

A vision for environmental health 2012

Adapted from the work by Ian Gray et al
(full report available on the HDA web-site)



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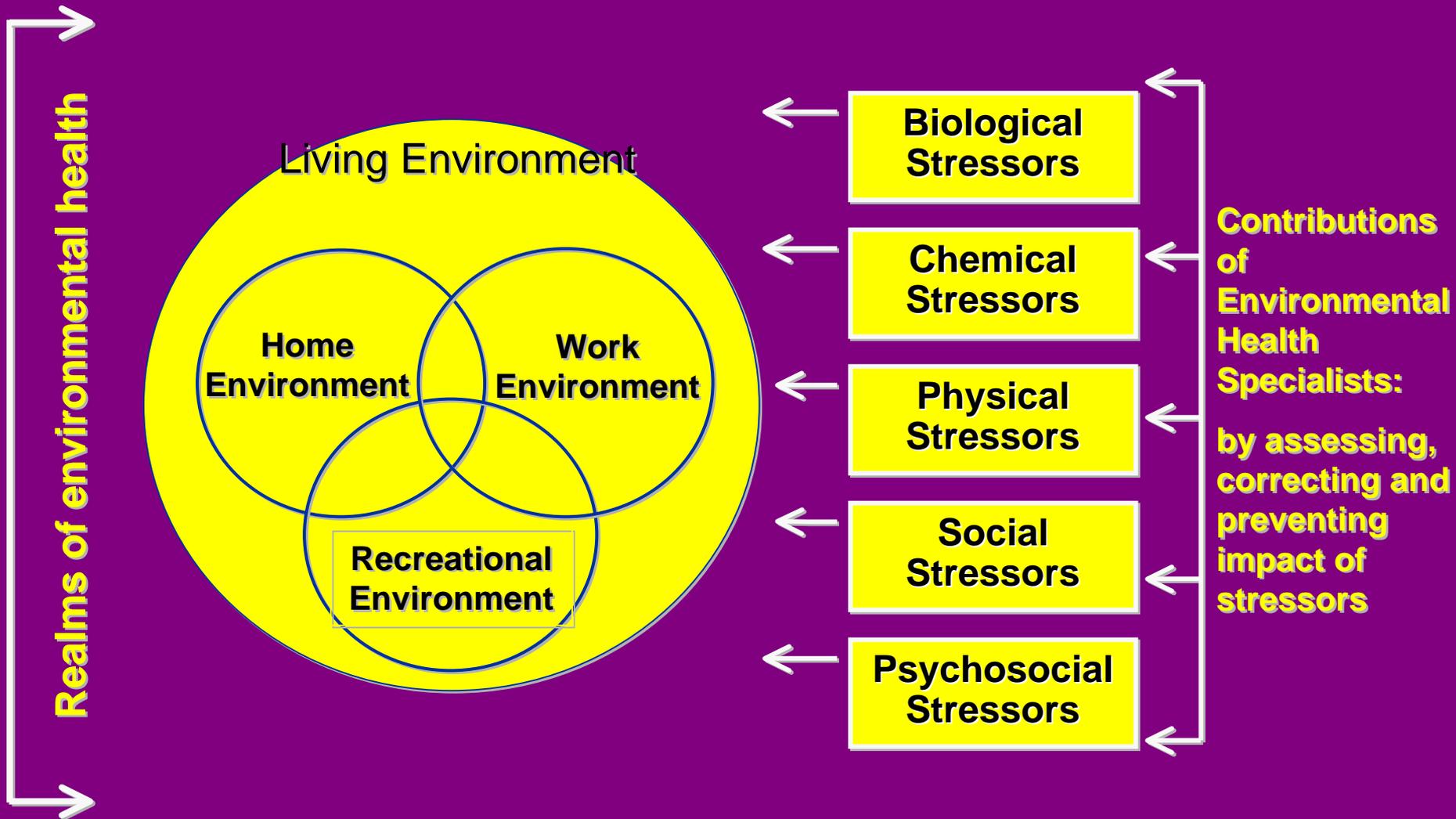
**Being an
Environmental
Health
Practitioner is...**

**...feeling part of
everything**



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Scope of Environmental Health Services



***‘It’s not the strongest species to survive -
it’s the one that can change’***

adapted from Charles Darwin,



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Strengths of Environmental Health

- EH has an important role in the government's planning and development for public health
- EH has a trained workforce of committed, multi-skilled people possessing analytical and practical problem solving skills
- EHP's have a long professional history; a wide knowledge that is scientifically based and linked to legislation and risk assessment



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Strengths of Environmental Health

