Tackling Poverty and Health Inequalities: A Social Determinants Approach

Health Services and Local Government: A Partnership Approach

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Poverty and Social Inclusion: National Policy Context (NDP 2000 – 2006)

POVERTY

- Not everyone has benefited proportionately from Ireland's new found prosperity
- The gap between high income earners and the socially excluded may have widened.
- Concentrations of poverty may be intensifying in certain areas with disadvantage, deprivation, poverty and the effects of marginalisation becoming endemic and intergenerational.

Poverty and Social Inclusion National Policy Context: NAPS

SOCIAL EXCLUSION

- Social Exclusion is a broader concept than poverty – it is a cumulative marginalisation from employment, from consumption (low incomes), from social networks (from family, community decision-making) and from an adequate quality of life.
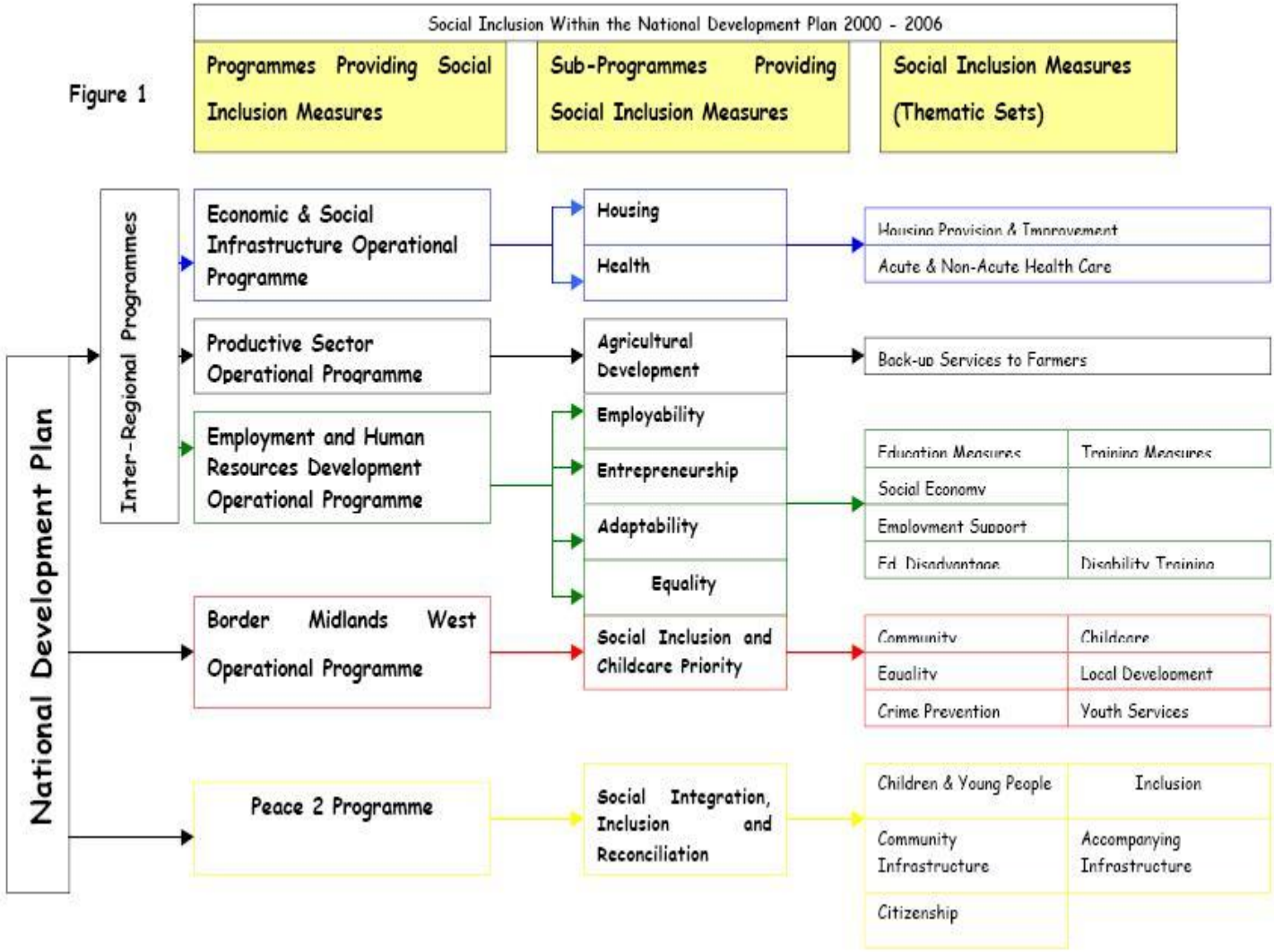
Poverty and Social Inclusion National Policy Context:

