

Overview of Doncaster's Early Help Offer & Future Developments

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel

31st October 2023



- The Chair and Members of the CYPF Overview & Scrutiny Committee were invited to visit our Family Hub and Your Place teams within the Adwick and Woodlands locality area as part of an in-person investigation around the causes and impact of child poverty and how our prevention and early intervention offer work with and within our communities to mitigate these issues.
- Visit took place on Wed 20th Sept 23 where members had the opportunity to speak with partners, professionals (under the Family Hub umbrella of services), charities, and families within the area which included:
 - Parenting and Family Support
 - Early Help Pathway Lead
 - Early Years Inclusion Team
 - Counselling
 - Early Years Officers
 - Stronger Communities Officers
 - Family Group Conferencing (FGC)
 - Midwifery
 - Well Doncaster (Public Health)
 - Tenants and Residents Association (TARA)
 - Bentley Community Money Advice (Bentley CMA)
 - Need a Nana volunteer
 - All Saints Foodbank
 - Woodlands Primary Academy
 - Department of Work and Pensions Advisor
 - Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities Volunteers (EPEC)
 - Citizens Advice
 - Lifeline Against the Breadline
 - NHS (Health Colleagues)
 - Green Gables (Housing)
- Members were very positive in their feedback about what is currently being done in Local and Early Help services to support families around poverty. There were no specific questions from members at the end of the session.
- Therefore the report and presentation will focus on what the offer is, to ensure members that weren't able to attend, are able to see the offer and then have the opportunity to ask any questions.

Key Themes of the conversation

Family Voice & the value of conversations

- Listening to lived experiences of residents and the challenges families face each day with the current cost of living crisis
- Building trusting relationship and empowering children, young people and families to feel safe to have sometimes difficult conversations

Belonging to the place

- Situated in local communities; services reaching out
- Knowledge of services and who can help to mitigate factors of child poverty

