Achieving Better Outcomes

The Commissioning Support Programme – Aims

- step change in commissioning
- work in partnership
- support and challenge
- share good practice

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The Commissioning Support Programme – Principles

- “Pull” not “push”
- Shaped and informed by the sector
- Flexible and tailored
- Working with and through existing networks and organisations
- Coherent across policy
- Solution focused

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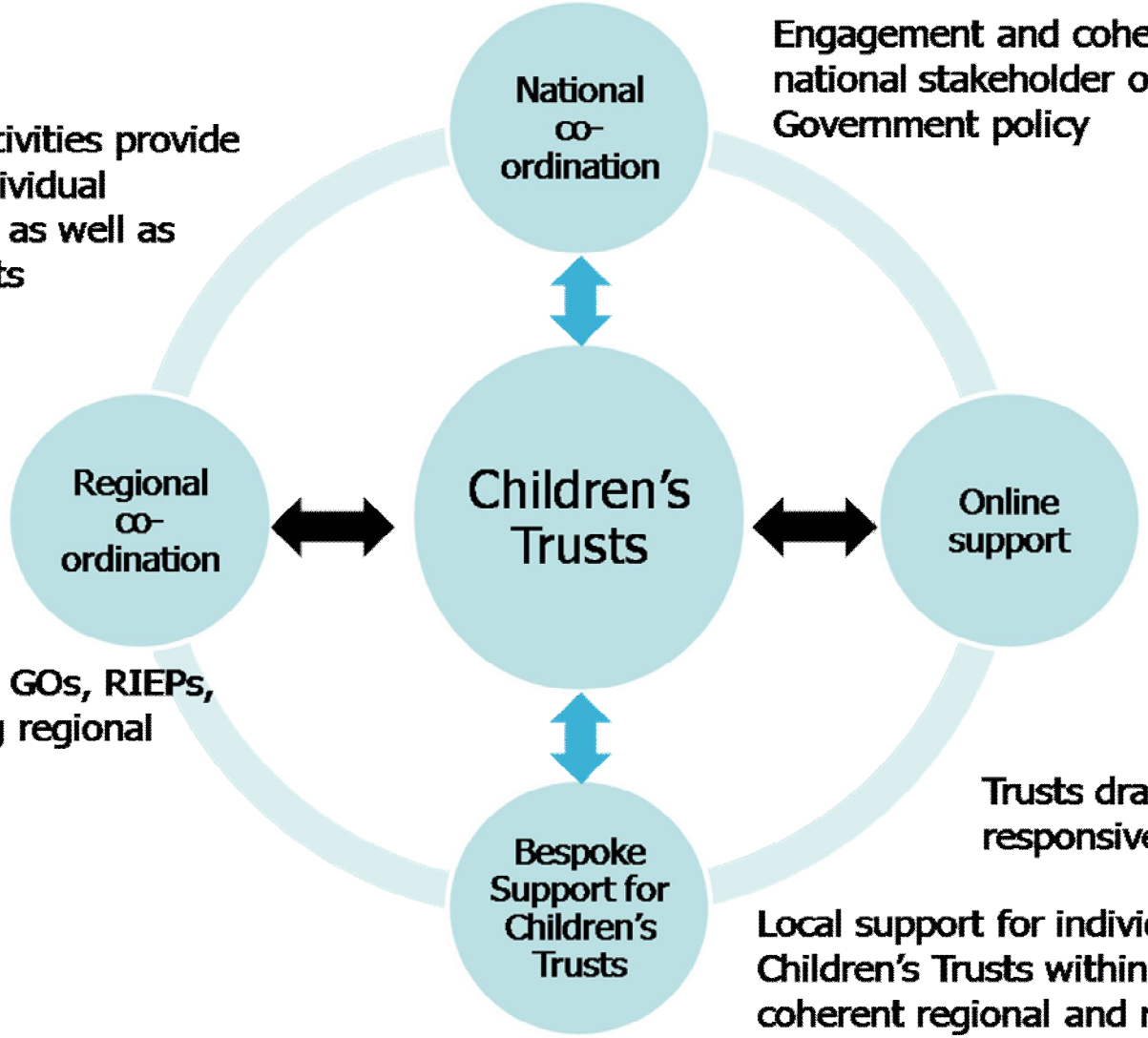
Programme Activity Focused on Supporting Children's Trusts



