

# Early Intervention & Integration on a Shoe String



# Early Intervention



# Key Messages

- Isn't only early years
- Early intervention saves money and invests in the future
- Can break down professional silos and up skill staff

# Definition of Early Intervention

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. ***Early intervention may occur at any point in a child or young person's life.*** (Our emphasis)

# Grasping the Nettle

- Local, national and international evidence from practice shows effective Early Intervention works
- More research into effectiveness is needed, but five “golden threads“ reflect characteristics of successful examples
- Taken together the five strands provide the basis for a coherent strategy for systemic change.

# Five “Golden Threads”

Constitute a strategy for whole system change:

- The best start in life
- Language for life
- Engaging parents
- Smarter working, better services
- Knowledge is power

# Evidence from other C4EO themes

- Families, Parents and Carers
- Vulnerable Children
- Youth
- Schools and Communities
- Disability

# Families, Parents and Carers

Key messages:

- Early rather than late intervention gives better outcomes for families.

(Priority 1)

- Whole Family focused projects -encouraging results

(Priority2)

- Work with parents- impact on achievement

( Priority 3)

# Vulnerable/Looked After Children

## Key Messages:

- Support from health & school based professionals -working together
- Lack of evidence and research - the learning and behavioural needs of looked after young people
- Effective Early Intervention for LACYP – needs to be determined

# Youth

## Key Messages:

- Targeted Youth Support - demonstrates characteristics of successful early intervention

## Outcomes-

- Reductions in teenage pregnancy
- Improved emotional wellbeing
- Increased participation in education

# Schools and Communities

- Clear links with Early Intervention
- Promising practice where strong links are established

e.g. Warrington Family Support Model

Transition points (summary 2) – Early Intervention

- Best start in Early Years
- Engagement of Parents to support transition

# Disability

- Early Intervention critical factor
  - Family centred
  - Comprehensive key worker services
  - Outcomes positive for children with communication problems
- ..... Everyone's responsibility

# Conclusion

Remember Early Intervention:

- saves money
- breaks down professional silos and up skills staff

And finally:

