



The
Children's
Society

Financial resourcefulness for vulnerable young people

Lancashire Corporate Parenting Board

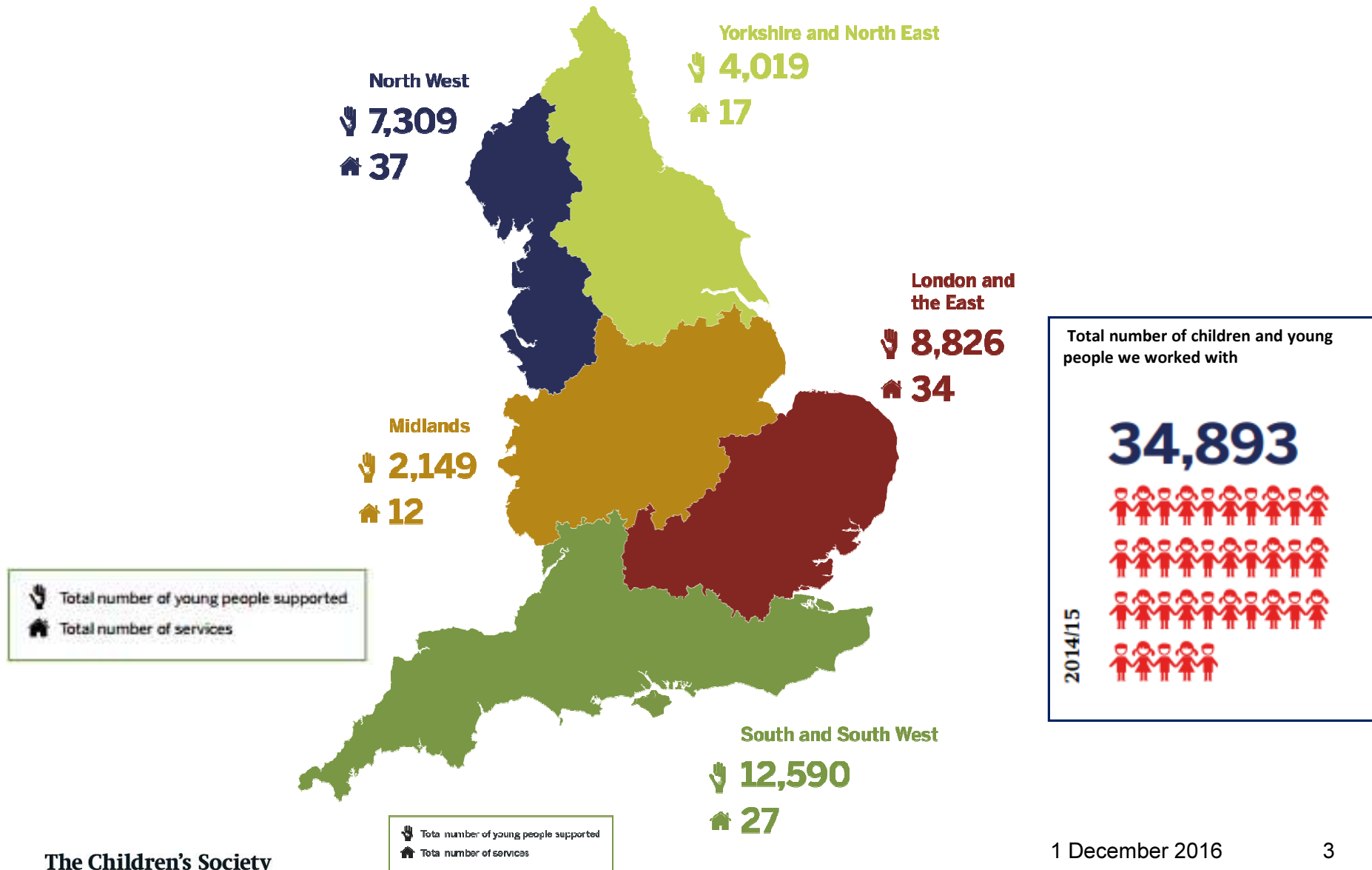
December 2016

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Who we are and what we do?

