



Health Needs Assessment

at a group / population level

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Public Health

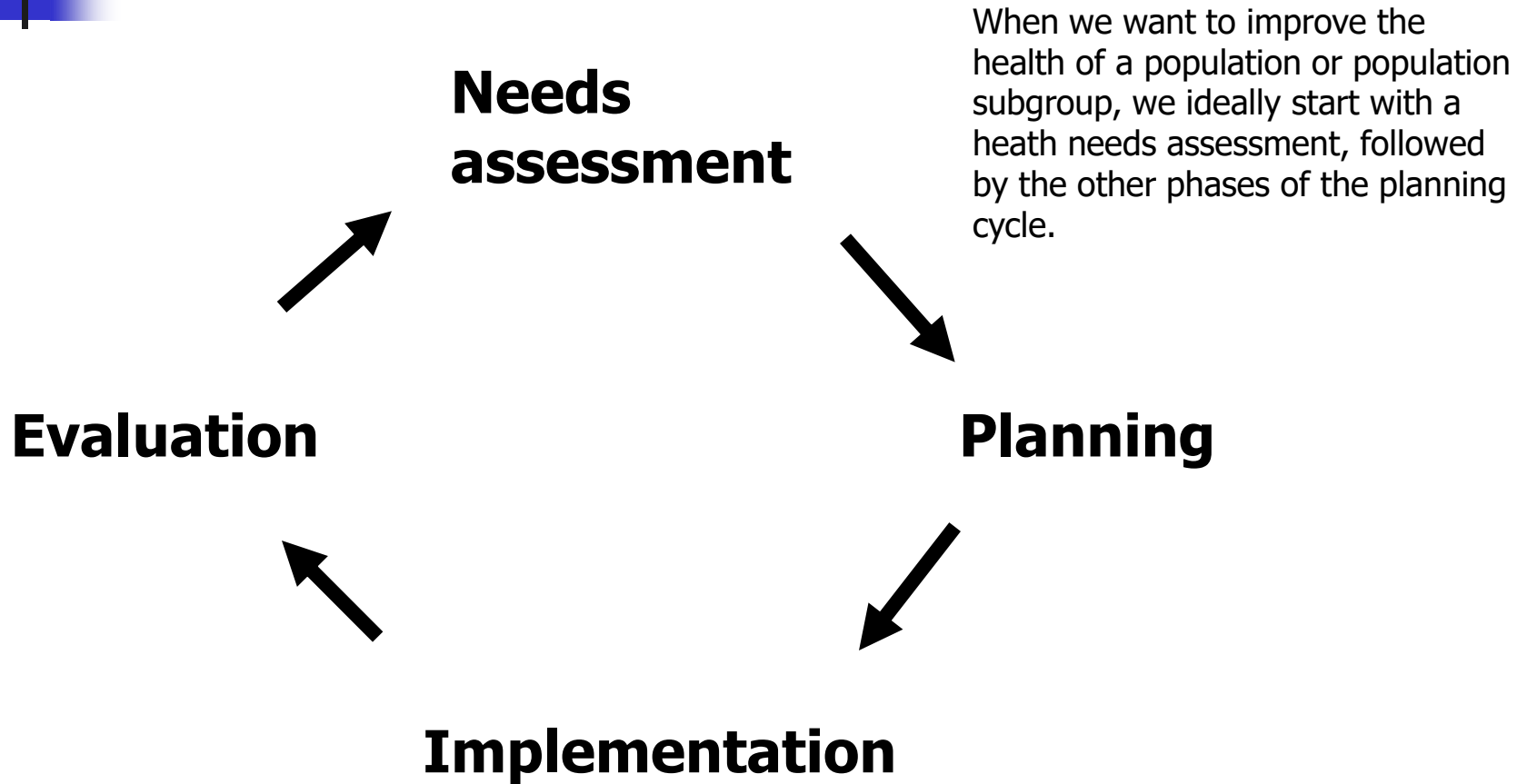
Health Needs Assessment

Learning objectives:

- Explain the concepts of need, demand and supply
- Provide health related examples of interventions, with explanations for each example, as to why they may or may not be classified as needed, demanded or supplied
- Distinguish between different definitions of need
- Explain the epidemiological, comparative and corporate approaches to health needs assessment
- Describe the limitations of each of these three approaches to health needs assessment