Programme activities provide support for individual commissioners as well as Children's Trusts

Engagement and coherence with national stakeholder organisations, Government policy

Commissioner owned/led content, tools and support

Engagement with GOs, RIEPs, SHAs and existing regional networks

Trusts draw support that is responsive to changing need

Local support for individual Children's Trusts within a coherent regional and national framework

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Online Solution and Market Place

www.commissioningsupport.org.uk

The Commissioning Support Website

- Build on your networks and share good practice by joining the community and participating in the Positive Activities online group
- Take advantage of our comprehensive online library of content on Youth in the Resource Bank
- Use the ‘peer-review content’ function to collaborate with your peers and develop tools

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What is Commissioning?

- Commissioning is the process for deciding how to use the total resource available for children, young people and parents in order to improve outcomes in the most efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable way.

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Children and Young People System

Local resources for children's system

- Finance
- Workforce
- Service provic
- Capital
- Community
- Co-production

Commissioning is the most efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable route

Outcomes for local children and young people

- e healthy
- safe
- njoy and achieve
- Positive contribution
- Economic well-being

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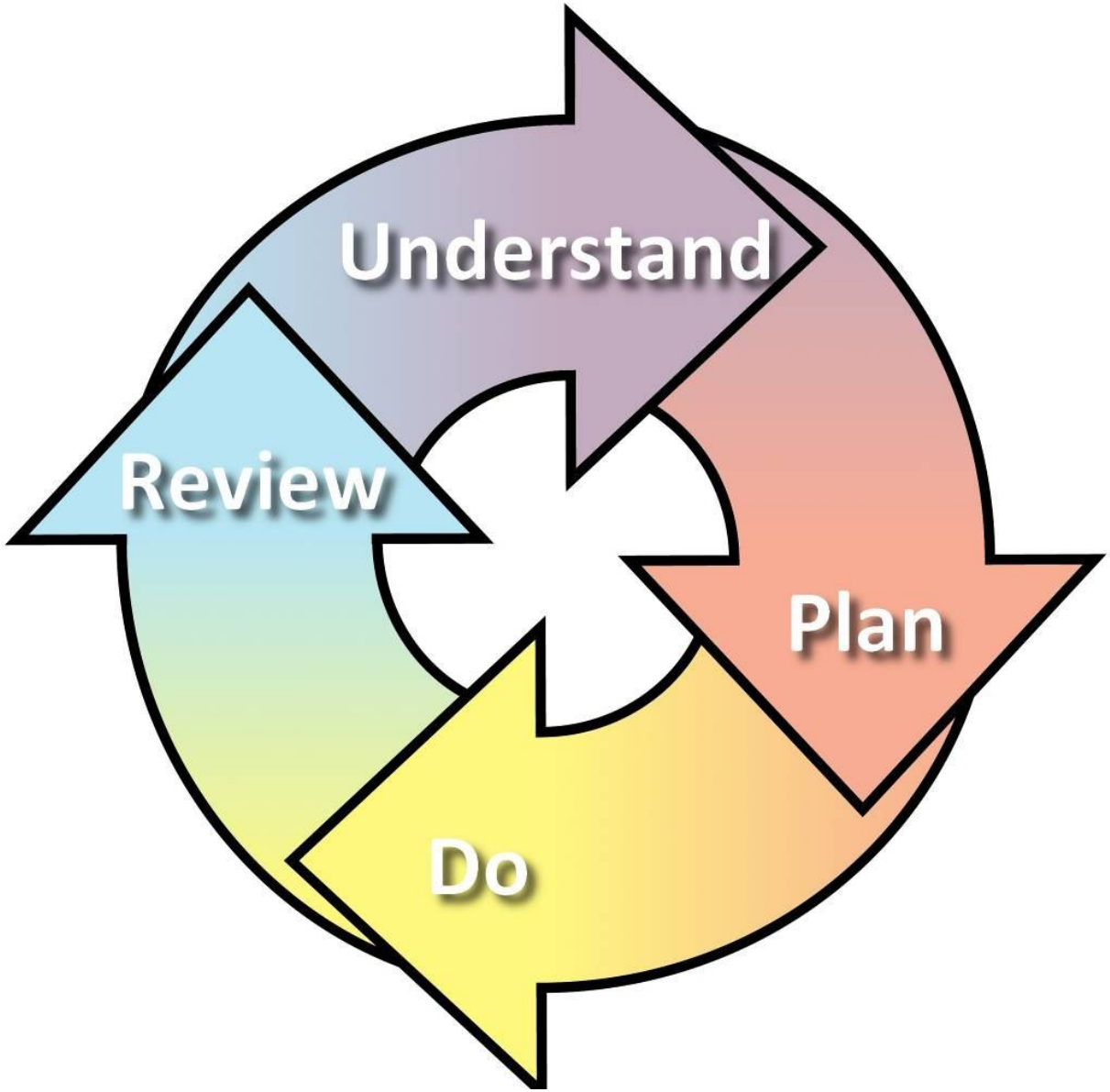
Commissioning Cycle



