

**be the change**

for children and young people in croydon

#bethechangecroydon

# Adolescents on the Edge of Care and Preventing this with a Systemic Lens

Presented by

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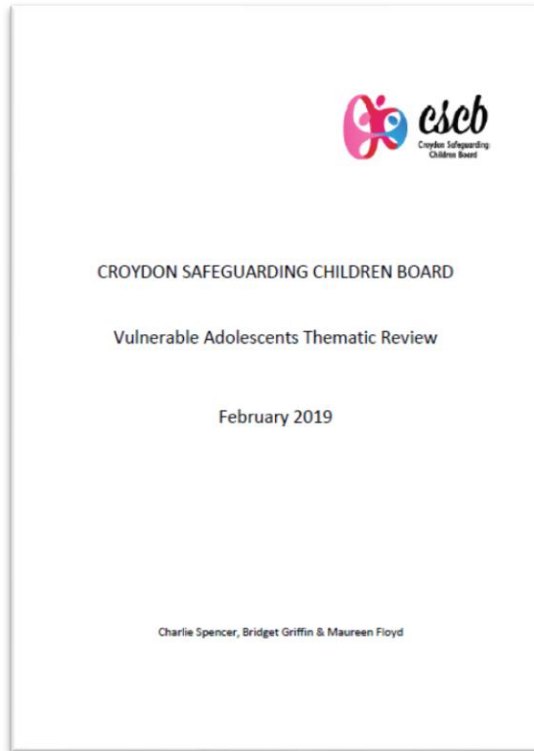
Delivering for Croydon

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# Aims

- Context for Croydon and working with adolescents
- Systemic Practice – what do we mean?
- Systemic lens – Edge of Care
- Our Framework
- Practitioner's experience

# Croydon – context



- From April 2012 to March 2017, Croydon had the fourth highest percentage of non-domestic knife crime in London (5.1%)
- Recent research found that the largest proportion of young people recorded to be most affected by Child Sexual Exploitation were aged between 14 – 16 years old
- Croydon has the largest volume of children in London and one of the most diverse
- Young people in the youth justice system are 3 times more likely to experience a diagnosable mental health condition than children who don't offend
- Children from low-income families are 4 times more likely to experience mental health problems than children from higher-income families
- Severe and persistent behavioural problems starting before secondary school years which go unsupported, can have long term impact on children's mental health and life chances

# Head of Service, Adolescent Services

## Hannah Doughty

- Social Worker
- Worked in Youth Offending Teams as a practitioner and manager
- Head of Targeted Services for Young People for Liverpool City Council
- Head of Adolescent Services, including a remit of wider social work teams, specialising in working with 13-17 year olds where there is risk outside the home
- Involved with strategy development and how to influence and work effectively with partner organisations



# Adolescent Services - Context

- Volume
- Missing children
- Diversity and complexity of the borough
- Serious youth violence and knife crime
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines
- Gangs



# Adolescent Services

- Youth Offending Service
- Gangs Team
- Adolescent Support Teams
- Child Exploitation/Missing Intelligence Team
- Edge of Care
- Targeted youth work for missings and exploitation



