

Introducing the GreenHealth Programme

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GreenHealth Conference Edinburgh

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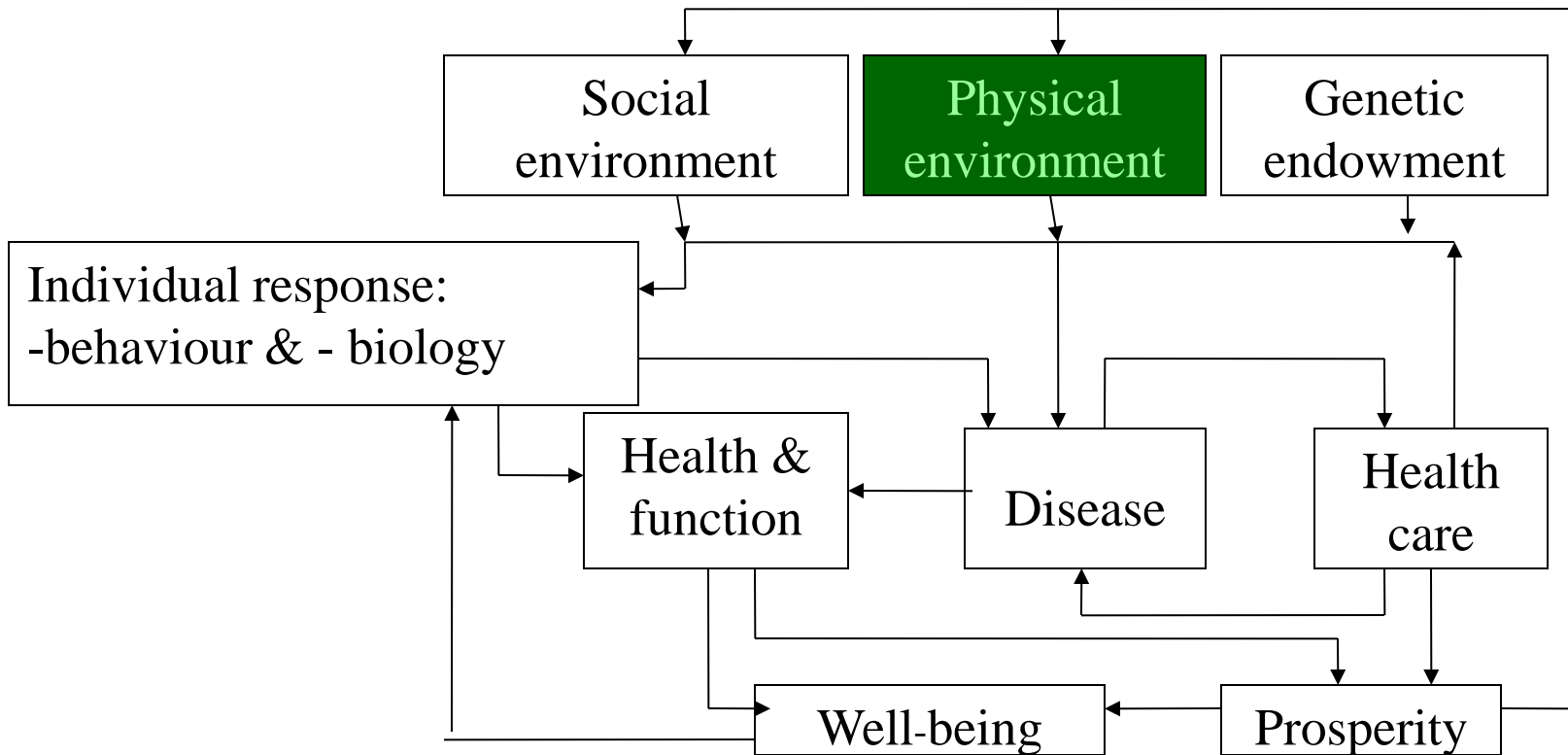
Despite recognition of its importance, the environment and health activity had become rather “old fashioned”