MULTI-FACETED ISSUE

- NDP recognises the multi dimensional nature of social exclusion – a multi-faceted approach to reducing social exclusion is proposed.

- NDP contains **40** different measures

- Aimed at **38** distinct target groups

- Spread across **9** Government Departments

Social Inclusion Measures Audit

Figure 1

Social Inclusion Within the National Development Plan 2000 - 2006

Programmes Providing Social Inclusion Measures	Sub-Programmes Providing Social Inclusion Measures	Social Inclusion Measures (Thematic Sets)

National Development Plan

Inter-Regional Programmes

Economic & Social Infrastructure Operational Programme
- Housing
- Health

| Housing Provision & Improvement |
| Acute & Non-Acute Health Care |

Productive Sector Operational Programme
- Agricultural Development

| Back-up Services to Farmers |

Employment and Human Resources Development Operational Programme
- Employability
- Entrepreneurship
- Adaptability
- Equality

Education Measures	Training Measures
Social Economy	
Employment Support	
Ed. Disadvantage	Disability Training

Border Midlands West Operational Programme
- Social Inclusion and Childcare Priority

Community	Childcare
Equality	Local Development
Crime Prevention	Youth Services

Peace 2 Programme
- Social Integration, Inclusion and Reconciliation

Children & Young People	Inclusion
Community Infrastructure	Accompanying Infrastructure
Citizenship	

Poverty and Social Inclusion: Role of Local Government

- Local government in the ROI comprises
  - 29 County Councils
  - 5 City Councils
  - **34** elected Councils each with a County/City Manager.
- In addition there are 80 elected Town Councils served by the 34 County/City Managers that undertake a narrower range of services than County/City Councils

Poverty and Social Inclusion: Functions of Local Government

- Housing and Building

- Road Transportation and Safety

- Water Supply and Sewerage

- Development Control/Development Plans

- Environmental Protection (including waste management)

Poverty and Social Inclusion: Functions of Local Government Cont …d

- Recreation and Amenities
- Community and Enterprise Development Units (new units serving County Development Boards)
- Expenditure of over €4 billion
- Employing over 30,000 people

Key Role for Local Government

- Mainstreaming Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion measures across **all** Directorates.
- Specific targets for individual Directorates:
  - Social housing/housing estates;
  - Library Services
  - Children – recreation and play

Local Government Reform: Bring Services Closer to People

- County Council services restructured into seven Directorates

- Directors located at Headquarters – focus on County level / strategic work / County Council Meetings

- Service Delivery decentralised to each Electoral Area with its own Public Service Centre and management structure

