



Engaging with Parents of Children at Risk of Violence Conference

21st March 2024

A portrait of Emma Jenkins, a young woman with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a red tie. The portrait is partially obscured by large, overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in yellow and teal. The background of the slide is a light pinkish-orange color with large, overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in yellow and teal.

Welcome

Emma Jenkins
Director of Change,
Youth Endowment Fund



Children's Commissioner for England – Keynote Speaker

Dame Rachel de Souza

Engaging with Parents of Children at Risk of Involvement with Violence

Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England

The Big Ask

557,077

responses from children in England (aged 4–17)

Equivalent to nearly **6%** of the whole population of this age group in England, a hundred times larger than comparable surveys

We received responses from children in all of the **151** English local authorities

3,800

children in care

6,000

young carers

2,300

children from a Gypsy or Irish Traveller background

13,000

children with a social worker

5,200

children attending special schools

Nearly

26,000

children receiving mental health support

Over

97,000

children with an additional learning need

Over

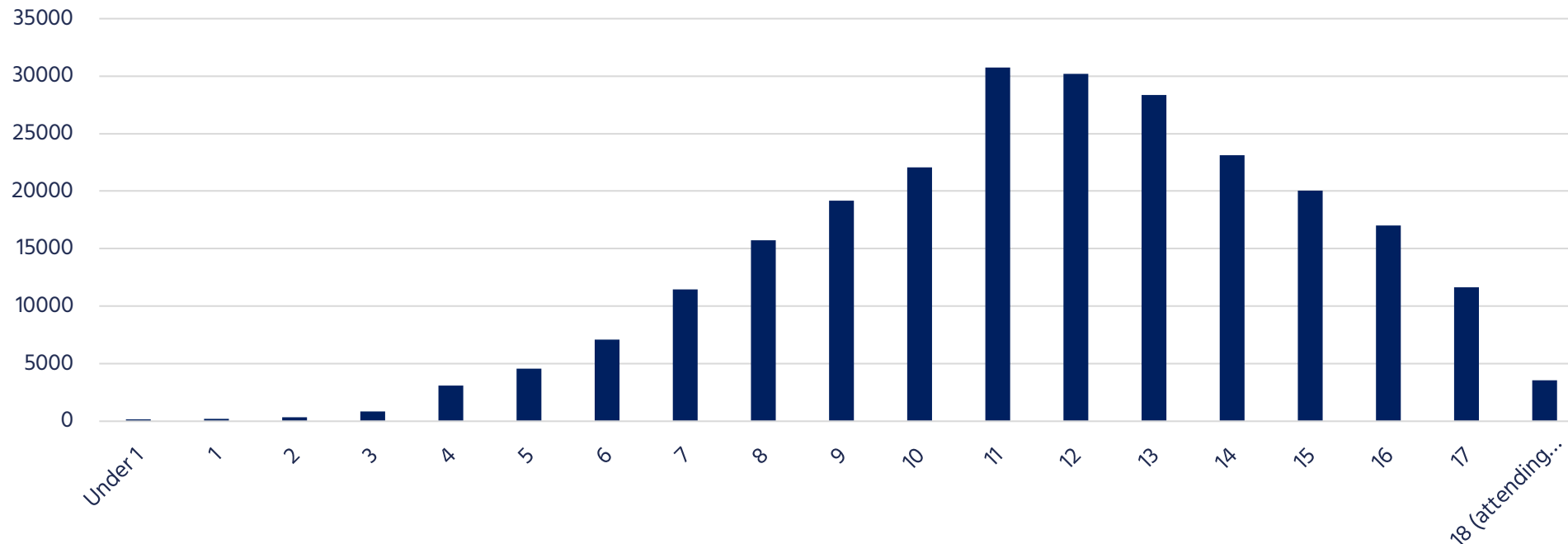
2,200

supported by Youth Offending Teams

The Big Ambition

The survey has had over **366k engagements**. Between The Big Ask and The Big Ambition, the total number of children engaged with since 2021 is **over 1 million children**.

The survey predominantly reached children of early secondary school age, mostly 11- to 13-year-olds. 51% were girls and 45% were boys. **85%** of responses came direct from children themselves with the remainder coming from adults on behalf of children. **388** children in secure settings such as YOIs responded to the survey.



What children said about safety

"Stop the police from harassing the young black youths in the area if they haven't done anything wrong because stop and searches have increased with the police not finding nothing and leavening it bout even an apology." – Boy, 17, Black, Black British, Caribbean or African.

