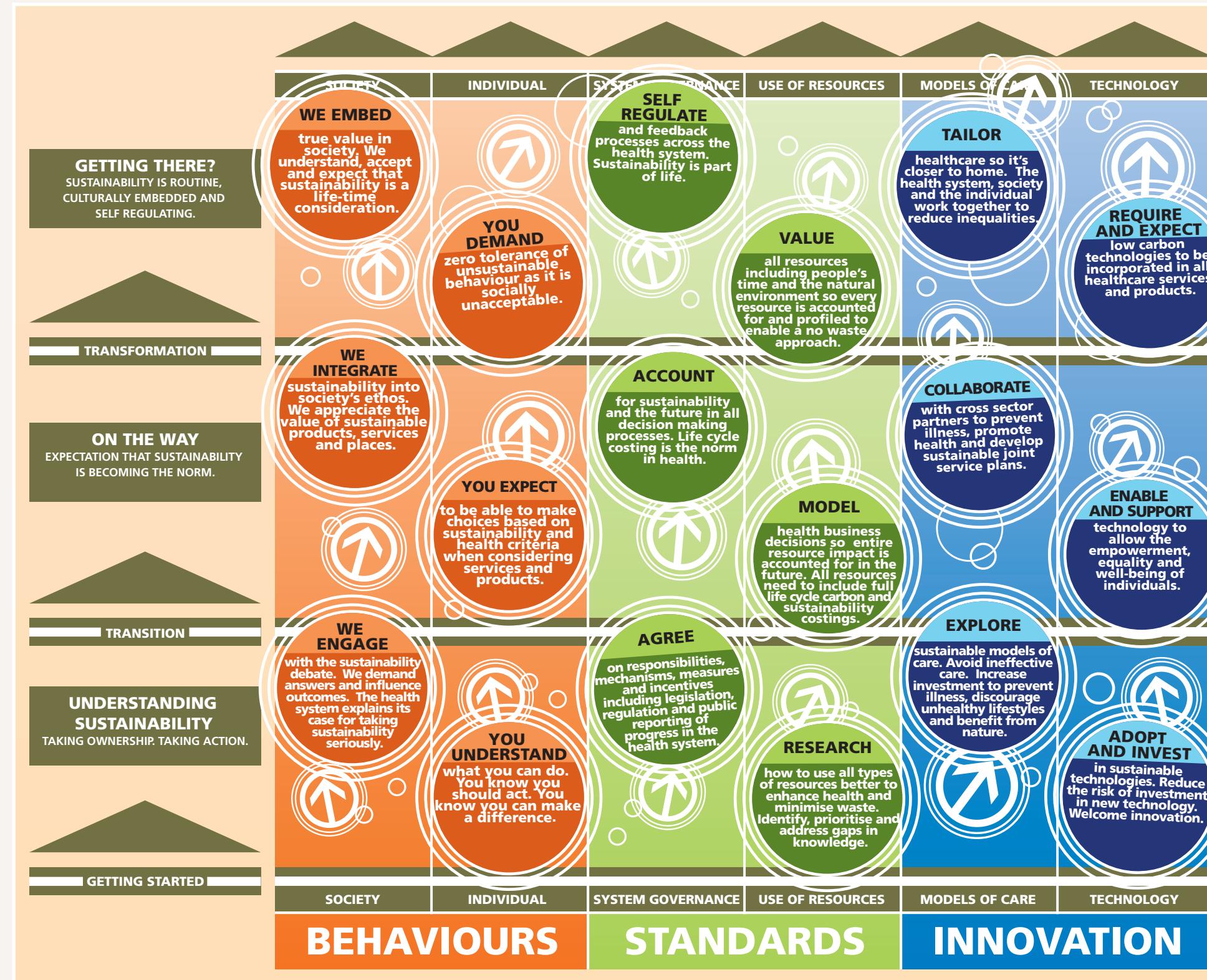


How to use the Route Map

The Route Map covers six themes and runs over three time periods. The six themes are divided between the three headings of Behaviours, Standards and Innovation. Below is an example that sets out the journey the health system should take in order to meet the Climate Change Act targets for 2050 and be more sustainable. To the right are some aspirational statements on where we want to be by then.

As leaders you need the power and the skills to take the long term view and make decisions based on sustainable principles whenever services are planned, developed, commissioned or delivered. The Route Map is a tool to help. It is more than just a document. It aims to be a living programme of work, gathering momentum and spreading its influence.



Behaviours:

Societal behaviours and attitudes

Vision: A compassionate society living in a high quality environment with reduced health inequalities.

This represents the influence that society exerts as we progress towards a more sustainable health and care system. It reflects on the public engagement with climate change and sustainability, and anticipates society learning to fully appreciate the true value of sustainable products, services and places. This means society recognises the long term financial and social benefits of addressing health inequalities, improving green space and running low carbon services.

Individual behaviours and attitudes

Vision: Values are redefined to encompass health and wellbeing linked to an acceptance of finite resources.

Every person knows what they can do to be healthier and more sustainable. People expect greater personal choice and information so that individuals can make decisions based on both health and sustainable criteria. People exert influence on others with an expectation that everyone makes sustainable choices. This change in behaviour is similar to the peer pressure and acknowledgement of individual culpability that made drink-driving unacceptable.

Standards

System governance

Vision: Health and sustainability agendas drive policy which support individuals, society and organisations to behave in a sustainable, fair and health conscious way.

A standardised approach to measuring and monitoring sustainability is adopted, minimising the use of resources across the health and care system. A legislative framework is implemented, with consistent public reporting as a core organisational indicator. Accounting for sustainability becomes a component of good governance as well as whole life cycle costing. This information is visible to all, in real time, and is incorporated into operational and strategic planning.

Use of resources

Vision: We live with the resources that the environment can support, instead of the 2.5 planets that we are currently using.

All types of resources are considered including human time, commitment and the natural environment. Research clarifies how best to use resources. This helps in making appropriate decisions, particularly in business terms. The methodology includes appropriate weightings for the future so the true value and cost of resources are fully taken into account. This ensures items are reused, waste and packaging minimised, and human time and services are used more efficiently.

Innovation:

Models of Care

Vision: Models of care where health is less a medical matter and more about us having control over our wellbeing.

This refers to the core business of any health system including its purpose, mission and the manner in which services are delivered. Investment in prevention is considered paramount and all sectors work more closely together to provide appropriate care. This means housing, education, support to early years and community networks provide a fully integrated health and care system. For instance, vulnerable people receive integrated health funds to insulate their homes better. This minimises ill health during winter, reduces hospital emissions and enables savings and a better standard of living.

Technology

Vision: Technology is an enabler of positive societal and environmental change.

Investment in low carbon and health technologies helps drive and deliver some of the transformations required for a more sustainable health and care system. The Government and financial institutions help reduce the risk of investment and adoption of new technologies. This further improves opportunities for telemedicine and more sustainable and preventative healthcare. We cannot, however, rely on efficiencies and technological progress to save the day as they will not be sufficient to meet the carbon reduction challenge. Indeed, the health sector needs to partner with all its stakeholders to achieve sustainable goals and invest in low carbon technologies.

