University of Bedfordshire research in practice The Children's Society

Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme

Strategic Responses to Tackling Child Exploitation and Extra-familial Harm: Joining the Dots Towards Systems Change

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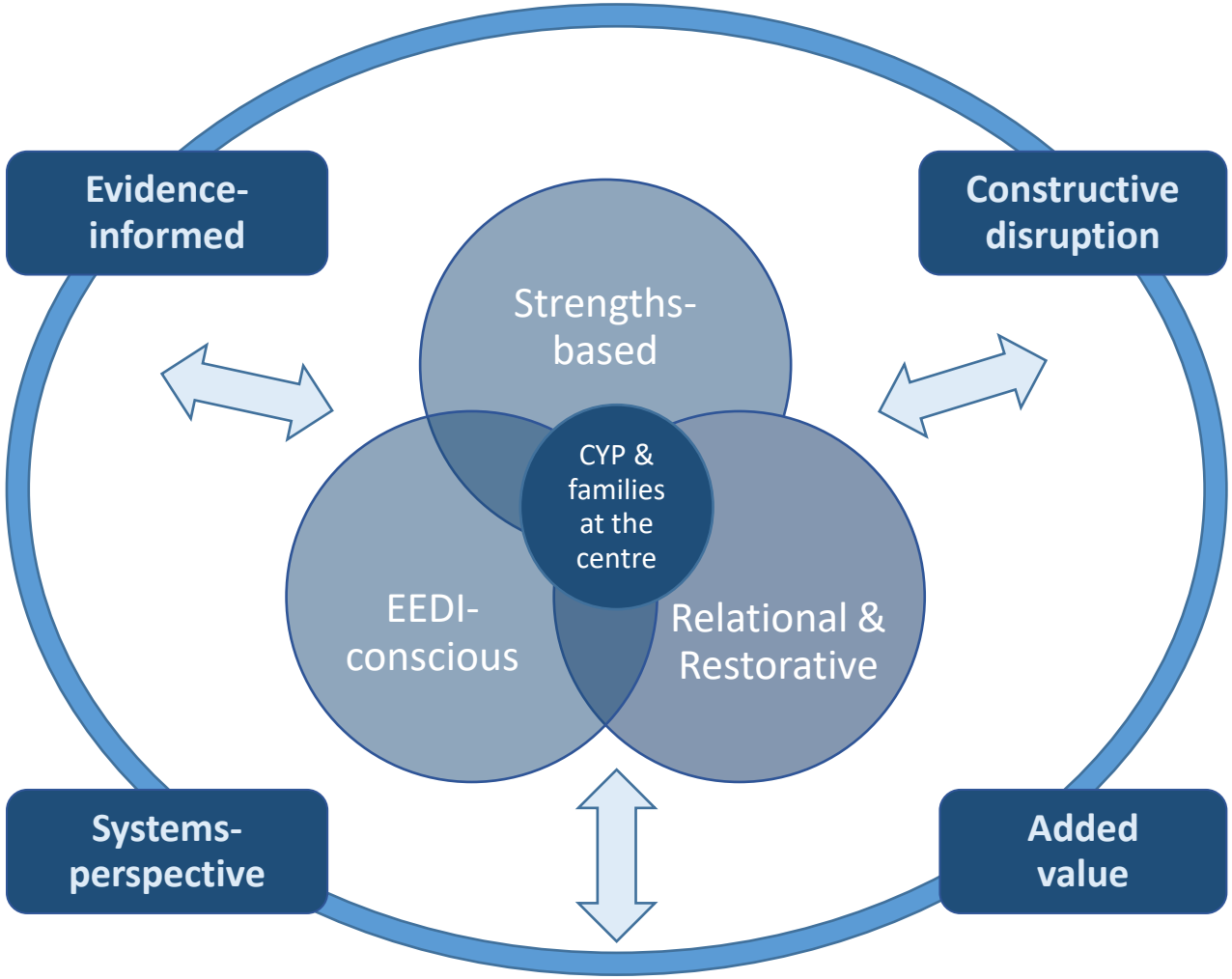
Department for Education Funded by the Department for Education

Who we are

The Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Support Programme is a consortium led by Research in Practice with The Children's Society and the University of Bedfordshire. Funded by the Department for Education (DfE) for three years (2019-2022) the programme was funded to provide strategic support to local area partnerships in England to:

- Offer direct support and challenge to partnerships working to understand their local child exploitation and extra-familial harm context.
- Help unlock the strategic capacity for multi-agency partnerships to respond to their local child exploitation and extra-familial harm context.

TCE Approach



Programme Delivery

Single site and regional **Bespoke Support Projects** (BSPs)

- since November 2019, TCE has delivered 30 geographical BSP projects and one national project, working in a total of 84 local areas, including Greater London and Greater Manchester.

