
West Area Supporting Children Programme

Update briefing for Family Support Project Board - 28th November 2003

1. Guiding principles

- Develop services to improve the prospects of vulnerable children
- Preventative – Levels 2 and 3 (see figure 1)
- Multi- agency delivery
- Area based
- Accessible
- Enhancing inter-agency/ disciplinary communication for the benefit of children

2. The Programme

- The Programme will consist of a range of annually agreed 'projects' or services that together seek to enhance the life prospects of vulnerable children.
- The programme will predominantly consist of level 2 and 3 preventative activities and aim to work with children (and their families) who are vulnerable but currently access few or only universal services.
- Will initially be the services funded from Children's Fund in the west area (including OnTrack)
- Will in the short term include preventative services of family centres, play link, new community mental health worker.
- Will seek, in the longer term, to incorporate also projects delivered by, for example, CAMHS, YOT, voluntary sector, school nursing, health visiting, connexions
- Individual projects can be modified, dropped or added to in response to needs of children and families

2.1 Requirements of inclusion in the programme

- Area based
- Predominantly involved in delivering services directly to children and families (as opposed to providing advice and support to other practitioners)
- Be delivered by named practitioners
- Named practitioners would be required to attend monthly 'Team meetings'
- Be part of an information sharing protocol (which will enable improved multi-agency communication and tracking of vulnerable children)

2.2 Benefits of programme approach;

- Provides area based 'commissioning' structure for preventative work.
- Ring fencing preventative activities
- Ensuring voluntary sector delivery
- Provides structures for quality assurance and performance management.
- Early implementation of IRT on area basis – establish service 'readiness' for city wide IRT
- Systems for ensuring vulnerable families don't drop through the net
- Multi-agency lead professional system for vulnerable children (rather than those with statutory involvement)
- The programme can in the future act as an area based preventative commissioning structure/ ring fenced funding stream

3. The Team

- Made up of named practitioners delivering services
- Link practitioners from key other
- IRT system, including information sharing protocol

- Lead Professional capacity for complex (not statutory) cases
- Delivery service predominantly to school cluster

4. Performance indicators

- User feedback (customer satisfaction) – range of methods including survey and focus groups
- Outputs
- Outcomes – short term; as negotiated with service users (i.e. set out to do what it intended to do)
- service user profile – did vulnerable children benefit from services

5. Challenges ahead

- Broadening the programme to include practitioners for mainstream services
- Providing clarity to partners
- The pressures on resources for services targeted at vulnerable children
- Joining up strategic and area based decision making and developments

Definitions

'Vulnerable children' – Children whose life chance will be jeopardised unless action is taken to meet their needs better and reduce the risk of social exclusion.

Programme – a collection of Projects (services or interventions) that together seek to achieve a common aim. Also projects share some common reporting lines, and monitoring

Project – a service or intervention with defined aims, objectives, outputs and outcomes. With outcomes defined in terms that are meaningful to the lives of children and families.

