

# Public health reform

A Scotland where everybody thrives



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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# Enabling Whole-System Working

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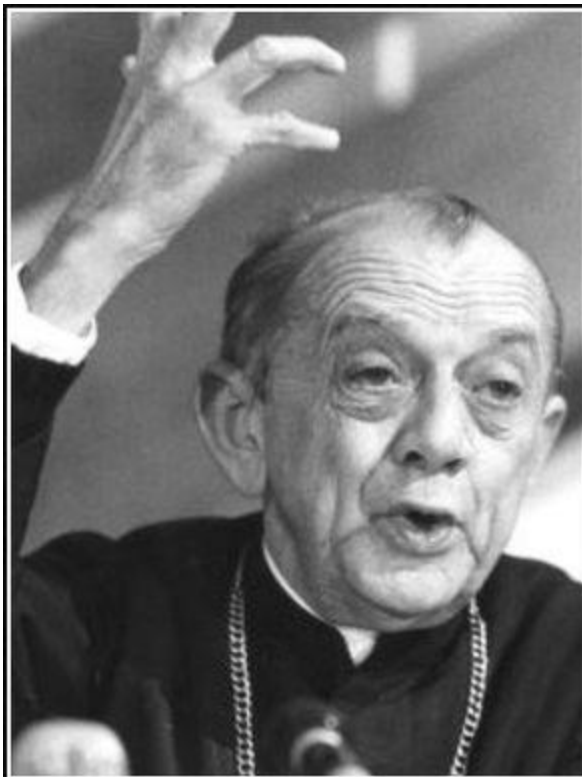
**Glasgow Centre for Population Health**



# Context

- The picture of health and health inequality in Scotland
- Health care is **not** the main determinant of our health – social, environmental and economic conditions are
- Demographic change, multi-morbidity, living patterns, community infrastructure, diversity
- Technology, intelligence, communications
- Uncertain nature of the world
- Opportunities to maximise health impacts of policies
- The imperative of achieving a successful shift to prevention





When I give food to the poor, they  
call me a saint. When I ask why the  
poor have no food, they call me a  
communist.

— *Helder Câmara* —

AZ QUOTES

# Public Health

- The science and art of promoting and protecting health and wellbeing, preventing ill-health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society.
- Key features distinguish a public health approach from other approaches to improving health and wellbeing. Public health
  - is **population based** - concerned with the factors that make populations (e.g. communities, cities, regions, countries) healthier or unhealthier – and long-term (e.g. has concern for future populations);
  - emphasises **collective responsibility** for health, its protection and disease prevention - through the organised efforts of society;
  - recognises the role of the state, and of the underlying socio-economic and **wider determinants of health and disease**, including the distribution of power, resources and opportunities within and across populations; and
  - involves **partnership** with those who contribute to the health of current and future populations.

# Public Health Reform

- Public health reform is an equal partnership between Scottish Government and COSLA
- Reform is a collaborative process involving the wider system in designing the future public health landscape
- Public Health Scotland, shared priorities and a focus on local partnerships are foundation of reform programme
- Public Health Scotland will provide strong leadership to increase healthy life expectancy and reduce health inequalities
- Scotland's public health priorities provide catalyst for whole system to focus on key public health challenges



# **We have a proud history to learn from and sustain**

Improving Scotland's health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
will require similar levels of ambition  
to those that characterised  
the previous waves of public health

