

Home Care of Older People in Ireland: Main Issues and Challenges

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Home Care for Ageing Populations Conference

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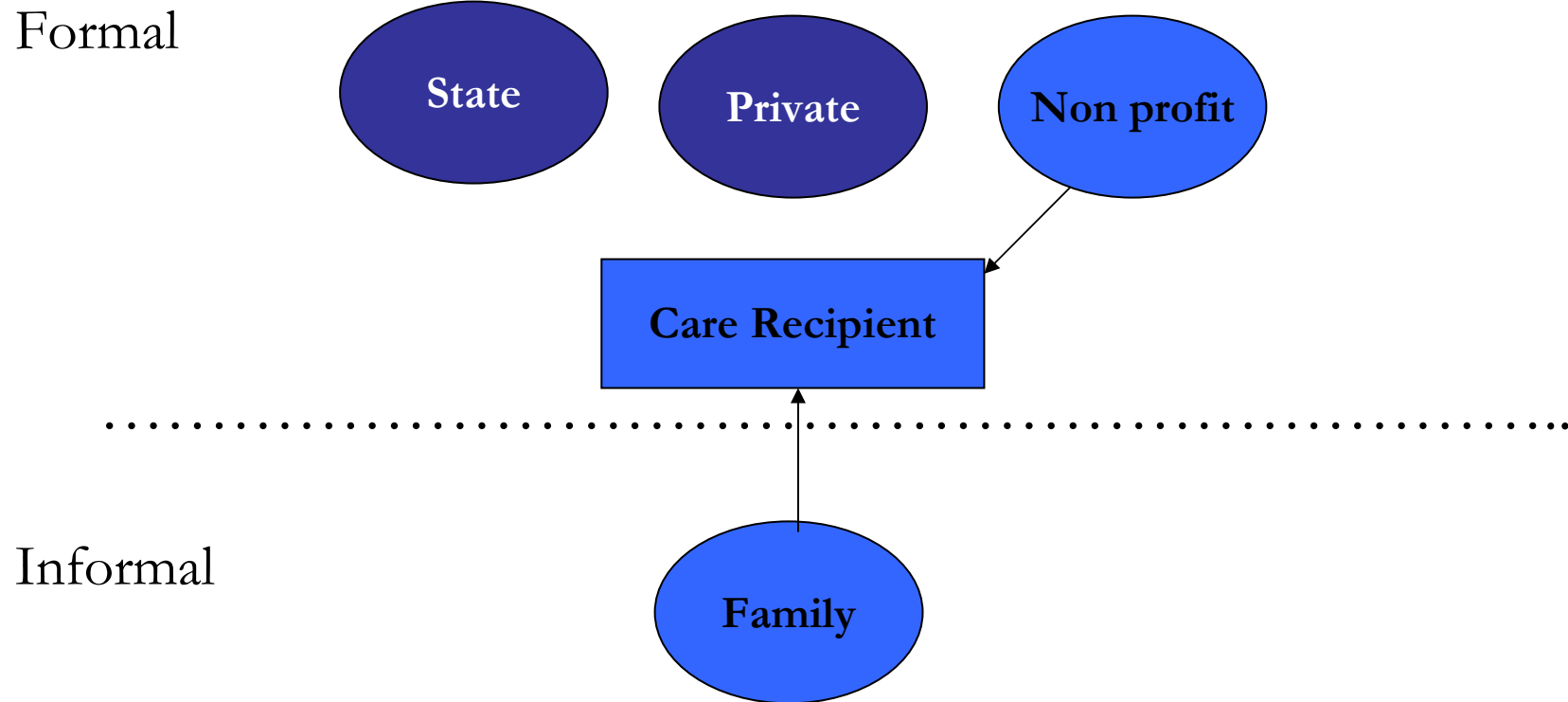
Outline of Presentation

- Short history of long-term care for older people in Ireland
- The three provider sectors in formal home care
- Current policy context
- Policy challenges
- Regulating and monitoring ‘inputs’ and ‘outputs’
- Conclusions