"Make sure areas are safe and supported" – Girl, 14.

"[...] Protect children from harmful ideologies found on social media and school" – Girl, 17.

"Instead of investing so much money into keeping guys in prison invest that money into them before they end up in prison it cost u 50 to 60 grand for me to be here a year imagine if you invested that into my education and activities I wouldn't be here" – Child.

"Instead of locking them up look at the reason why there acting out and just because you've offended shouldn't make services like college practically unavailable." – Boy, 17, secure setting.

"YPs who are looking at jail should be given a chance if they're willing to change and get a suspended sentence and a length order, cause jail doesn't help us at all." – Boy, 17, secure setting.

"I think the stuff from the shop should be cheaper and we need a better park and we need more police because they crime where I live." – Boy, 13.

Family Review

- Children told me how much they care about their families.
- Children want strong and supportive relationships with the adults in their lives, so they have someone to go to for guidance on worries, dreams, and aspirations for the future.
- Children who reported a close relationship with their parents at age 13 had higher earnings at age 25.

'A loving family is worth more than money and will give you guidance support and love and guidance' – Boy, 11.

What children said about family in The Big Ambition

"they should help with the cost of living so parents have more money to care for their children." Boy, 8.

"More support for parents would be welcome. for example, how to deal with sibling tantrums, stages of development and associated needs. like the support we could access when children were under 5 at children's centres." Parent



"Children should all have ... a loving kind family which is able to help them", Girl, aged 10

"Make things cheaper so my parents don't have to work so much and then we would have more time together as a family. Most of the time it is either my Mum or Dad at work and we don't spend time together as a family. Also they are always worried about the cost of things because everything is so expensive." Girl, aged 9



Children's Social Care

- Child criminal exploitation was identified as an issue in over 14,000 children's social care assessments. Sexual exploitation was identified in over 15,000 and gangs in 11,000.
- The use of child in need plans varies widely between local authorities, up to a ten-fold difference in the rate of plans per 10,000 children.
- Across local authorities, the average time a child spends on a child in need plan varies from just over a month (35 days) to over a year (388 days).
- Although 10- to 15-year-olds only make up 32% of all children involved with children's social care, they make up 39% of the population of children on child in need plans



Attendance

- Just over a third of all pupils hit the threshold for either persistent or severe absenteeism in either Year 10 or Year 11. 32% of pupils were persistently absent but never severely absent and 4% of all pupils were severely absent in at least one of Years 10 and 11
- A child is half as likely to get 5 good GCSEs including English and Maths if they are persistently absent.
- Only 5% of severely absent children reach that milestone.



Strip Searching

- More than half (52%) of strip searches were conducted without an Appropriate Adult confirmed to be present
- Black children in England and Wales were up to 6 times more likely to be strip searched when compared to national population figures, while White children were around half as likely to be searched.



Thank you!



Children's Commissioner for England
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

020 7783 8330
info.request@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk
www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk
[@ChildrensComm](https://www.instagram.com/ChildrensComm)
[@childrenscommissioner](https://www.facebook.com/childrenscommissioner)





Evidence-based parenting interventions for children at risk of violence

**Ben Lewing, Assistant Director for Local
Development, *Foundations***

// Foundations

What Works Centre for Children & Families

Evidence-based parenting interventions for children at risk of violence

Ben Lewing

Assistant Director, Local Development



FOUNDATIONS



VISION

Vulnerable children
have the foundational
relationships they
need to thrive in life

MISSION

Generating and
championing actionable
evidence that improves
services to support
family relationships



