

Early Years Knowledge Workshop

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The North East Context

Over 30 per cent of Super Output Areas (SOAs) in the region fall within the 20 per cent most deprived in England under the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007. Nearly 18 per cent fall within the most deprived 10 per cent.

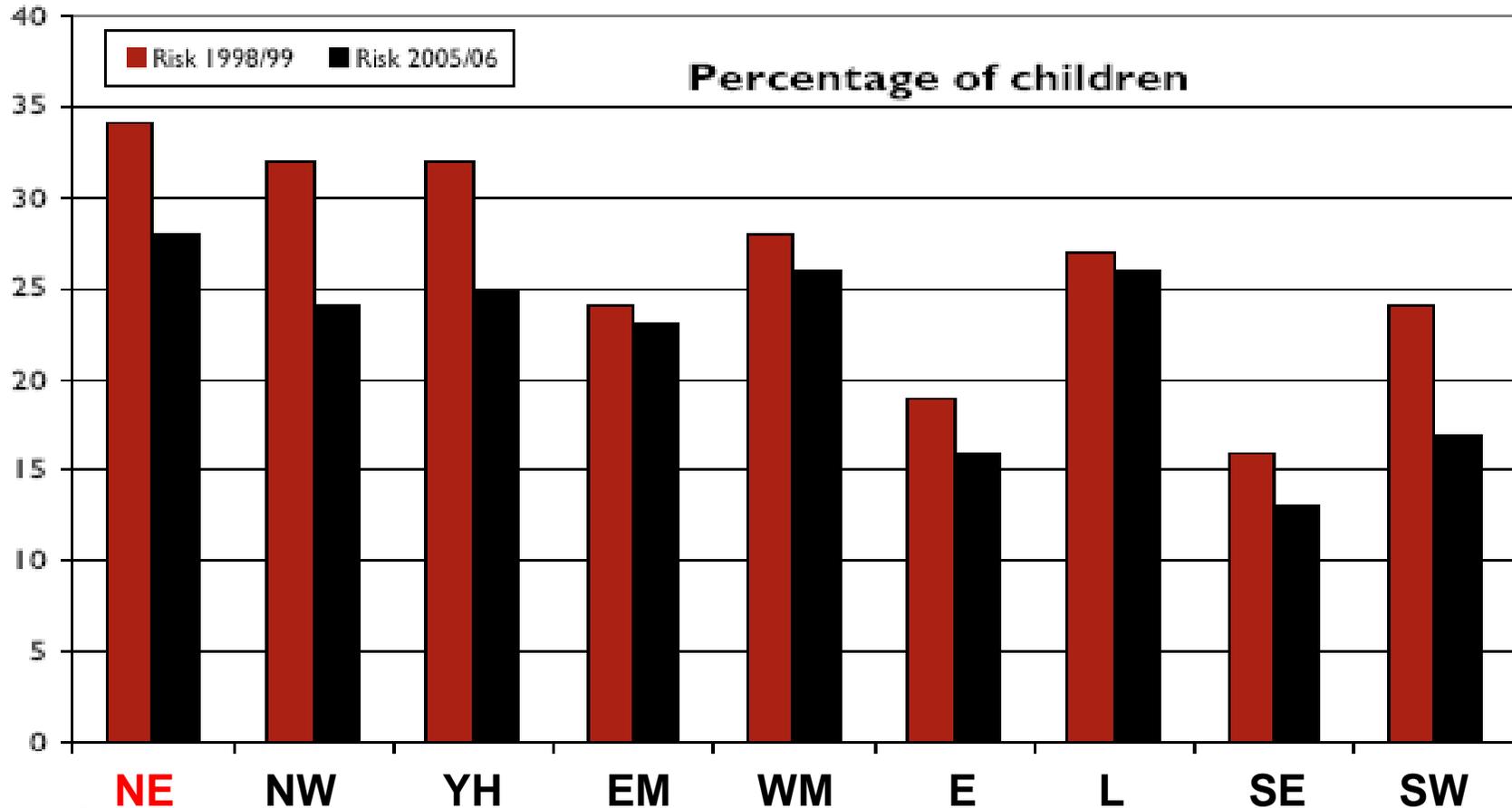
Significant clusters of deprivation exist within Easington, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Sunderland. 16 of the 23 local authorities have 25 per cent or more SOAs within the 20 per cent most deprived in England.