- It isn't only early years

# Integration - whilst operating on a Shoestring

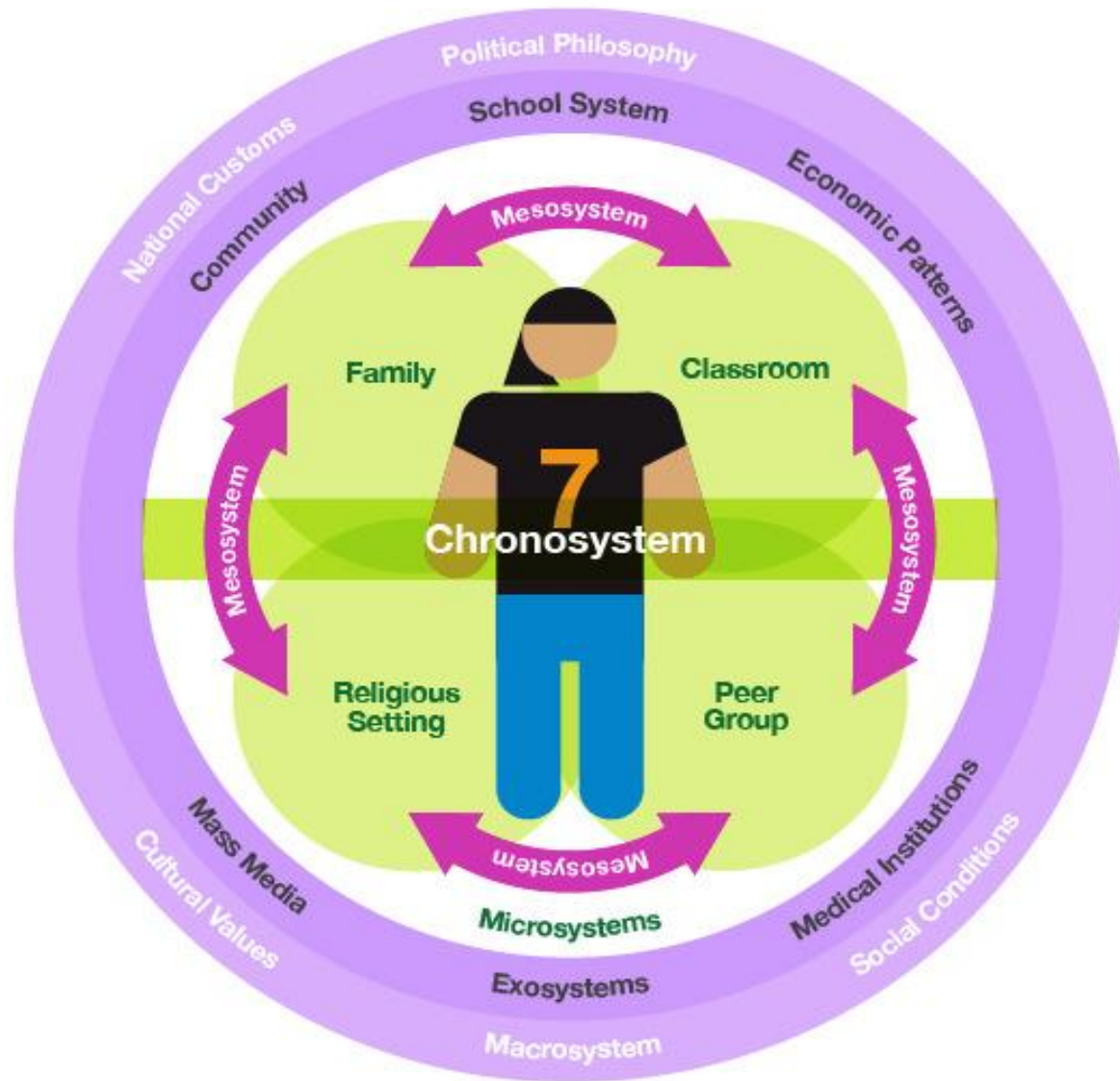


# Outline of Presentation

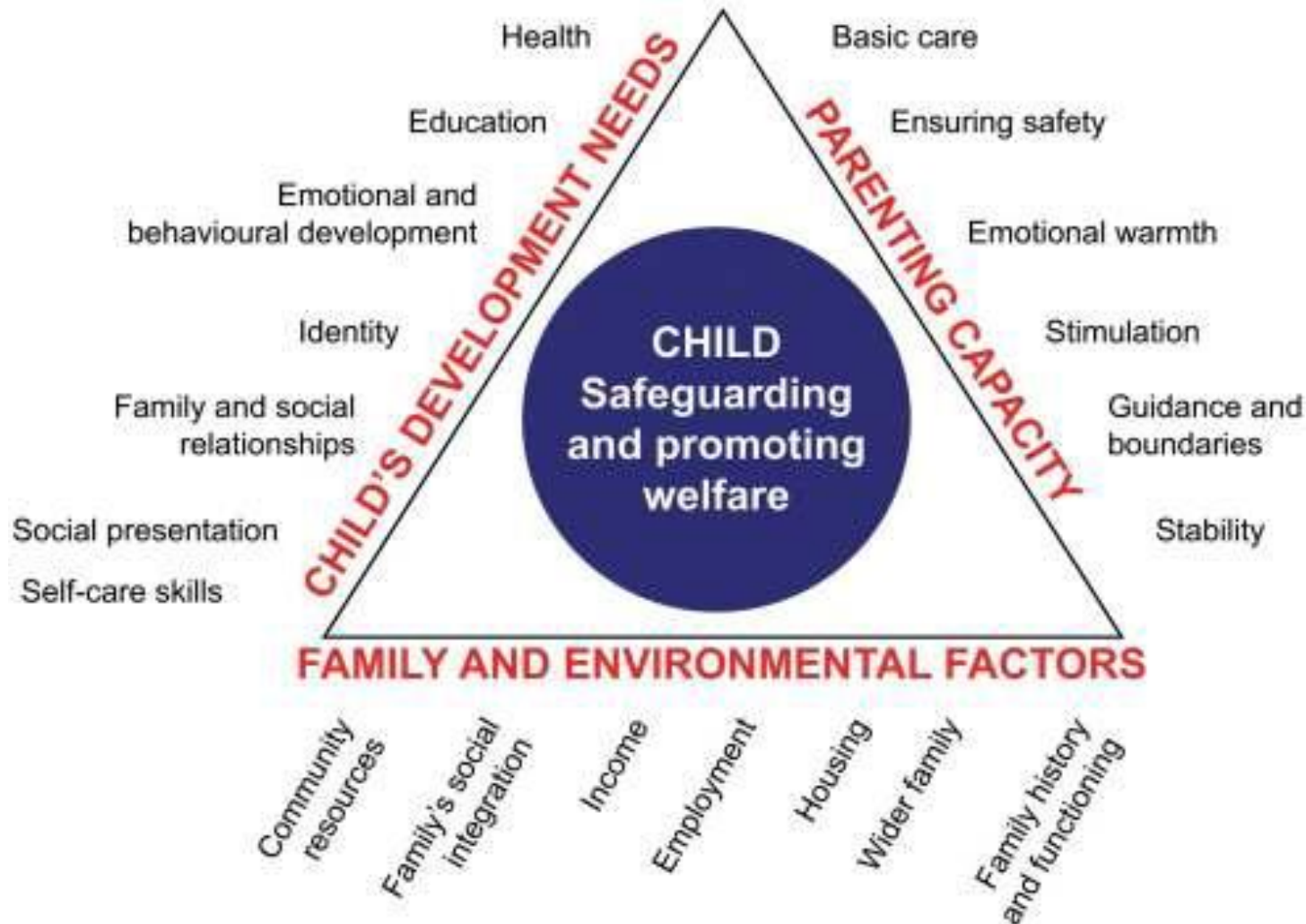
- What is integration?
- Why is it important?
- What does the evidence tell us?
- What works in achieving integration?
- What are the key benefits?
- Some examples of validated practice

# What is Integration?

- Combining parts so that they work better together
- A coordinated, joined up approach to achieving outcomes for children and families
- Bronfenbrenner's model - an ecological 'integrated children's system' centred on the child and their family



