



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

## **Building Systemic Capital to Advance Addiction Recovery in Ireland**

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# What is Recovery

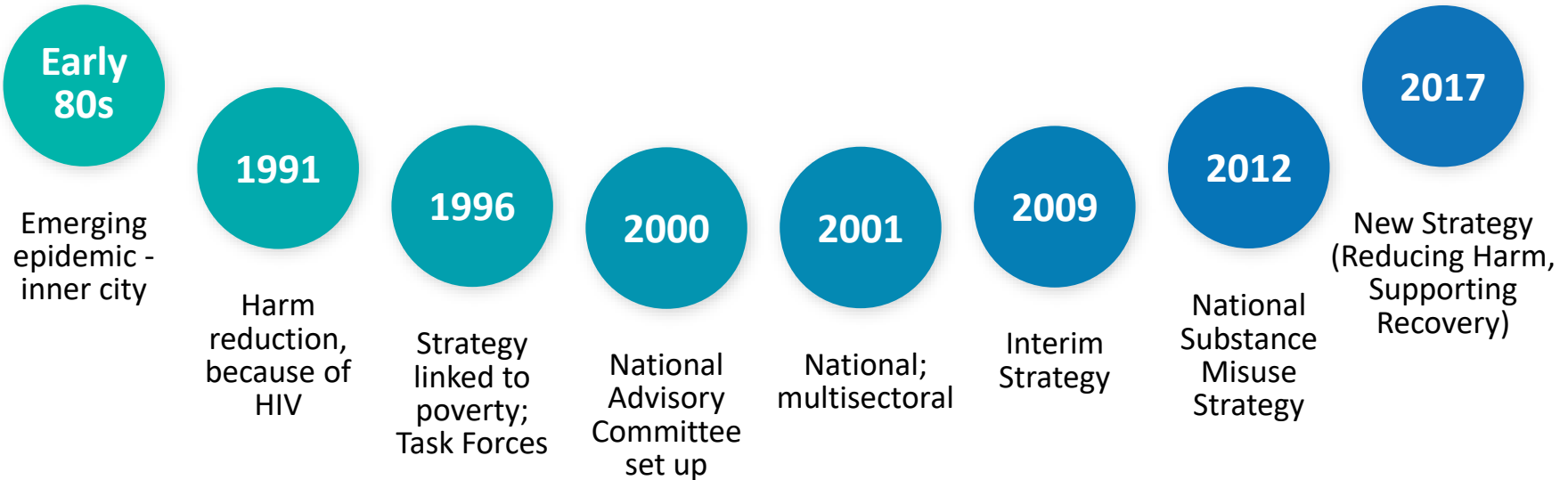
Very much a grass roots approach



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# Evolution of response to drugs Ireland

Relatively new space

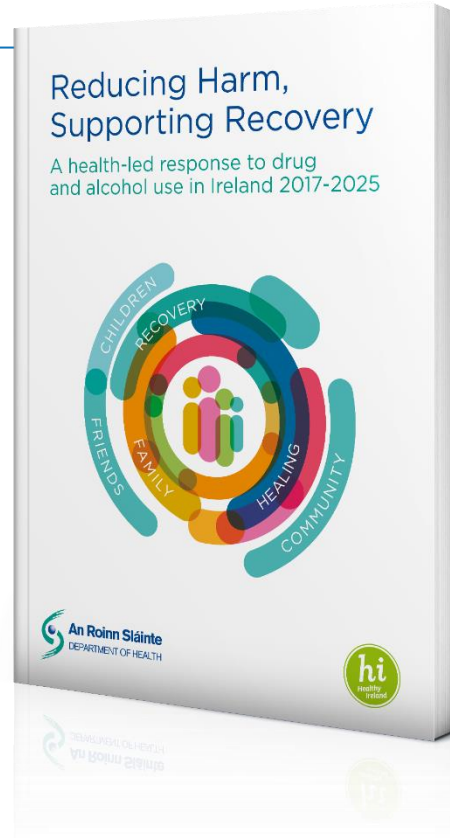


# Current Strategy 2017-2025

Where has it got us?

## The vision of the strategy is:

To create a *“healthier and safer Ireland, where public health and safety is protected, and the harms caused to individuals and communities by substance misuse are reduced, every person affected by substance use is empowered to improve their health and well-being and quality of life”*.