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Challenges facing commissioners of positive activities

- Considerable variation amongst local authorities in the definition, nature and range of the market for services for young people
- Limited evidence of outcome focused evaluation of provision either based on the five broad ECM outcomes or locally defined outcome indicators
- Young people not always involved in designing commissioning processes
- Under-representation of particular groups of young people

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Opportunities facing commissioners of positive activities

Use commissioning:

- to help to raise standards
- to ensure there is a level playing field
- to bring in new providers
- to develop partnerships
- to involve young people
- to increase participation

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Good commissioning of positive activities

- High level initiation through either the Local Strategic Partnership or the Children's Trust Board
- Locally agreed objectives clearly articulated at the commissioning stage
- Active participation by young people and representation from all of the key agencies
- Based on information and local intelligence
- Recognition of time and resource intensity
- Impact measured at authority, project and individual levels
- Young people trained to evaluate services and conduct ongoing research

Ref: Fiona Blake, Chief Executive, NYA

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Young people commissioning Roadshows - Aims

- Providing information and advice to both commissioners and providers
- Helping commissioners to develop diverse, equitable provider markets
- Showcasing examples of good practice within the region
- Highlighting the policy and statutory aspects of commissioning positive activities
- Providing support to meet increased expectations around commissioning and provision of positive activities for young people on Friday and Saturday nights
- Helping stakeholders to place outcomes for young people at the heart of the commissioning process

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Key themes

- Understanding the commissioning cycle
- Importance of involving providers in all stages of commissioning – joint responsibility
- Capacity building and support for smaller providers
- Simplification of procurement
- Consortia of providers can be effective
- Young people's involvement in commissioning is still tokenistic
- Focus on soft, longer term outcomes

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Quality standards for positive activities

Aims and objectives

- To develop:
  - A set of quality standards, each with evidence indicators, against which performance against the standards can be assessed
  - A user guide and good practice materials to help organisations to deliver positive activities in line with the standards
    - Providing more detail about the evidence indicators and examples of how the standards are being met in practice

