



Better Together
STRENGTHENING
FAMILIES.
BUILDING
COMMUNITIES.

East London Family Justice Board Conference

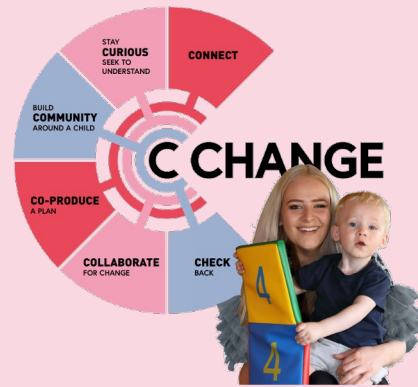
Relationship between people, practice and Family Justice

6th November 2024



Welcome!

Tower Hamlets is a place of diversity, community and where relationships are at the core of everything we do.



Better Together
STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITIES

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the inaugural East London Family Justice Board Conference. We are thrilled to host you today. My name is Steve Reddy and I am the corporate director of Children Services.

As you made your way into the conference, I suspect you would have noticed how special this place is. Outside you would have seen the vibrancy of our community: a street market where you can find foods from all over the world, where you can hear more than 130 languages, where people from all walks of life go about their business.

As you walked in you may have noticed that you are in the old site of the Royal London Hospital, people often comment as they walk in that they have had key life moments within these walls.

In Tower Hamlets we also have some significant challenges and as a council we strive to narrow the gap for the children who live here: some of the poorest in the country alongside the affluence they can see on the skyline of the city.

Tower Hamlets – our borough

Diverse & constantly changing population with a particularly large proportion of younger adults

Fastest growing in England (22% rise 2011-21)

Ethnically diverse with largest Bangladeshi population in country (34.6%)



Very densely populated area where most people live in flats and pay rent

Most densely populated area in England

70% of dwellings are rented (roughly equal social renters & private renters)

Significant overcrowding



Huge economy and improving outcomes but challenges for some persist

More jobs than working age residents but unemployment higher than national avg.

Children far more likely to be living in poverty in TH than elsewhere in UK



Improving health outcomes but increasing need & persistent challenges

Healthy life expectancy at birth increased between 2018-2020 (although pre-pandemic)



54% of adults (18+) classified as overweight / 42% of children (10 to 11) classified as overweight

Local schools are successful and highly regarded with 97% 'good or better'

Ave. attainment 8 score for GCSE above England average

71% of 18yr olds sustained a level 4 or higher destination in 20/21 (higher than England 66%)

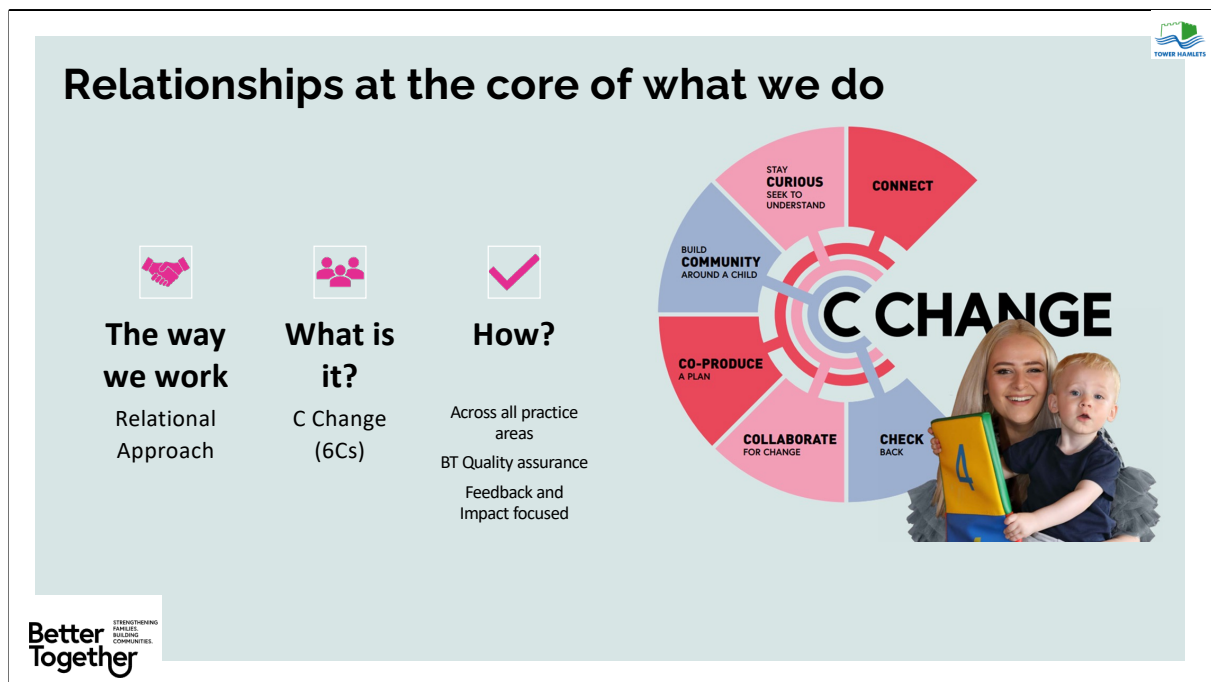


And children are particularly important in Tower Hamlets if nothing else because they are such a big part of our residents- we are the fastest growing council in the country

No doubt as families from Tower Hamlets come into your chambers and court rooms you will have heard of some of the challenges they face: housing is a key issue for our families.

