

Raised in Sheffield City of Opportunity

Supporting children, young people and their families

A Prevention and Early Intervention
Strategy for Multi Agency Support
in Sheffield

Why are prevention and early intervention support services important?

We provide seamless and safe support to children and young people, giving them help at an earlier stage, rather than entering crisis services at a late stage.

Prevention and Early Intervention support services directly contribute to the Council's main priorities in the City of Opportunity Corporate Plan – through helping to create A Better Life for Children and Young People (www.sheffield.gov.uk/corporateplan)

What's the problem?

Challenge 1 ▶▶▶▶▶

Providing support to children with additional needs

There are approx 120,000 children in Sheffield, 35,000 of these children will at some point in their lives need some form of additional support to help them achieve their potential. This support will help to enable underperforming children and young people to be empowered and create more options for their future.

Challenge 2 ▶▶▶▶▶

Developing a pathway for families to access multi agency support

Services should be child focused and connected to the needs of the family. We will do this by providing a clear framework for delivering multi agency services, with key service providers based on the needs of families.

Challenge 3 ▶▶▶▶▶

Enabling fast access to responsive services

Access to co-ordinated responsive services can have many problems. Improving public and universal service access to multi agency support teams will speed up the timeliness and responsiveness of services to families.

Challenge 4 ▶▶▶▶▶

Children and families voices should contribute to the development of services

What children and their families have to say about the services we provide is important. This will ensure we are providing the right support for families in the city.

Challenge 5 ▶▶▶▶▶

Improving outcomes for children and their families

By identifying early the support that is required these interventions should reduce or stop the escalation of any risks. Providing targeted support to specific groups such as children with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD), looked after children (LAC), children with special education needs (SEN), those families who have been known to social care, and need continuing support to remain in Universal Services.

Challenge 6 ▶▶▶▶▶

Communication - Strengthening Partnerships and links within Communities

Agencies cannot work alone or without the support of partners and their community. Preventative work should include an enhanced role for voluntary and community partners. By strengthening these links and through multi agency working in the community, this will strengthen communities enabling every child and young person to flourish and achieve better outcomes.

Challenge 7 ▶▶▶▶▶

Modernisation of the workforce to deliver integrated services

Prevention and early intervention requires highly skilled individuals with a shared vision. Developing the multi agency workforce to ensure we have a skilled, well-informed and evidence-based approach to meeting the needs of children and their families.

Challenge 8 ▶▶▶▶▶

Maintaining and increasing resources into preventative services

In a difficult economic climate it becomes harder to retain levels of resources, service and investment.

What will we do?

Challenge 1 ▶▶▶▶▶

Providing support to children with additional needs

The actions by which this vital challenge will be met are set out separately in detail in the city's Raising Achievement and Aspiration Strategy and the 14-19 Plan.

- Strengthening of safeguarding practices and identifying risks early.
- Provision of personalised targeted support to children.
- The voice of children and families to be heard.
- Improving the quality and accessibility of services for families*.
- Bringing services together to remove obstacles for families, and focusing on every child matters outcomes

Challenge 2 ▶▶▶▶▶

Develop a pathway for families to access multi agency support

- Improved use of information sharing, through training and quality assurance of assessment to ensure identification of vulnerable children and young people at an earlier stage.
- Development of 7 Multi Agency Allocation Meetings (MAAM) to ensure timely support is received by children and their families.
- Have Social Workers for Prevention and Intervention working in Multi Agency Support Teams.

Challenge 3 ▶▶▶▶▶

Enable fast access to responsive services

- Have a one-stop shop approach to a range of services in each Community Assembly area.
- Use one contact number for accessing each Multi Agency Support Team.
- Have a named Team Manager and Social Worker Prevention and Intervention as contacts for all schools, children's centres and GPs.
- Have informal 'drop in' sessions for families in schools, health care centres and children's centres.

Challenge 4 ▶▶▶▶▶

Children and families voices will contribute to the development of services

- Publicise our services to ensure families and professionals are aware of the options available to support them.
- Agree all action plans for support with children and their families.
- Roll out consistently a solution focused well-being model that builds on families strengths, has achievable targets and goals, involving the whole family.
- Consult with families and professionals regarding customer care and focus.

