

A Collaborative Exploration of Population Health Across the HSE National Clinical Programmes



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Background

- Population Health is an increasingly prominent concept, however, there is no universally agreed definition for it.
- Sláintecare¹ and the HSE Health Regions Implementation Plan² highlight the need to move towards a population health approach and population needs.
- This project sought to explore the alignment of the HSE National Clinical Programmes (NCPs) with a population health approach given the central role of the NCPs in clinical design and service improvement.

A Collaborative Project

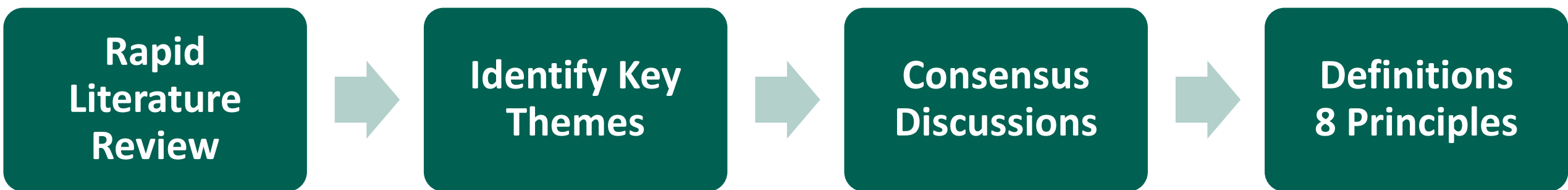
- This project was a collaboration between the National Health Service Improvement Team (Public Health, HSE), the HSE National Clinical Director for Integrated Care, and HSE Clinical Design and Innovation (CDI), for the Chief Clinical Officer (CCO).

Objectives

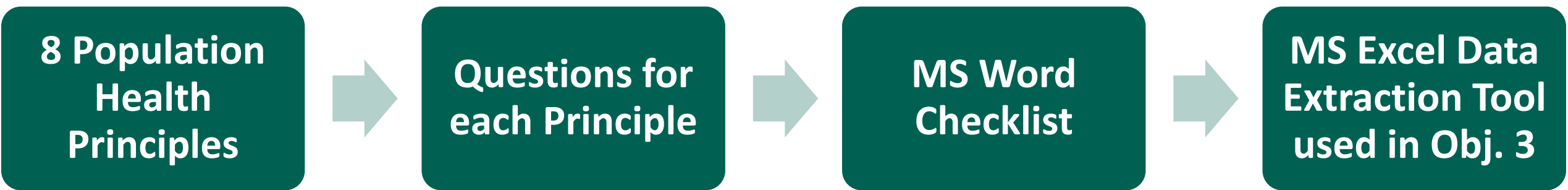
- Develop a definition for population health and identify key principles of a population health approach.
- Develop a Population Health Principles Checklist, for Objective 3.
- Conduct an 'As-Is' exploration of the NCPs focusing on alignment with the principles of a population health approach, including a gap analysis for opportunities to enhance alignment.