Our approach had become:

- Narrow
- Hazard Focused
- Compartmentalised

**There was an apparent mismatch between
the public health discourse and how
we approached policy and action
on the environment**

The Socio-ecological model of health



Evans and Stoddart (1990)

“The Strategic Framework for Environment and Health”

Published 2007

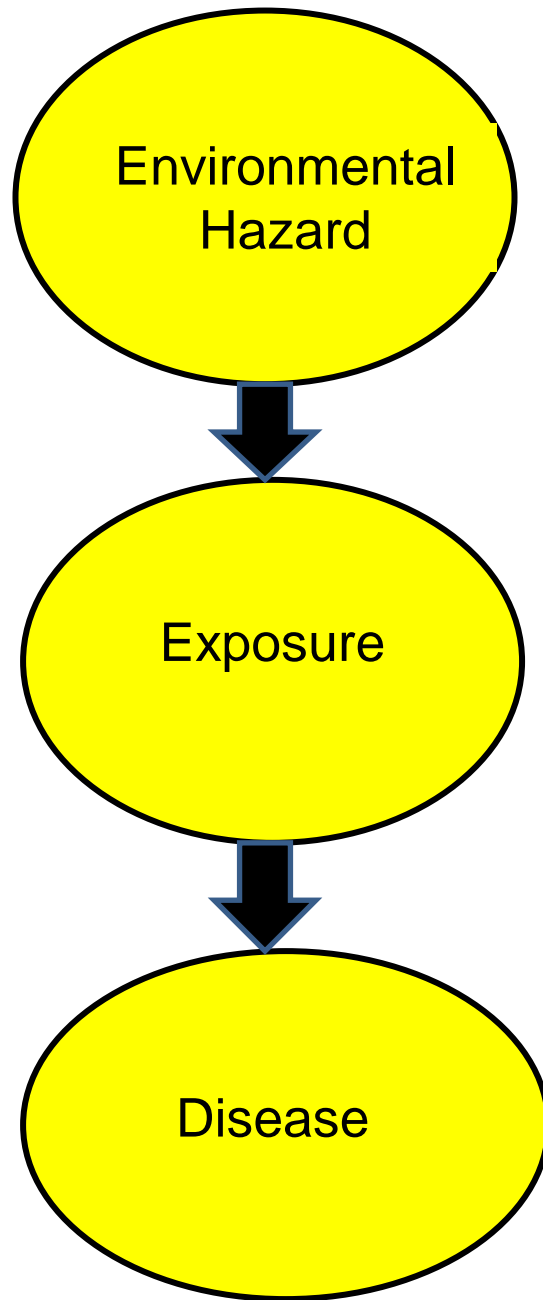
Key Messages.....

Effective policy on the environment for health and wellbeing implies:

- a capacity to navigate in complexity
- a much fuller understanding of how to exploit positive environments for better more equal health
- a recognition of a psychosocial dimension in the relationship between people and their surroundings
- a new engagement with communities and stakeholders on environmental issues

Both GreenHealth and EDPHiS were remarkably well attuned to the way we were beginning to frame the relationship between environment and health.

The “Classical” Representation



A more realistic representation!