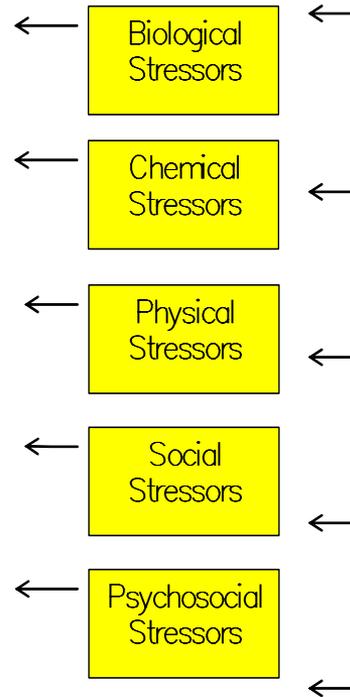
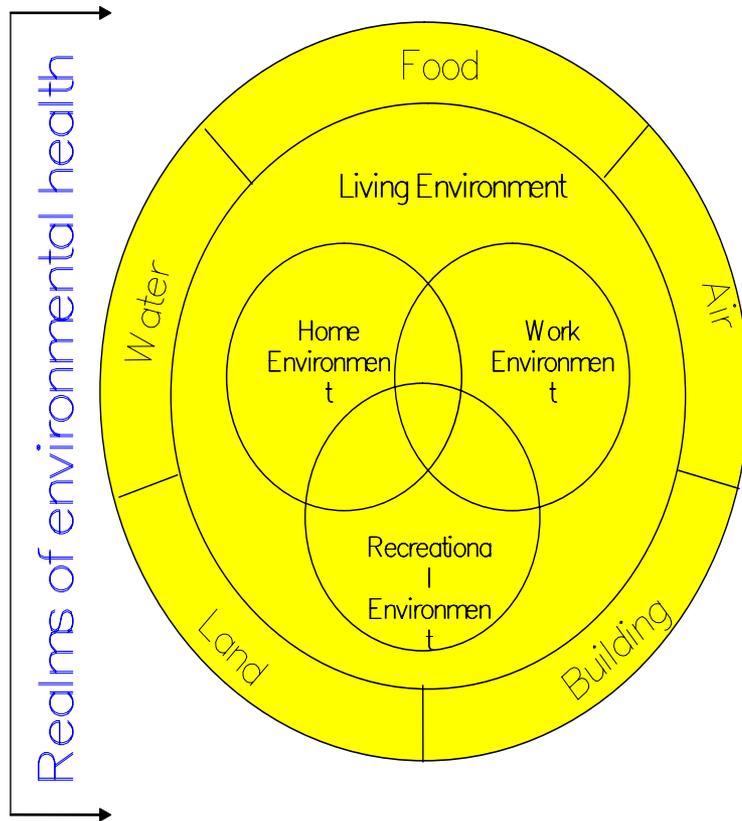
- EH recognises that its work is concerned with maintaining health (quality of Life) not curing sickness (disease)
- Many upstream interventions in public health come from local authority EH work
- EH work is based in the community, with the public, and is responsive to local needs. The public knows what environmental health does



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The UK Model of EH in 2012

KNOWLEDGE BASE



Contributions of Environmental Health Practitioners:
by assessing, correcting and preventing impact of stressors

OPERATIONAL SKILLS



The 'Niche' of Environmental Health

- Problem-solving skills. Supported by legal powers to intervene in the causes of ill health in the home, workplace and community.
- Actions directly influence health determinants and maintain healthy environments for the benefit of both individuals and wider communities, while also extending to the protection of the environment for future generations
- Prime focus of maintaining health rather than curing illness



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Overall Aim of the Vision

- E H Ps working with other public health professionals.
- Key partners in local and national efforts to protect and improve the health and quality of life of individuals and communities and reduce health inequalities .
- E H Ps maintain a direct relationship with the public, apply their expertise to the needs of individuals, tackling the wider determinants of population health by identifying, controlling and preventing current and future risks.
- E H Ps lead roles in L A development, coordination and implementation of community health and wellbeing strategies through Local Strategic Partnerships. Will actively contribute to the public health agenda of the NHS primary care trusts.
- E H Ps will contribute to tackling public health issues at regional, national and international levels



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Future Arrangements (1)

- Three key functions for EH:
 1. Regulation
 2. Strategy development
 3. Advocacy/brokerage on behalf of individuals, local communities and neighbourhoods concerning the wider determinants of health and inequalities



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Future Arrangements (2)

- Environmental Health will:
 1. Operate from a soundly based and adequately resourced position
 2. Contribute to work in key areas of public health and health improvement
 3. Play a major part in multi-disciplinary provision of public and community health, with some of its funding coming from pooled budgets derived from a variety of sources



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Future Arrangements (3)

- E H will:
 - 4 Work within the principles of L A 21 so that env. sustainability, the impact on future generations, and the effect of local activities beyond local environments are taken into account in addressing health issues
 - 5 Contribute to tackling inequalities in health status



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Future Arrangements (4)

- The E H contribution to public health and health improvement will span:
 1. Community support and development
 2. Economic, social and environmental regeneration
 3. Housing and planning
 4. Availability of wholesome drinking water supplies
 5. Quality and availability of safe and nutritious food supplies and support for local food production
 6. Prevention of accidents and injuries



