



Tackling Child Neglect in Scotland – first steps

A collaborative project between
CCWP and CELCIS



Facilitating context

- In Scotland there is, now, a clear recognition of the impact of neglect on children
- Professionals and the general public agree that neglected children need to be noticed and helped
- GIRFEC provides an ideal framework within which to respond effectively to neglect
- There has already been a huge amount of work across Scotland on developing multi-disciplinary approaches to neglect
- There is a body of evidence about the principles that should underpin approaches that are helpful to children and families
- Many of the wider policies could potentially help to reduce neglect



Ongoing challenges

- The term 'neglect' covers a very broad spectrum of possible concerns
- Practitioners, especially in universal services can recognise neglect but struggle with what to do next for the best – in particular there are issues about the 'interface' between universal and targeted services
- There is no one clear 'off-the-shelf' approach that if implemented would fix neglect
- Neglect still has an uneasy fit with an risk-oriented incident-driven investigative system
- Neglect is highly associated with wider structural issues that are often beyond the capacity of individual practitioners to address



Neglect Survey

- **Undertake a follow-up survey (baseline 2012) of CPCs to gather information about:**
 - local definitions and associated prevalence measures, needs analysis and service planning;
 - services designed to offer early intervention when there are early indications of child neglect;
 - arrangements for managing the universal/targeted services;
 - examples of effective processes for collaboration between adult services (eg substance misuse, mental health, learning disability) and children and families services;
 - assessment and planning tools in use and ways in which practice with neglect is supported;
 - mechanisms for, and examples of gathering parent and child views.
- **Progress and timescale:**
 - August – December 2016
 - Consultation of survey with CELCIS and Chair of CPC subgroup (Neglect) to determine whether 2012 survey was still fit for purpose and proposed additions or changes
 - Survey amended to take account of GIRFEC and the integration of adult services
 - Agreement to issue survey jointly between University of Stirling and CPC subgroup (Neglect)
 - Survey to be issued early September to CPC Chairs and Lead Officers

Policy and literature



Rapid analysis national policy and UK-wide initiatives

- **Undertake a rapid analysis of current policy and a range of national initiatives through a neglect lens, and informed by public health theory:**
 - Bring together all UK-wide and Scottish policies and initiatives which impact on the lives of children living in Scotland who may be experiencing neglect.
- **Progress and timescale:**
 - September 2016
 - Work underway

Review of research literature and relevant publications

- **Identify the core and common elements and principles shown to be associated with effective practice with chronic neglect:**
 - Review research and other relevant publications associated with effective practice with chronic neglect;
 - Review publications or commentaries on the lives of children and families in the current economic and social
- **Progress and timescale:**
 - October 2016



Toolkits and output

Collation of existing toolkits

- **Collate the existing toolkits in use across the UK to support all key disciplines in their practice:**
 - Bring together all UK-wide and Scottish toolkits in use in a range of settings which impact on the lives of children living in Scotland who may be experiencing neglect.
- **Progress and timescale:**
 - November 2016

Outputs

- **Analysis and write-up of survey to CPCs**
 - December 2016
- **Report on rapid policy analysis, review of research and collation of toolkits**
 - December 2016

Working alongside local areas...



CELCIS will guide a process that promotes:

- A deeper understanding of the current system of supports within a local area for families of children experiencing neglect
- The development of a strategic approach to intervene earlier and more effectively with children experiencing neglect
- The development of additional local capacity (to enhance the skill set of the existing workforce) to support complex change and continuous improvement – for this initiative and beyond.



