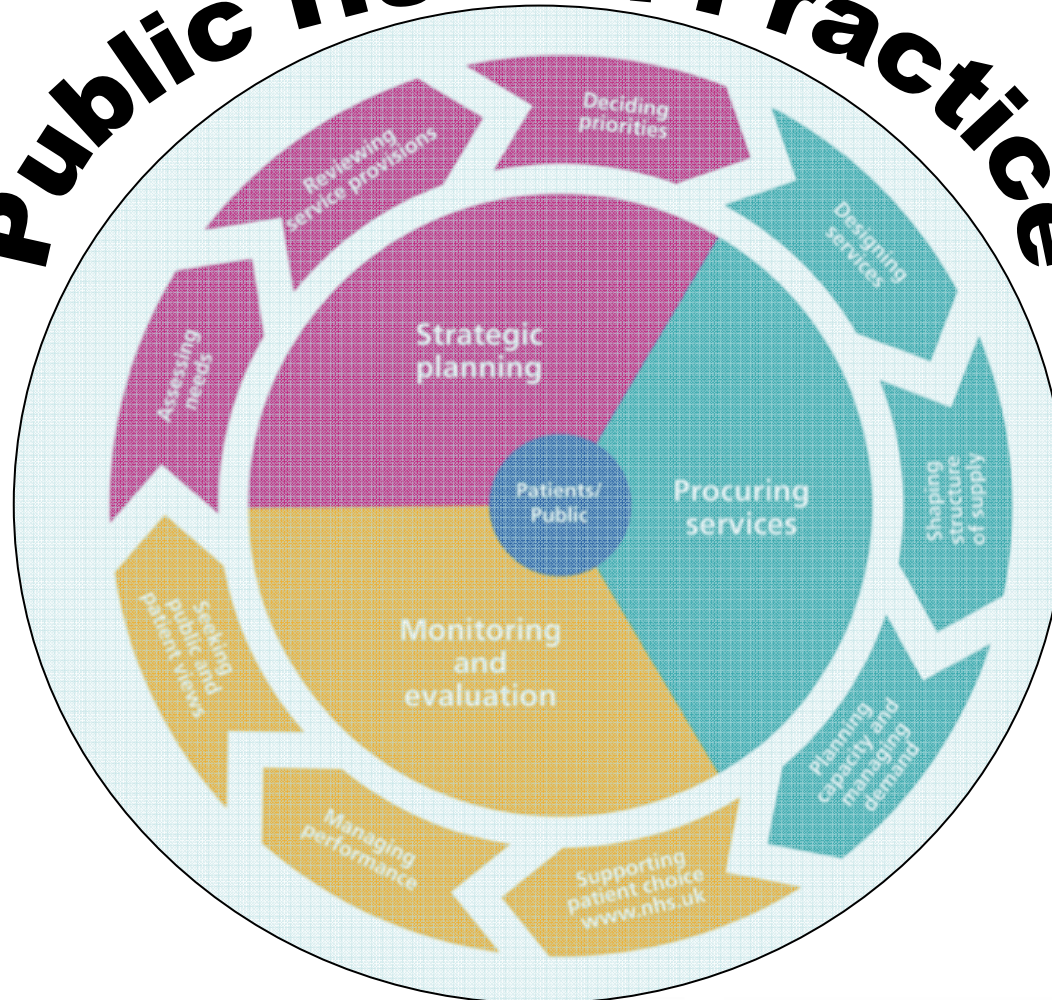


Growing the workforce in Kent

- Kent, and Medway along with the Kent Health Protection Unit support the training of Public Health Specialists and undergraduate medics (F1 and F2s) to gain exposure to Public Health
- Kent and Medway have also invested in training the practitioner/wider workforce e.g. Public Health Champions course (32 people from LAs in Kent by 2013)