Public Service Centres

Opened Sept 2002

Opened June 2002

Opened Nov 2002

Opened Jan 2003

Corporate Headquarters

Opened April 2004

Carndonagh

Milford

Letterkenny

Lifford

Dungloe

Stranorlar
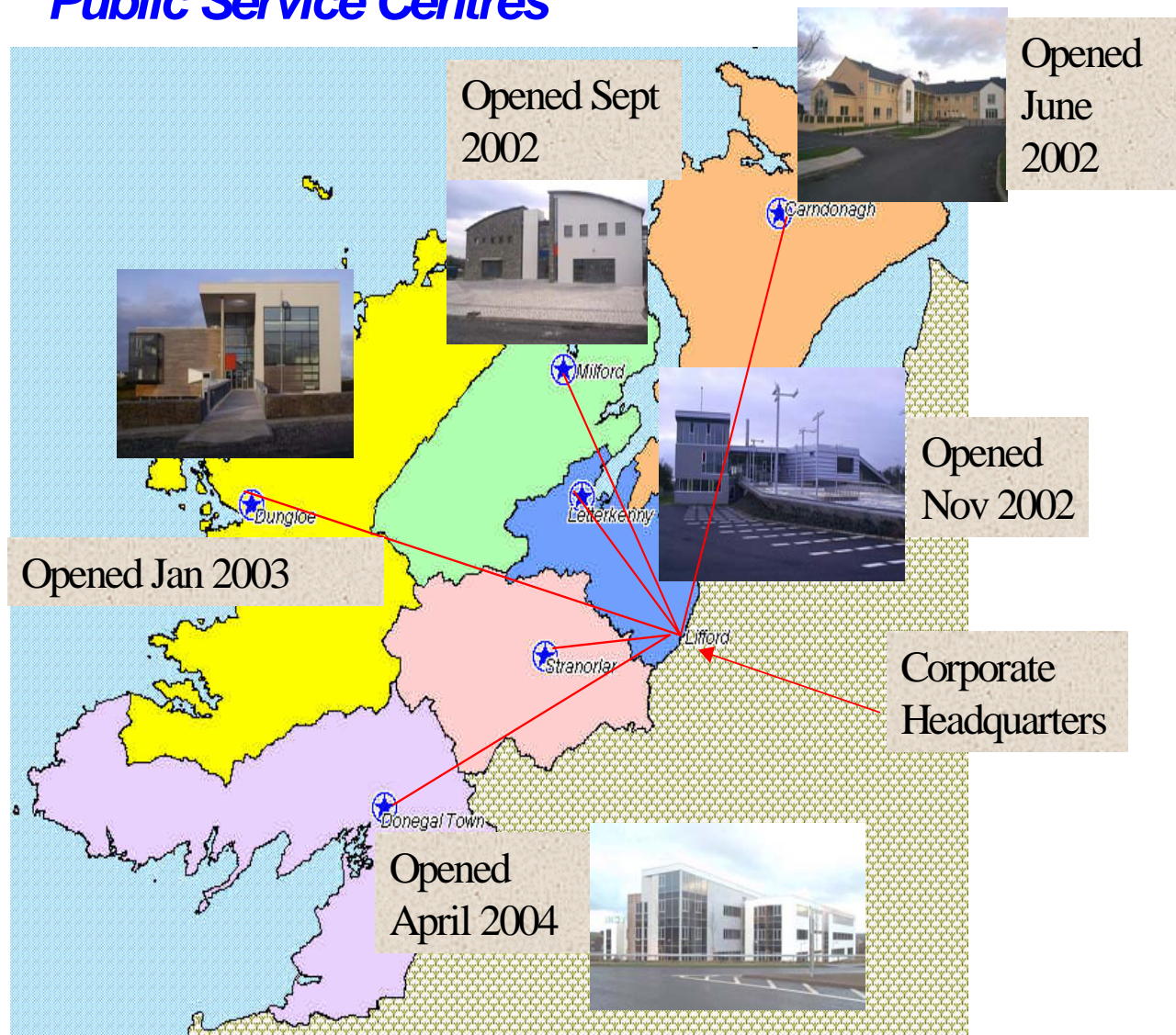
Donegal Town

Milford Public Services Centre

Donegal Town Public Services Centre

The Public Service Centre

The concept of the Public Service Centre is that:

- It serves an electoral area (populations of the areas range from 16,000 – 26,000 people)

- All County Council services are delivered from these Centres to the area population

- Area Managers in charge of each service i.e. housing, roads, water, planning, corporate and community and enterprise are located in the area offices

- The Area Managers have delegated authority to make decisions on applications for individual services

The Public Service Centre (Cont ..d)

The concept of the Public Service Centre is that:

- Public services provided by a variety of State agencies can locate in these Centres,
- Field staff from a variety of State Agencies can hold clinics at the Centres or meet citizens/customers here or staff from other agencies to streamline service provision

The Public Service Centre (Cont ..d)

The concept of the Public Service Centre is that:

- Public service agencies will begin to co-ordinate / integrate, <u>with the consent of the Citizen</u>
  - The records of citizens / customers who are common to two or more agencies
  - The updating of information or means testing so that a single application / meanstest will do for a range of services

The Public Service Centre (Cont ..d)

The concept of the Public Service Centre is that:

- An independent information unit (IIU) will be located in each Public Service Centre providing :
    - Information
    - Advice
    - Referral
- The IIU's will develop to provide specific (personalised) as well as generic information. The IIU's will link information giving to service referrals / delivery.

Local Government and Health Services: Developing Key Working Relationships

- Health Service Executive – new unitary structure
- HSE and the 3 Pillars
  - Hospitals
  - Primary Continuous and Community Care (PCCC)
  - Population Health

# Local Government and Health Services: Developing Key Working Relationships

- The Local Health Office (LHO) will be the principal unit of service delivery within the Primary, Community and Continuous Care (PCCC) pillar at county level.
- The LHO Manager will have authority and responsibility for managing
  - All PCCC services in their area
  - Specified Sub-Regional, Supra-Regional and / or National Services

The County Development Board and the Local Health Office: Developing Key Working Relationships

- Lead representational roles across care groups/planning functions
The development of requisite working relationships between LHO Managers, County / City Managers and Directors of Community and Enterprise wil be critical to the creation of CDB partnership structures to:
  - Engage with local communities/service users
  - Focus on key action areas
  - Streamline data collection, record management and service delivery around the needs of citizens, clients or patients

