



Developing a 'place based' approach to 'Early Help' for children, young people and families in County Durham

Altogether better



National Context – Early Help

- Increasing demand for children social care and high cost statutory services;
- Focus on prevention and early help
- Decrease in all our budgets;
- Troubled Families Programme –vulnerable children and families receive coordinated, 'whole family, outcome focussed' early help;

Challenge is to:

1. seek to work with children and families in communities most vulnerable to poor outcomes;
2. ensure the use of evidence based approaches to help children and families achieve positive change and
3. as partners, work collaboratively at the earliest opportunity to maximise impact and reduce duplication in an attempt to stop the need for high cost services

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Partnership Approach to Early Help

Is to provide effective, targeted and coordinated 'Early Help' in order to promote opportunity, address inequalities and secure better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

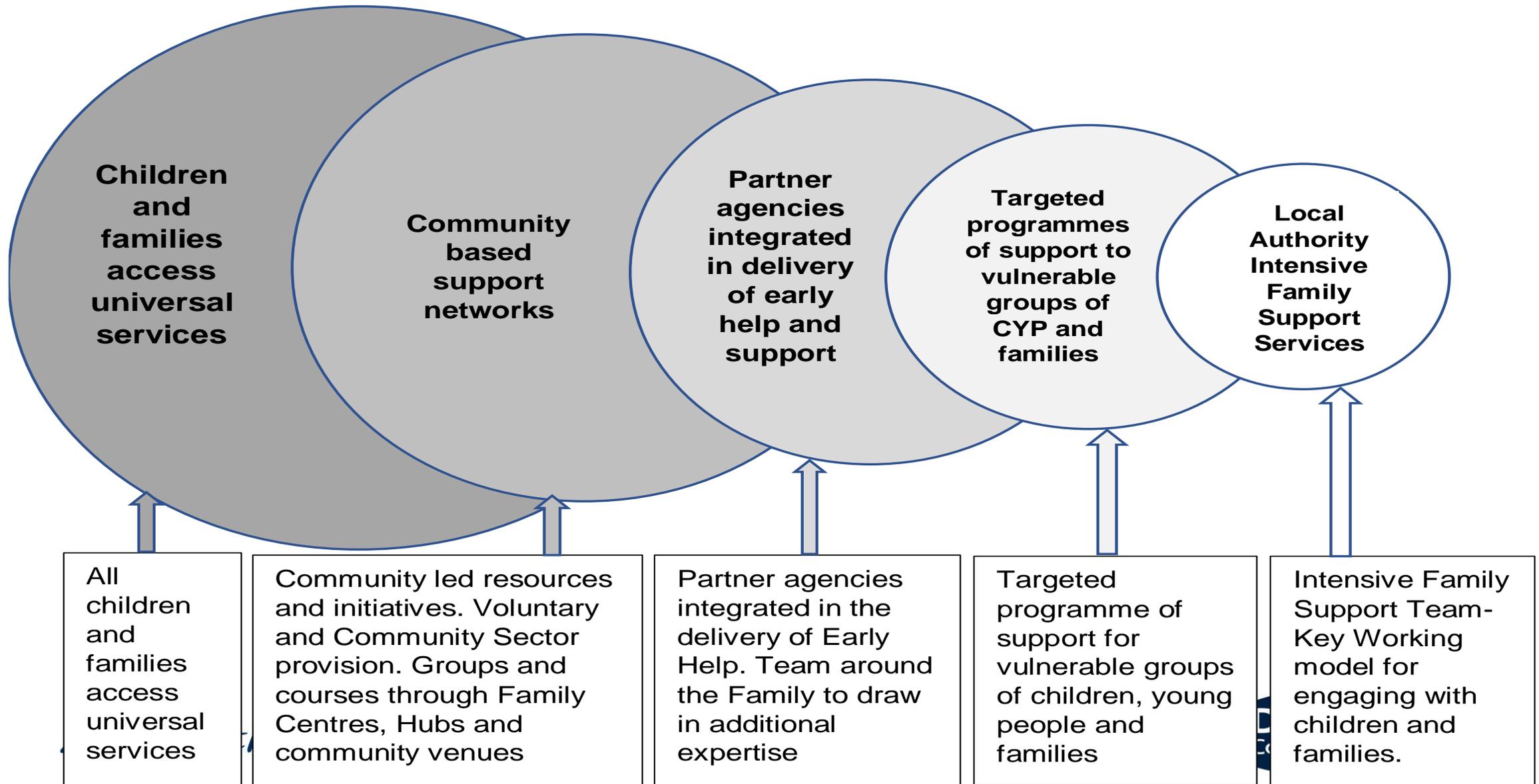
An effective Early Help offer brings together local partners to provide early support for children and families that builds resilience, prevent difficulties from escalating and leads to better outcomes that are sustained.



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Our Shared Vision for Early Help



What is a 'Place Based' Approach to 'Early Help'

- **A geographical area where public and community resources work more closely together in a cohesive manner to improve outcomes for children families in that area;**
- **Within a place-based location, practitioners across a range of services who work with children, young people and adults who are parents/carers will have a better knowledge of local needs and resources available in the area and will have a joint plan to co-ordinate multi-agency activity.**

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Why a focus on 'Place' to better provide effective early help ??

- 1. Better joint understanding and ownership of an area and the associated issues children and families face;**
- 2. Shared aspiration and agreed approach which reflects local needs;**
- 3. Collective use of all our assets, community resources and knowledge;**
- 4. Better understanding of presenting issues and the root cause factors;**
- 5. Ensure the right resource capability, competences and behaviours in the right places;**
- 6. Use of intelligence to effectively target resources and inform commissioning;**

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Wellbeing Approach

People and Places

Empowering communities

working with communities to support their development and empowerment



Being asset focused

acknowledging the different needs of communities and the potential of their assets



Building resilience

helping the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and building up their future resilience



Supporting Systems

Working better together

working together across sectors to reduce duplication and ensure greater impact



Sharing decision making

designing and developing services with the people who need them



Doing with, not to

making our health and care interventions, empowering and centred around you as an individual.



**Using what works:
everything we do is supported by evidence informed by local conversations.**



Change in the way you can access early help guidance/support

- ✓ **Access to locality multi agency discussion, 'Locality Early Help Conversation' about child/family you worried about;**
- ✓ **Use Signs of Safety/Wellbeing model;**
- ✓ **Better use of all our resources and community assets (Social Prescribing)**



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Feedback

“Puts the family in charge (Adult SW)”

Felt supported, given lots of options to choose from, help offered (HT)

“Really good just to have a conversation”

“This is great! Good to get information for other pupils too” (HT)

“Wished we’d always had this!” (HT)

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Next Steps

- **Implement Place Based Approach to all 7 localities across County Durham;**
- **Implement Locality Early Help Conversations across all localities – March 2020**

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Any questions to

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