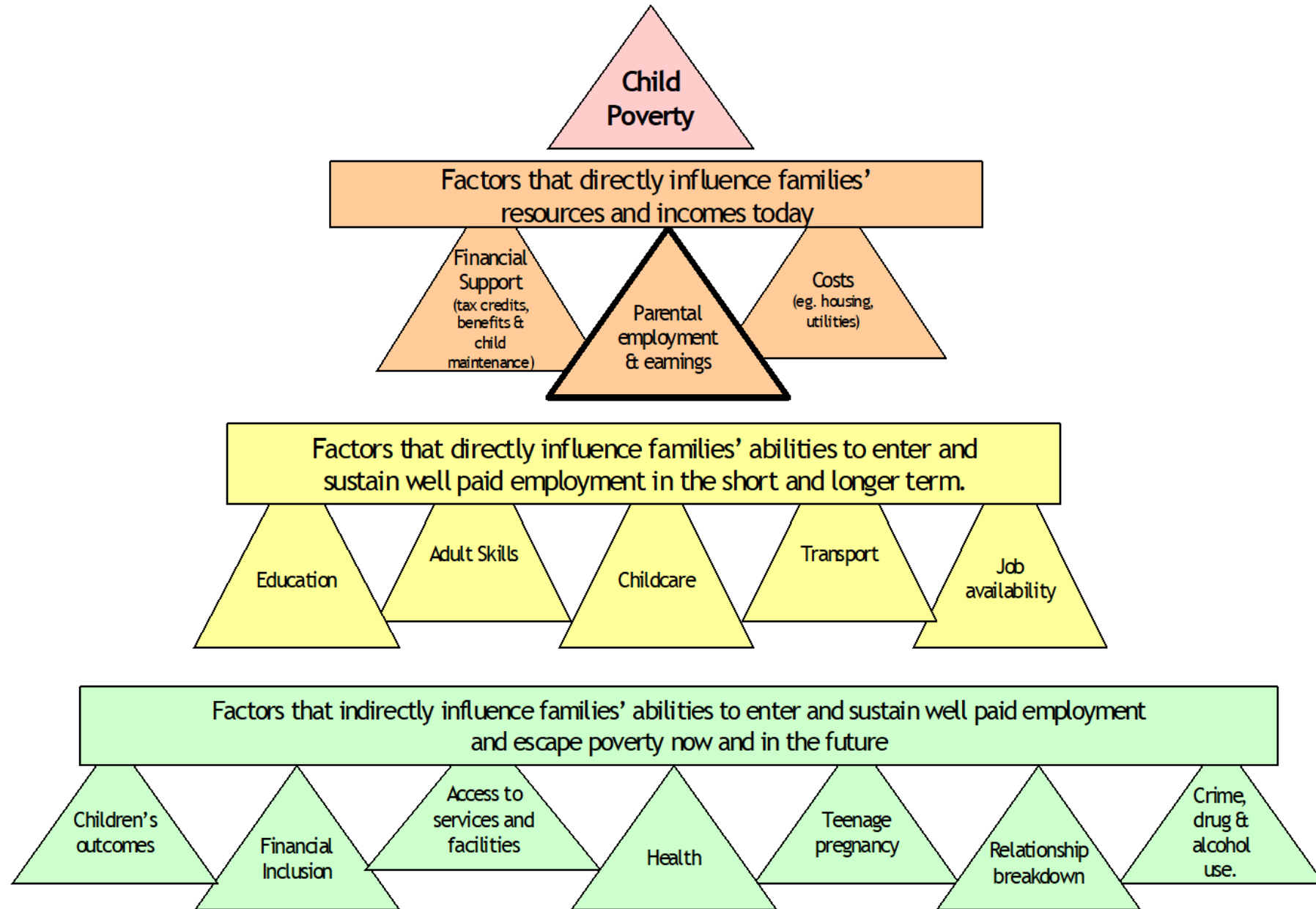
Wrap around multi-agency approach

- One factor not seen in isolation
- Range of help from across the partnership to mitigate the factors of child poverty
- Emotional well-being support and mental health support

Impact and so what.....

- Families telling their story and what difference this help has made them to them.
- Listening to multi-disciplinary practitioners and the commitment to help and support

Factors influencing Child Poverty (source: DCSF (2009) The Child Poverty Basket in the National Indicator Set).



Doncaster's Early Help Strategy



Families

- ensuring that families are willing and able to engage in the support available to them and have a positive experience when they do.

Communities

- ensuring communities have access to local support from public and third sector organisations that collaborate to ensure resilience and sustainability in the early help system.

Leaders

- ensuring there is shared leadership and accountability across the early help system, led by an ambitious shared strategy, with effectively integrated services and support.

Workforce

- ensuring practitioners have the tools they need to deliver effective and collaborative early intervention and prevention within a shared understanding of local circumstances and strong case management oversight.

Family Hubs – Community Based Early Intervention & Prevention Delivery Model

Family Hub Framework

Access

Connection

Relationships

Strands of Delivery

Health & Development

Employment Support & Childcare

Relationship Support for Family Stability

Supporting Families with Complex Needs

Cross-Cutting Issues

Service Expectations

- Parenting
- Parent-Infant Relationships & Perinatal Mental Health
- 0-5 Activities
- Birth Registration
- Debt & Welfare Advice
- Domestic Abuse Support
- Early Child Education & Care
- Health Visiting 0-5
- Housing
- Intensive Targeted Support
- Local Authority Public Health 0-19
- Mental Health Services
- Infant Feeding
- Home Learning Environment
- Parent & Carer Panel
- Midwifery
- Nutrition & Weight Management
- Oral Health
- Reducing Parental Conflict
- SEND
- Stop Smoking
- Substance Misuse
- Support for Separated Parents
- Youth Services
- Youth Justice

Supporting Families – Early Help System Guide

Family Voice & Experience

- Families inform, shape, and highly rate the support they receive individually and at a system level

Workforce

- There is a highly skilled, cohesive, and integrated partnership workforce that works in a holistic, whole family way

