

Child poverty in Sheffield and communities, housing and health

Part five of the Sheffield child poverty training module for managers and strategic staff

About the training module

An overview of child poverty in Sheffield
and how to tackle it

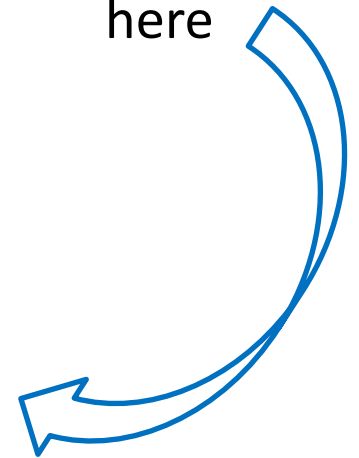
Identifying and approaching child
poverty

Financial
support

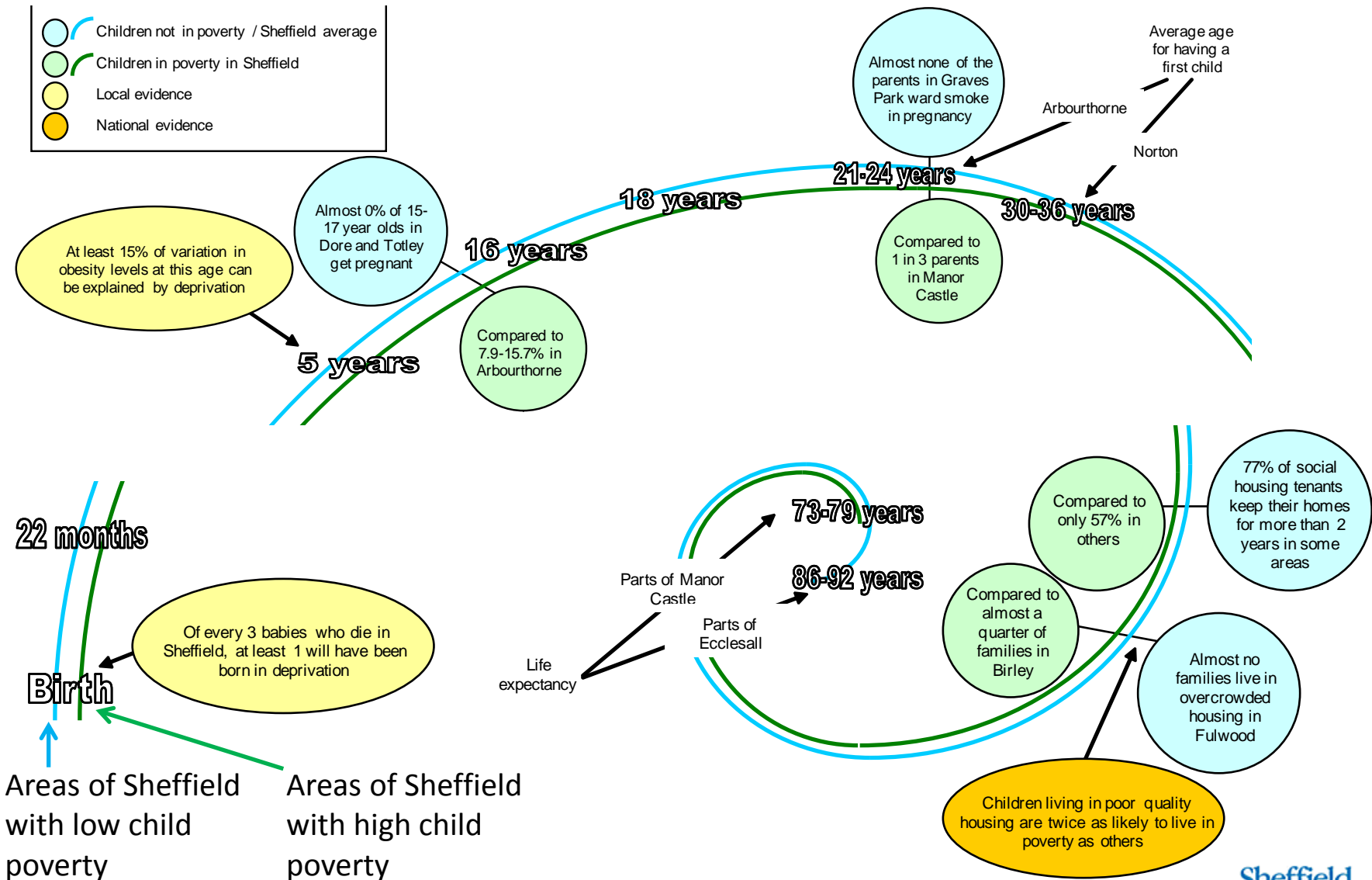
Employment
and skills

Communities,
housing
and health

You are
here



What's the challenge?



