

Families First for Children Programme Reforms in Practice

CCIN Member Insights from Warrington & Lewisham

Webinar CCIN Event



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London Borough of Lewisham

- Insights and Impact

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Families First for Children – Insights and Impact



Families First for Children

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Families First for Children - Outcomes for Practice

Support and help provided earlier

Welcoming front door

Right help at the right time

Continuity of relationships

One assessment and plan

Diversification of workforce

Multi-agency partners and education as 4th safeguarding partner

Decisive child protection system

Information sharing and expertise across partnership

Family led practice

Family group decision making

Strengthened corporate parenting

Placement quality – kinship care, foster care

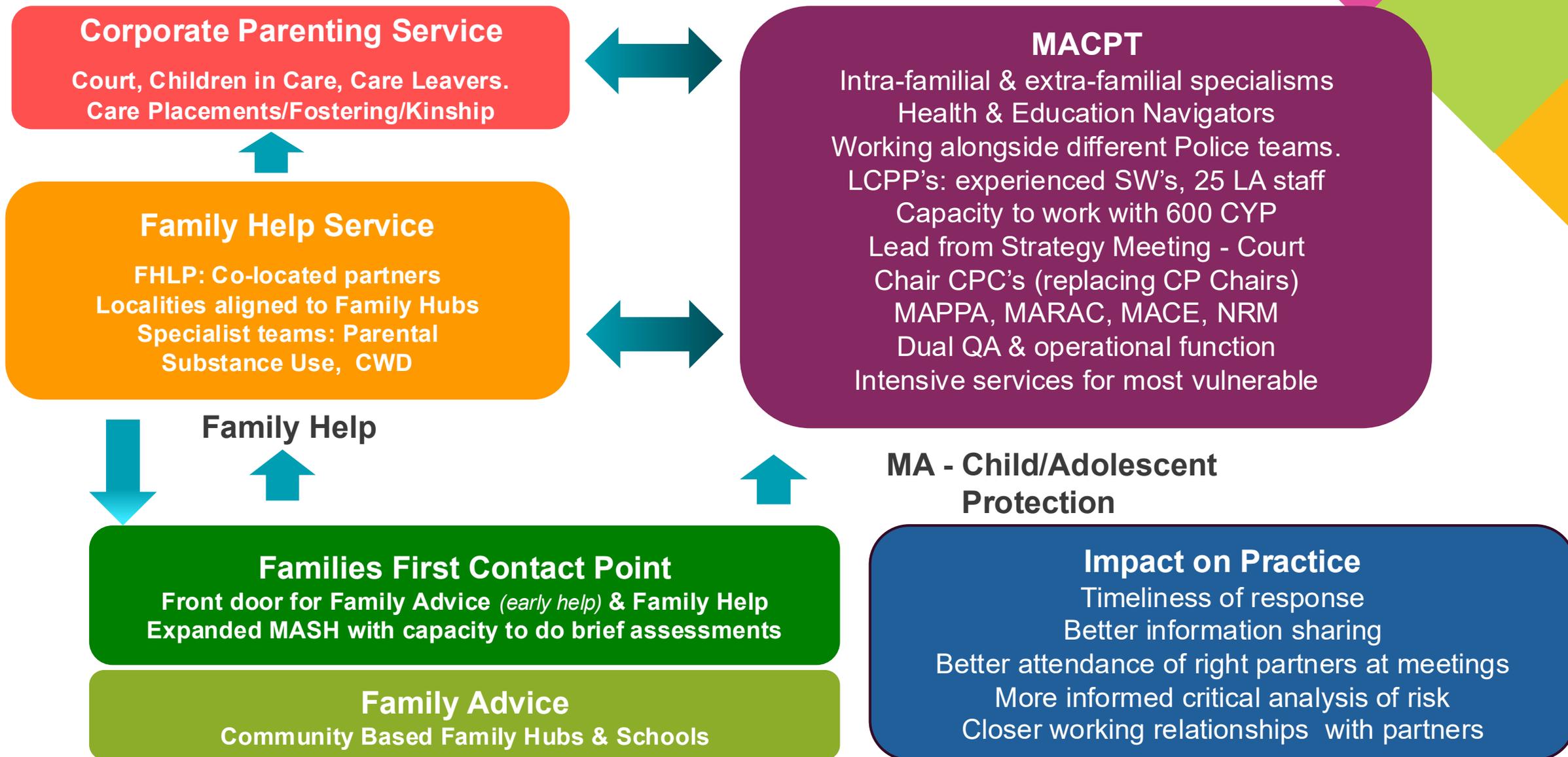
Reduction of children in care

Key enablers - workforce, data and information sharing, evidenced-based approaches