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Risk of Child Poverty by Region



Implications of Child Poverty:

- Blights the lives of children, research shows that much of a child's future prospects can be predicted by age 2
- Poor adults tend to produce poor children
- This creates a cycle of poverty that causes major damage to society
- Creates unequal opportunity that continues through life..... children born to fathers in unskilled and semi-skilled occupations have infant mortality rates 70% higher than those in professions



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The Challenges for us all:

- **Raising the skills levels of the country**, and supporting people into learning, training and work – engaging them...and raising aspirations. This is particularly challenging in the current climate
- **Securing sufficient, accessible and affordable childcare**
- **Better information services** for children & families
- **Providing the very best extended services and Children's Centres** for all children and their families
- Being able to **identify those at risk early**, and even earlier when children need most support, and prevent problems turning into crisis



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Government Office Role

- 9 Regional Government Offices in England
- Provide “central government in the regions”
- Children and Learners Groups established 2006
- Monitor, challenge and support LAs on the delivery of the ECM agenda
- Children’s Services Advisers - work at a strategic level, co-ordinate engagement plan with each local authority area
- LAAs, Improvement Support Partners and JISPs
- Policy Teams focus on specific themes and have place based knowledge



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Government Office Role (cont)

- Strengthen National Policies
 - Ensuring policy is delivery friendly
 - Providing local intelligence
 - Reflecting local priorities, experience and concerns
- Integrate regional strategies
 - Connect Whitehall to key regional players
 - Connect national policies, regional strategy and local delivery
 - Build shared vision for stakeholders with different politics and priorities



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Leading and Managing the system

- Co-ordination of support and challenge
- Established an excellent Childcare Regional Network
- Established the Children and Young People's Forum - an effective collaboration of key partners such as TDA, TfC, Nat Stats, CWDC, 4Children, Early Support, Play and Youth Sports Trust
- Joint intervention and assistance - as a critical friend to LA and partners.
- Developing peer action learning sets to capture and share learning of what works
- Escalate action when issues not resolved



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North East Approach

- One of ways we're helping to develop a more joined up approach is via development of our EY Leads Network
- The Regional Child Poverty Steering Group
- We are also looking at, through ANEC and the RIEP, raising awareness of Early Years and Child Poverty with Elected Members, Local Councillors and EY Strategic Leads in local authorities.
- Childcare Regional Network (CRN) work has helped to structure EY work – identify key groups – ensure strategic links made.



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North East Approach

- Additional CRN funding received from DCSF to support Childcare Sufficiency and help improve the take up of childcare
- GONE working with consultants on 6 projects which will run until the end of March 2009.
- Provide a supportive environment for LAs to share good practice, identify key challenges and possible solutions and also feedback key information to DCSF as necessary to help inform future developments
- There is now a National CRN that has met twice – looking to bring direct feedback from this to the regional CRN.



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DCSF Policy, Pilots and Projects

- Free Early Education:
In the NE region, 53,195 free part-time early education places taken up by 3 & 4 year olds in 2008, 2,325 less than in 1997.
- 3 Pathfinders in the region that are delivering a flexible offer of 15 hours of early education to 3 and 4 year olds – Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Durham
- Free Entitlement for Two Year Olds:
Targeted at disadvantaged families, piloted in Durham, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Middlesbrough with Newcastle due to start in September 2009 and Hartlepool in January 2010.
- Children's Centres:
182 designated children's centres (from phase 1 and 2) reaching the most disadvantaged 30% areas. By March 2010, all children under 5 will have access to a children's centre in their community. There are plans for a further 14 phase 3 centres which will mainly serve children in the less disadvantaged areas of the region, although some pockets of 30% children will also be covered. This brings a total of 196 centres by end of March 2010 serving all children under 5 in the region.



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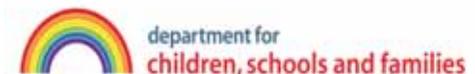


DCSF Policy, Pilots and Projects

- **Family Nurse Project:**
Focussing on first-time mothers under the age of 24. The project is testing a US model of early intervention which involves a structured programme of home visits by trained nurses. (Durham, Darlington and Sunderland)
- **Family Intervention Project:**
Family Intervention Projects also work through multi-agency teams to support parents to enter or sustain employment; tackling problems that are barriers to work such as drug and alcohol misuse, poor hygiene or mental ill health and provide their children with real life chances (Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, South Tyneside and Sunderland)
- **Child Poverty Family Intervention Project**
Building on the FIP model, Child Poverty FIPs are providing support and challenge to families who have significant barriers to getting into work and who are suffering from intergenerational worklessness and associated disadvantage (Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle and South Tyneside)



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DCSF Policy, Pilots and Projects