What's the challenge? - communities

The resources and services available in local communities have a strong relationship with child poverty levels

*“They become known areas and then it gets that nobody wants to live there and then it’s a **downward spiral**”*

Parent in Sheffield

What's the challenge? - communities

Think about this **“downward spiral”** in action

Things that frequently cause high levels of child poverty in an area are often also caused by high levels of child poverty. How do the following community characteristics reflect this “downward spiral”?

Lack of transport links; expensive transport in the area

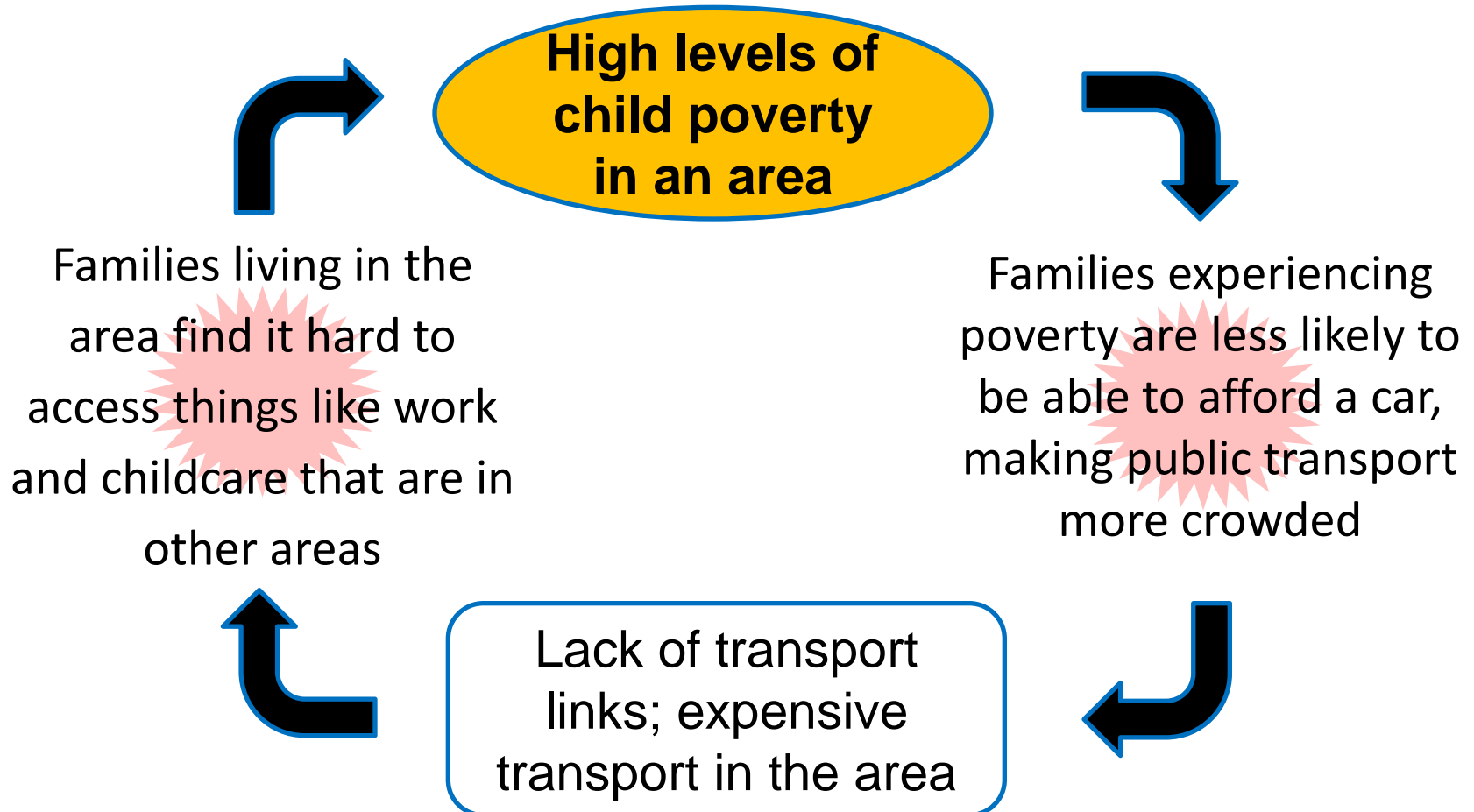
High crime rates

Lack of health services in the area

Poor-quality housing

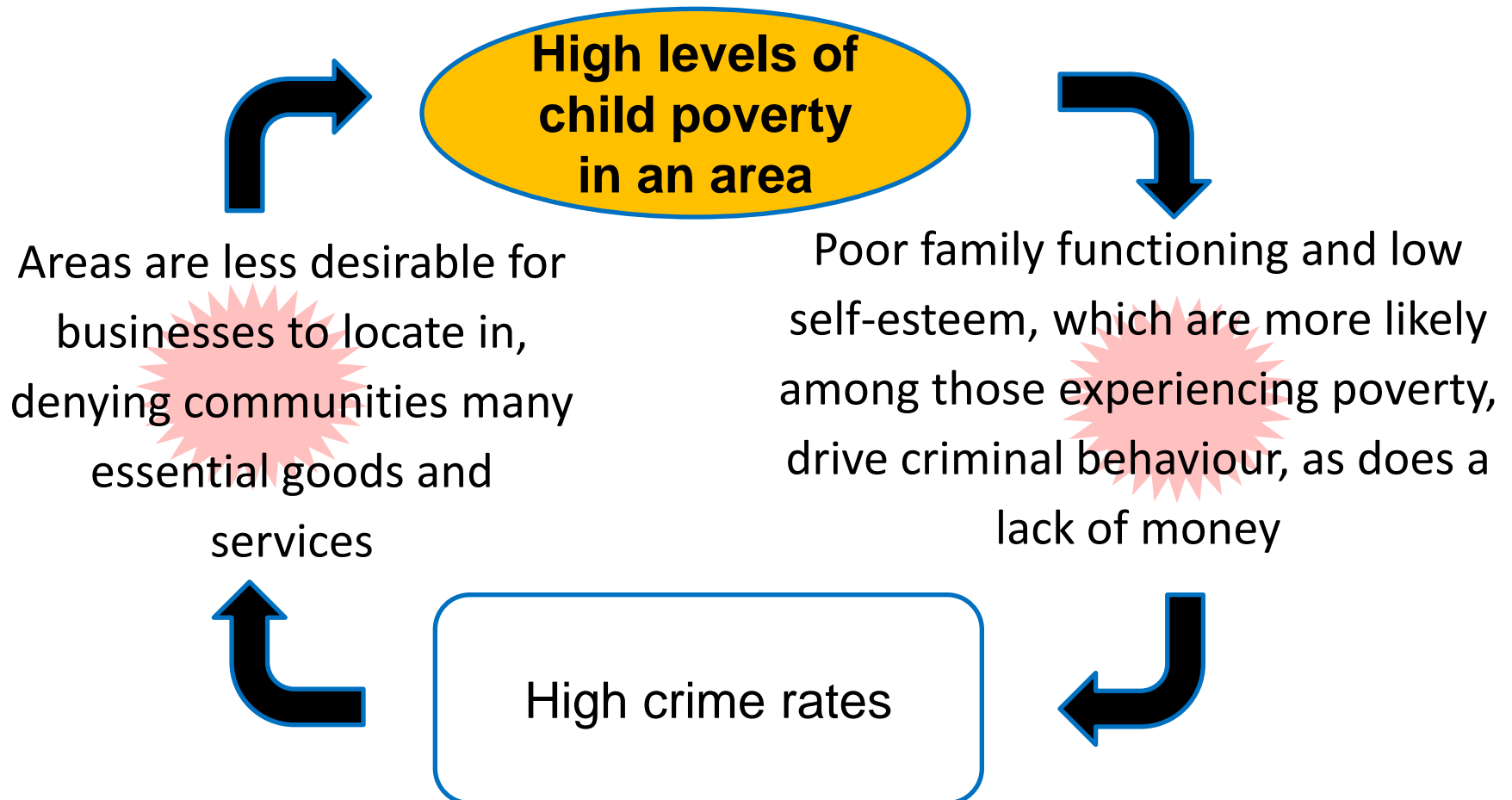
What's the challenge? - communities

The “*downward spiral*” in action



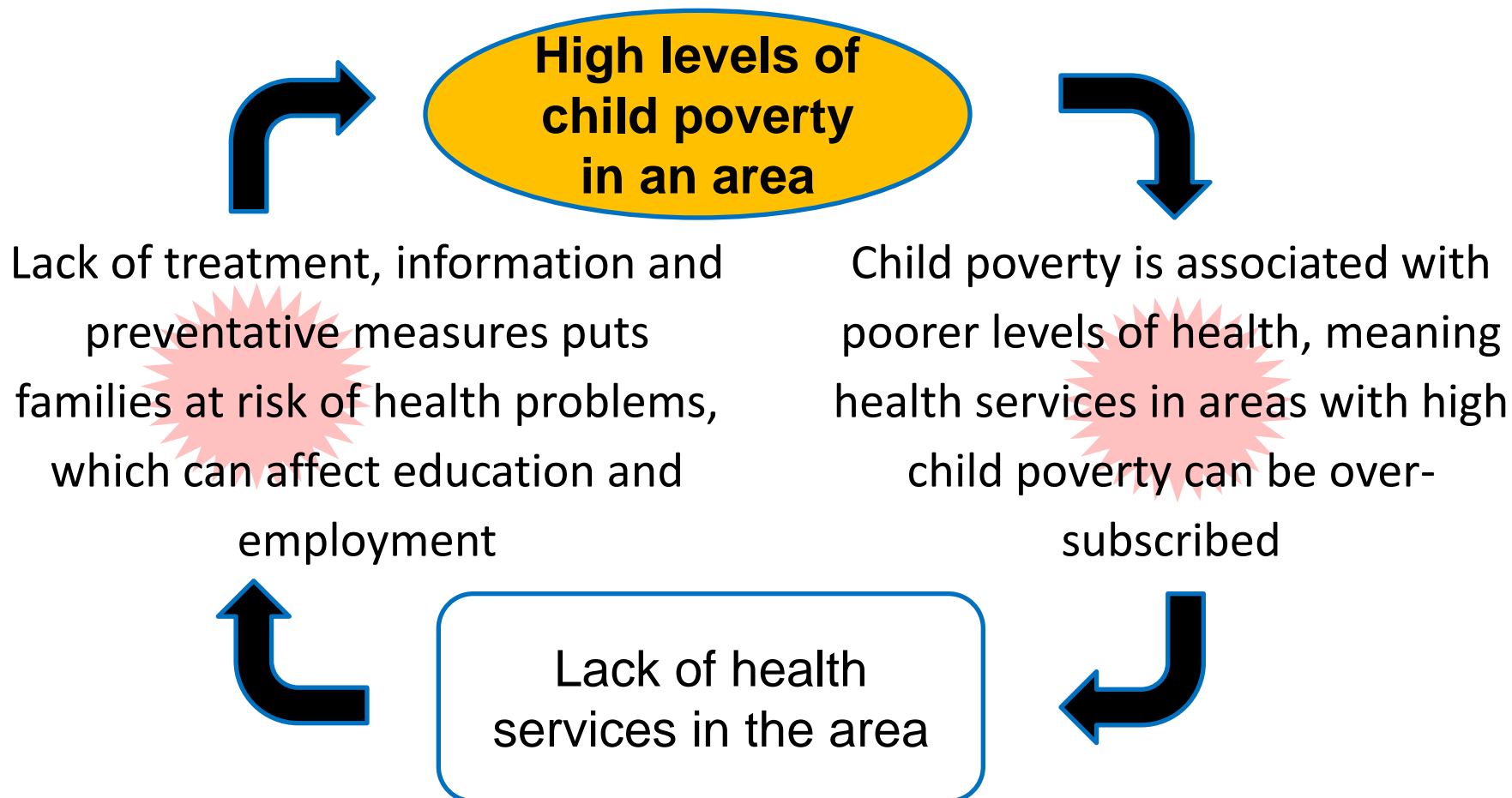
What's the challenge? - communities

The “*downward spiral*” in action



What's the challenge? - communities

The “*downward spiral*” in action



What's the challenge? - communities

The “*downward spiral*” in action

**High levels of
child poverty
in an area**

Badly-maintained and poor-quality housing is less desirable, meaning that only those who can't afford better-quality options choose to live there

Families experiencing poverty move from house to house much more quickly than others, and so may have less incentive to maintain properties

Poor-quality housing

What's the challenge?