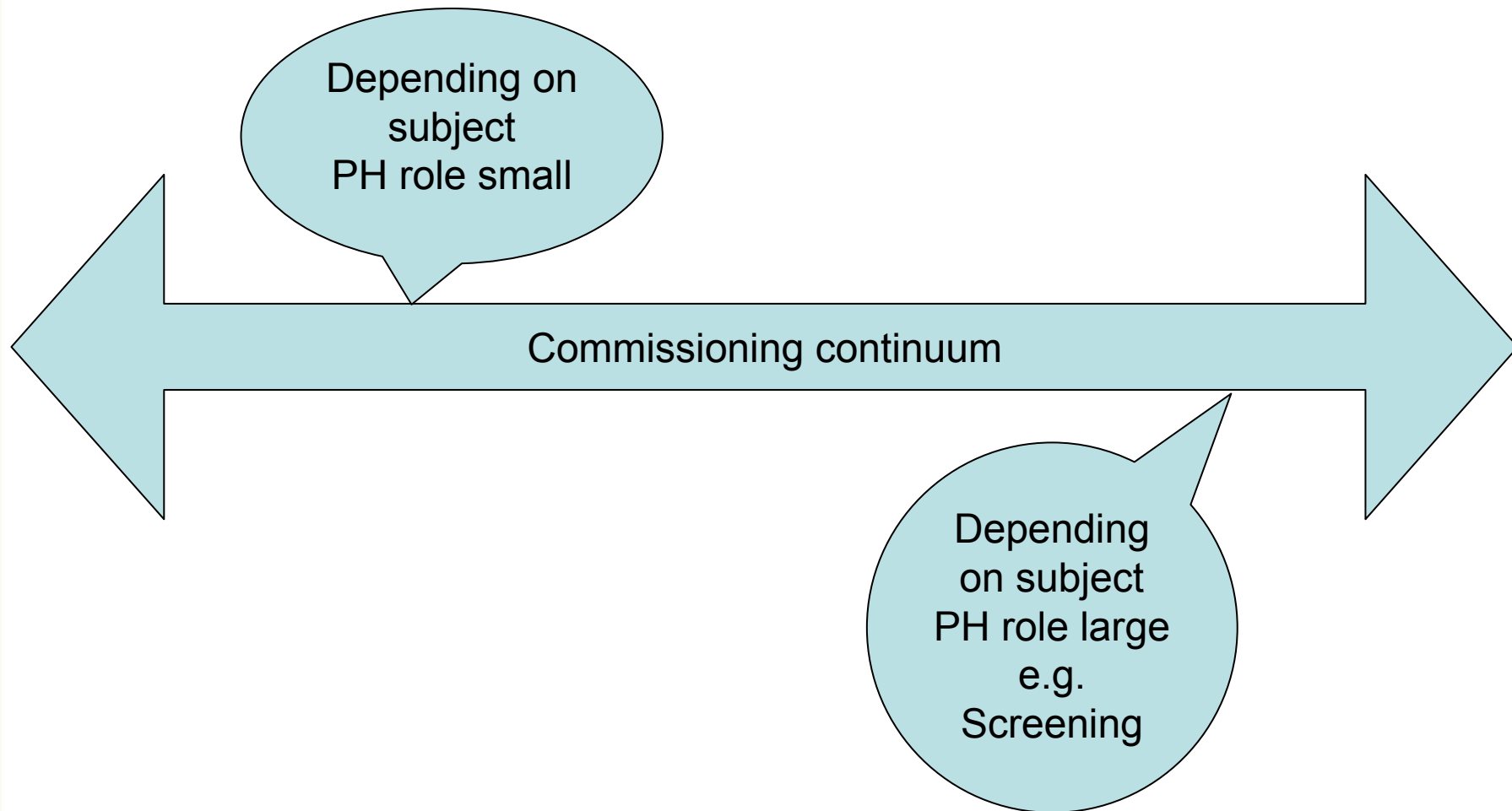
Public Health and Commissioning

Public Health Practice



- Needs Assessment
- What is the evidence
- What are the risk factors
- Population size and implications of changing demographics
- Specifications
- Monitoring
- Health Equity Audit
- Equality impact assessment
- Working with communities

Public Health and Commissioning



Public Health



Public Health can be thought of:

- The professional group of people that deliver the public health function or
- the health of the population



