

Health Equity Wales

What does a health equity ('Marmot') approach mean to Neath Port Talbot

14 July 2026

What you're aiming for: health equity

“When everyone can attain their full potential for health and well-being”

“The absence of unfair, avoidable and remedial differences in health status among groups of people”

“Health and health equity are determined by the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, play and age, as well as biological determinants”

World Health Organisation

In practice? Health equity in decisions on the 'building blocks'

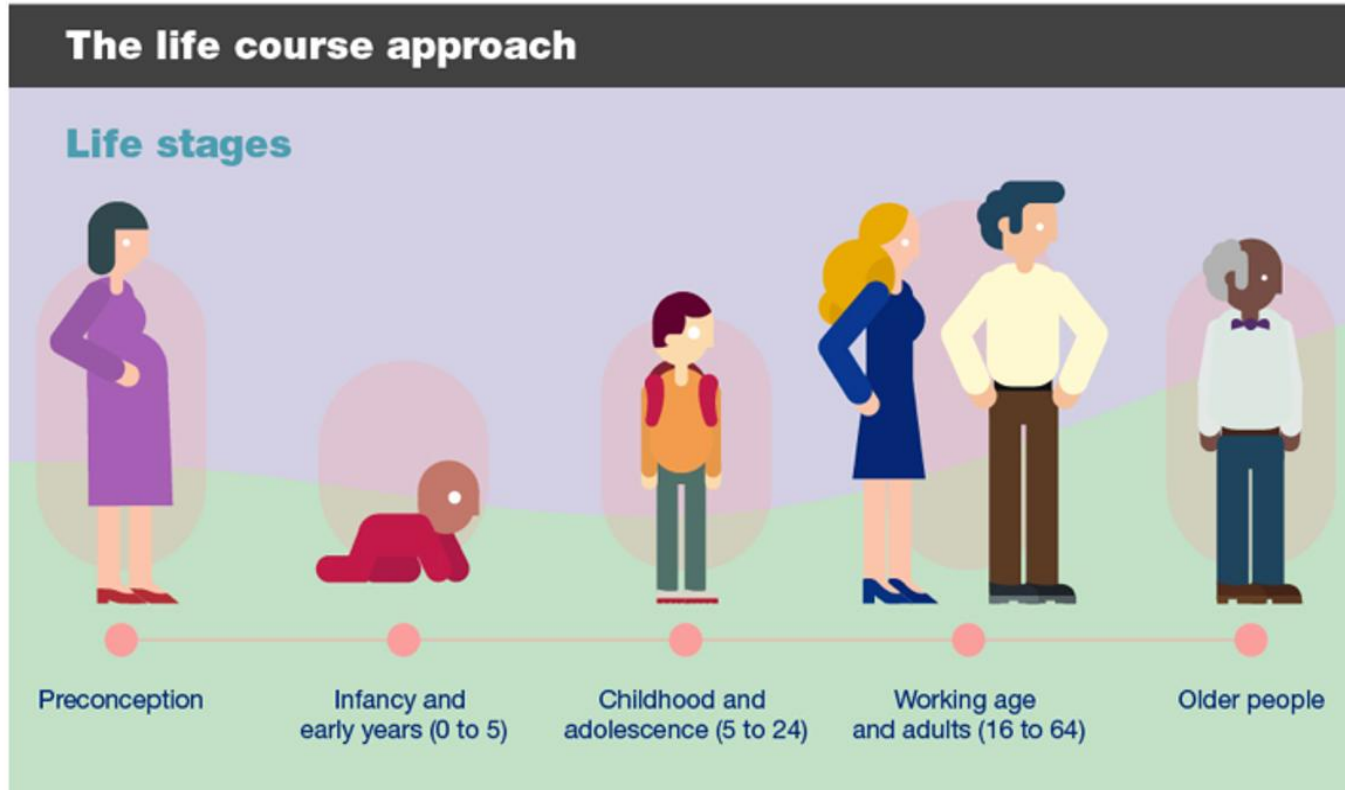


Decisions taken in a place
make the most of
opportunities to contribute to
health equity

This includes decisions
intended to achieve a
sustainable, diverse, green
and fair economy