Evolution of care services I

Historical evolution of long-term care in Ireland

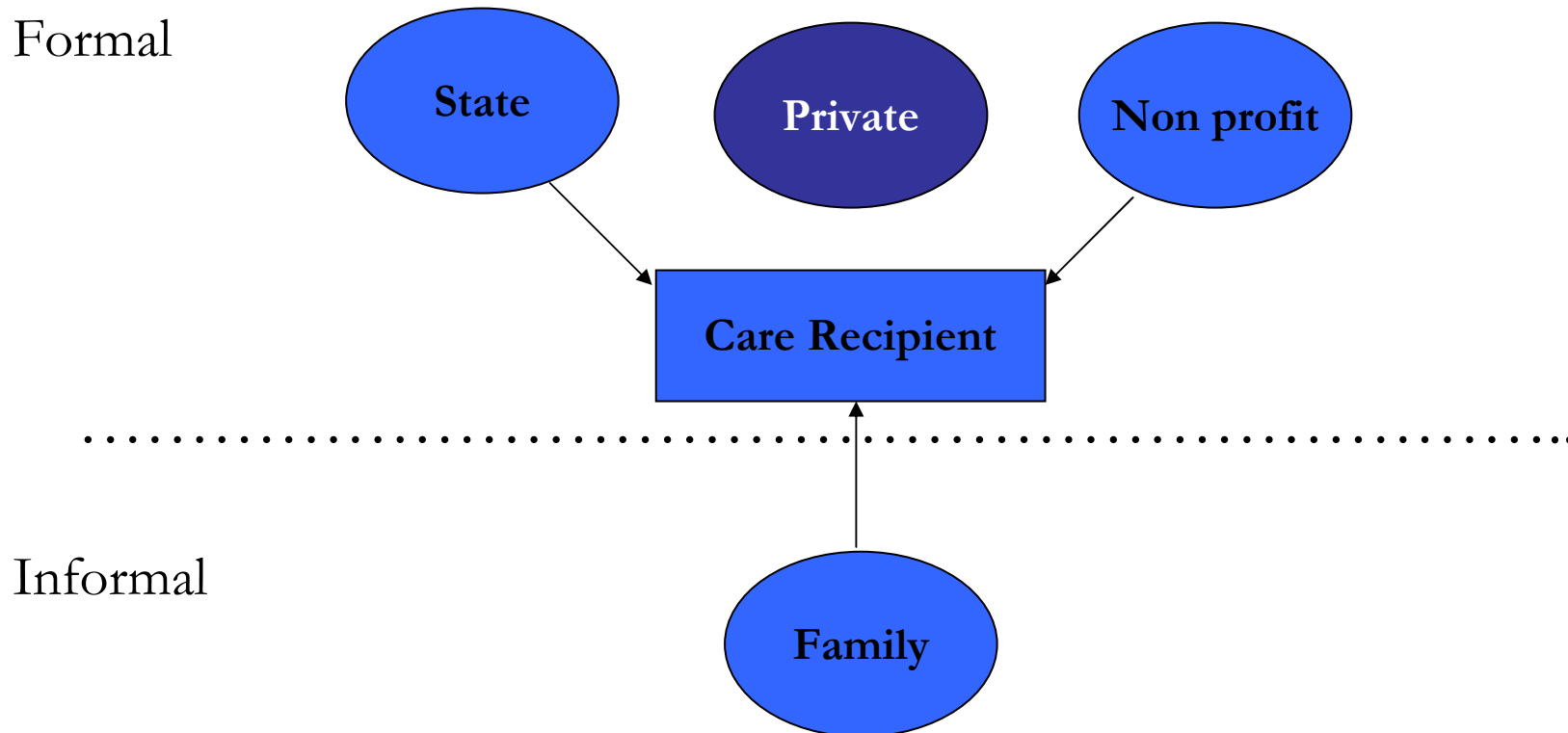
Stage 1: Informal /Charity



Evolution of care services II

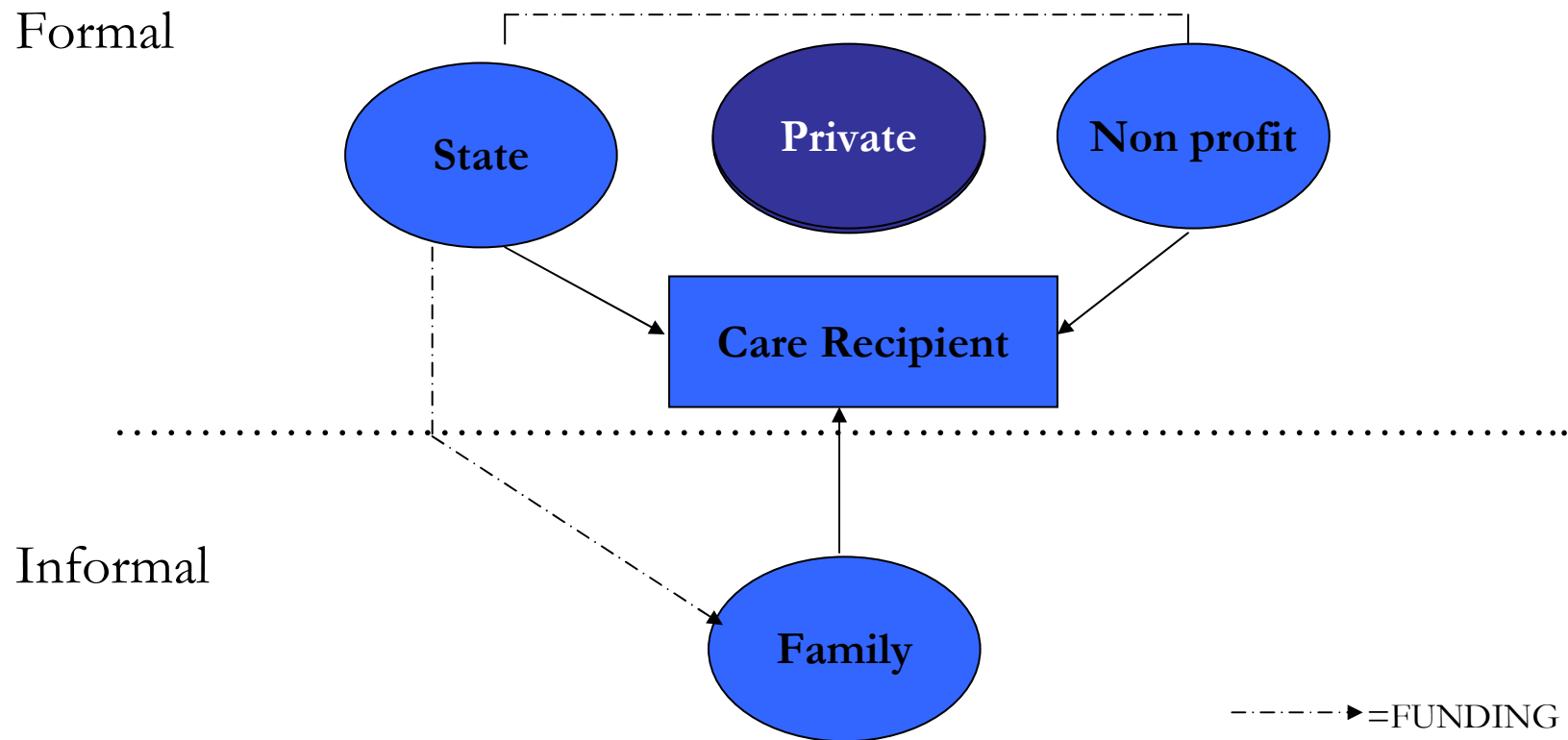
Historical evolution of long-term care in Ireland

Stage 2: Informal & Institutional



Evolution of care services III

Historical evolution of long-term care in Ireland
Stage 3: State financial support for (in)formal domiciliary

