# Learn Well, Live Well

Belfast : A Placed-Based Approach

Lord Mayor of Belfast,

Councillor Kate Nicholl

# Belfast a Learning City: Our vision

"Belfast is a city where learning is valued in all its forms and promoted as a force for improved personal, social, civic and economic change in the city. All citizens of Belfast have equal access to Lifelong Learning opportunities, creating conditions for a better quality of life for everyone in the city"

컨퍼런스

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" Health literacy is about our knowledge, skills, understanding and the confidence to be able to use health care information and services to make good healthcare decisions.. "

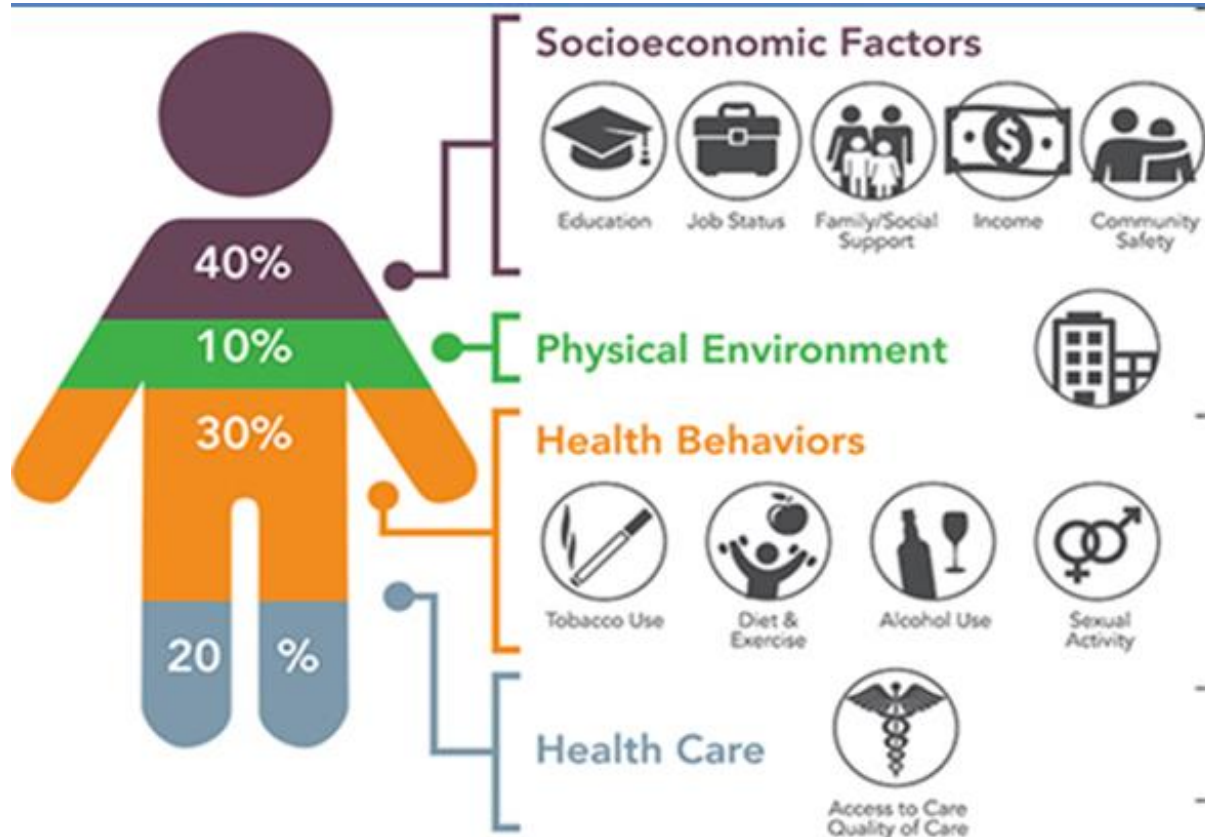Source: NI Western Health Literary Delivery Group definition Learn Well, Live Well Report, 2020