Needs assessment and planning


Planning cycle



Planning cycle

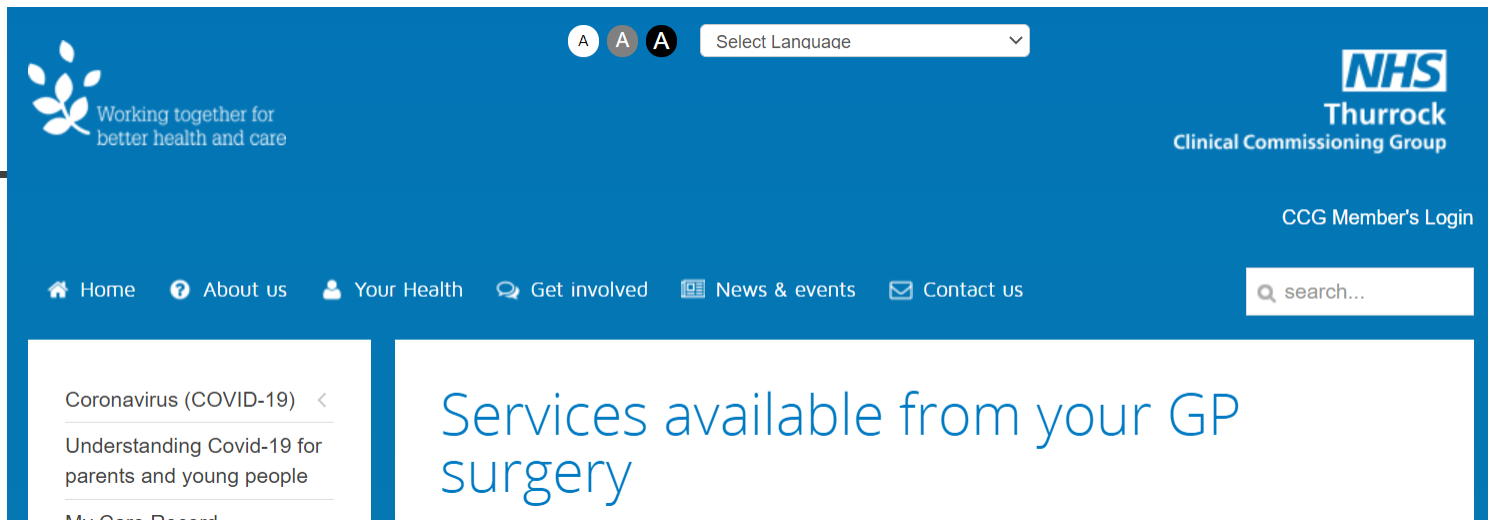
Why is this relevant to you?

- As qualified doctors in the modern NHS, you will improve the health of patients in two main ways:
 - **Treating individual patients**
 - **Influencing the services available to patients**



This is where your leadership comes into play. The population perspective you bring, along with your skills in health needs assessment will enhance your ability to influence decisions.

Here is an example of services you could decide that your practice will offer ...



The screenshot shows the NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group website. The header is blue with the NHS logo and the text 'Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About us, Your Health, Get involved, News & events, and Contact us. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation menu. The main content area features a large heading 'Services available from your GP surgery' and a list of services available from a GP surgery.

Working together for better health and care

Select Language

NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group

CCG Member's Login

Home About us Your Health Get involved News & events Contact us search...

Coronavirus (COVID-19) <

Understanding Covid-19 for parents and young people

My Care Record

Services available from your GP surgery

Services available from your GP surgery

- Mental Health Practitioners. Looking after our mental health is important for everyone. ...
- Social Prescribers. ...
- Care Navigators. ...
- Advanced Nurse Practitioner. ...
- Clinical Pharmacist. ...
- Healthcare Assistant. ...
- Paramedic Practitioner or Emergency Care Practitioner. ...
- Physiotherapist.



What is need?

- Consider
 - **Need** - ability to benefit from an intervention
 - **Demand** – what people ask for
 - **Supply** – what is provided

NB The definition of “need” above is one used by the Department of Health and NICE. There are other definitions which we will also go through.

