

// Foundations

What Works Centre for Children & Families

Reducing Parental Conflict National Conference

Learning from enablers and
challenges to support continued
progress





SESSION B

What does progress on community engagement look like?

Introductions & welcome

- Exploring the context and recent findings: Kathryn Catterall, Foundations
- Working with communities to reduce parental conflict: Anna Elliot, Ealing Council
- Breakout rooms
- Summary



Aims



- Exploring what progress on community engagement looks like
- Reflecting on a practical example of how a local area is making progress with community engagement
- To share perspectives and valuable insights from other local areas through break out discussions to develop solutions that create more meaningful involvement of families and communities in service planning.

Why focus on community engagement?



4. COMMUNITY

LEAD

This element focuses on how families and the local community are engaged in the design and delivery of the local strategy for reducing the impact of conflict between parents on children.

Sharing successes



We are really proud of our partnership work and how this has developed with community and faith groups. Having parent lead approach in the training/support in the community as part of our sustainability plan.

We are proud of our work with fathers in the community.

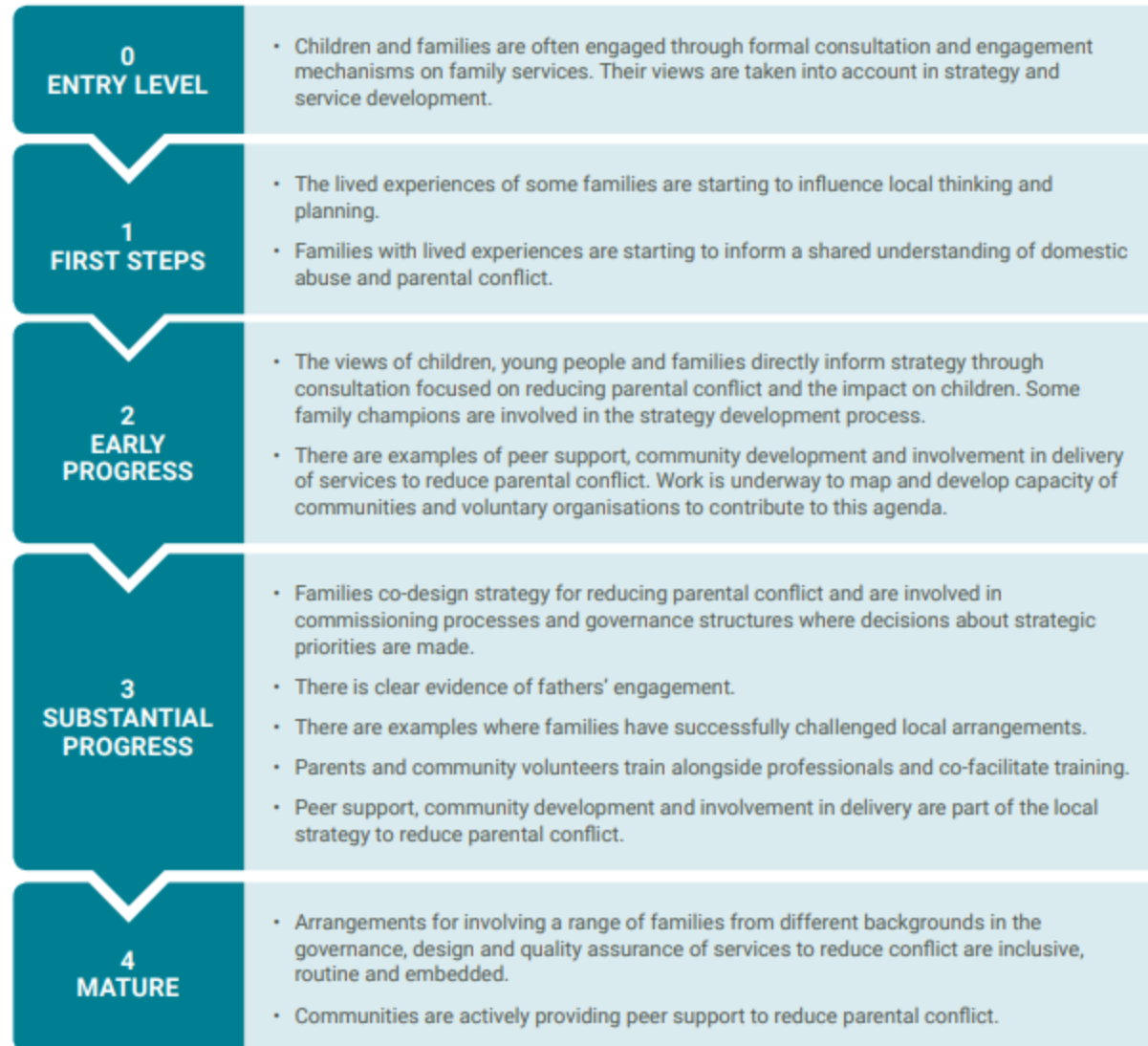
Engaging schools to be proactive and delivering coffee mornings for Healthy relationship sessions

Some of the ideas have been inspirational in the way services have been tailored to meet the needs of the local communities.

