

Mass Unemployment Events (MUEs)

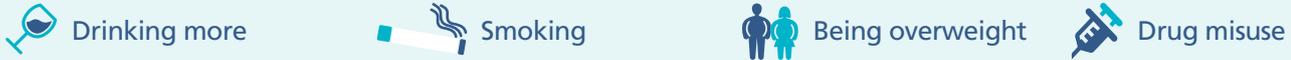


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Impact of MUEs on workers¹

Behaviour: Job loss leads to increased unhealthy behaviour



Increased risk to physical and mental health



Impact on wellbeing

- Higher anxiety and depression
- Loss of self-esteem and life satisfaction
- Financial hardship

Impact on different groups

- Older, unskilled workers are at **higher risk of remaining unemployed** or only getting insecure, low paid jobs
- Younger, skilled workers are **more mobile**, adaptable and find new employment quicker
- Homeowners are **less likely/able** to move for work



Impact of MUEs on households and families²

Families provide vital support for workers facing redundancy, but can also be affected themselves

Spouses

- Spouses **more likely** to 'suffer in silence' and carry emotional burden
- Effect on spousal mental health **almost as high** as redundant workers
- Family dynamic may change. Changes to main income earner, or moving away for work
- Reduced family income causing financial difficulties
- Increased family stress and difficult family relationships

Children

- Negative effects** on child health, education, and youth unemployment
- Risk of effects passing on to next generation** (unemployment, lower earning)

Wider impact of MUEs on communities²



¹ Figures presented are from studies of industrial plant closure, published after 2000. Most quantitative estimates are from large international cross sectional studies analysing retrospective routine data which do not control for underlying health and health behaviour. ² Information on community and family effects are from qualitative studies.

A public health informed response

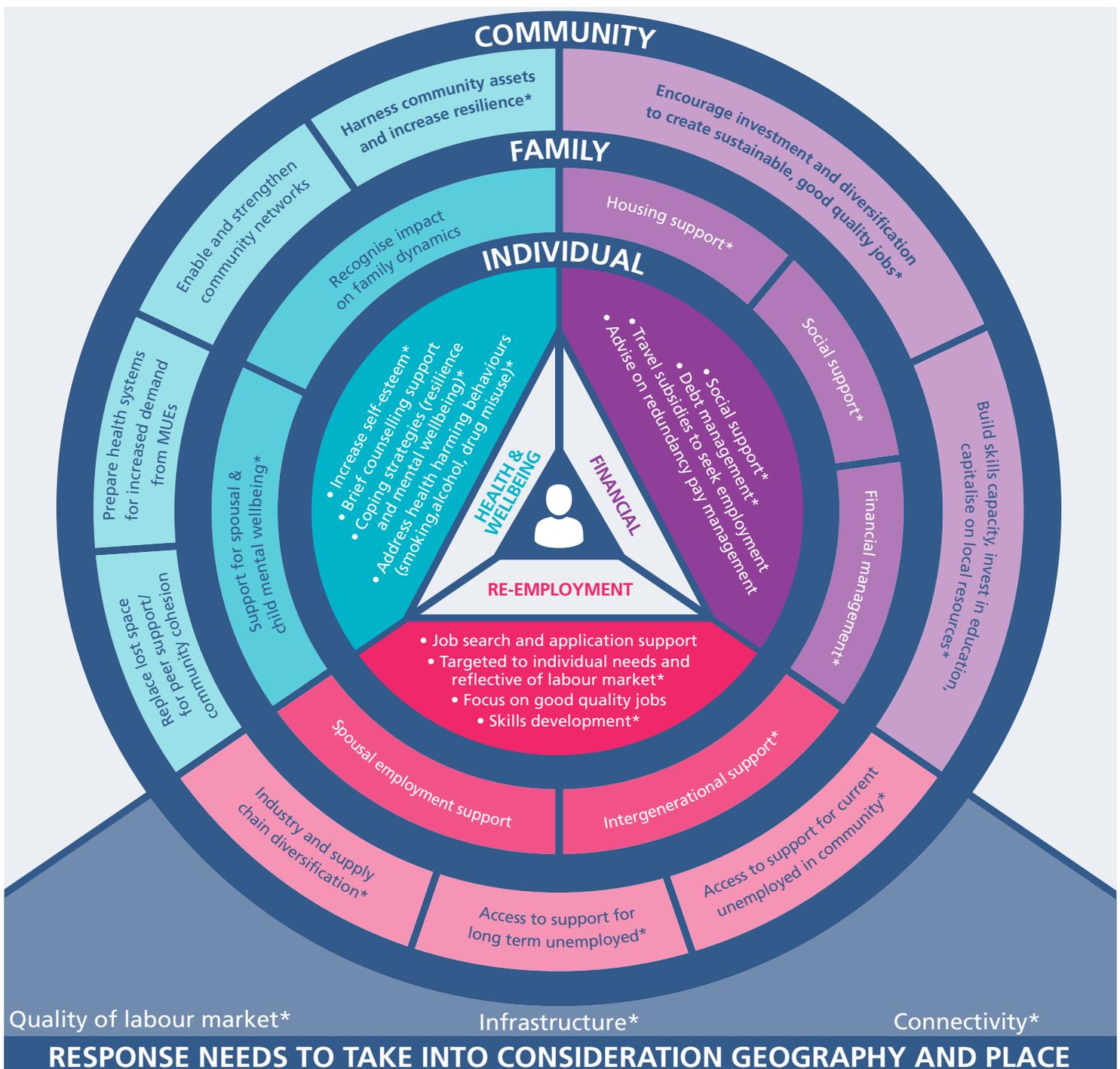
Workers that find good quality employment have:

- ✓ better health
- ✓ better wellbeing
- ✓ better job satisfaction
- ✓ better job security

Key steps

■ Before ■ During

- 1 **Identify communities** at risk of MUEs and assess the potential impact
- 2 Develop an **early warning** approach for potential MUEs
- 3 Early mobilisation of a **multi-sector response**, including **health** and **community** perspectives
- 4 Early implementation of **tripartite support (re-employment, financial, health and wellbeing)** for redundant workers
- 5 Address the needs of **specific groups**, including those older and unskilled
- 6 Extend support to **family** members
- 7 Support the wider **community** and harness assets
- 8 **Evaluate** the impact of the response



* Key aspects which need to be considered before, during and after a mass unemployment event. Suggested citation: Davies AR, Homolova L, Grey C, Bellis MA (2017) Mass Unemployment Events (MUEs) – Prevention and Response from a Public Health Perspective. Public Health Wales. ISBN: 978-1-910768-42-6. © 2017 Public Health Wales NHS Trust. Full report available at www.publichealthresearchwales.co.uk/mue-mass-unemployment-events-report.