Source: Health Foundation 2024

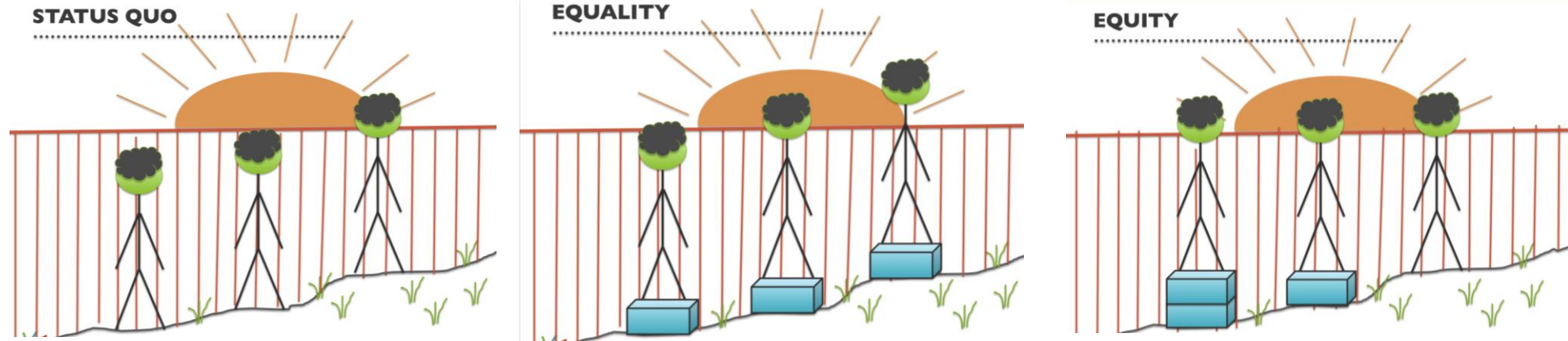
In practice? Our health is the work of a lifetime



The health and wellbeing of current and future generations is valued

In thinking about the economy, there are opportunities to prevent ill-health, and inequalities, across the life course

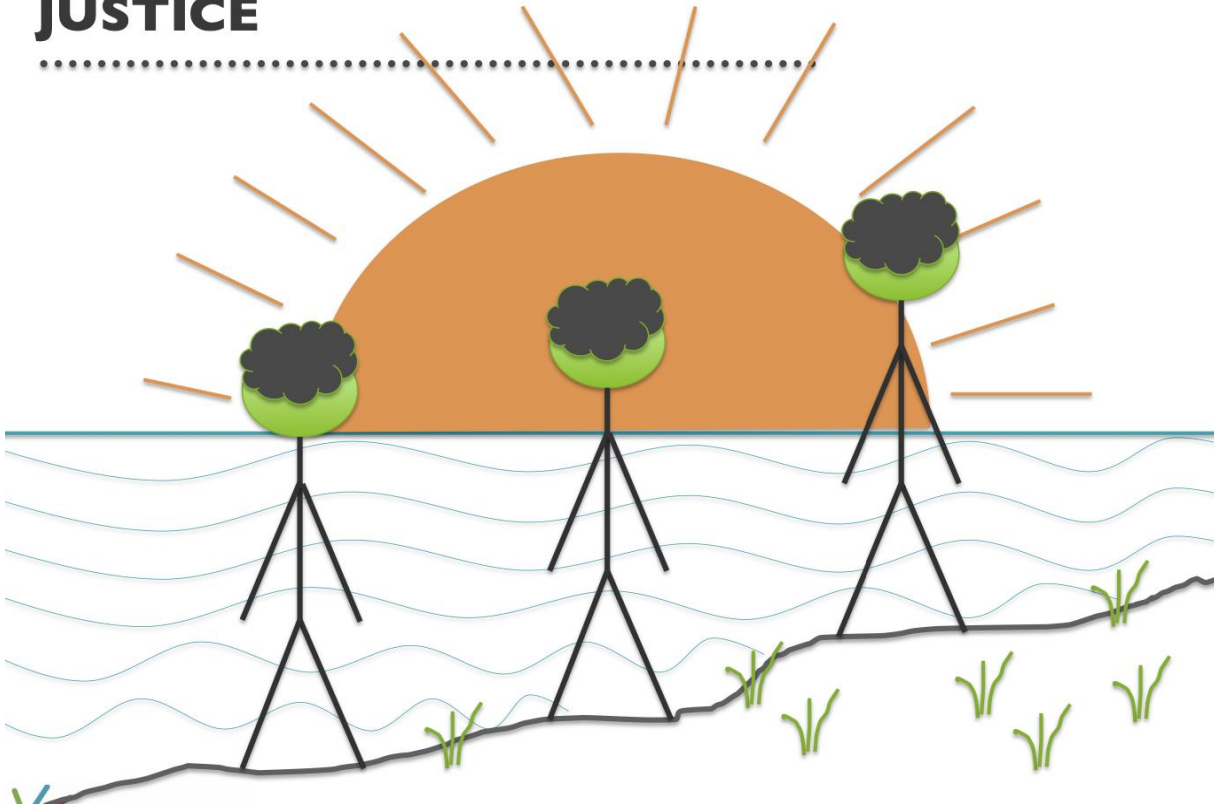
In practice? Resources and delivery proportionate to need