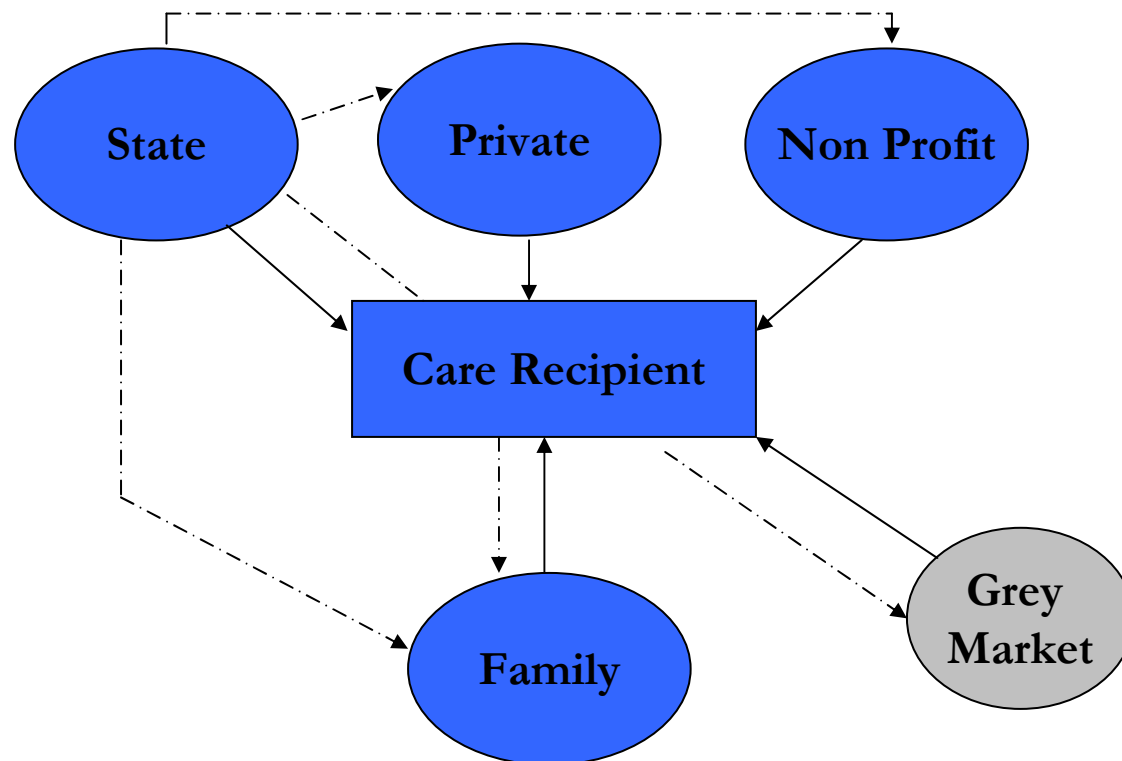


Evolution of care services IV

Historical evolution of long-term care in Ireland
Stage 4 : Complex Care Mix

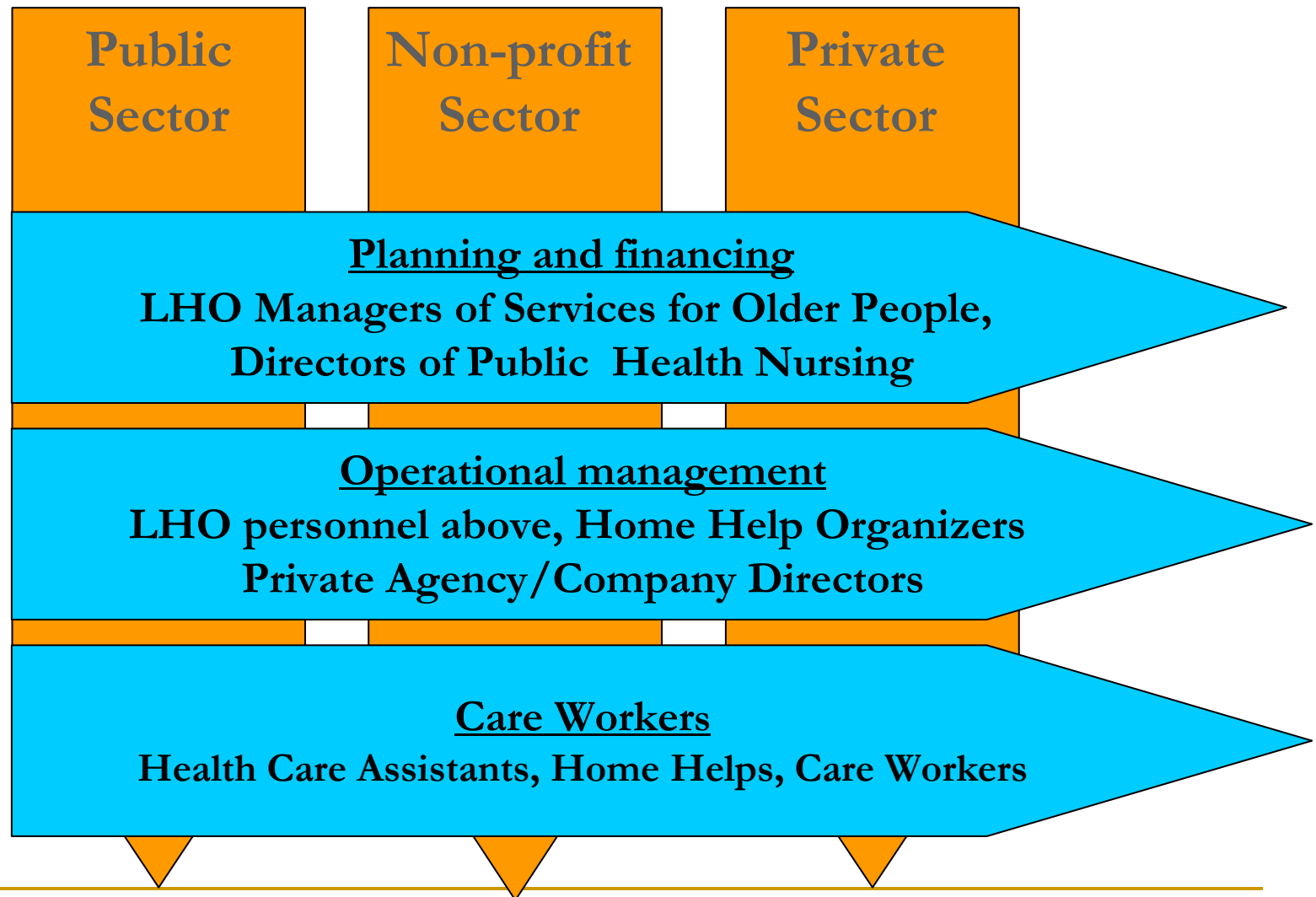
Formal

Informal

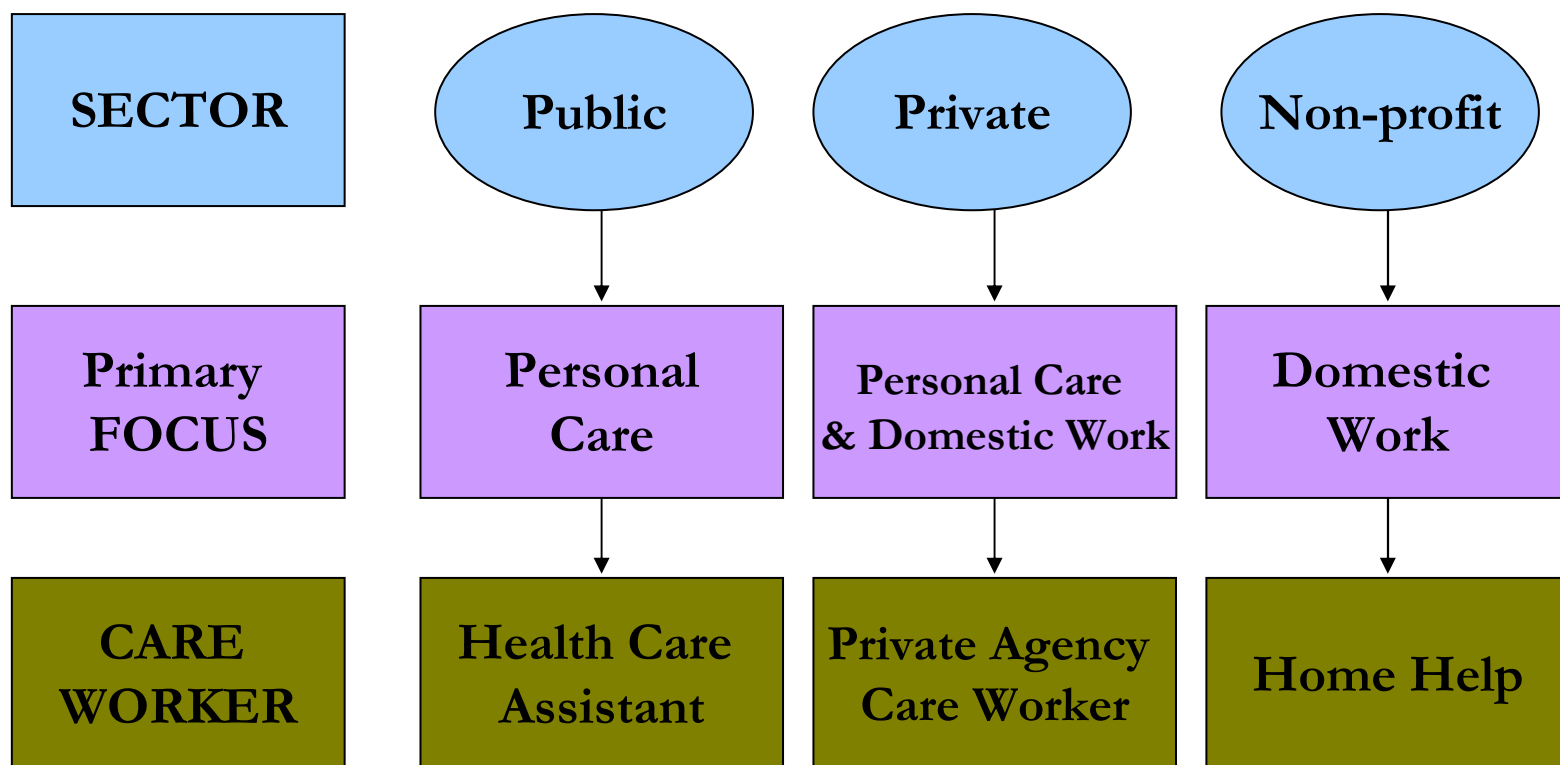


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The Three Provider Sectors



The Three Sectors, Primary Focus and Care Worker Titles

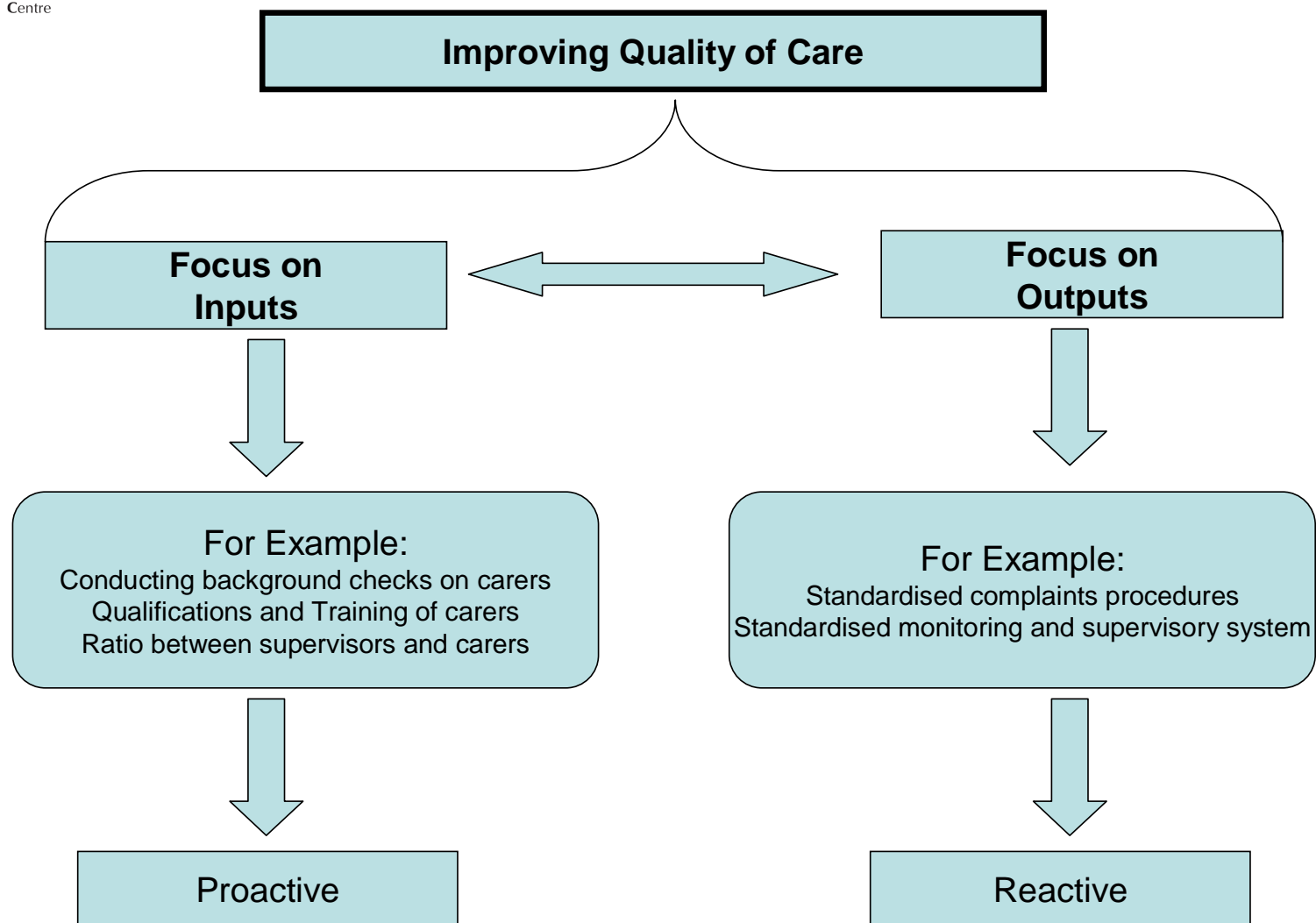


Current Policy Context

- There are three “worlds” of formal domiciliary care in operation in Ireland
