



National Development Team **for inclusion**

# **Better health for a better life – addressing health inequalities**

27<sup>th</sup> January 2015

# What Do We Know?



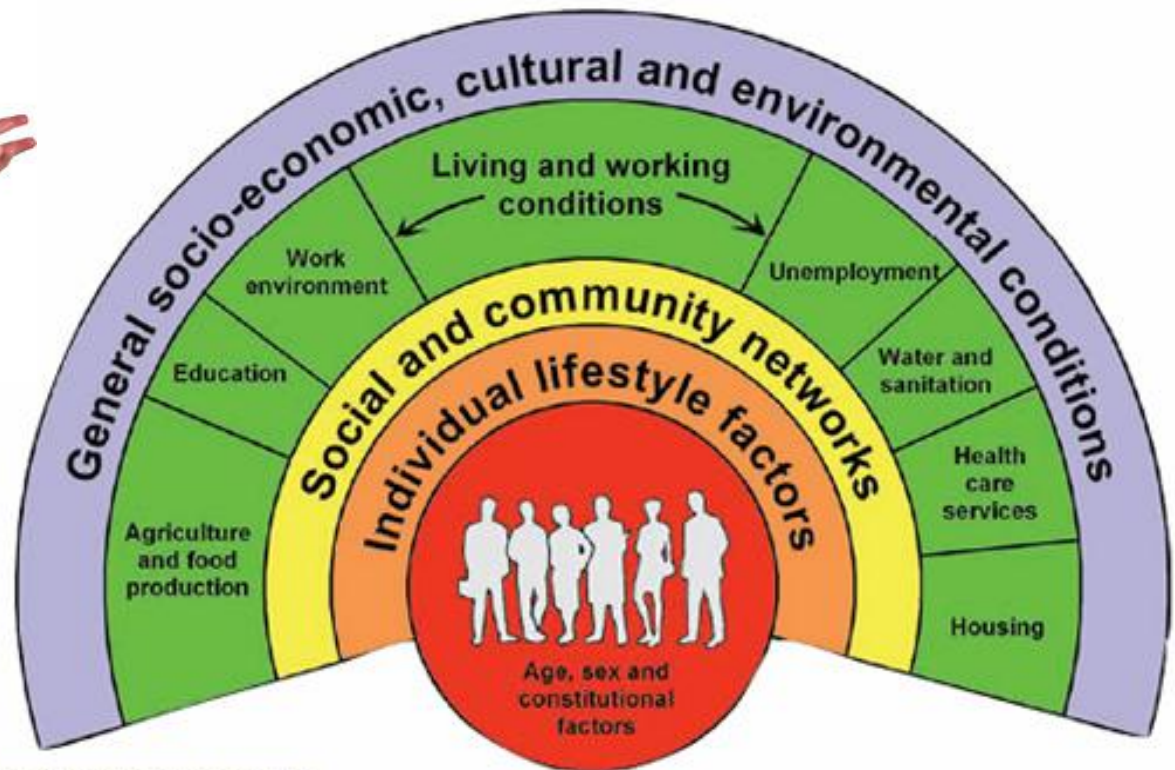
- About how good is people's health?
- About why people have poorer health?
- About what we can do about it?

# How Good is People's Health?



- Not very good
- In many ways
- At every age

# Why?



Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

# Why?



- Bad things (all of which make people ill) are more likely happen to people with learning disabilities
  - Being poor as a child
  - Bullied and abused
  - Excluded and isolated
  - Being poor and unemployed as an adult
  - Poor health care

# Confidential Inquiry

Most common reasons for deaths being assessed as premature were:

- Delays or problems with diagnosis or treatment
- Problems with identifying needs
- Problems with providing appropriate care in response to changing needs

# Questions

- What is in place now to address health inequalities?
- What else can be done?





# What Can We Do?



- Try to help people live healthier lives
- Better health services
- Vaccination
- Health checks and health screening
- Make the healthy option the easiest option



