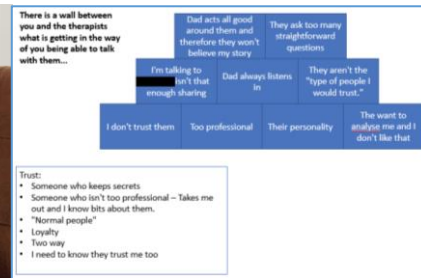
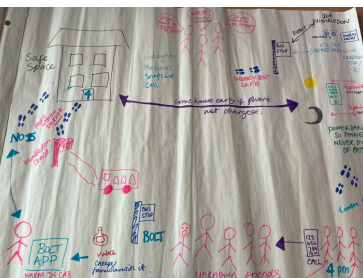




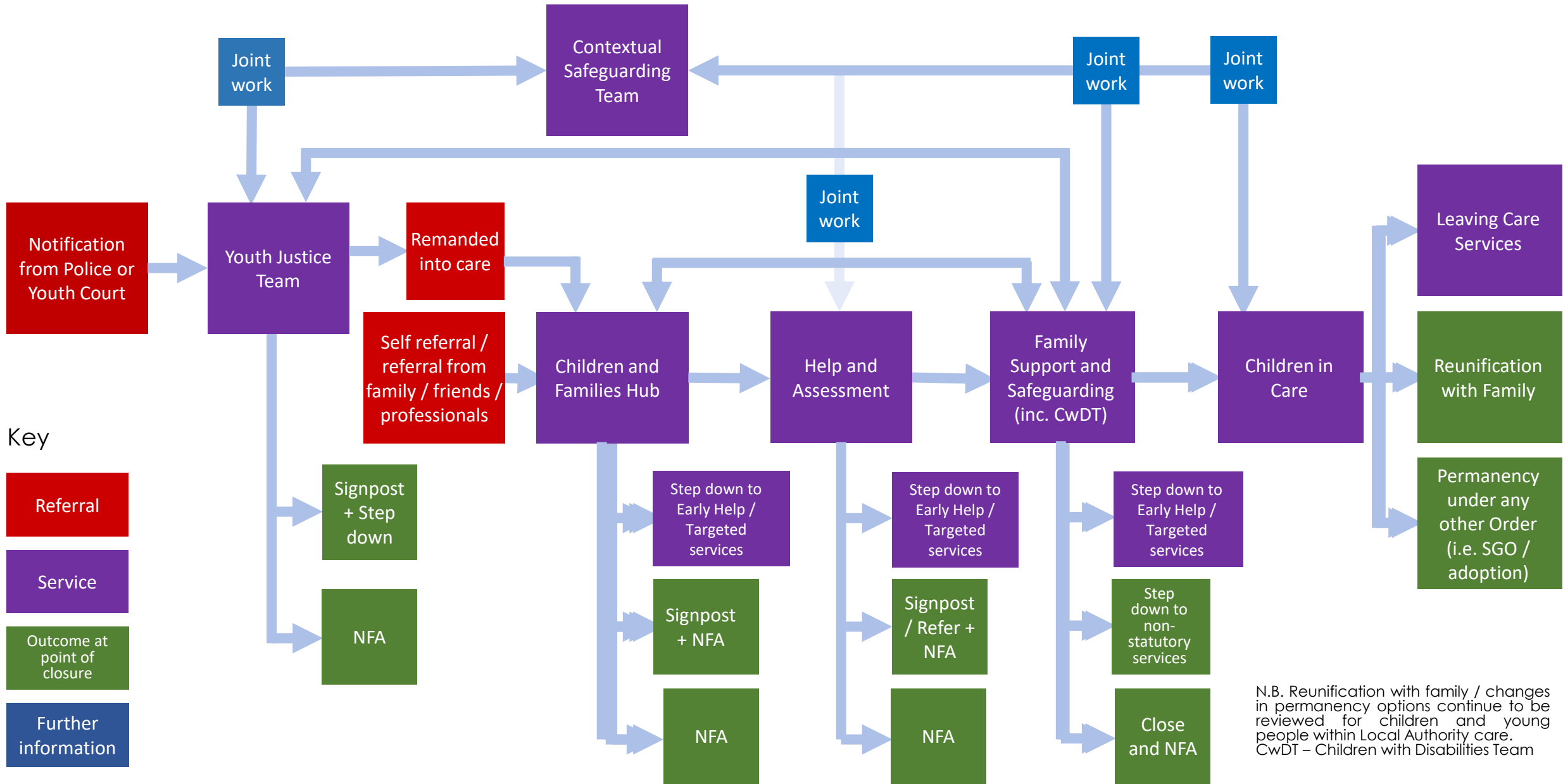

LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

Early Help, Children's Social Care & Youth Inclusion

The Journey of the Child