Communities

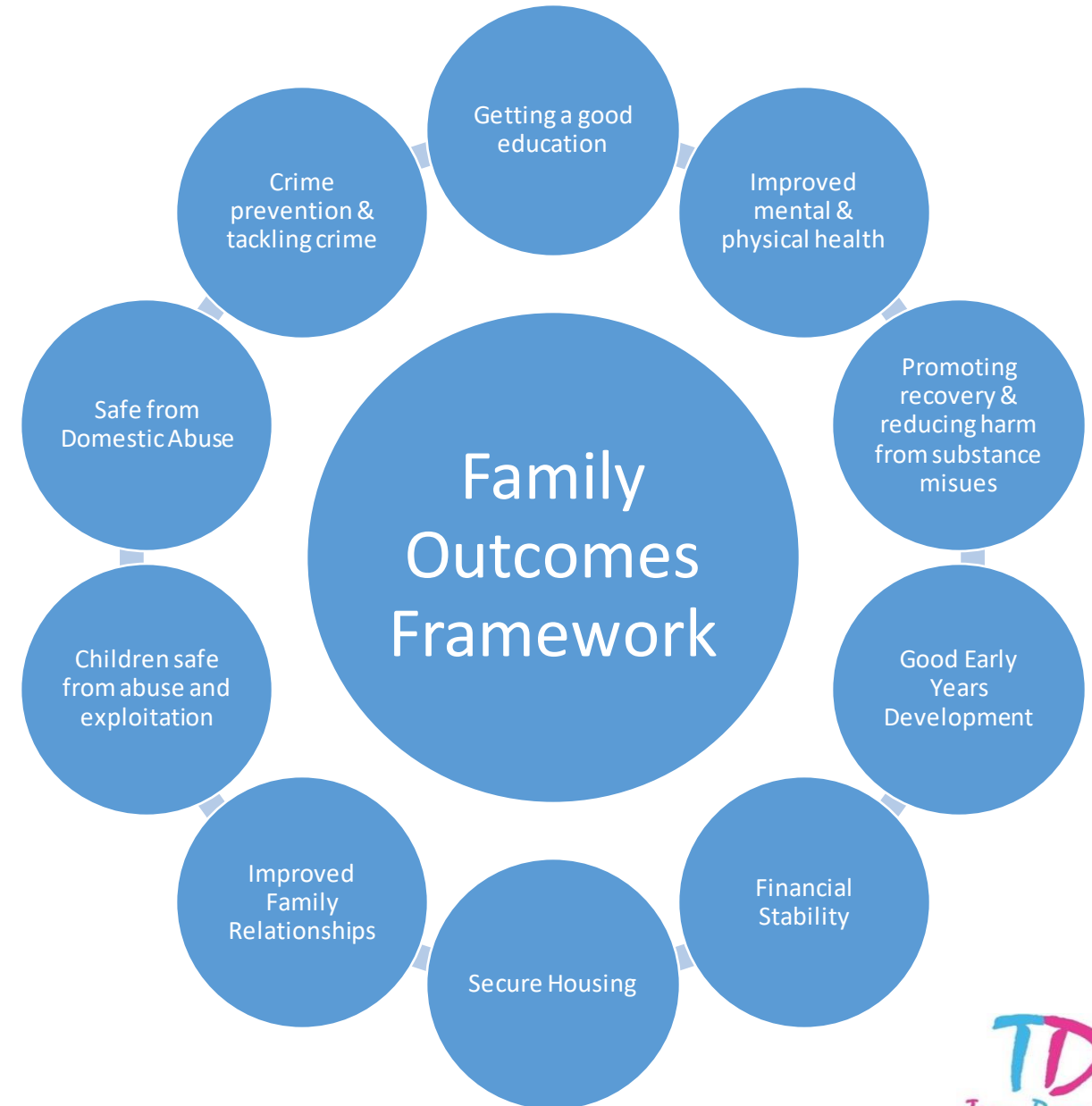
- Our system works with the third sector, delegates decision making appropriately to communities, and builds capacity

