

Reducing Parental Conflict

Working in partnership to reduce parental conflict

Workshop

Local Government Association Event

24th January 2018



Welcome

Introductions, Context and Background

Julia Gault
Deputy Director
Family Policy
DWP

Welcome and introductions

Introductions:

Julia Gault: Deputy Director of Family Policy, DWP

Alison Priestley: Service Manager for Early Help and Family Support, Newcastle City Council

Kati McHugh: Team Leader: Local Integration, DWP

Emma Watson: Policy Lead: Local Integration, DWP

Purpose of the workshop:

- Outline the evidence on the impact of parental conflict on children's outcomes
- Share details of the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme
- Seek your early input and advice to shape the support you need to integrate change.

Structure of the workshop

Speaker	Topic and activity	
Julia Gault	Introduction to the evidence and background the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme	10 minutes
Alison Priestley	Delivering services to reduce parental conflict: A Case Study: Newcastle	10 minutes
Kati McHugh	Local Integration: What support are we proposing to give to local areas to support them to integrate services to reduce parental conflict	15 minutes
All	Group discussion	10 minutes
All	Group feedback	10 minutes
Julia Gault	Wrap-up and next steps	5 minutes

Evidence

- Parental conflict (whether parents together or separated) places children at risk of poor social, emotional and educational outcomes
- Parental conflict across the spectrum from “silence to violence” is potentially damaging
- Growing group of proven interventions to reduce parental conflict, improve child outcomes and potential to avoid need for expensive services later down the line
- Offering evidence-based support with parenting likely to be ineffective where there is conflict between parents
- [Link to Short Video: Parental conflict - the impact on children](#)

Prevalence of Parental Conflict

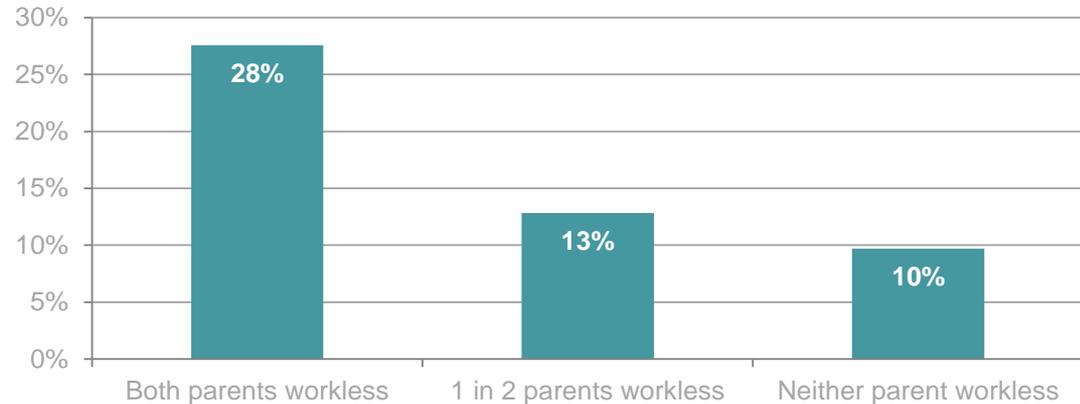
28%

Out of all children living in workless couple-parent families (this is 5% of all children), live with parents who report having a distressed relationship.

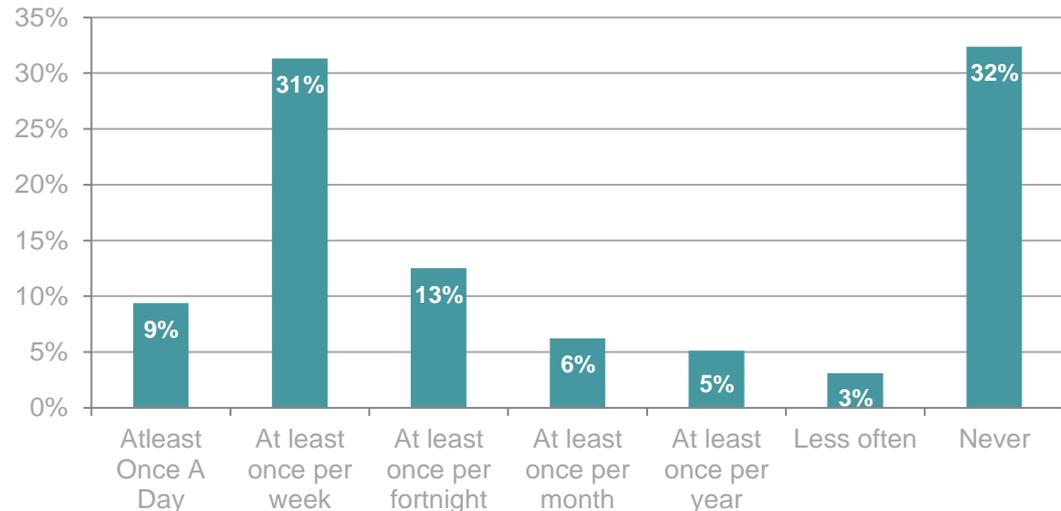
Almost three times as prevalent compared with where both parents are working.

