

Public health reform

A Scotland where everybody thrives



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Scotland's Health – Setting the context for reform



What is Public Health

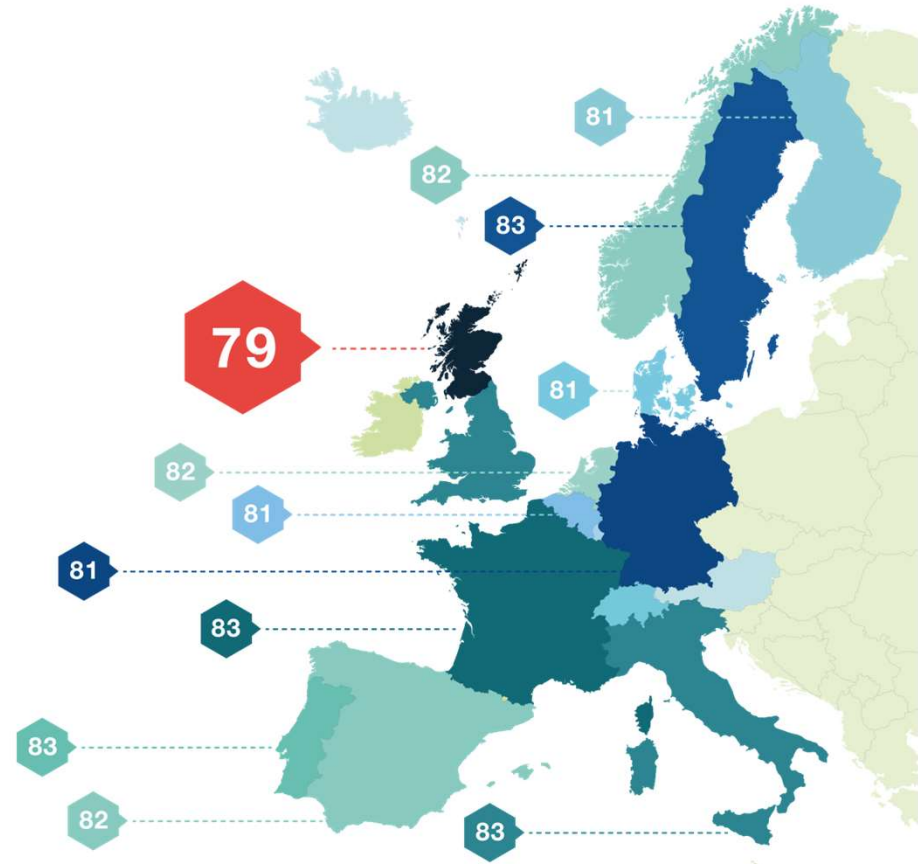
**What we as a society do,
collectively, to assure the
conditions in which people can
be healthy.**

Institute of Medicine

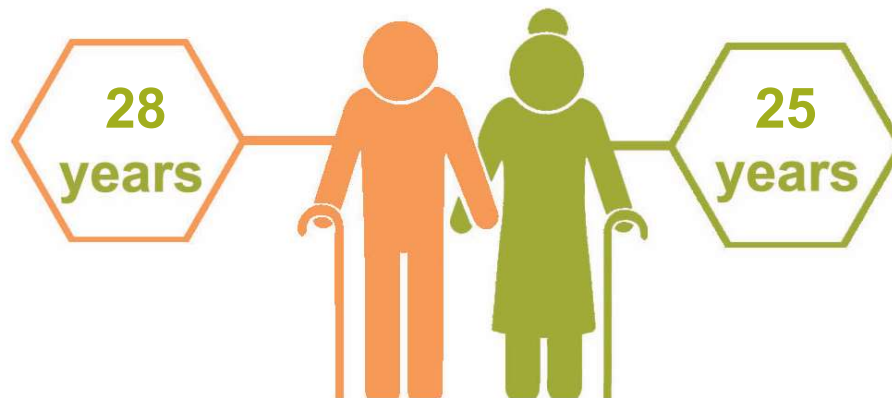


Scotland's Public Health Challenge

Scotland has
the lowest life
expectancy in
Western Europe



Scotland's Public Health Challenge



Scotland's Public Health Challenge

Key points:

- Scotland's health is improving but not fast enough and not equally for everyone
- Scotland's population is changing with more complex health and social care needs
- A focus on prevention is important to support public services better meet the needs of communities
- Health care is **not** the main determinant of our health - social and economic conditions are important.

