

PARENTING
EDUCATION
& SUPPORT
F O R U M

Charanjit Kang
Regional Development Officer,
South

Definition of Parenting

“Parenting education and support encompasses a diverse range of learning opportunities and support activities. It enables parents, prospective parents and those in a parenting role to improve their understanding of their own and their children's personal, social, emotional, intellectual and physical needs and in the context in which family life takes place. This enhances family life and the contribution which families make to society. The Parenting Education & Support Forum supports a model which promotes respectful and empowering attitudes and which values parents' unique knowledge of their own children.”

(based on Pugh D'Ath and Smith, 1994 'Confident Parents, Confident Children.')

Parenting Education

- Parenting education encompass a diverse range of learning opportunities and supportive activities.
- Parenting education enables parents, prospective parents and those in parenting role to improve their understanding of their own and their children's personal, social, emotional intellectual and physical needs, in the context of their family life.

The Work of the Forum

The Forum promotes best practice in parenting education and support by:

- **Developing Quality Standards in practice and training**
- **Informing members about developments in the field**
- **Providing opportunities for members to get together**
- **Informing policy makers about what is going on locally and what is needed**

Working at a local level

- Expand appropriate parenting education and support
- Comprehensive understanding of parenting education and support
- Co-ordinated services which can provide, continuity, share good practice, enable effective 'signposting', coherent integration of preventative, supportive, reactive, and rehabilitative services.
- Provide possible frameworks and checklists for basis of discussion
- Minimise duplication of services
- Emphasise the need for real co-operation between local services and to improve support for parenting
- Coherent development offers a vehicle for overall community development, and helps safeguard children and parents who might otherwise fall through gaps between separate service provisions.

Service Provision

- Parenting Groups
- Parallel Youth Groups
- Group based support for parents/young people
- Individual support parents/young people
- Family sessions with identified family members
- Focused family support/home based support

Content of Parenting Programmes

- Focus on Parents
- Parenting Styles
- Impact of Reinforcing Negative Behaviour
- Communication
- Relationships
- Boundary Setting/Discipline
- 'Sensitive Parenting'
- Parenting - 'a balancing act'

- Different methods of rearing children
- Listening
- Physical/Mental Health Issues Parents/Young People
- Discipline/Supervision
- Communication
- Family Relationships
- Family Conflicts
- Single Parents
- Fathers as single parents
- Lack of self esteem/confidence
- Stress related difficulties
-

What Parents Want

- Support NOT punishment
- Opportunities and positive experiences
- To Take 'back control'
- Way forward – often very desperate situations
- Learning from peers
- Parent/Community mentors
- To gain confidence in their parenting skills
- 'To Support the Parent is to support the child'

'Good Enough Parents'

- offer positive role models
- set boundaries
- offer examples for resolving conflict in an amicable way
- provide warmth, concern and support
- seen by children to be in charge
- consistent
- able to respond to their children adequately
- give reasons for rules
- help young people to understand his/her parent's perspective
- negotiate and discuss, rather than laying down the law
- engage in open communication and involve their children in decisions

National Occupational Standards Benefits

- Opportunity for the Parenting Education and Support Sector to determine common standards
- Reduce inconsistency and variability of practice
- Contribute to training and staff appraisal
- Job Descriptions
- Developing project briefs
- Managing change
- Benchmarking – measuring standard
- Risk management
- Development of new qualifications

Training and Qualifications why National Occupational Standards (NOS)?

- Need to protect parents
- Professional training not sufficient for purpose
- Unregulated sector need for quality assurance measures
- NOS will apply to front-line and other workers

National Occupational Standards

Work with parents

- Mapping of the parenting Education and Support Sector
- Competences based on key job roles of those who work with parents
- 35 units of competencies
- Levels 2 to 4
- Key principles and values revised

Multi-agency Work

- Multi-agency work is essential to putting policy and practice into action. What are the ways in which this is being achieved, and what skills are needed to make it work?
- In order to ensure the optimum outcomes for children, without duplicating services, or whereby children receive no services at all, it is crucial for all agencies and disciplines to work collaboratively in inter-agency and inter-disciplinary circumstances.
- Increasingly there are service provisions developed on multi-agency basis, whereby statutory teams have been introduced to operate by bringing together staff from different perspectives. An example is Youth Offending Teams.