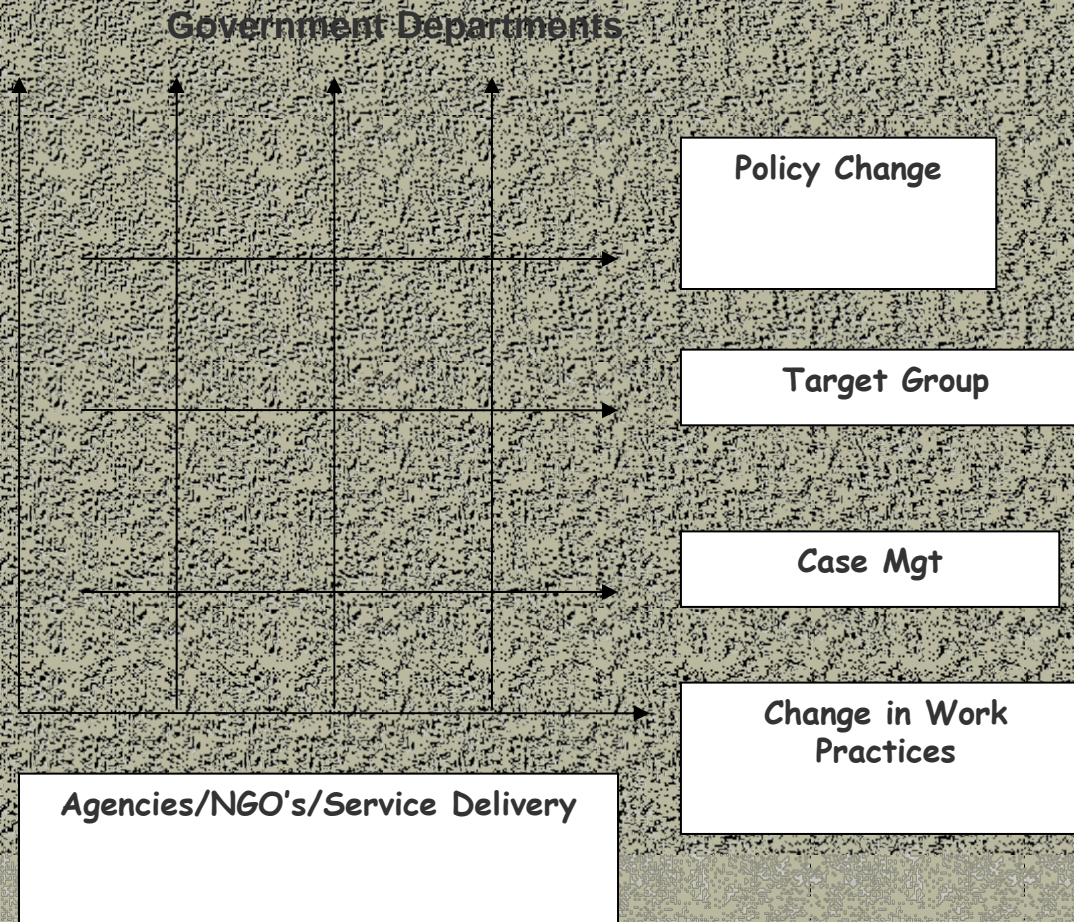# Social Determinants of Health Inequality – Sharing the Model
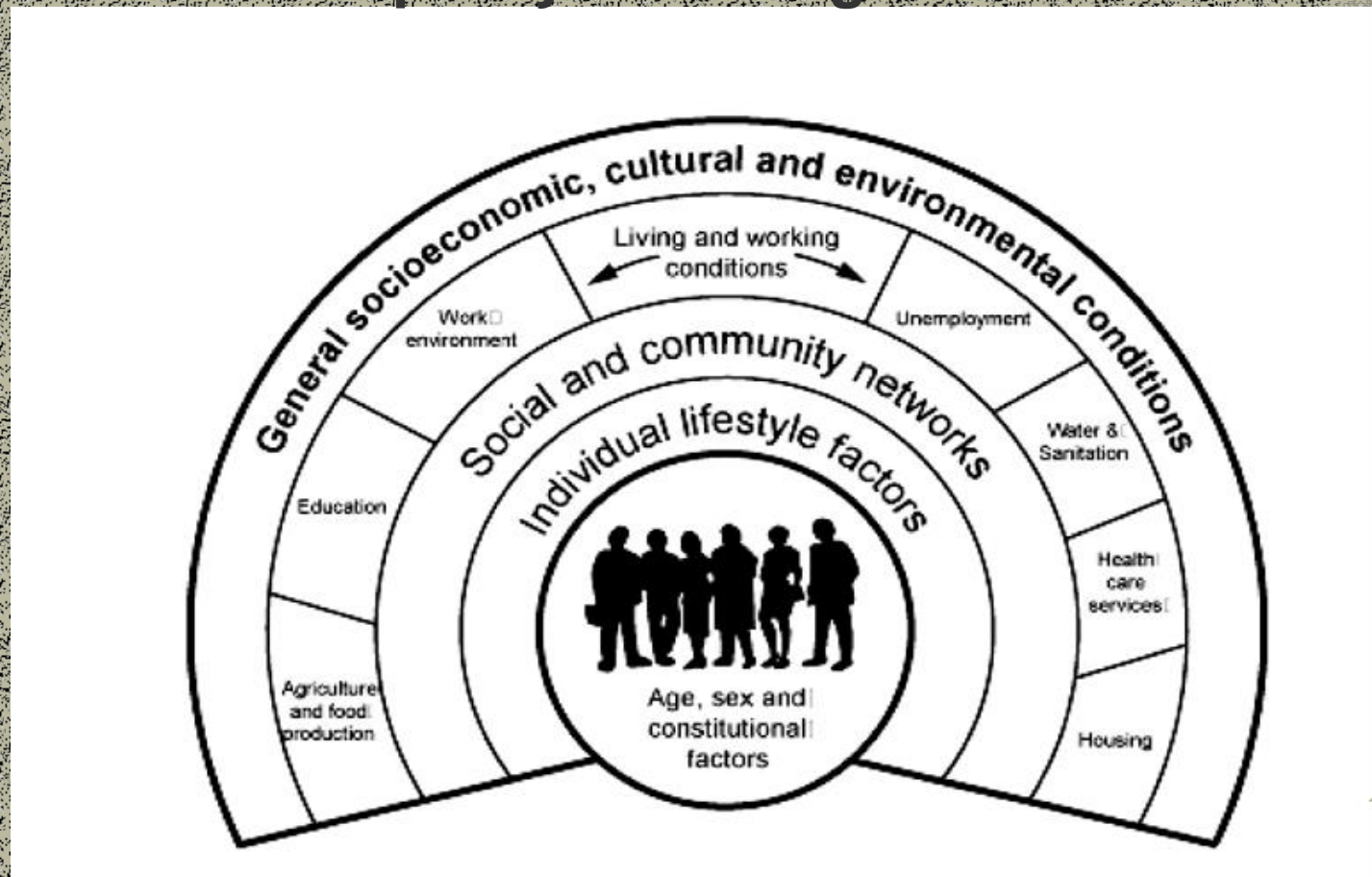
Each of the concentric rings represents a layer of health determinants. These are added to the biological and genetic factors that individuals are born with so that lifestyle, social and community influences, employment and cultural factors all combine to determine an individual's health. The point that Whitehead and Dahlgren make is that health is one component, albeit a major one, among many that contribute to people's wellbeing

