

## **Appendix 3: Summary of issues arising from the workshop discussion (21 Sept 2022)**

### **What's working well?**

- Good partnership buy-in regarding the Early Help Assessment
- Openness and accountability
- Culture of candour
- Different levels of support
- Joined up working across agencies
- Information sharing with partners
- Free school meal vouchers in holiday time – big increase in uptake
- Holistic approach to solutions
- Self-awareness

### **What are we worried about?**

- Monitoring and measuring how agencies are working together effectively
- Unsupervised children in borough
- Number of children in poverty in Rotherham
- Chasing other authorities 'best practice' rather own bespoke policy
- Families who are part of the working poor
- Cost of living impacting non-essential spend on children's clubs
- Future financing of Council services
- Budget cuts to partners finances
- Lack of early support adding to later life crisis

### **Challenges**

- Cost of living
- Diminishing resources
- Increasing levels of poverty and disadvantage
- Organisational challenges with North/Centra/South
- Alignment to communities
- Budget restrictions – partners forcing more responsibility onto Council
- Being able to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse community
- Confidentiality procedures between elected members and officers
- Covid children – behavioural changes at school
- Pre-natal – early help consideration vital

### **Solutions**

- Protocol for frontline staff with officer member relationships
- More input into neighbourhood teams so they have a better overview
- More use of school resources to develop family groups
- More outreach work
- More information gathering
- Ensure linkage back to Maslow
- Engage people in their own environment
- Use the Family Hubs across all areas.
- Peer support online
- Use of volunteers to support families once cases are 'closed'
- Break down North/South/Central to local communities

## **Benchmarking feedback from other local authorities**

- The importance of making the strategy accessible
- Contextualise information with appropriate data
- Leeds, Bristol and North Yorkshire listed as good examples
- Use of pictures – with our own residents in
- Include the four cornerstones in the strategy
- Having children and family young voices shaping services
- Have a separate action plan to ensure the aspirations of the strategy are delivered
- Include 'A promise' for Rotherham families.
- Agree who is the strategy aimed at – public vs professional
- Use of clear language is essential
- List case studies and examples of when early help has made a difference