



Strengthening the approach to EHCPs in Barking and Dagenham – Parent Carers Focus Group

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The
RISE 
Partnership

RESEARCH AND
IMPROVEMENT FOR
SEND EXCELLENCE



What is RISE?



- The RISE partnership is led by the Council for Disabled Children and delivers bespoke support for local areas, national workforce training and events, and What Works in SEND.
- The Council for Disabled Children is part of the National Children's Bureau and is the umbrella body for the disabled children's sector in England.
- We champion the rights of disabled children and young people, and children and young people with special educational needs, as well as those of their families.
- We do not offer any support or advocacy to children, young people, or parent carers, and cannot comment on individual cases or experiences.



Contact: Resources for families of Disabled Children

Hub of Hope: Directory of different support services with different filters

SENDIASS | Carers of Barking and Dagenham- Barking and Dagenham
Information, Advice and Support Service

Why are we here?



To hear from parents and carers in Barking and Dagenham!

- In July 2024, Barking and Dagenham Local Area Partnership had their joint Ofsted and CQC Local Area SEND Inspection, which recommended various areas for improvement within the EHCP process.
- The RISE Partnership has been invited by Local Leaders in Barking and Dagenham to deliver 3 x focus groups and 2 x workshops to support improvement in this area.
- We want to explore your perspectives from a practical angle. Today's findings will inform a workshop on 'Strengthening the approach to ECHPs in Barking and Dagenham' in March.

Aims for today



We want to:

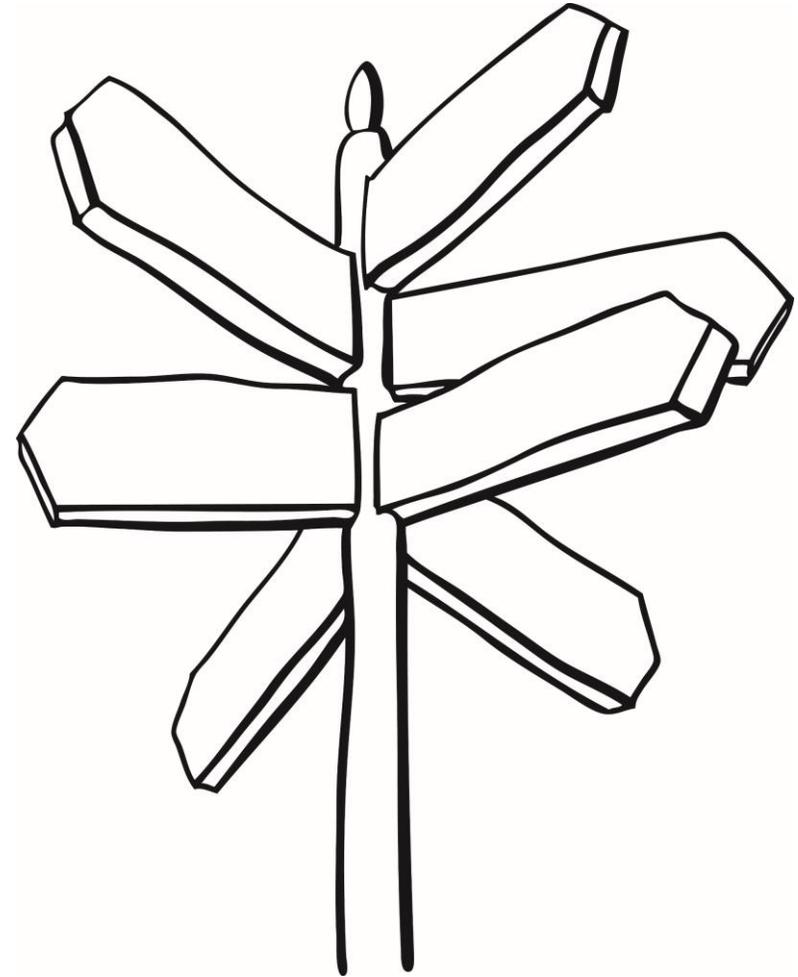
- Understand your experiences of the EHCP process
- Gain your feedback on the areas of action we are taking forward