The “*downward spiral*” in action

Just because child poverty can become entrenched in areas, **doesn't mean it has to**

FOR EXAMPLE:

The **Housing Market Renewal Programme** in Sheffield has achieved the most significant improvements in housing quality within the most deprived areas, as measured by changes in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation from 2004 to 2010.

What's the challenge? – housing

Children experiencing poverty are around **twice as likely** to live in poor quality or overcrowded housing...

...which affects many other outcomes associated with child poverty

Children in bad housing are about twice as likely to suffer from **poor health**

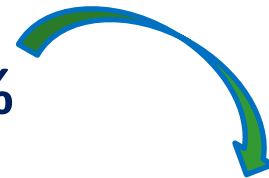
Children in bad housing are at much greater risk of getting a **poor education**

What's the challenge? – housing

At the end of financial year **2009/10**,
the proportion of council homes
judged to be 'not-decent' was **16%**



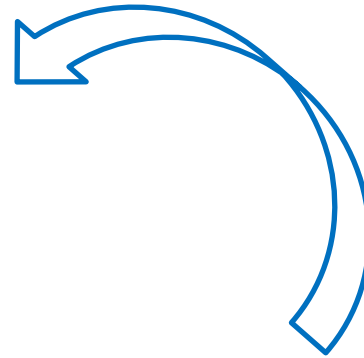
At the end of
2010/11 it was **12%**



And at the end of **September**
2011 it had fallen to **11%**

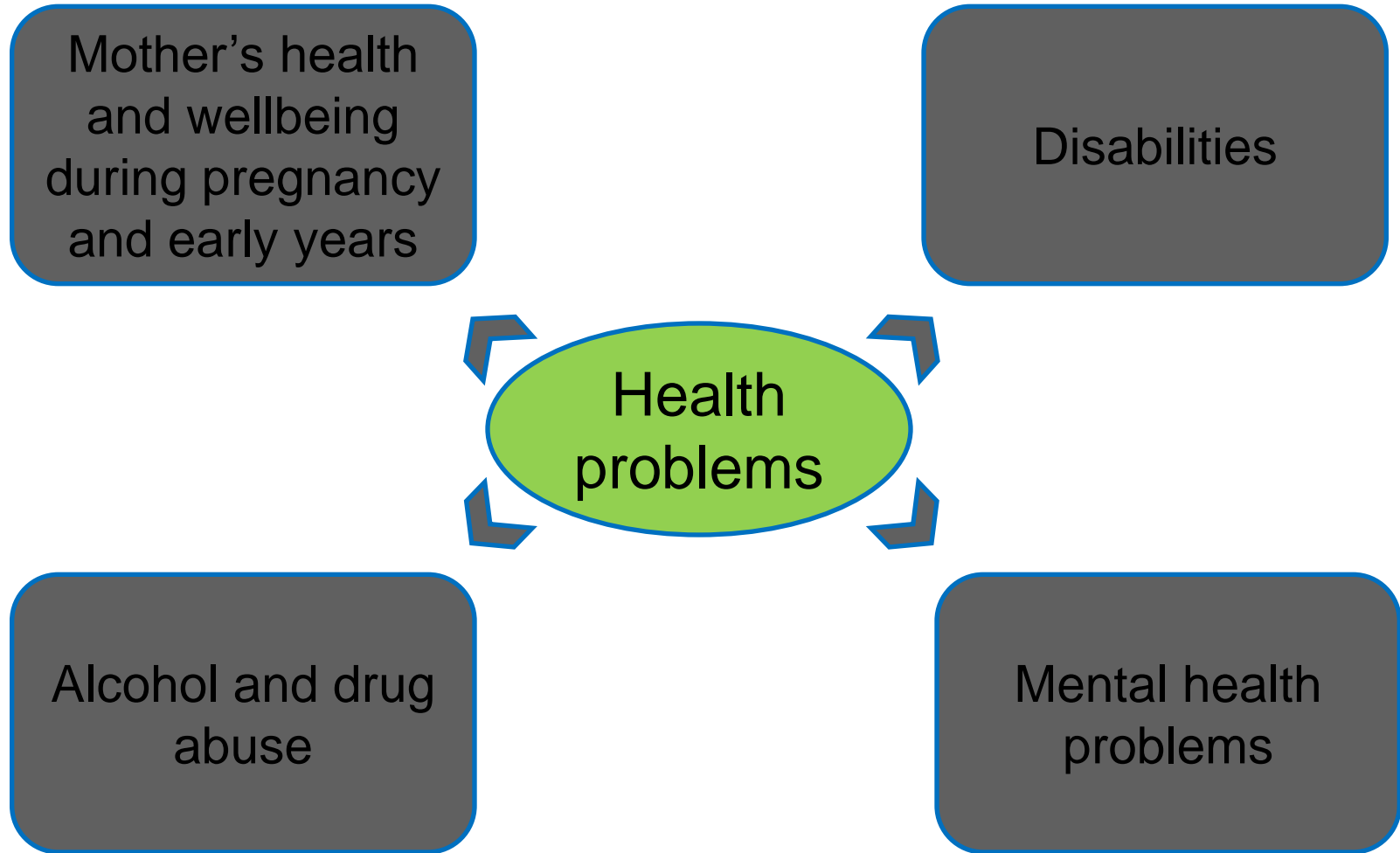
However, only around 25% of housing stock in
Sheffield is social housing, so many households will
not have benefitted from this work