53% children in separated families see their non resident parent at least once a fortnight

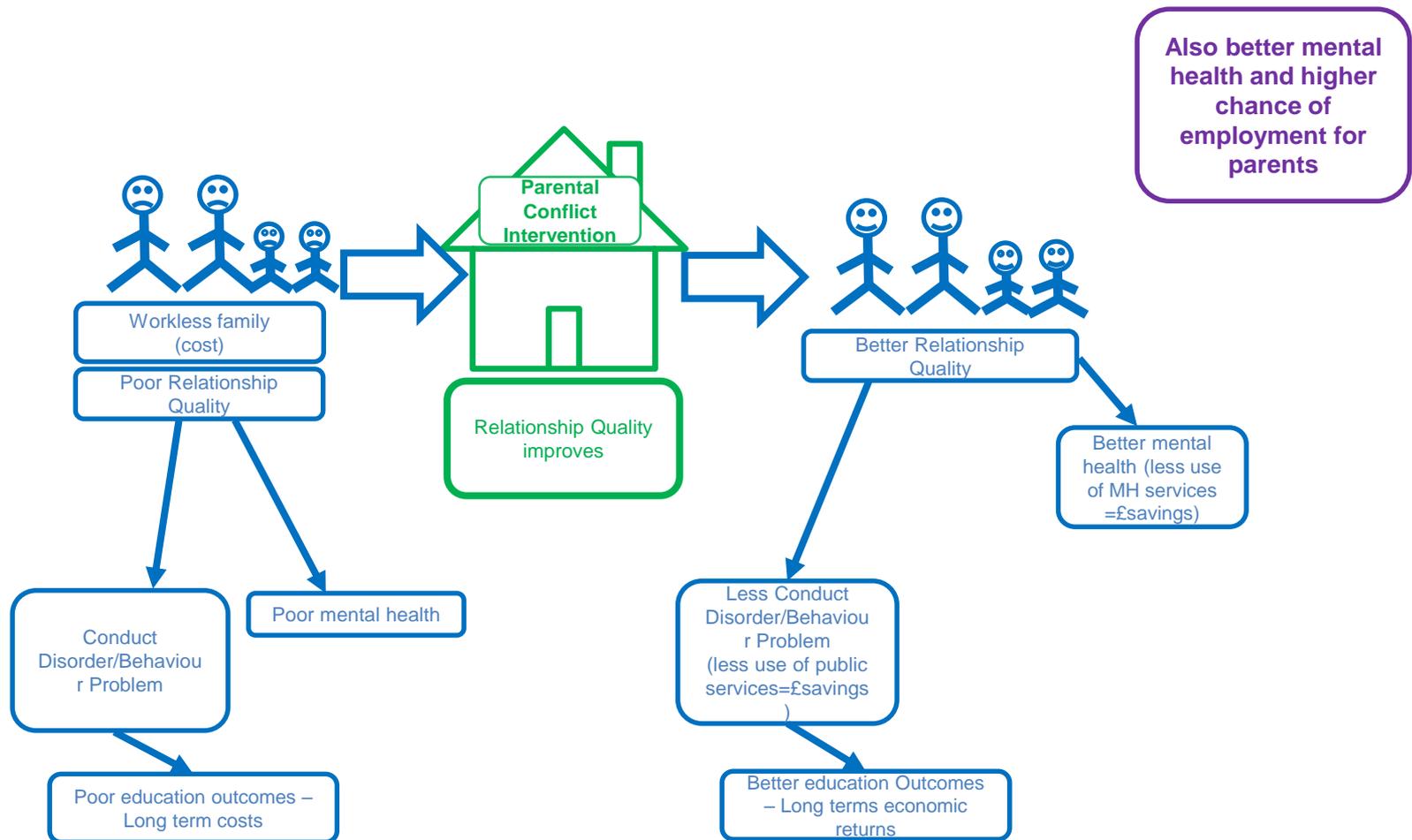
Proportion of children in couple-parent families reporting relationship distress by parental workless status