Local Government/Public Service Reforms

- The challenge of joining up public services/income support/activation measures around
  - Individuals
  - Families

at the local level

- NESC – Developmental Welfare State Vision

Change Management: to Join up Service Delivery with Vertical/Horizontal Linkages

Government Departments

Policy Change

Target Group

Case Mgt

Change in Work Practices

Agencies/NGO's/Service Delivery

Lessons from Pilot Project Work in Donegal

- Major logistical problems exist in creating, maintaining, sharing and using primary data on income supports/state benefits on demand patterns for public services and special activation measures to plan and manage services on an inter-agency basis around citizens and to inform joined up policy making around target groups.
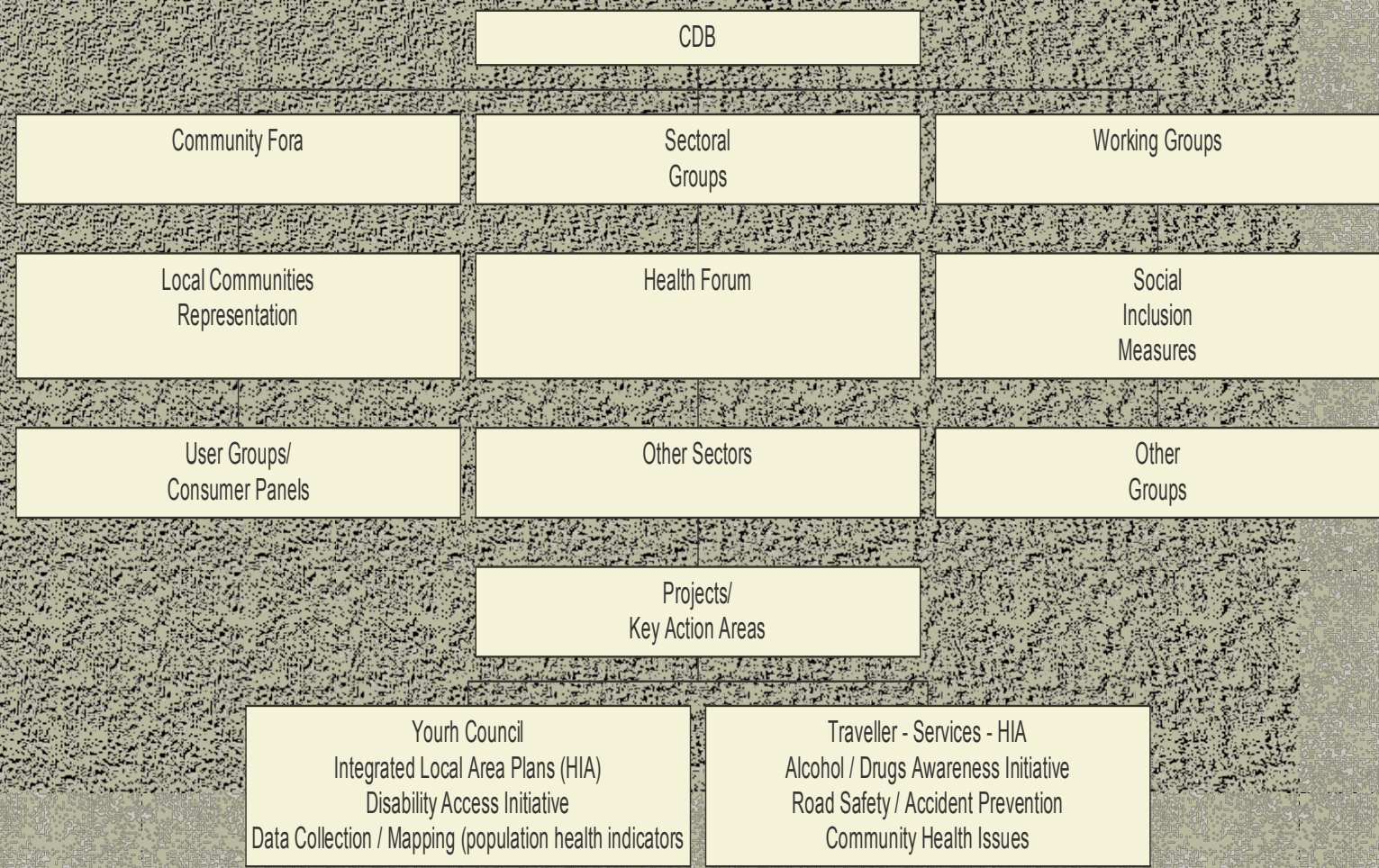
Health Inequalities and the Social Determinants of Health