What's the challenge? – housing



Double-click to hear about the housing challenges that a family in Sheffield was facing

What's the challenge? – health



What's the challenge? – health

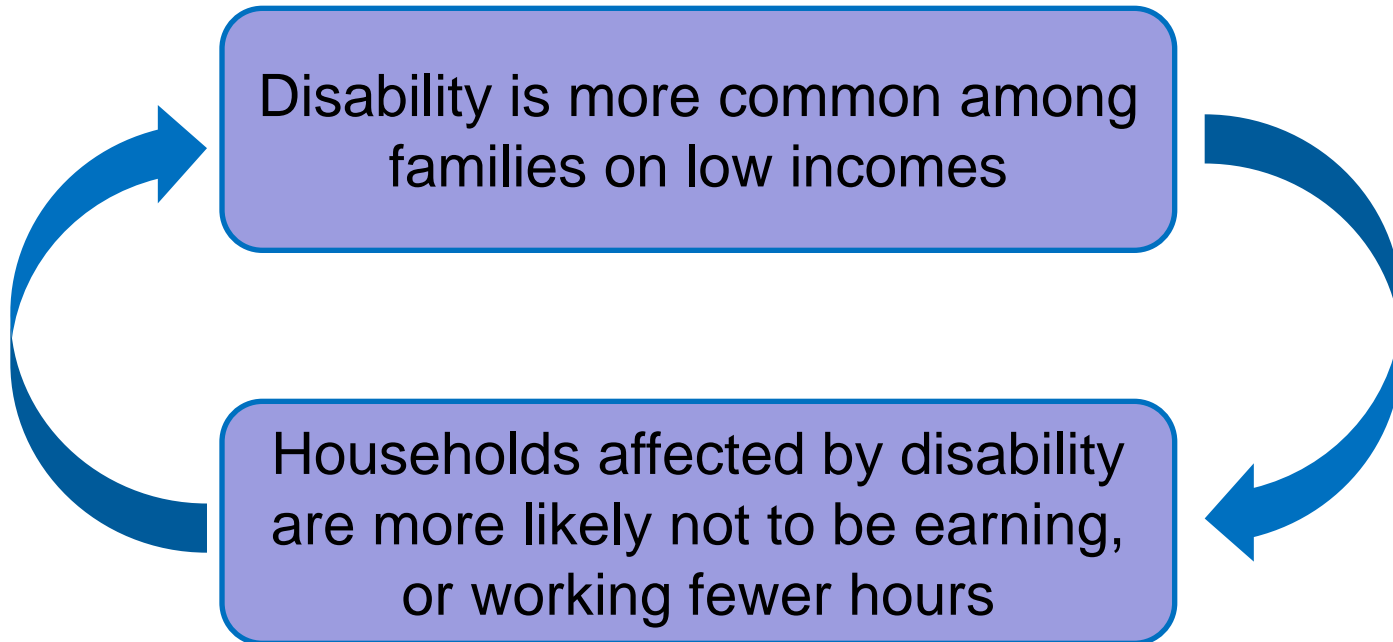
The effects of poverty are passed across generations during pregnancy and early years

Women on low incomes are more likely to be in poor health or to suffer from psychological problems during pregnancy

Women on low incomes are more likely to smoke during pregnancy, and less likely to breastfeed after birth

Women on low incomes are more likely to become pregnant as teenagers, which has health implications such as a higher chance of underweight babies

What's the challenge? – health



What's the challenge? – health

Parents with mental health problems are far more likely to be out of work than others

Some studies have shown that experiencing poverty whilst growing up affects children's own mental health

What's the challenge? – health

Alcohol and drug abuse is more common among people living on low incomes

Alcohol and drug habits impact on family budgets and make it more difficult for people to find work, perpetuating cycles of poverty

What's the challenge?