Parenting Assessments

Behaviour difficulties
Routines
Family relationships
Helping you find support in your local community
Lifestyle issues
Basic care
Ensuring safety
Bonding and attachment
Guidance and boundaries
Family security
Assessing parenting capacity
Identifying strengths and areas for development
Stimulation/play

Multi-Agency Allocation Group (MAAG)

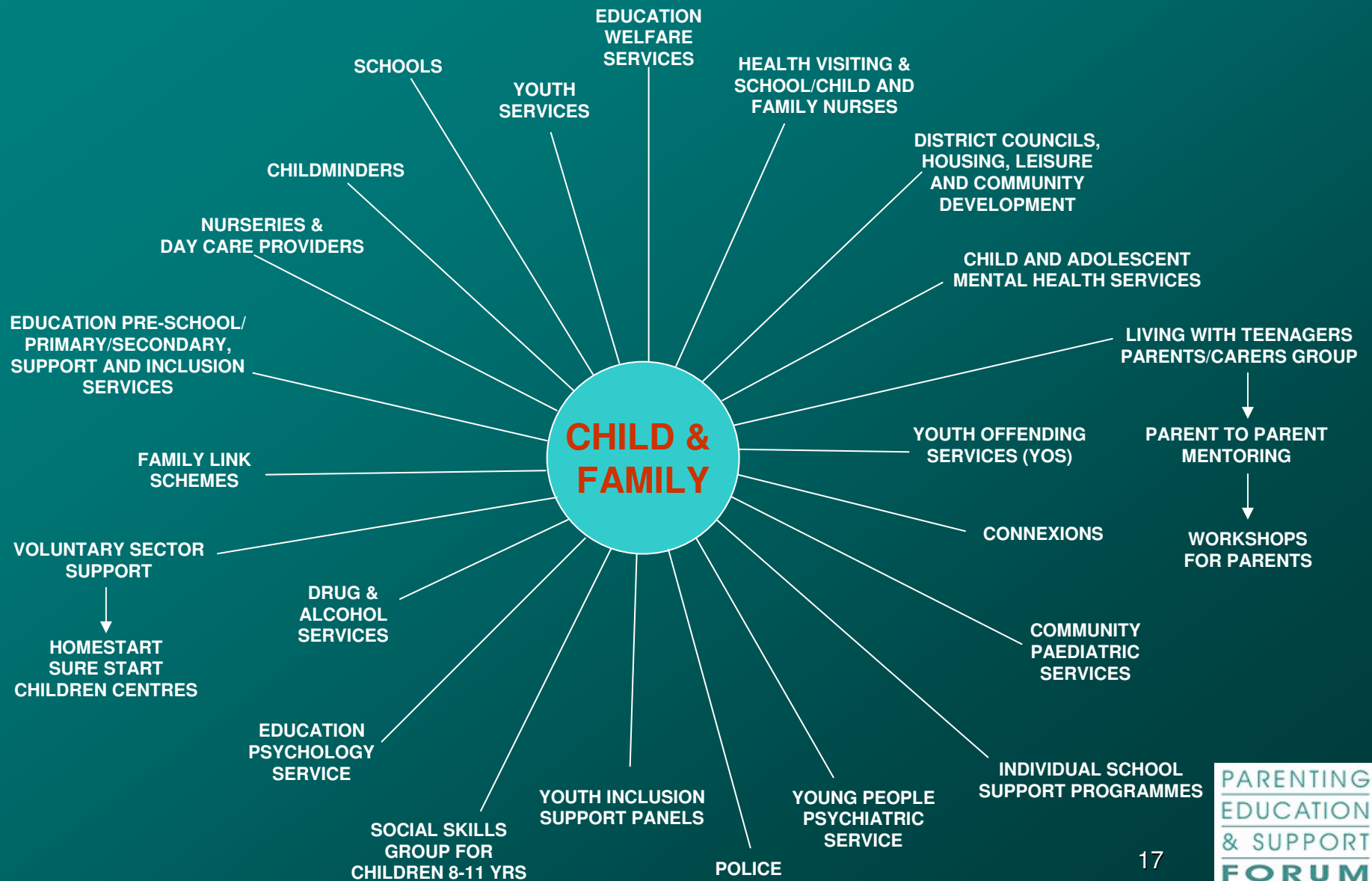
Referrals

Referrals can be made via LEA, Child & Adolescent Mental Health, Social Services, Named Nurses Child Protection, Paediatric Services, YOS, Connexions.

What is the Multi-Agency Allocation Group?

This is a weekly or fortnightly meeting where referrals are considered by the group members, i.e. Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Social Services, Education, Youth Offending Service, Connexions and Voluntary Organisations.

