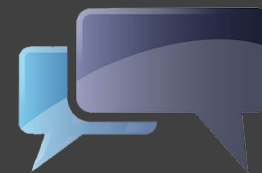




Public participation of vulnerable and marginalised groups in decision-making



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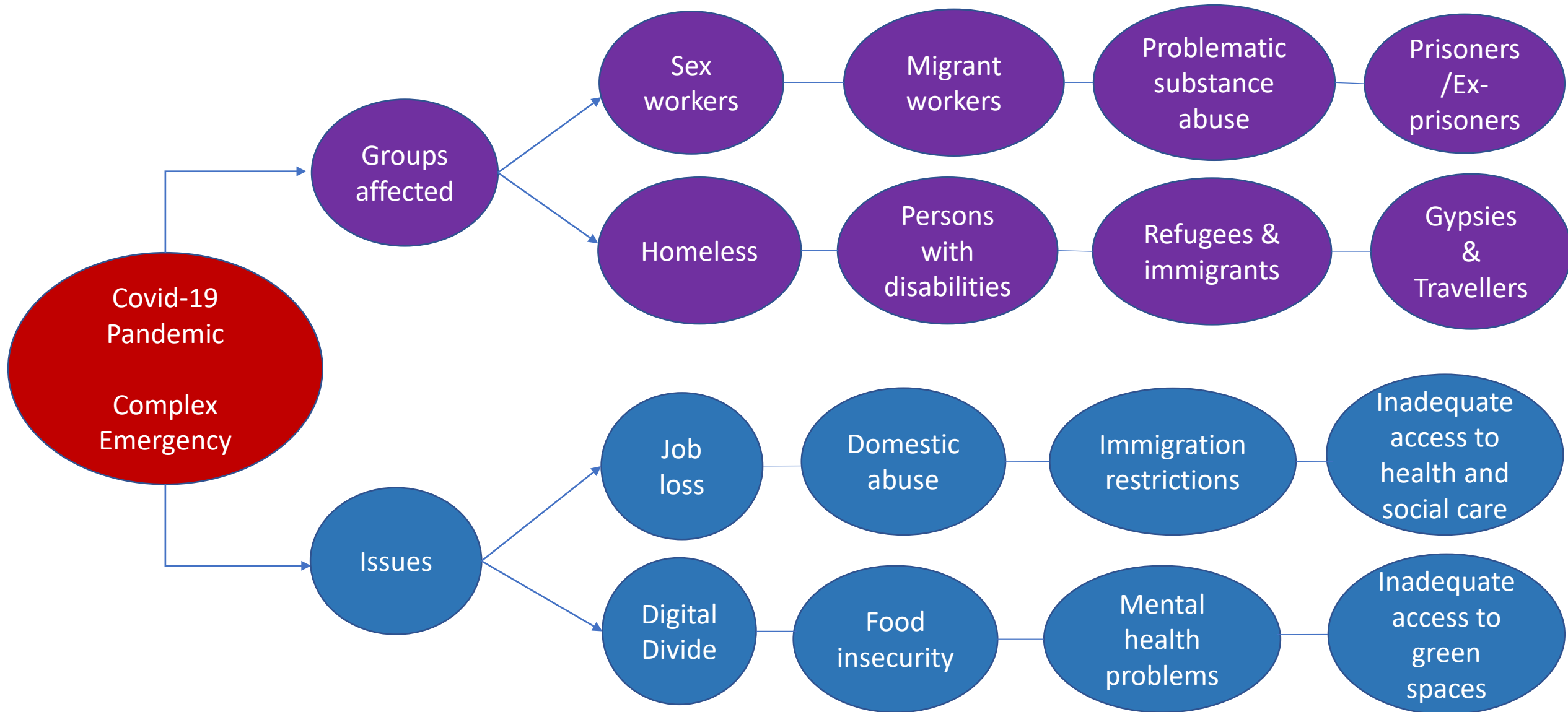


Setting the scene

- **Impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable and marginalised groups**
- **Removing barriers that prevent vulnerable and marginalised groups' public participation**
- **Maximising public participation**
- **The value of *continuous engagement* with vulnerable and marginalised groups**
- **Conclusions and relevance to Aarhus Convention principles**



Impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable and marginalised groups





What has Covid taught us about public engagement with 'seldom-heard' groups?

- **Digital First** – new engagement techniques
- **Traditional methods of communication** for '*seldom online*' groups
- **The third sector and faith institutions** are crucial partners
- **Collecting demographic data**



Reflections on the purposes of Equality Legislation

- The Equality Act (2010), UK
- General duties include:
 - 'Due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination
 - To advance equality of opportunity
 - Foster good relations
- Marginalised and vulnerable groups also share protected characteristics