Future Arrangements (5)

- 7 Control of infectious disease
- 8 Noise, pollution and the management of air quality and nuisances
- 9 Control on the use of contaminated land
- 10 Occupational health and safety, and the achievement of workplace standards that encourage home/work balance and support family life
- 11 Emergency planning
- 12 Other services provided by L As



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Future Arrangements (6)

- Environmental Health policies and practices will be based on:
 1. Recognition and respect for diversity in personal lifestyle choices
 2. Increasing availability of choice
 3. Encouraging healthy choice making



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Future Arrangements (7)

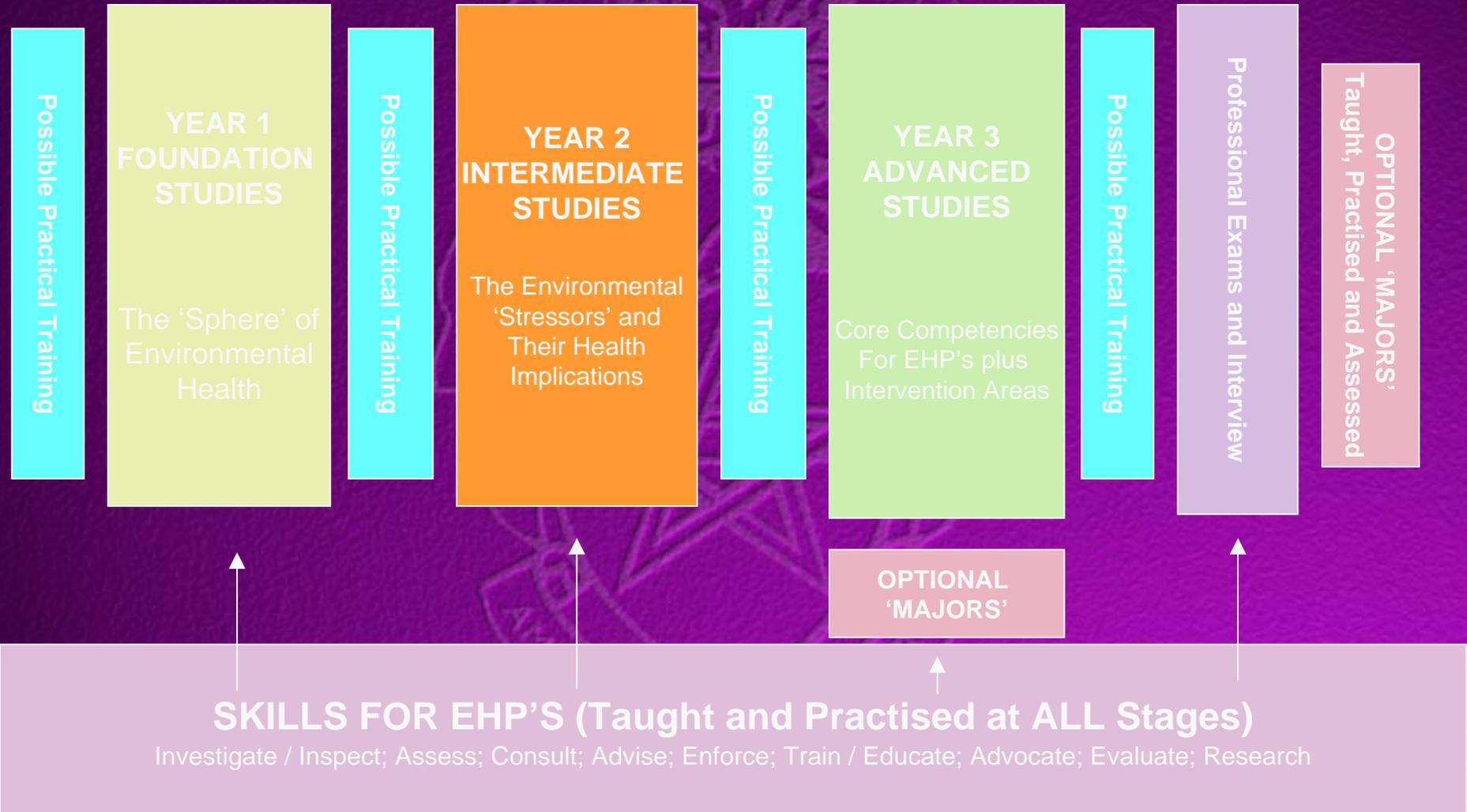
To facilitate healthy decisions within all areas of its remit, environmental health practices will support steps to:

- 1 Improve availability and access to healthy food
- 2 Improve the local environment, including housing and transport
- 3 Promote healthy living and physical activity
- 4 Address substance and alcohol misuse
- 5 Influence employers to ensure corporate policies take full account of their health impact e.g. work/homelife balance



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Draft Degree Structure



Re-vitalising the environmental health services systems

Graham Jukes

A reflection from the United Kingdom



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