



Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee

Children and Families: Early
Intervention and Prevention

Purpose of Presentation

- Members to familiarise themselves with Children and Families Early Intervention services.
- To scrutinise early intervention processes in place and recommend any changes to Cabinet if needed.
- Taking into account the Darlington Health Profile 2011 indicators, to monitor performance against the indicators relating to early intervention.



Definitions of Early Intervention

Graham Allen MP:

- To get to problems before they emerge
- It's not about problem solving; it's about eliminating causes
- 'a stitch in time saves nine'

Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO):

- Intervening early and as soon as possible to tackle problems emerging for children, young people and their families or with a population most at risk of developing problems. Effective intervention may occur at any point in a child or young person's life.



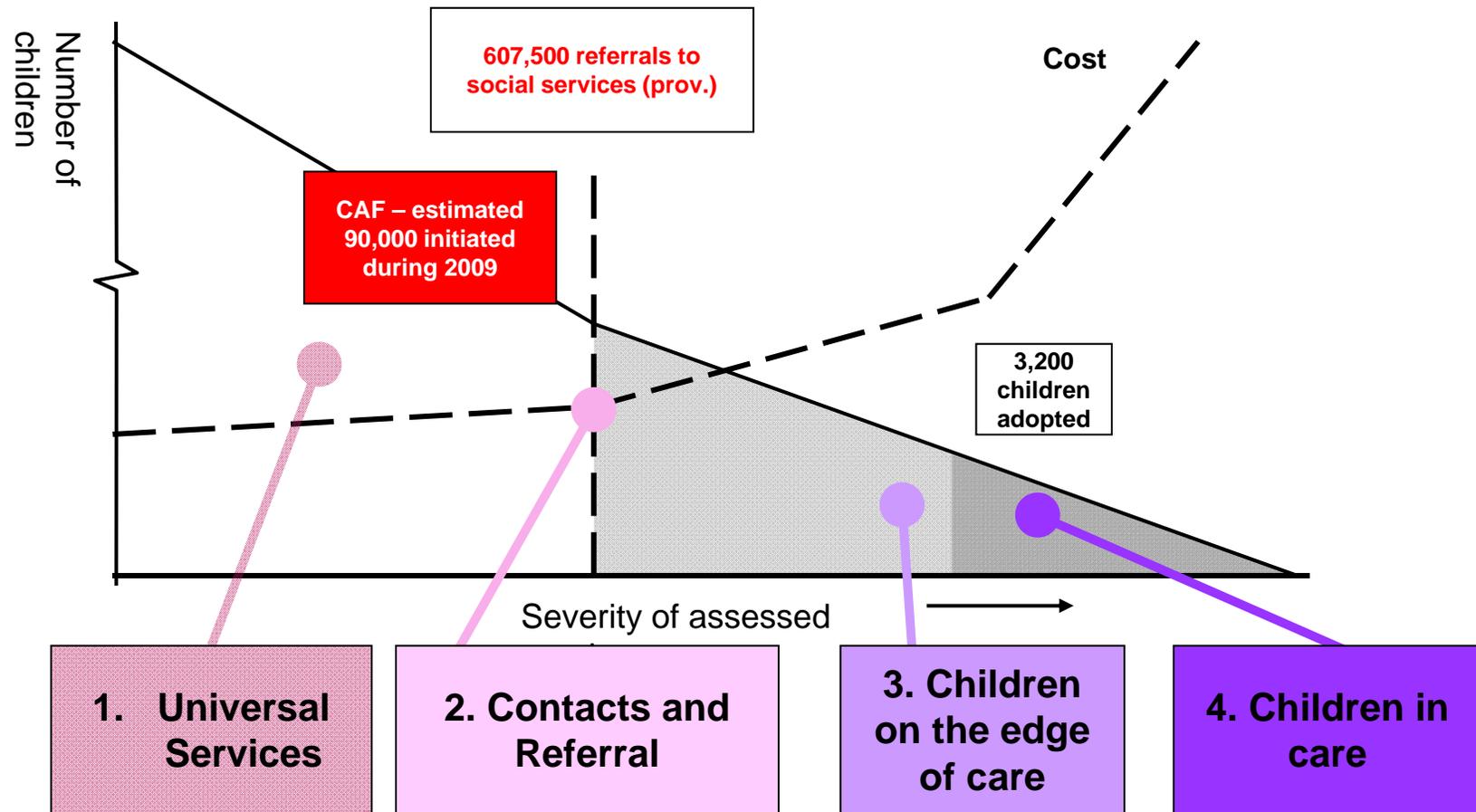
National Context: Reports commissioned by national Government:

- Early Intervention: the Next Steps (Graham Allen MP)
- The Foundation Years (Frank Field MP)
- The Early Years: Foundations for life, health & Learning (Dame Clare Tickell)