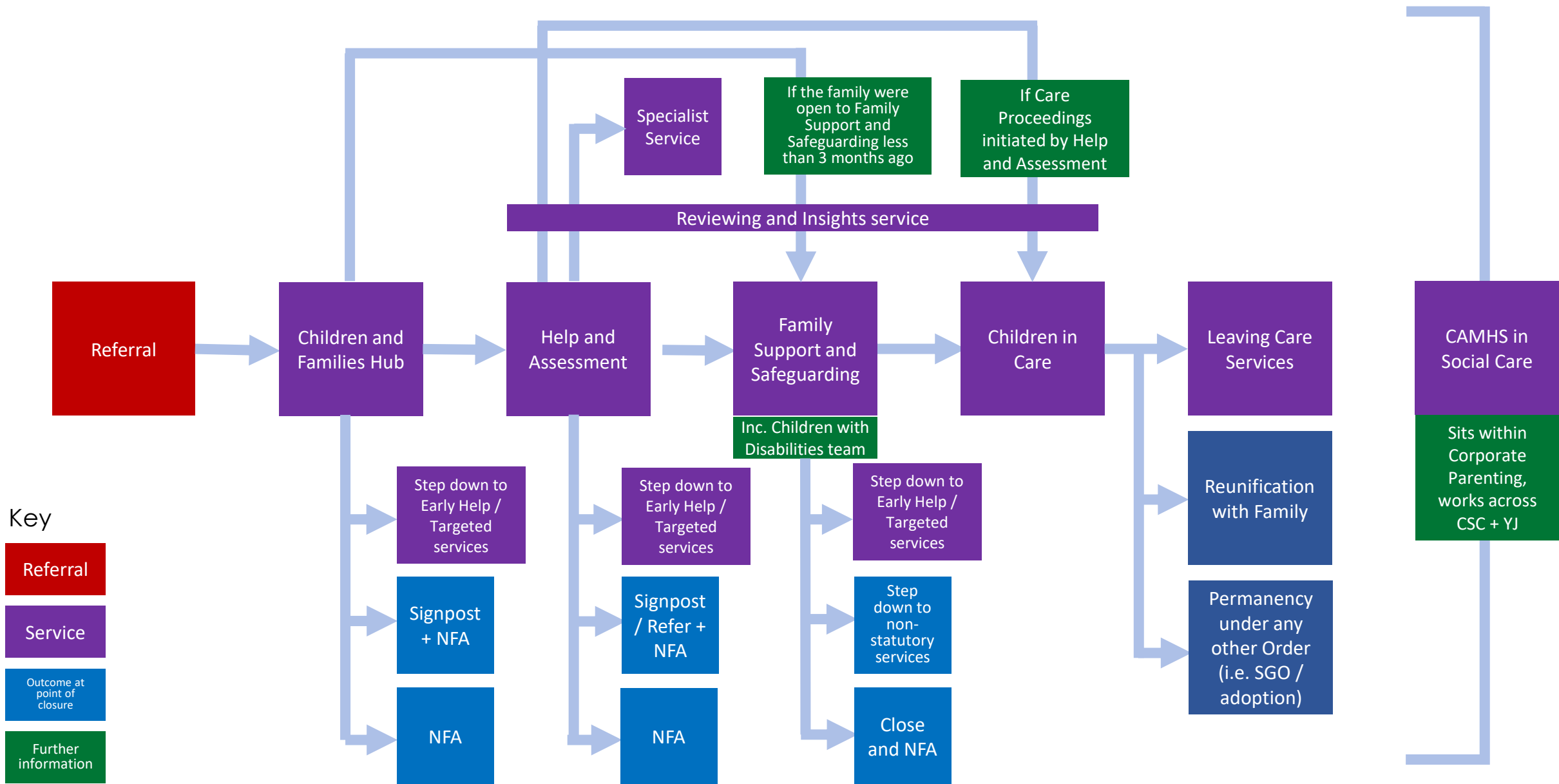


Overview: end to end



N.B. Reunification with family / changes in permanency options continue to be reviewed for children and young people within Local Authority care.
CwDT – Children with Disabilities Team