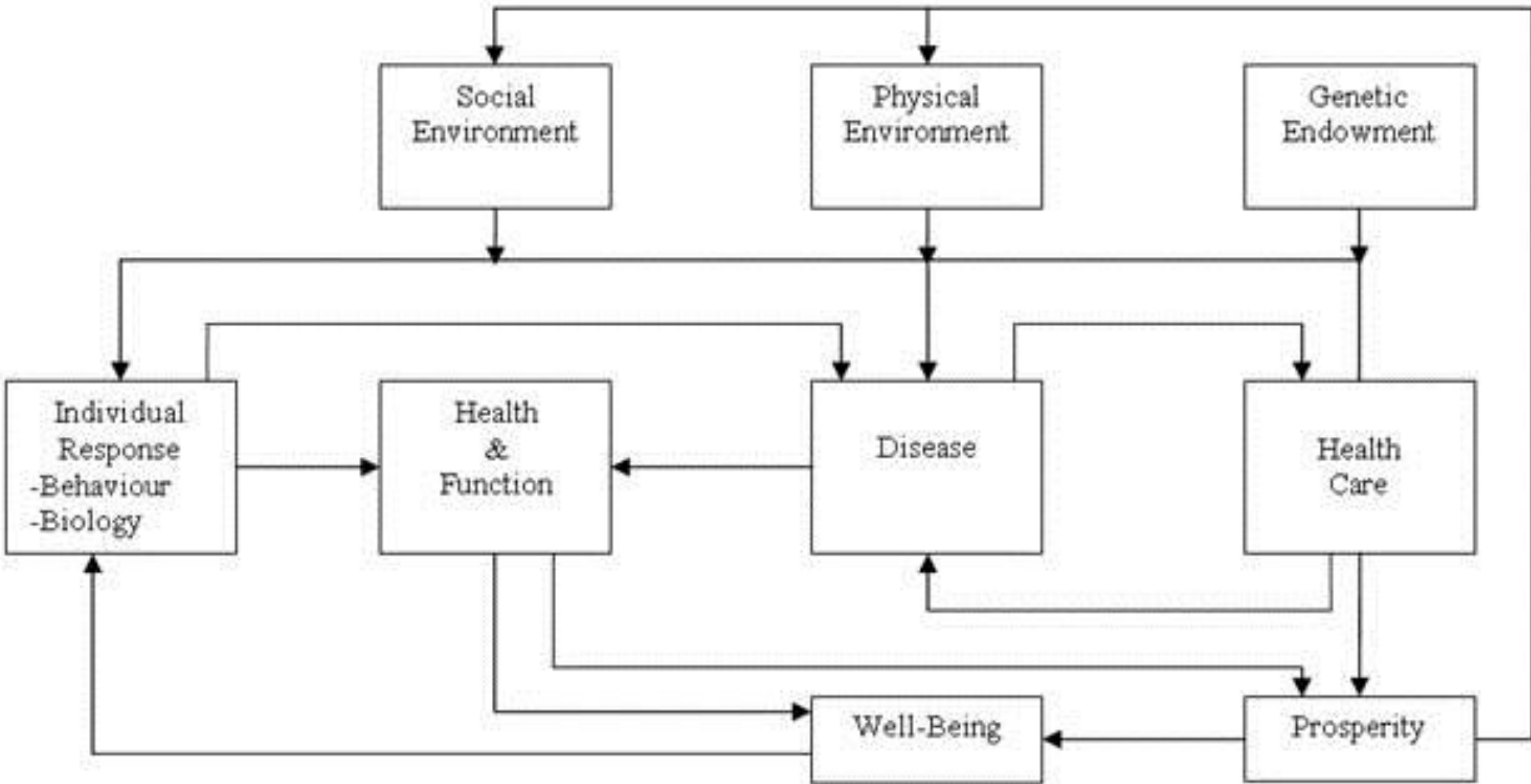


**Enabling whole-system working**  
to promote and protect health and  
wellbeing, prevent ill-health and  
prolong life through the organised  
efforts of society





