

Children's Social Care Introduction to Services

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Service Director



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Children's Social Care Vision

To give the most vulnerable children and young people in Nottinghamshire the support and protection they need to be safe, secure, happy and to achieve their full potential

Principles

- Protect and support the most vulnerable children and young people
- keep children and young people at home wherever it is safe to do so
- Children in care will receive high quality support
- Children who can exit the care system by returning to their family or into alternative permanent placements, such as adoption, should do so as quickly as possible

Numbers

- Children's Social Care budget £81.8million
- 1400 new referrals every month
- Over 1000 new assessments every month
- 831 Children subject to a child protection plan (April 2013)
- 906 Children Looked After (April 2013)
- 48% of the total budget in CSC is for placements for looked after children

The national political context

- Cross Party agreement that more children should be in care

Education Select Committee Report December 2012

- “The state is currently failing in its duty to keep our children safe.” **More** children should be taken into care **more** quickly.”

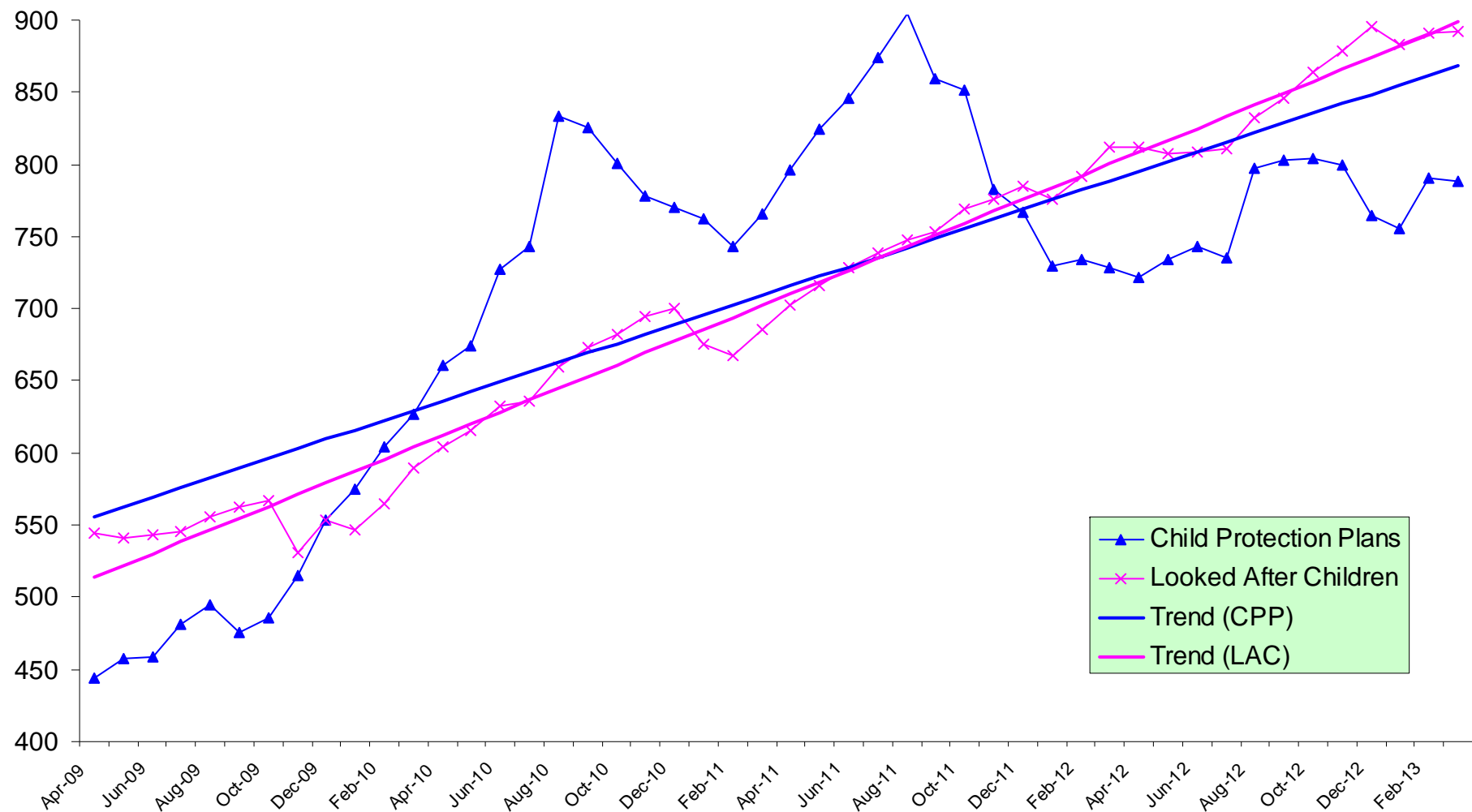
Michael Gove Secretary of State Nov 2012