WHY SUPPORTING PARENTING MATTERS



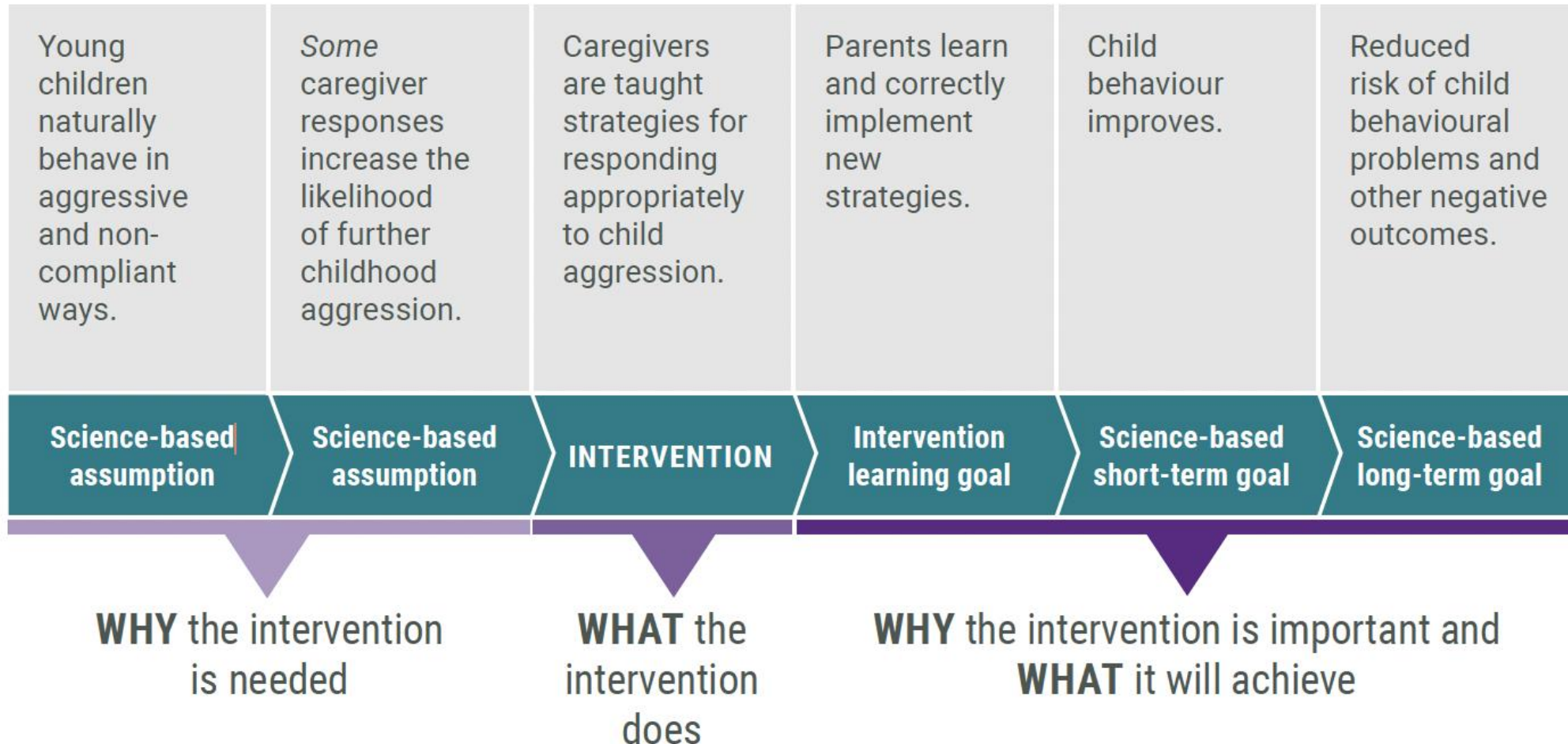
Strong parenting sets children up for success

Children deserve supportive parenting

Some parents need additional, tailored support



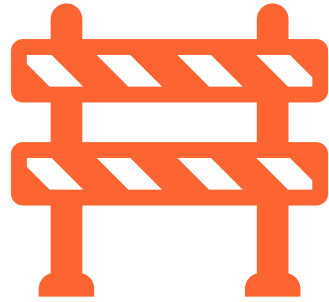
A THEORY OF CHANGE



REALISING THE BENEFITS

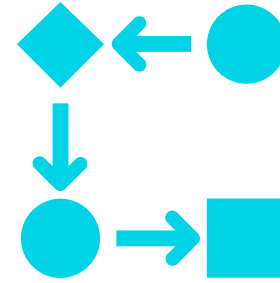


Despite the **availability of research evidence** there remains a **stubborn gap** between what we know is **effective from research**, and the application of that knowledge, in sustained ways, to inform **local service design and practice**.



Barriers

- Insufficient or insecure funding
- Lack of time and staff capacity
- Evidence-based practice not embedded in culture and leadership of their team/organisation
- Implementation challenges in their local area (e.g. recruitment and retention)



Enablers

- Resources to identify and review research evidence and to implement the recommendations
- Research champions to raise awareness and guide people to the best and most current research guides and toolkits
- Leadership that promotes evidence-based culture and practice

FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION



1. The evidence problem

2. Local Evidence Leaders as catalysts for change

3. The implementation obstacle






THANK YOU

www.foundations.org.uk

A portrait of a young man with brown hair, wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a red tie. The portrait is partially obscured by large, overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in yellow and teal. The background of the entire slide is a light pinkish-orange color with large, overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in yellow and teal.