Lewisham FFFC Timeline



Lewisham's Model



The Lewisham Design

Through our successful **Family Hubs** programme, we provide earlier community and area-based support and services to families.

Families First Contact Point role is to triage and carry out short term assessment of need to divert from Family Help where possible.

Family Help offers short to long term help to children and targeted early help and child in need are integrated. Family Help Lead Practitioners coordinate additional support and intervention.

A **Think Family** approach which incorporates family-led practice and reduces the transition points for families as they move through our systems using one assessment and plan.

We promote and apply the principles of **Family Group Decision Making** throughout the child's journey to explore the network at the earliest opportunity.

The **Multiagency Child/Adolescent Protection teams** are the central teams for all child protection activity as well as having a quality assurance role.

We recognise our wider **corporate responsibility** to be a good parent, ensuring that families can thrive and that children are safe.

Ensuring there is a comprehensive workforce development offer in place which recognises the diversification of our workforce in the future, including the **key role of partner agencies**.

Ensuring that Lewisham continues to actively promote equity and in particular an **anti-racist approach** across our practice.

Families First Contact Point

Single point of access for all contacts and referrals

Multi-agency team to provide advice, guidance and signposting

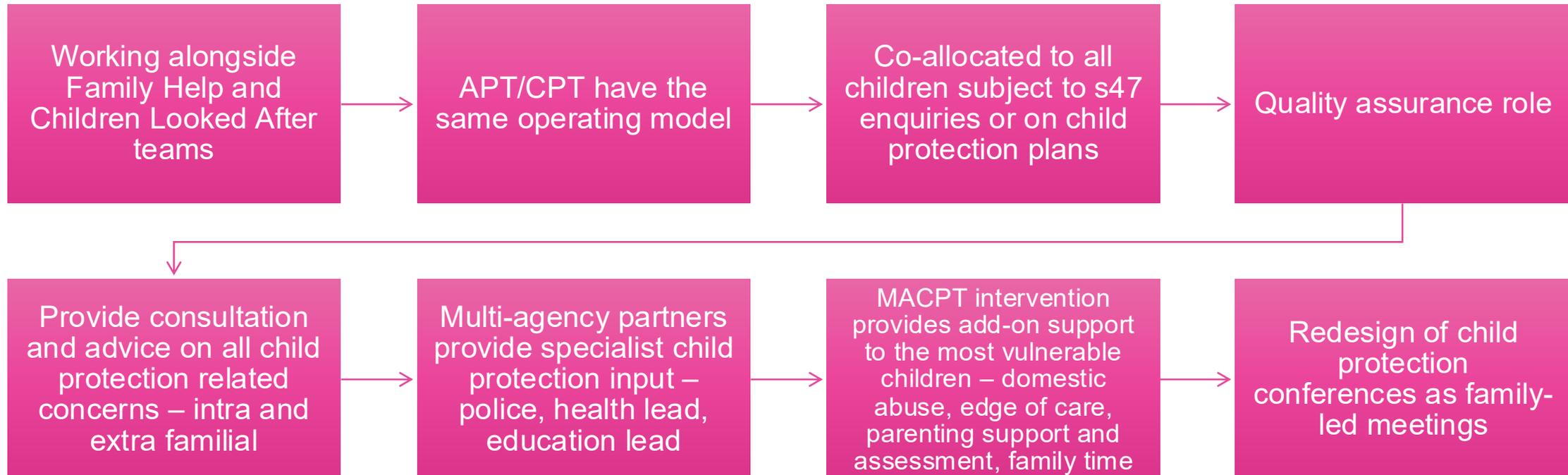
Close links to Family Hubs and Family Advice