How often resident parents report that the child 'usually sees' their non-resident parent during term time (2013-2014)



Reducing Parental Conflict - impact for children



Reducing Parental Conflict Programme

- £39m to 2021 to support both supply and demand side activities.
- Build on existing activity, committed expert organisations and the latest evidence to maximise the impact of investment.
- Evaluation to continue building the evidence base.

Objective 1

Ensuring proven interventions are more widely available to improve children's outcomes

- Face to face interventions for workless families delivered through four regional contracts
- Training for relationship support professionals to increase supply of proven help
- Undertaking an agile discovery process to explore the possibility of offering digitally delivered support, particularly at key life events known to increase conflict

Objective 2

Supporting local areas to embed parental conflict support in wider services for children

- Training & guidance for Front-line workforce to improve identification and effective referral to appropriate support
- Support to embed addressing parental conflict from needs assessment to delivery
- What Works' function (evidence, dissemination and commissioning toolkit) to support local commissioners to understand why addressing parental conflict is important and how to do it

Local Family Offer Trials

Alison Priestley

**Newcastle City Council
A Case Study**

Supporting Local Integration

Kati McHugh
Family Policy Lead
DWP

Local Integration

In light of the strength of the evidence and the findings from the Local Family Offer trial the reducing parental conflict programme aims to:

- Build awareness of the importance of addressing parental conflict
- Work in partnership with local areas to integrate proven parental conflict provision

Local Family Offer (LFO) findings

The LFO areas found the following the most helpful aspects:

- **Consultancy support:** DWP provided individual consultancy support to:
 - Understand why intervening to reduce parental conflict is important and how to intervene successfully
 - Support the development of evidence based strategies
- **Workforce Development and Culture Change:** Training from awareness to delivering specialist interventions
- **Measuring success:** LFO areas developed an evaluation strategy, inputting to the national evaluation including performance measures.

What support is DWP putting in place?

Building on the findings from the trials the Programme will include the following:

- **Peer support:** funding LFO areas to be Ambassadors for the programme to share their knowledge, skills and expertise around parental conflict
- **Implementation Leads:** recruiting secondees from local areas with the relevant skills and knowledge to design and support local areas
- **Building capability:** making funding available for all local areas training and workforce development
- **Maturity Matrix:** We are working alongside the Early Intervention Foundation to produce a planning tool to support implementation and measure progress
- **Online resources:** There are a number of online resources available to support local areas who want to find out more

Building Capacity/Training

- We plan to grant Local Authorities funding towards up-skilling people working with families in their area
- Three levels:
 - strategic oversight and planning;
 - frontline identification of parental conflict and referral;
 - delivery of proven interventions
- Training offer needs to be **flexible** to meet range of local needs, including link to local services and framed in local strategy, meet needs of **wider partnership** (health/police etc) and tap into existing networks (VCSE)