Universal services and interventions are resourced and delivered at a scale and intensity proportionate to the degree of the need in the population: this includes those focussed on economic outcomes

In practice? A shared vision, with communities

JUSTICE



Using health equity as a means to achieve ‘win-wins’ eg, good health supports better productivity, retention and recruitment, while good quality work supports better health and reduces demand

People can participate in the decisions that affect their lives, contributing to active and sustainable communities

What can we act on to achieve health equity?



1. Rhoi'r dechrau gorau i bob plentyn mewn bywyd/ Give every child the best start in life
2. Galluogi pob plentyn, person ifanc ac oedolyn i wneud y mwyaf o'u galluoedd a chael rheolaeth dros eu bywydau/ Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
3. Creu cyflogaeth deg a gwaith da i bawb/ Create fair employment and good work for all
4. Sicrhau safon byw iach i bawb/ Ensure healthy standard of living for all
5. Creu a datblygu lleoedd a chymunedau iach a chynaliadwy/ Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
6. Cryfhau rôl ac effaith atal salwch/ Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
7. Mynd i'r afael â hiliaeth, gwahaniaethu a'u canlyniadau/ Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes
8. Mynd ar drywydd cynaliadwyedd amgylcheddol a thegwch iechyd gyda'n gilydd/ Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

Working with IHE will help you

Well-being
assessment in
development

Recognises:

Health and health inequalities are mostly shaped by the **social determinants of health**

Assesses:

Inequalities in health and the social determinants of health
Actions already happening

Identifies:

Gaps in existing approaches
Action to go further to reduce inequalities

Evaluates:

How partners within a place can work together more effectively

Strengthens the health equity system
in a place and collaborations with the national system

Develops and delivers approaches to tackle health inequalities

Health outcomes: economic development & socio-economic policy 1

Policy Domain	Policy Intervention	Physical Health	Mental Health and Wellbeing	Child Health	Health Equity	Health-related Behaviour	Mortality
Housing	Housing Mobility Programmes						
	Housing Quality & Energy Efficiency						
	Housing-Led Urban Regeneration						
	Supported & Crisis Housing						
Regeneration and Built Environment	Active Travel Infrastructure						
	Area-Based Regeneration						
	Neighbourhood Design & Walkability						
	Neighbourhood Renewal Policies						
	Road Infrastructure & Safety						
	Urban Green & Blue Space Regeneration						
	Urban Planning & Public Infrastructure						
Community Infrastructure	Arts & Cultural Programmes						
	Community Engagement for Health						
	Intergenerational Programmes						
	Social Identification & Group Interventions						
	Social Prescribing & Volunteer Health Promotion						

