

The professional is political?

Focussing the sustainability lens in nursing education

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Aim

To explore with fellow
Symposium participants why ESD
might be failing to gain traction
in nursing education (at least in
my own institution)

The personal is professional?



Sustainability at the University of Nottingham



The world's
greenest
university?



Think globally, deliver locally, and engage personally.....

But what does ‘think globally’ mean for health?

Definition of global health:

- An area for practice, study and research that places a priority on improving health, achieving equity in health for all people
- Emphasizes transnational health issues, determinants and solutions
- Implies planetary health which equals human, animal, environmental and ecosystem health

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ESD Staff Survey 2012

Nottingham

- Nursing, midwifery and physiotherapy
- Sent to all members of teaching staff (n = 194)
- 42 responses = 22%

Plymouth

- Nursing and Midwifery
- Sent to all members of teaching staff (n = 80)
- 22 responses = 27%

Views on climate change

Which of the statements below best reflects your views on climate change? (Please tick all that apply)

- I have yet to be convinced by the evidence on global warming
- I have confidence that human ingenuity will triumph over any future problems
- I lie awake at night worrying about the Earth's future
- Climate change is the biggest threat to human health in the 21st century
- I'm not sure of the arguments – tell me more

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Sustainability Practices

Which of the statements below best reflects your ‘sustainability practices’? (Please tick all that apply)

- I will be manning the barricades at the next Earth Summit
- I try to buy less ‘stuff’ and recycle as much as I can
- I carry on as normal until forced or ‘nudged’
- I have made a lot of changes as I try to reduce my carbon footprint, some of which make life harder for me and my family
- I don’t know what you mean by ‘sustainability practices’

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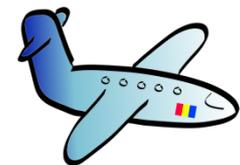
Free text comments

Perhaps we should work more sustainably as a school and set an example - more impact than trying to teach about it! Could we reduce paper and handouts, travel for meetings - more conference calling, skypeing etc.

Sustainability is at odds with a health service that wants disposability to prevent potential risks & hence litigation

We have FAR more important aspects to get across to students in order to give them the nursing knowledge they need, this has to be our priority!!!!

When the rich and powerful stop using aircraft like the rest of us use buses then I will worry about my carbon footprint



Personal... Professional... Political?

“.... the relevance of sustainable development to a subject area is not clear-cut: the decision on whether to include it within the curriculum appears to depend upon both the lecturers’ **personal beliefs** and the disciplinary context in which they work.”

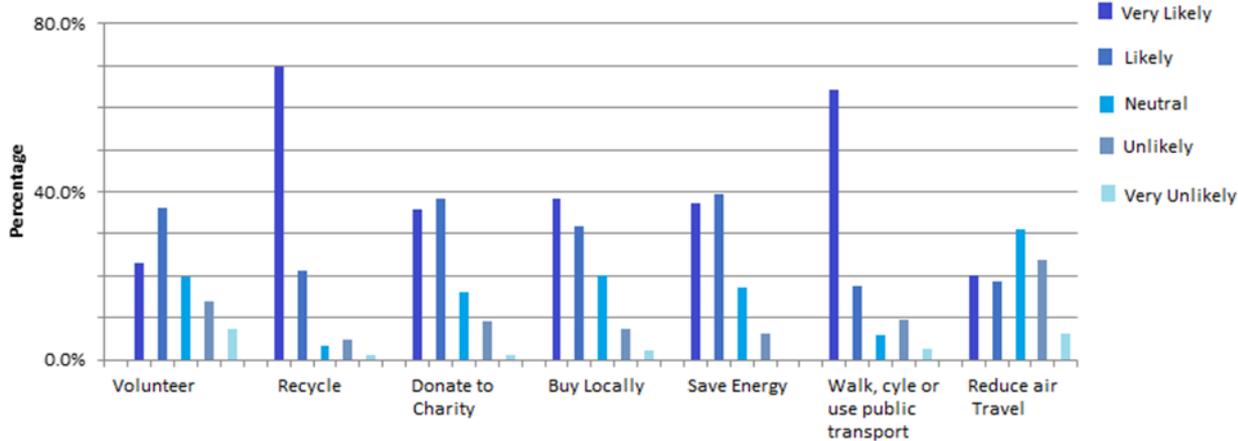
Survey of UoN nursing students 2014

- Online survey sent out to 1347 undergraduate nursing students
- 188 responded (13.7%)
- 70% in 18-24 age bracket
- Based on questions in HEA survey of students' attitudes towards SD (Drayson et al, 2012)

Findings

Similar to HEA survey, nursing students reported doing 'quite a few' environmentally friendly things

Graph 1. How likely, if at all, are you to take part in the following actions during your time at university?