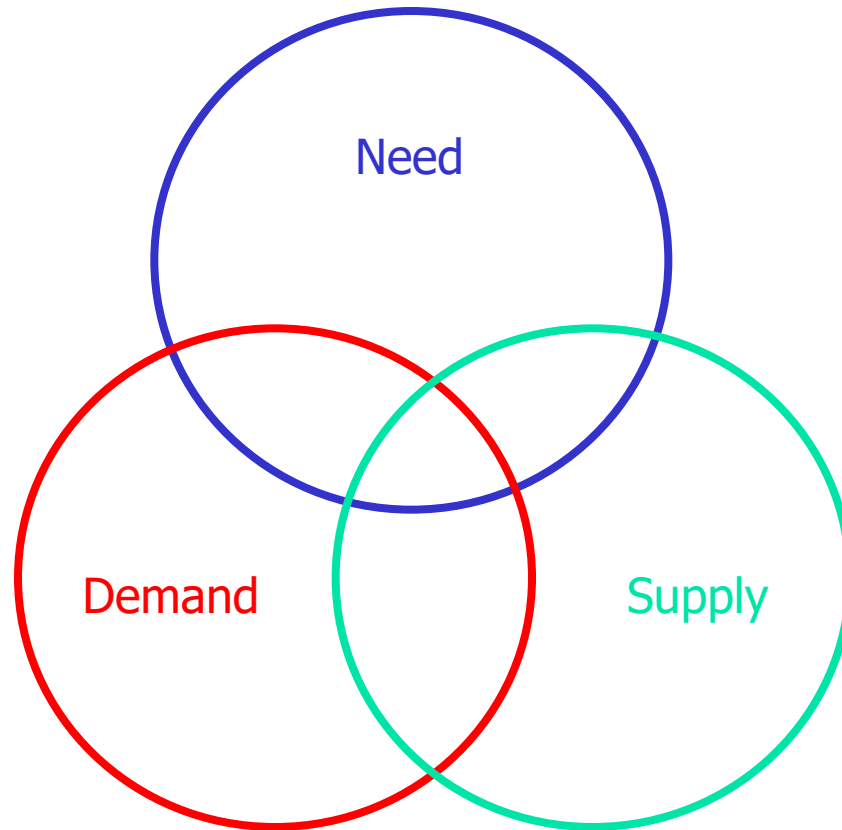


Group task

- Draw three overlapping circles representing need, demand and supply (see next slide)
- Think of one health related example for each segment
 - e.g. Consider childhood immunisation. If you think it is needed, supplied, and demanded it goes in the centre.
 - If however you think it is needed and supplied but not necessarily demanded, it goes in the “needed and supplied only” segment.

