

# Different People, Same Place

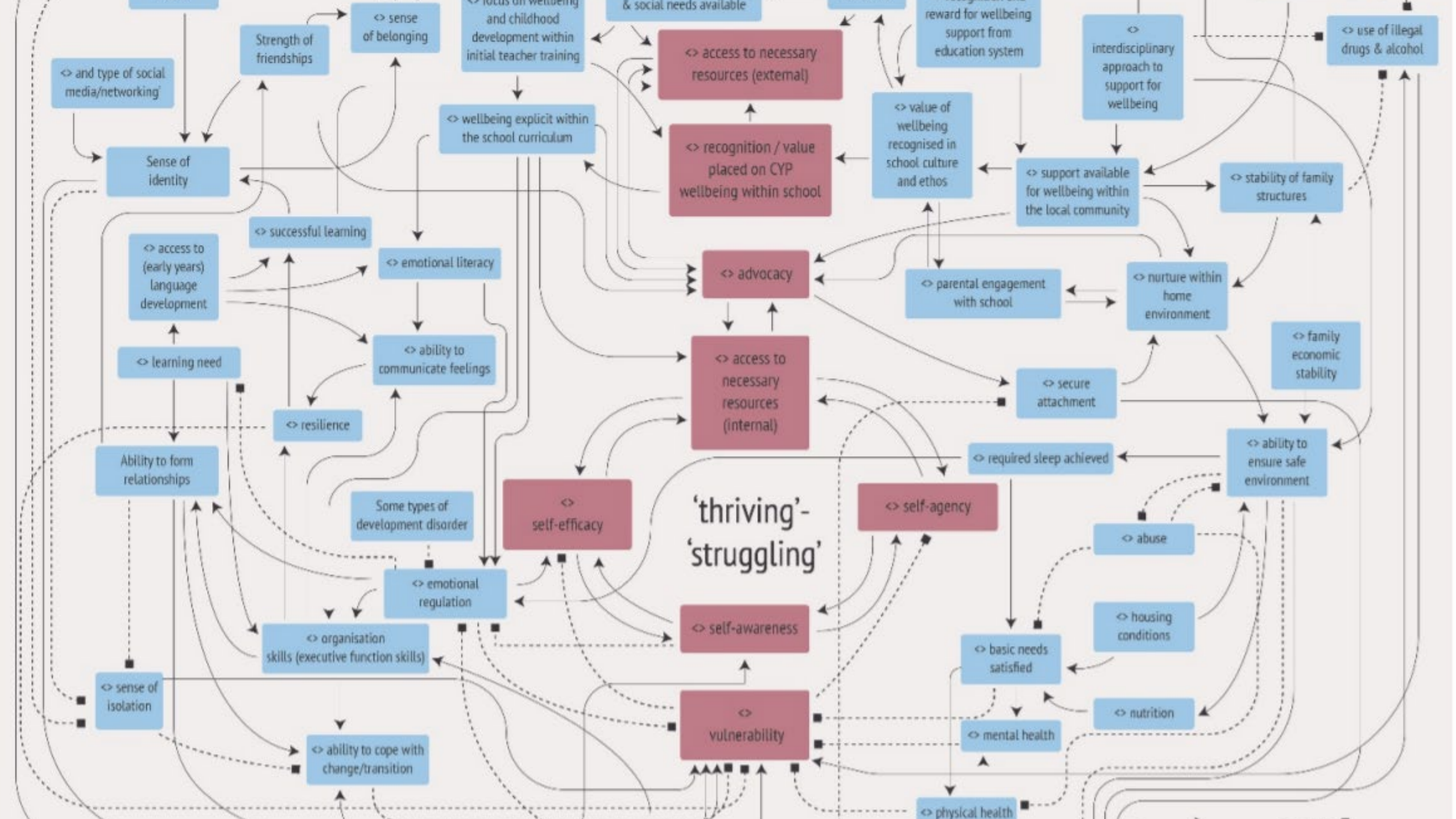


Exploring how community wellbeing is linked to individual wellbeing

In partnership with



There are many different models that capture components of individual and community wellbeing