A Journey through our teams

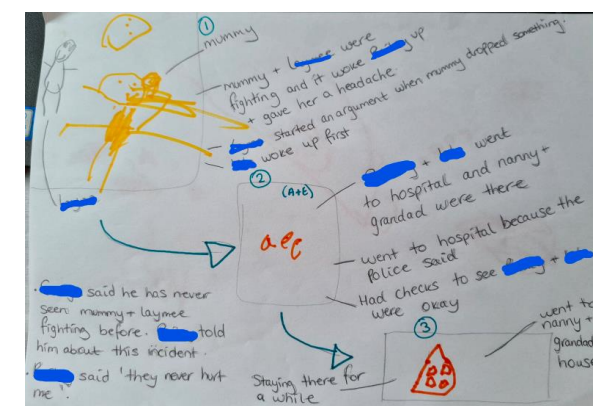
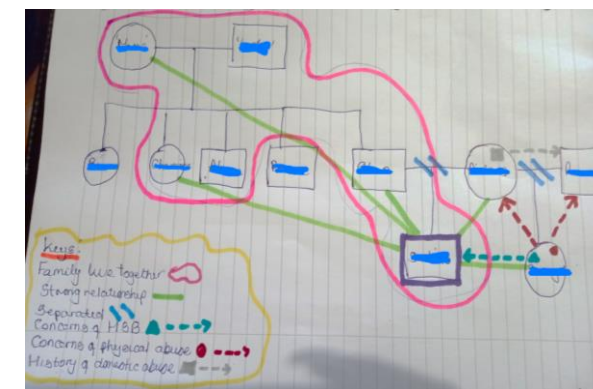
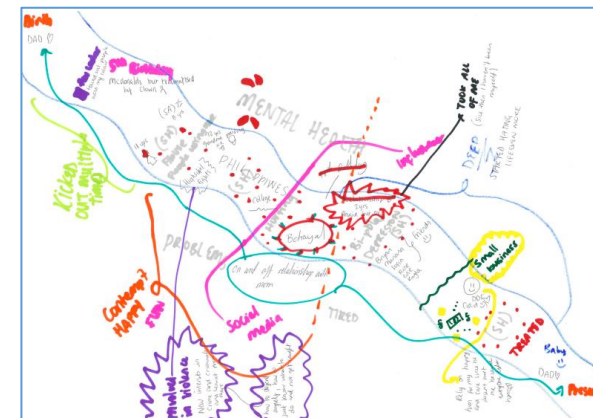




The Children and Families Hub + Family Assessment and Intervention Service

The Children and Families Hub provides a combined 'front door' for families and partner agencies to access to the Council's Family Wellbeing Service or Children's Social Care. The Hub triages requests for support and provides advice and guidance.

