

Tough Times, Good Decisions

National children and adult services conference

ICC London ExCeL • 19-21 October 2011

Towards Excellence in Children's Services



TOWARDS EXCELLENCE IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES

THE SECTOR LED IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

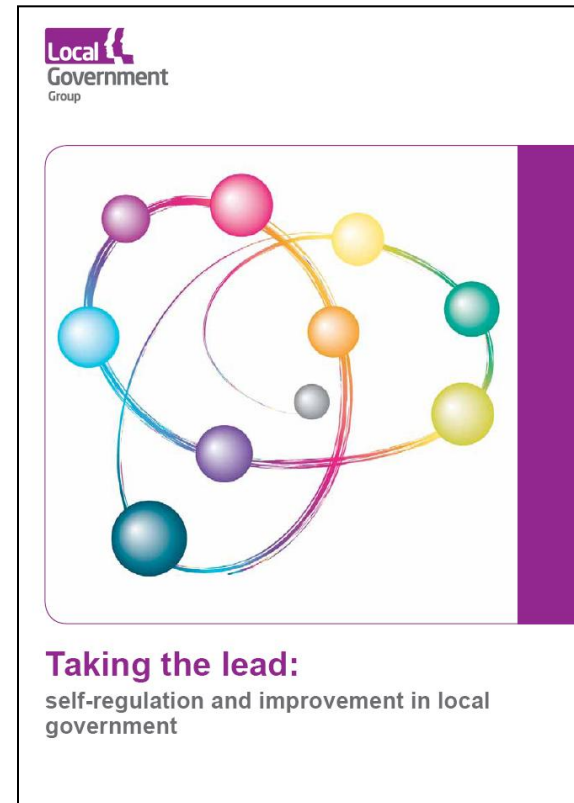
Children's Improvement Board
NCASC
20 October 2011

The sector led system for children's services

- **The context for councils**
- **The mission for the Children's Improvement Board**
- **The dimensions of success**
- **The core cycle of improvement activity**
- **Early experiences**
- **Getting started everywhere**

The context for councils

- **Local government has the lead for its performance – long claimed; now gained**
- **Government steps back; sector steps up**
- **Whole council & all councils take collective responsibility**
- **Achieving better outcomes for children & young people is a critical element of sector led efforts to improve community well being**



Towards Excellence in Children's Services - CIB Mission

The mission is to achieve:

- **universal improvement in outcomes, targeted support where necessary & willingness to innovate in pursuit of better outcomes**

by adopting a sector led approach that is:

- **intelligence led, well organised, sustainable & ambitious for children**

The dimensions of success: what is at stake?

- **Early proof that the sector can improve performance and outcomes & will address failures**
- **Rapid demonstration of local as well as national leadership with regions taking responsibility for deployment & mobilisation of resources**
- **Evidence that the sector can be robust and ambitious without central direction & national performance targets**
- **Capacity to sustain an approach through collective action and reciprocal support**

What does this mean in practice?

