



The Compelling Case for Integrated Community Care: Setting the Scene

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Paper to the *1st Transnational Conference on Integrated Community Care*, Chamber of Crafts, Hamburg, Germany, 24th September 2018



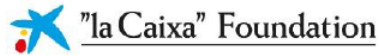
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TransForm: A Joint Initiative

TransForm is a joint initiative of Foundations in and beyond Europe that is funded and hosted by the Network of European Foundation.



TransForm has the ambition to put the community at the centre of primary and integrated care. It aims to inspire policy-makers and practitioners to mobilise change and strengthen the capacity of local communities to deal with public health issues and better meet the needs of community members across the life course, especially to the most vulnerable.

What do we mean by Integrated Community Care?

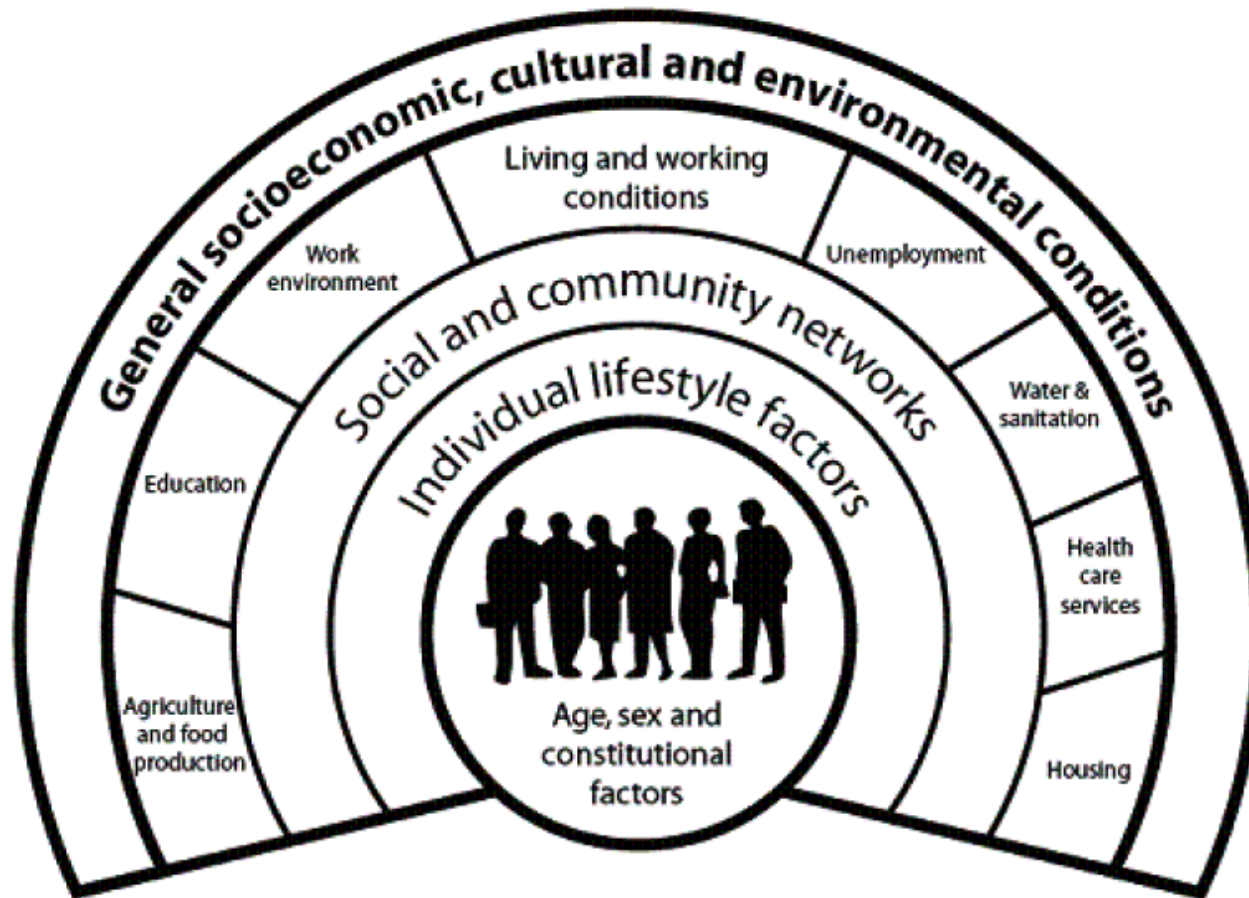
- Integrated community care is a new concept
- Its core purpose is to improve quality of care and quality of life to vulnerable individuals, families and communities.
- It is grounded in **community health** – that ability to maintain, protect and improve the health of all members of local communities through organised and sustained community efforts
- It is supported by **integrated care** – the effective coordination of care through inter-sectoral collaborations underpinned by co-productive partnerships
- This conference seeks to develop a common understanding of the meaning and logic of integrated community care, illustrate the potential for its positive impact, and examine how to design and adopt such innovations effectively