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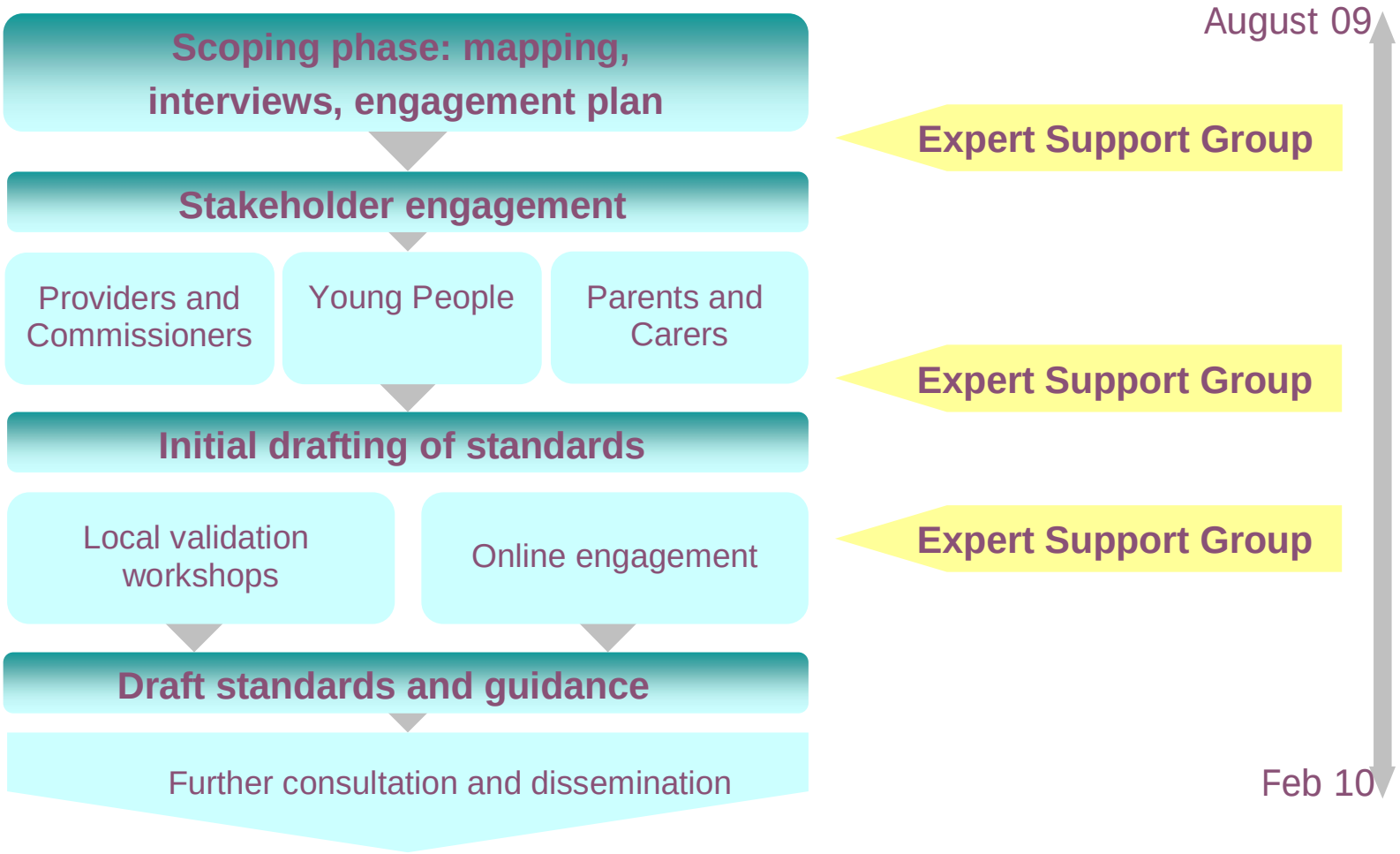
Approach overview



What the standards will cover

1. The offer of positive activities for young people
2. Commissioning of positive activities
3. Performance of providers of positive activities
4. Outcomes of positive activities

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Key messages from stakeholder engagement

Young people - what does 'really good' look like to us?

- What we want, when and where we want it
- Challenging activities – "pushes you to try something new"
- Good facilities and the right equipment
- Organisers who are encouraging, familiar, trusted, organised and qualified
- Opportunity to
  - have fun and achieve something
  - get to know people you might not otherwise
  - do something positive & challenge stereotypes
  - give our families a break!

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Parents and carers views

- Fun and enjoyable, focus on life skills rather than qualifications
- Accessible – well publicised, near by, affordable, good transport
- Provide a safe environment
- Keep us informed and allow us to ‘see for ourselves’
- Have highly skilled and committed staff e.g. role models than having a degree
- New opportunities – especially if from deprived backgrounds
- Encourage young people from different backgrounds to mix
- Don’t shut down without warning

Providers and commissioners

- Purpose of positive activities - diversion or development?
- Progression – the journey not the end point

- **Characteristics of good practice**
  - Youth-led: what young people want
  - Built on local need and intelligence
  - High energy, engaging and enjoyable
  - Choice and flexibility
  - Offers sense of progression and development
  - Encourages expression of identity and culture
  - Continuity
  - Highly skilled and motivated workforce
  - Good quality facilities and equipment
  - Safety
  - Good governance

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Further information

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