

# SOLIHULL APPROACH TRAINING IN SOLIHULL AND KENT- WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT THE SOLIHULL APPROACH THROUGH A CASCADE MODEL

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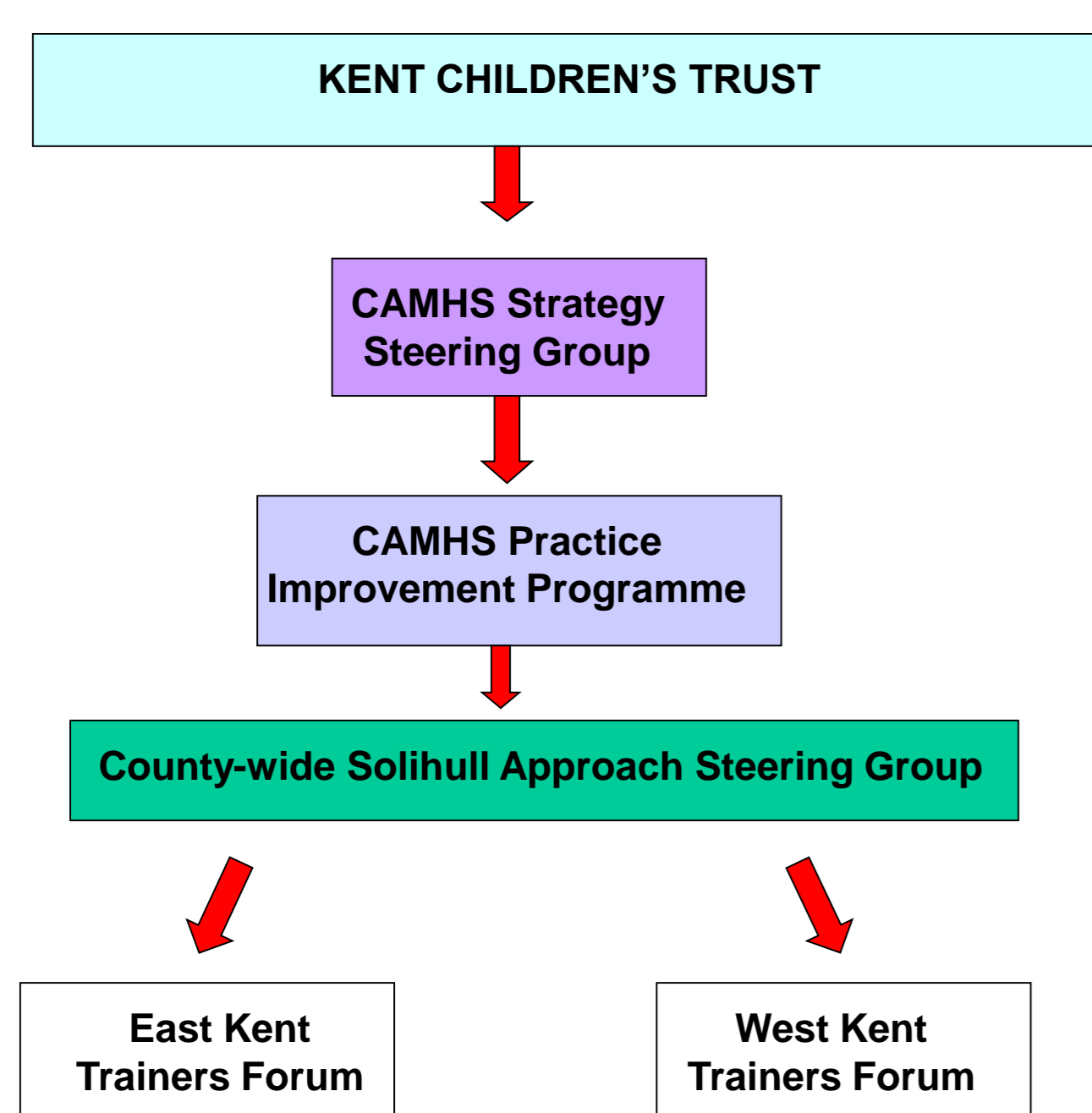
Funded by Kent County Council and the Kent Primary Care Trusts  
Staff are trained to use an evidence-based brief intervention that is supported by a comprehensive resource pack



