

# Simple Problems



In this lecture we are going to look at the first of four types of problems that we will look at in this section of Unit 2. In this lecture we will define simple problems and look at how best to address them. In future lectures of this section we will focus on complicated problems, complex problems and wicked problems.

## Simple Problems

- Have clear cause and effect relationships which enable:
  - a right answer to be determined,
  - a standardised 'best practice' solution to be developed, and
  - command and control management to be effective

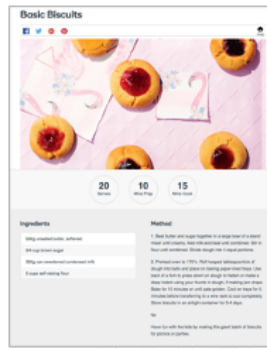


Simple problems have clear relationship between cause and effect – it is easy to see what is causing the problem.

These clear relationships enable:

- a right answer to the problem to be determined,
- a standardised 'best practice' solution to be developed, and
- command and control management to be effective – you can clearly tell people what they have to do to solve the problem

# Addressing Simple Problems



- Like following a recipe
- Initiatives which address simple problems are capable of replication in other contexts: by following the recipe



Addressing simple problems is considered so straightforward that it has been

- likened to following a recipe.

In the community development world, we often write procedures and best practice manuals for this type of problem.

- Because of these characteristics, it is easy to replicate initiatives that address simple problems – you just need to follow the recipe



## References

- Public Health England (2013), *Immunisation against infectious disease*, viewed 31 December 2016, <[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/147915/Green-Book-Chapter-4.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/147915/Green-Book-Chapter-4.pdf)>