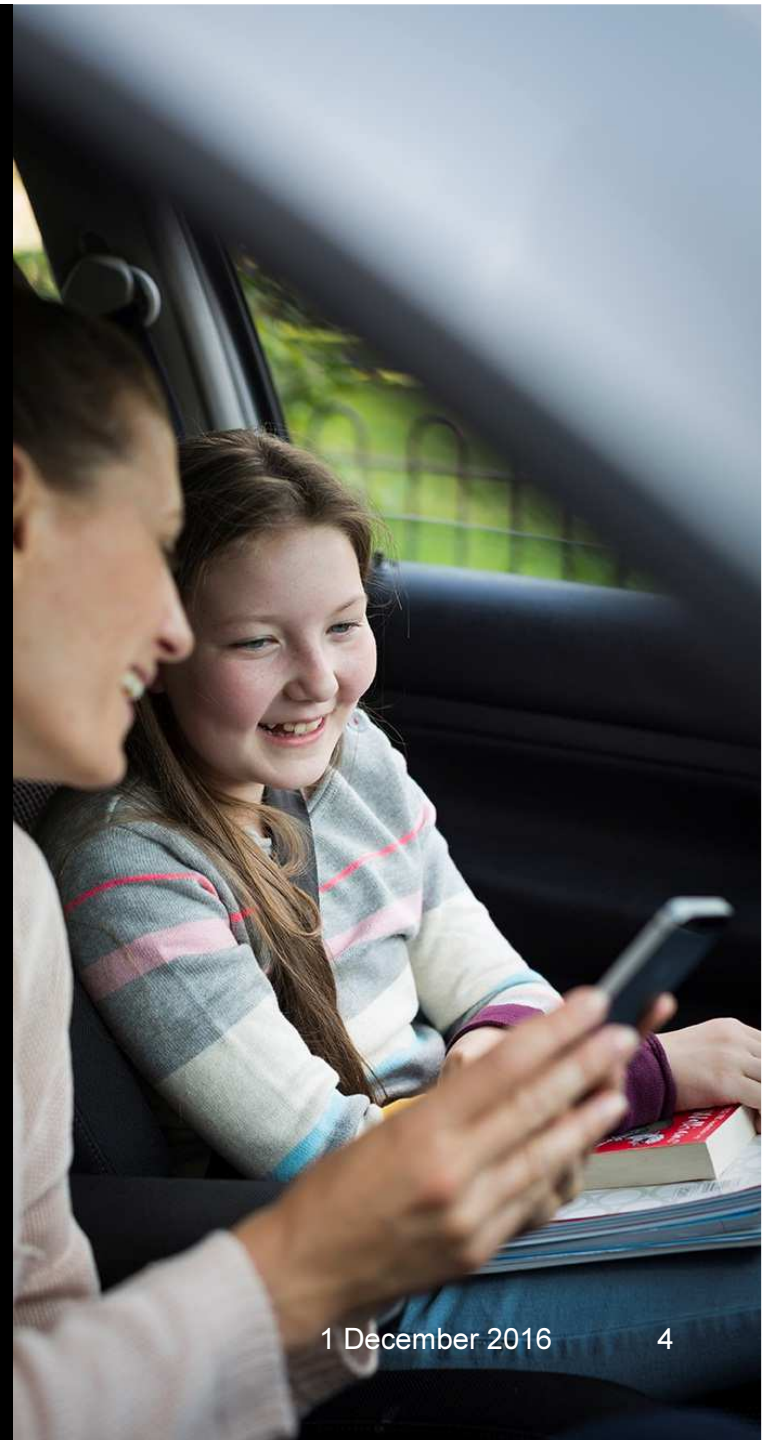
- It is a painful fact that many children and young people in Britain today are still suffering extreme hardship, abuse and neglect. Too often their problems are ignored and their voices unheard. Now it is time to listen and to act.
- The Children's Society is a national charity that runs local services, helping children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable, and have nowhere left to turn.
- We also campaign for changes to laws affecting children and young people, to stop the mistakes of the past being repeated in the future.
- Our supporters around the country fund our services and join our campaigns to show children and young people they are on their side.

Access to vulnerable groups



Meeting the need: Our work within Lancashire

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In Lancashire

- **15 years delivery of 'Street Safe'** – supporting victims and those vulnerable to being victims of CSE
- We have delivered **CSE awareness raising** sessions across 450 Lancashire schools
- We provide **Children's Rights and Advocacy** across the whole County
- We partner other agencies to deliver family support as part of the **Early Help Framework** in the East of the County.
- We support Children and Young people who go **missing from home or care**
- Our 'FamilySAFE' project has support 100's of **refugee and asylum seeking families** as soon as they arrive in the County.