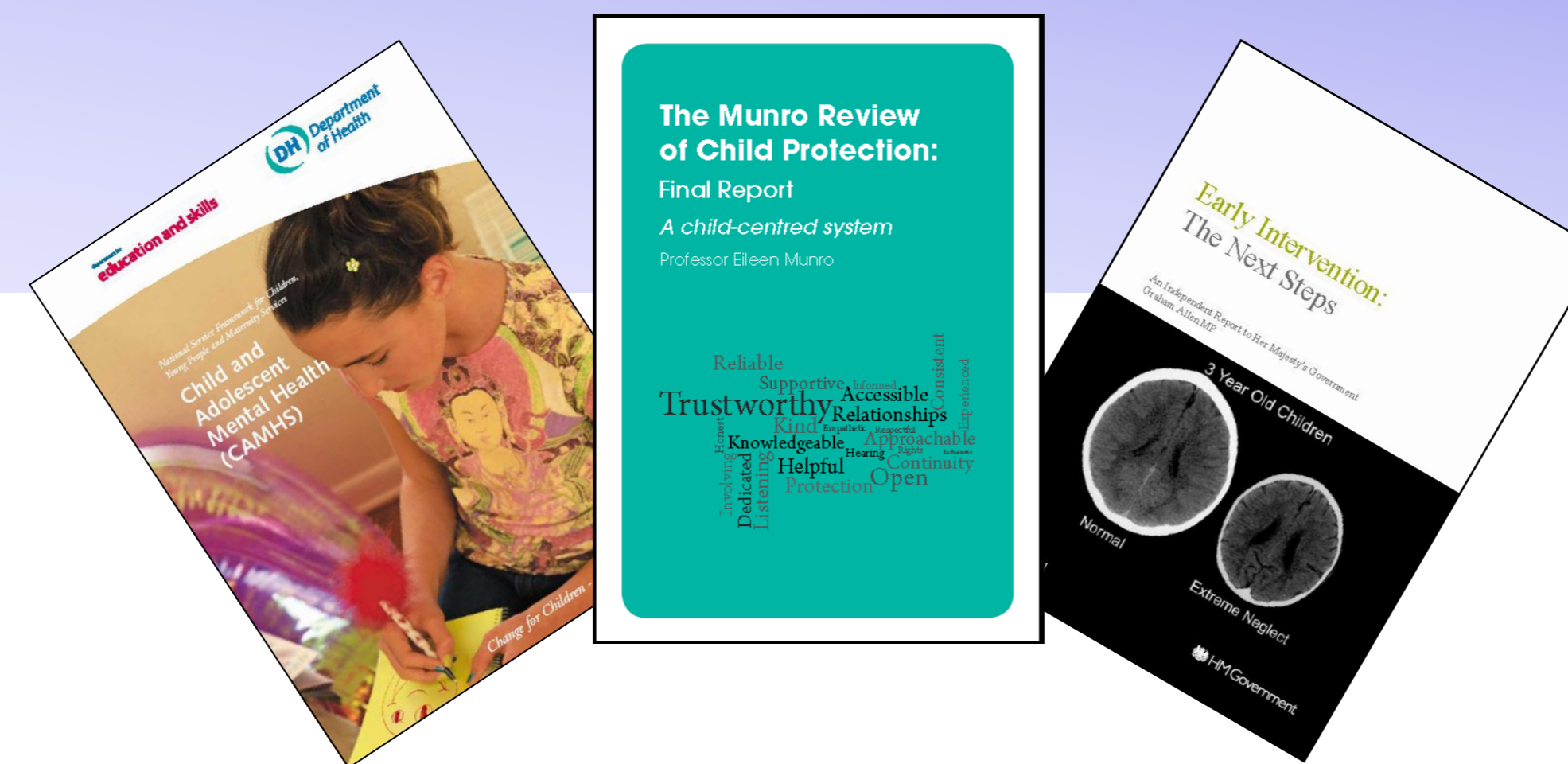
The Solihull Approach training and resource pack have been rolled out across Kent. Training is provided to multi-agency groups and is offered by a multi-agency group of trainers.

## THE MULTI-AGENCY TRAIN THE TRAINER CASCADE MODEL IN KENT

Multi-agency support for this approach was developed through consultation with locality groups. The countywide steering group provides strategic direction and guidance  
2 trainers forums (East and West) made up of about 40 trainers who cascade the training to frontline staff. To sustain and increase this capacity 2 train the trainers courses are run a year.  
Training rolled out at a locality level across the county.



The trainer groups are predominately made up of Educational Psychologists, Primary Mental Health workers, Specialist Teachers and health visitors. Front line practitioners are provided with two full days of training, six practice development sessions and a resource pack.  
Over 2500 practitioners have been trained in the approach.