Leaders

- There is strong oversight from leaders within the partnership that is built on an evaluative and supportive culture

Data

- There are strong mechanisms in place that allow data to inform decisions around service planning, provision, and delivery at a system and individual level



Local Need

Local Help

(Prevention)



- Local help is available for families and residents to access when everyday issues become difficult but do not require ongoing or long term support

Early Help

(Early Intervention)



- Early help is a way of getting extra help and support when your family needs it, but getting it as soon as difficulties start, rather than waiting until things get worse

Top Presenting Needs linked with factors influence child poverty

Financial Support

Housing

Education/Adult learning

Childcare/employment

Place based issues

Parenting

Whole family support

Mental Wellbeing

Physical Wellbeing

Behaviour

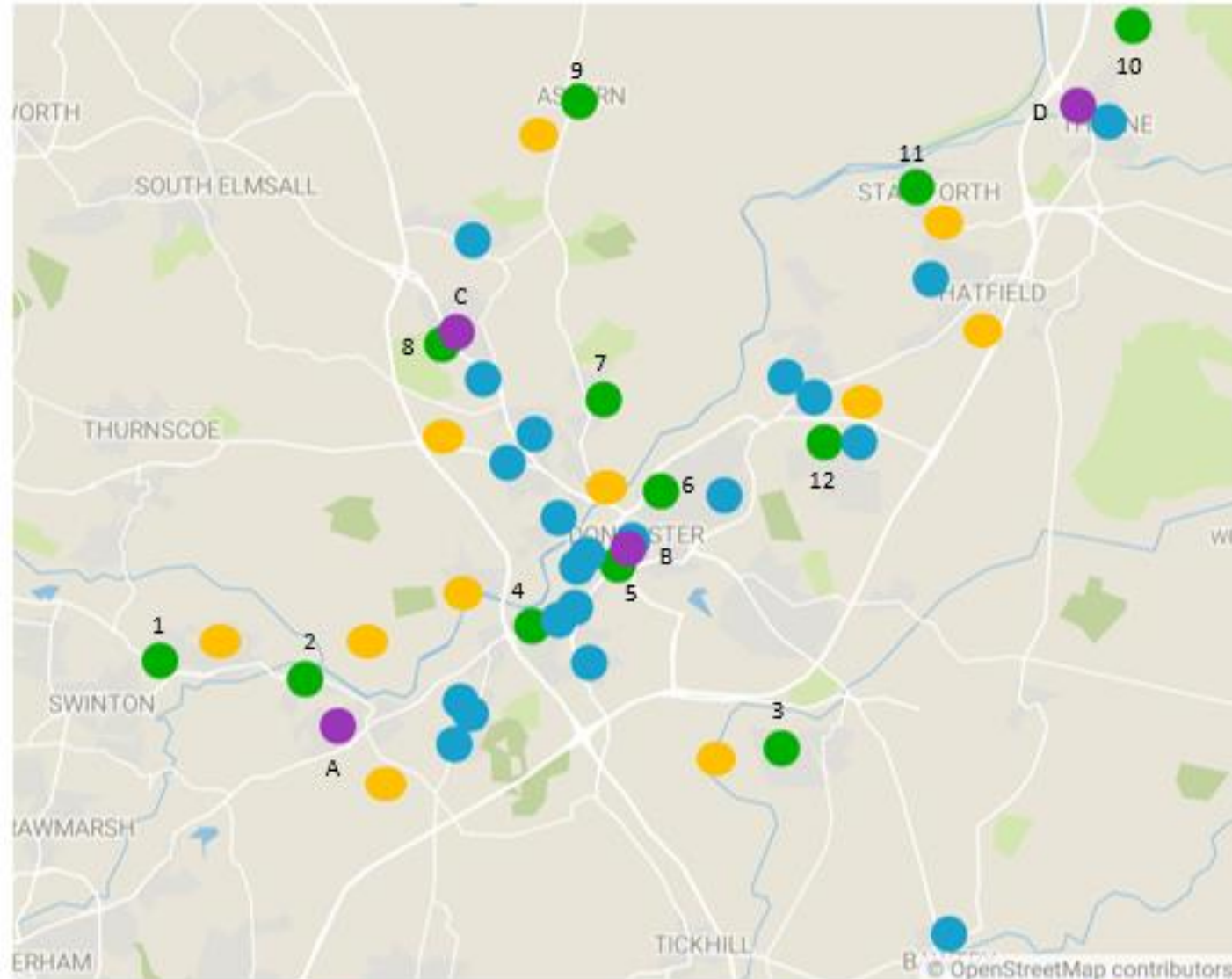
Local Delivery

Family Hubs

- 1 – Mexborough
- 2 – Denaby & Conisbrough
- 3 – Rossington
- 4 – Balby
- 5 – Central
- 6 – Wheatley
- 7 – Bentley
- 8 – Adwick
- 9 – Askern
- 10 – Moorends
- 11 – Stainforth
- 12 – Armthorpe

Your Place Your Family

- A – Conisbrough Community Library
- B – Civic Office
- C – Woodlands Library
- D – The Vermuyden Centre



- Family Hubs
- Family Hub Outreach
- Your Place Your Family
- Your Place Outreach

Reverend Stephen Gardener

Vicar – All Saints Church



All Saints Food Bank

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..."

aspire
live life better



Family and Residents Video (to be uploaded here)



Systemic Challenges



Increased Need & Vulnerability

Cost of living crisis