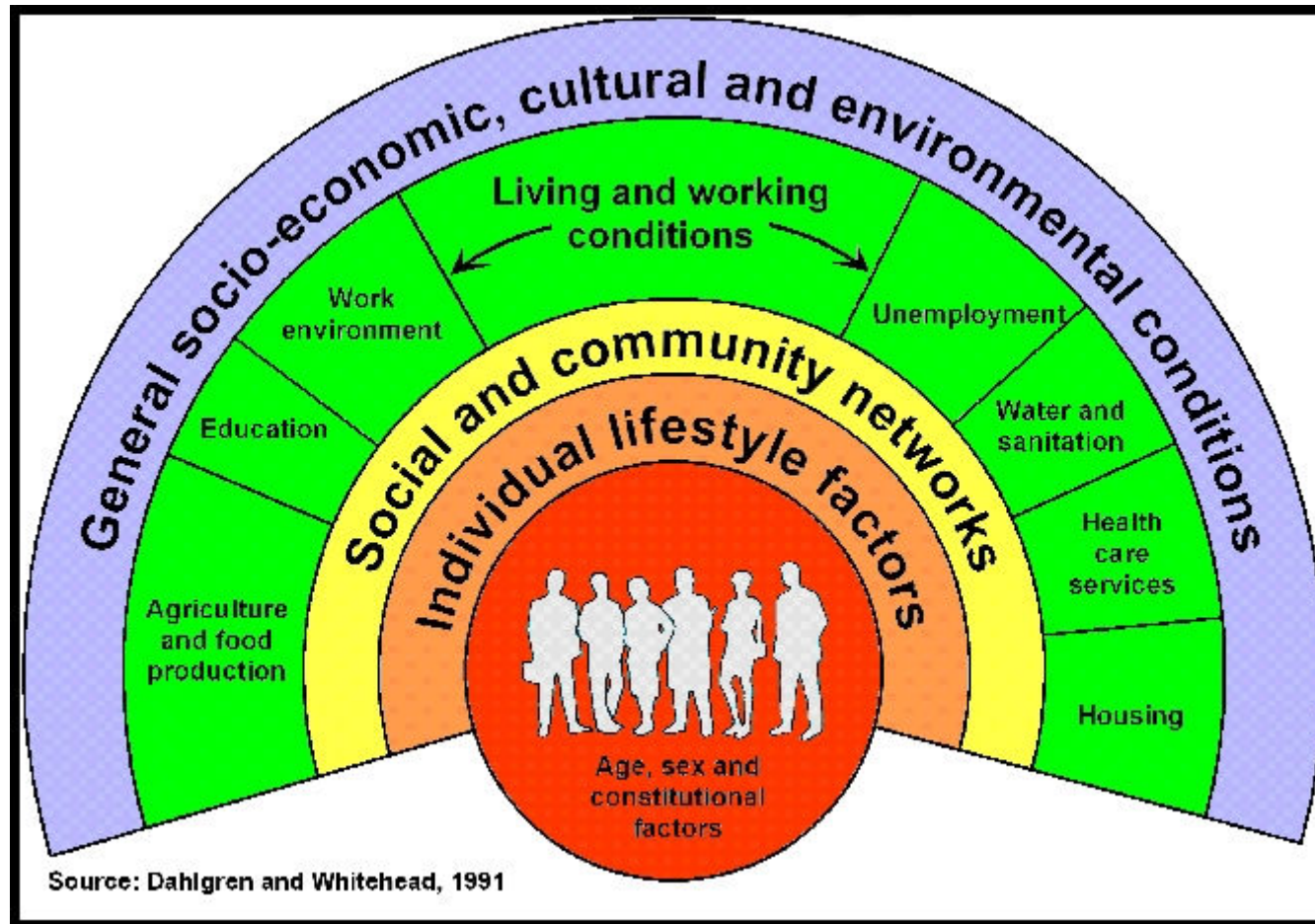
- Be clear in what context “public health” is being used.

What is Health?: WHO definition



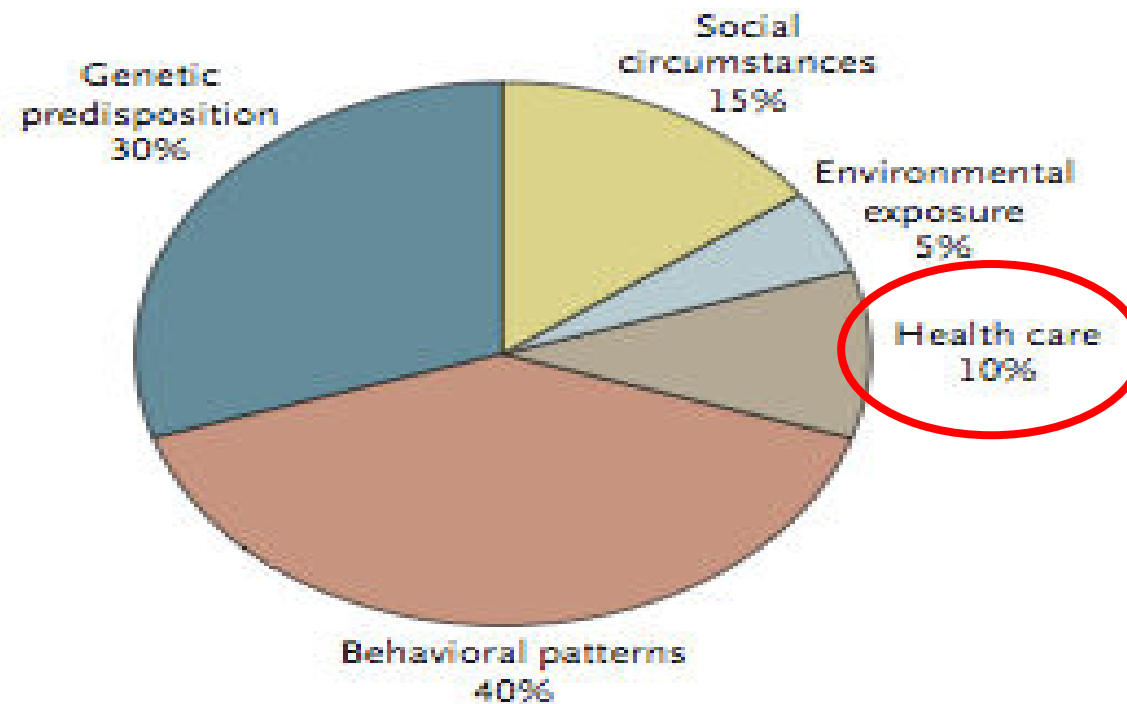
- Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Social Determinants of Health