Afternoon keynote

**Helen Hayes MP,
Shadow Minister for
Children**

A young boy with dark curly hair and braces is smiling broadly, showing his teeth. He is wearing a green and white hoodie. The background is a wooden wall. The image is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent yellow and red graphic element.

DfE Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra familial harm – working with parents

**Dez Holmes, Director, *Research
in Practice***



University of
Bedfordshire

research
in practice

The
Children's
Society

Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme

Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra familial harm – working with parents

Dez Holmes,
Director, Research in Practice





The eight Practice Principles





Approach parents and carers as partners wherever possible



University of
Bedfordshire

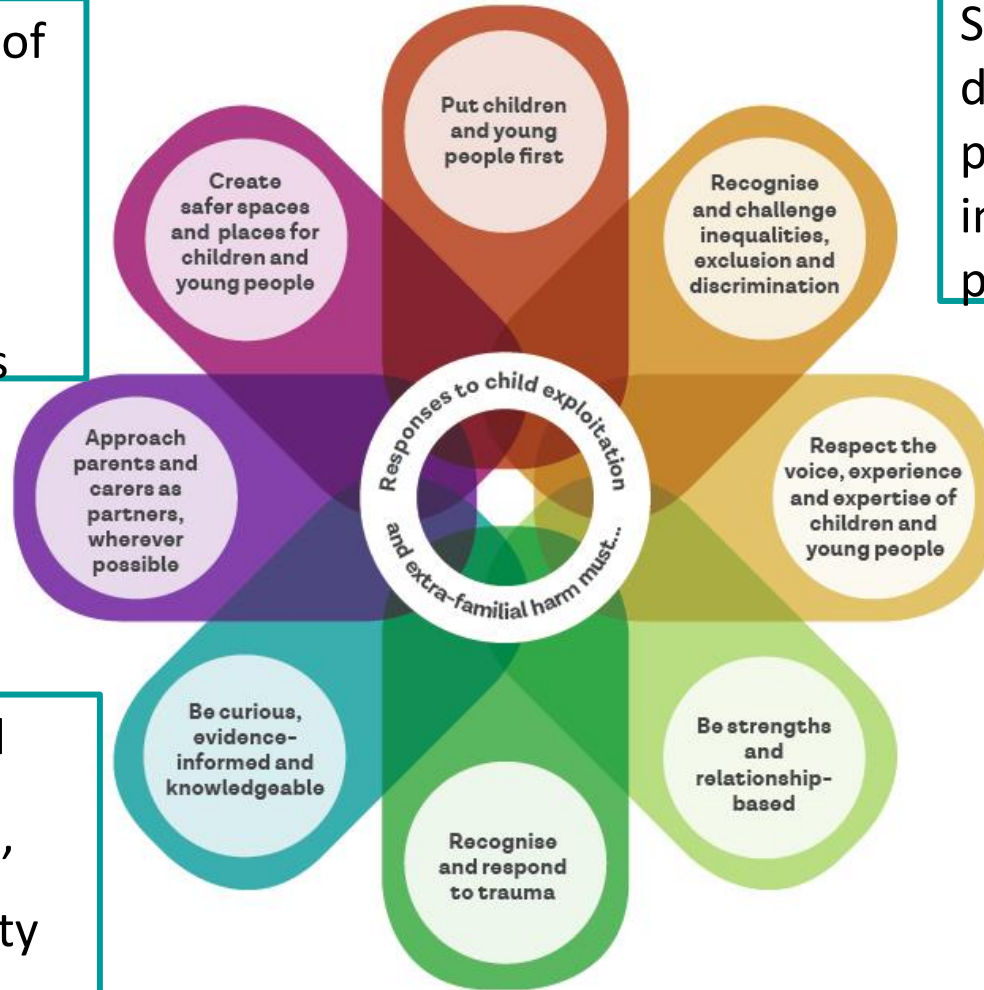
research
in practice

The
Children's
Society

- Starting point: include parents and carers as partners
- Parents and carers can hold invaluable information about their child and the contexts of their lives - be alert to ethical implications
- Acknowledge and attend to parents' and carers' own distress – naming affect; holding space
- Recognition that circumstances *will* differ between families so there is no 'one size fits all' solution – critical thinking essential
- Modelled at a strategic level – forums; co-production; advisory groups; peer-support; investment...