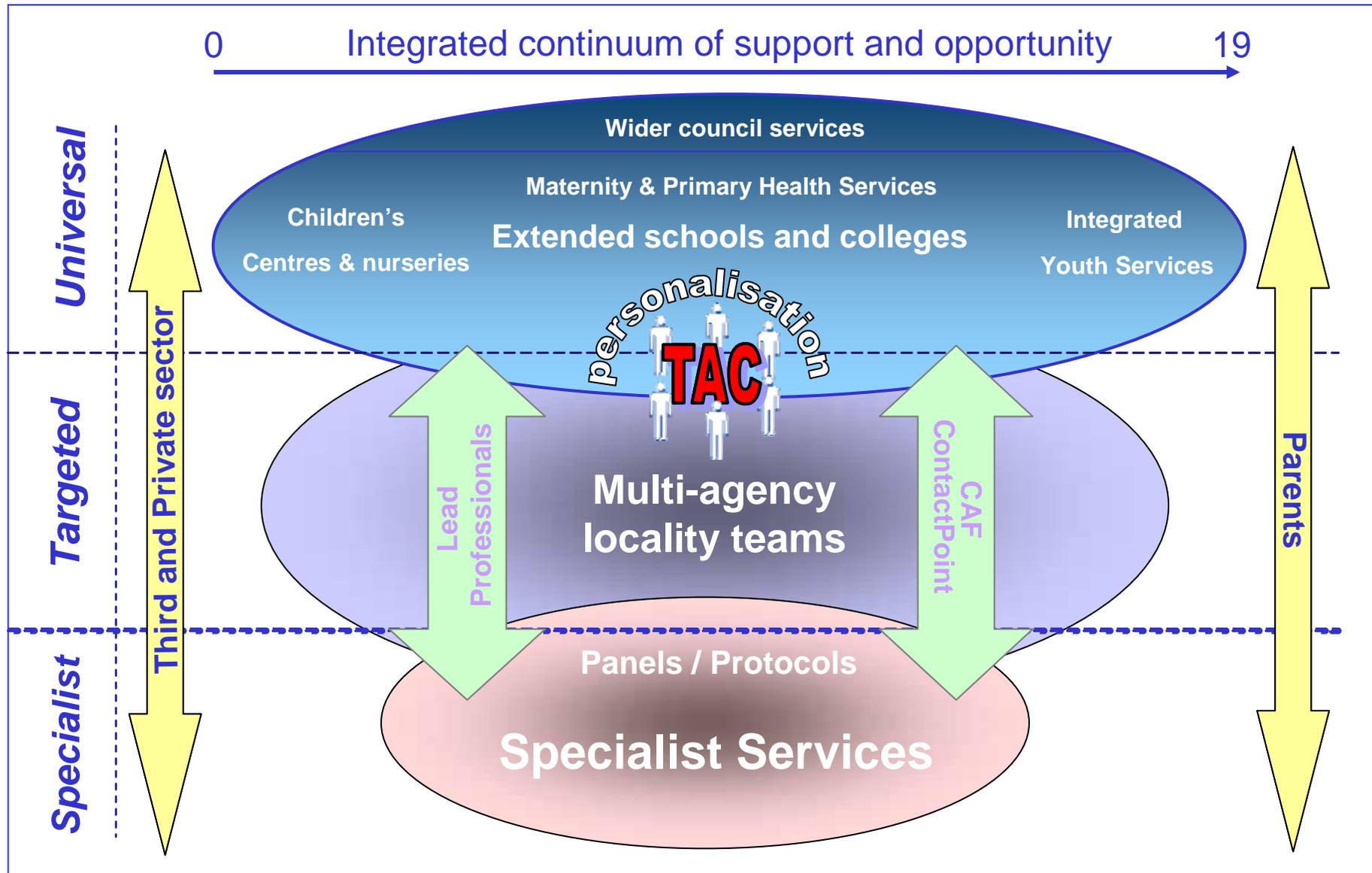
- Increased Access to Childcare for Disabled Children: (DCATCH)
Increase access to childcare for families with disabled children, and to address the attitudinal barriers currently impeding such access. (Northumberland)
- Parenting Support Advisors:
Preventative school based role to support parents, concentrating on behaviour and attendance, parental engagement with schools and reducing barriers to learning (Durham, Middlesbrough, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland) – now rolling out nationally
- 0-7 Partnerships
Coalitions between primary schools, early years providers, health and other family services, to make sure young children are ready to start school (Sunderland and Durham)



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2010 integrated 'whole system' frontline delivery of children's services



Strategic Engagement Cycle/JISP process