Ground rules – help us get it right together

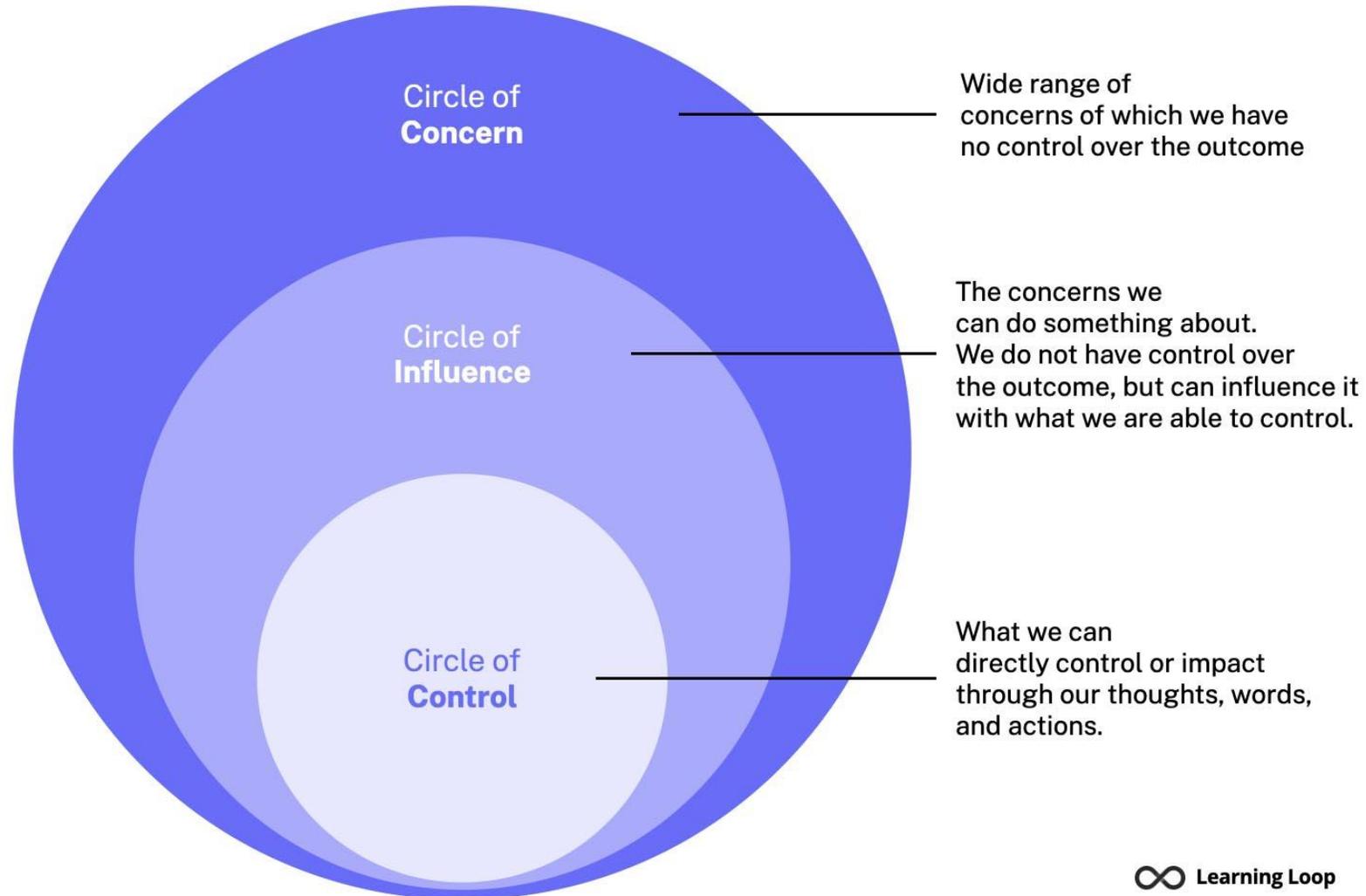


- All responses are **valid** - there are no right or wrong answers
- Please **respect** the opinions of others even if you don't agree
- Try to stay on topic; we may need to interrupt so that we can stay **focused**
- Speak as **openly** as you feel comfortable
- Help protect others' **privacy** by not discussing details outside the group and not using identifying information
- Please actively make this a **safe** and **collaborative** space
- Time out – we can take a **break** if needed
- Parking lot – for anything beyond today's scope

Anything else?



The Circles of Concern, Influence and Control



The EHCP Process



- EHCPs are legal documents that identify and describe the child or young persons educational, health and social care needs, the additional support required to meet those needs and the outcomes they want to achieve.
- There are lots of stages in the ECHP process, such as: ECH needs assessments; drafting, advice seeking and giving; decision making and appeals.
- We are interested in hearing about parent carer experiences across all of these parts of the process.

Challenges – not just Barking and Dagenham



Recurring barriers across the country:

- National increase in EHCNA requests.
- Aspirations and **holistic** outcomes sought not established at beginning of the process.
- Aspirations and outcomes sought not shared with advice givers.
- Advice givers lack capacity to write personalised advice and explore advice with others.
- Expectation is for advice givers to write outcomes.
- Plans are jargon heavy and not sufficiently personal.

What did we hear from parent carers?



