

# Children's Wellbeing Networking Event

1<sup>st</sup> March 2017

**'Raising  
Awareness of  
Early Help'**





# **Welcome & Housekeeping**

**Cllr. Jonathan Lester**

**Cabinet Member; Children's Wellbeing**

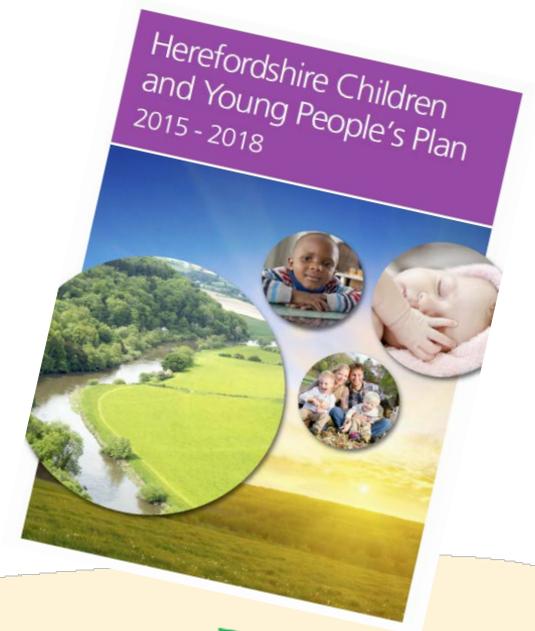
# Today's Market Place

- Focusgov
- HOPE
- Homestart
- National Autistic Society
- NSPCC
- SENDIAS
- SIL- WISH
- Early Help Family Support Team- Hfds. Council
- Fostering Team- Hfds. Council

# OUR VISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

We want all children and young people in Herefordshire to have the best start in life and grow up healthy, happy and safe within supportive family environments.

- **Safeguarding**- part of our collective approach for children and families
- **Early help and prevention**- more than the Children's Wellbeing Directorate; key to long-term shift in use of resources



# Key achievements so far

## 0-5 Early Years

- We are in the top quartile of all English local councils
- An intense improvement and re-design of Herefordshire's Children's Centre services

## Children and young people with disabilities

- More than 90% of EHC plans are now being delivered within timescales
- A re-modelled shortbreaks offer is now available, following consultation

## Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing

- Opening of a new emotional wellbeing programme; Strong Young Minds, led by the CLD Trust, to support young people before MH develops

## CYP in need of Safeguarding

- An increase in the number of foster carers recruited by the council
- Fewer children at risk of significant harm-reduced from 288 a year ago to 114

## Addressing challenges for teenagers

- A reduction in NEETs by 1.7% annually
- A reduction in both fixed-term and permanent exclusions, better than England and statistical neighbour average

## Early Help

- The Early Help Strategy has been agreed by full Council and the Children and Young People's Partnership
- 274 families are benefiting from the troubled families programme

# Introduction & Background to the Early Help Strategy

**Chris Baird**

Assistant Director of  
Children's Wellbeing



# Families First/Troubled Families Programme

Central to Herefordshire's Early Help is the Families First/Troubled Families programme.

Families identified for support will meet at least two of the six main headline issues:

- Parents and children involved in crime and anti-social behaviour
- Children who have not been attending school regularly
- Children who need help
- Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion, and young people at risk of worklessness
- Families affected by domestic violence and abuse
- Parents and children with a range of health problems

# Early Help/Families First performance

## Families First Phase 2

- 460 families have so far been successfully engaged.
- 58 families have made sustainable changes and met the sustainability criteria (for at least 6 months).
- Currently 113 families including 272 children are being supported by in-house family support; Vennture; or Homestart and are moving towards meeting their outcomes and sustainable change.

# Innovating with families to achieve outcomes

- Supported a young person to go swimming who hadn't been out of the house for years
- Sourcing a bike for a young person to get to school on time
- Gym membership for a young person with a weight problem
- Using the Dog's Trust to engage a young person
- Made a fabric tube with Lego inside it for a child with ADHD. The young person now concentrates in class.
- Work delivered using translators
- Supermarket shopping to show how to budget and eat healthily
- Supporting parents to access charitable donations
- Joint working with Addaction

# Early Help Case Study

Family: Mother, 8 year old daughter and mother's new partner.