“

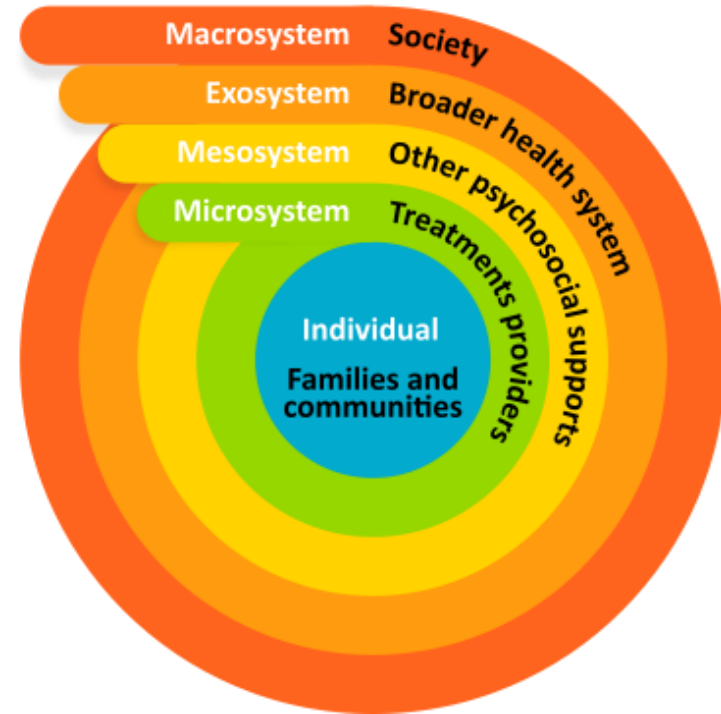
The strategy contains a 50-point Action Plan from 2017 to 2020 and provides the scope to develop further actions between 2021 and 2025 to ensure the continued relevance of the strategy to emerging needs into the future.

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# A Health-led Approach to Drug and Alcohol Use

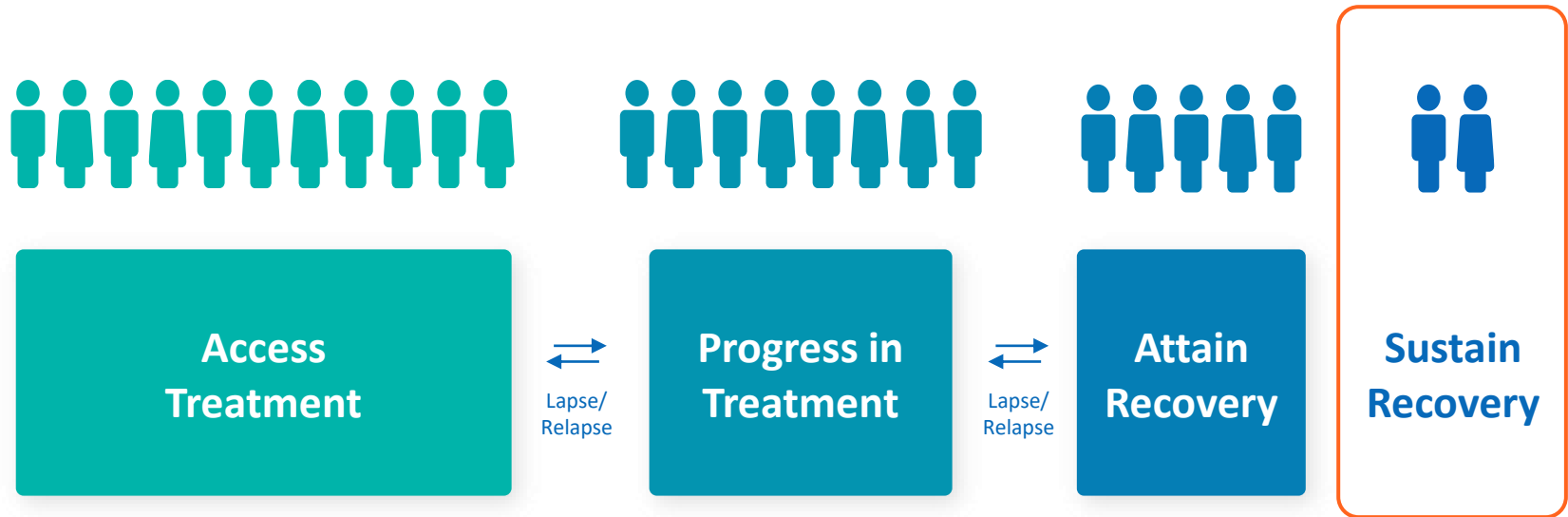
Where has it got us?