# Conceptual framework

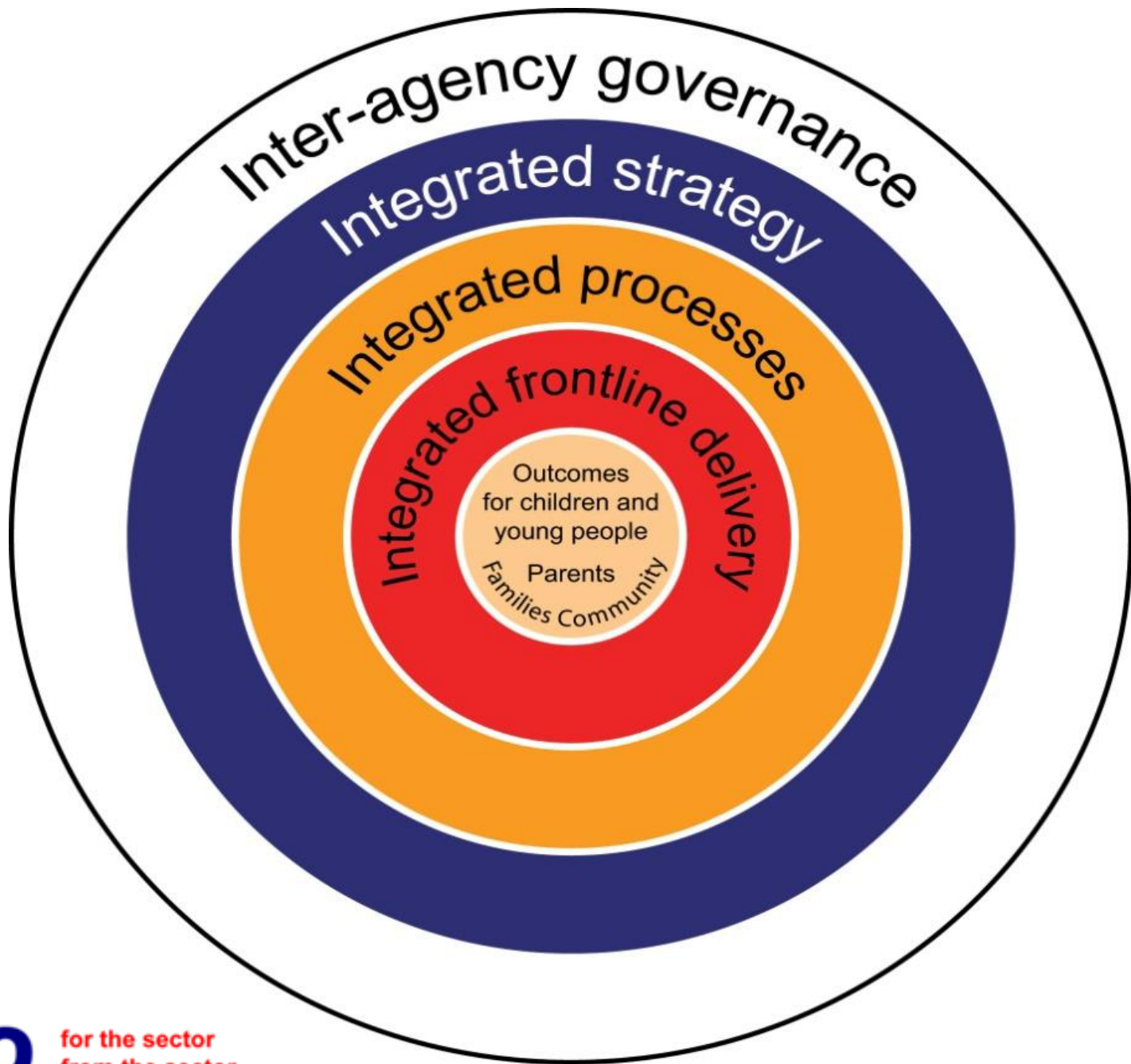


# What is Integration?

Can operate on three related levels:

1. Service systems level (**strategic**, macro)
2. Agency-based level (**operational**, meso)
3. Coordination-of-services level (**practice**, micro)

(King & Meyer, 2006)



# Why is it important?

- Joined up services are widely recognised as better for children and families
- Avoiding duplication (for workers and families)
- Safeguarding – preventing children slipping through the net
- Sharing information, expertise and resources
- Getting better value

# What Does the Evidence Tell Us?

- Little hard evidence on the impact of integration
- There is good evidence for ‘two generation’ or family interventions.
- Early years studies show that the integration of education and childcare is effective.
- More on the challenges of achieving inter-agency collaboration

# Challenges

- Different goals and priorities
- History and culture
- Workforce issues
- Reluctance to 'give up' resources, control
- Lack of commitment 'collaborative inertia'

# What works in achieving integration?

- Smarter working, better services
- Shared vision & focus on outcomes
- Clear understanding of needs and identification of gaps
- Time to build trust and relationships
- Clear messages to staff and families
- Leadership

# What does integration look like?

- Effective commissioning
- Integrated workforce strategy
- Common Assessment Framework
- Continuum of support
- Flexibility of response

# Key Benefits

- Early Intervention and Integration can significantly increase VFM
- Integration up-skills a wider workforce to respond to needs and priorities
- Early Intervention and Integrated practices can improve outcomes for all ages

# Examples

- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Bury Holding families (vulnerable young people, safeguarding themes)
- FAST families and schools together (supporting parents and carers theme)

# Thank you

If you have any questions or comments  
please contact me or the other Sector  
Specialists