Presenting issues: 8 year old's behaviour and weight, mum finding it all too much, influence of mother's new partner.

Work completed and outcomes:

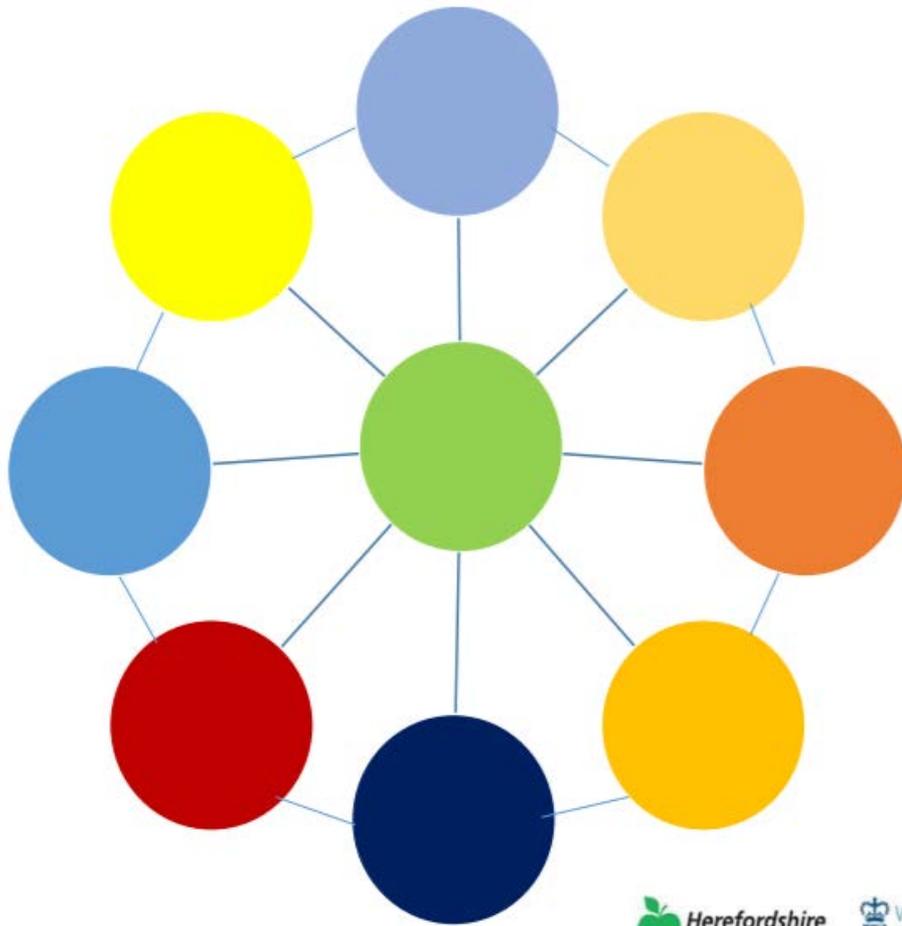
- Mum supported to access treatment for her mental health and to access Women's Aid. Mum now more confident and has ended her abusive relationship.
- Triple P delivered. Mum now confident to put boundaries in place making her daughter feel more safe and contained.
- The daughter supported to express her thoughts and feelings and had bereavement counselling. She is now happier and not so angry about her dad dying and feels more protected by her mother. Her weight is being monitored and it is now not a concern.

