

Turning Policy into Practice Through Joint Working

Health and Early Years Making a Difference to Children's Outcomes

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Sutton and Merton Community Services



Policy Context

Health Visiting Service

- Healthy Child Programme
- Health Implementation Plan 2011
- Health Visiting Service Specifications

Early Years Service

- Funded places for eligible 2 year olds
- Narrowing the Gap
- Allen, Field, Munro and Tickell Reviews
- Supporting Families in the Foundation Years
- Early Intervention strategy



Current Offer

Health Visiting

Core service

- New-birth visit (10-14 days)
- 6-8 week and 6-12 month developmental reviews
- A&E follows ups
- Follow up notifications to police reports
- Transfer in visits
- Delivery of well child clinics in children's centre
- Health promotion delivery

Enhanced service

- Children subject to a child protection plan
- Children subject to a child in need plan
- Looked after children
- Children with additional needs

Children's Centres

Core Service

- Children Centre Core delivery
- Outreach to local communities
- Interagency working with key partners
- Assessment of need at all pre-statutory levels

Enhanced service

- Pre threshold assessment (CAF)
- Targeted outreach
- Coordinated family support package
- Early Learning and Childcare funding for 2 year olds



Key Drivers

- Only children receiving an enhanced health visiting service are having a developmental review at 2 years of age
- Identification of eligible (vulnerable) 2 year old children to access funded early years and childcare provision
- Data led needs assessment



Purpose of the Pilot

Provide targeted outreach to facilitate early identification of need to eligible 2 year olds in order to:

- identify health needs
- improve children's learning outcomes
- narrow the gap
- prepare children and their families for the transition to nursery class
- increase the number of children taking up a funded 2 year old place



Planning the Pilot

- Identify funding source – Early Intervention Grant
- Identify desired and measurable inputs, outputs and outcomes
- Information sharing – Early Years commissioned SLA with Health
- Skill set of Early Learning and Childcare Community Nursery Nurse
- Line management/responsibility of worker/safeguarding supervision
- Geographical location for pilot (review of current data/knowledge of caseloads)



Measurable Inputs/Outputs/Outcomes

- **To ensure uptake of Early Learning and Childcare funding by vulnerable groups**
 - Minimum 100 home visits
 - Minimum of 40 children to access funded two year old place
- **To enhance parent confidence and skills in supporting children's learning and development**
 - Key staff to lead accredited parenting programmes
 - 24 families accessing accredited parenting programmes
 - Service user feedback questionnaires
- **To increase children centre staff knowledge and skills**
 - 4 health themed training workshops
 - Staff survey



Worker Skill Set

- Underpinning knowledge of child health and development in early years (Early Years Foundation Stage – EYFS)
- Clear understanding of how family and environmental factors including parenting capacity can impact upon outcomes for children
- Knowledge of local resources and referral pathways and integrated working practices
- Ability to engage with reluctant families
- Ability to provide practical support and advice across a wide range of issues
- Ability to provide information in a variety of accessible formats
- Use of data bases, IT, excel

