

A series of five orange circles of different sizes are arranged vertically on the left side of the slide. The largest circle is at the top, followed by a smaller one, then a medium-sized one, a very small one, and another medium-sized one at the bottom.

INTEGRATION ON A SHOESTRING

The Children's Services Development Group

A single orange circle is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEVELOPMENT GROUP (CSDG)

- CSDG is a policy coalition of providers of care and special education services.
- We work together to ensure that policy is child centred, outcomes focused and cost-effective.
- Members are: Acorn Care and Education, Cambian Group, Foster Care Associates, Hesley Group, National Fostering Agency, SENAD Group, Young Foundations.



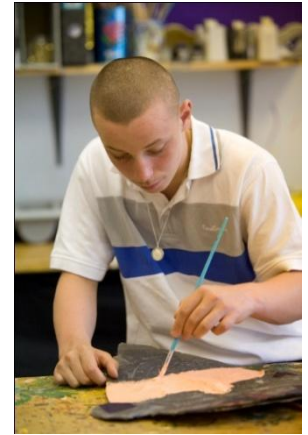
RAPID CHANGE AND GROWING PRESSURE

- 28% cuts to local authority budgets and removal of ring-fencing → LAs making tough decisions.
- Parliamentary Bills on Education, Localism and Health and Green Paper on SEN.
- Rising demand for services.
- Changing focus: early intervention & parental choice/preference.



FINDING SOLUTIONS

- All under pressure to ‘do more with less’.
- Sustainable solutions are found in partnership.
- Presentation to focus on three key messages:



- 1) Creative commissioning**
- 2) Breaking the cycle: a new approach to outcomes and budgets**
- 3) Partnership: the key to integration**



CREATIVE COMMISSIONING



- Needs must remain at the centre.
- Essential that children and families can access the *right provision at the right time*.
- Delaying intervention is tempting but a false economy.
- Repeated breakdown of services results in disaffection, greater complexity and increased costs.



CREATIVE COMMISSIONING CONTINUED...

- Lower intensity → increased expense.
- Communication with partners is key and outcomes must be evidenced.
- Value of: block contracts, “preferred providers”, cohort-specific arrangements for children.
- Outcome focused, flexible provision is the key.
- Stability and sustainability of intervention must be a commissioning priority.
- This approach will produce better outcomes and both long and short term financial savings.



BREAKING THE CYCLE: A NEW APPROACH TO OUTCOMES AND BUDGETS

- Must carefully define value when under pressure.
- Tendency to view budgets in 'silos' → focus on specific services in isolation rather than whole picture.
- Need to consider *whole budget*.
- This links with whole life costs, promotes better outcomes and *encourages integration*.
- Importance of considering and minimising overheads i.e. administration, facilities etc.



A WHOLE LIFE APPROACH TO GENERATE SAVINGS...

Integrating budgets and services helps formulate a long term view and result in real savings:

- **Justice:** diverting just 10% of the 19,373 young people whose care journey ends in prison, would save nearly £90m per year.



- **Welfare:** getting just 10% of the 3,500 young people who graduate from care to unemployment every year into education or a job could save the exchequer nearly £20m each year.



PARTNERSHIP: THE KEY TO INTEGRATION

- Multiple agencies does not always indicate integrated working but *partnership* does.
- Importance of needs mapping/trend analysis.
- Diversity of supply is critical response to better knowledge of demand patterns.
- Shared resources and expertise to save costs i.e. outreach/training/facilities.



CONCLUSIONS

- Working together is the key to saving money and producing better outcomes.
- Delaying interventions or lessening intensiveness is a false economy.
- A strategic approach to commissioning and service delivery will lead to more stable and secure interventions that save money later on.
- All involved in children's services must be aware of the part their contribution plays across the *whole life* of a child, family or community.