We now have 12 parents trained in delivering Reducing Parental Conflict in the borough and they cover the topic every week in their parenting session!

We have established links with community / VCSFE groups

COMMUNITY



INVOLVING FAMILIES & THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IN LOCAL STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT



Approaches

Collect views of families at review times

Link in with already established forums

Establish parent/carer champions or panels

Host events

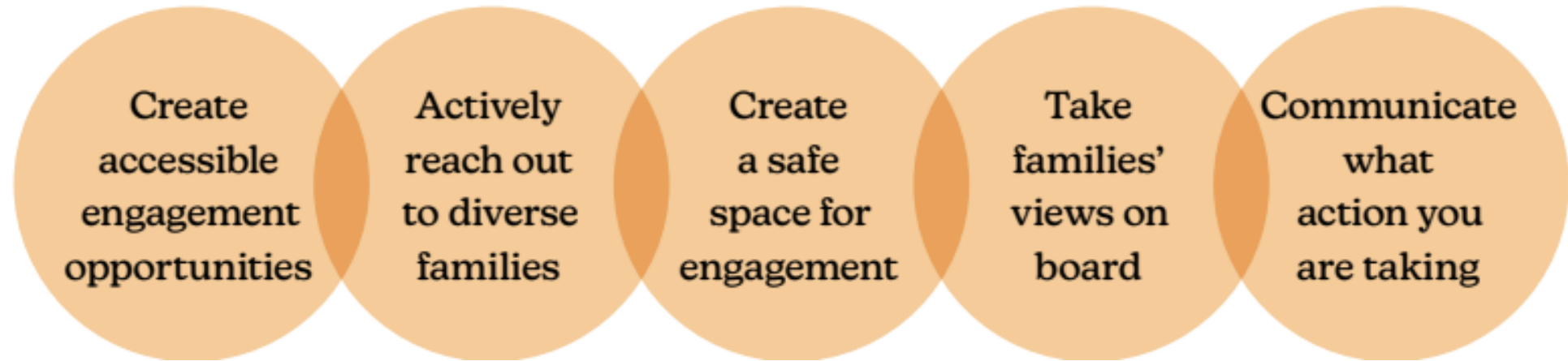
Challenges

Focus has been on the delivery of the programme

Capacity pressures

Overburdening of families

MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH CHILDREN & FAMILIES

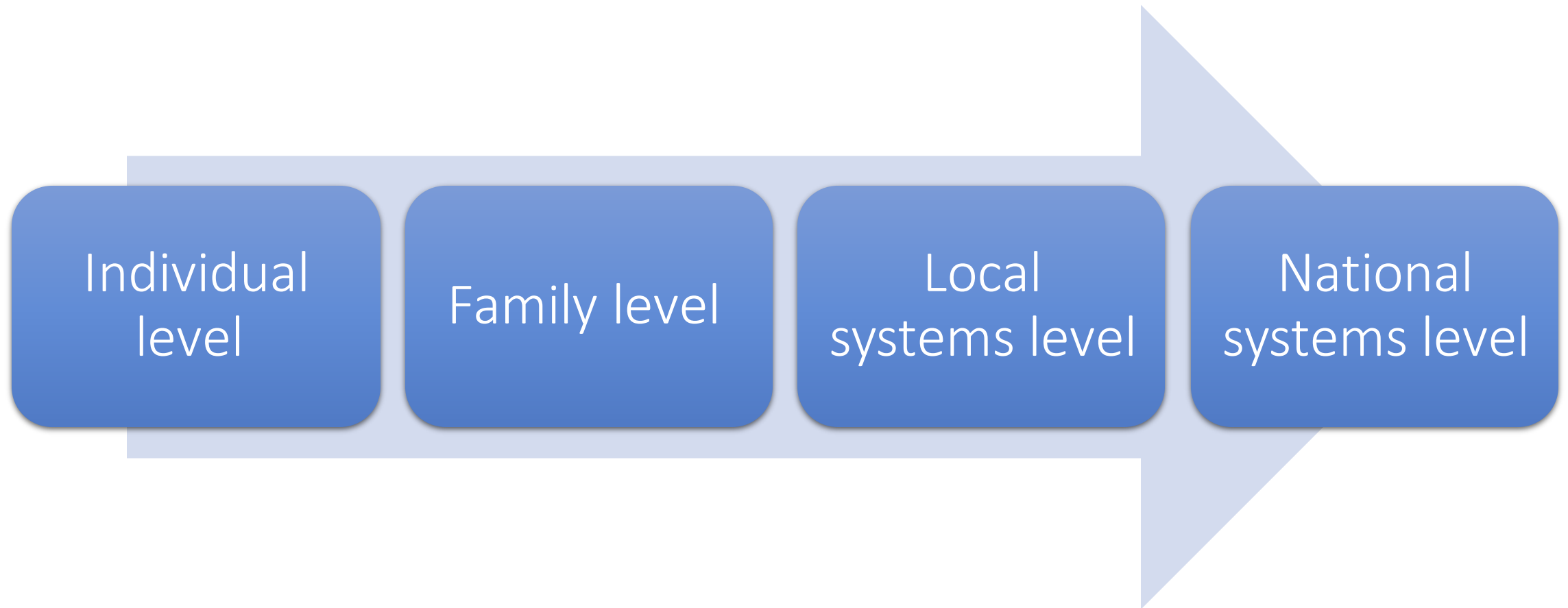


PAUSE AND REFLECT

Keep the engagement process under review and change your approach if needed.

Ensure children and families understand the purpose of the engagement process as well as the process itself, and to what extent their involvement can shape decisions.

WHAT FACTORS IMPACT WHETHER WE CAN INVOLVE FAMILIES IN RPC SERVICE PLANNING?



Family Level

- Building trusting relationships
- Adapting to family needs
- Mechanisms to demonstrate value of family voice
- Involving families at the right time in their life

"To be truthful, I work in the early intervention service, but the thought of involving parents. I just don't have time for that piece of work to be truthful at the moment." - Discussion group participant

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (EDIE)

- The need for diverse representation
- Time needed to build trusting relationships
- Building connections with wider community groups

"We're working directly with ethnic minority communities, right? So we're taking the trust that they have with their own community that gets lent to us to do the work. They organise the parents, they bring them together, and then we go in and work with them." - Discussion group participant



Anna Elliott, Ealing Council

Working with communities to reduce parental conflict

Working with communities to Reduce Parental Conflict

Anna Elliott
March 2024



A couple of questions...

When did you last have a meaningful conversation with your partner?

How aligned is your life philosophy with that of your partner?

From a scale of extremely happy to extremely unhappy, how would you rate your current or previous relationship?

RPC in Ealing

Strong offer grown over several years with a clear strategic position.

Investment in developing the workforce, including education and VCS

Challenge Fund – Family Ties

Focus on understanding parental conflict and the Impact on children and young people

Supporting practitioners to understand the differences between parental conflict and domestic abuse

Digital resources and self-serve options

Clear integration with our 'It takes a town' approach to Early Help



“Relationships Matter” Pilot

