

CHILDREN'S SERVICES – FIT FOR THE FUTURE

RIGHT CHILDREN, RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME, RIGHT AMOUNT OF TIME

1.0 Who are the children in scope?

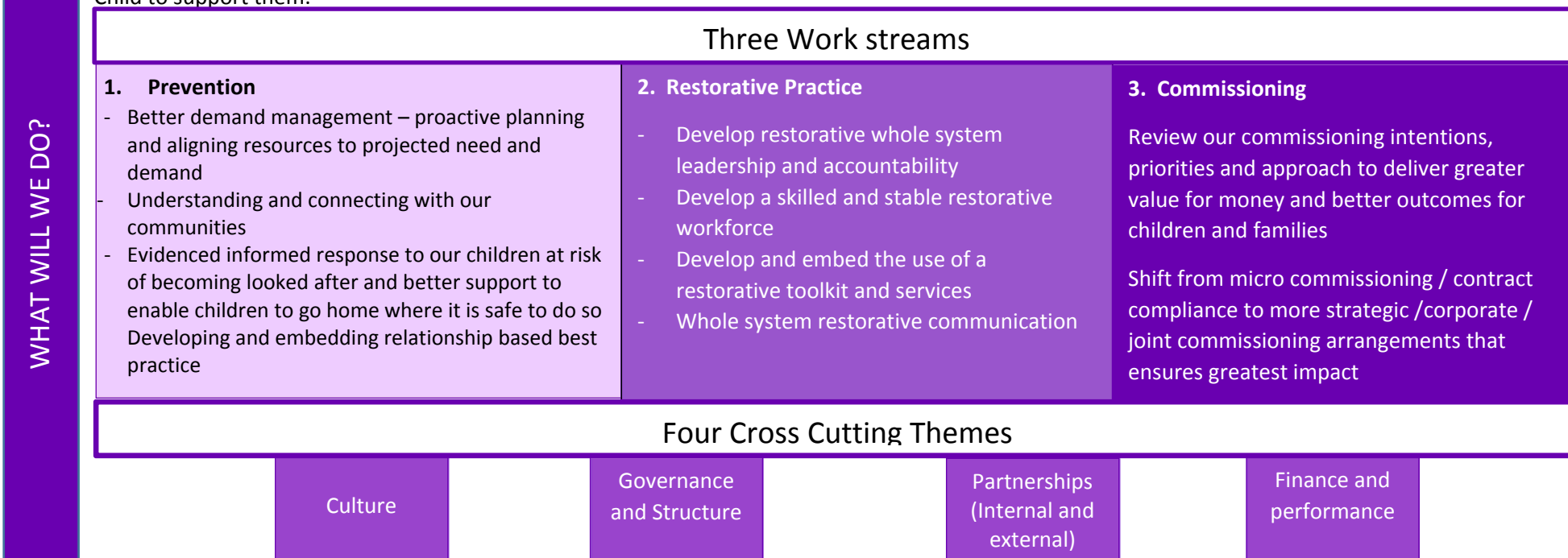
WHO FOR?	Children who are vulnerable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children fixed term or permanent excluded, children on part time timetables and children missing education - Vulnerable groups e.g. Children with SEND, young carers - Children living in poverty - Adverse childhood experiences 	Children in need, at risk & on the edge of care Circa 2000 Already in the statutory CSC system but not yet in care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children receiving targeted Early Help ▪ Children in need ▪ Children on a child protection plan ▪ Children on a youth justice plan 	Children Looked After Circa 640 In the care of the local authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Residential home ▪ Foster care ▪ Awaiting adoption 	Care Leavers Circa 170 Young people that have been in the care and are now transitioning to adulthood
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spend is dominated by the demands of children who are looked after circa £23 million ● Activity has long been centred on the crisis end of the spectrum and reactive in nature ● We need to get better at tackling the root causes of neglect and abuse, which are the dominant reasons for children becoming looked after ● More resources will not transform the landscape if they are simply misdirected into a system not focused on root causes of the problems 			

2.0 Our transformation principles

WHAT IS IMPORTANT?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Get the basics right for our children; a common sense approach that reduces bureaucracy, unnecessary and unhelpful processes ● Strong leadership informed by 'what works' setting our direction ● Mirror the lives and challenges of real families – whole system transformation because children and families don't fit neatly into directorates / teams and extend our work with children and families beyond a 9-5 and Monday to Friday mind set ● Implement change that works for Walsall children and families and underpinned by evidence– not a 'lift and shift' from other local authorities ● Prioritise the stability of children in all aspects of their life; design out 'hand off', 'handover' 'pass on' and what 'doesn't work' for children and families ● Develop a culture of being proud of what we achieve by having a relentless focus on quality, impact and outcomes (not outputs)
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3.0 Transformation Programme

Intended to reduce the circumstances which lead to children requiring a child protection response in the first place – demand management that will lead to sustainable change not one that rations services even more tightly as budgets shrink.
 Reorientation of Children's Services so we explicitly set out to reduce the need for statutory intervention by building on the capacity of those around the Child to support them.



WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL WE MAKE?	Children will tell us: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I am protected from harm, exploitation (sexual and criminal) and radicalisation ● Professionals understand my circumstances and know me and my family well ● I am not unnecessarily criminalised ● I am listened to and actively involved in decisions professionals take about my life ● My family and I do not live in poverty, we are not hungry ● We have a home and environment that is affordable, warm and safe ● I am supported to grow and develop and be resilient ● Education builds my confidence and prepares me, not just for exam success and the world of work, but also for independency and adulthood 	Impact from a service point of view <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More children in full time education and less exclusions ● Reduction in reactive demand through our 'front door' ● Reduction of children on a child protection plan ● Less children coming back for support following children's services ending support ● Reduction of children who need to come into the care of the local authority ● Placement stability for our children who need to be looked after ● Reduction of children getting involved with crime ● Less complaints, more compliments ● Reduction in service costs ● Stable permanent workforce who feel proud working for Walsall
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Dependencies

ASC – synergies with commissioning and locality working

Workforce – synergies between restorative practice and behaviours / skilled and stable workforce /recruitment and retention

Assets – place based locality working

Insight – work aligns to commissioning strand