Environmental Hazard **or** **'Good'**



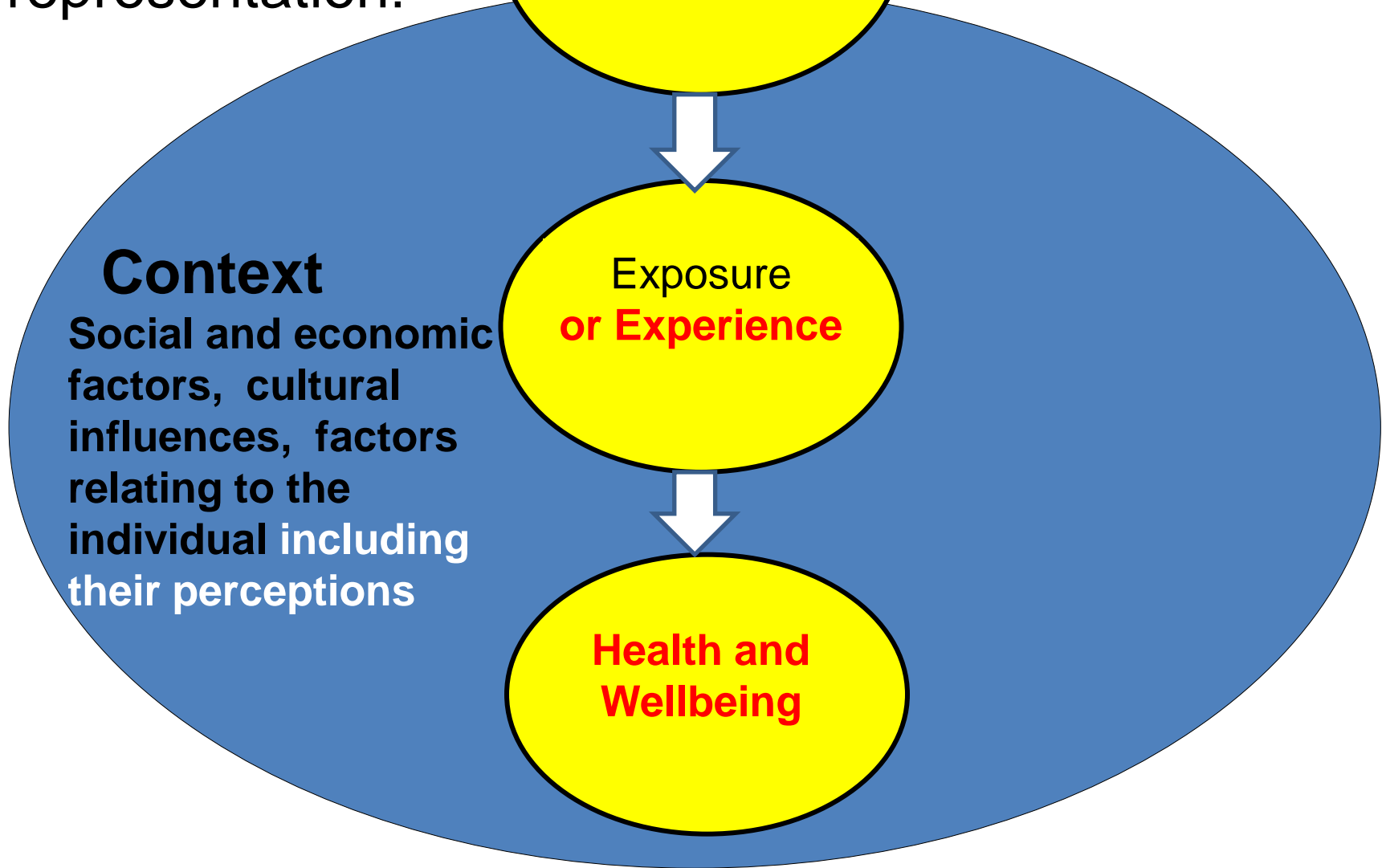
Exposure **or Experience**



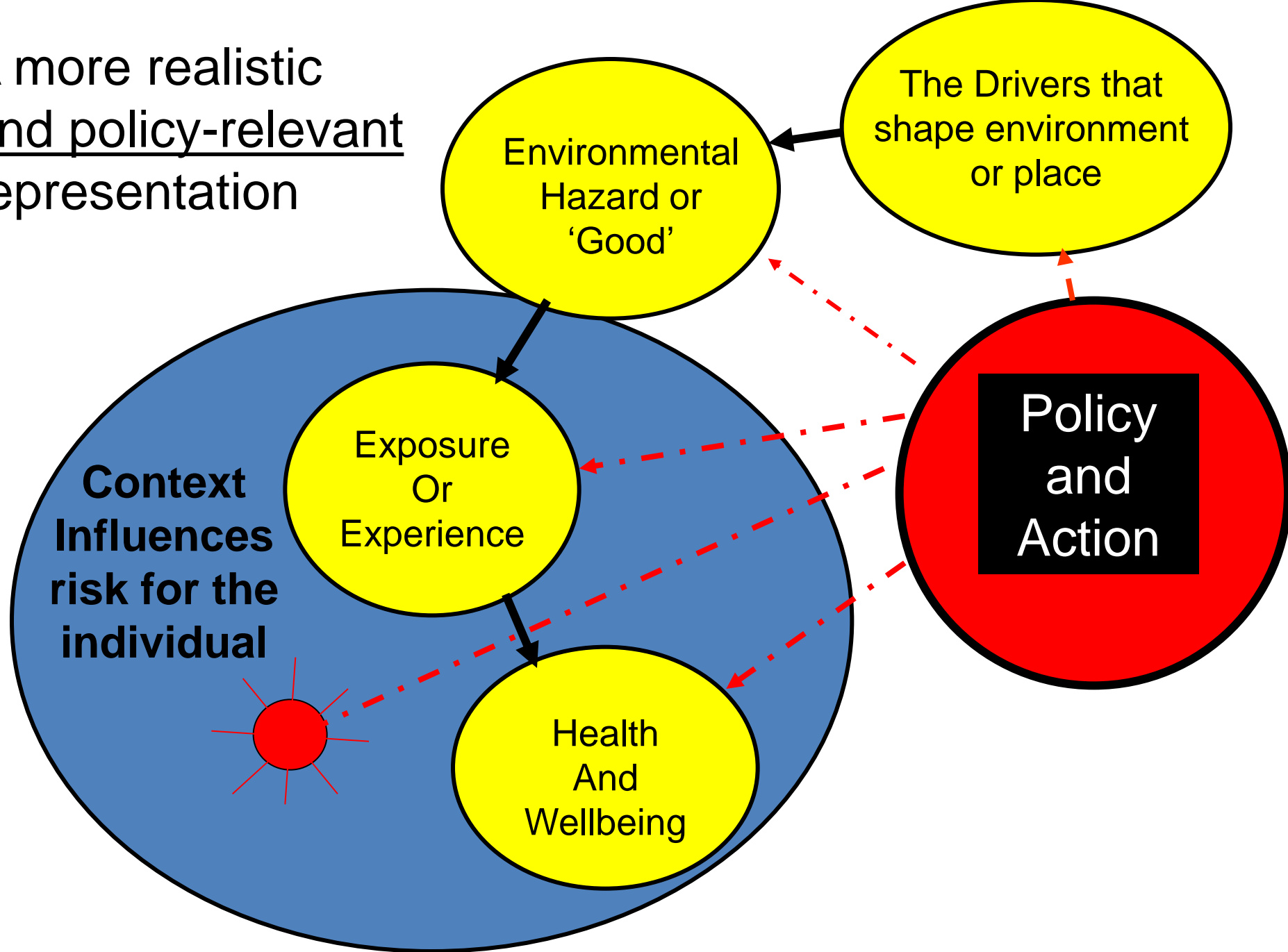
Health and Wellbeing

Context

Social and economic factors, cultural influences, factors relating to the individual including their perceptions