Things are improving for Tower Hamlets residents, but there is much more to do to address inequality and address the impacts of poverty

Some of these are linked to health outcomes you can read in the slides. As a Director for children services I am very proud of our school results, as I believe that in schools we can provide children with a much more level playing field- we can help them build **relationships** that we'll see them through their lifespan



Our model, which we call Better Together has created a C Change, by putting relationships at the core of everything we do based on 6 Cs
Focussing on how we **connect** with one and other, how we remain **curious** to hear other's experiences, building **communities** around children that are then able to **co-produce** plans that drive change in a **collaborative** way, taking time to **check back** if we are getting things right

This way of working is present in all of our practice – how we practice, whether it’s DV, neglect, harm outside of the home, abuse--- even to how we provide and receive feedback from our families

Our framework also ensures that children remain at the centre of our practice in all our services like Early Help, Education, Youth Services, Youth Justice, and Children Social Care to function as an integrated

service to provide bespoke support to our families.
It is the way we work with families, but importantly it is
also the way we work with each other

Our commitment to work relationally

- Family Hubs bring help to families where they need it
- £13 million investment into our youth services
- Low caseloads, with generous training and development offer
- Strive to care for the children in our care like our own
- Local Innovations
 - Diamond Project
 - REPAIR
 - Neglect
 - Harm outside of the Home
 - Language Guide



Better Together
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Key things we have done to ensure

We have led the way in setting up Family Hubs- making sure that families from conception, have access to the help they need where their **community** is

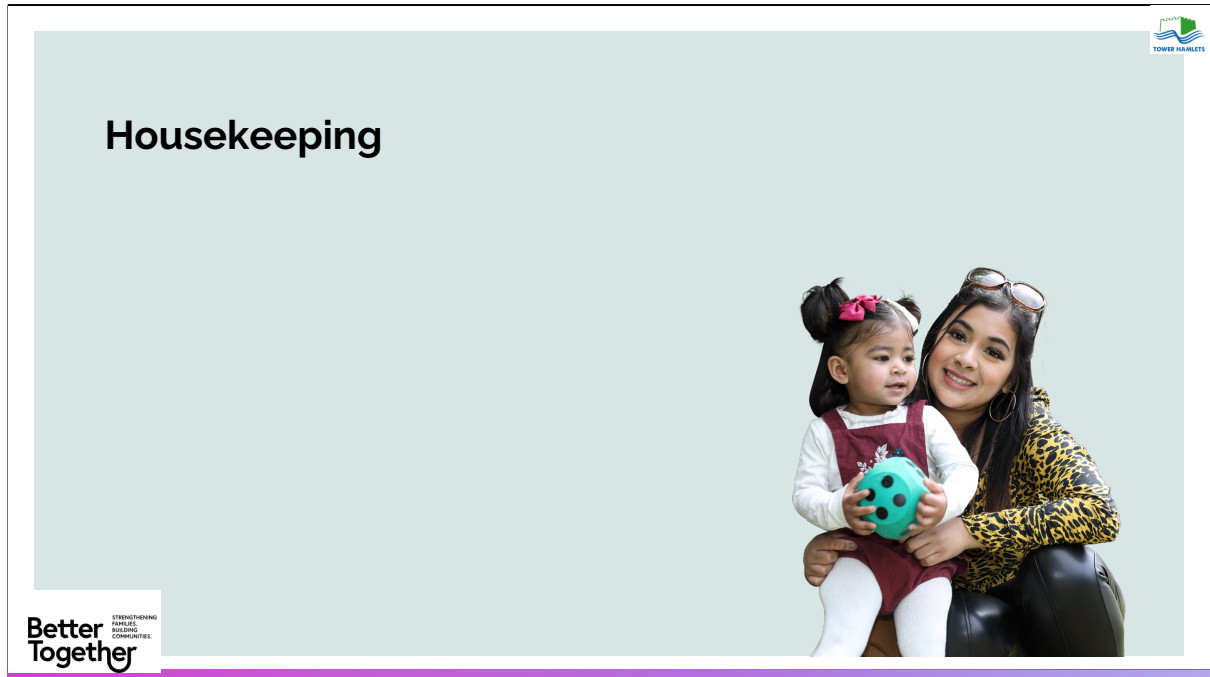
We are investing £13 million pounds into your services, **connecting** young people to opportunities that will keep them safe and ambitious

We ensure our practitioners are able to work **collaboratively** with families by keeping caseloads low

And aim to care for the children in our care like we would our own, having made being in care a protected characteristic is one of the examples of that

By being **curious** about how we can improve we have developed **local** innovations such as Diamond Project –a service supporting parents that have been repeatedly separated from their children in care proceeding; We have REPAIR—a locally devised culturally sensitive response to domestic abuse; our Neglect Tool Kits –

another locally devised tool to explore the impact of neglect with our families and our integrated harm outside of the home offer—robust tools used to risk assess and promptly implement the right support



Having said a little about how we look at the relationships between families, practitioners and the council work I am thrilled to host

this inaugural conference and to collaborate with Local Authorities and law firms and judicial bodies across the East London Family Justice Group to showcase our excellence with people, practice and family justice.

Ok so a few housekeeping items

Where are the bathrooms, you may ask?

There are two sets of bathrooms available for today's conference. Bathrooms are marked with a conference sign. Please do speak with our volunteers and they will point you in the right direction.

Second, please be advised that there are no scheduled fire drills planned during today's event. In the unlikely event that the fire alarm sounds, please proceed calmly to the nearest exit and follow the instructions of the event staff to ensure a safe evacuation

Lastly, for security and access purposes, please ensure that you wear your conference name badge at all times while in the event area. Only those with a visible badge will be permitted entry to conference sessions and designated areas. If you need assistance with your badge, please speak someone at the registration desks.

Thank you for helping us maintain a secure and organised environment for today's conference. I hope you all enjoy your time here at Tower Hamlets.