- Local Authorities are working in partnership with the Health Service Executive, other State Agencies, the Community and Voluntary sector to tackle the social determinants of all health and social exclusion through the County Development Boards

- The Boards offer the opportunity to create sectoral fora, community fora and working groups to manage projects and mainstream cross cutting activities.

County Development Board
A Partnership structure to tackle cross cutting issues

CDB

Community Fora	Sectoral Groups	Working Groups
Local Communities Representation	Health Forum	Social Inclusion Measures
User Groups/ Consumer Panels	Other Sectors	Other Groups

Projects/ Key Action Areas

Yourh Council Integrated Local Area Plans (HIA) Disability Access Initiative Data Collection / Mapping (population health indicators	Traveller - Services - HIA Alcohol / Drugs Awareness Initiative Road Safety / Accident Prevention Community Health Issues

Work of Social Inclusion Measures Working Group: Examples

- Lone Parents (pilot project)
- Youth work – Youth Council
- Disability Act 2005
  - Action Plan (linked to €1,8m capital investment of L.A).
- Geographical Information Service (mapping)

Work on Anti-Poverty Initiatives

- Endorsement Programme for Community Development Projects (10 CDPs)
- Cohesion Process for Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in relation to local development spending
- Monitoring implementation of local anti-poverty strategy (LAPs)

Work on Anti-Poverty Initiatives

- Lifelong learning forum/workforce development (cross border)
- Child services/playgrounds (linked to Councils investment plan) and summer scheme
- Taobh Tíre – library service for rural areas
- Tuath: Community development Programme led by Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Towards 2016 – The Life Cycle Framework

- Children,
- People of Working Age,
- Older People and
- People with Disabilities.