Challenge 5 ▶▶▶▶▶

Improved outcomes for children and their families

- Through MAAMs provide multi agency support and interventions that are child focused for children aged 0-19 on:-
 - Education, attendance and behaviour welfare
 - Targeted youth support
 - Health and well being support
 - Early years and access to children's centers
 - Emotional health support
 - Family aid and family support
 - Parenting programmes
 - Connexions and careers advice
 - Housing advice and support
 - Employment advice and support
- To provide targeted individual plans for the most vulnerable groups of children LDD, LAC, SEN.
- To engage primary mental health workers to provide support and assessment for younger children at an early stage.

Challenge 6 ▶▶▶▶▶

Communication - Strengthening Partnerships and links within Communities

- Set-up annual events for key partners to communicate with them, showcasing work and sharing best practise.
- Have an agreement with key partners for commitment to promoting prevention and intervention practices and vision.
- Develop with all key partners including:
 - Schools
 - Governors
 - Elected Members
 - Service providers
 - Private, Voluntary, Independent (PVI) organisations
- Methods of communication and feedback to shape future delivery of services.

Challenge 7 ▶▶▶▶▶

Modernisation of the workforce to deliver integrated services

- Co-location of workers including, where appropriate, Multi Agency Support Teams being based within schools under the 'full service model'.
- Using the 'One Children's Workforce Tool' to engage partners, the workforce, children, young people and their families to inform, shape and refresh the direction of integrated services and working practices.
- Develop and promote an integrated leadership and management programme.
- **Sure Start Children's Centres acting as exemplars** for other local services*.
- **Upgrade the training for staff** on engaging with families*.
- Have more effective use of resources by empowering professionals, and promoting continuous professional development.

Challenge 8 ▶▶▶▶▶

Maintaining and increasing resources into preventative services

- Fully utilise the city's investment in children and families services.
- Have an evidence based approach to securing future funding of services.
- Be flexible and creative with the existing workforce, roles and responsibilities.

How will we measure success?

Challenge 1 ▶▶▶▶▶

Providing support to children with additional needs

- Children with additional needs are identified early and remain in universal provision.
- Increase the use of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) as an assessment tool.
- See a reduction in the number of referrals to social care going into assessment (NIG8).
- Co-ordinated services enabling children to raise their aspirations and have improved outcomes and levels of attainment.

Challenge 2 ▶▶▶▶▶

Develop a pathway for families to access multi agency support

- Support and commitment to the MAAM process by all service providers.
- Have identified Lead Agencies/professionals for each family needing support.
- Agreements on confidentiality and information sharing between professionals.
- Families will also receive an **assessment** for family and parenting support*.

Challenge 3 ▶▶▶▶▶

Enable fast access to responsive services

- Increase in number of families accessing services.
- Increase in number of contacts from other services for advice and guidance.
- Feedback from children, families and partner agencies about access to support.

Challenge 4 ▶▶▶▶▶

Children and families voices will contribute to the development of services

- By monitoring analysing and publishing feedback we will share people's thoughts on multi agency services.
- This information will enable us to identify which services are working particularly well and which need to be changed or developed further.

Challenge 5 ▶▶▶▶▶

Improved outcomes for children and their families

- Increase and maintain attendance at primary, secondary and special schools.
- Reduce the levels of persistent absence in all schools and for looked after children.
- Increase a child's level of attainment in education.
- Decrease the number of obese children.
- Increase the number of children that are breastfed.
- Involvement in producing personalised plans for vulnerable children.
- A clear pathway for children and their families accessing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Challenge 6 ▶▶▶▶▶

Communication - Strengthening Partnerships and links within Communities

- Communication through the annual event will enable key partners to have clarity on the provision of Multi Agency Support within their communities
- All partners have signed up to a pledge of commitment supporting the prevention and early intervention strategy
- Have a range of supporting information to explain Multi Agency Services and assist partners in understanding of them.
- Provide reporting and information updates through a robust management and governance framework.
- Commission services from local service providers.
- Customer feedback will show an increase in the levels of understanding of multi agency support teams