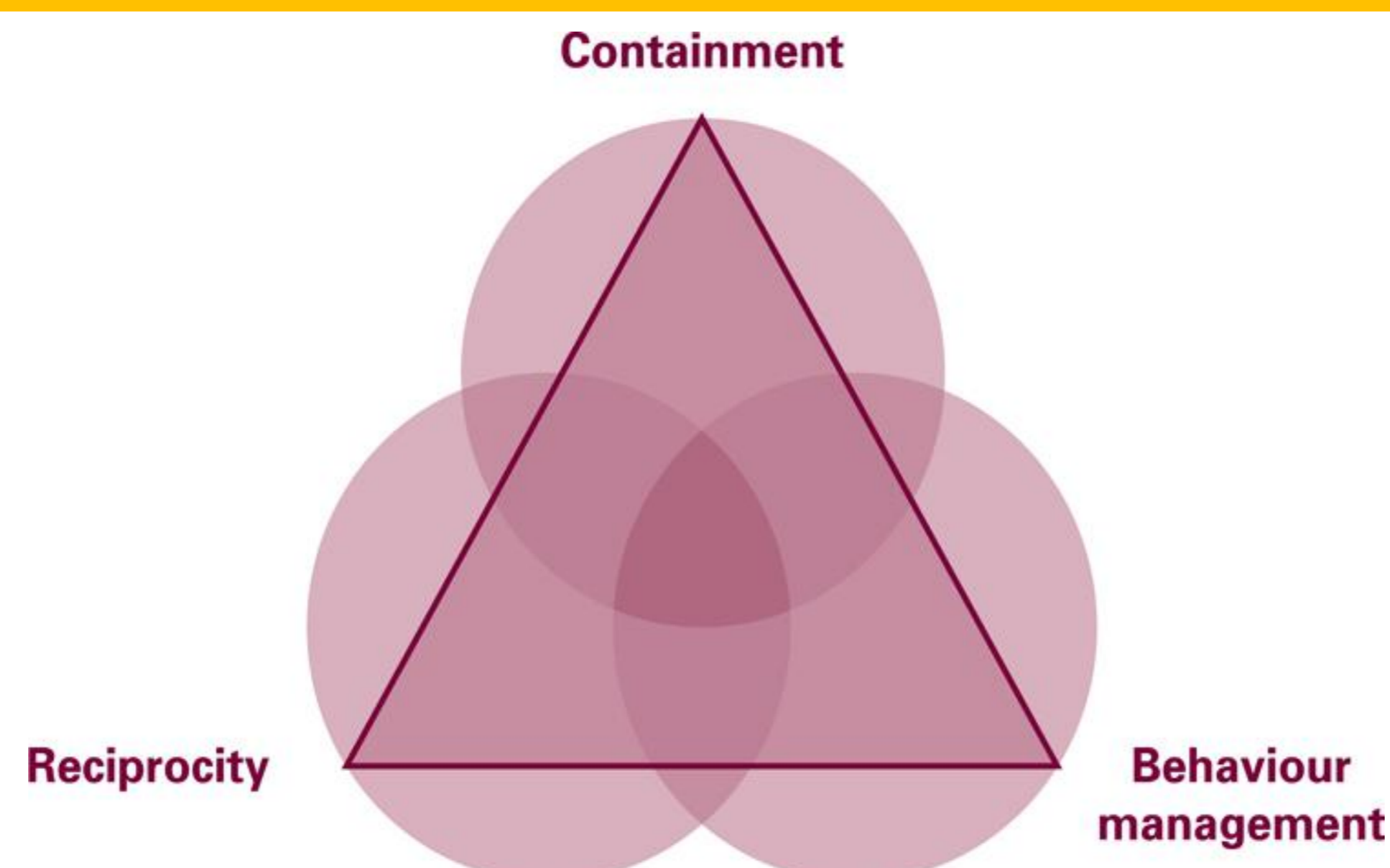


## 2 COMMON THEMES THROUGHOUT THE POLICY DOCUMENTS

The importance of the emotional well-being and mental health of children and the role of parenting and early attachment

It is therefore vital that all frontline staff are trained in **child and adolescent mental health and development** and have a good understanding of **the role parenting** plays in this process.

## THE SOLIHULL APPROACH



The Solihull Approach is an integrated model (containment, reciprocity and behaviour management) of working with families with babies, children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. It has developed a range of training, resources and a parenting group. It has also been adapted for professionals working in the antenatal period, fostering and adoption and foster carer training. The training and resources are delivered across the UK



## CONCLUSION

The Solihull Approach cascade training programme offers a framework for delivery that recognises and encourages creativity within the structure of the manualised training programme. The experience of delivering the Solihull Approach as part of a cascade model resulted in shared learning for both Solihull and Kent both in the delivery of the training and ensuring professionals continue to use the Solihull Approach framework for working within their practice.

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- 0.5 administrator to support the trainers in co-ordinating the training and the practice development sessions.
- Managers' awareness experiential half day training sessions are held annually and over 100 managers have been
- An information DVD on the Solihull Approach in Kent has been developed for use in Kent. This has been well received by localities and those working in schools.



## EVALUATION

Data from various sources has been collected over several years and is summarised below :

An evaluation indicated that there were positive outcomes for those children and their families who worked with a Solihull Approach trained practitioner on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire both Parent and Child versions and also showed parent's anxiety levels had improved.

Data from 2 qualitative research studies indicates the positive impact of the training. In particular the School Years Solihull Approach training within a multi-agency context revealed that the training helped facilitate multi-agency working and enhanced training practices within universal children's service more generally.

Course feedback shows a high level of satisfaction with the training. A survey of participants 1 year after the courses revealed that over 90% were using the skills, making use of the resources and felt more confident.

Taking the data as a whole it would appear that the Solihull Approach training is having both a positive impact on the practitioners being trained as well as on the young people and families they are working with.



The provision of multi-agency training appears to have contributed to joint working and the development of a common language for understanding children and young people's social and emotional development. Across all levels (i.e. strategic, funding and implementation) there has been multi-agency commitment to this approach.