Thematic projects, working with local areas and partners across England on common themes

- These were: minoritised voices and expertise by experience, reconfiguration of services, risk, data and partnership

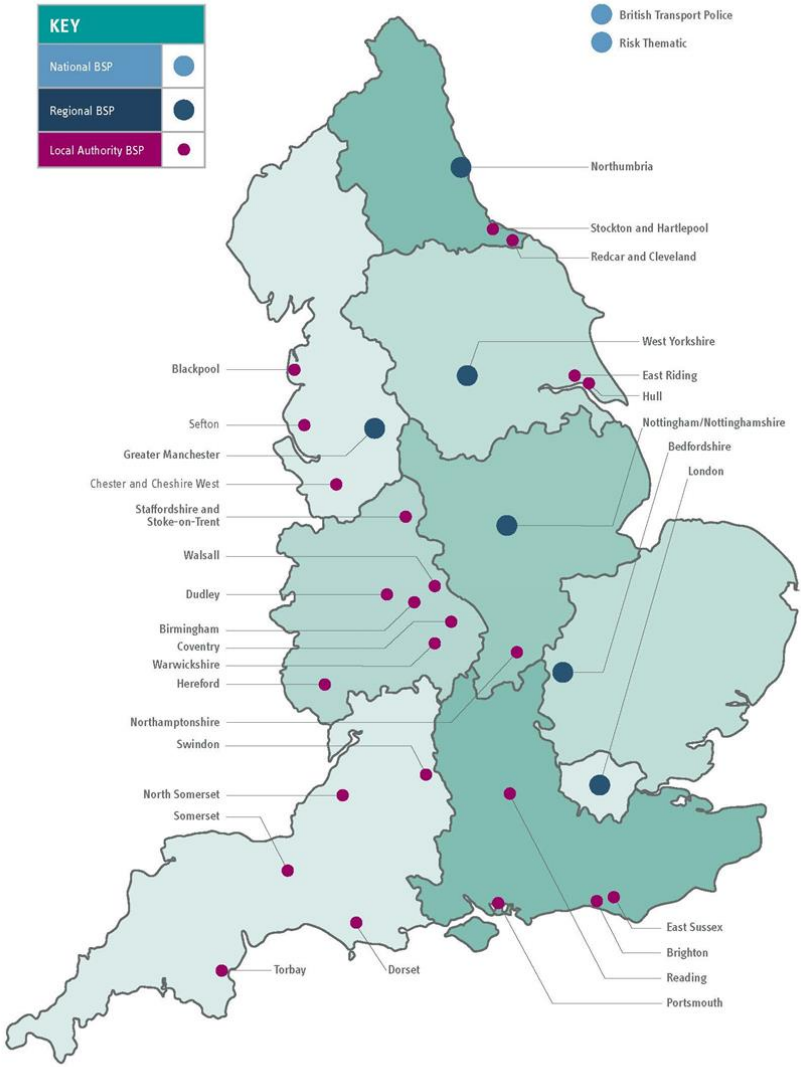
National **online learning events** to disseminate key learning across the sector

- designed to share ideas and experiences, explore challenges and discuss solutions.

Microsite development and delivery.

- https://tce.researchinpractice.org.uk hosts resources, curated for professionals working in the field of exploitation and extra-familial harm

Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme



Shared vision	• Clarifying language and definitions • Aligning role and remit towards a common goal
Connection & communication	• Identifying partners – gaps? • Including minoritised groups & experts by experience • Sharing practice experience and learning
Courageous leadership	• Balancing statutory responsibilities with flexible response to CE & EFH • Taking a non-hierarchical, listening approach
Professional curiosity	• Applying critical thinking skills • Thinking differently about risk, data and partnership working

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Joining the Dots

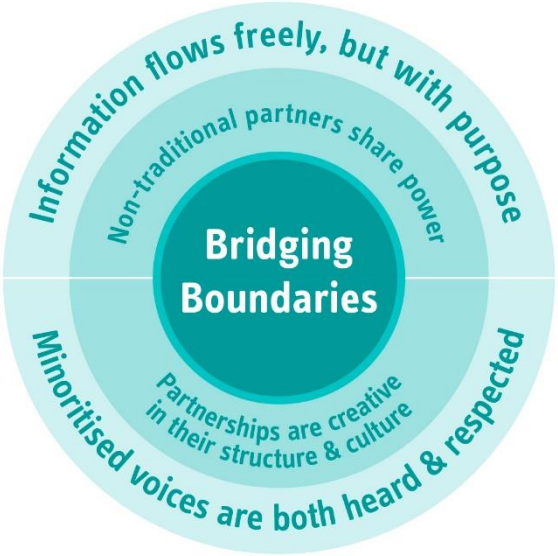
The Joining the Dots framework is a synthesis of the learning generated through the Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Support Programme

https://vimeo.com/687086419/33c93ba625

Where has Joining the Dots come from?

Joining the Dots

Child exploitation and extra-familial harm splits, separates and isolates



Form deeper and broader partnerships

Child exploitation and extra-familial harm involves control, manipulation and coercion

Focus on strengths, relationships and restorative approaches

Child exploitation and extra-familial harm moves, shifts and constantly adapts

Stand back, slow down and reflect

How, not what

Child exploitation and extra-familial harm splits, separates and isolates

Bridging Boundaries

Form deeper and broader partnerships

Child exploitation and extra-familial harm involves control, manipulation and coercion

Leading with Care

Focus on strengths, relationships and restorative approaches

Child exploitation and extra-familial harm moves, shifts and constantly adapts

Working with complexity, curiosity and uncertainty

Stand back, slow down and reflect

Joining the Dots speaks to strategic **behaviours** and approaches across a partnership that are capable of unlocking the complexity by **inverting the dynamics of child exploitation and extra-familial harm**

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How can Joining the Dots be used?

Joining the Dots is a tool for sense making:

- Provides a starting point and creates structure
- Universally applicable
- Slower pace
- Not prescriptive supporting local responses
- Partnership approach to tackle siloed working
- Strengths-based

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Thank you

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#TCEprogramme

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