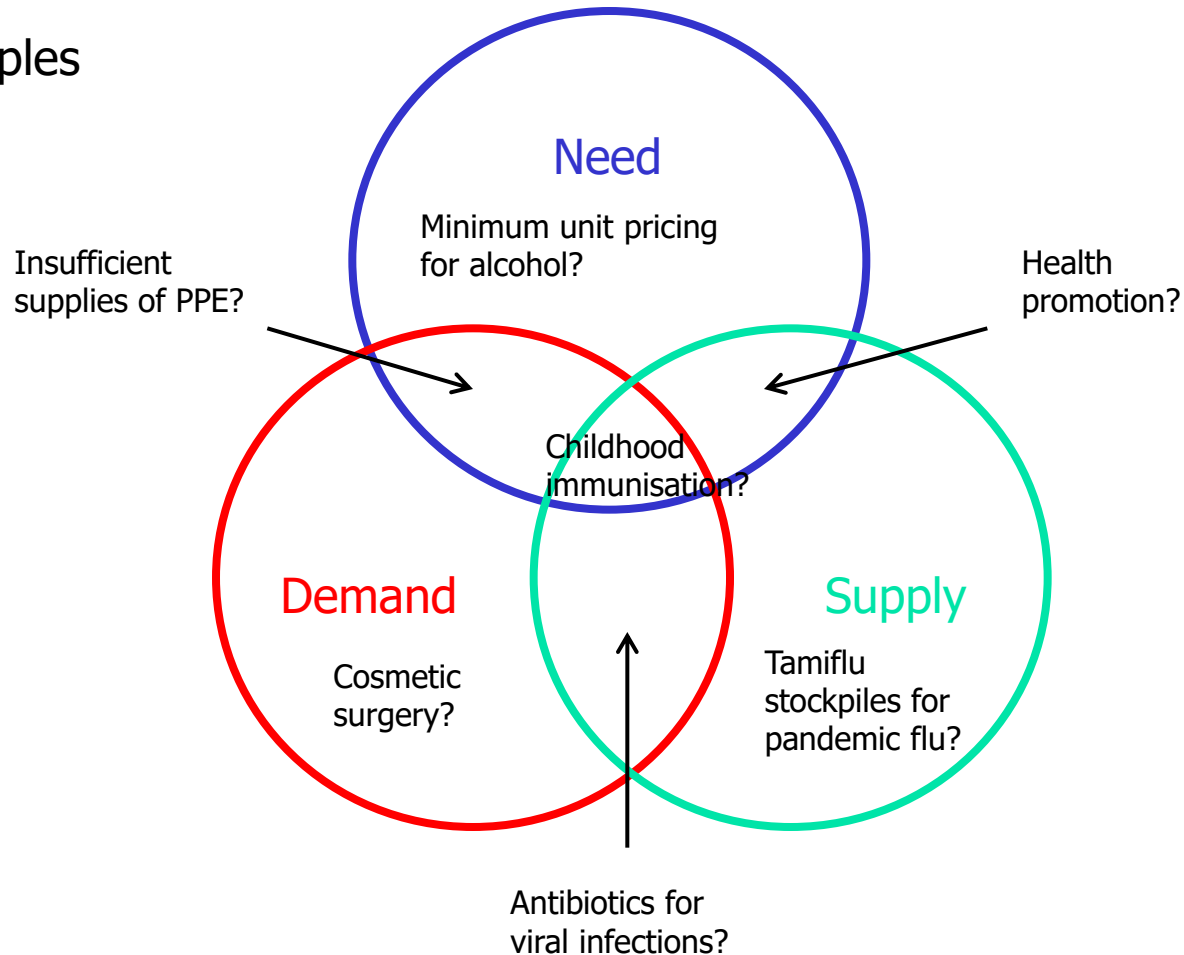


Need, Demand and Supply



Need, Demand and Supply

Examples





What is health needs assessment?

- One definition is:
 - Health needs assessment is a systematic method for reviewing the health issues facing a population, leading to agreed priorities and resource allocation that will improve health and reduce inequalities

(Health Needs Assessment – a practical guide, NICE 2005)

Health Needs Assessment

Example of completed work

- Weblink

http://b.3cdn.net/droftheworld/54befeb29ddee73fa1_s4m62058i.pdf

- Guardian report

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/28/too-many-dying-sierra-leone-response-ebola-report>



Beyond Ebola: rebuilding health services in Moyamba, Sierra Leone



A situation analysis and population health needs assessment

5th April 2015

Health Needs Assessment



Example of a tender for work

2 Contract Details

2.1 Title

NHS England - health needs assessment services

2.2 Description of the goods or services required

NHS England wishes to commission health needs assessments for the healthcare service in some prisons, in police custody, and for an immigration removal centre. To commission effectively, it is essential that the commissioning cycle begins with a health needs assessment which examines the health needs of the establishment(s). This enables the commissioning team to understand disease prevalence, services which respond to the health needs and to receive evidence-based recommendations for the services. The requirement is best practice in relation to commissioning, but is also mentioned in 'Expectations' (HMIP) in the section on governance: '32. Prisoners are cared for by a health service that accurately assesses and meets their health needs while in prison and which promotes continuity of health and social care on release. Indicators References • Health services are informed by the assessed needs of the prison population and are planned, provided and quality assured through integrated working between the prison and its local health economy.' In April 2015, local authorities will assume responsibility for social care needs in prison. The HNAs must include a section on social care needs and how they can be integrated with the delivery of healthcare.

2.3 Notice Coding and Classification

2.4 Total quantity or scope of tender

The value of the contract is between £10 to £12k per report.

Contract start date 01 July 2015

Contract end date 09 September 2015



Health need vs health care need

- Health need
 - Need for health
 - Concerns need in more general terms
 - e.g. measured using mortality, morbidity, socio-demographic measures
- Health care need
 - Need for health care
 - Much more specific
 - Ability to benefit from health care
 - Depends on the potential of prevention, treatment and care services to remedy health problems
- In practice, the term “health needs assessment” is usually used to cover both health needs assessment and health care needs assessment.



Health needs assessment

- May be carried out for:
 - A population or sub-group
 - e.g. Manor practice population
 - A condition
 - e.g. COPD
 - An intervention
 - e.g. coronary angioplasty



But who defines need?

- Individual?
- Family?
- Community?
- Professionals?
- Society?