National and Local context



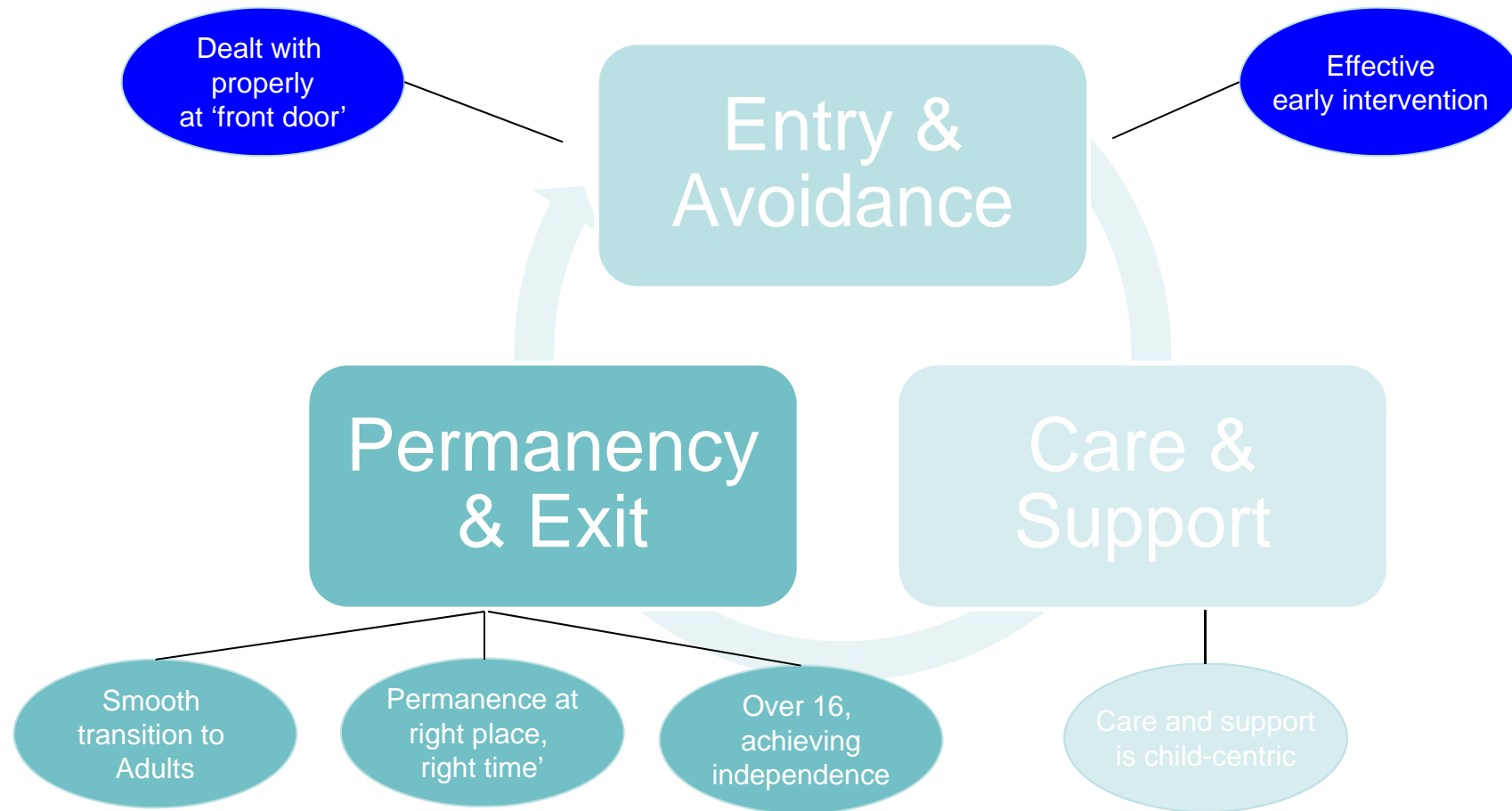
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A sustained demand for children's social care services



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Principles from the vision; a new operating model for Children's Social Care



Children's Social Care Operating Model

Entry and avoidance (£3.8m)

- One point of contact
 - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
 - Assessment Teams

Care and support (£15.8m)

- District Child Protection Teams
- Social Workers working in locality areas
- Children's Disability Service

Permanency and exit (£60.5m)

- Grouping of provider services in "Access to Resources" group
- A dedicated "Through Care" service for Looked After Children
- A Court work team
- A long term Looked After Children's Team
- A Leaving Care team

Children's Social Care Operating Model

Safeguarding and Independent Review (£1.7m)

- Independent chair service for child protection conferences and Looked After children reviews
- Strategic lead promoting the welfare of children, both within the authority and with partnership agencies through the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board (NSCB) Including lead on Serious case reviews and Child death review.
- Strategic lead for allegations against staff, missing children and child sexual exploitation