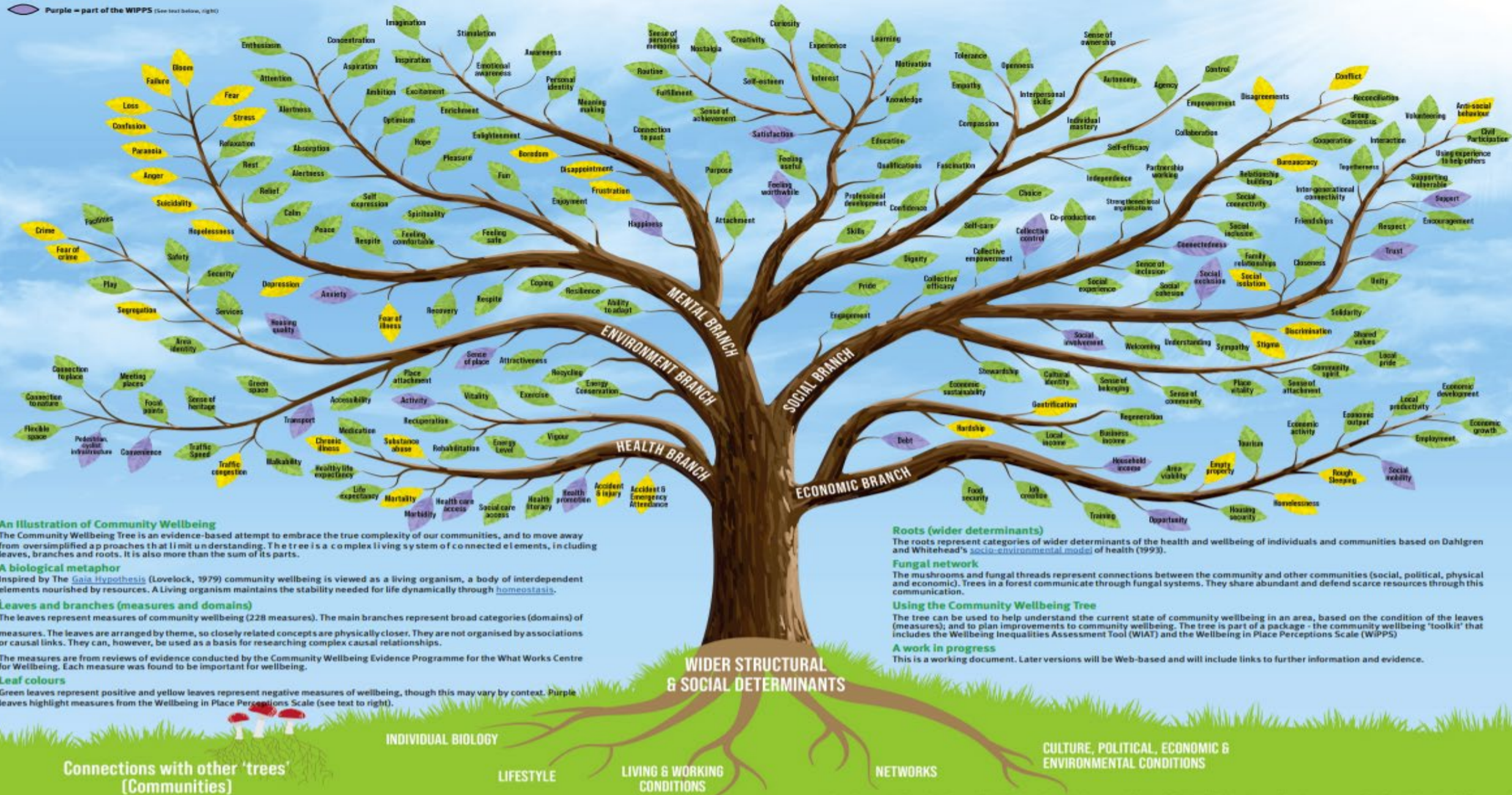


# THE COMMUNITY WELLBEING TREE

## A CONCEPTUAL ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM

### LEGEND (LEAF COLOURS)

- Green = positive indicators
- Yellow = negative indicators
- Purple = part of the WIPPS (see text below, right)