Strong Positive
 Strong Negative
 Mixed
 No Evidence

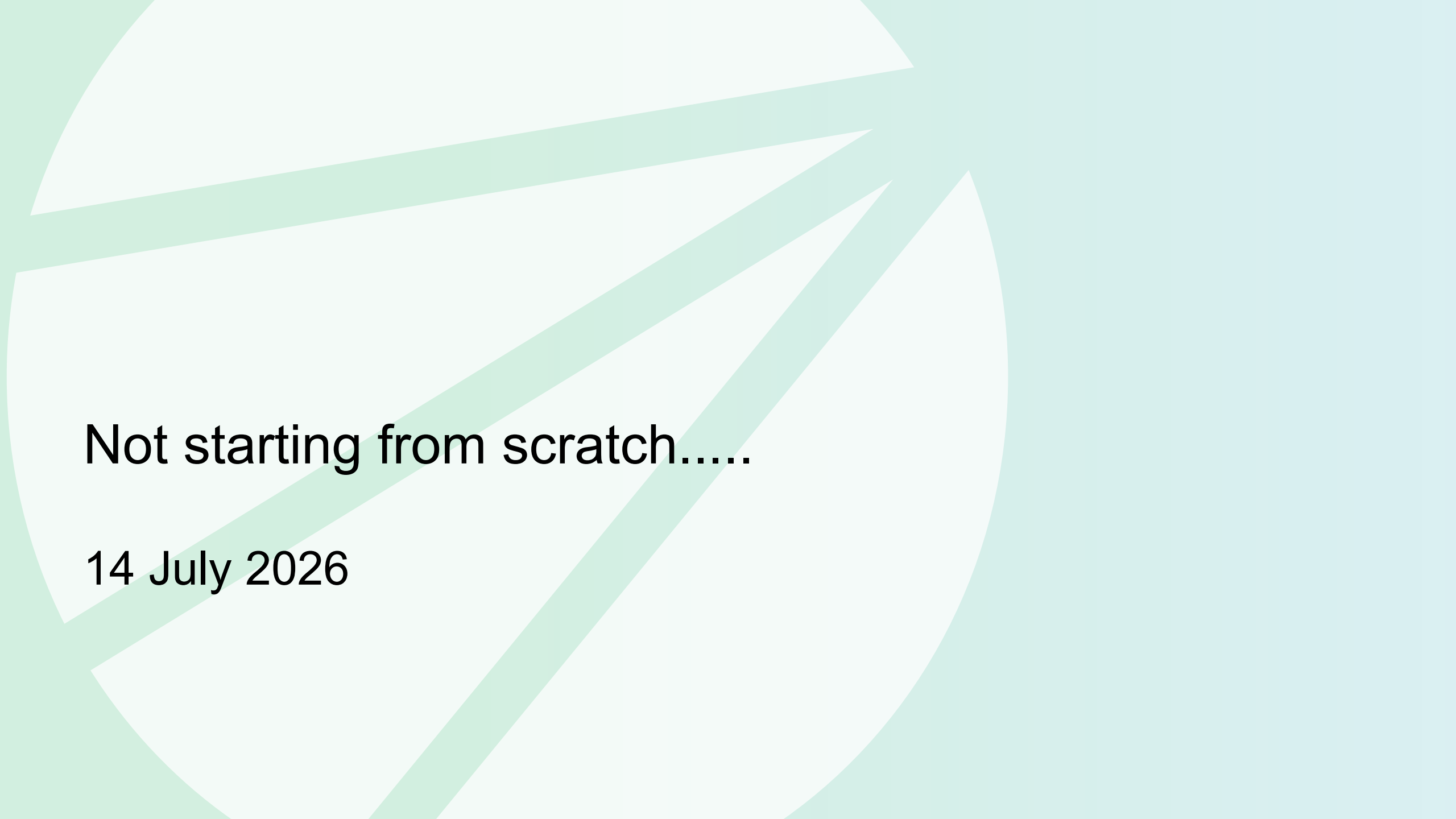
Health outcomes: economic development & socio-economic policy 2

Policy Domain	Policy Intervention	Physical Health	Mental Health and Wellbeing	Child Health	Health Equity	Health-related Behaviour	Mortality
Labour Market Interventions	Active Labour Market Programmes (ALMPs)						
	Supported Employment & Transitions						
	Wage Policy						
	Working Time Reduction						
	Workplace Health Promotion						
	Workplace Participation & Organisation						
Welfare	Conditional Cash Transfers						
	Disability & Unemployment Benefits						
	Income Maintenance & Supplements						
	Tax Credits & Income Support						
	Universal Credit & Conditionality						
	Welfare Benefits Advice						
Early Childhood and Family	Child Maltreatment & Support Systems						
	Childcare Affordability						
	Community-Based Child Protection						
	Early Childhood Education (ECE)						
	Family & Relationship Education						
	Parental Leave Policies						
	Parenting Programmes						
	School Nutrition & Food Access						
Fiscal Policy	Alcohol & Tobacco Taxation						
	Combined Food Fiscal Strategies						
	Food & Beverage Taxation						