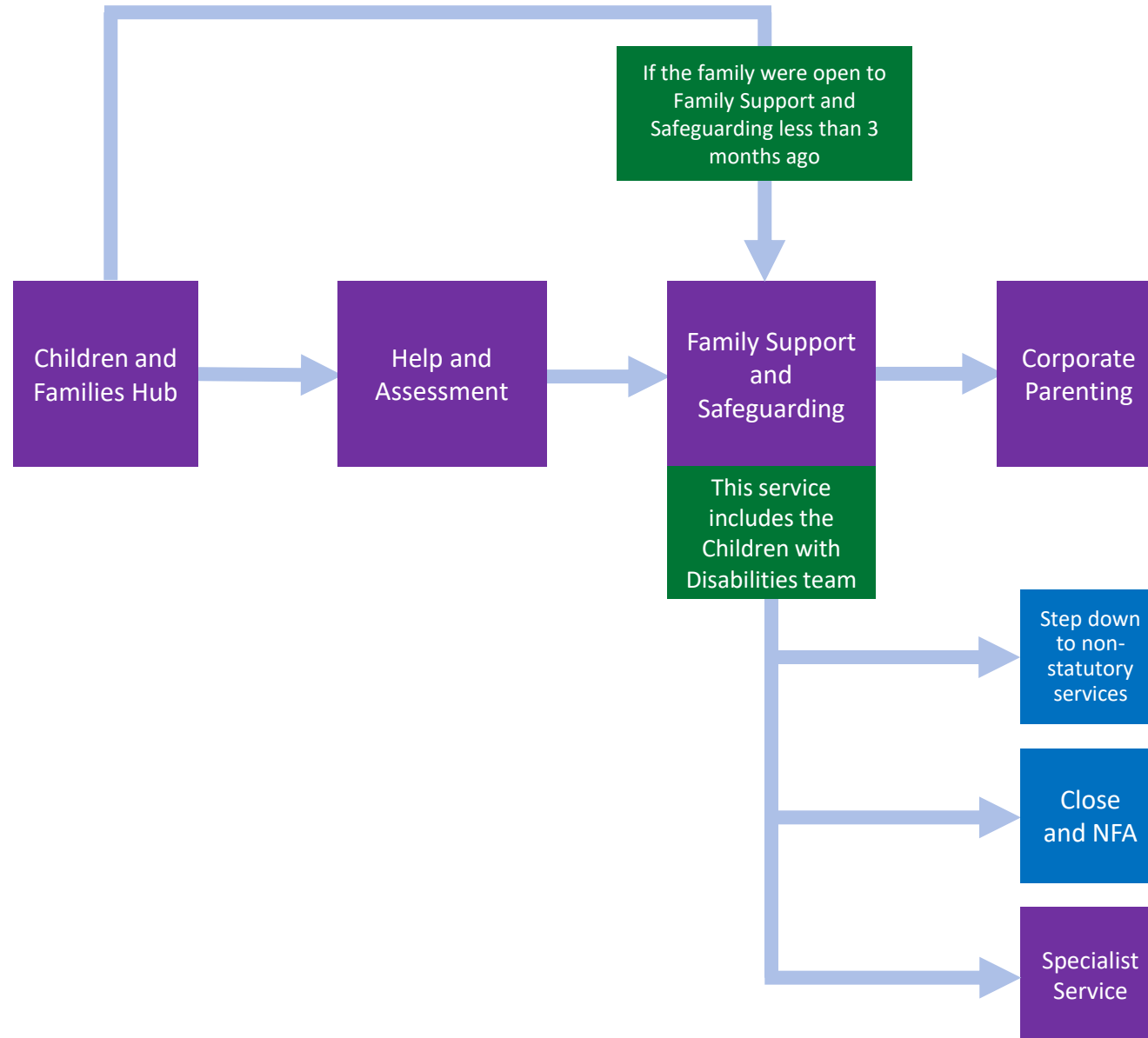
The Family Assessment & Intervention Service undertakes statutory social care assessments under s17 and s47 Children Act 1989. This Service provides short-term change interventions under Child in Need plans for up to 12 weeks and support for families without recourse to public funds. Children requiring child protection plans transfer to the Family Support and Safeguarding Service after their Initial Child Protection Conference has been held. Children requiring further Child in Need support transfer to the Family Support and Safeguarding Service after their initial Child in Need meeting.



Examples of direct work from assessment and intervention. Top-down, an "river of life" completed with a parent; a genogram, and; a piece of direct work explaining why children are living with family members after an incident.

Family Support and Safeguarding

Workflow overview:



Key

Referral

Service

Outcome at point of closure

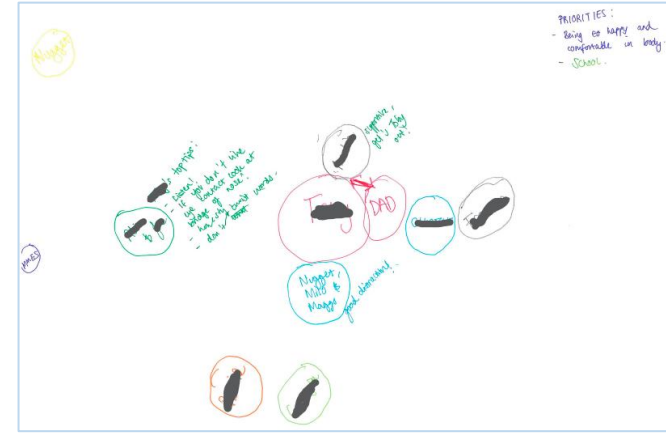
Further information



Family Support and Safeguarding

The Family Support and Safeguarding Service (FSS) delivers statutory social work interventions for children with a Child Protection (CP) plan and children with a Child in Need (CiN) plan where the direct social work necessary to secure change for the family would take longer to complete than 12 weeks. The service is responsible for working alongside families under the Public Law Outline (PLO) and, where necessary, issuing care proceedings.