**An Illustration of Community Wellbeing**  
 The Community Wellbeing Tree is an evidence-based attempt to embrace the true complexity of our communities, and to move away from oversimplified approaches that limit understanding. The tree is a complex living system of connected elements, including leaves, branches and roots. It is also more than the sum of its parts.

**A biological metaphor**  
 Inspired by The [Gala Hypothesis](#) (Lovelock, 1979) community wellbeing is viewed as a living organism, a body of interdependent elements nourished by resources. A living organism maintains the stability needed for life dynamically through [homeostasis](#).

**Leaves and branches (measures and domains)**  
 The leaves represent measures of community wellbeing (228 measures). The main branches represent broad categories (domains) of measures. The leaves are arranged by theme, so closely related concepts are physically closer. They are not organised by associations or causal links. They can, however, be used as a basis for researching complex causal relationships.

The measures are from reviews of evidence conducted by the Community Wellbeing Evidence Programme for the What Works Centre for Wellbeing. Each measure was found to be important for wellbeing.

**Leaf colours**  
 Green leaves represent positive and yellow leaves represent negative measures of wellbeing, though this may vary by context. Purple leaves highlight measures from the Wellbeing in Place Perceptions Scale (see text to right).

**Roots (wider determinants)**  
 The roots represent categories of wider determinants of the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities based on Dahlgren and Whitehead's [social-environmental model](#) of health (1993).

**Fungal network**  
 The mushrooms and fungal threads represent connections between the community and other communities (social, political, physical and economic). Trees in a forest communicate through fungal systems. They share abundant and defend scarce resources through this communication.

**Using the Community Wellbeing Tree**  
 The tree can be used to help understand the current state of community wellbeing in an area, based on the condition of the leaves (measures); and to plan improvements to community wellbeing. The tree is part of a package - the community wellbeing 'toolkit' that includes the Wellbeing Inequalities Assessment Tool (WIAT) and the Wellbeing in Place Perceptions Scale (WIPPS)

**A work in progress**  
 This is a working document. Later versions will be Web-based and will include links to further information and evidence.

Connections with other 'trees' (Communities)

INDIVIDUAL BIOLOGY

LIFESTYLE

LIVING & WORKING CONDITIONS

NETWORKS

CULTURE, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

# The Welleye

What people attend to  
(The lens)