- Public policies, absence of regulation, have served to foster the divergence of these worlds
- Expansion of cash-for-care (home care packages) likely to lead to growth in the absolute and relative size of private sector
- Diverse policies and procedures at Company/
organisation / LHO level

Policy challenges

- Matching policy statements on importance of home care
- Clarification with regard to assessment/qualifying criteria
- Clarification with regard to financing
- Greater and more equal access/availability of packages
- Co-ordinating support for informal care and formal home care
- Matching progress in development of standards, inspection, financing of institutional care
- Regulation needed to help ensure standards and quality of care for care recipients, to create level playing field, to safeguard care workforce



Conclusions

- ‘Critical juncture’ for home care in Ireland
- Progress has been made, but in the absence of a framework governing key areas of access, financing, quality
- Regulating home care is necessary *and* possible
- Does not need to be expensive, intrusive, disruptive of already well-functioning arrangements

Not to lose sight of the positive...

‘It’s like they are another Granny, when they get sick it’s like it’s one of your family is sick’.

‘I absolutely love every aspect of my job...I love working with the elderly’.

‘I enjoy making people happy...the peace I have when I go to help them, I know when I am going in I’m doing some good for this person...I know when I’m leaving they are happy...I know they are getting the fullest care they could possibly get...I love getting up to go to work because [I’m] helping someone [I’m] making them happy’.