

Using economic development to improve health and reduce inequalities in Middlesbrough

Lisa Jones

Public Health South Tees





Context

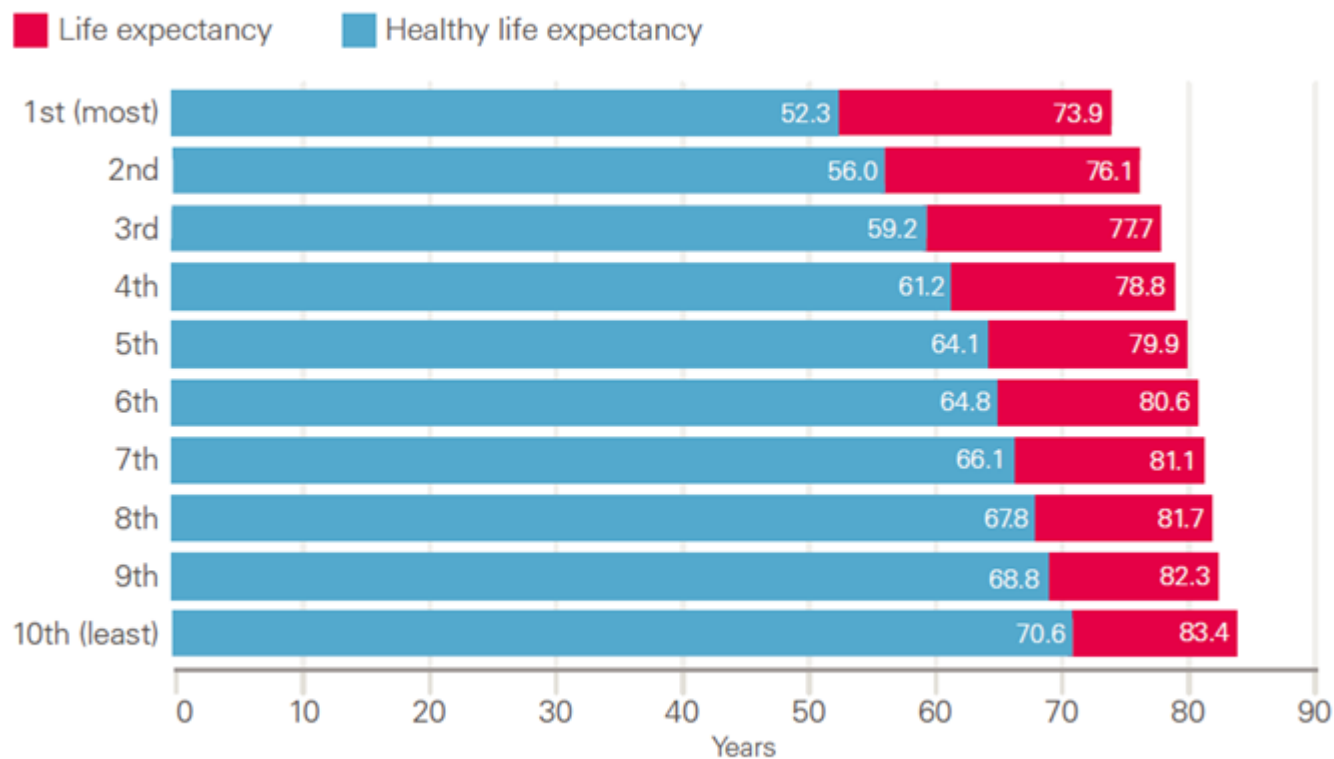
“People’s health and the economy cannot be viewed independently. Both are necessary foundations of a flourishing and prosperous society.”

Health Foundations, 2002

Context

- **Economic growth affects places differently - with England showing higher place variation in productivity, income, health and employment than almost every other developed country.**
- **In order to develop sustainable economic growth, the benefits need to be shared in a fair and equitable manner.**
- **Health is not just a product of a thriving economy, it is a necessary contributor to it.**

Male life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth by decile of deprivation, England: 2016–18



Source: ONS, Health state life expectancies by decile of deprivation, England: 2016-18