**Building the Evidence Base & Local Intelligence**

# Understanding the Full Picture

Wider Determinants Impacting upon Health



*Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement: Going Beyond Clinical Walls Solving Complex Problems (2014)*
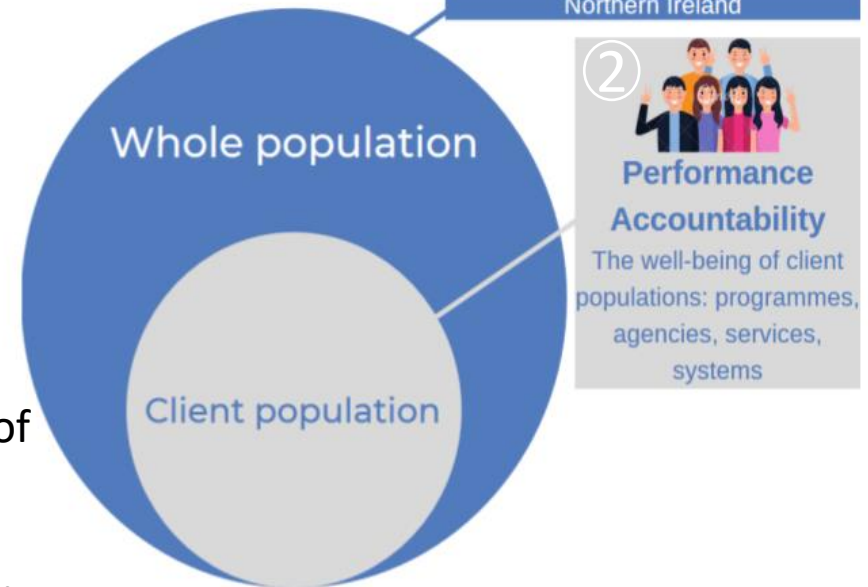
# Health Literacy Working Group

bringing cross-sectoral partners together to explore and seek address challenges facing Belfast

# What types of data are needed?:

- Outcome Based Approach (Results )

- Population Accountability and Performance Accountability

- Measures of wellbeing across the life course of our population with an overarching aim to embed wellbeing.

- Important you layer data to help assess complex issues and draw insights

- Draw upon local and community intelligence

In January 2021, Central Government recommitted to Outcomes Based Accountability. This operates on two levels:

① **Population Accountability**
The well-being of whole populations: cities, council areas, whole of Northern Ireland

② **Performance Accountability**
The well-being of client populations: programmes, agencies, services, systems

Whole population

Client population

# How Can Quality and Availability of Data Be Assured?

Data Quality Dimensions

- **Centres of Research Excellence** e.g. *UUEPC – The Ulster University Economic Policy Centre*

- Utilising sources of **Assured Data**

- Create **data culture** among City Partners

- **Smart Belfast** – harnessing innovation, technology and data science

- Ambition to create a **standard city data platform**



Data Quality

Completeness
Validity
Accuracy
Consistency
Integrity
Timeliness

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# Covid Pandemic Accelerator
## Widening Existing inequalities..

- We have no official data on health literacy in NI. Based on research undertaken in England and Ireland, experts estimate that prior to CD19 approximately **40% of people in Northern Ireland have limited health literacy**

- Impact of the pandemic has been hardest on **deprived communities** and **vulnerable individuals**

- Highlighted **low health literacy** as an underestimated health problem globally

- Importance that detailed and official information can be communicated effectively and **easy to understand.**

- Along with this clear information, it is acknowledged that there was also an **abundance of complex and often misinformation**.

- Importance of **digital health literacy.**

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# What have we done to improve Health Literacy in Belfast?

- ✓ As part of WHO Healthy Cities movement, we have recognised at the highest political level the importance of Health Literacy

- ✓ We have established an inter-agency group that is working to systematically improve health literacy and data collection in Belfast

- ✓ We are committed to collaboration

- ✓ We have supported numerous programmes which have provided individuals and communities with skills and knowledge in recognition of people as the city's key asset

- ✓ We provide services which help people make the healthy choice the easy choice

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# What more can be done?
## Operationalising Health Literacy

✓ More in-depth understanding and promotion of the health literacy concept across key services

✓ Health literacy is not solely confined to the actions or behaviours of individuals but also requires structural & culture change.

✓ Expand approach to measure health literacy

✓ Address digital poverty and use of technology

✓ Ensure that existing services are properly communicated and visible to target audiences

✓ Share good practice and intelligence

✓ Be accessible - go to people & use of unconventional places (e.g. music events, sports activities, in shopping centres, community assets/services, after-schools programmes

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There's a long way to go.

In 2021 we commissioned a review of our approach to Learning Cities to look at inclusive and innovative ways to further strengthen the commitment that's required across all areas learning in Belfast and how this is governed

## "No one should be left behind"

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# Thank you

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