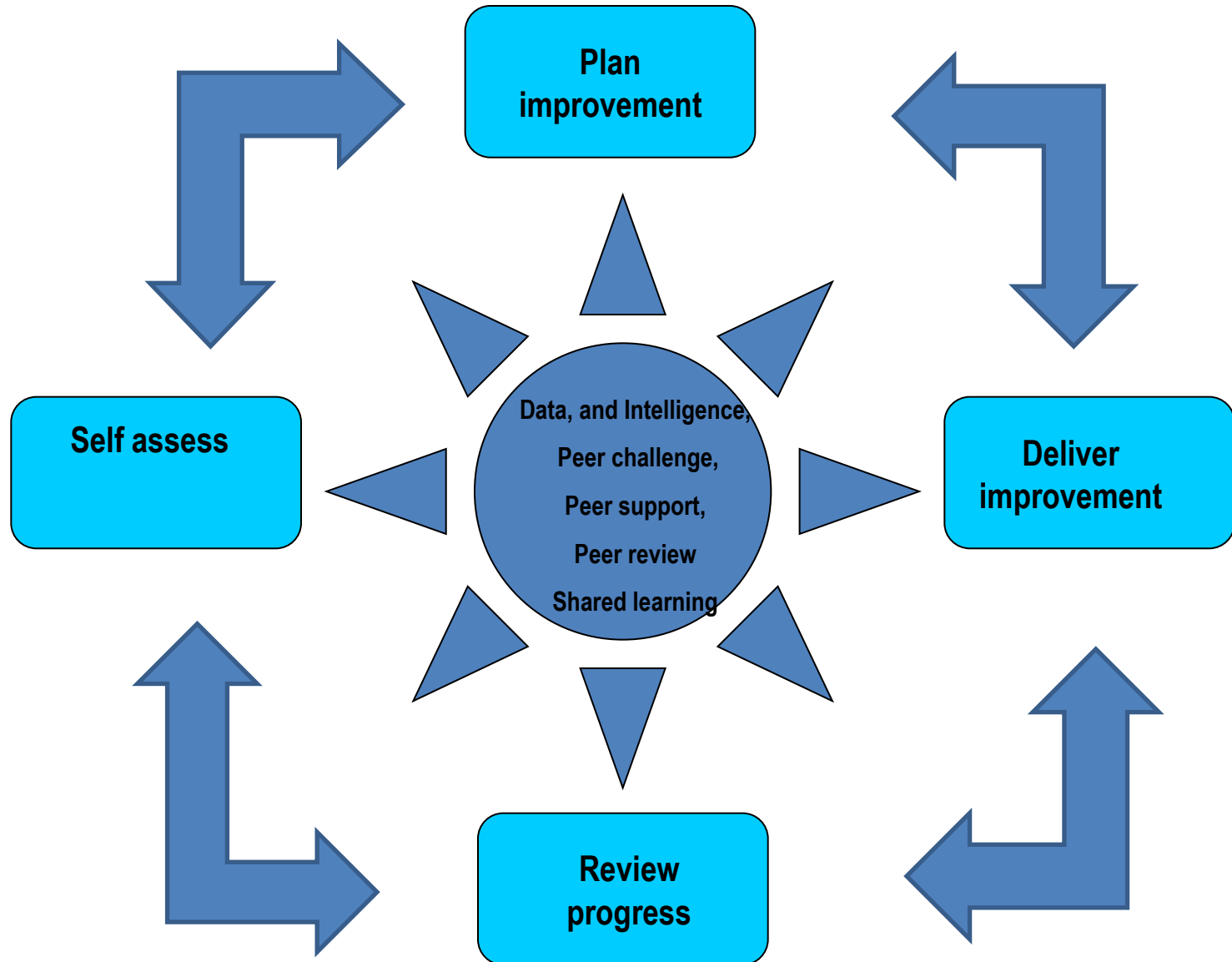
Intelligence led: rigorous analysis of data to drive self assessment; openness to feedback from children, young people & families

Well organised: collective capacity to spot trouble ahead & mobilise support

Sustainable: based on peer challenge, donated support, shared learning & reciprocity. Councils expect this from schools!

Culture of ambition for children: honesty with each other about challenges; willingness to confront low aspiration; political & professional leadership

Supporting this approach through a core cycle of activity



Early experiences of the sector led approach

- **London – matching of peer challengers**
- **East Midlands – developing peer challenge review teams & unannounced safeguarding assurance visits**
- **Berkshire 6 – reciprocal arrangements for thematic reviews**
- **Gateshead – addressing areas for improvement**
- **Peterborough – rapid response to performance risks**

Getting started everywhere – devolving to localities

- All regions have CX, Lead Member & DCS leads – but no funds as yet and no clarity of responsibility

This is about to change!

- £2.25m is available for devolution to regions and clusters – subject to delivery agreements that support the overall context & ClB's mission

What will you need to get started?

- **Support for your regional leads in agreeing your local approach?**
- **Help with identification of peer challengers?**
- **Access to the learning from early adopters?**
- **Support for particular challenges you have identified?**
- **Some advice on where to find improvement tools that others have found helpful?**
- **What else?**