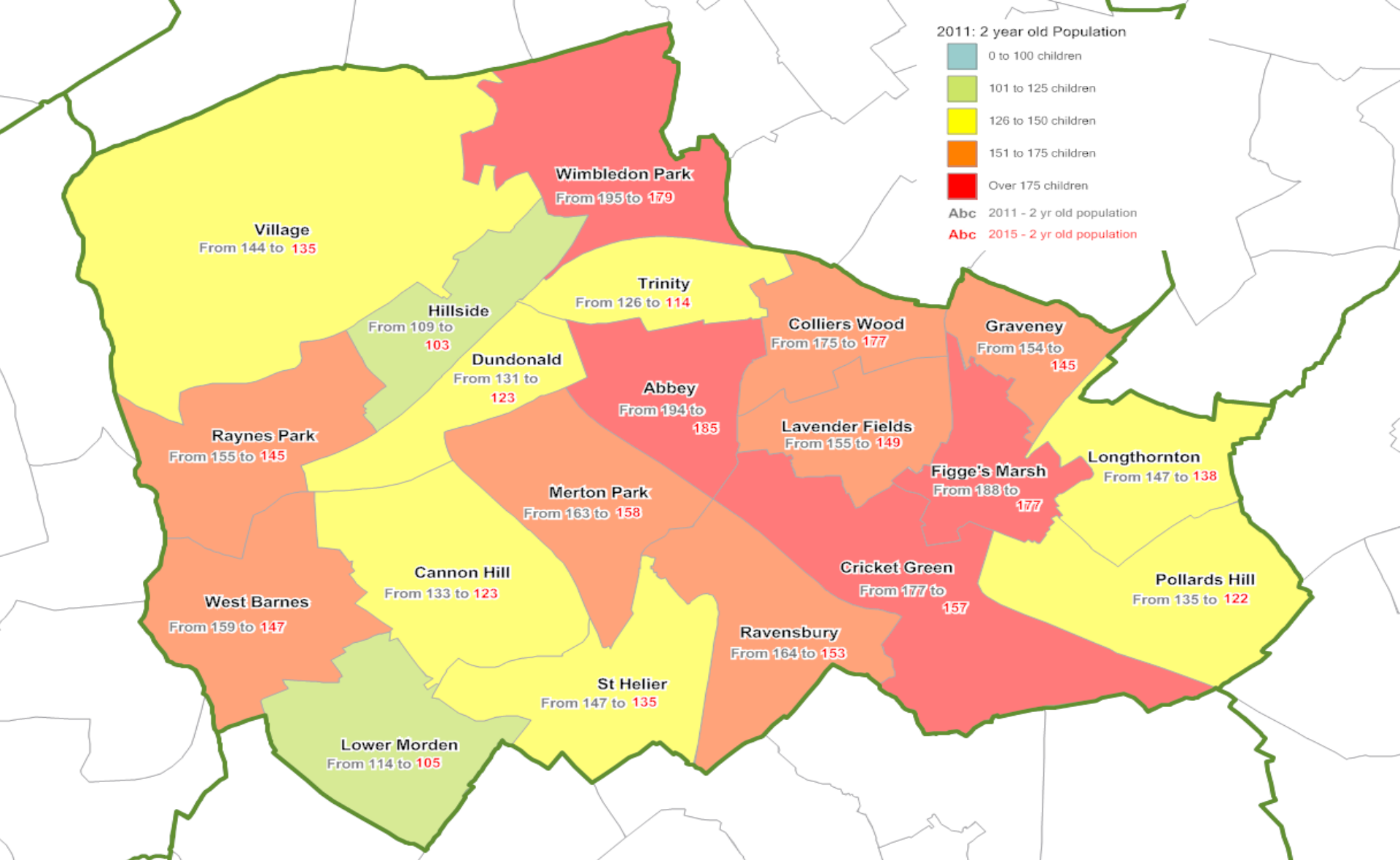


Using data to inform geographical location for pilot

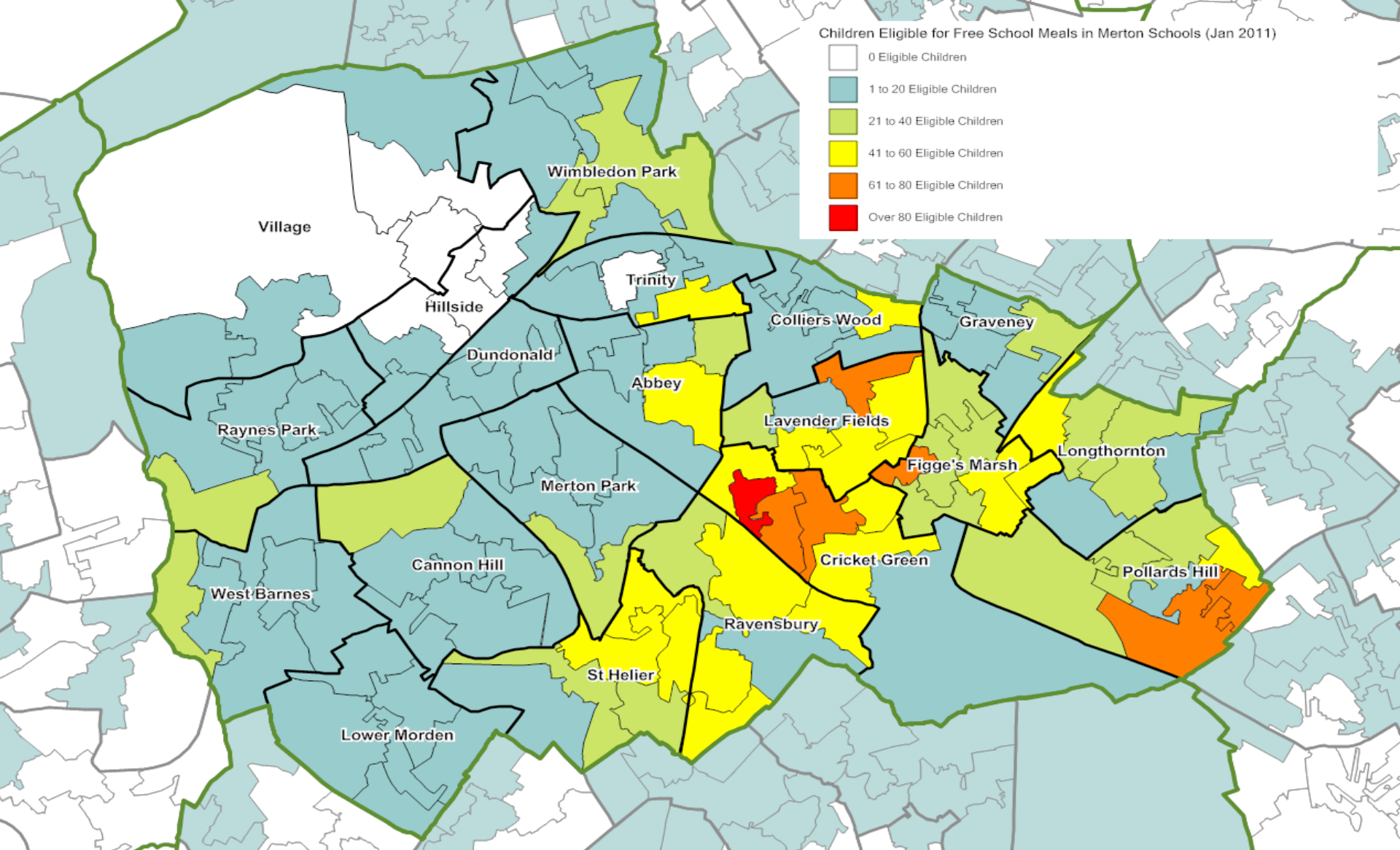


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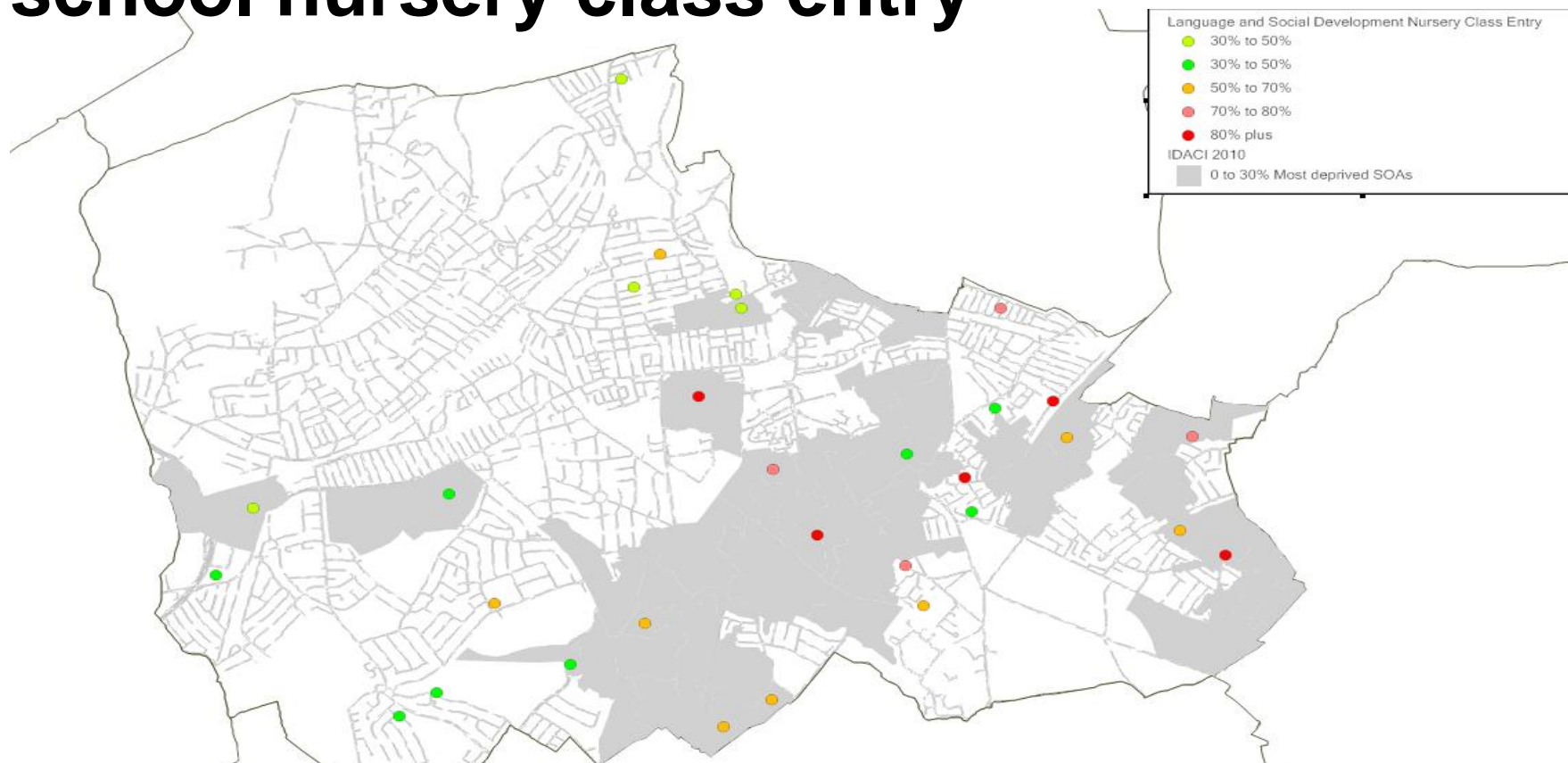
Children Eligible for Free School Meals in Merton Schools (Jan 2011)



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Snapshot of child development – school nursery class entry



ECAT programme: over 5000 children took part over two year, 700 staff were trained, over 3000 parents received a parent pack and information and guidance



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Identifying Children

- No health contact since 8 month check
- Parent with mental/physical/health difficulties
- Recent police notifications (1 year)
- 3+ children under 5 years
- English as an additional language
- Special Education Needs and / or disability / developmental delay
- Young parent (< 19 years of age)
- Lone parent
- Workless benefits
- Non-attendance at children's centre activities
- Previous targeted early help
- Previous/current support from statutory children's services

