

# Understanding the development of an effective local early help offer

---

## Research update

NCAS November 2018



# Aims of the research project

---

1

Reviewing the existing material and research in terms of what works in Early Help.

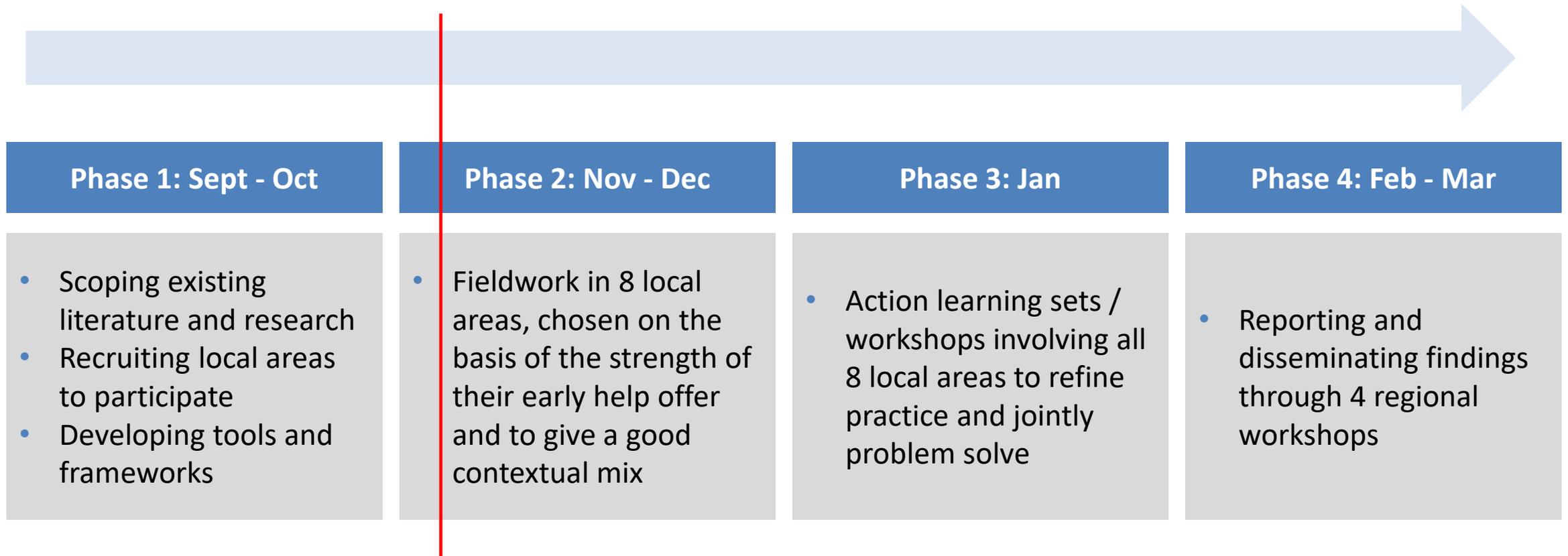
2

Understanding in practical terms the activities and actions that contribute to the development and sustainability of an effective and partnership-based early help offer.

