



**N** **t** **g**

narrowing the gap

Allen Baynes

**C4EO** for the sector  
from the sector

**...Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource...**

**John F. Kennedy - Special message to congress on Education, *20 February 1961***

# What do we mean by 'narrowing the gap'?

**The difference / deficit between outcomes for a specific group and the outcomes for the whole range of children and young people, of which the group forms a part**

# Try to answer fundamental question?

**What is it, if applied universally and pursued relentlessly, would make a significant impact on the outcomes of vulnerable groups of children and young people?**

# Background – why do it?

- Securing improved and sustainable outcomes for children and their families critical for social and economic regeneration and cohesion of localities (sense of ‘place’).
- 4 years on from ‘Every Child Matters’. We need to tell the story more clearly – successes and challenges.
- Much excellence, less equity -



# Narrowing the Gap: Who for?

- Children from poorer socio-economic groups (including white 'working class' boys).
- Children in Care.
- Children with disabilities.
- Children with SEN.
- Children excluded from school.
- Children with poor records of attendance at school.
- Children from different ethnic minority backgrounds.
- Young Offenders.
- Young Carers.
- Children at risk from significant harm.
- Children living with 'vulnerable' adults.

# Health matters

- ✓ Infant mortality falling –
- **But** incidence of 'low birth weight' rising and high (**11% of total**) compared to other developed countries - correlates directly with social class and gives rise to poor health, development and educational attainment.

- Mental Health declining – (**13% 11-16 year old boys** and **10% 11-16 girls** had clinically diagnosed mental disorders).
- Children living in lone parent families most vulnerable (**19% compared to 9%**) as well as those in poorer families (**21% compared to 6%**).

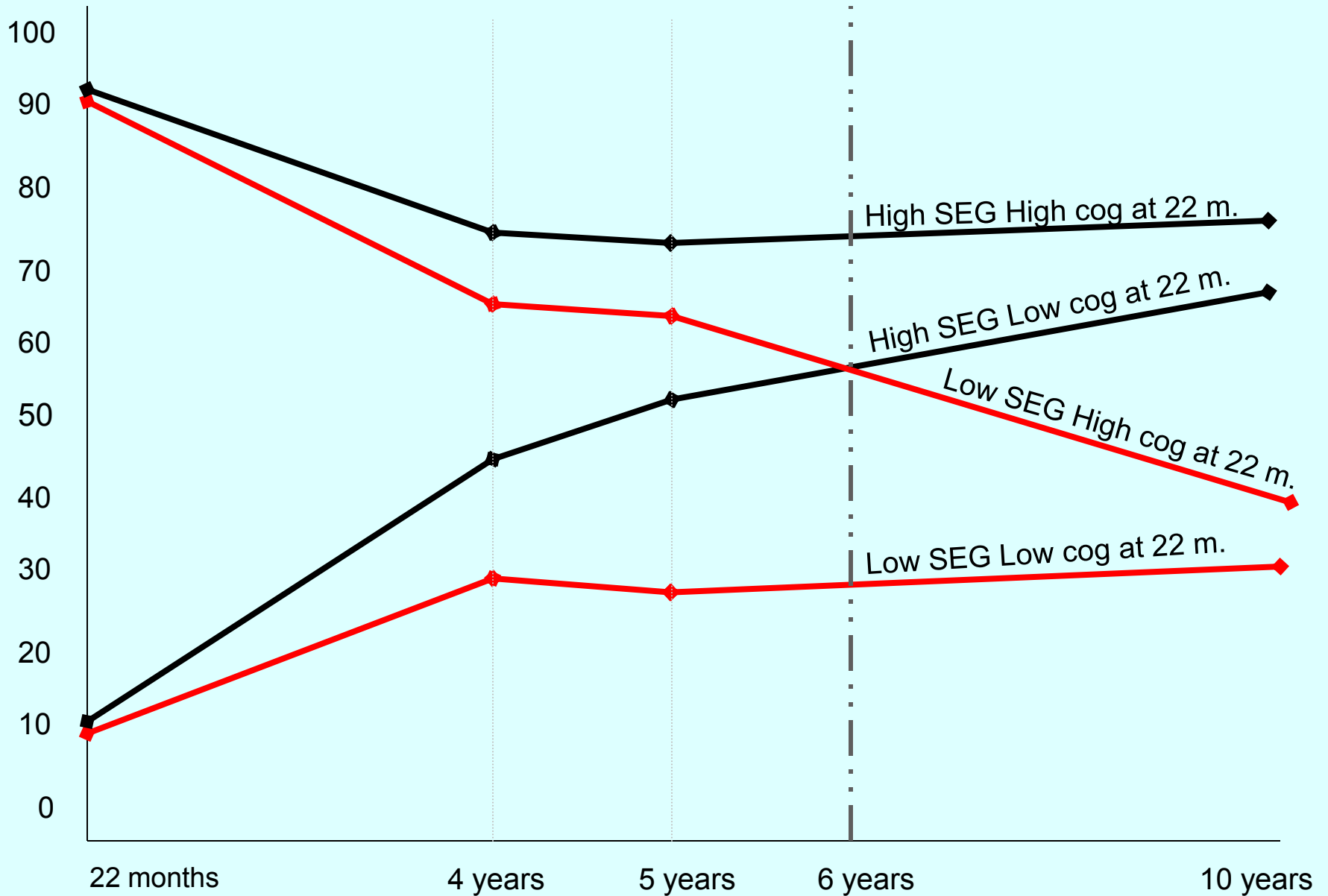
**54% children with emotional disorders come from households with gross incomes under £300 per week**