About The Children's Society

Our work on financial inclusion

Year	Achievement
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Debt Trap Report</i>, with Step Change Debt Charity (highlighting needs of care leavers and families in poverty)• 'Supporting young savers: The case for savings clubs in schools' report with the Personal Finance Education Group (pfeg)• 'Lifesavers' project - schools' savings club delivery model for the Church of England, PFEG and Association of British Credit Unions Limited
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A peer-to-peer mentoring project for young people and families in financial difficulty• Research on care leavers and financial capability. Recommendations published in January 2016

Financial Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Pilot

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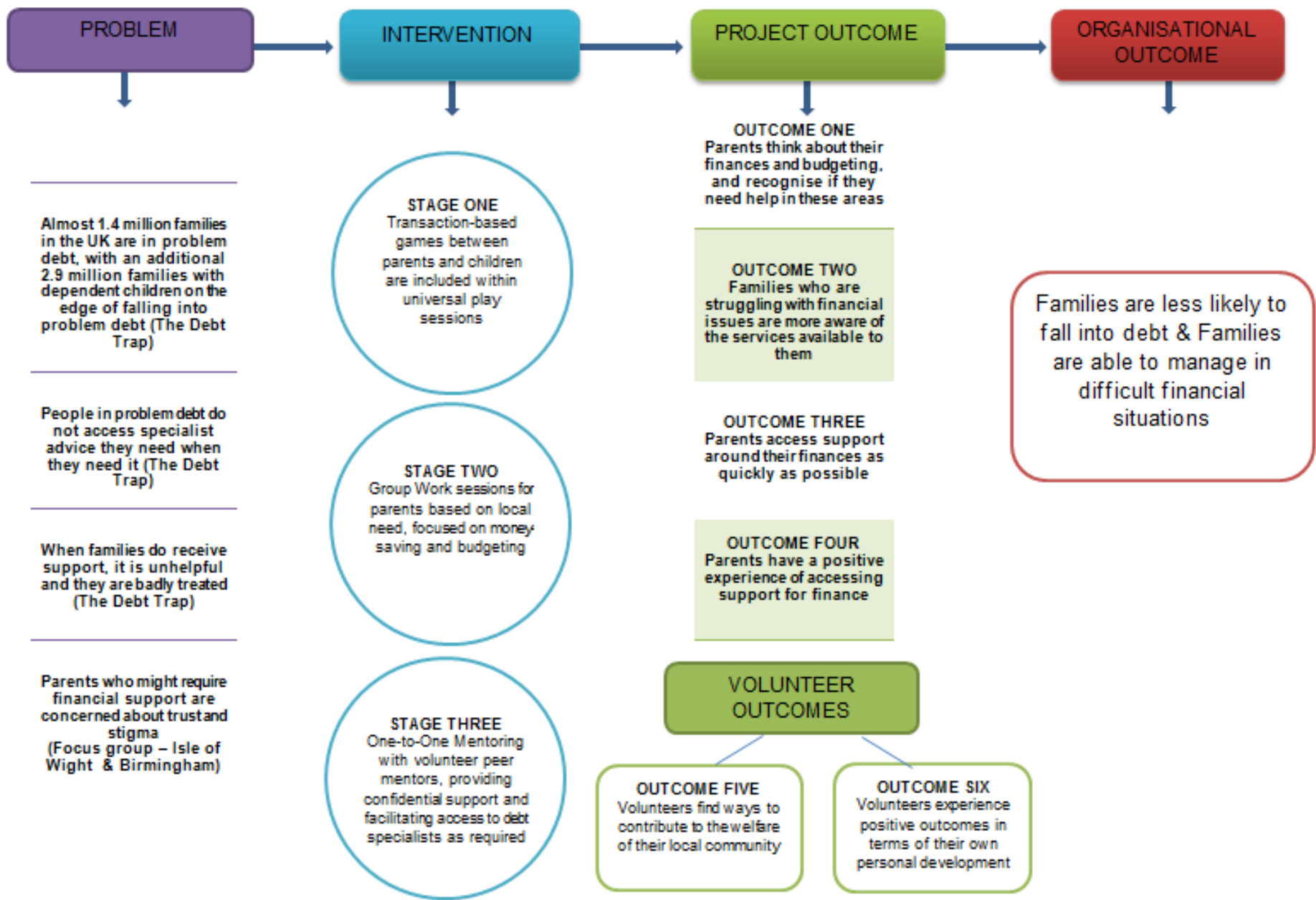
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Proposed model