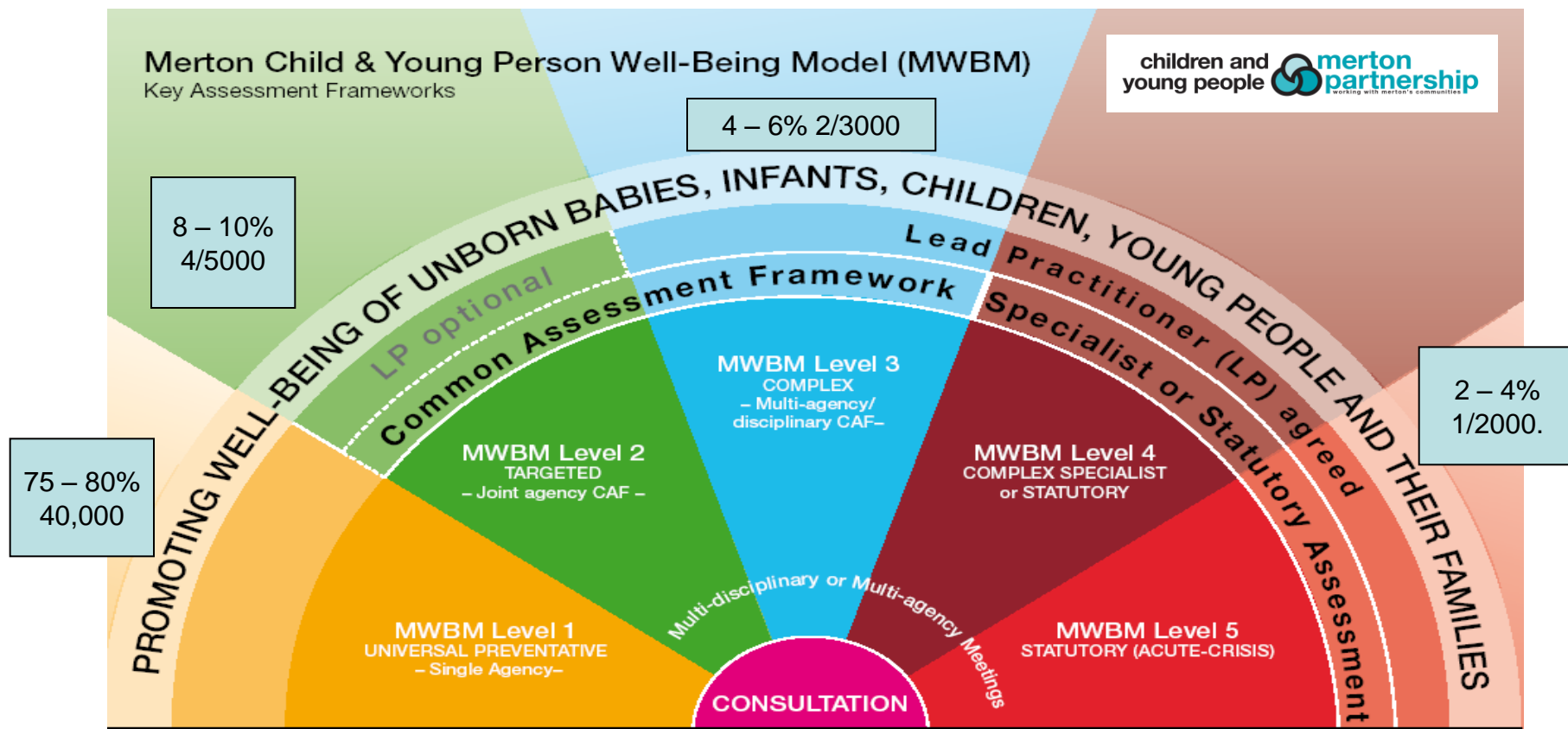


Assessment of Need

- Home visit from Early Learning and Childcare Community Nursery Nurse
- 21-24 months development review according to protocol
- Children's centre speech and language tool (Every Child A Talker)
- Ascertain level of need using Merton Child Well-Being Model



MCWBM: Merton Rainbow



Information supplied by Strategy and Development Team, Children Schools and Families Department, Merton Council



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Progress to date

A review of the data:

- 108 children aged 21 months living in Merton
- 107 receiving core Health Visiting Service
- 65 children not seen by health visiting service since 8 month check
- 56 not had contact with a children's centre
- 74 Identified for home visit by the worker applying the selection criteria
 - All 74 had home visits
 - In addition to this;
 - 22 received a targeted service (Level 2)
 - 22 CAFs completed (Level 3)
 - 20 received ELCC funding (Level 3)
 - 5 had an allocated lead practitioner (Level 3)



Successes

- Increased contact and assessment of vulnerable children and their families
- Increased take-up of early help; children's centres, childcare, evidence based parenting programmes, information, advice and guidance.
- Delivery of age appropriate health promotion
- Enhanced multi-agency working and liaison
- Sharing of good practice
- Improved number and quality of CAFs



Challenges

- Sustainability
- Shift from universal to targeted
- Staff skills – engaging families, health promotion and child development
- Data/information
- Cross sector/multi agency standardised assessment tool
- Develop measures for tracking children through their foundation years across partners



Future Plans

- Further integration with children's centre targeted services
- Raise the profile of the project to influence further commissioning
- All children to receive a 2 ½ year review
- Workforce development