# Crime matters

- **22% 10-25 year olds** report committing offences in 2006 and **27% commit anti-social acts** (unchanged in past 5 years).
- 10-15 year olds most likely to have been involved in crime – either as victim or offender (**43%**).
- Offenders most likely to be victims (**32%**).
- Minority of offenders commit majority of offences (**7% 10-25 year olds for 83% offences**).

- The UK has largest proportion of children in custody (as % of prison population) compared to all the other countries.
- 16-19 year olds NEETs are more likely (**15% compared to 5%**) to commit offence.
- **25%** of all children witnessed domestic violence.

# and it starts early!



# So what do you need to 'narrow the gap' for children and families in your Local Authority?

- Need a vision.
- Need a culture that values all children and young people and believes that we (all of us) can make a real and significant difference in their lives.
- Need a workforce – who believe, who are committed and who have – Respect.

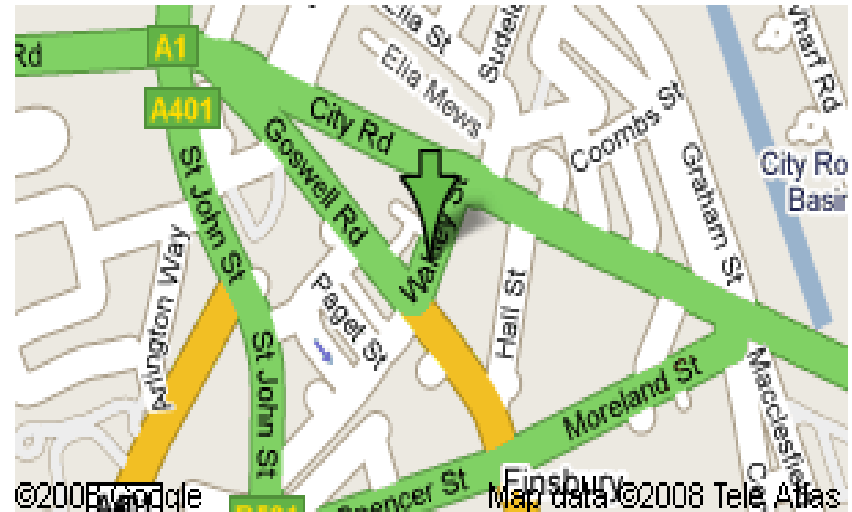


## Contact us:

 020 7843 6358

 [www.C4EO.org.uk](http://www.C4EO.org.uk)

 8 Wakley Street,  
London, EC1V 7QE



 [contactus@C4EO.org.uk](mailto:contactus@C4EO.org.uk)