- Lots of successes in the harm reduction
- Good success with streamlining case management and common assessment tools
- A shared language and reframing of addiction as a health issue
- Aligned with the Healthy Ireland Framework



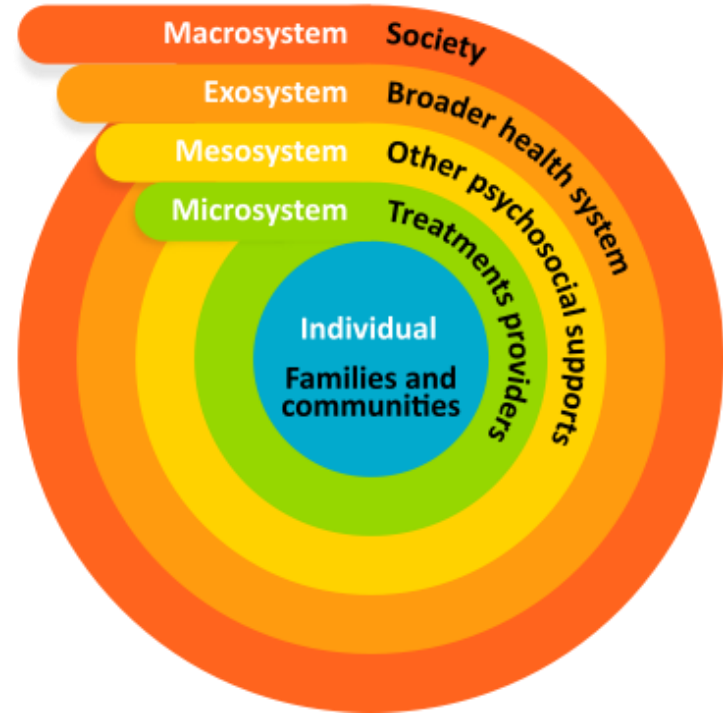
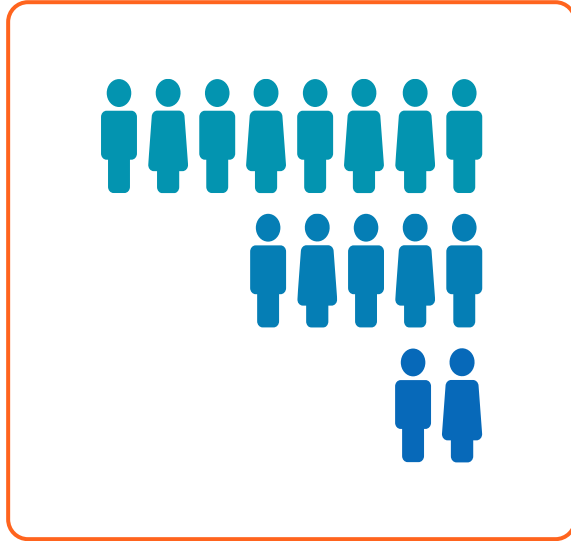
# Current treatment model