Health Inequalities
Intergenerational socio-economic issues



Pressure on Capacity

Services across the partnership are struggling to provide capacity
Recruitment and retention is difficult
High demand on statutory services



Local Profile & National Instability

Early Intervention & Prevention needs a higher profile locally to ensure appropriate consideration and prioritisation
National instability is impacting our ability to provide long term plans



Pressure on Funding

Acute need is monopolising funding
National funding arrangements are insufficient and temporary

Early Intervention & Prevention in Communities

Early Help Policy & Strategy

Families

- Putting families at the heart of our offer and our planning

Communities

- Delivering services as locally as possible and adapting to local need

Leadership

- Creating consistency around partnership working and accountability.

Workforce

- ensuring practitioners have the tools they need to deliver effective and collaborative early intervention and prevention

Aligned with Locality Working

Scaling

- The approach must be flexible enough to be delivered across multiple communities whilst responding to the varying need “hyper-local” delivery requires

Involving

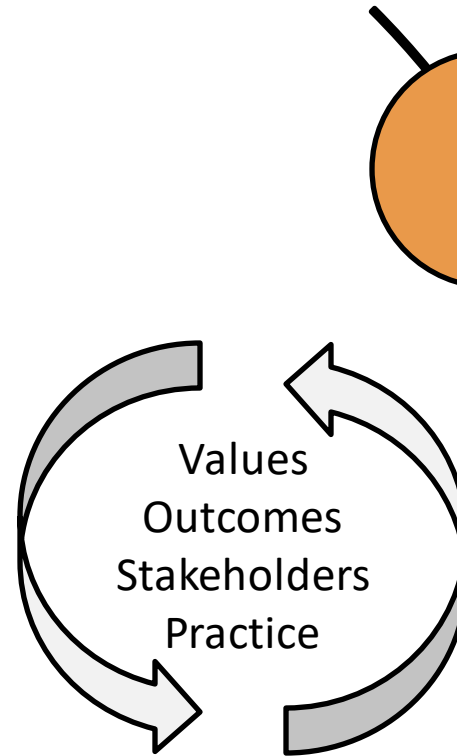
- The approach must integrate wide-reaching participation mechanisms that shape outcomes, priorities, and delivery

Strengthening

- The approach must build on core VCF and workforce capacities and embed early intervention and prevention as an all-encompassing culture

Sustaining

- The approach must be a long term plan with an equally long term commitment from key partners, agencies, and the communities themselves



Any Questions?

Thank you