Challenge 7 ▶▶▶▶▶

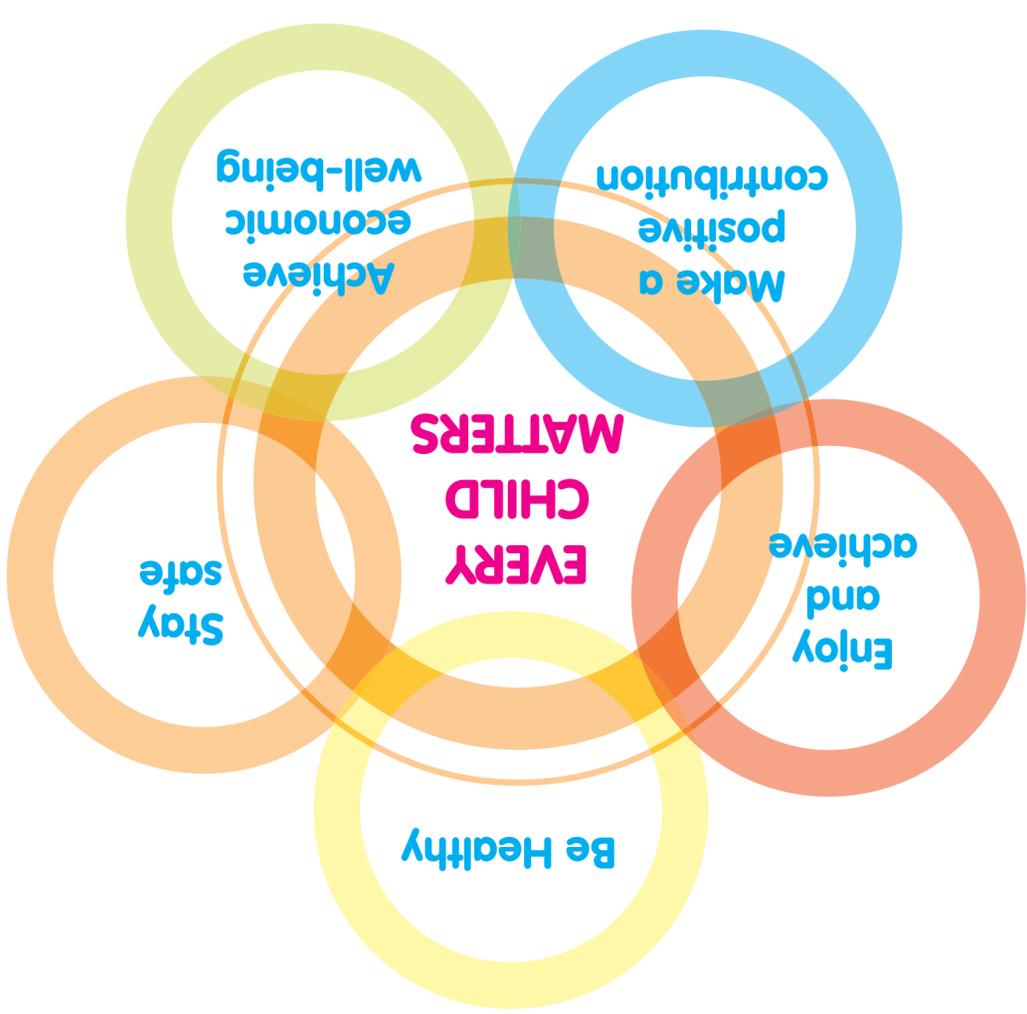
Modernisation of the workforce to deliver integrated services

- Being able to offer fast and responsive services that are flexible to the needs of the family.
- Promoting the lead professional and creating an ethos of ownership and responsibility.
- Using existing good practice models or family intervention projects to offer specific support throughout the city.