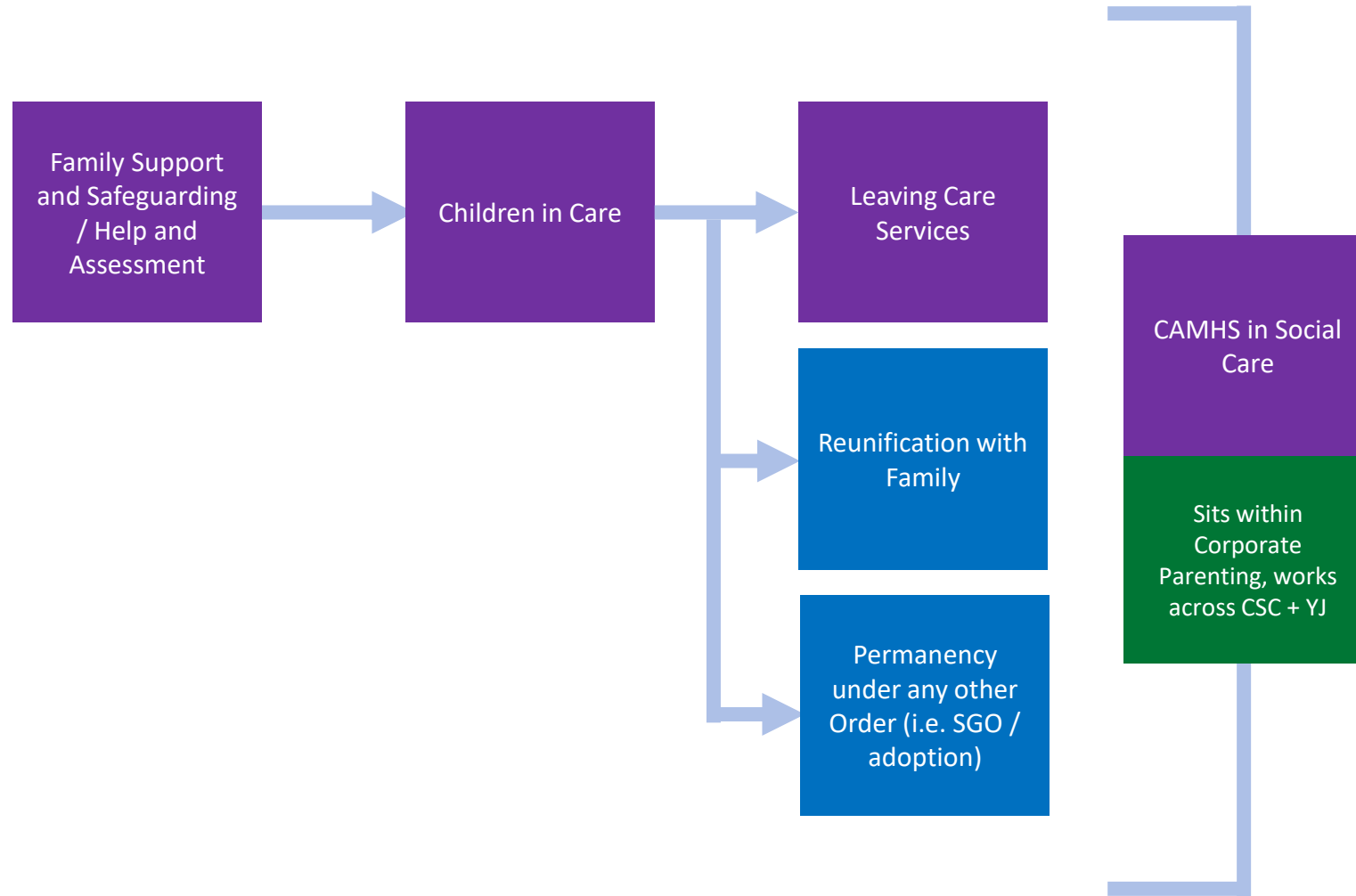
The Children with Disabilities Service is part of FSS and delivers all statutory social care assessments and interventions, where one or more child in the family unit has profound and enduring additional needs.



Examples of direct work from our student social workers. Top-down, an ecomap; a piece of work around bereavement, and; a slide from a presentation to young people around addiction.

Corporate Parenting

Workflow overview:



Key

Referral

Service

Outcome at point of closure

Further information



Corporate Parenting Service

The Corporate Parenting Service is responsible for all children in care and care experienced young people aged 0 – 25 years old. Children enter the service when it is predicted that they will likely be in care for an extended period of time. The service is responsible for care proceedings, achieving permanence, and delivering the objectives of children’s care plans including those of reunification. The service works alongside Adopt London South where a child has a plan for adoption. Personal advisors deliver support to care experienced young people up until the age of 26 to support them with the transition into adult life.