# Interactive Workshops

**Andy Hough**

Head of Educational  
Development





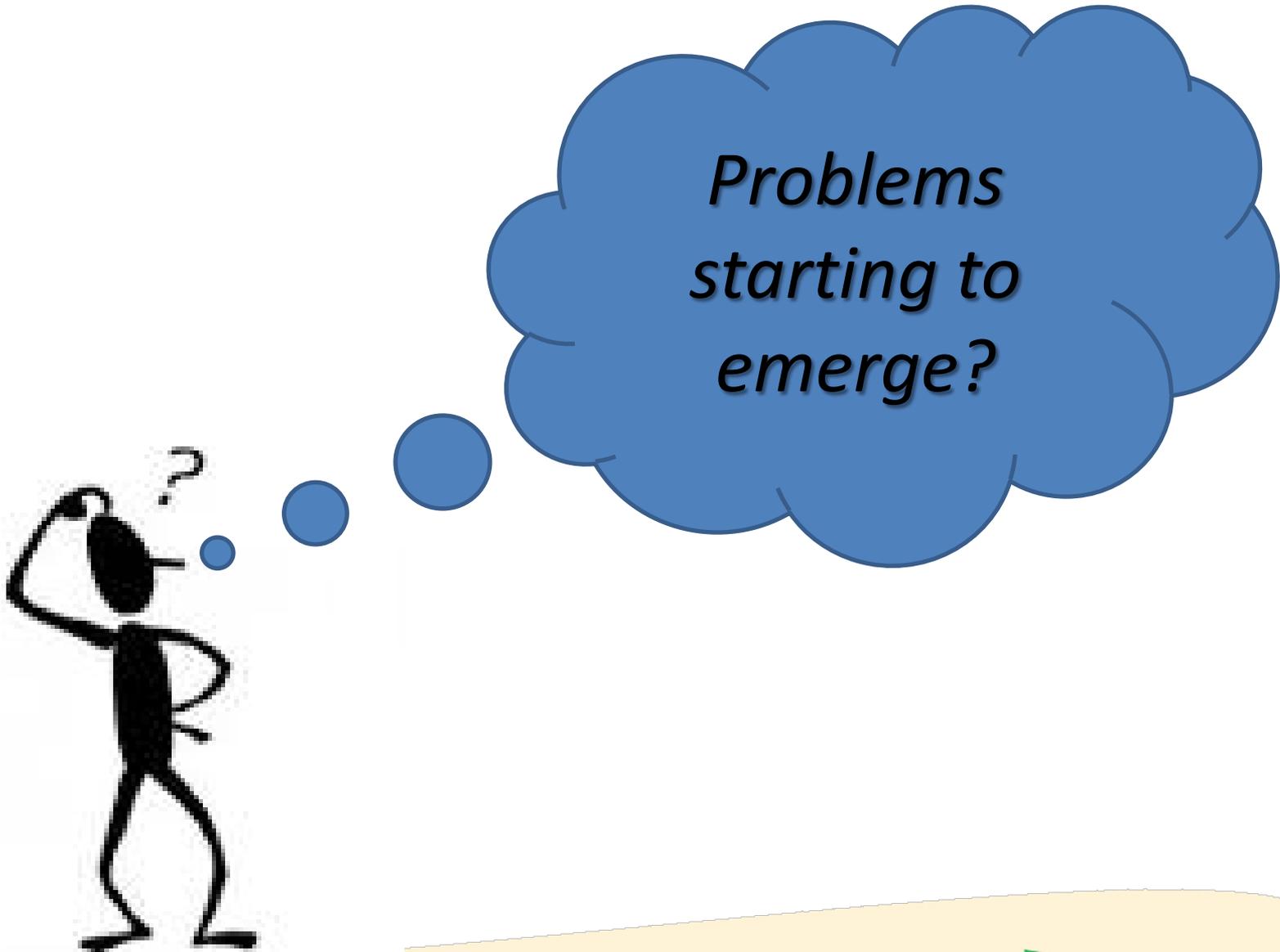
Thriving Communities  
Think Family and Think Locally

## EARLY HELP STRATEGY 2016 – 2018



# What is Early Help?

- Early Help means providing help for children and families as soon as problems start to emerge or when there is a strong likelihood that problems will emerge in the future.
- Early Help is about providing services at the right time to meet families' needs and to keep them in control of resolving their issues and problems, to reinforce families' own skills to determine their future, and to reduce poor outcomes and inequalities.



*Problems  
starting to  
emerge?*

# Workshop 1

- How do we get to know about a 'problem' or an emerging problem?
- How do we develop the understanding of what 'help' might mean?