Children: National Children's Strategy

- Barcelona targets to make childcare available to 90% of children aged between 3 and school age, and 33% of children aged under 3 years by 2010
- €2.65 billion National Childcare Strategy 2006 – 2010
- Creation of 50,000 new childcare places (10,000 pre-school and 5,000 after-school places)
- 180 urban/town communities targeted for educational inclusion support
- Departments to work together to support childcare programmes in disadvantaged communities
- After-school facilities to be supported and encouraged for childcare provision

National Children's Strategy – Recreation, Sport, Arts and Culture

- Irish Sport Council target – 2006 to 2008 to increase by 3% the numbers of children taking part in sport (p. 44)
- National roll-out of Local Sports Partnership network
- Publication of National Recreation Policy and review and local prioritisation of spending on youth recreational facilities (p. 44)

National Children's Strategy – Innovative Measures

- 30.3.2 – Development of integrated, 'locally-led strategic planning for children's services' (p. 45)
- Focus will be on children most at risk of social exclusion including children of migrants and Traveller families (p. 45)
- Office of Minister for Children to set up a Comhairle Na NOg Implementation Group – 'to ensure the development of effective Comhairli na nOg throughout the country… including national, local reps (p. 47)
- Monitoring of progress will be through the Office for Minister for Children, with Implementation Group to include HSE, Departments, local authorities, etc.
- "At local level a multi-agency Children's Committee will be established within each of the City/County Development Boards…" – chaired by HSE (p. 46)

People of Working Age

- S. 31.6. Ensuring the provision of good quality social and affordable accommodation (including the provision of housing under Part V of the Planning and Development Acts) in sustainable communities reflecting its important role in improving the life opportunities of the more vulnerable and disadvantaged people within our society. (p. 52)

- Advancing particular actions to assist people with special housing needs. Actions relating to older people and people with a disability are specifically referred to in sections 32 and 33 respectively. Ensuring improved outcomes for all people with special housing needs will require greater inter-agency co-operation, so that a combined approach to the accommodation and care dimensions is taken. (p. 52)

People of Working Age

- Homeless people: proposed to amalgamate Govt's Integrated and Preventative Homeless Strategies with the aim of eliminating cases of long-term emergency homelessness by 2010 (recognising that this involves addressing the needs of up to 500 households)." (p. 52)

- Establishment of National Homeless Consultative Committee under Housing Forum to improve co-ordination of service provision under joint agency approaches to develop holistic response to needs of a homeless person (p. 52)

Young Adults

- *31.3.3. Housing and Accommodation*
- The parties recognise that young adults in the 25 to 34 age bracket are the key household formation group and they acknowledge the particular challenges faced by them in accessing quality housing/accommodation in the current market environment.
- The parties agree to work together to tackle these challenges as a priority by:
- Policies and investment to address the accommodation needs of young adults as set out in Chapter 2, in particular:

Young Adults

- Implementing the Rental Accommodation Scheme to help to provide the necessary springboard to accessing employment, training or education opportunities which may lead to broader accommodation options for the individual in the future;

- Commencing a pilot project on affordable homes for renting, as outlined in the Housing Policy Framework, which should further expand the choices available to this age group, and;

- Developing proposals to provide a more comprehensive and objective means of assessing need, associated with a focus on the provision of housing advice to allow housing supports to be tailored to reflect the changing accommodation needs throughout a person's lifecycle.

Older People - Housing

- 32.3. Good quality housing is important to supporting the independence of older people. Towards 2016 proposes a range of integrated housing options to allow older people to live at home, or in other cases move to sheltered housing. The range of responses include:

- The availability of a mix of dwelling types of good design across all tenures.

- For older people on lower incomes, the availability of: Disabled Persons and Essential Repairs Grants Schemes and the Special Scheme of Housing Aid for the Elderly, which allow people to remain in their own homes;

Persons with Disabilities

- To bring a new focus to addressing these needs, a National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities having particular regard to adults with significant disabilities and people who experience mental illness.

- This will be progressed through the establishment of a National Group under the aegis of the Housing Forum, headed by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and involving the Department of Health and Children, the Health Service Executive, social partners and other relevant stakeholders. (p. 65)

Policy/Implementation Issues: Towards 2016

- Resource and staffing issues
- Structures for integrating and co-ordinating service delivery – liaison between Local Government, other Government Departments, Voluntary and Co-operative Housing Bodies and other Social Partners.

END