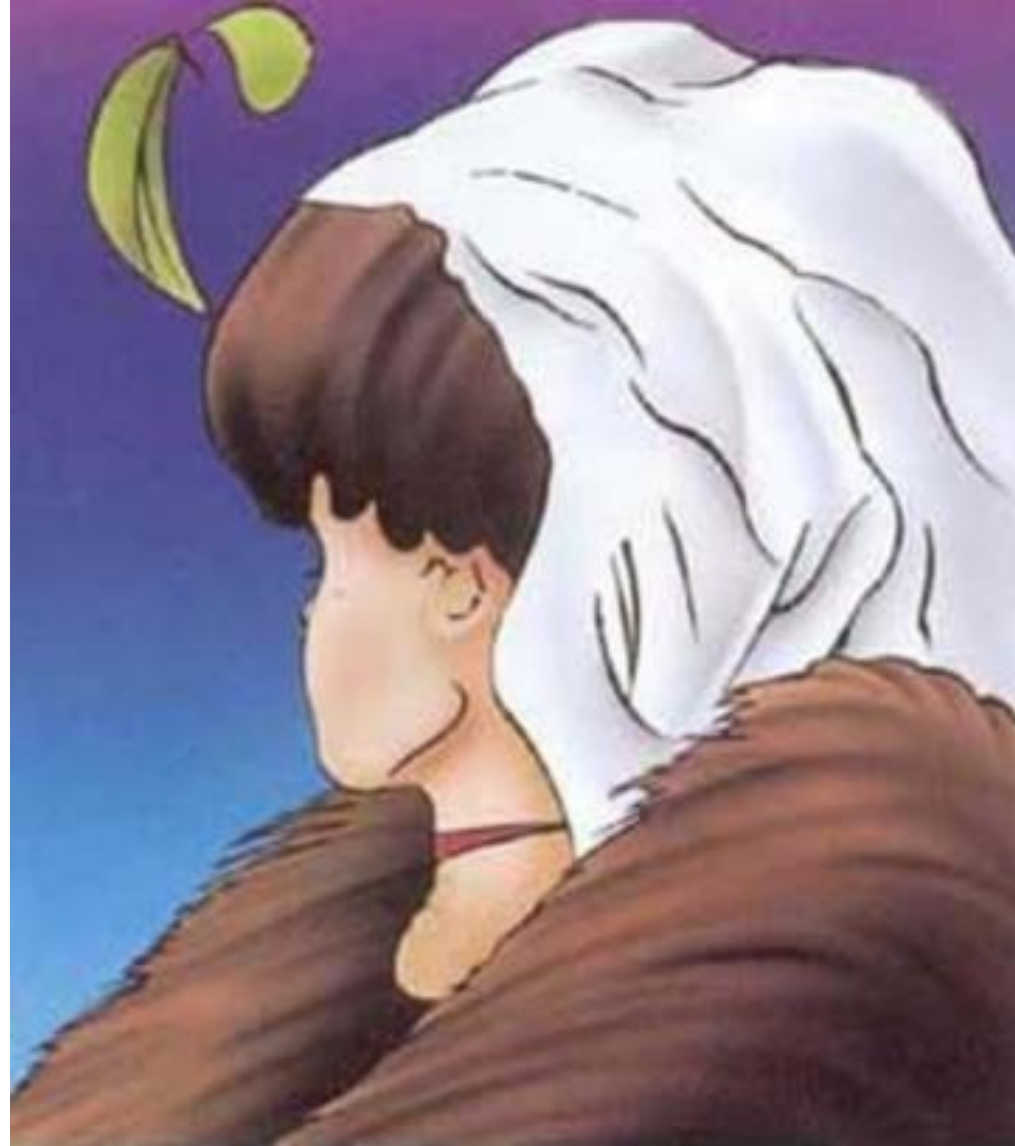
# Systemic Practice Lead

## Nana Bonsu

- Social Worker
- Family and Systemic Psychotherapist
- Systemic Supervisor
- Worked for social care and CAMHS in five London Boroughs
- Introduced systemic practice in social care services
- Developed a practice framework with systemic practice as the foundation
- Moving towards training all staff in systemic practice