Who defines need for treatment or care for:

- back pain; learning disabilities

Who defines need for these interventions:

- circumcision; new cancer treatment; IVF



A sociological perspective (Bradshaw)

- **Felt need** - individual perceptions of variation from normal health
- **Expressed need** - individual seeks help to overcome variation in normal health (demand)
- **Normative need** - professional defines intervention appropriate for the expressed need
- **Comparative need** - comparison between severity, range of interventions and cost



Public Health approach (Faculty of Public Health)

- Health needs assessment
 - Epidemiological
 - Comparative
 - Corporate

Further reading:

Stevens A, Gillam S. Needs assessment: from theory to practice. *BMJ* 1998;316:1448–1452.
doi: [10.1136/bmj.316.7142.1448](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.316.7142.1448)



Epidemiological approach

- Define problem
- Size of problem
 - incidence / prevalence
- Services available
 - prevention / treatment / care
- Evidence base
 - effectiveness and cost-effectiveness
- Models of care
 - including quality and outcome measures
- Existing services
 - unmet need; services not needed
- Recommendations



Epidemiological approach

- Problems?
- Required data may not be available
- Variable data quality
- Evidence base may be inadequate
- Does not consider felt needs of people affected



Comparative approach

- Compares the services received by a population (or subgroup) with others
 - Spatial
 - Social (age, gender, class, ethnicity)
- May examine:
 - Health status
 - Service provision
 - Service utilisation
 - Health outcomes
 - (mortality, morbidity, quality of life, patient satisfaction)

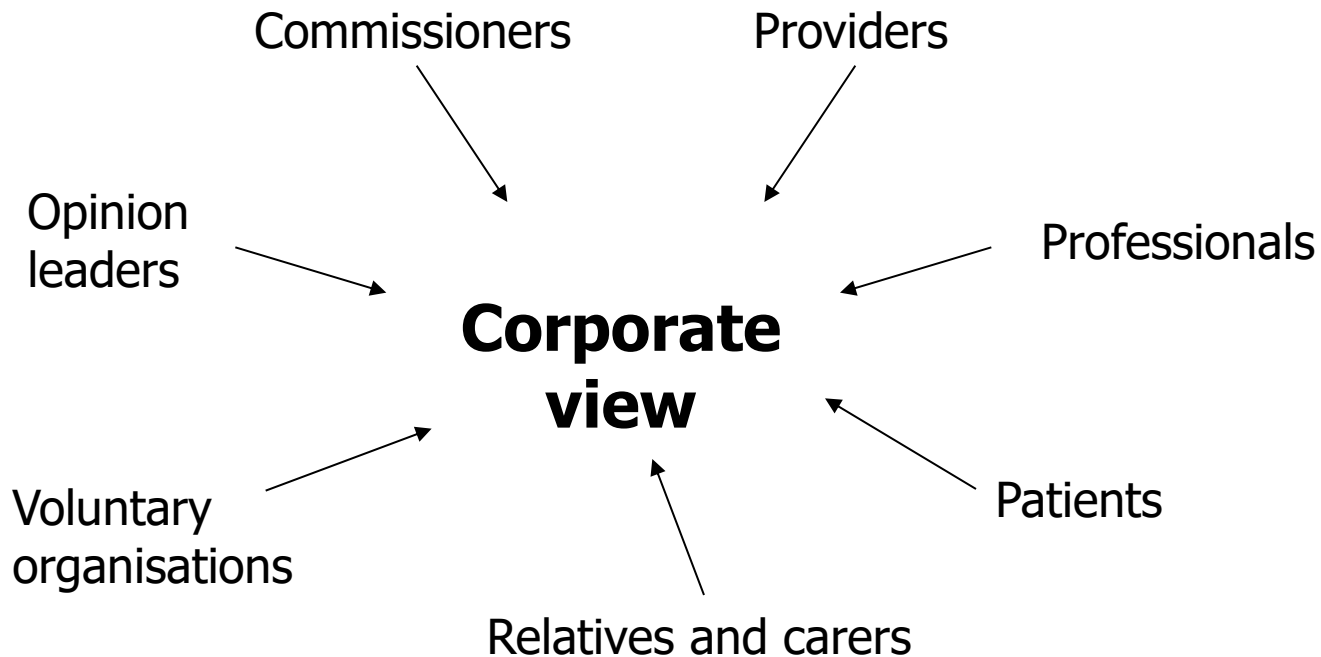


Comparative approach

- Problems?
- May not yield what the most appropriate level e.g. of provision or utilisation should be
- Data may not be available
- Data may be of variable quality
- May be difficult to find a comparable population



Corporate approach



The “Corporate approach” is not to do with corporations. It is about obtaining the views a range of stakeholders. (Some may give their views even when not sought or seek to influence health needs assessments.)