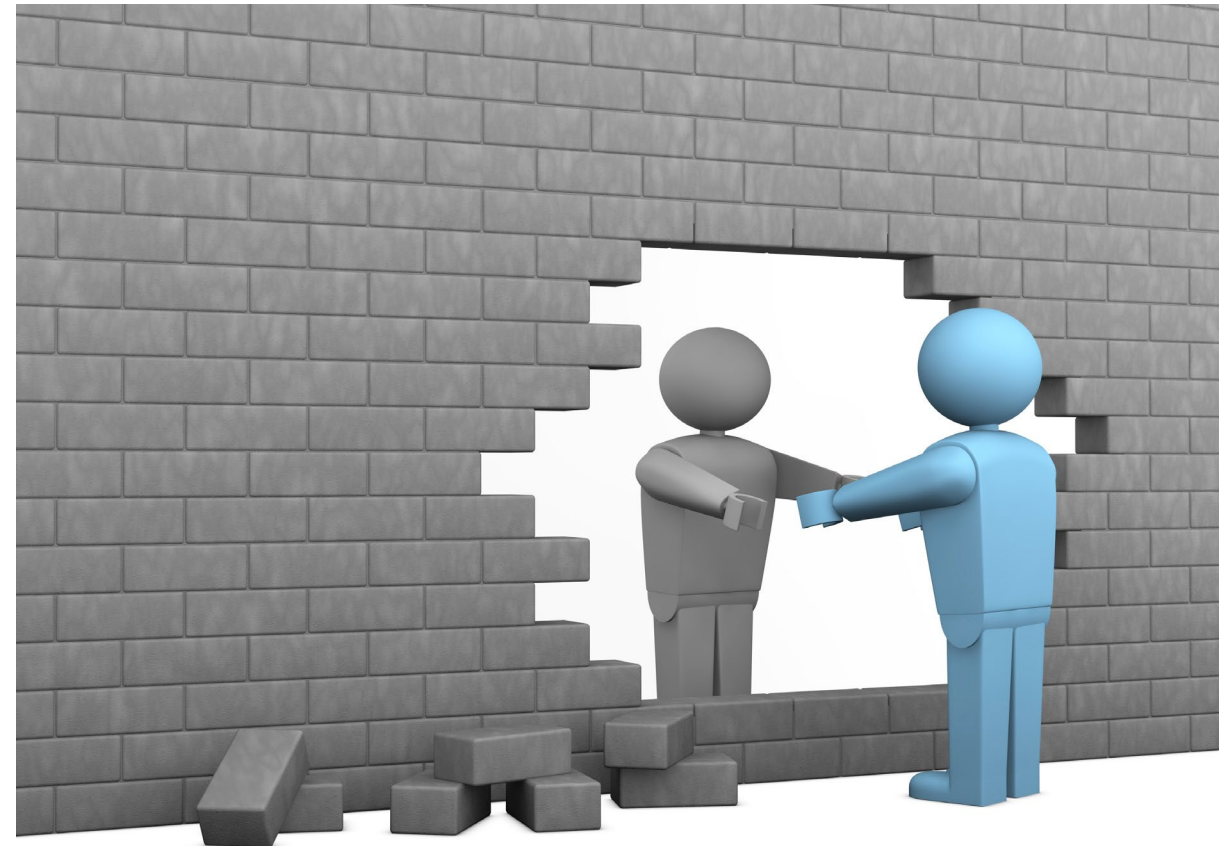


Communication

Physical

Attitude, perceptions and culture

Political



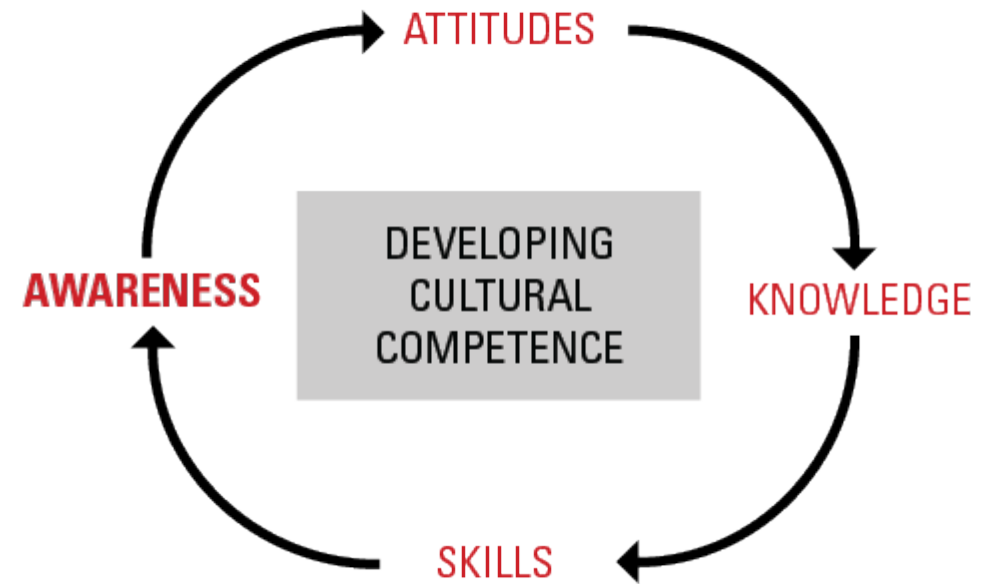


Communication styles

Cultural competency

Meaningful engagement

How can public bodies maximise public participation?





The value of continuous engagement

Continuous engagement is a **coordinated long-term approach** to public engagement

- Keeping vulnerable and marginalised groups engaged
- Building capacity and confidence
- Developing trust and building relationships
- Sharing new developments and research
- Demonstrating utility



Case Study: Continuous Engagement Pilot - The Health sector in Wales

- Policy direction from Welsh Government to **move away from one-off formal consultation** to a more **continuous process** with citizens
- The process of continuous engagement quality assured around **five measures**: Activity, Relevance, Opportunity, Information and Consideration
- The Outcomes:



Continuous Engagement

- **Early public participation**
- **Timing**
- **Sufficient information**
- **Stakeholder feedback and outcome**



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