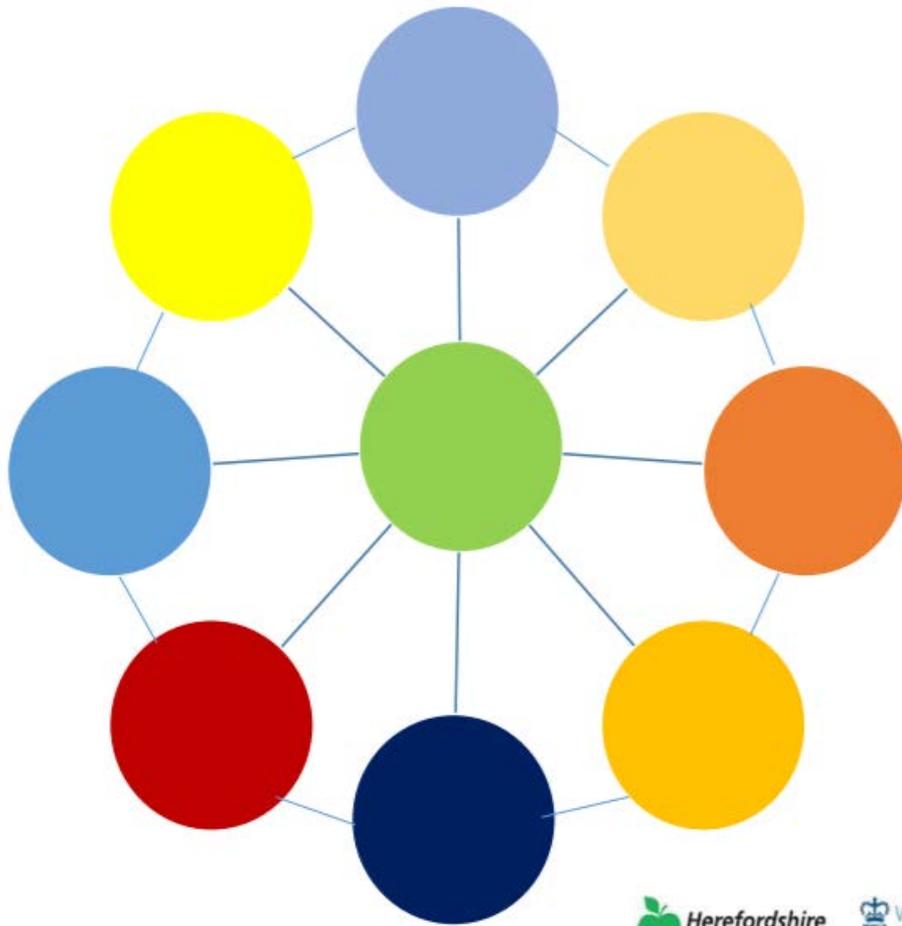
Professionals should, in particular, be alert to the potential need for Early Help for a child who:

- is disabled and has specific additional needs;
- has special educational needs;
- is a young carer;
- is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour;
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems and domestic violence;
- has returned home to their family from care;<sup>[4]</sup> and/or
- is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect.



# Networking, Coffee Break & Market Place

*Please go and talk to as many people you don't know as possible!*



Thriving Communities  
Think Family and Think Locally

## EARLY HELP STRATEGY 2016 – 2018



# Workshop 2

## Part 1:

- What do we need to do to support children and families, build skills confidence and own capacity to:
  - Think independence?
  - Think family?
  - Think whole system?
  - Flexible workforce
  - Make every contact count

# Workshop 2

## Part 2:

- What should the communication engagement approach for rolling out Early Help look like?
- How would you like to be further involved?

# Discussion

## A problem or emerging problem

Think independence

What can we do now?

What can we develop?

What are the risks/barriers?


# Round-up & Close

Before you go...

Please complete an evaluation form, we want to know what you liked, what you didn't and how we can improve it for next time.

To keep in touch with the network, please join our Facebook page:  
search for **Herefordshire children's wellbeing network**

Please contact us if you have any questions:  
[childrenscommissioning@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:childrenscommissioning@herefordshire.gov.uk)