Public health reform



Establish a new national public health body – Public Health Scotland

Enable the whole system to work effectively together and support for local public health activity

Develop and establish shared public health priorities for Scotland



Public Health Scotland

- Provide strong public health **leadership** and be Scotland's lead national agency for improving and protecting health and wellbeing.
- Support the public health system with high quality, effective and supportive **health improvement, health protection** and **population care** functions
- Have national leadership roles in **research, innovation** and the **public health workforce**.
- Lead in a collaborative way and adopt a **whole system approach** which will support and enable others to take action together across organisational boundaries and in communities.
- Have a clear focus on supporting local partnerships and communities through the innovative use of **intelligence, data** and **evidence**.
- Provide **advice** and **support** to national and local government, local authorities and the NHS in a professionally independent manner.



Public Health Priorities and Whole System



Scotland's Public Health Priorities



“A consensus on the most important things Scotland must focus on over the next decade if we are able to improve the health of the population”



Scotland's Public Health Priorities



Priority 1 A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities

Priority 2 A Scotland where we flourish in our early years

Priority 3 A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing

Priority 4 A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs

Priority 5 A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all

Priority 6 A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active



Whole System Working

‘Underpinning the public health priorities is the need to work more effectively together as part of a whole system approach.

“An ongoing, flexible approach by a broad-range of stakeholders to identify and understand current and emerging public health issues where, by working together, we can deliver sustainable change and better lives for the people of Scotland.”



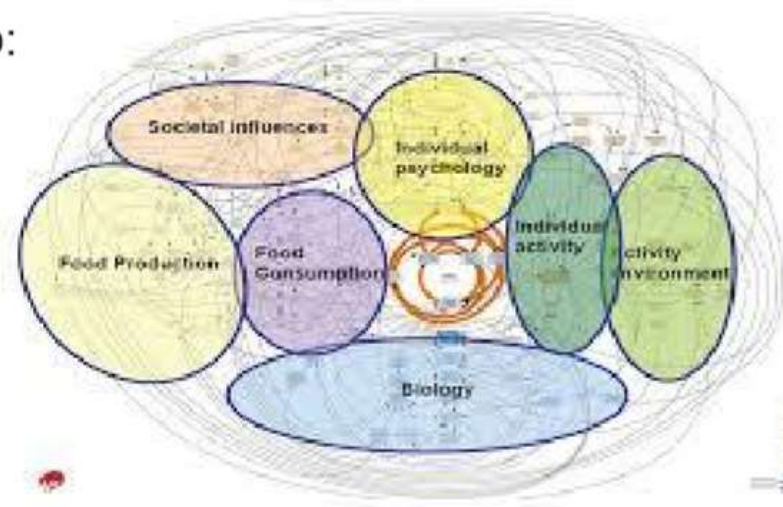
Complex systems: a different way of understanding

Mental and physical health needs to be viewed as an emergent property of the conditions we find ourselves living within – not a linear model of cause and effect

From:



To:



Characteristics of complex systems

Emergence	Properties of the system (the whole) which cannot be predicted by the individual elements (the parts).
Feedback	A change in the system reinforces or balances further change.
Adaptation	Changes in behaviour in response to interventions.

Summary so far...

- Major public health problems are the outcomes of multiple interactions within complex systems
- Current evidence is structurally biased towards short-term, individual-level interventions
- Tackling complex problems requires much more than a focus on proximal risk factors
- Important to frame our responses as driving disturbances within systems – not as hammers applied to nails



Whole System Working



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