Prevention

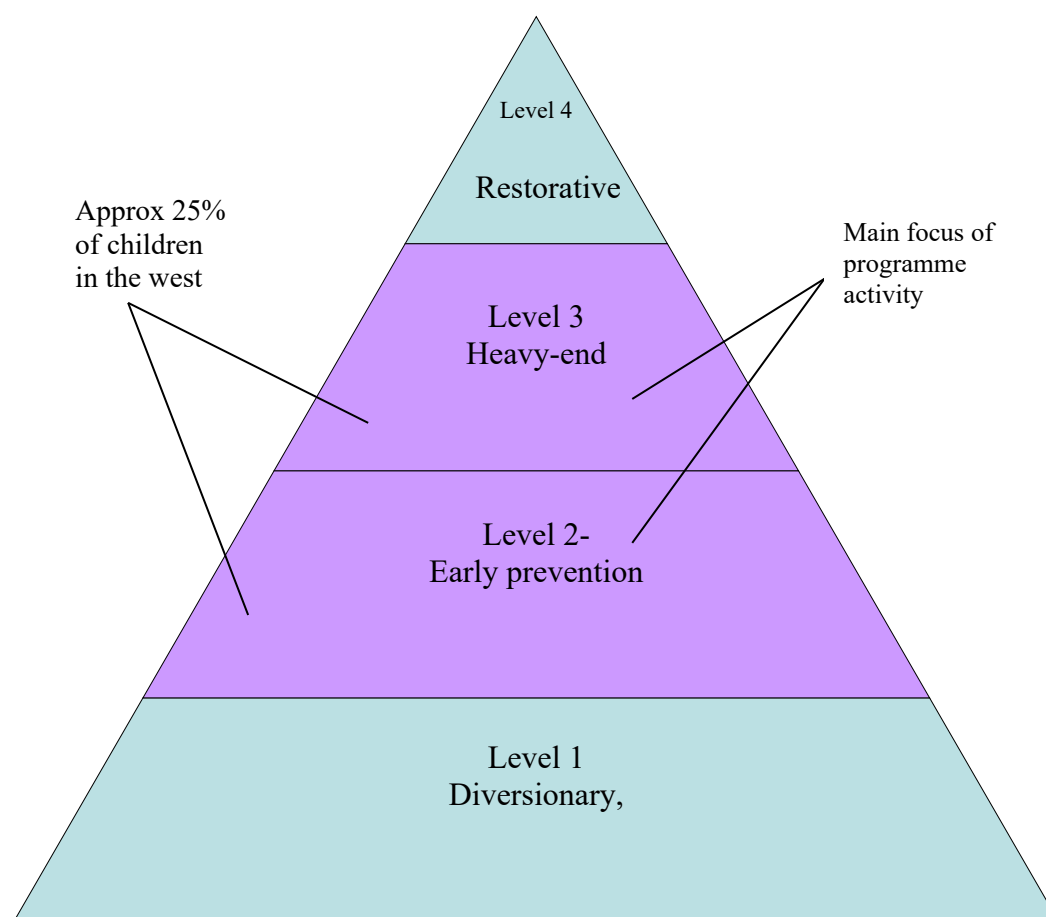


Figure 1 (from Local preventative Strategy guidance Oct 2002)



Annex 2

Variables	All people	People aged 0 - 4	People aged 5 - 7	People aged 8 - 9	People aged 10 - 14	People aged 15	Total under 16	child poverty index
Ward								
Hollingbury and Stanmer	14456	787	451	301	812	130	2481	1060
Patcham	13883	851	507	354	905	184	2801	451
Preston Park	13354	788	477	291	724	126	2406	314
Brunswick and Adelaide	8897	279	103	66	151	25	624	296
Hanover and Elm Grove	13768	807	440	262	603	84	2196	906
Queen's Park	13130	520	243	173	447	69	1452	719
Regency	8510	229	86	50	119	30	514	226
St. Peter's and North Laine	13804	587	249	181	398	74	1489	488
Moulsecoomb and Bevendean	15722	1051	768	533	1336	265	3953	2462
Rottingdean Coastal	12468	474	313	196	617	148	1748	213
East Brighton	13558	826	504	340	896	173	2739	1056
Woodingdean	9547	558	358	240	643	147	1946	604
Central Hove	8268	272	123	60	124	30	609	286
Goldsmid	13670	623	336	192	464	65	1680	387
Withdean	13387	723	405	280	708	115	2231	335
Hangleton and Knoll	14299	835	585	409	1054	191	3074	1107
North Portslade	10327	799	518	323	726	129	2495	884
South Portslade	9237	632	392	249	641	132	2046	658
Stanford	10056	531	368	273	671	158	2001	208
Westbourne	9099	457	252	161	364	74	1308	398
Wish	8377	474	293	181	440	80	1468	361

* based on 2001 population & 2000 children poverty index

Area	under 16's	Children in poverty
West	16912	4624
East	10386	4335
Central	13963	4460
Total	41261	13419

Possible team structure