Opportunities: headline questions you might ask in NPT

- Do we have a shared understanding of what a fair and green economy will look like if this is to contribute to health equity (and vice versa)?
- Are the shared outcomes of health equity, a fair and green economy central to decision making, across sectors?
- Already doing a lot: how do we know it is contributing to the shared outcomes? What's working/worked? Our strengths and assets?
- Do we know what needs to be different, for who, where and when?
- What do people and organisations need, to be capable and confident in decision making, including residents?
- Who has the power to make a difference? Do we need to change minds? Do we have the right relationships?



Not starting from scratch.....

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Health equity in Neath Port Talbot

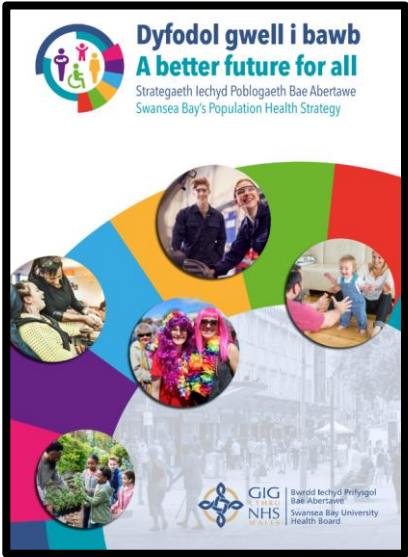
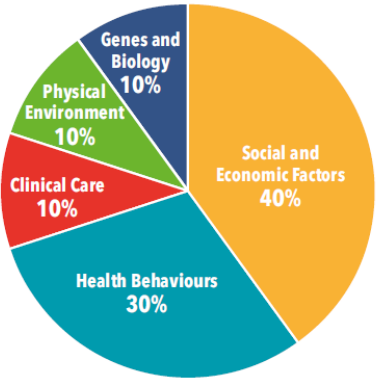


Fig 11. What Creates Health?
What are the Determinants of Health?



Policy objectives

1. Give every child the best start in life
2. Enable all children, young people & adults to maximise their capabilities & have control over their lives
3. Create fair employment & good work for all
4. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
5. Create & develop healthy sustainable places & communities
6. Strengthen the role & impact of ill-health prevention

Two cross-cutting themes

1. Tackle racism, discrimination & their outcomes
2. Pursue environmental sustainability & health equity together

PSB Objectives



Best Start



Jobs and Skills



Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations



Create Thriving and Sustainable Communities

The economy and health equity

- **How do we develop the right skills for a future economy?**
 - Employment and Skills Strategy
 - Skills for the Future Research
 - Tata Health Impact Assessment
- **How do we create the right environments as part of a future economy?**
 - Whole System Approach: Food Procurement
 - Climate Change Risk Assessment
- **How do we involve communities in shaping and developing a future economy?**
 - Voice of the Child Research
 - Well-being Assessment



Who is most exposed to effects of climate change?

Climate change will affect us all, but some people and areas are especially vulnerable to climate impacts, which can exacerbate inequalities



Those living on **floodplains** or in **tidal areas** are more often at risk from flooding