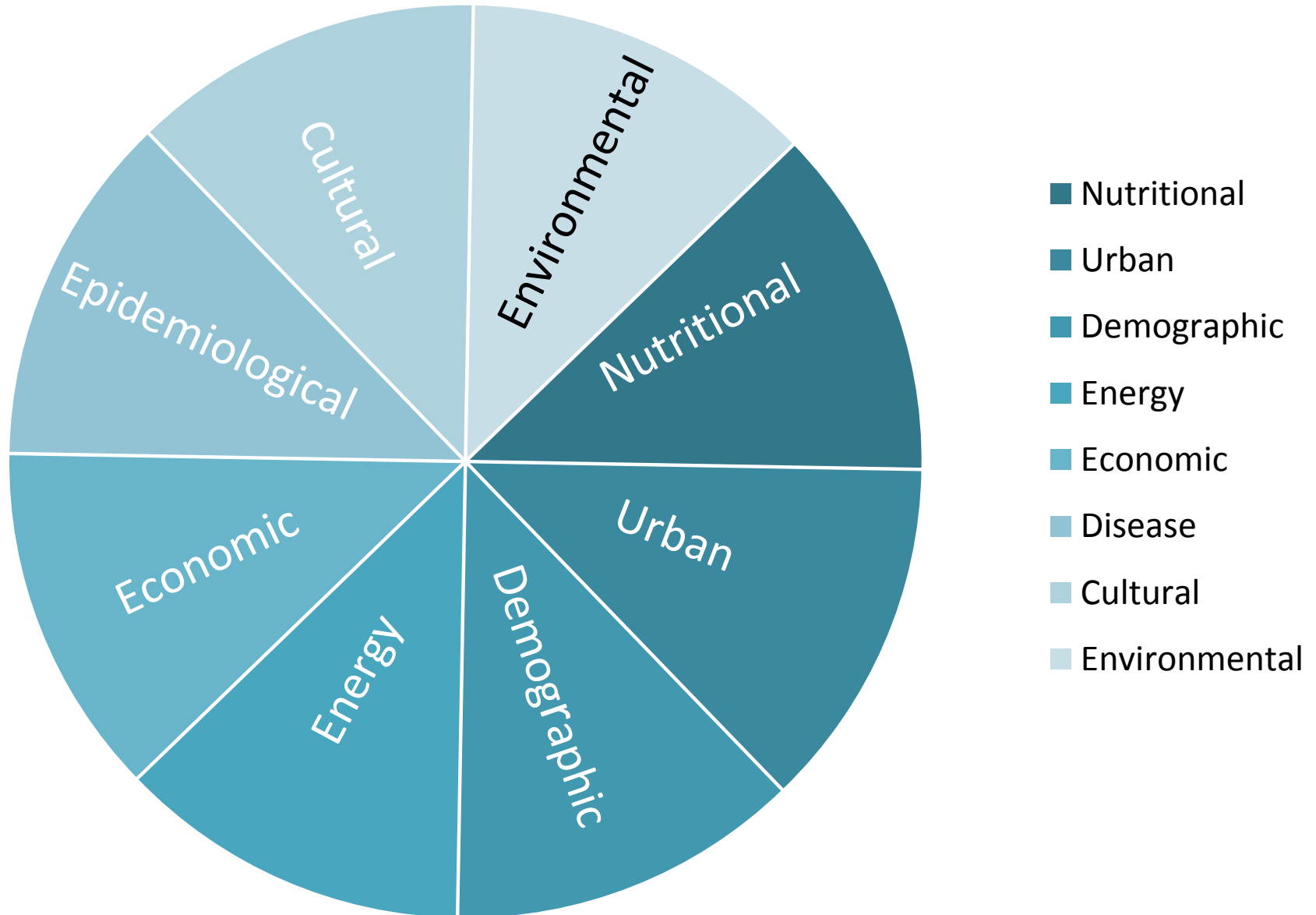
A more realistic
and policy-relevant
representation