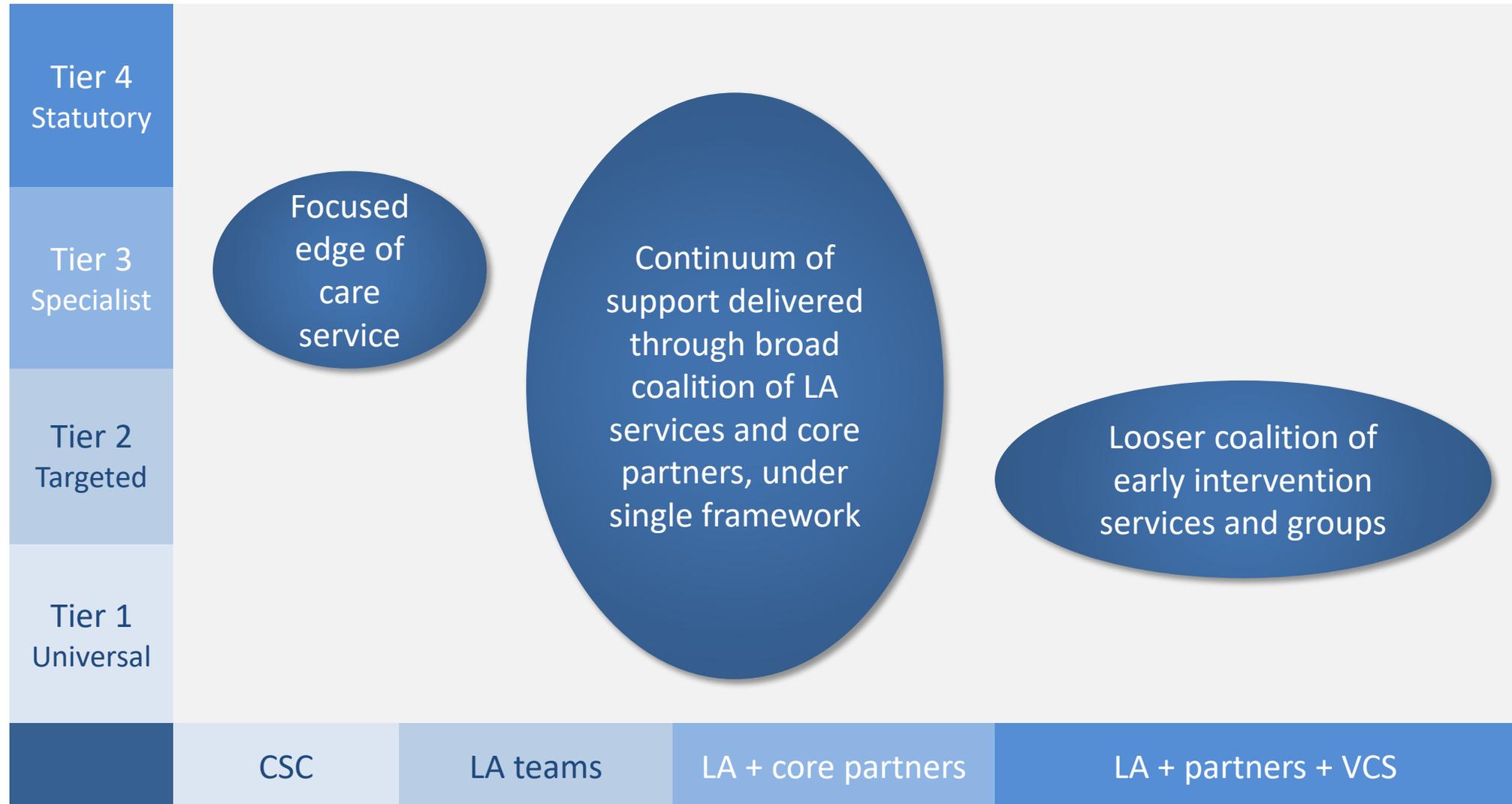
3

Supporting local areas through an action-research based approach to develop their own early help offers and to contribute to the wider system knowledge of effective early help .

# Outline methodology



# 'Early help' means different things in different places...

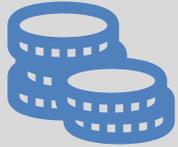


# What are the key enablers of an effective early help offer?



# What are the common barriers?

---



As public sector budgets get tighter it becomes increasingly difficult to preserve funding for early intervention and budgets for statutory services are protected.



Existing services and approaches to commissioning are nearly always predicated on the basis of working with an individual, not a family.



Management information systems don't easily 'talk' to each other frustrating the ability to work across professional silos.



Ability, capacity and willingness of professionals who work with families to effectively manage risk is very mixed. Complex interactions around statutory thresholds.



'Early help' can become too diffuse and end up lacking focus. Then it becomes harder to demonstrate impact and to make the case for continued investment.



# Some interesting questions that are arising through the research

---

- 1 What is the nature of the interaction between early help services at different tiers of intervention? What might be lost if the focus becomes increasingly on a tier 3 key working service?
- 2 How can we develop better benchmarks of cost, effectiveness and value for money given the extent to which early help services differ in focus and scope?
- 3 What are the implications from what we know about effective early help for how other key family-facing services work, such as social care, maternity services, health visiting or mental health?
- 4 How important is the physical space that early help teams inhabit? What are the benefits of public-facing buildings?
- 5 How do we recognise and support the somewhat unique position of early years settings, schools and colleges as partners in early help – the only professionals who see children and young people every day?



# Themes for discussion today

---

- Does this picture resonate with your experience of developing an early intervention strategy or early help offer?
- What are the key enablers that have been most important in your experience?
- What is getting in the way of you realising your ambitions for early help / early intervention?
- What are the questions which local areas and partners need answering?