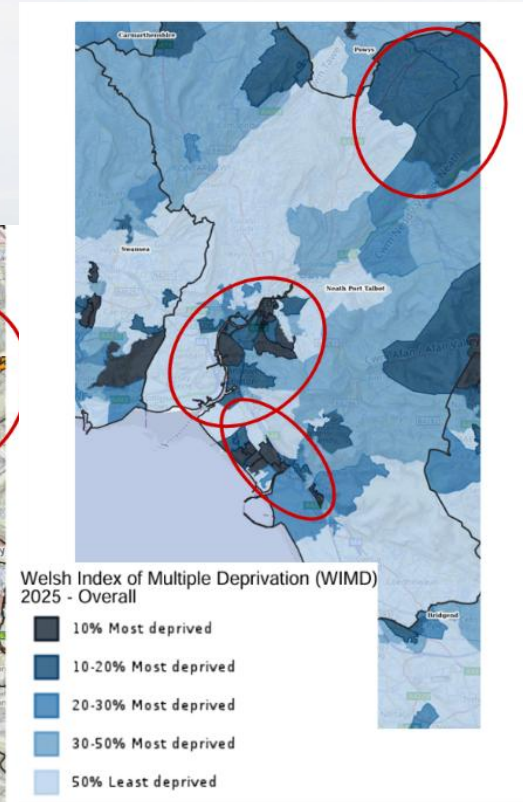
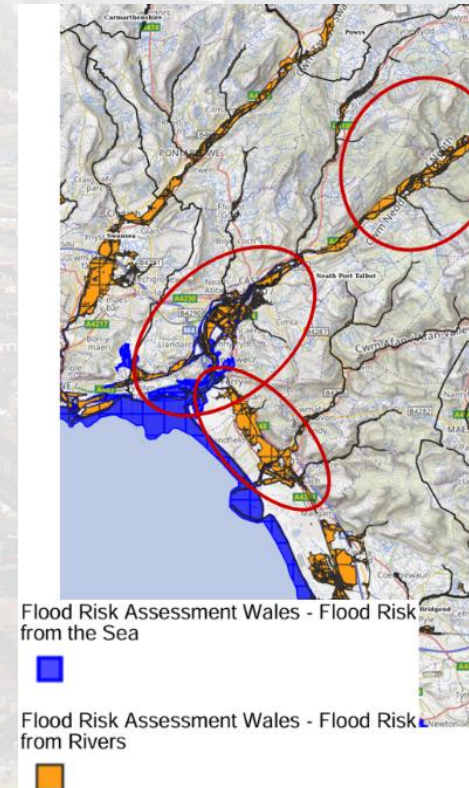
People with existing **health conditions** the elderly are more vulnerable to extreme weather such as heatwaves



Those on **lower incomes** or with **higher energy costs** are more impacted by food and energy price spikes resulting from climate impacts



Those living in **poor quality or poorly insulated housing** are more likely to suffer from extremes of temperature and weather events



What our residents told us about how they are already experiencing effects of climate change



Climate impacts are **already** affecting communities and services



Risks are **systemic** and **interconnected**



Vulnerability and **inequality** shape how risks are experienced



There is increasing **pressure** on infrastructure and services



Economic and supply chain risks are emerging as **key concerns**



Nature is both at **risk** and part of the **solution**



Flooding

Flooding was repeatedly raised as the most immediate concern for residents given that it is widely **visible**, **destructive**, and an **emotive** risk. Participants raised concerns for

- Short term health from wastewater
- Long term mental health and the wellbeing impacts associated with recurrent flooding events
- Isolation in some communities with little public transport infrastructure
- Pollution
- Cultural loss, with the destruction of landscapes resulting in the destruction of the associated heritage
- Cost of living, particularly highlighting insurance costs and rental prices



*" [There are] multiple seasonal flooding [events], especially in Britton Ferry, Port Talbot, and a lot around rivers and canals. Also had the collapsed mines in Skewen, which caught us all by surprise, as there was surface water affecting up to 100 houses. Have friends and family who have experienced issues around it; **there were a lot of after-effects, especially emotional impacts.**"*

Opportunities for Collaboration and Engagement

- **Strengthen and expand local food partnerships** to improve resilience and access to healthier, more sustainable supply chains
- **Build on existing nature-based partnerships**, and ensure existing environmental policies are effectively implemented
- The general support and **championing of existing community response networks** emphasises the need to further support and resource these initiatives.
- **Messaging on climate jargon**, including what 'sea level rise' or 'three degrees increase' means for NPT, needs to be made clearer for residents

*"It's noticeable how different communities are when you have **passionate, engaged people**..."*

*Small groups of people can make a **huge difference** in their areas; consequently, vulnerable people can be much less vulnerable in these cases."*

Discussion

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Reflections and discussion

- What are the opportunities to achieve economic ambitions, health and environmental equity?
- What action is needed to explore and optimise these?
 - Do you know the answers to the overarching questions?
- Is there a topic / area of focus where IHE's input, working with NPT stakeholders, could add value? Input to date suggests
 - Developing the right skills for a future economy
 - Creating the right environments as part of a future economy
 - Involving communities in shaping & developing a future economy
- Next steps?

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