

## Early Help

### Voluntary and Community Sector

### Engagement session

26 October 2011



**“Strong families at the heart of strong communities”**  
Community Strategy 2005-2010



## Our Stronger Families vision

- To make families more self sustaining and less reliant on council services
- Prioritising the most vulnerable
- Intervening early to avoid longer, more costly and more damaging problems
- Reducing costs



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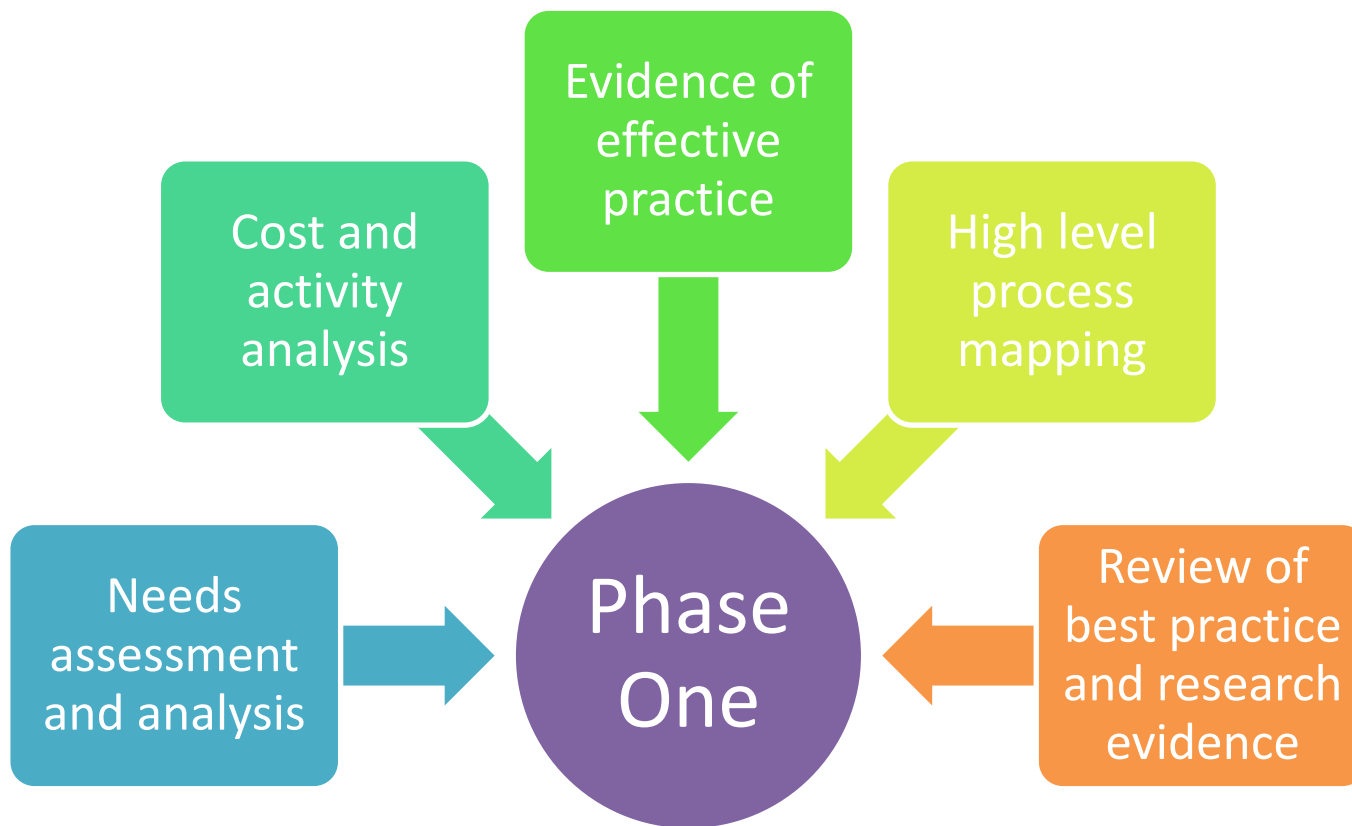


## What is 'Early Help'?

- Providing help for children and families as seen as problems start to emerge.
- Preventing longer term, more costly, more damaging problems later.
- “step down” from specialist services (e.g. social care).
- Below threshold for intervention under the Children's Act.
- Individual case-based or targeted at groups.