Challenge 8 ▶▶▶▶▶

Maintaining and increasing resources into preventative services

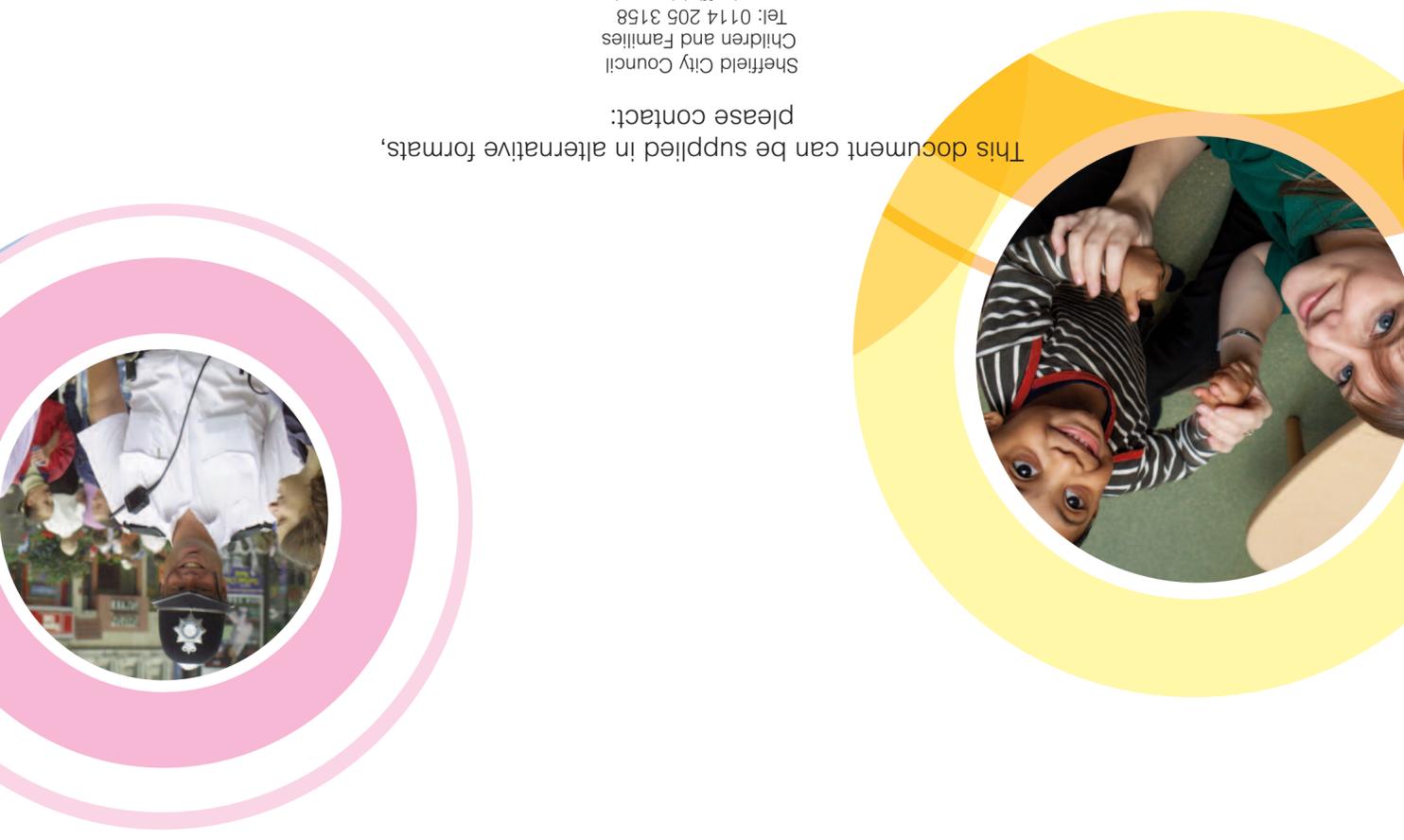
Prevention and intervention through multi agency collaborative working is proven to improve outcomes and remains a primary focus for the safety and well being of children and families in Sheffield.



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Sheffield *where everyone matters*