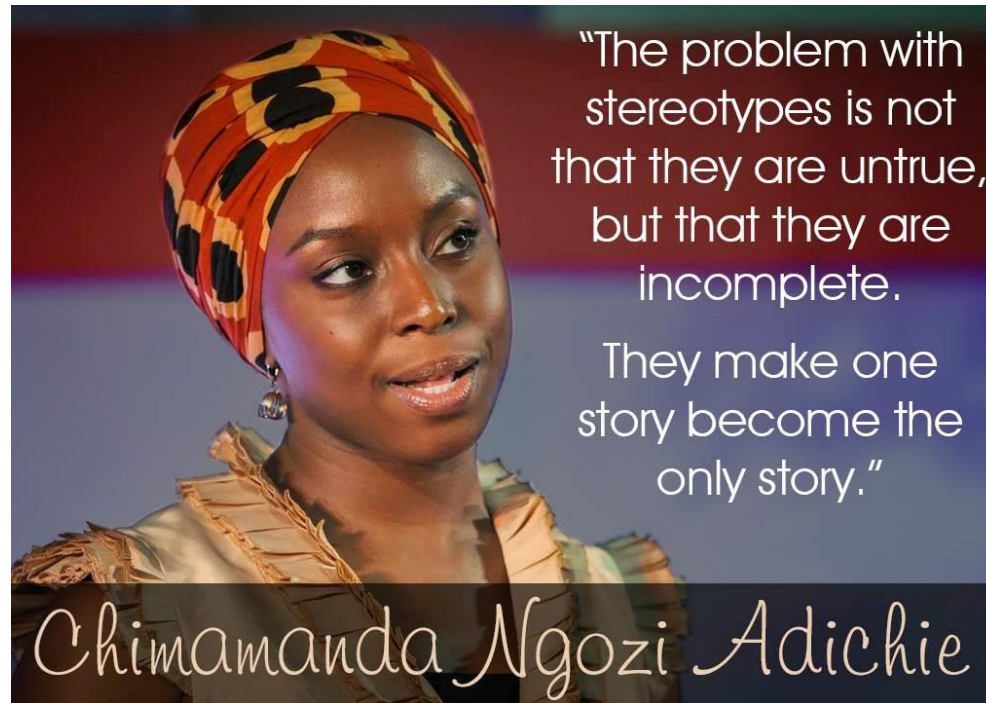


‘What we see  
depends on how  
we look at it’  
(Burr, 1995)





# The danger of a single