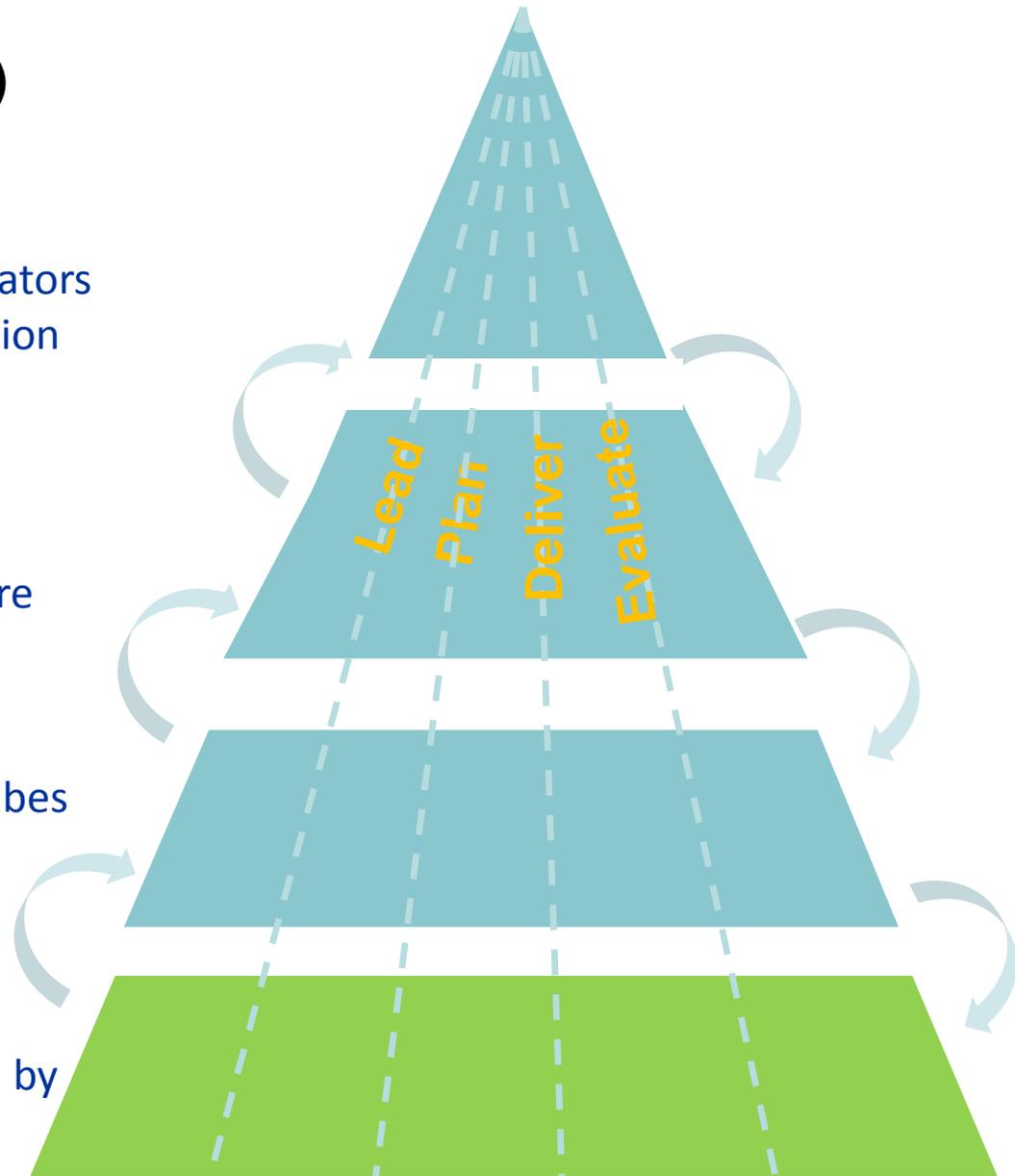
Integration Framework (including Maturity Matrix)

Level 1 – Strategic Drivers: Primary indicators based on programmes objectives and vision

Level 2 – Activity Indicators: The major activity that will be monitored to measure progress

Level 3 – Definition of Standards: Describes levels of maturity e.g. 'basic' through to 'mature' (ie Maturity Matrix)

Level 4 – Implementation Plan for local areas: Operational planning tool created by local areas



We need your insight....how do we move from evidence to practice?

1. Would our proposals help you to integrate evidence based services to reduce parental conflict?
2. How much knowledge do you already have around this agenda?
3. How can we engage senior leaders? We have discussed introducing a 'pledge' that demonstrates a commitment to integrate change and gain buy-in at a senior level. Do you think this would be effective? What other mechanisms do you think we could consider?
4. What help do you need to build capacity locally?
5. What support do you need from our Integration Leads and how would you like to work with them?
6. In your experience what would be the timescales to integrate these services into your current family offer?
7. What are the barriers?
8. Other considerations/issues/concerns?

Available resources and next steps

Online resources currently available:

- [Lessons from the Local Family Offer](#)
- [EIF Commissioner Guide](#)
- [What works to Enhance Inter-parental Relationships and Improve Children's Outcomes](#)

Future activity:

- **Family Resource Tool:** We have produced an online tool which shows how child development can be influenced by multiple disadvantages.
- **Maturity Matrix:** Our Integration Leads will be working with the EIF on a planning tool for local areas to integrate change
- **Training offer:** We are currently designing our training offer to be available in August 2018
- **Events:** Two free events for local leaders and commissioners on reducing parental conflict, in London on the 22nd March and Manchester on the 27th March. Follow this link to book your place [Events | Early Intervention Foundation](#). Hope to see you there!