The Corporate Parenting Service also includes our in-house Fostering Supervision Team, Fostering Assessment and SGO team, and Access to Resources Team. These teams work closely beside the children’s teams to ensure that children and care experienced young people are living in high quality homes. The Service has close relationships with the Virtual School, Merton’s Named Nurses and in-house CAMHS team to ensure the best possible outcomes for children.

This is a story for [redacted] and [redacted] to explain why they are not seeing Daddy at the moment

Mummy and Daddy have been seeing [redacted] and [redacted] either in the family centre or virtually on a computer. But one-day daddy stopped seeing [redacted] and [redacted]. Mummy was worried about telling [redacted] and [redacted] why Daddy stopped seeing them. Mummy did not want [redacted] and [redacted] to get upset.

Mummy told social worker Ieva that daddy was arrested by police because he hurt mummy. Mummy was very scared and sad when daddy hurt her and told the police. Mummy did not want to be hurt by daddy again. Mummy says she was too scared to tell to anyone before. The police are making sure that mummy is safe now.

It is never ok to hurt anyone and Daddy will stay in prison until Judge decides what happens next. The Judge says they will make a decision in August before school starts. Whilst daddy is in prison he will not be able to see [redacted] and [redacted].

[redacted] and [redacted] will still see mummy and now they know that mummy is safe and well. Ieva will still try and work with daddy to work out what he can do to make sure [redacted] and [redacted] are safe when they see him.

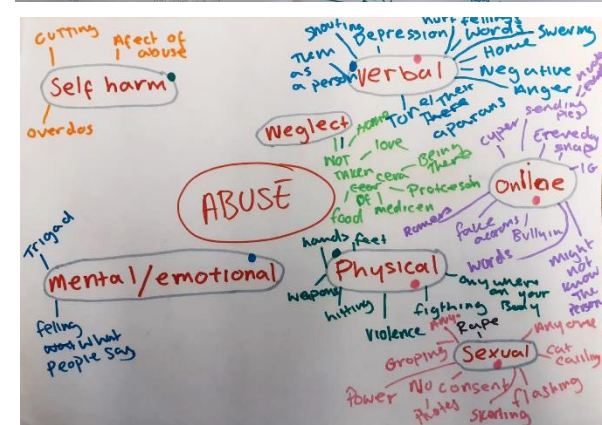
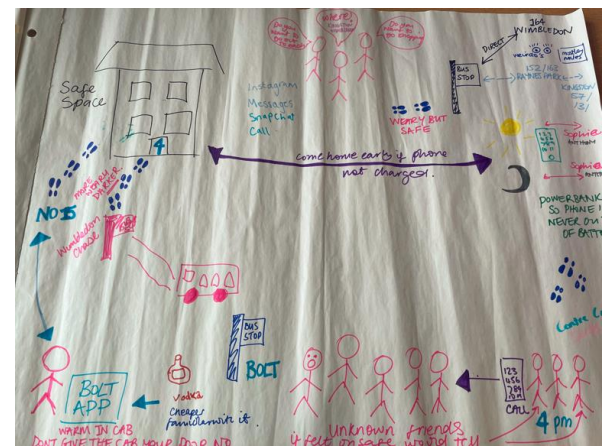
A piece of work completed by the social work team to help three siblings in care to understand why they are unable to see their father due to him being arrested.



Adolescent and Safeguarding Service

The multi-disciplinary adolescent and safeguarding service works alongside our social care teams to support young people at risk of offending or exploitation. This service includes a youth justice team and contextual safeguarding team. The Youth Justice Service delivers the statutory Youth Offending pre and post-court functions and works closely with partner agencies who have a responsibility to contribute specialist roles to the team.