Woven in, not bolted on

Deep knowledge of
community and
context;
communities as
partners not
passive recipients



Structural
discrimination;
power dynamics;
inclusive policy and
practice

Modelling
relationships;
healing
fractures;
building
bridges

Evidence-informed
approaches;
respecting parents'
knowledge; humility
& credibility

Holding hope for people in pain;
intergenerational trauma



Supporting Resources


Six supporting resources to support the application of the Practice Principles:

1. **An evidence summary**, a succinct summary of the research drawn upon in developing the Principles;
2. **An individual practice and reflection tool**, a professional development tool to support practitioners to reflect on the Principles, and their application to their own practice;
3. **A multi-agency partnership reflective tool**, an interactive, reflective tool for local partnerships to work together to assess their responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm, using the eight Principles to identify areas of strength and where there is scope for developing their partnership approach;
4. **An animation** to explain the evidence, ideas and interdependencies that underpin the Principles;
5. **Parent and Carers Shifting Mindset**, a resource to support local agencies and partnerships to engage parents and carers as partners at an operational and strategic level; and
6. **Youth Voice in strategic change**, a resource to help local agency leaders and partnerships incorporate children and young people's views at a strategic level.

A photograph of a young boy with light brown hair, wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt, sitting at a desk with his hands clasped. The photo is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent yellow and blue graphic element that resembles a stylized letter 'A' or a similar shape.

Parents as partners in local authority area safeguarding arrangement for children at risk outside the home

**Professor Carlene Firmin, *Durham
University Contextual Safeguarding
Team***



Parents as partners in local
authority area
safeguarding arrangement
for children at risk outside
the home

YEF Conference, Carlene Firmin, March 2024

Presentation Overview

[They were saying] We want to make this work so you can have the best life. We're not here to take you away... not ... telling us how stupid she is or what horrible mistakes she's making. And it's all her fault, and she should know better. We haven't had any of that this time. It's been very understanding, very calm.

(Parent Interview I25)

- **What is a ROTH Pathway and Why did we pilot it?**
- **The ways that ROTH enables partnerships with parents**
- **Remaining questions**

What is a ROTH Pathway?

A Risk-Outside-of-the-Home (ROTH) pathway provides a structure through which social workers can organise a *child protection* response/support plan when a young person is:

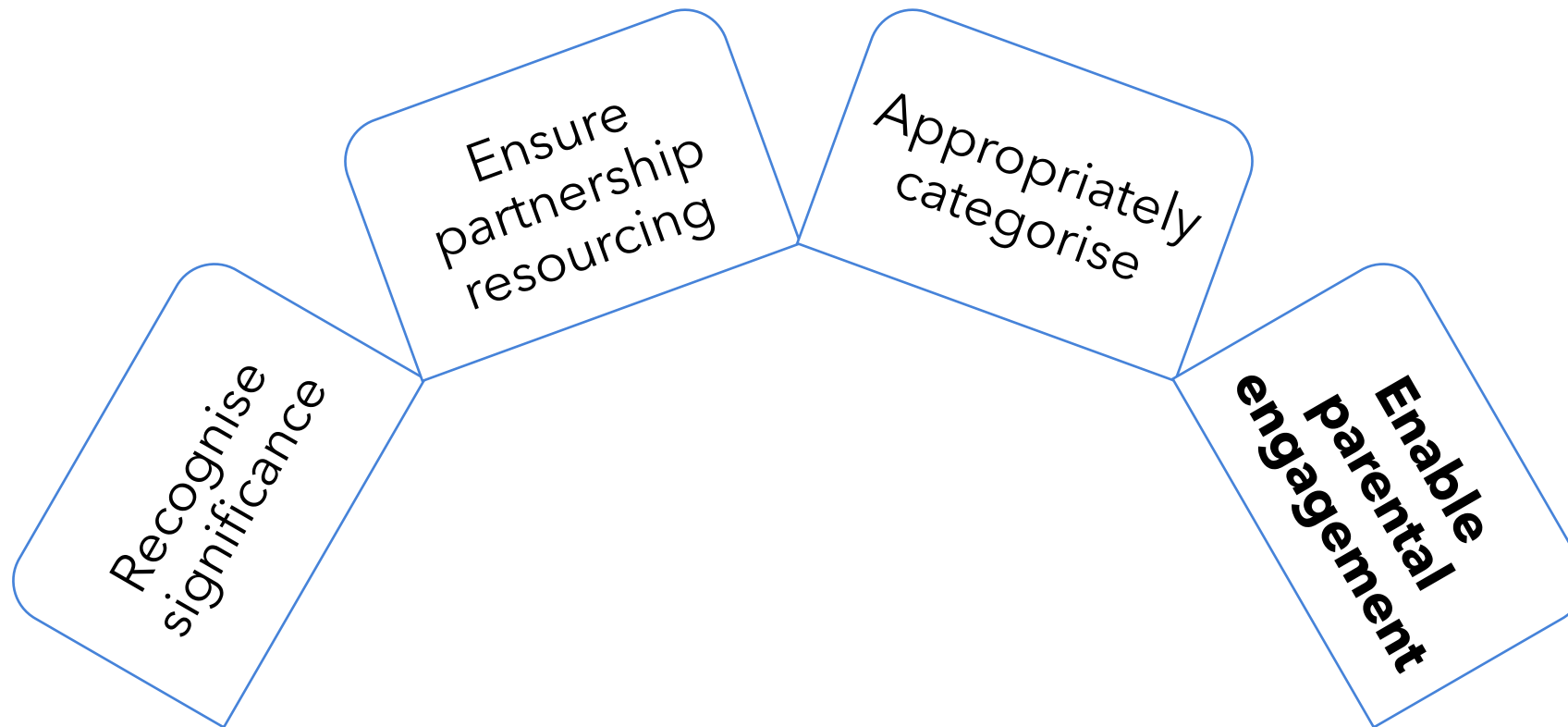
1. at risk of significant harm

AND

2. that harm is principally or solely *extra-familial*

- Social work assessment
- Conference independently chaired
- Plan to increase safety and reduce risk

Why pilot a ROTH Pathway?



Key Features of ROTH Pathways that were piloted

...sort of historically in similar situations without the ROTH pathway I think parents have felt as if, you know, they get blamed, um you know, the focus is on them, the stigma of having a social worker, um and I just find that this way of working now, we're, you know, we're very clear in terms of what we're worried about. And it just really helps in terms of how, how we work with parents, and I've found as well, um the parents have engaged really well with the process as well, which I do think is quite a lot to do with um, you know, the, the focus of what, what we talk about (Social worker interview, I13)

Legislative basis

Harm type

ROTH
Categorisation

Chairing

Supporting
documentation

Context
Weighting

**Position of
parents/carers**

Ways that ROTH Pathways enabled partnerships with parents

Share their priority concerns

Share information about contextual risks

Raise concern about professional agencies

Identify what was needed to increase safety

Outline what was/had been working well

we had one disagreement, but it ended up going my way anyway. The chair discussed it with me and decided to do what I asked. (Parent interview, I21)

Care as a feature of working alongside parents

Chair: [it's] very difficult to disrupt what's happening. In the meantime, you are having to hold that risk as a family...

Mum: ... We ground him and the second he's not grounded he's out doing the same stuff. (Mum seems really defeated)

Chair: make sure she has out of hours number, you need to ensure you have emotional support as this is really difficult (Observation 04, Researcher Notes)

... I was really worried, I thought oh no, like we've got a social worker, that's what I'm... you know, this is not what I wanted; what have I done wrong? ... but then as I was introduced to all of this, it sort of came to my attention that actually people really trust me as a parent and they're just looking at what's going on for my boys outside and how they can help (Parent Interview, 130)

Remaining questions and challenges

How to challenge	How to maintain collaboration and partnership working while also challenging when needed
Overlap with familial harm	How to recognise and respond to ROTH s on a standard child protection pathway
Maintain engagement	How to maintain engagement when risks continue to escalate or take time to recede
Parents are not professionals	How to be attentive to the fact that parents are partners but not professionals

she's still my baby. And she will always be. And it's just, I think a little bit more understanding for those that aren't parents of how much, you know, how much that sort of stuff hurts and how much it affects you, how long it takes you to get over listening to all of that stuff (Parent interview, I25)



Stay in touch
@carlenefirmin
carlene.e.firmin@durham.ac.uk
www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk



Panel Discussion: Working with Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic Parents & Families

Leandra Box – Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Programmes, *Race Equality Foundation*

Nimal Jude – Head of Practice Development (Practice Guides), *Foundations*

Seandelle Gordon – Parent

Chaired by Caleb Jackson – Head of Change for Youth and Community, *YEF*



Closing remarks

**Emma Jenkins
Director of Change,
Youth Endowment Fund**

**Please remember to
submit your feedback!**



**Thank you so much for
attending!**

**Have a safe journey
home**