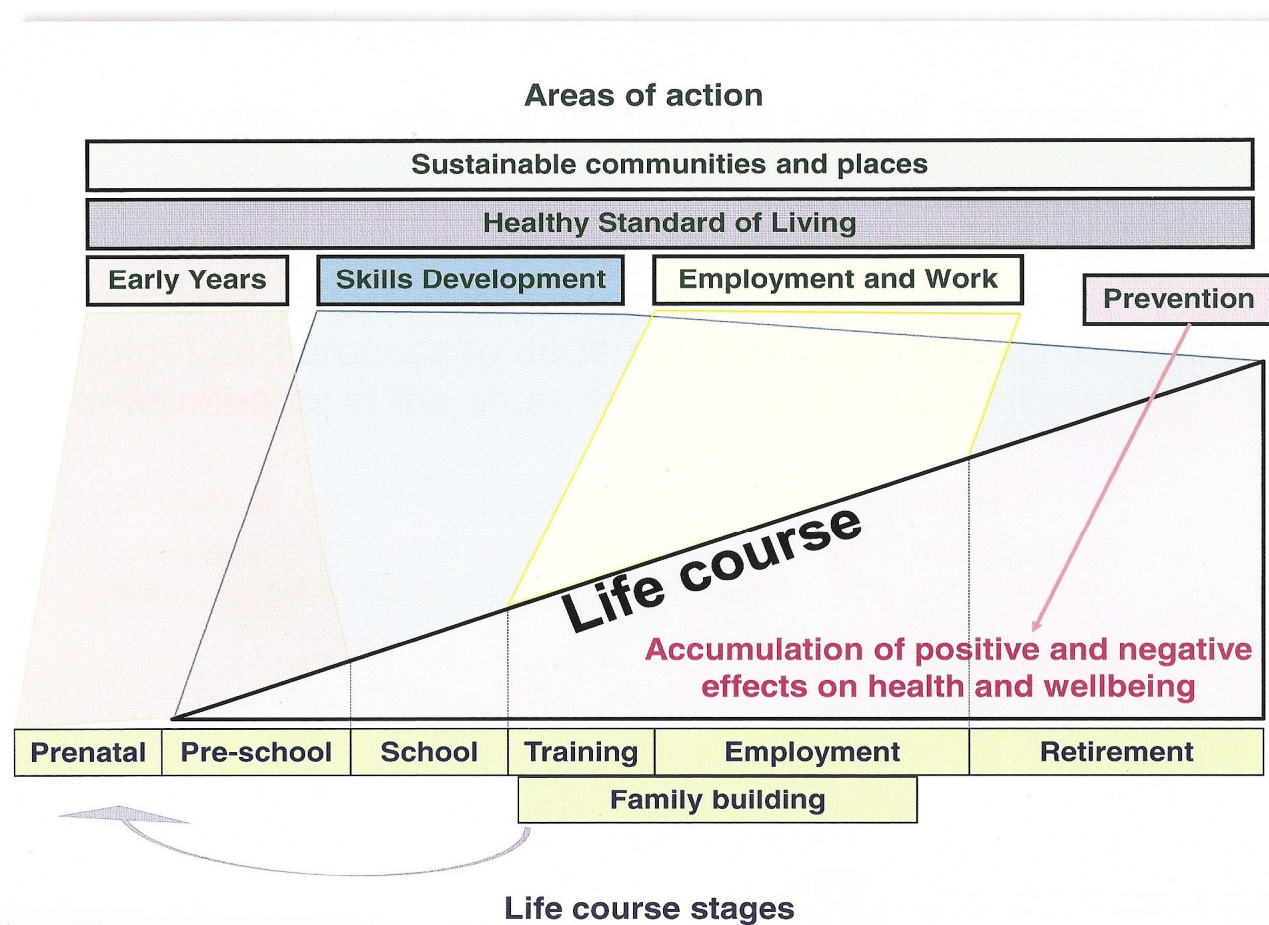


Proportional Contribution on premature death

Proportional Contribution to Premature Death



But also think about life course



Likely Upper Tier LA responsibilities

- Commissioning some health improvement programmes such as:
 - Stop smoking
 - Healthy weight
 - Health trainers
 - Some sexual health services
 - Healthy schools
- Leadership and Management of Health and Well-Being Boards
- Production and Implementation of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Health and Well-being strategies
- Public Health advice and support to the NHS and Clinical Commissioning Boards
- Reducing Health Inequalities