## Irish Context



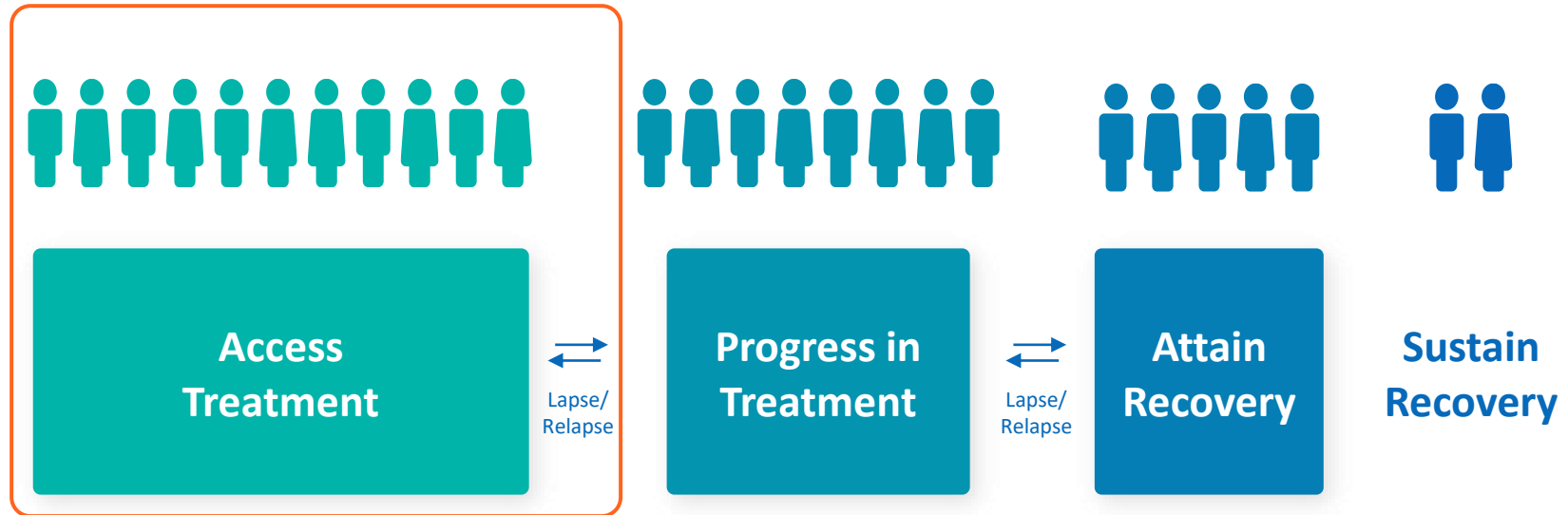
# Recovery

Building capital and connection



# Why are these different?

## Irish Context





# Why are these different?

## Irish Context



**They are more likely than their peers in recovery to:**

- Experienced high rates of trauma
- Be a parent
- Have a co-occurring mental health issue
- Currently experiencing homelessness
- Be an early school leaver
- Have experienced high rates of unemployed