story: Chimamanda Ngozi



<https://youtu.be/D9lhs241zeg>

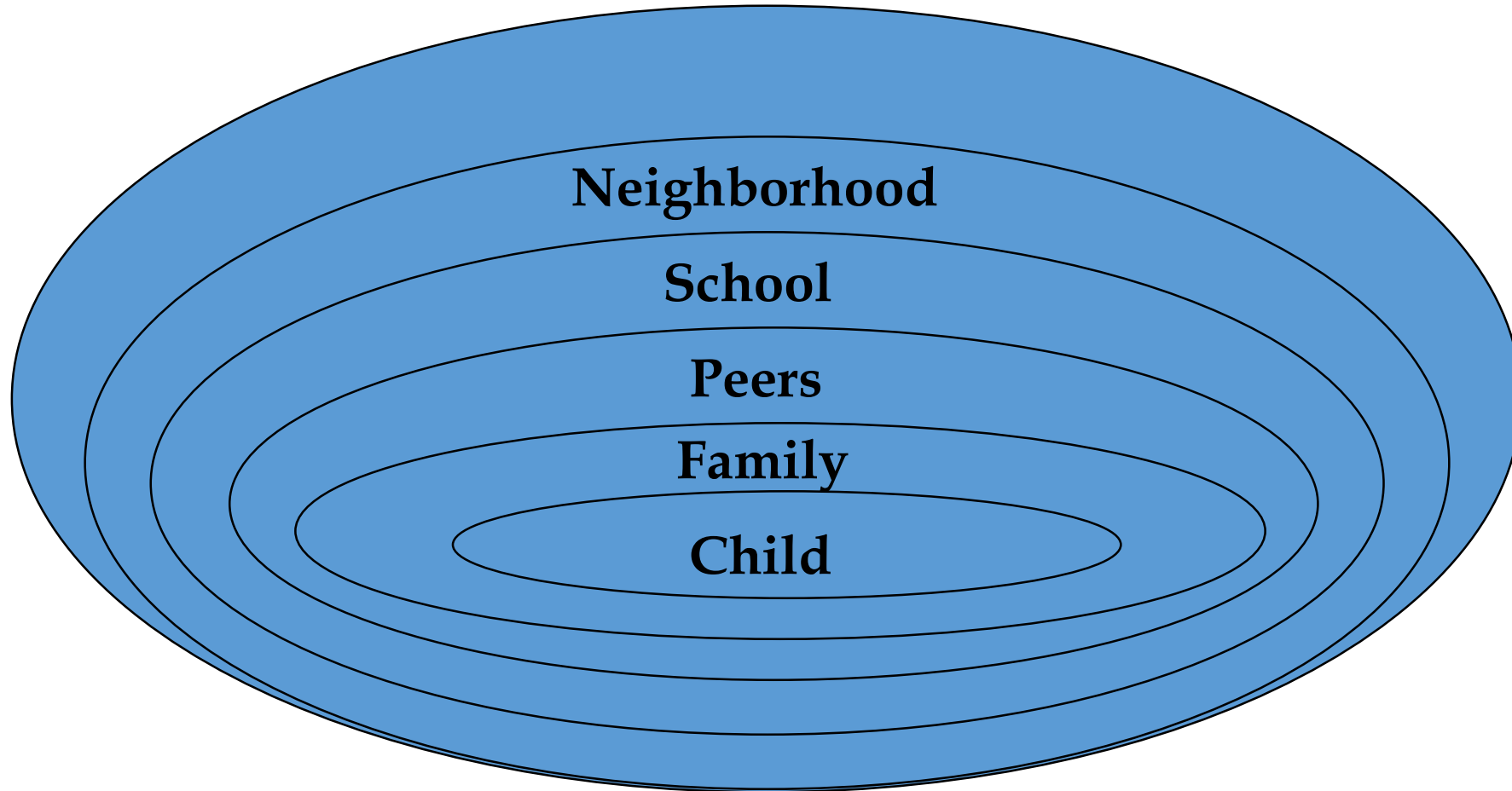
# Systemic Lens and Edge of Care...