Annual Pre-COVID cost of poor health on the economy

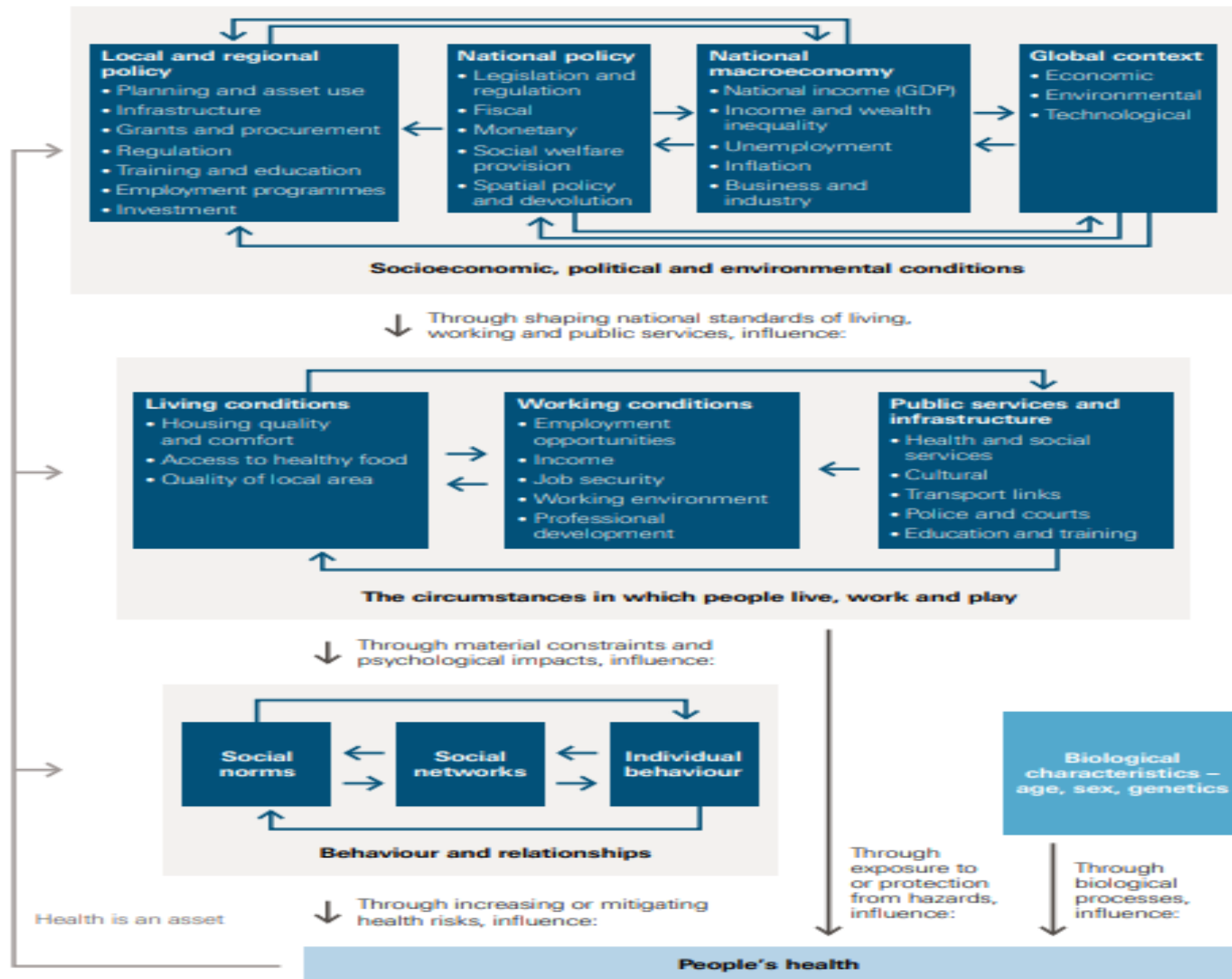
- **>£100bn in lost productivity**
- **c£42bn in workforce costs attached to mental health**
- **c£15bn in sick days**

In addition, c£4.8bn cost of socio-economic inequality on the NHS



COVID-19 & Socio-economic Inequality

- **People in most socio-economically deprived areas, twice as likely to die as those in the richest;**
- **Men in low skilled jobs, almost 4 times more likely to die from C19 than professionals;**
- **25% of critical care COVID patients were from most socioeconomically deprived, compared to 15% from least deprived;**
- **Low income earners represent c80% of those working within sectors that were shut down or unable to work from home (excluding key workers);**
- **1/2 of at-risk jobs with permanent lay-offs, were from jobs that pay less than £10 p/hour.**



Inclusive growth

Need for place-based approaches that acknowledge the collective role of policy, services and communities in shaping the distribution of economic growth.



Role of local Councils – aligning economic development & health

Civic-level

- **Having a long-term vision and strong leadership that is underpinned by a desire to design economies that are good for people's health;**
- **Building a thorough understanding of local issues to effectively diagnose the challenges/levers to inclusive growth (public health approach) and to better understand the impact of growth policies across population groups (health inequalities impact assessment);**
- **Capitalising on local assets and using local powers more actively.**

Community-level

- **Building strong citizen engagement to inform priorities and strategies.**

Service-level

- **Providing services that meet people's economic and health need together.**