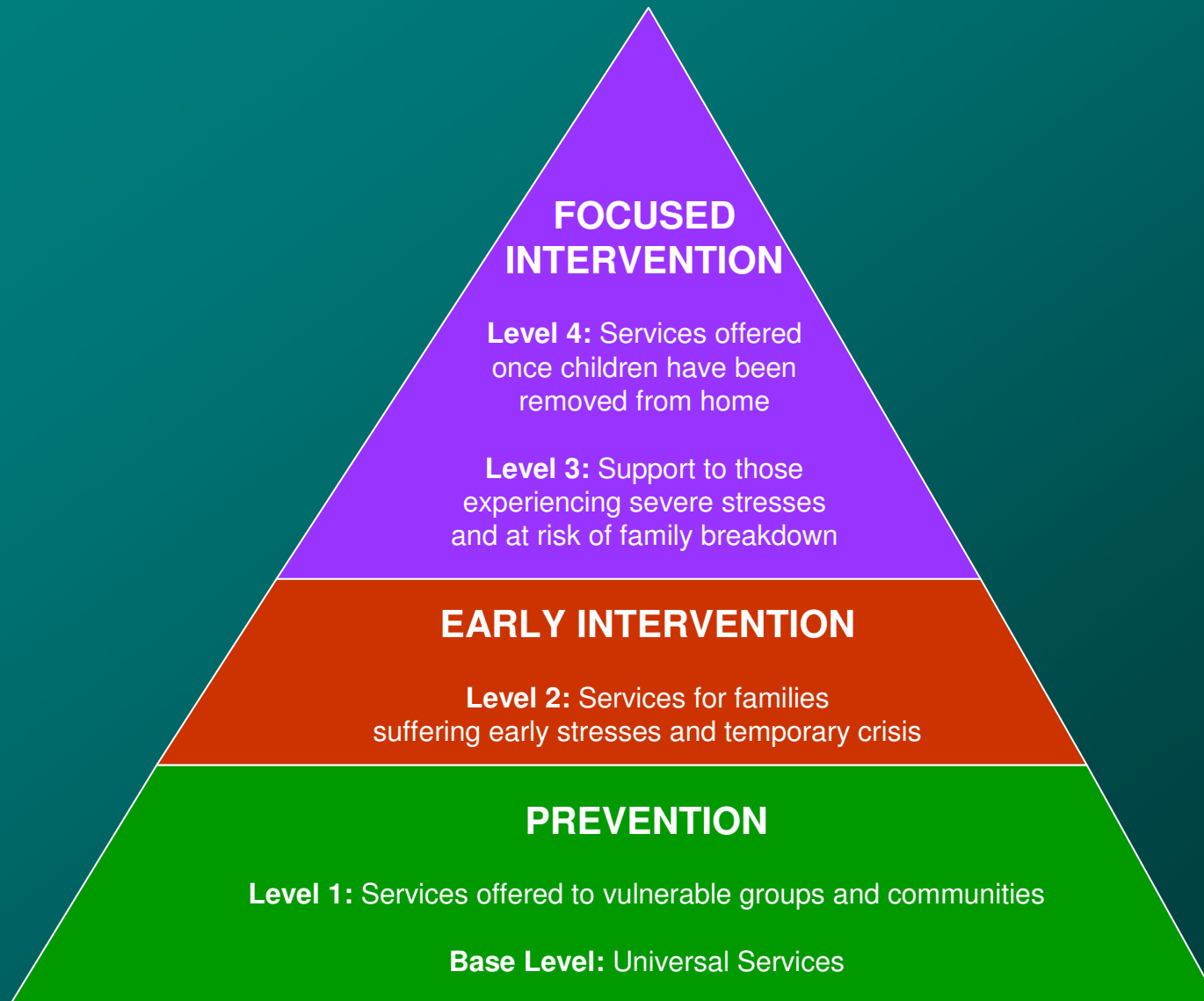
MULTI-AGENCY ALLOCATION GROUP



Parenting Strategy

- **Strategic planning of all agencies**
- **Understood within the context of multidisciplinary and multi-agency partnership**
- **Strategy proposes parenting education and support should be available universally**
- **Strategy is essentially preventative** (Hardiker framework of families needs)
- **Development publicity material – Children’s Information Service**
- **Universal Parenting Services**
- **Sign-posting to a variety of support services and advice**

HARDIKER FRAMEWORK OF FAMILIES' NEEDS



Parenting Strategy

- **Provision of services**
- **Staffing, Accessibility. Diversity, Quality**
- **Local Co-ordination – Parenting Co-ordinator**
- **Training & Development**
- **Funding and Commissioning – establish comprehensive multi-agency funding and resource strategy**
- **Outcomes & Quality measurements**
- **Monitoring arrangements**
- **Review of the Strategy**

Parenting Education & Support Forum

Tel: 020 7284 8370

www.parenting-forum.org.uk