# What are 'multi-modal interventions'?

- Multi-modal interventions differ from individualised interventions as they aim to create change in whichever aspects of the person's environment require change, not just within the person.
- For example, trying to impact on a young person's behaviour by parenting coaching, family therapy, individual work, or practical matters, such as organising a new bedroom door.
- People (especially children) best seen as situated within and subject to multiple influences.

# Ecological model – contextual safeguarding

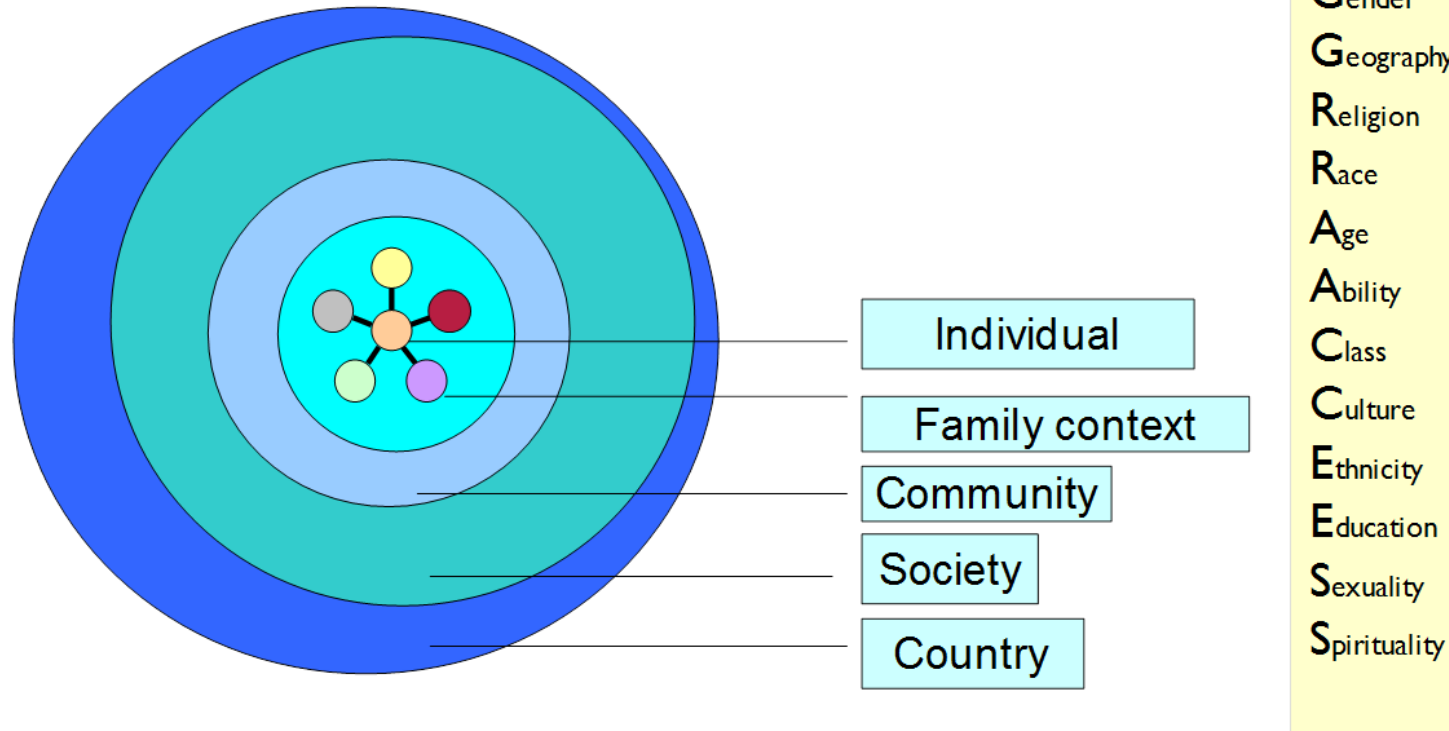


# Multi-modal, not multiple

- A multi-modal intervention is a 'single' intervention plan which attempts to impact via a variety of different routes, holding in mind the ecological approach.
- Key to multi-modal interventions is that the various interventions derive from the same overarching analysis of the problem, and ideally overseen by one source.
- Not the same as multiple interventions from multiple different sources/agencies.