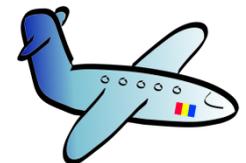
Findings

120 students had heard of the term 'sustainable development', 68 had not

Around half of the students wanted to know more (18 emphatically did not)

61 students felt SD should be included in the nursing curriculum, 90 were 'neutral', 37 disagreed

Only 2 students reported having heard of the NHS SDU



The myth of the green student?

Several interviewees [...] stated that in their view, genuine student commitment to issues of this kind tends to be limited to a small number of highly committed individuals only. Others commented that in their experience, most students tend to be focused upon immediate goals such as gaining their degree and later, employment, rather than wider issues affecting society, including sustainable practice.

Butt et al, 2014, p.799



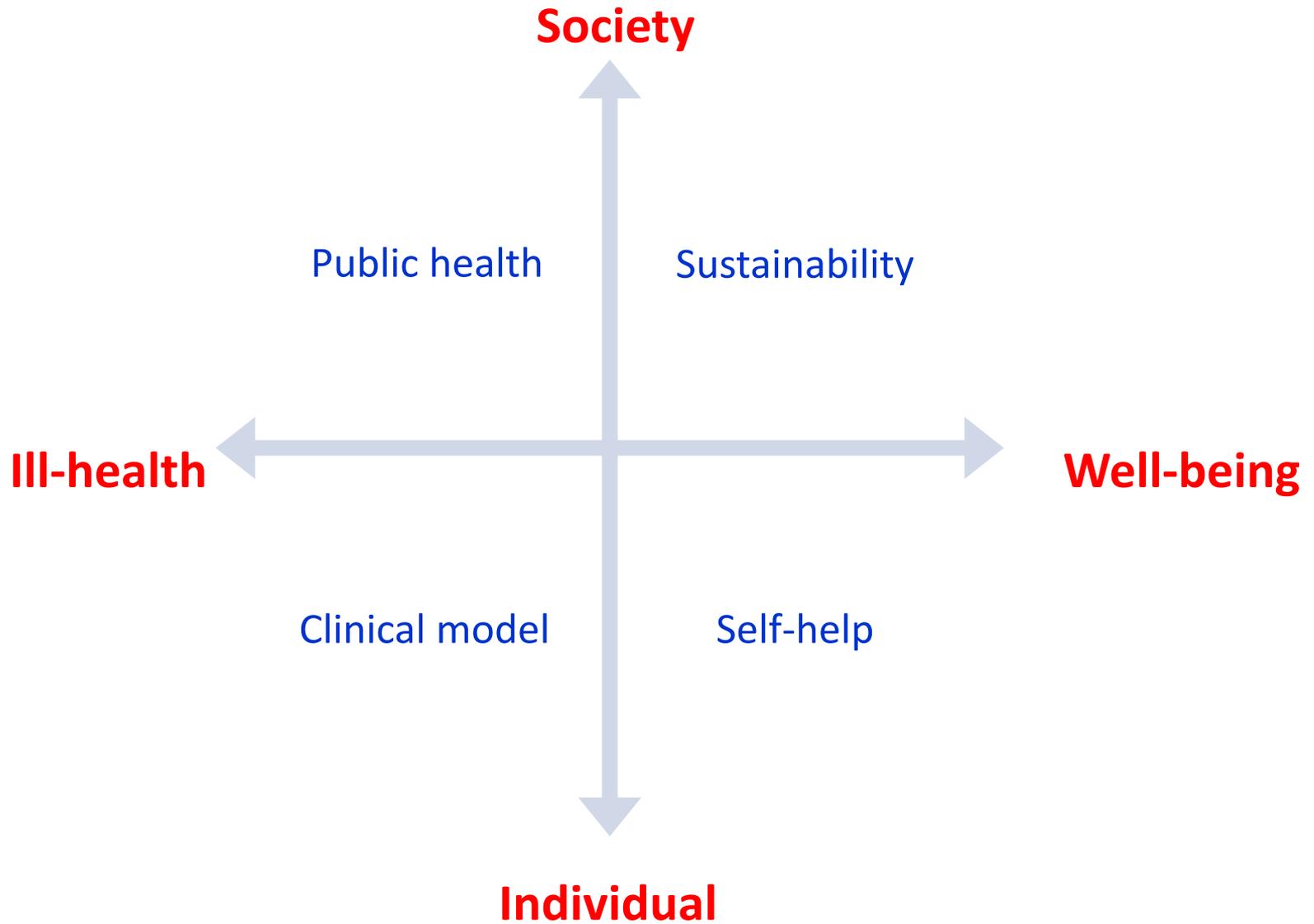
Personal... Professional... Political?