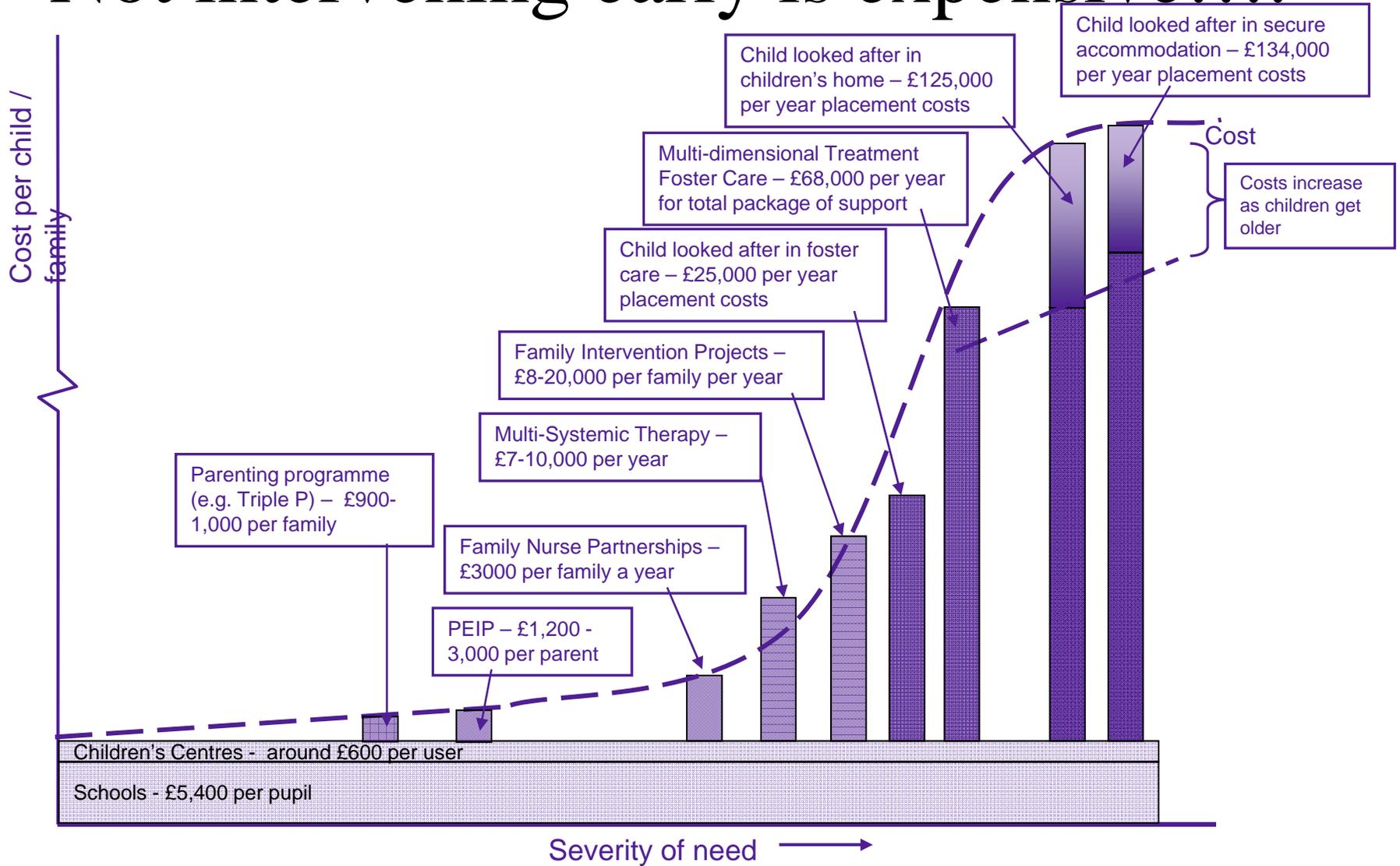
These reports all make strong recommendations for refocusing service delivery to intervening early to prevent costly remedial interventions at a later stage



This graph focuses on national pressures within the social care system and indicates where we need to focus service development in the Early Intervention & Prevention team



Not intervening early is expensive....



Local Context:

- Reduce the numbers of Children & Young People Looked After by the LA
- Reduce the numbers of Children & Young People subject to Child Protection Plans
- Achieving the above leads to substantial savings for the Council and improves the quality of life for Children, Young People and their families



Dilemmas

- Substantial savings required by the Council
- Ensuring statutory child protection and looked after services for children are maintained at a safe level
- Evidence for positive impacts of intervening early is substantial



Linked National Initiative

- The cost to the taxpayer of services to families with multiple problems can cost between £250k & £330k per year (DfE)
- ‘Troubled Families Team’ established to turn around the lives of 120,000 families by 2015 (David Cameron, December 2011)



Recommendations

Members to engage in a task and finish exercise to:

- Focus on local service development
- Areas of good practice: local and national examples to learn lessons from
- Multi agency working: challenges
- Consider the economic case for Early Intervention