# The fight for recovery capital

Scrapping for resources



Housing



Health



Education



Employment  
and Training



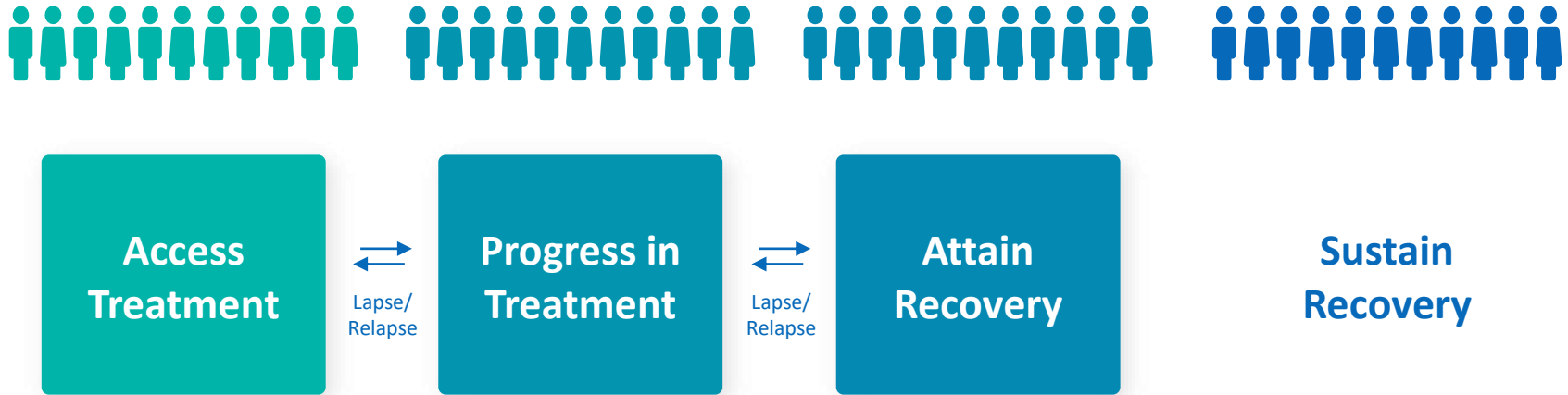
Social  
Services



Justice

# We need to disrupt the system

So that everyone accessing treatment has the potential for recovery



# Harnessing recovery capital

A health-led approach



Housing



Health



Education



Employment  
and Training



Social  
Services



Justice

# It is much bigger than the access to treatment

It is not just a health issue

## EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY

In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports.

**They are being treated equally by  
being given a place in  
treatment.**



In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game.

**They are being treated equitably by  
building their  
individual and  
community capital.**



# Achieving equity

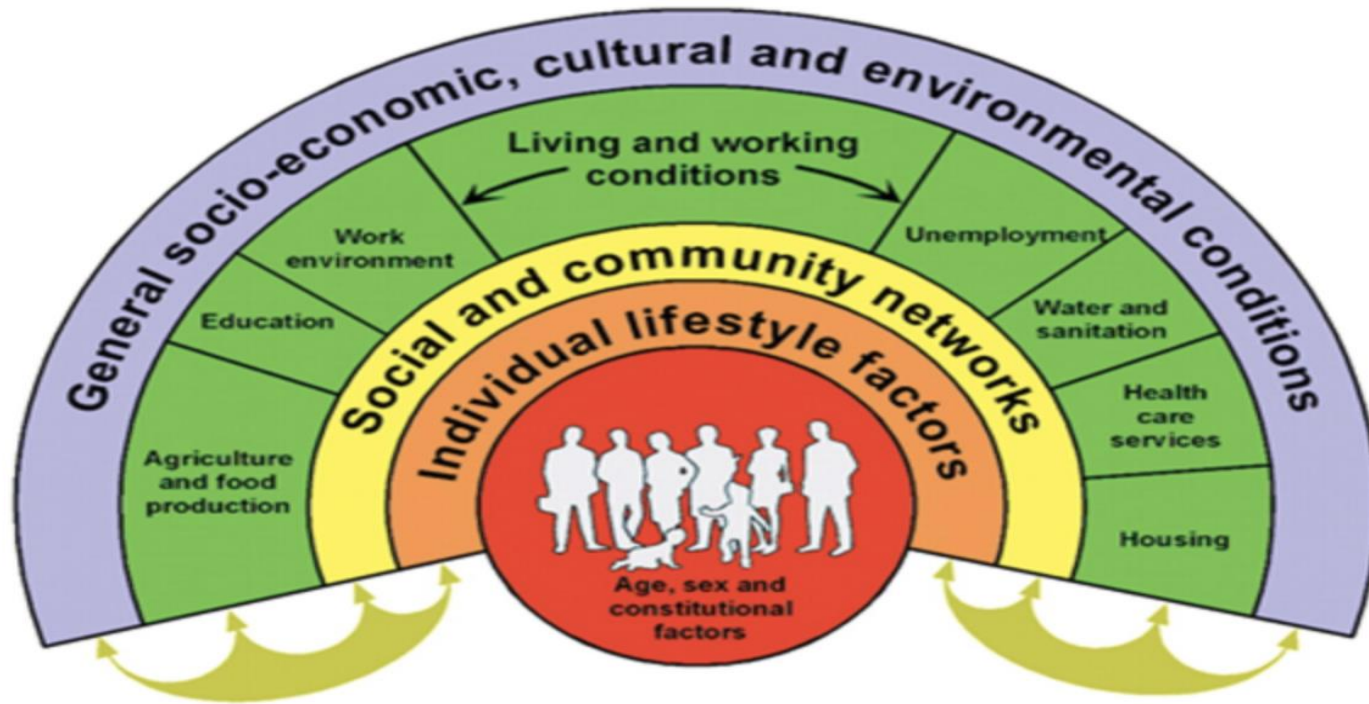
Health in All Policies

- ❑ *Health equity* is achieved by addressing the underlying issues that prevent people from being healthy
- ❑ Where we work, live, and play determines our health
- ❑ *Understanding that while not all government sectors have a remit in health, the policies they make directly impact health, for example, Urban Planning or Transport*