Triage and decision making on all contacts within timescales

Family help assessments to determine need and divert from Family Help

Future plans include further diversification of multi-agency partners

Multi-Agency Child Protection Service APT/CPT



Family Help

Family help assessments and planning by family help lead practitioners

Help for children and families from targeted early help to child protection and court/care proceedings

Provide specialist interventions – children with complex needs, pre-birth assessment and planning, substance misuse, mental health

Multi-agency partners provide expert advice and support – housing, adult mental health, substance misuse

Lead on all care planning decision making

Focus on Practice

**Area and
community-based
working across
the borough**

**Strong and
consistent front
door decision
making**

**Analysis of KPIs -
strategy meetings,
S47s,
assessments**

**Practice pathways
- pre-birth,
substance misuse,
working with
adolescents**

**Redesign of child
protection
conferences as
family-led
meetings**

**Think Family
approach with the
partnership**

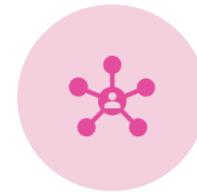
Learning



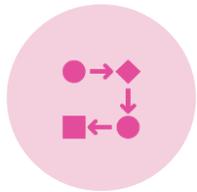
Clarity of vision and purpose



Clear delivery plan



Communication with partners, the workforce and other stakeholders



Be willing to review, learn and adjust – progress is not linear



Importance of feedback



Allow sufficient time for changes to embed

Impact on Practice

Family Group
Decision
Making

Placing the
Voice of the
Child at the
Centre

Impact on Practice - MACPT

**Background of
the family and
children**

**Addressing
immediate risk
of significant
harm**

**Joint working
with the police**

**Skilled
relational
practice**

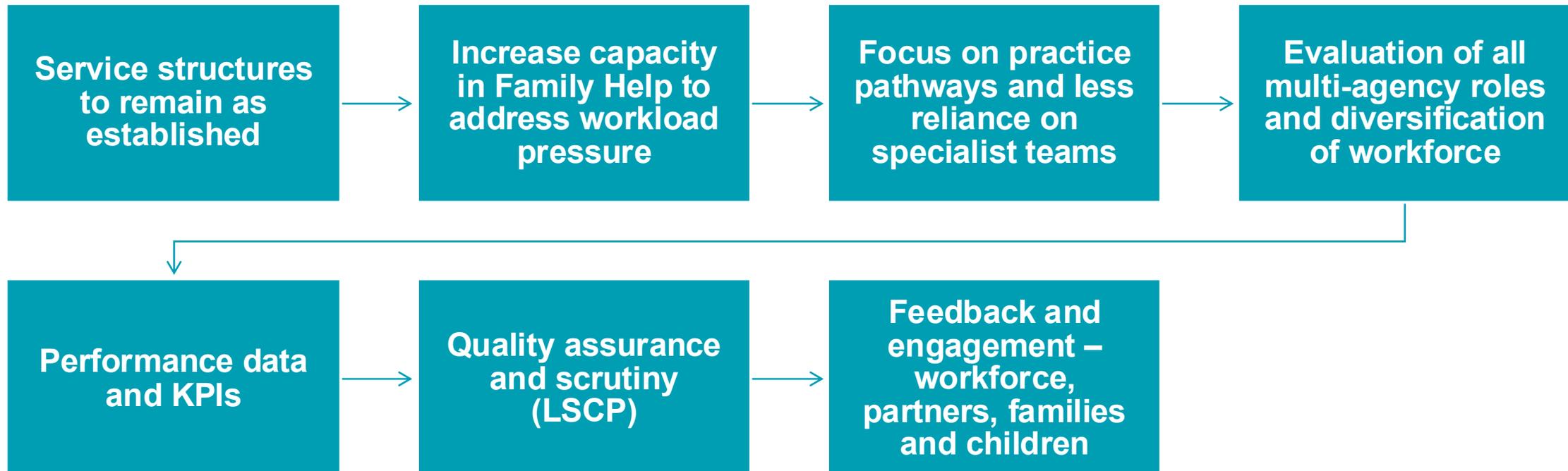
**Using the
network**

**Family led
practice**

Safety planning

**Improved
outcomes for
children**

What's next?



Questions and Reflections