Ealing Council and Family Lives have come together to explore how we can best engage our diverse communities in our reducing parental conflict programme.

Evidence demonstrates that conflict between parents that is frequent, intense and poorly resolved has a significant impact on children and young people. Despite this, many parents do not access support, fearing judgement or severe consequences for admitting difficulties or concern that their relationship might not be reflected in council parenting initiatives. Some parents may not recognise relationship difficulties or feel that support is not for them.

The aim of the project is to understand the overarching question ‘what does good help look and feel like’ in relation to parental conflict and distress in relationships.

As well as gathering feedback on our current offer we will explore how we can offer better help that is attuned to our communities.

This will involve co-creating a workshop exploring relationships from different perspectives and looking at pathways to accessing support for relationship challenges. The workshop will then be co-delivered with the community design team.

This promises to be an incredibly valuable conversation and an opportunity to really listen to what parents want from our services, co-creating a bespoke offer for our community.



Project outputs

Surveying communities with regards to knowledge of RPC support and RPC as an issue

Co-facilitate workshop back to communities

Focus groups with diverse representatives from the community to gather insight and understanding

Community representatives come together to co-produce an awareness session / workshop.



Key part of our 'Family Hubs' approach



Southall

80,591 residents

Residents identifying as Asian/Asian British make up the largest proportion of the population (65.2%).

Largest religious identity is Sikhism (28%) followed by Islam (24.1%).

There are 10 Gurdwaras and, it is said that in a mile radius, there are more than forty places of worship including churches, mosques, temples and gurdwaras.

Second highest proportion 17% of residents living in income-deprived household across the 7 towns in Ealing.

Over 80 languages are spoken. After English, the top languages are Punjabi, Urdu, Somali, Arabic and Polish.

Around 58 per cent of Southall residents were born outside the UK (compared with 37 per cent of people in London overall and 14 per cent across the whole of the UK)



Key learning so far



Language and languages

Publicity

Accessing communities

Timelines

Reward and recognition

Impact of push-factor migration

Trust and mistrust

We need to talk more about relationships!

Next steps



Southall pilot due to complete mid-May

Planning to prototype in two further towns – Northolt and Acton

Further whole system workforce development and co-delivery opportunities

Engagement with marginalised communities including Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Travellers

Developing a Community of Practice for co-production and community engagement