Methods

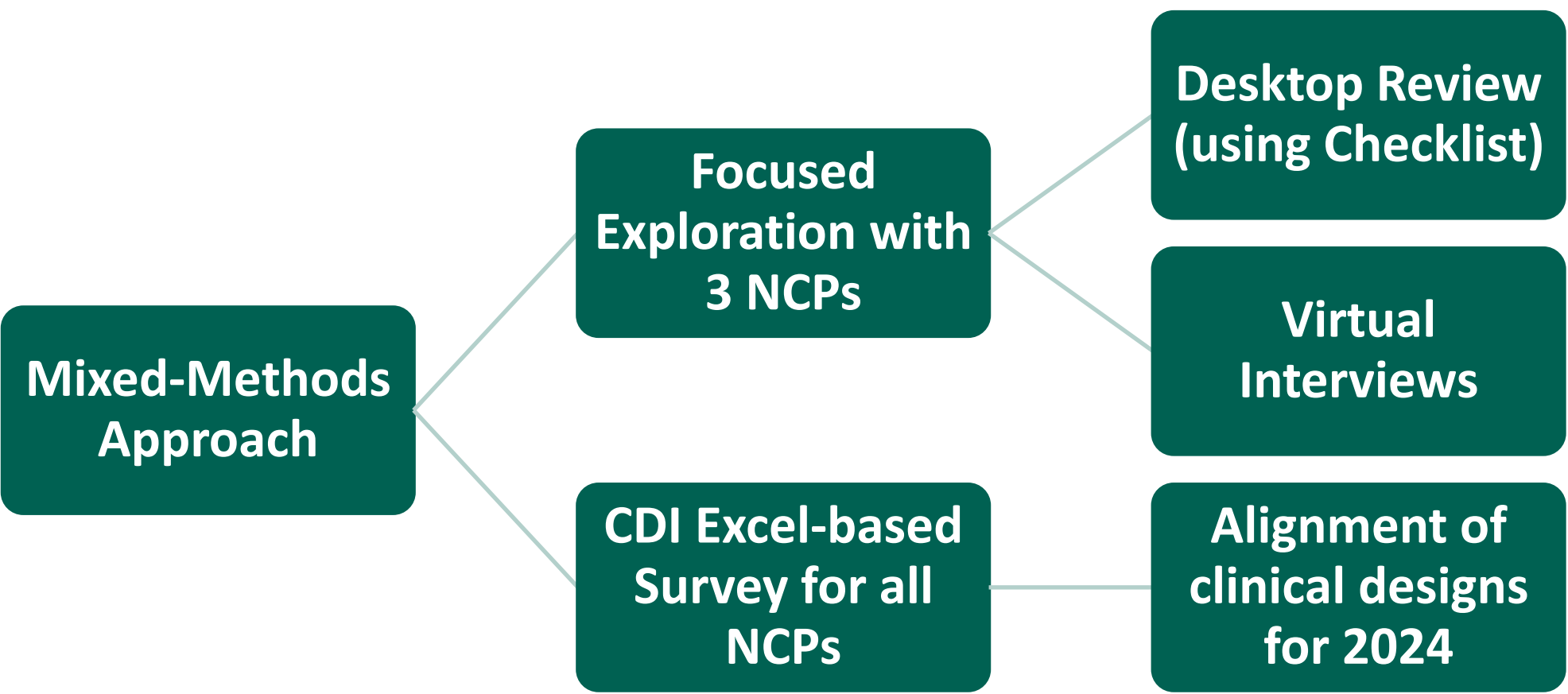
Objective 1: Defining Population Health



Objective 2: Developing a Population Health Principles Checklist

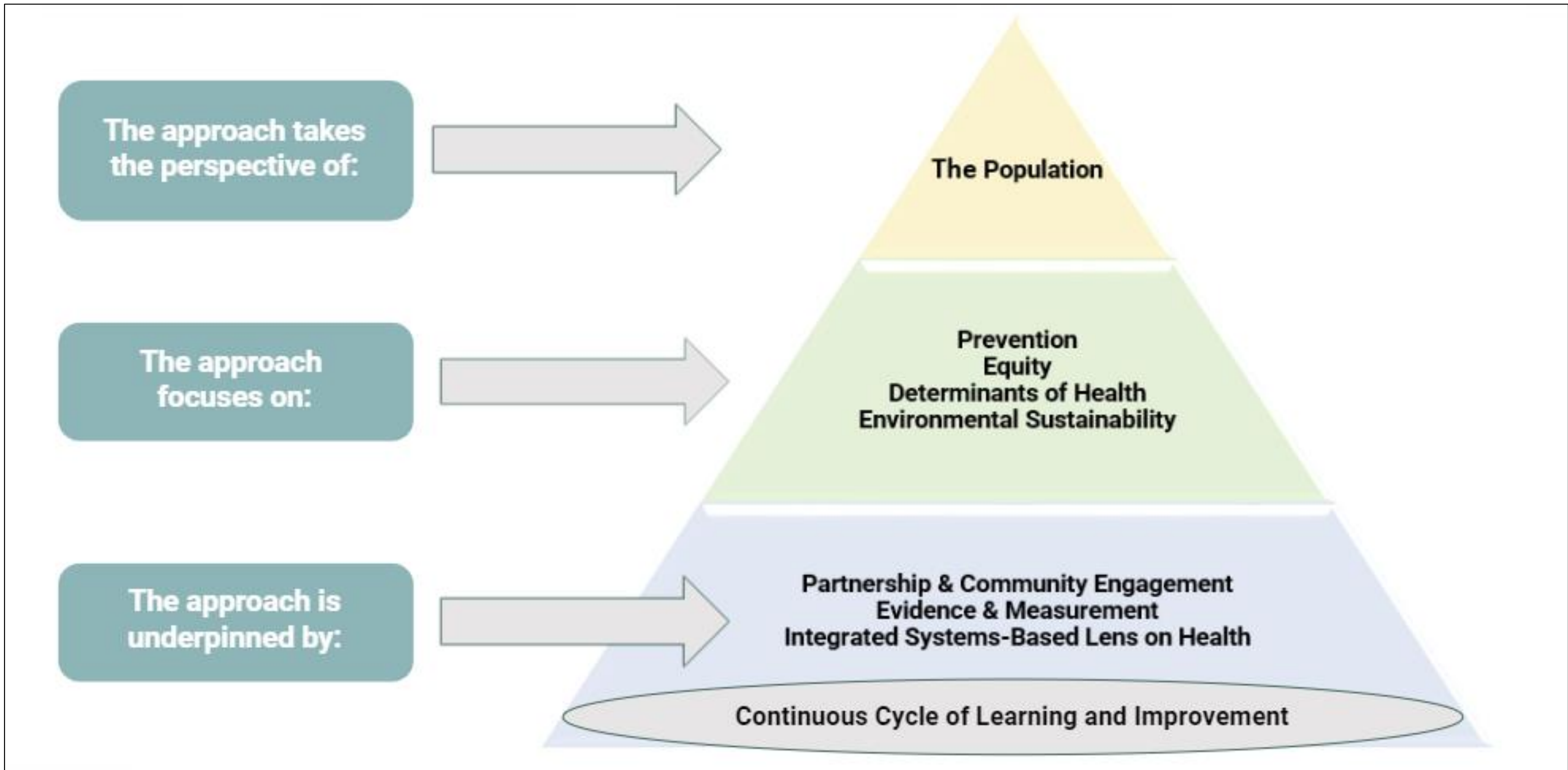


Objective 3: An 'As-Is' Exploration of Population Health Alignment



Results

Objective 1: A Population Health Approach*



*Interim approach developed by the National Health Service Improvement Team for this project.

Objective 3: Three Key Conclusions from an 'As-Is' Exploration

- A common understanding of a population health approach is essential
- There is an evolving understanding of and alignment with a population health approach by the NCPs
- Embedding and enabling consistency in a population health approach requires national leadership and support

Next Steps (2024 – 2025)

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NHSI Definitions Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none">NHSI leading project to co-design Irish definition and principles of population health with range of stakeholders |
| Project Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Internal Project Report produced for the CCOExternal Learning Report in development to share soon |
| Self-Assessment Tool | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Population Health Alignment Self-Assessment ToolIn development for NCPs – learning for wider groups |
| Enabling the Approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Scoping out the population health alignment journeyWhat is needed to enable NCPs to take this approach? |



Acknowledgements

The Project Team on behalf of the Project Working Group would like to acknowledge and thank the HSE NCPs involved in this project who generously gave their time and shared valuable insights on their programmes, particularly the Clinical Leads and Programme Managers of the three NCPs selected by CDI for the focused exploration undertaken as part of this project. The Project Team on behalf of the NHSI Team also extends its gratitude to the Project Working Group for their collaboration and input to this project (the Project Working Group includes members of the NHSI Team, the HSE National Clinical Director for Integrated Care, HSE Clinical Design and Innovation, and the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Chronic Disease).

References

- Department of Health. Sláintecare Action Plan 2023. 2023. Available from: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/49c5c-slaintecare-action-plan-2023/>
- Department of Health / HSE. HSE Health Regions Implementation Plan 2023. 2023. Available from: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/4eda4-slaintecare-regional-health-areas-rhas/#hse-health-regions-implementation-plan>

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