(Politicians)

(Press)

(Pharmaceutical companies)



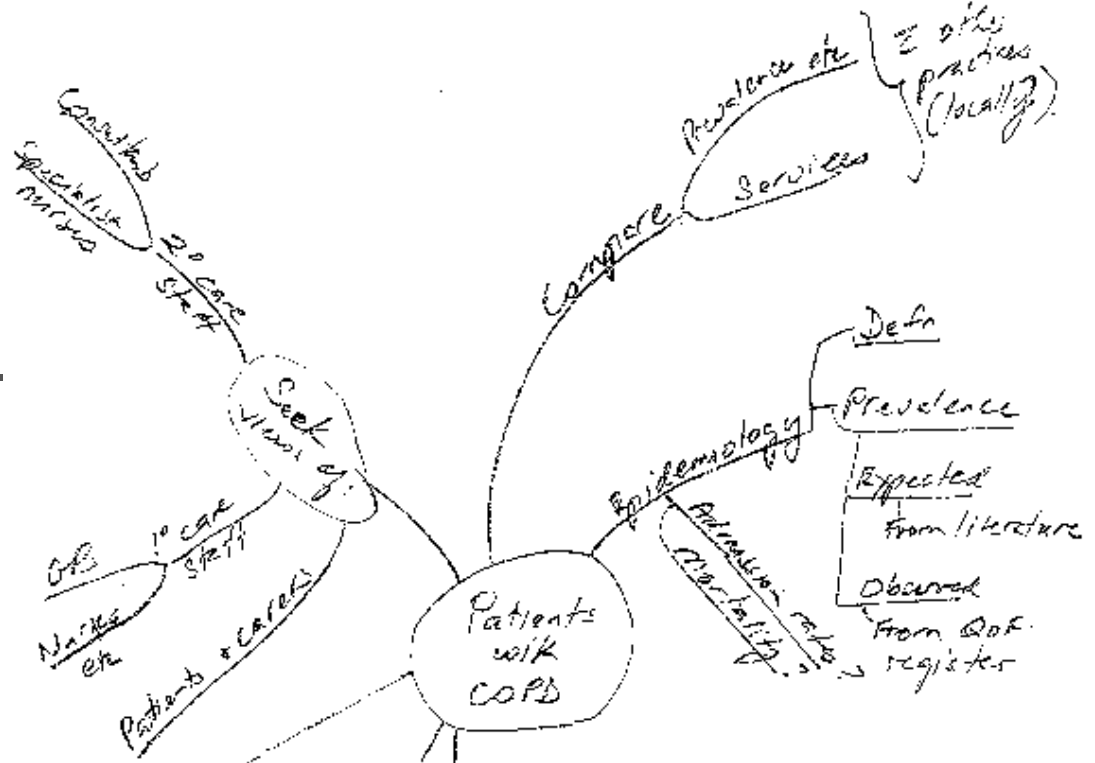
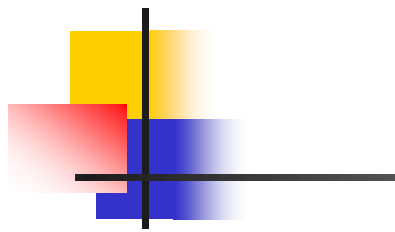
Corporate approach

- Problems?
- May be difficult to distinguish need from demand
- Groups may have vested interests
- May be influenced by political agendas
- Dominant personalities may have undue influence



Health needs assessment exercise

- Imagine you are now a GP and a member of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- You are at the first meeting of a working group set up to carry out health needs assessment for patients with COPD in the area
- The group brainstorms ideas using a mind map
- It uses a combination of all three approaches to health needs assessment
- An example of a mind map the group could have produced is shown on the next slide



Services potentially available

- Inhaled therapy
 - Mgt of exacerbations
 - Pulmonary rehabilitation
 - Immunisations
 - Home O₂
- Evidence of effectiveness + cost effectiveness (NICE, BTS etc)

Models of care (NICE, BTS, NSF)

what is available locally?