Selection criteria

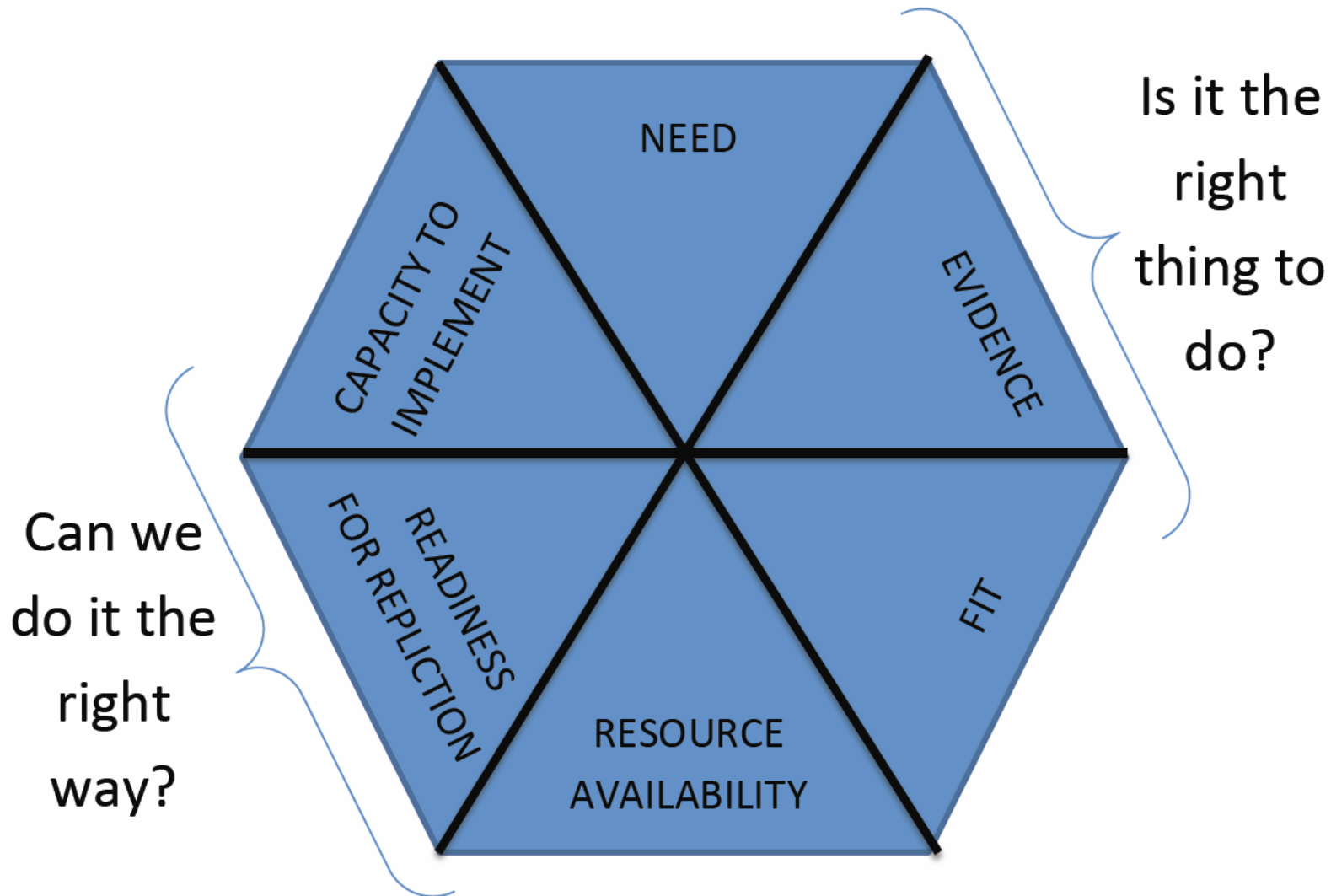
- The goal of the local initiative aligns with one of the area's **top priority** for change.
- There is a **history of collaboration** across key children and family service system partners.
- There is **committed leadership** within each of the key children and family service system partners.
- There is a **commitment to use best evidence** to inform, design, and implement the necessary system changes.
- There is **willingness** and the ability to hire, re-direct funds, or re-design positions **to engage two, carefully selected individuals (at least .5 FTE each)** as implementation specialists to coordinate the implementation effort.
- There is willingness to **participate** in and contribute to a **community of practice**.
- There is **willingness to collect and use data** related to the implementation, progress, and outcomes of this effort.

Engagement and exploration



- Going forward, sites will have two day visits, plus conference calls and other activities to move through the EXPLORATION activities, tailored to each of the local areas, with local leads and team, as they are identified:
 - Engagement with key partners
 - Readiness and communication activities
 - Analysis of the System as Is (Context, Connections, Components, Infrastructure, Scale)
 - Identification of key areas of concern, challenges, and risks
 - Review of relevant evidence related to key areas of concerns
 - Identification of key areas for change (Policies, Procedures, Processes, Services, Connections, Practice)
 - Co-design of change approach and action plan
 - Co-development of initial structure to support the change process (management structure, stakeholder engagement, implementation teams)
- Local teams will be guided through these activities, with the goal of completing this phase of EXPLORATION by the end of February.

The right thing in the right way





Questions for discussion

- What are we doing well in our current responses to neglect?
- What are the one or two key issues that need the most immediate attention?
- What would help us to move towards a more public health approach to child neglect in Scotland?