# What can we do?



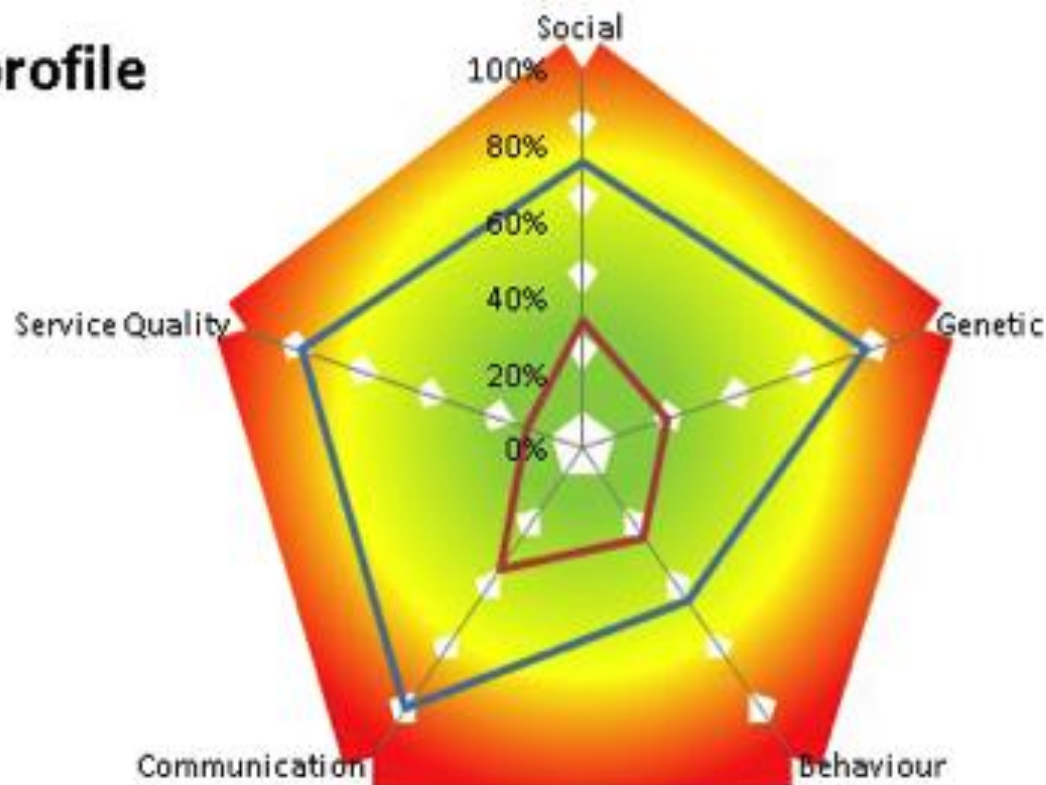
- Stop the bad things happening
- Think about the health of **EVERYONE** with learning disabilities
- More work, better housing, stop hate crime, more money!

# Planning for better health?

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) are not taking account of the health needs of people with learning disabilities – particularly children
- Information in JSNAs is unlikely to be of use in planning future services
- [www.ihal.org.uk/publications/1240/Joint Strategic Needs Assessments 2014 How well do they address the needs of people with learning disabilities?](http://www.ihal.org.uk/publications/1240/Joint_Strategic_Needs_Assessments_2014_How_well_do_they_address_the_needs_of_people_with_learning_disabilities?)
- What can we do about this?

# Use the Health Equalities Framework

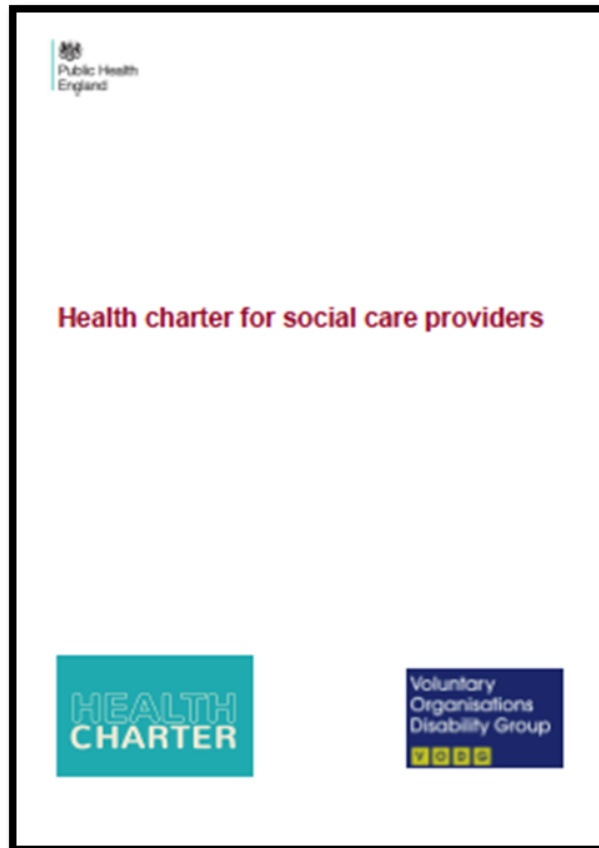
## HEF profile



— 01/08/11 Total Score: 78%

— 08/05/13 Total Score: 26%

# The Health Charter for social care providers



- Charter (and easy read)
- Guidance
- Self-Assessment Framework
- Sign up on the VODG – website:  
[www.vodg.org.uk/health-charter/health-charter-home.html](http://www.vodg.org.uk/health-charter/health-charter-home.html)

# Key messages

- Health inequalities are to an extent avoidable
- Poor health can impact on all aspects of life
- Poor health costs money
- Poor health is not just about health services

**Health is everyone's  
responsibility**

Why treat people...



...without changing what makes them sick?

# Thank you!



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