## Phase One activity



## Key findings: cost and activity analysis

- Referral and assessment processes
- Number of services dealing with same needs cohorts
- Wide variation in costs and deployment of specialist staff
- High volume of programme activity
- Use by non-residents
- Activity and teams dispersed across Business Group
- Evaluation of outcomes and impact



## Key findings: needs analysis and evidence review

- Needs are highly geographically focussed
- “Toxic three” – domestic violence, parental mental health, parental substance misuse
- The importance of early years
- The critical role of parents (parenting support and parent engagement)
- Whole family approach
- A multi-disciplinary approach



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## Themes from consultation

- Collaborative working
- Staff with different skills together with same agenda
- Bespoke ways of working
- Packages of support
- One stop shop of services
- Co-located teams
- Avoid multiple assessments or interventions
- Key workers



## Phase Two work strands

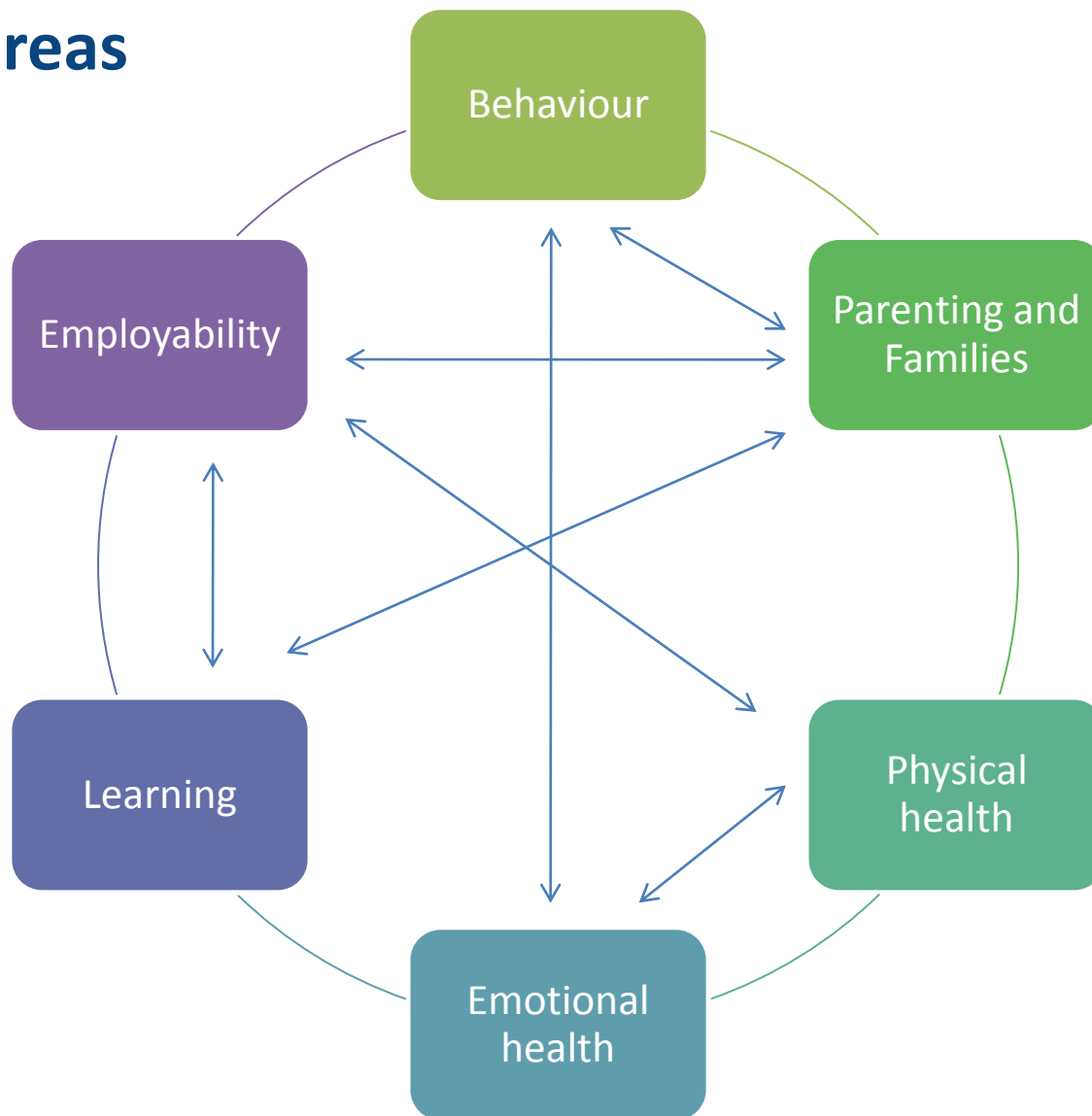
- Early Help strategy
- Priority outcomes
- Organisation re-design
- Processes and systems re-design



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## Outcome areas



## Organisation re-design

- Integrated all age early help service
- Key Workers who will build trusted and responsive relationships with those who need extra help
- Solutions to improve behaviour, family relationships, emotional health, learning, and employability
- Primarily tier 2
- Locality based
- Single referral and assessment process



## What does it mean for VCS partners

- Changes to what Council will commission and fund
- Changes to people and structures in Council



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