# The system that creates health



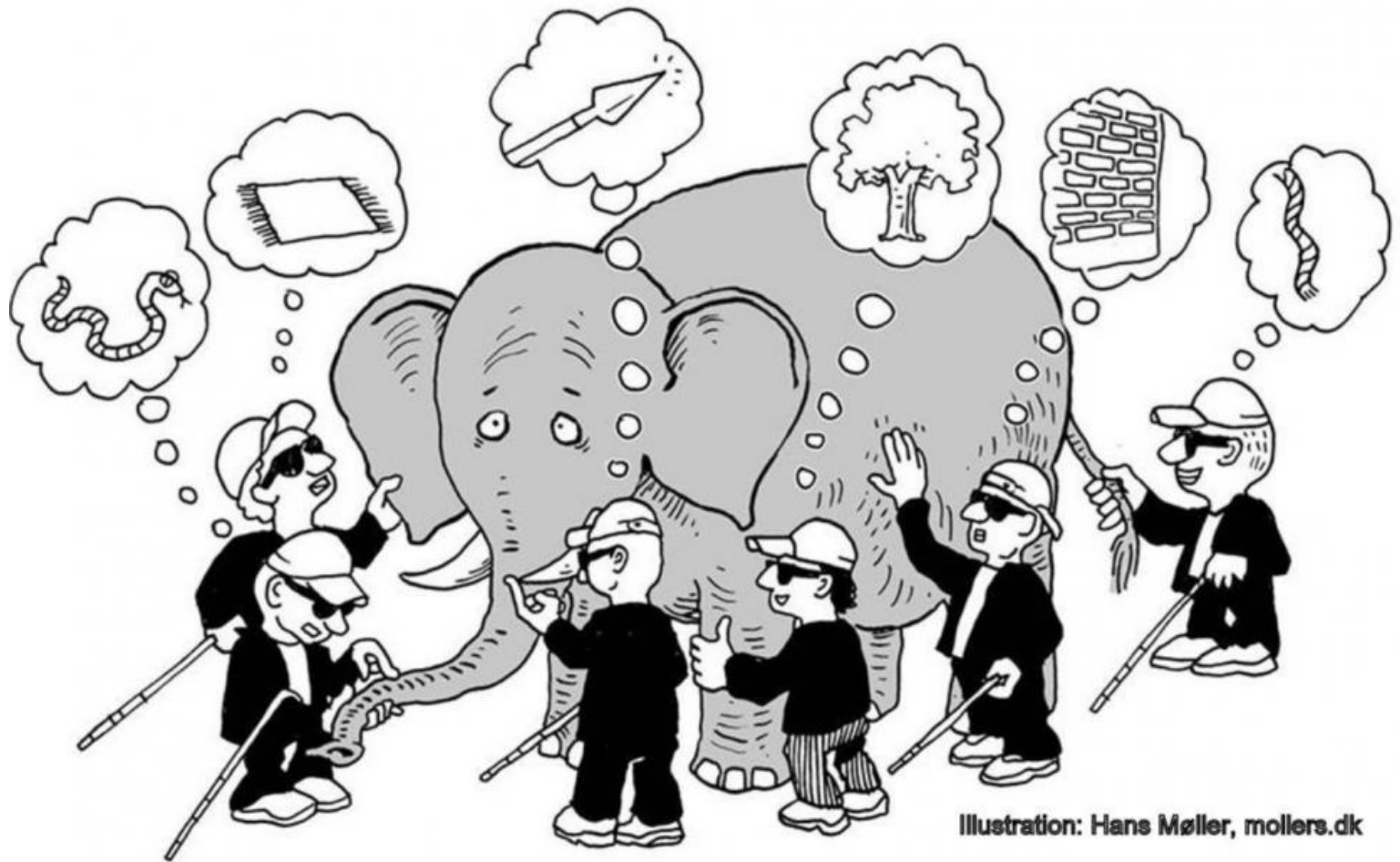


Illustration: Hans Møller, mollers.dk

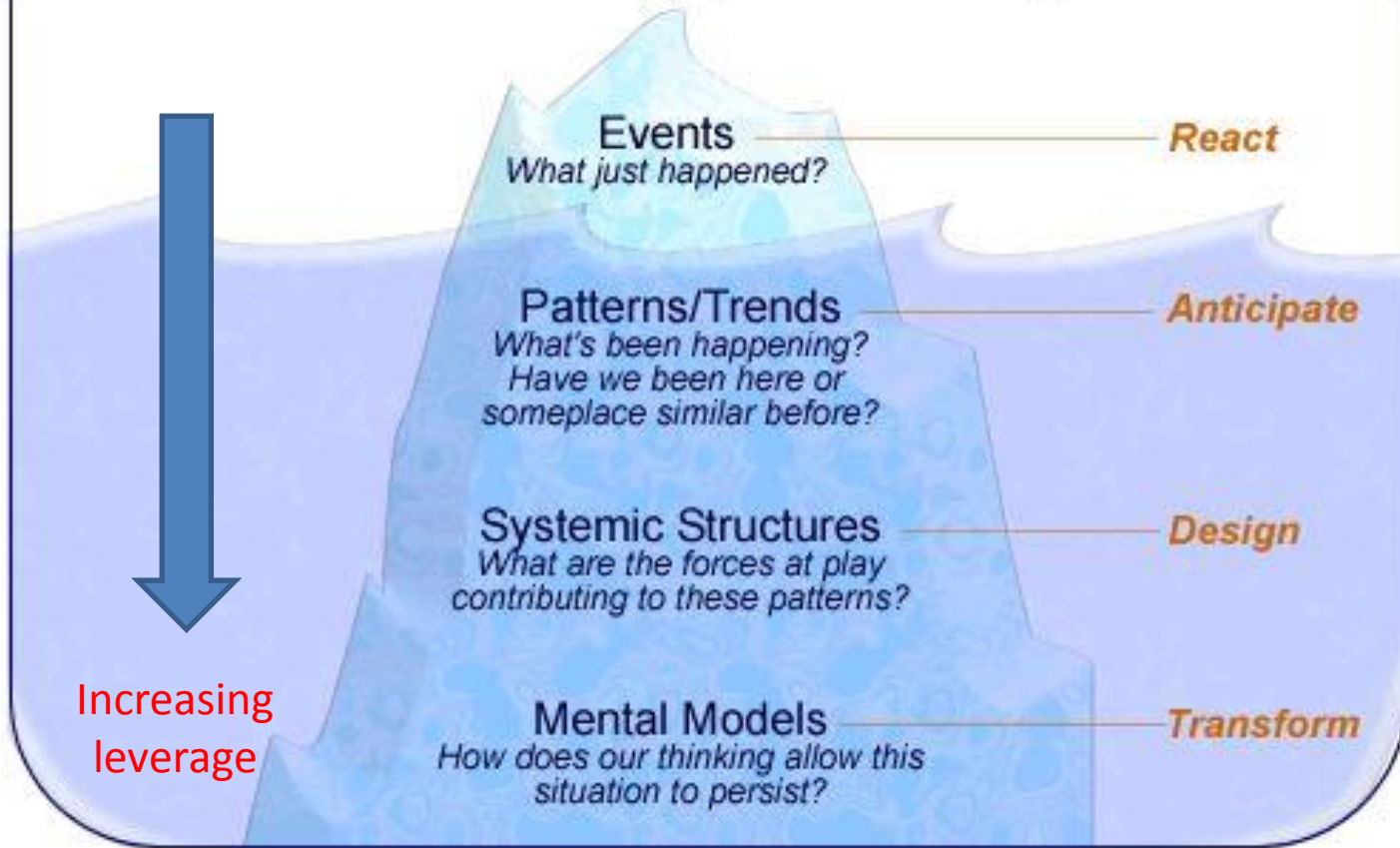
# Systemic infrastructure

- **Circulatory system:** What needs to flow between components, and how?
- **Nervous system:** What information do we need to collect and process? From where? How will actions be initiated thereafter?
- **Digestive system:** How will our PH system be nourished, kept healthy, and enabled to grow?
- **Musculo-skeletal system:** What structures do we need to hold the PH system together, make it strong but also light on its feet, mobile, etc?
- **Social system:** How will we develop effective relationships, establish common values, and contribute to wider societal goals?
- ...



# The Iceberg

*A Tool for Guiding Systemic Thinking*



# Going below the water line

- Cultures and behaviours
- Complexity
- Shared insights into how change will happen
- Collective leadership and action
- Long-term view
- New paradigms

# Whole-system working

“An ongoing, dynamic and flexible approach that enables stakeholders to come together, share an understanding of the reality of the challenge, consider how the system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change.

Stakeholders agree actions and decide as a network how to work together in an integrated way to bring about sustainable change”

**Public Health England**



# Whole-system working?



# Given what we know about Scotland's health and our existing ways of working ...

... how can we enable the sort of 'whole system' approaches that are needed in this 21<sup>st</sup> century context?