→ Produce recommendations



Health needs assessment exercise

Below are further scenarios to think through and sketch out using a mind map

- How would you assess the health needs of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)?
- How would you assess the health needs of patients with stroke?
- How would you assess the need for sexual health services?

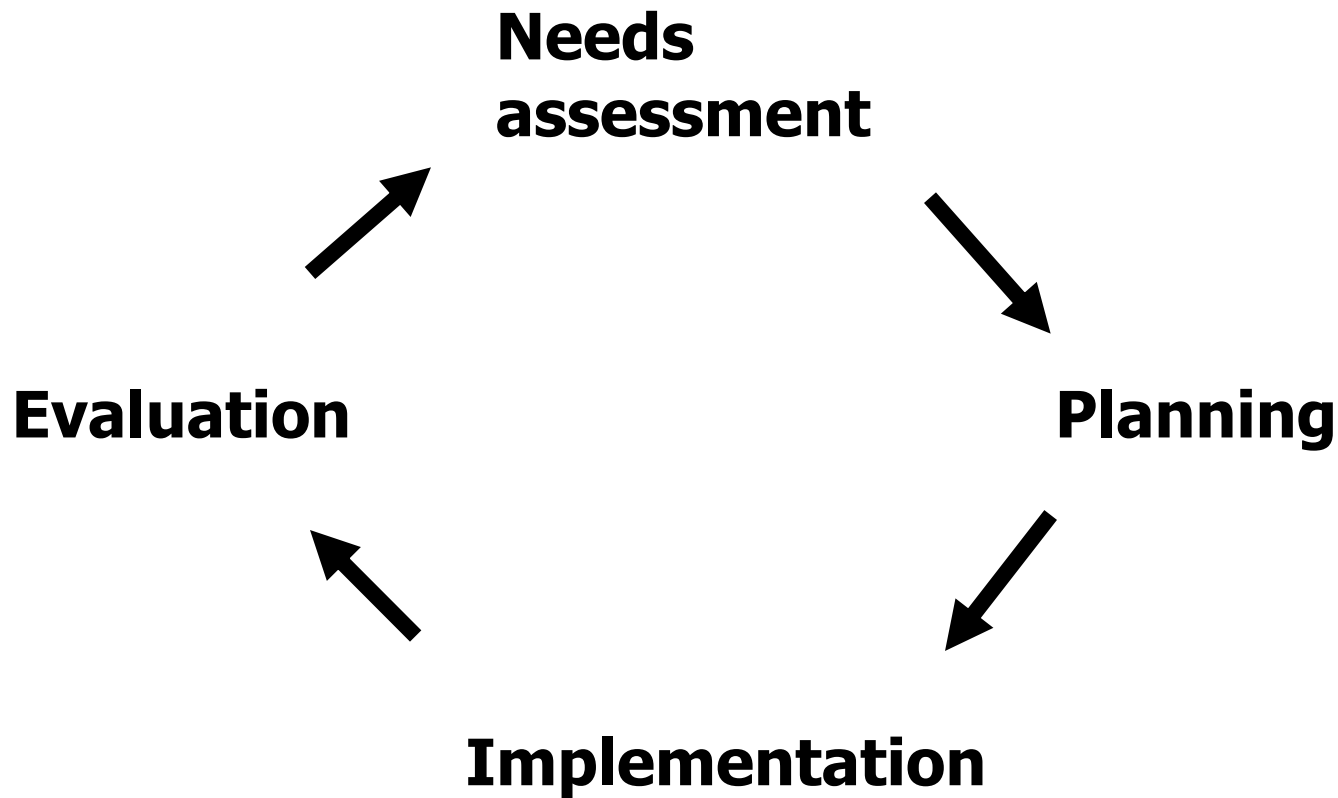


Exam type questions

- Explain what is meant by the comparative approach to health needs assessment.
- Give three potential limitations of the epidemiological approach to health needs assessment.
- Give one health related example of something that you consider is demanded but not needed or supplied, clearly explaining the reasoning for your example.

Needs assessment and planning

Planning cycle





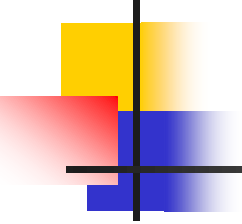
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- Any questions?

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- End of presentation
 - Do email me if you have any questions
 - r.maheswaran@sheffield.ac.uk
 - Thank you