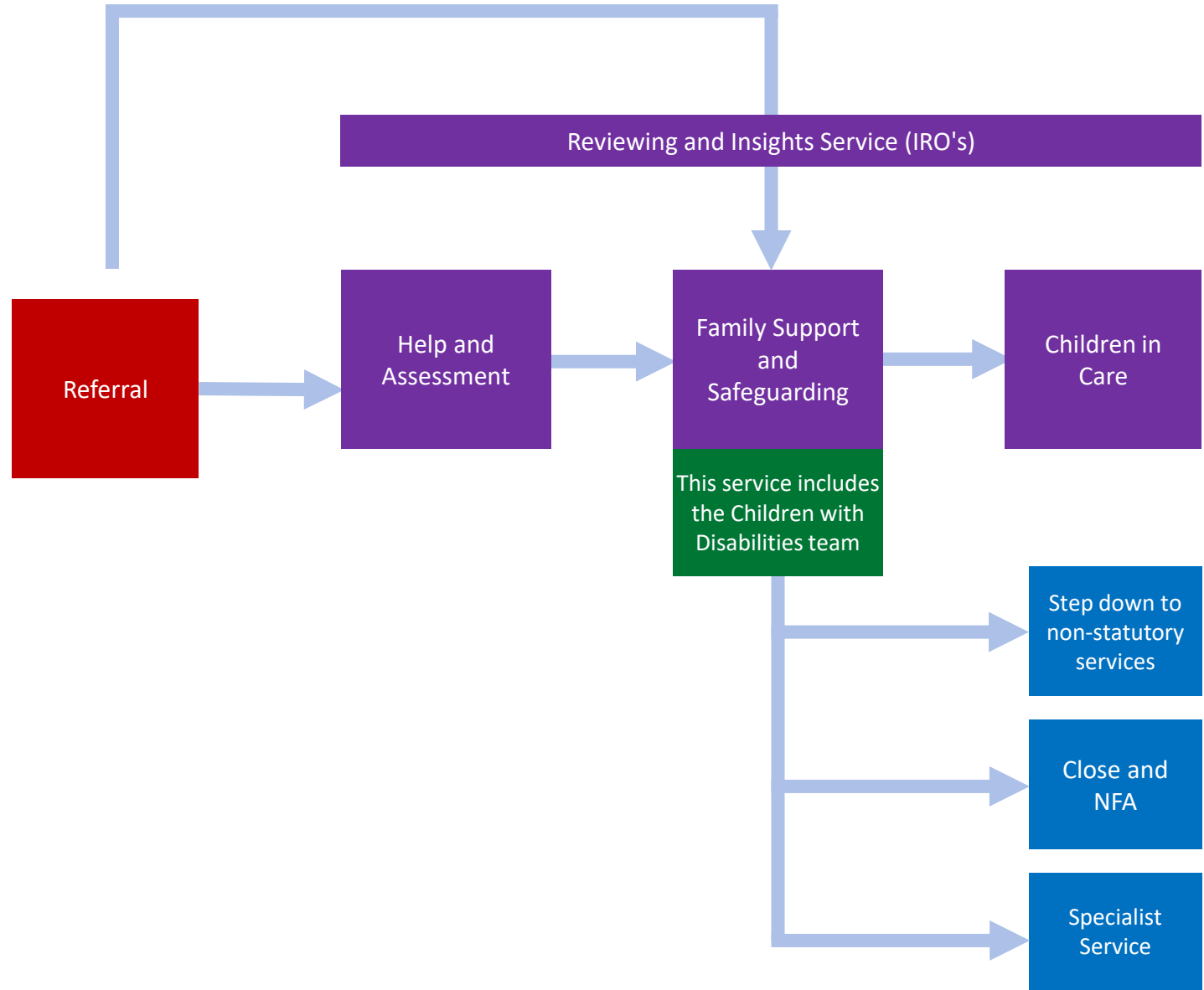
The service works alongside and collaboratively with all of our other teams as well as case-holding themselves. The Head of Service is the lead for contextual safeguarding, exploitation, gangs and youth crime prevention. They chair the strategic Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE) with Police. The Youth Justice & Contextual Safeguarding Service Manager co-chairs the operational MACE with Police.



Top down: a visual safety plan of a young person's regular journeys; an exercise to understand more about a young person's interests and how different parts of their life make them feel, and; a mapping around different types of abuse, what this means and looks like for a young person.

Reviewing and Insights Service

Workflow overview:



Key

Referral

Service

Outcome at point of closure

Further information



Reviewing and Insights service

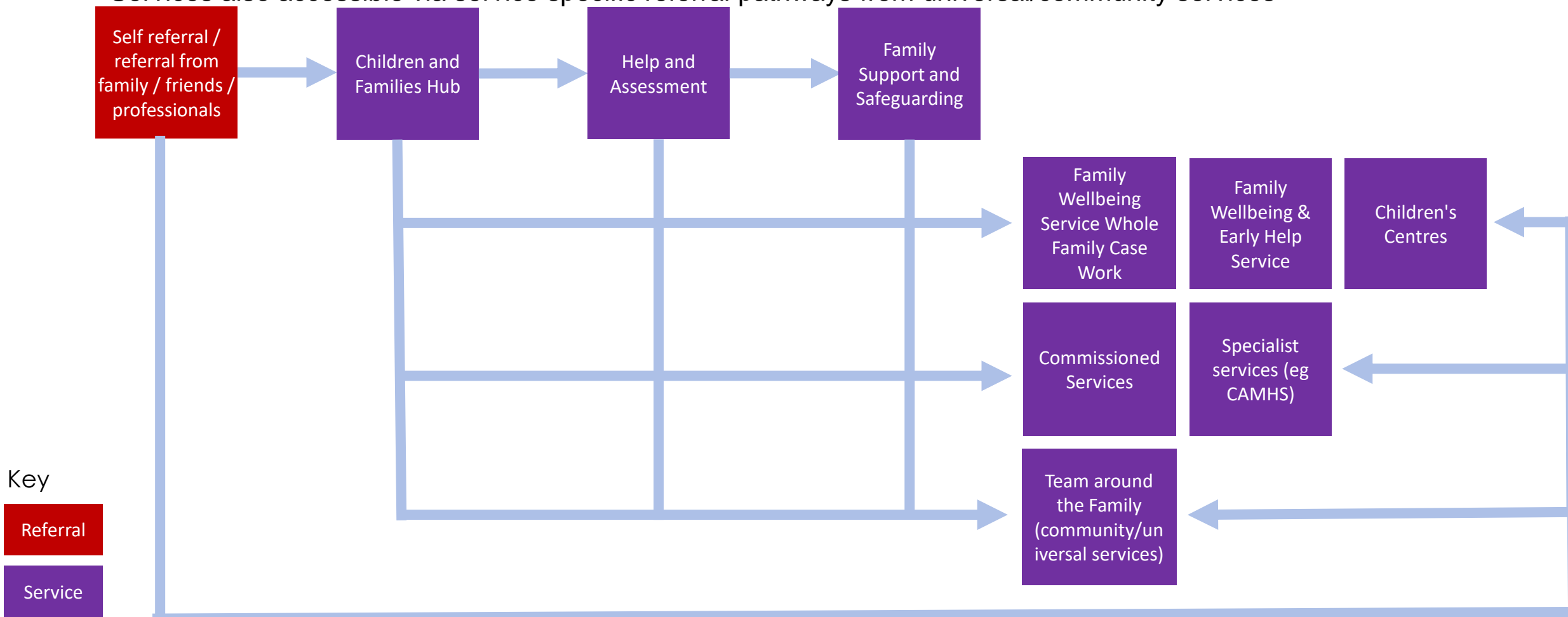
In Merton, an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) has a dual role to work independently from the case-holding social work team and all other professionals that looked after children or children subject to child protection, including contextual safeguarding, and their families have contact with. An IRO is appointed by the local authority for every child in care. It is a legal requirement under section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. IROs have a duty to monitor the performance and quality of the local authority's function as a corporate parent and identify and report on areas of poor practice, as well as celebrating good practice. The main responsibilities of the IRO's include:

- Chairing a child's/young person's statutory review meeting, ensuring that reviews are timely, and reviewing each child/young person's care plan to make sure its effective and focused on the child/young person's needs.
- Contacting the child/young person before and between review meetings, to listen to and promote their wishes and feelings and encourage their positive participation in their review – this is often demonstrated by children's involvement at the meeting and through the development of their child friendly care plan;
- Having regular contact and working closely with the social worker to improve the child/young person's outcomes and make sure they receive the best care. IRO's also provide a view on the local authority's care plan during care proceedings;

Early help + Targeted Services

From the Children and Families Hub and Help & Assessment, if the child is not transferred to Family Support and Safeguarding service he or she would step down to services below. Family Support and Safeguarding may also step down to these services.

Services also accessible via service specific referral pathways from universal/community services



Early help + Targeted Services

Directly Delivered

Family Wellbeing Service Case Work

- Targeted whole family support – all ages

Family Wellbeing and Early Help

- Evidence based parenting programmes
- Family Information and Support Hubs
- Early Help co-ordination
- Short Breaks
- 0-5 SEND Family and Parenting Support

Children's Centres

Early support for children aged 0-5 and their families including SEND and vulnerability

Commissioned

Catch22 Risk and Resilience

- Targeted key work
- exploitation
 - missing
 - substance misuse
 - Detached youth work

Jigsaw4U

- Advocacy
- Independent visiting
- Victim support
- Care Leaver Tenancy support

Unique Talent

Gangs prevention and intervention key work and group work

Off the Record

Counselling for children and young people (Stepdown from CAMHS)

Community

Team Around the Family

Universal / Community Services

Health Visitors

Early Years providers

Schools

Health services

Youth Clubs / Services