Participants “expressed an awareness of their individual responsibility to positively influence the environment and be sustainable, but simultaneously, they said that broad issue of the effects of climate change on health appeared to be overwhelming and difficult to grasp.

As a workplace consists of individuals, the question of how nurses can and should work to promote sustainability is substantially influenced by an individual’s **personal knowledge and opinions** about environmental concerns.”

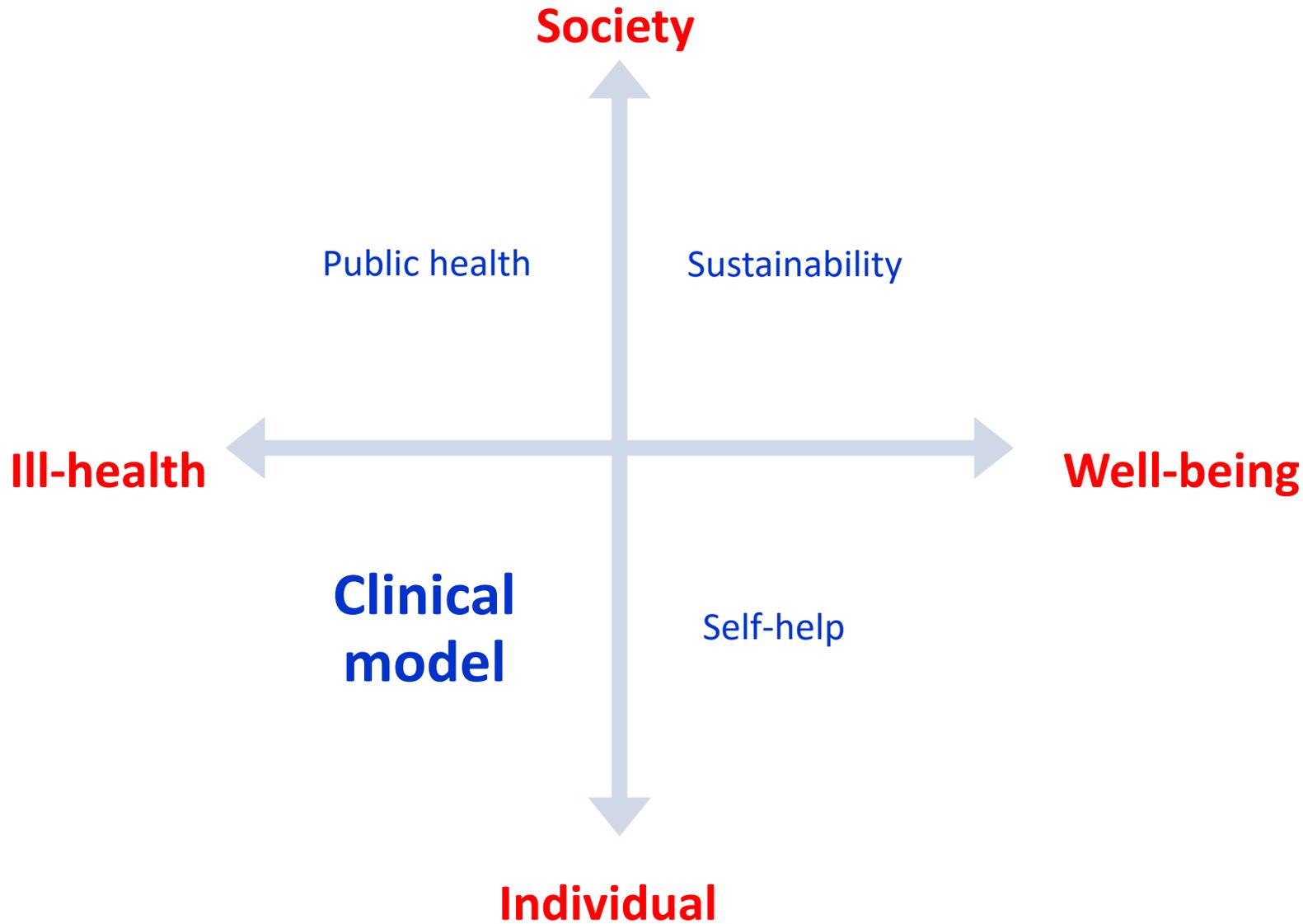


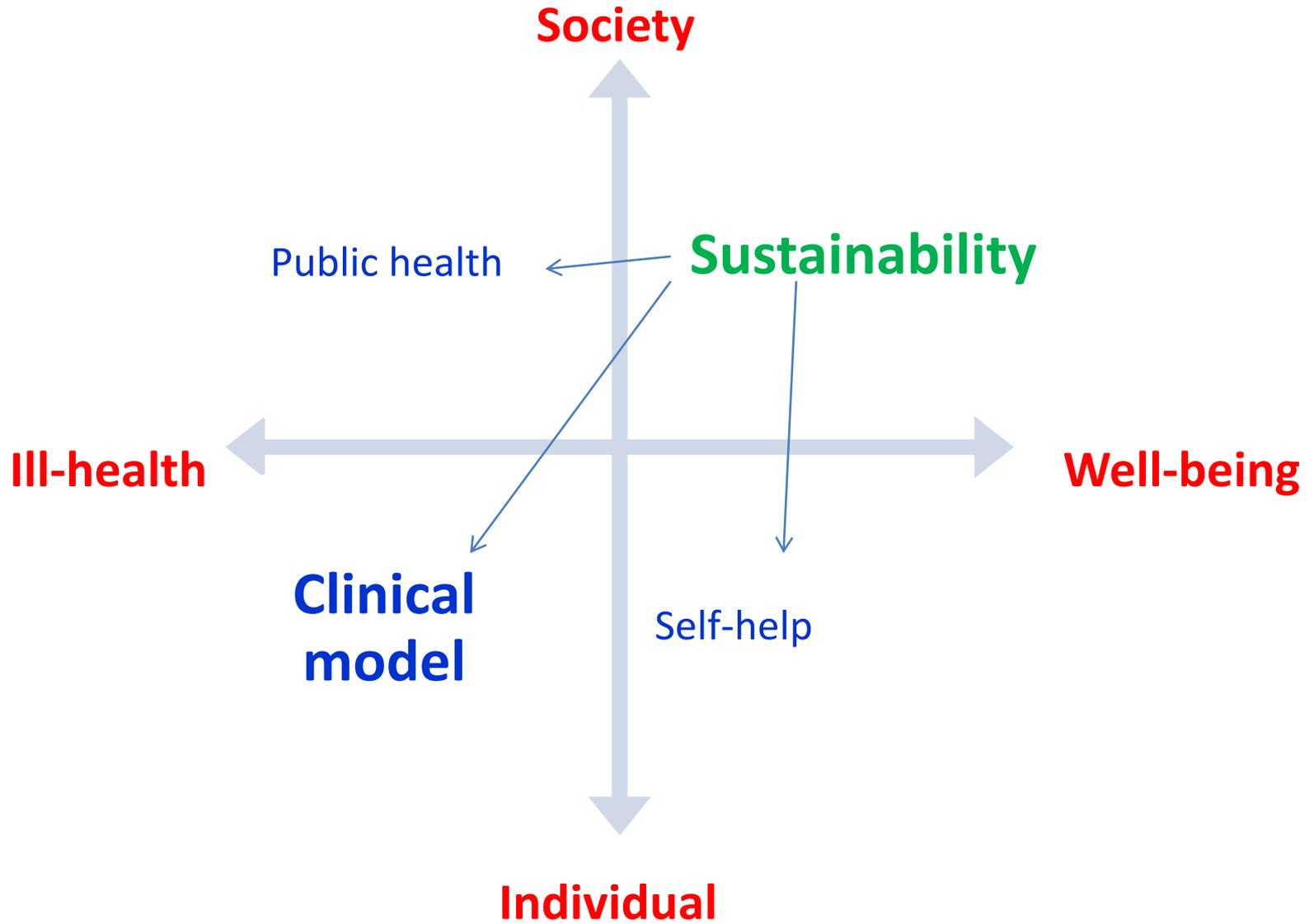
Anaker et al, 2015, p.1889



The Sustainability Lens

Goodman & East (2014)





The blanket problem



Worldwide, 2.4 billion people (1 in 3) are still using unimproved sanitation facilities, including 946 million people who are still practicing open defecation

**SDG 6: ensure access to water
and sanitation for all**



Concluding thoughts

Aim of this session:

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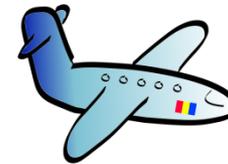
Concluding thoughts (cont.)

The problem of parallel narratives

“In narratives about the problem of climate change, loss features dramatically and terrifyingly but is located in the future or in places remote from Western audiences.

In narratives about solutions, loss is completely excised.”

Randall, 2009, p.118



The quandary we face is how to sound the alarm without being alarmist.

Hoggett, 2011, p.261

Thank you for listening



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