# The Social Determinants of Health

Where we work, live and play determines our health



# Creating Systemic Equity

Health in all policies

## WHAT IS HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES?



Good health requires policies that actively support health



It requires different sectors working together, for example:



HEALTH



TRANSPORT



HOUSING



WORK



NUTRITION



WATER &  
SANITATION

To ensure all people have equal opportunities to achieve the highest level of health

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Here is one example:

Worldwide

**1 IN 8 DEATHS**

is linked to

**AIR POLLUTION  
EXPOSURE**





# Evidenced based outcomes HiAP

Improved health, sustainable approach, and cost effective

1. **Improved population health outcomes:** Health in All Policies (HiAP) has been associated with positive population health outcomes by addressing social determinants of health, such as air pollution reduction, increased physical activity, and improved access to healthy food.
2. **Enhanced policy coherence and sustainability:** HiAP promotes collaboration among sectors, leading to more coherent, synergistic, and sustainable policies that consider health implications across various areas.
3. **Cost-effectiveness and economic benefits:** Implementing HiAP can generate economic benefits by preventing diseases, improving productivity, and reducing healthcare costs, while promoting healthy environments that enhance overall economic performance.



# Achieving Equity in Recovery

## Recovery in all policies

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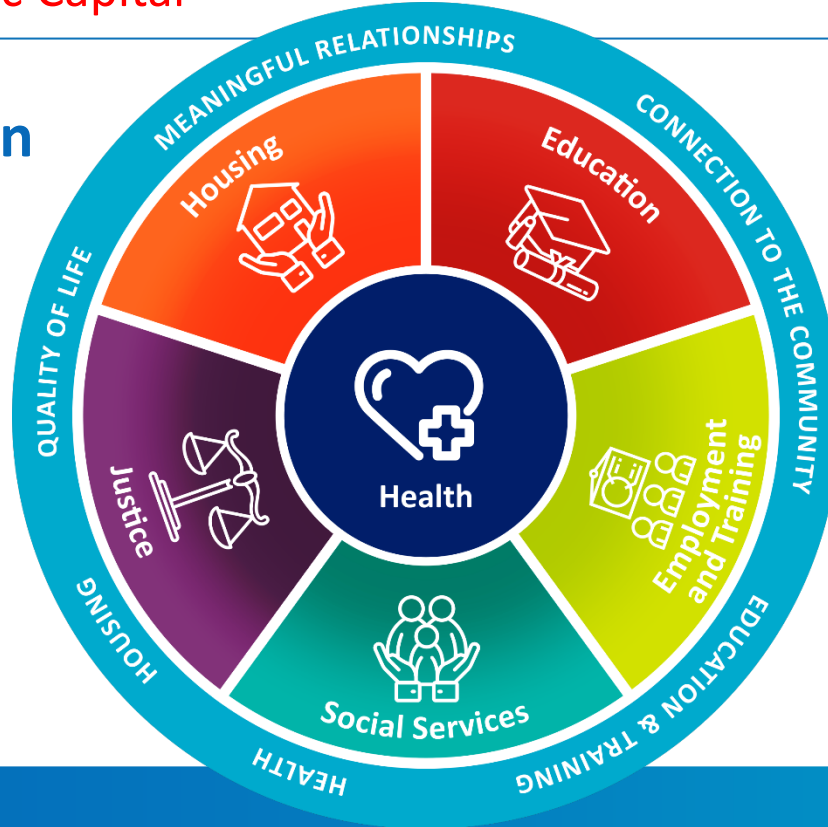
- ❑ *Recovery equity* will be achieved by addressing the underlying issues that prevent people from sustaining recovery
- ❑ Where a person works, lives, and plays will determine their recovery outcomes
- ❑ *Understanding that while not all government sectors have a remit in recovery, the policies they make directly recovery, for example, HEIs or Housing*

# Recovery in all policies

## Building Systemic Capital

Prevention

Recovery



# What is needed for successful Implementation of HiAP

Success of HiAP depends on various factors



Political will



Stakeholder  
engagement,  
resources



Evaluation  
frameworks.



Context-specific