

Understanding public health systems: a participatory systematic review and systems infographic

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Aim and Method

To conceptualise a public health system through participatory systematic review using stakeholder workshops to produce a ‘system’ framework and refining via two linked systematic reviews (one on public health policy overall, one on early years policy) to answer the question:

‘What examples can be identified of similarities and differences in the public health systems and policy approaches of the four countries of the UK since political devolution.’

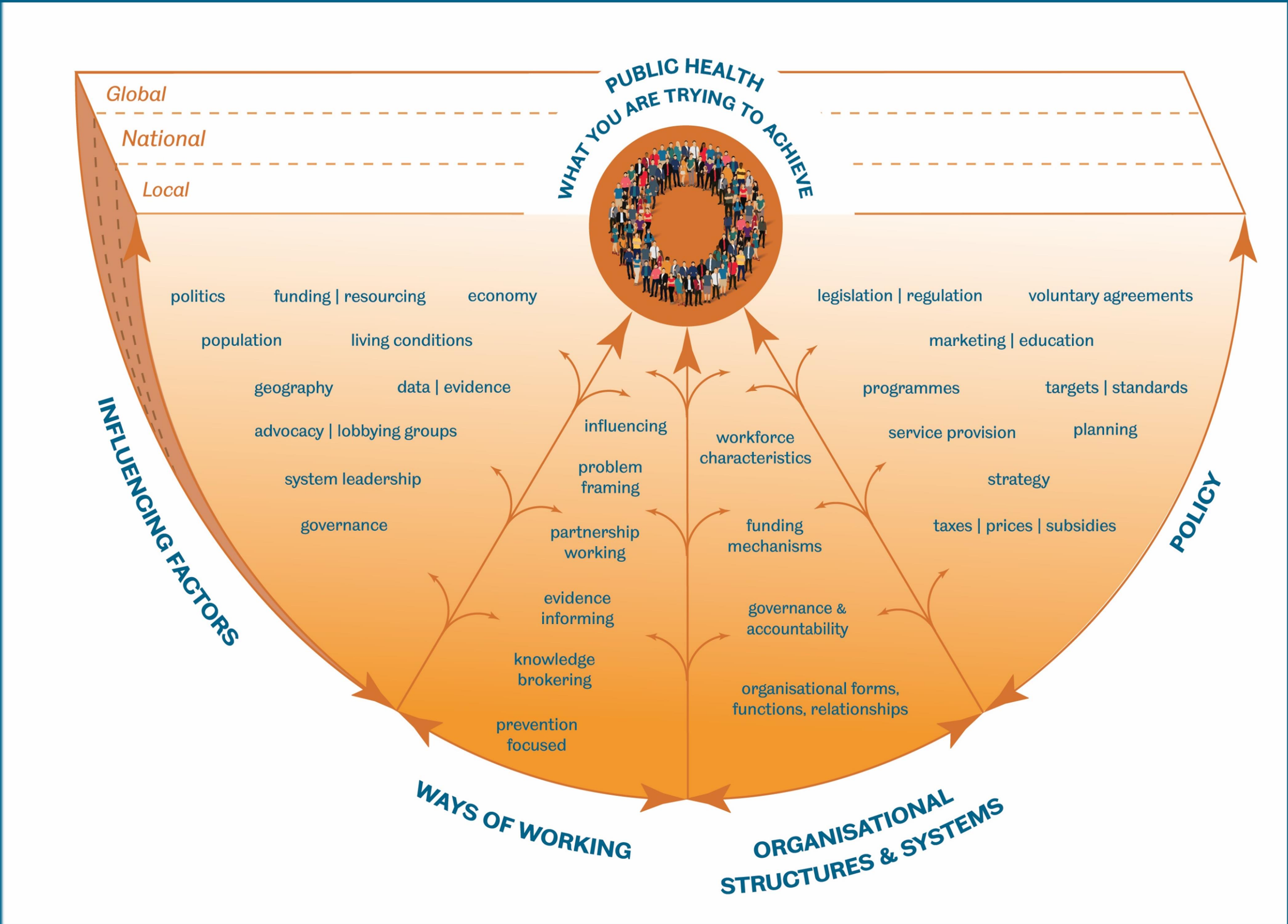
Results and Conclusion

Narrative synthesis of 220 documents and stakeholder input identified the key elements of a public health system and potential relationships between policy action and public health outcomes.

This novel method enabled the creation of this infographic as a tool to encourage dialogue and reflection about leveraging change within public health systems.

Public Health Systems Framework

This framework is designed to help you understand public health as a complex system. It sets out elements that affect public health outcomes. These operate at all levels of the system.



Consider all the sections of diagram to answer the questions below. This will help you understand what enables or constrains what public health outcomes you are trying to achieve.

- What are you trying to achieve?
- Where are you situated in the system?
- Which elements of the system, across all levels, affect what you are trying to achieve?
- How do these elements connect & interact?
- How does this enable or constrain what you want to achieve?
- Where can you influence the system to achieve change?



The Framework is based on the 'Four Nations Study - A comparative systems review and thematic policy analysis of public health across the four constituent countries of the UK' (2018). Full report available at www.adph.org.uk. The study was funded by The Health Foundation: www.health.org.uk. To cite the Framework please use: A Barnes, M Black, S Baxter, Nifty Fox Creative, A Furber, M Strong, C Beynon, M Dallat, C Jeffery, A Davies, L Goyder, E Kritsotakis, and M Clowes (2018) Public Health Systems Framework.