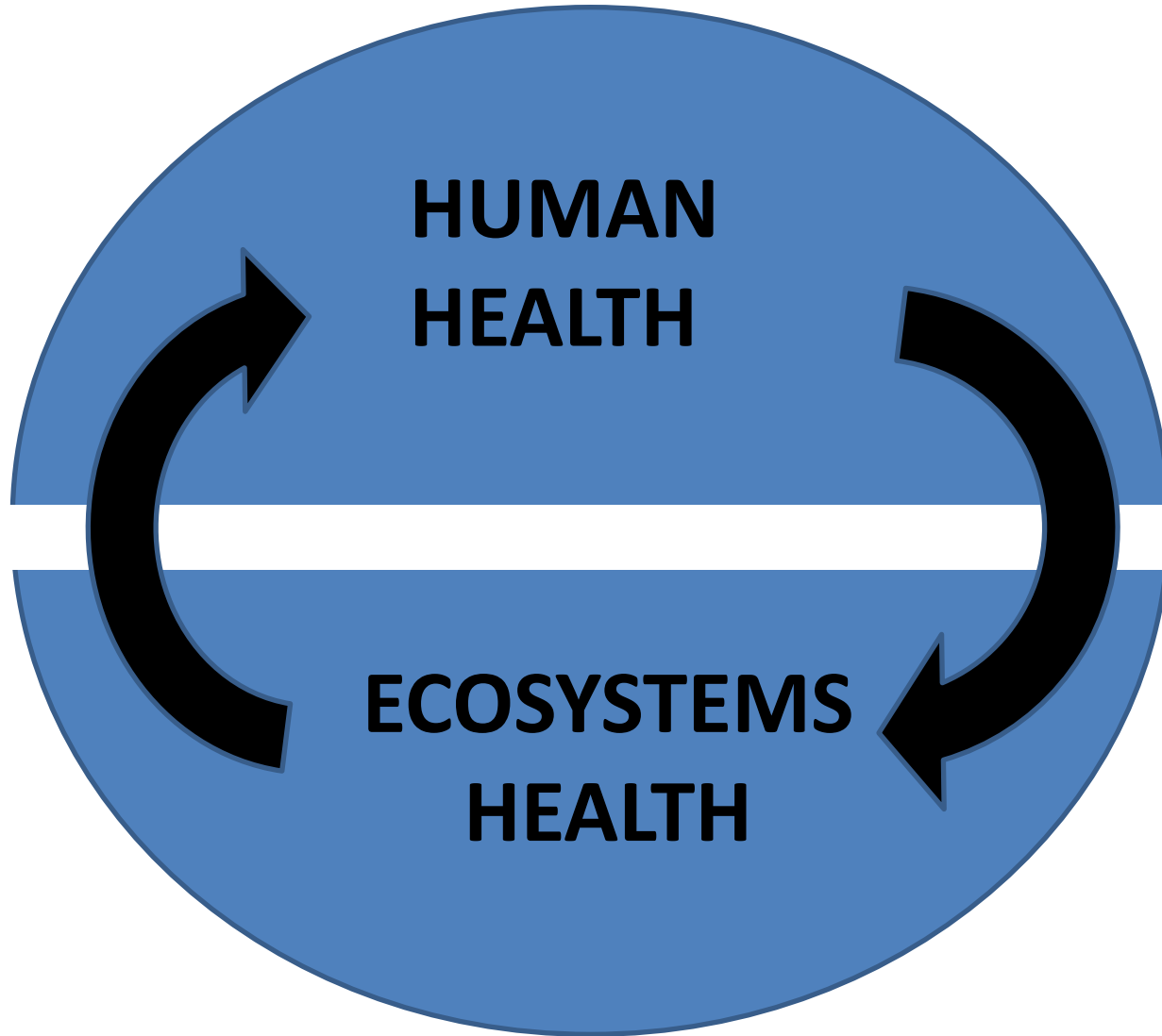
Ecological Public Health and the Importance of Greenspace

“A core notion within public health – however defined - is the notion of change..... and the actions of those seeking to improve public health and wellbeing will vary as circumstances and conditions dictate”

Many Transitions are Key for Health and Wellbeing



“THE DYNAMICS OF ECOLOGICAL PUBLIC HEALTH”



Rayner and Lang (2012) have pointed to the shared underpinnings of Ecological Public Health and the concept of an “entangled bank”, elegantly described in Charles Darwin’s “Origin of Species” published more than 150 years ago