

The Public Health Outcomes Framework for England, 2013-2016



The responsibility to improve and protect our health lies with us all – government, local communities and with ourselves as individuals.

There are many factors that influence public health over the course of a lifetime. They all need to be understood and acted upon. Integrating public health into local government will allow that to happen – services will be planned and delivered in the context of the broader social determinants of health, like poverty, education, housing, employment, crime and pollution. The NHS, social care, the voluntary sector and communities will all work together to make this happen.

The new framework

The new Public Health Outcomes Framework that has been published is in three parts. Part 1 introduces the overarching vision for public health, the outcomes we want to achieve and the indicators that will help us understand how well we are improving and protecting health. Part 2 specifies all the technical details we can currently supply for each public health indicator and indicates where we will conduct further work to fully specify all indicators. Part 3 consists of the impact assessment and equalities impact assessment.

Informed by consultation

We received many responses to our consultation on outcomes. There was widespread welcome for our approach, including the focus on the wider determinants of health combined with many constructive proposals for improving it. In this framework, we also bring further clarity to the alignment across the NHS, Public Health and Adult Social Care Outcome Frameworks, while recognising the different governance and funding issues that relate to these.

In *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and way forward* the Government promised to produce a number of policy updates setting out more detail on the new public health system. The Public Health Outcomes Framework is part of this series of updates that set out what we would want to achieve in a new and reformed public health system.

The framework follows on from two preceding web-based updates in the series on the roles and function for local government and the Director of Public Health, and how Public Health England will support all parts of the new system to improve and protect the public's health.



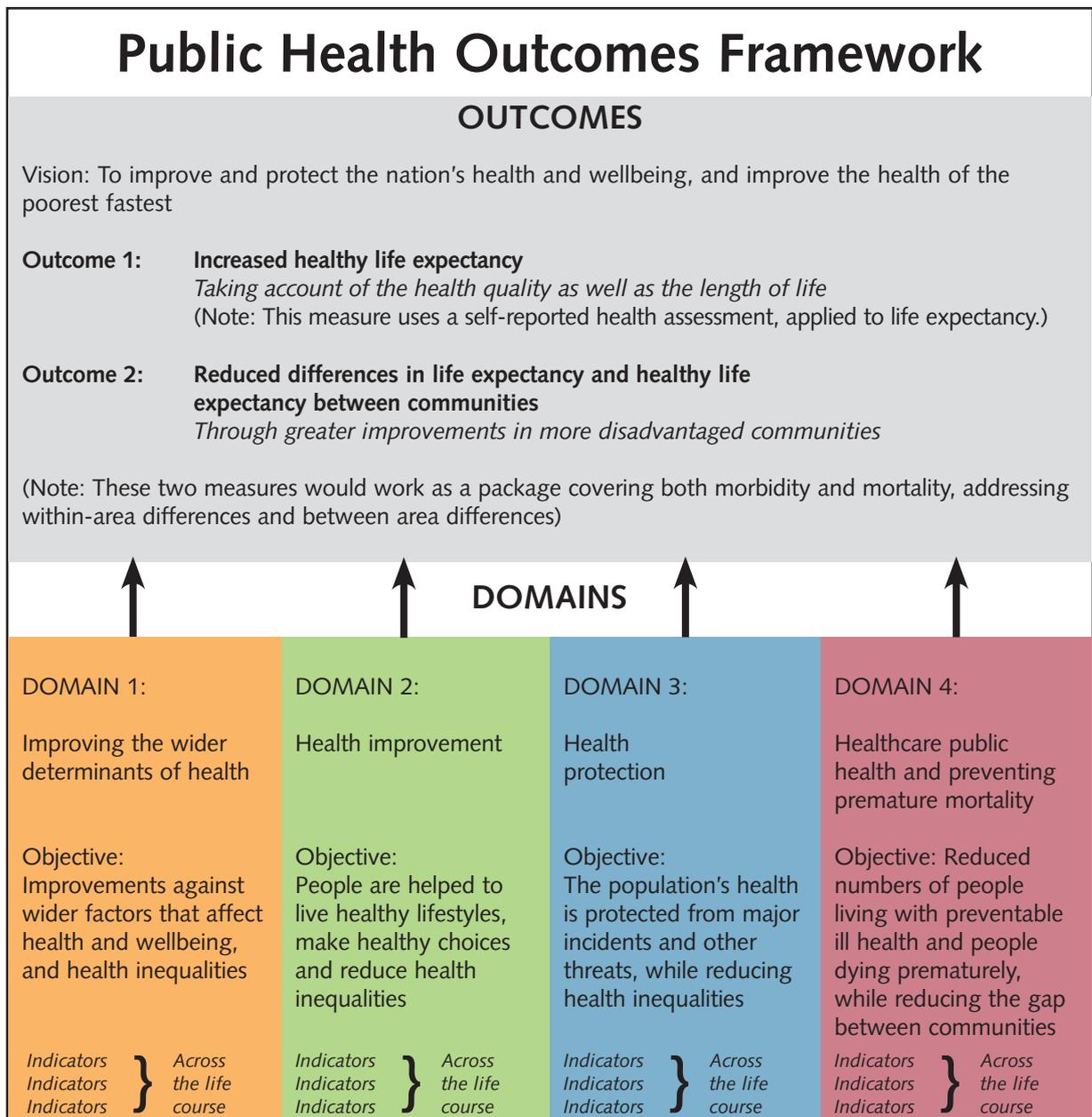


The whole system will be refocused around achieving positive health outcomes for the population and reducing inequalities in health, rather than focused on process targets, and will not be used to performance manage local areas.

The Public Health Outcomes Framework sets the context for the system, from local to national level. The framework will set

out the broad range of opportunities to improve and protect health across the life course and to reduce inequalities in health that still persist (see graphic below).

Much of the proposed new public health system that is described in the document depends on the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill, which has yet to be passed by Parliament.





High-level outcomes

The framework focuses on the two high-level outcomes we want to achieve across the public health system and beyond.

These two outcomes are:

- increased healthy life expectancy
- reduced differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities.

These outcomes reflect the focus we wish to take, not only on how long we live – our life expectancy, but on how well we live – our healthy life expectancy, at all stages of the life course.

Our second outcome focuses attention on reducing health inequalities between people, communities and areas in our society. We are using both a measure of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy so that we are able to use the most reliable information available to understand the nature of health inequalities both within areas and between areas.

While we will be able to provide information on the performance against both these outcomes, the nature of public health is such that the improvements in these outcomes will take years – sometimes even decades – to see marked change.

So we have developed a set of supporting public health indicators that help focus our understanding of how well we are doing year by year nationally and locally on those things that matter most to public health, which we know will help improve the outcomes stated above.

These indicators are grouped into four domains:

- improving the wider determinants of health
- health improvement
- health protection
- healthcare public health and preventing premature mortality.

Indicators have been included that cover the full spectrum of what we understand public health to be, and what we can realistically measure at the moment.

We intend to improve this range of information over the coming year and we have set out in this document how we intend to do that, with the continued engagement and involvement of our partners at the local and national levels.

This framework focuses on the respective role of local government, the NHS and Public Health England, and their delivery of improved health and wellbeing outcomes for the people and communities they serve.



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