- Responsiveness improves experiences
- High staff turnover
- Lack of communication
- Financially based decision making
- Tribunal process
- Inconsistent processes and paperwork
- Lack of accountability

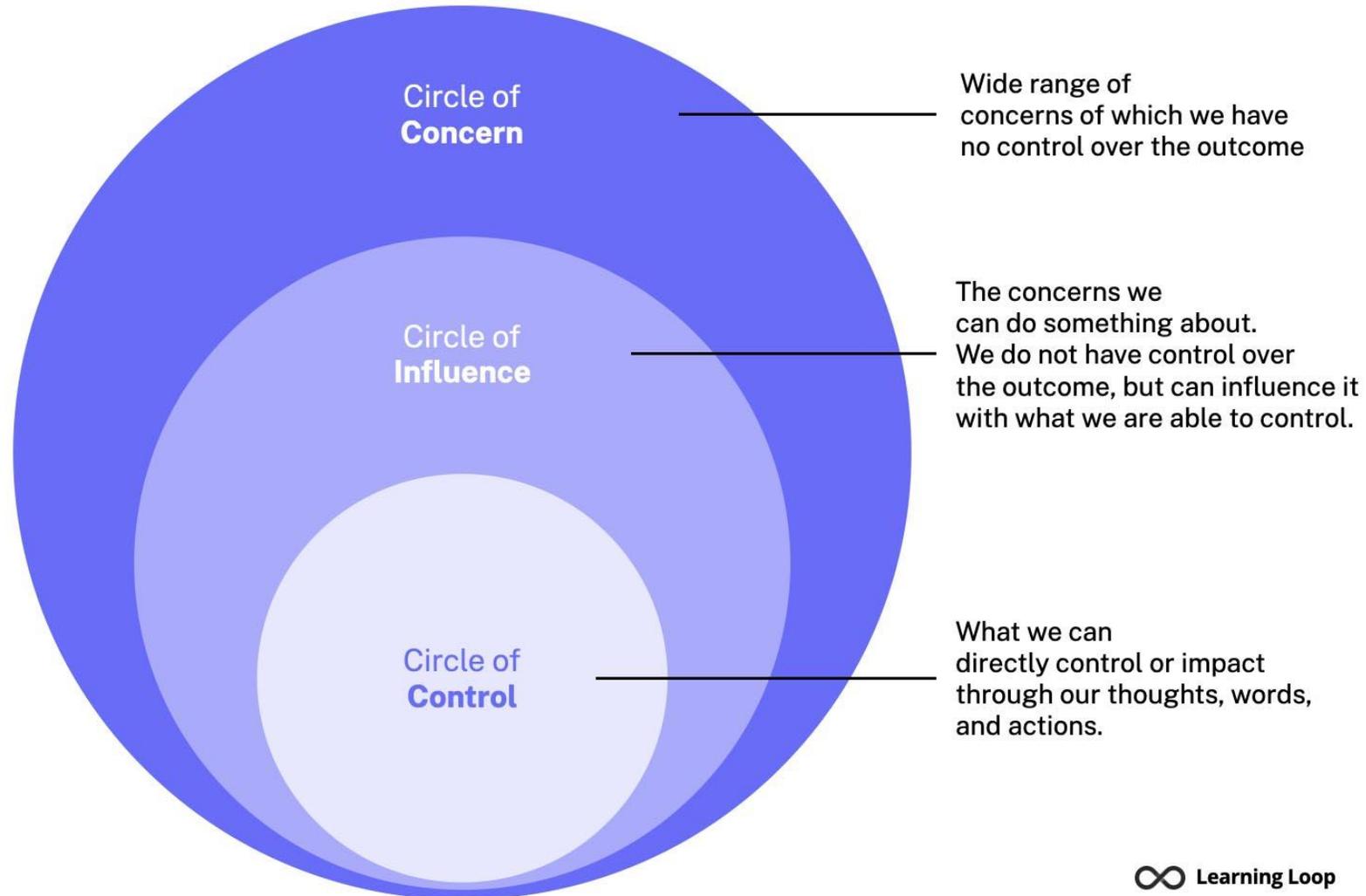
Reflecting on challenges



- Does this match your experiences? Have we missed anything?



The Circles of Concern, Influence and Control



Circles of control



Individual Control

What can the EHC team control in their roles?

Paperwork

Communication between partners

Accountability

Resources and information for parent carers

Clarity of roles and responsibility

Team Control

What can be addressed in the EHC team?

Processes

Delays

Turnover of staff

Wider system

What is a system-wide issue, that the EHC team have limited influence over?

Input of health partners

Funding constraints

Convening partners

Areas for action



Individual Control

What can the EHC team control in their roles?

Team Control

What can be addressed in the EHC team?

Paperwork

Communication between partners

Accountability

Resources and information for parent carers

Clarity of roles and responsibility

Reflecting on actions



- What would you like to see the EHC do to improve in these areas:
 - Paperwork
 - Communication between partners
 - Accountability
 - Resources and information for parent carers
 - Clarity of roles and responsibility

Thank you and next steps



Thank you for taking part!

We will share the notes from today with participants and leaders in Barking and Dagenham– but will not name individuals.

If you would like to give more feedback, please visit the RISE table.