DELIVERY MODEL

- PHASE 1: assertive outreach and engagement as well as relationship building
- PHASE 2: group work (light-touch)
Through volunteer peer mentors
- PHASE 3: one to one mentoring (intensive)
Through volunteer peer mentors with project staff
- PHASE 4: specialist advice
Through referral or signposting



Monitoring Impact

The Outcomes Wheel:
My Wheel



Performance management

Mosaic, an electronic case management system, to capture performance details of our services

Impact monitoring

We use My Wheel as tool to assess where a young person is on their journey, forming the structure and basis of the conversation with the young person to really focus down on areas of concern or where the young person would like to make changes in their life.

Impact of the Pilot

OUTCOMES FOR SERVICE USERS

1. Parents think about their finances and budgeting, and recognise if they need help in these areas
2. Families who are struggling with financial issues are more aware of the services available to them
3. Parents access support around their finances as quickly as possible
4. Parents have a positive experience of accessing support for finance

OUTCOMES FOR VOLUNTEERS

5. Volunteers find ways to contribute to the welfare of their local community
6. Volunteers experience positive outcomes in terms of their own personal development

Lessons Learned

- Continue using **focus groups to assess local needs**
- Strengthen the **collaboration links with external organisations to develop delivery models**
- **Consider socio-economic and demographic characteristics in site selection**
- **Sufficient set-up time** should be factored in
- **Language support and other locally-specific provisions** should be encouraged as a key tool for facilitating service users' access to support
- Put staff in the position to reap the benefits of a volunteer-led model
- **A significant pool of local volunteers with experience of financial issues** was recruited specifically for the pilot

Focus on Care Leavers

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Targeting vulnerable groups

The Children's Society targets help at children and young people who are disadvantaged by poverty and neglect. They are in critical need of care and safety, resources and opportunities and emotional and psychological support.

- Primary focus: **Care Leavers**

“a person aged 25 or under, who has been looked after away from home by a local authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14; and who was looked after away from home by the local authority at school-leaving age or after that date”

- Secondary focus: **Other vulnerable groups, including:
children in care,
young offenders,
refugees and migrant young people,
young carers,
and families in social housing**

Why Care Leavers

- With more young people over the age of 16 leaving care, the demand for support is increasing.
- In 2013-14, 10,310 young people aged over 16 left care, an increase of almost 50% since 2003-04 (National Audit Office Report 'care leavers transition to adulthood', 2015).
- Young care leavers often find themselves in situations that negatively impact their ability to manage their finances successfully e.g. moving into their own home for the first time and dealing with lots of bills.



Specific needs of care leavers

- Care Leavers transition to financially independent living earlier than their peers who have not been in care
- Care Leavers are less likely to have learned money management skills compared to their peers who have not been in care.
- External issues can strongly impact on care leavers' educational attainment and future employment prospects, thereby increasing the risk of low-income and financial exclusion



Young people and financial resourcefulness

- The concept of resilience focuses on personal ‘ability to withstand’ stressful life events (O’Neill, 2011). We would not want young people to feel they are expected to ‘withstand’ the level of acute need they experience, without being understandably effected.
- The concept of resilience implies a situation where circumstances cannot be prevented or prepared for (Genealogies of Resilience, 2011). This is not true in the case of children in care, where policies and practices can and should play a crucial role.
- Encouraging resourcefulness instead of resilience allows room for children to express and process the difficult reality of their circumstances without judgement, while also having the means to access their rights and seek support.

Potential Next Steps

Aims & Objectives

The next aim is to develop financial resourcefulness in vulnerable young people and help them to manage their finances, debt and financial opportunities. The project has the following aims:

- to encourage vulnerable young people to think about their finances and budgeting, and to recognise if they need help with unmanageable financial situations;
- to raise awareness of the financial support available to specific groups, like care leavers;
- to support vulnerable young people to access help from specialist services if they need it, as quickly as possible;
- to improve vulnerable young people's experience of accessing support for finance or debt.

Activities

- The product will equip care leavers with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to manage money well now and in the future. This would consist of the following core elements:
- assertive, community-based outreach and engagement through a trusted local service or agency;
- group work sessions with strong co-designed volunteer-led element;
- peer-to-peer financial mentoring;
- signposting via a mentor to specialist advice, as appropriate.



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Thank you