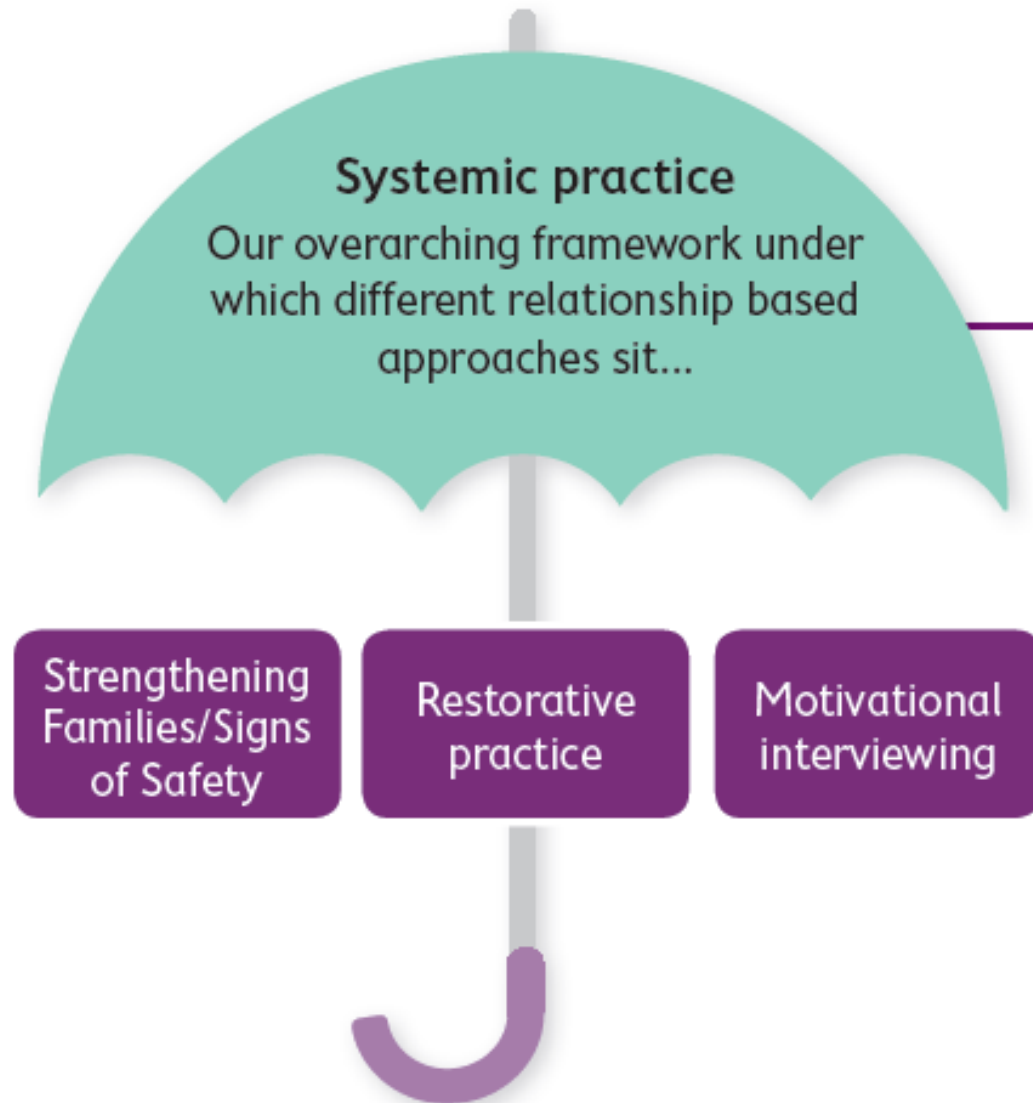
# The Social GRRRAACCEESSS

Each individual is embedded within and influenced through a contextual framework



Social difference can be explored within each context, and how this impacts on relationships (GRRRAACCEESS)

# Our Framework...



## What this means in practice...

### Relationship-based

Developing strong relationships between practitioners and families to make change

### Evidence-based

Using evidence based interventions to support change

### Strengths-based

Doing more of what works and less of what doesn't, building on strengths

### Self-reflective

Thinking about our own beliefs and values and how they influence our work

### Confidently holding risk

Whilst working with families to minimise risk through change

### Supervision

Using supervision to generate ideas about how to make change

# What is Edge of Care?

- Children and young people who are at imminent risk of becoming looked after
- Children and young people who have been made subject to police protection and where the care plan is for reunification
- Children and young people who have come unexpected into care after a crisis/breakdown (usually identified via SPOC and Assessments)
- For reunification of children and young people where the plan is for them to return home



# Edge of Care Principles

- Edge of care provision to respond within short timescales to referrals, providing support to parents as well as befriending and supporting children and young people to remain at home
- Children and young people who have come unexpectedly into care or where reunification is the longer term plan: these should be supported to return home by the social worker and a family support worker where appropriate, with use of the LBC 'Get Back Home' reunification protocol
- Use of FGC is integral to the approach

# What does the model look like?

- Family Group Conferences arranged
- Restorative principles
- Relational work which is parent/carer and child led
- Intensive intervention
- Mediation and agreement setting
- Reviews
- Exit Strategy

# Edge of Care Workers

- Preventative - deliver intense, responsive services where there is a likelihood of breakdown
- Reactive - work with children and families who have experienced breakdown and crisis where the plan is for reunification using the reunification protocol
- Provide intensive interventions to support families with identified needs to enable more resilient family relationships
- Use the strengthening families model to identify and build on strengths, and assist in reducing areas of concern
- Work in an integrated and partnership focused way with families and other agencies
- Deliver high quality parenting and family support

# Example of Systemic Practice

Welcome - Jade Blake, Adolescent Worker