Children’s Commissioning Collaborative Workshop

26th January 2015
We set out to...

- **Kick off a common conversation** about the future of children’s commissioning
- **Build on and learn from the innovation work** already well underway in Early Years
- **Unleash dynamism in the system**, based on clear shared vision and priorities across each of the areas of children’s commissioning
- **Explore what the future needs to feel/look like** for children and their families
- **Understand connections** between different areas of children's commissioning, and the levers/enablers/success measures for transformation
- **Unearth leaders from different part of the system** who will commit to making things happen, and agree next steps
We listened and responded to the story of parents who were struggling to access the right support. They worried about their families’ future.

Loss of hope for families. Families remain vulnerable not because of their own doing. Services need to listen to families — they know what they need.

Families should not have to fit in to the ‘criteria’ for help.

Thoughts
1. How to break the cycle.
2. How do prevent CYP & families from falling through services — services designed as pathways rather than solo functions.
We heard about the ethnographic research undertaken in early years...

Which set out to:

Explore the lives and experiences of young families

Understand experiences of existing support, needs and preferences (including use of public, private and third sector provision)

Understand the hopes and aspirations of families, and perceived enablers and blockers to achieving goals
“The boys don’t have many friends. They don’t get invited to parties like other children.”

“We’re both at work when all the groups are running so it just doesn’t work. I’ve never really been to them [parent groups].”
Together, we looked at the current system through the eyes of a child or a family, thinking hard about interactions between people, professionals and services.
Dear Victoria and family,

I would like to say that your situation shocked me; sadly this is not the case.

To Jessie, Jane and Tom,

You are not alone in your struggle. You are all doing a fantastic job – I want everyone to work together to make your lives easier and to make the challenges you face easier to overcome. You are all an inspiration! Thank you for telling your story.
Then we created our vision for a new system...
Our discussion...

- Universal interventions to improve school readiness
- Evidencing outcomes
- Maternity period as a key opportunity for change
- Ethnography and lived experience for commissioning
- Taking the vision out and actually making it happen
- Intergenerational sustainability
- Fix poverty

- Ambitions for the most vulnerable children and young people
- Visible leadership for improving children's lives
- Whole life approaches that remove barriers and transitions
- Building family resilience and planning for the future
- Getting Essex working together better, including governance
- How do we re-shape the market?
Now we need to...

**Work together as systems leaders** - I choose to lead on behalf of the system, not just my own organisation/service

**Commit as partners to taking forward the joint priorities identified** - I will progress within my organisation/service the specific priorities I discussed with colleagues at the workshop

**Promote the new system vision** - I will ensure my service or organisation seeks to embed the new system vision as a route to commissioning of better outcomes for children and families across our organisations. I will work to put early intervention and prevention at the forefront of my work and promote effective investment in health and wellbeing across the life course

**Have a clear governance framework** - I will challenge existing meetings and governance arrangements where they do not service the system vision

**Work co-productively with children, young people and families** - I will ensure I do not progress my work without meaningfully engaging children and families

**Focus on impact and outcomes** - I will start to have conversations with partners about a joint outcomes framework which draws on the system vision