Key Characteristics of Integrated Community Care

- Care delivery that takes an assets-based approach to community health development and which engages and empowers people in local communities as co-producers of their health;
- Care delivery that is place-based (i.e. to a specific neighbourhood or community) and achieved through cross-sectoral and inter-professional partnerships which bring together both formal and informal care actors;
- Care delivery that seeks to care for people in the home environment through primary/community care-based activities – i.e. in non-institutional settings
- Promotion of health & wellbeing – combatting social exclusion and social isolation



Integrated Community Care: Putting People and Communities at the Centre



(Dahlgren & Whitehead, 1991)

The Compelling Case for Change

- Relative improvement in people's health remain vastly unequal between and within countries;
- The gap is widening as a result of key socio-demographic trends such as ageing, chronicity, and lifestyle indicators;
- Traditional approaches to care – curative and disease-based – are no longer effective and sustainable;
- Underserved and marginalised populations are being left behind;
- A fundamental shift is therefore required to better address the key challenges of the future;
- TransForm seeks to examine how integrated community care



Promising Practices

- Over the last year, TransForm has sought to ‘map’ promising practices in integrated community care across the world via multiple sources of information;
- Great heterogeneity in their form, function and focus – no ‘one model’ exists for delivery
- Four common approaches include:
 - Strengthening communities – tackling the social determinants of ill-health
 - Developing community support structures – enhancing local people’s capabilities to improve community health and wellbeing
 - Building collaborative partnerships – communities working in partnership with the health and care sector
 - Improving access to community resources, information and social activities

What is the Impact of Integrated Community Care?

The evidence base is limited due the lack of evaluation of approaches that are often of small-scale and driven through local community action.

YET, many case examples demonstrate significant benefits. especially if an assets-based approach is used that focuses on improving population health.

For example, positive impact has been demonstrated through:

- Building resilience amongst local communities to address public health problems;
- Encouraging health seeking behaviours;
- Tackling inequalities by reducing social exclusion and social isolation;
- Improving individual and community wellbeing;
- Supporting more sustainable and cost-effective care by reducing reliance on 'traditional' care and support systems



TransForm's Ambition

- There are convincing economic, moral, sustainability and quality arguments for utilising a community-based approach to improve people's health and wellbeing
- Radical transformation is needed to make better use of community assets and to break-down barriers that get in the way of effective collaborations
- Policy-making and policy-makers are essential to enable real progress to be made through developing an enabling environment for change
- Over the course of TransForm's conference series, we seek to engage with key stakeholders to understand what can be done to advocate for, and support the development of, integrated community care in practice



The 1st TransForm Conference: Key Aims

1. Develop a common understanding of the meaning of integrated community care;
2. Demonstrate through evidence the positive impact that integrated community care can have on tackling inequalities, improving care experiences and care outcomes;
3. Illustrate how integrated community care can and has been adopted in practice, and learn the lessons from these implementation experiences;
4. Explore the essential design elements in how these new community-led approaches to care delivery operate and what this means for their ongoing organisation and management; and
5. Examine how policy and policy-makers can enable innovations in ICC to flourish