The sclera

The cornea

The pupil

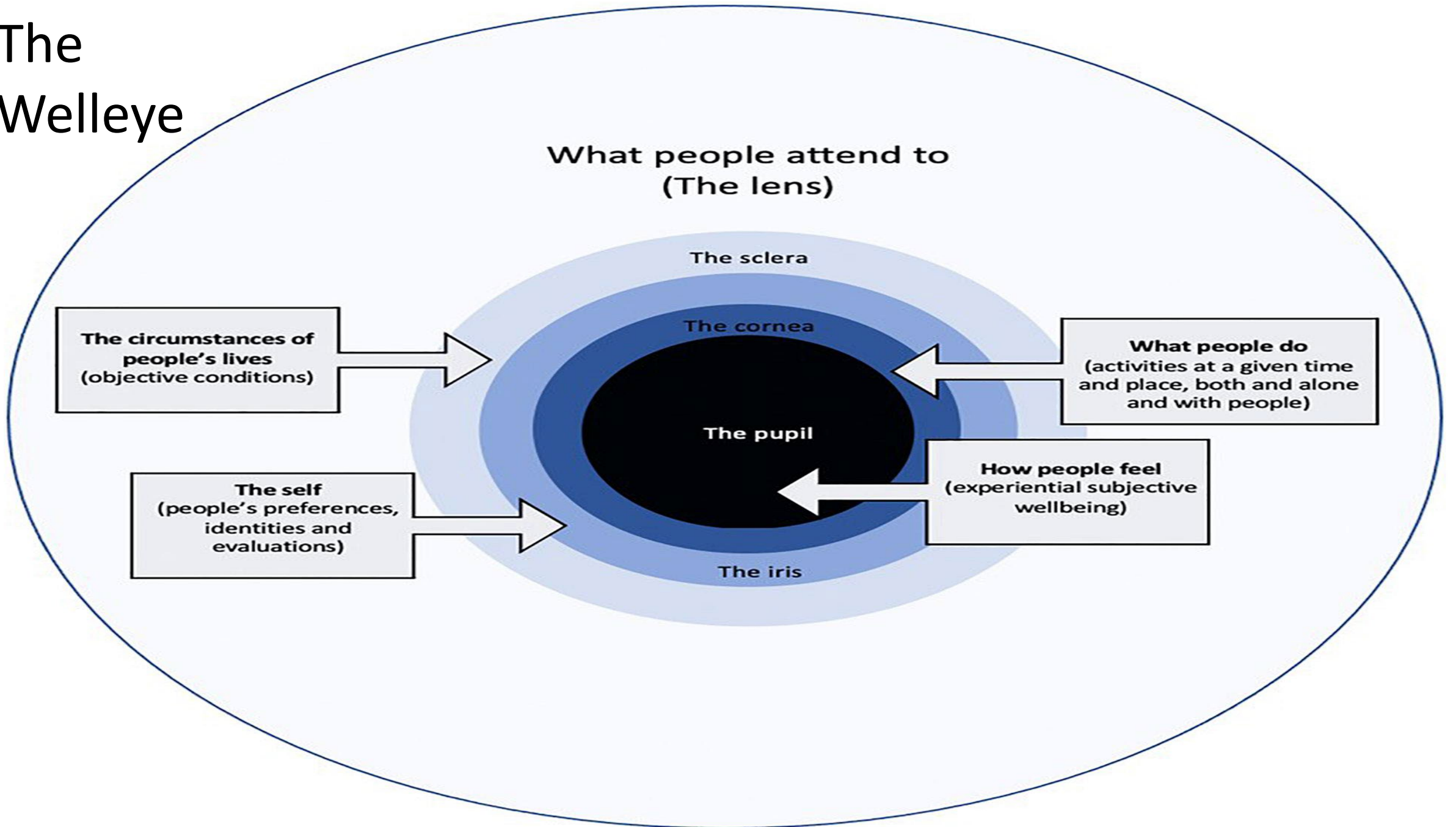
The iris

**The circumstances of people's lives**  
(objective conditions)

**What people do**  
(activities at a given time and place, both and alone and with people)

**The self**  
(people's preferences, identities and evaluations)

**How people feel**  
(experiential subjective wellbeing)

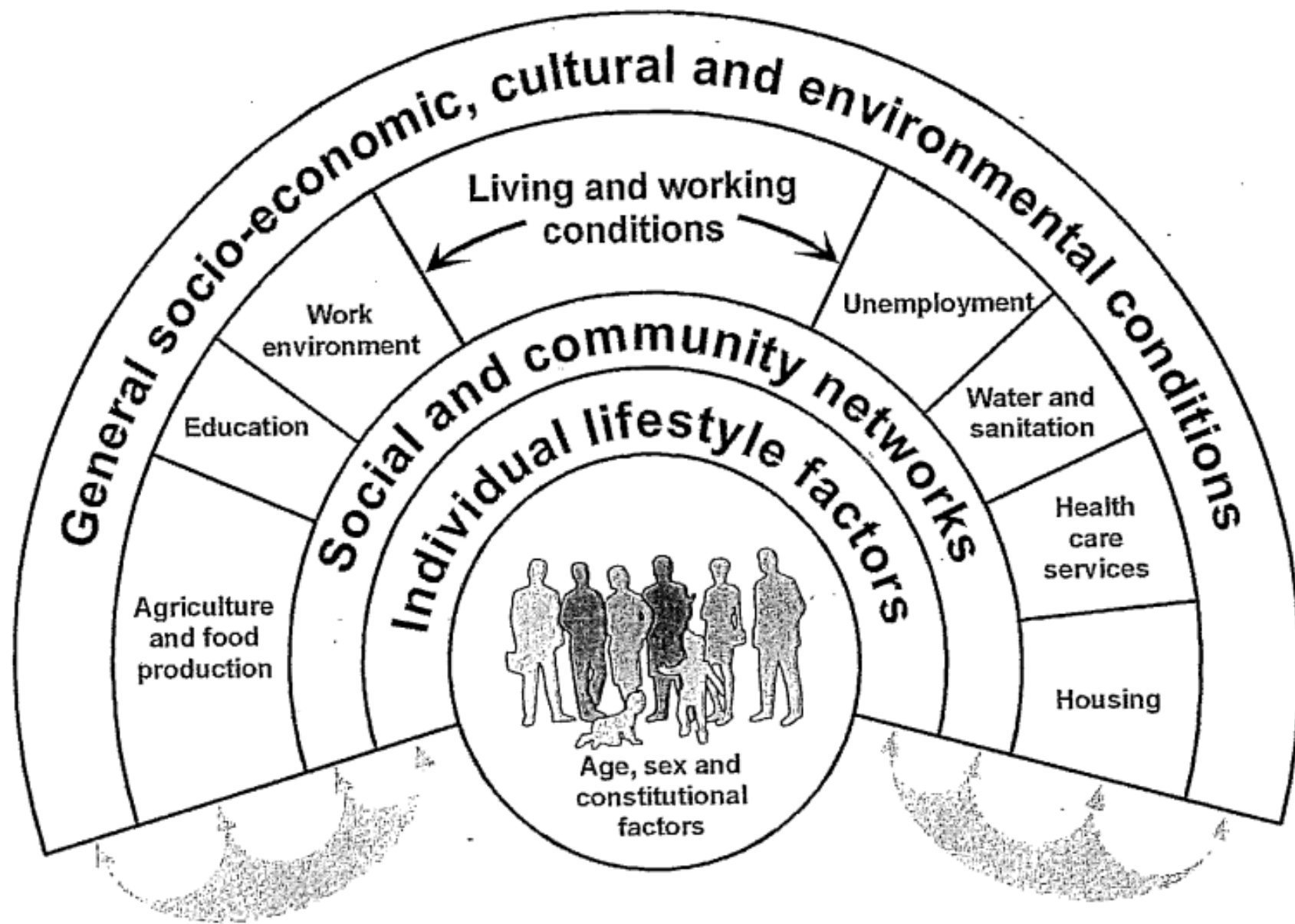




## The Community Spirit Level:

A framework for measuring, improving and sustaining community spirit







We add a model focussed on *levels* and  
informing *effectiveness evaluations*



COMMUNITY WELLBEING



INDIVIDUAL WELLBEING





# COMMUNITY WELLBEING



Objective factors



Subjective 'links' (mechanisms)



Subjective wellbeing



# INDIVIDUAL WELLBEING





# COMMUNITY WELLBEING



Objective factors



Subjective 'links' (mechanisms)



Subjective wellbeing



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# COMMUNITY WELLBEING



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### FIXED

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## Subjective 'links' (mechanisms)



## Subjective wellbeing



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# COMMUNITY WELLBEING



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E.g. quality and quantity of relationships and behaviours such as volunteering and exercise.

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Evaluations, thoughts about **life overall**.  
E.g. 'I think my life is going well'.

Feelings, experiences **over lifetimes**.  
E.g. how happy people feel right now and if they feel the activities they do in life are meaningful.

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*All models are wrong, some  
are useful....*

# References to earlier models

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