Sometimes the challenges faced by families experiencing poverty can lead to serious problems

Domestic violence

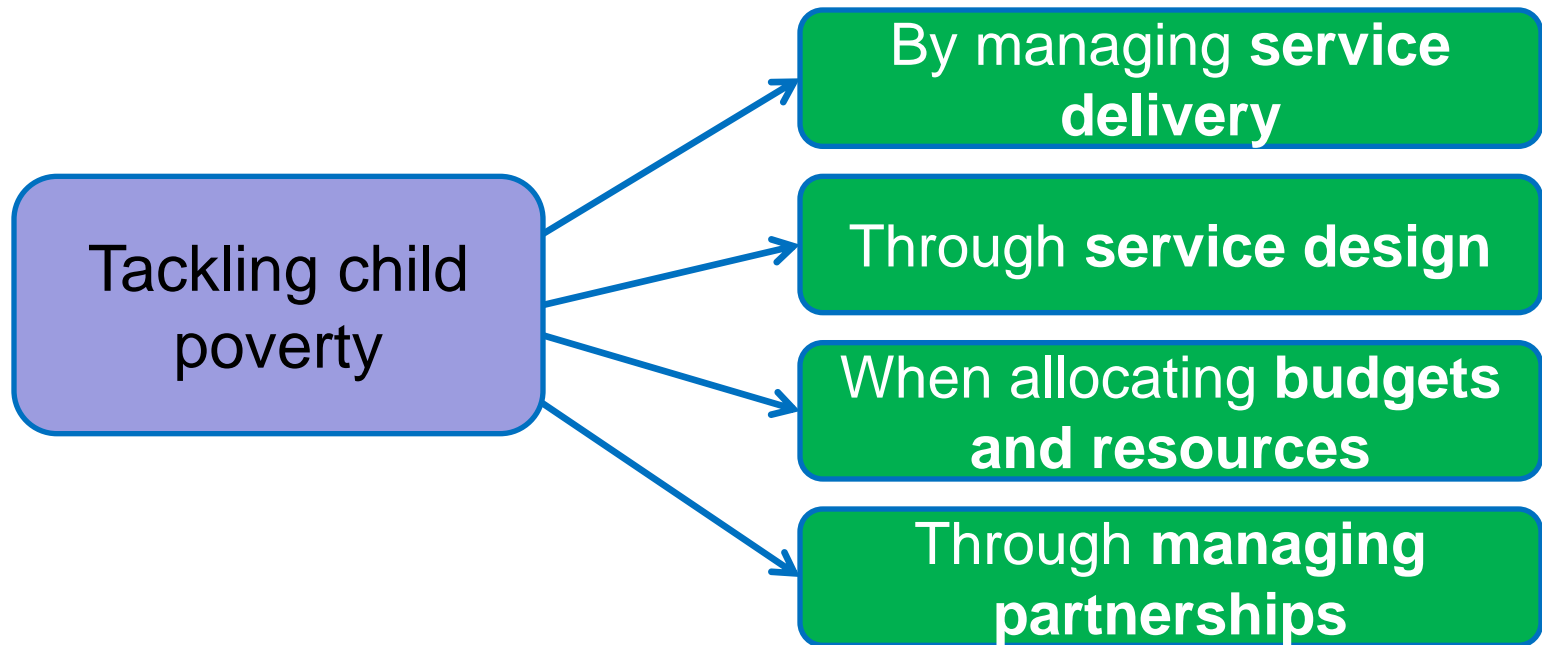
Neglect

If you think these or other issues might be affecting families, talk to your line manager/safeguarding lead or contact the Safeguarding Children Advice Desk on 205 3535. If there is an immediate risk of significant harm for the child, contact Social Care. In the event of an emergency involving a child or an adult, dial 999

What can I do?

Poverty-proof

Ensure that what your agency, service, team or organisation does contributes to reducing child poverty, or at the very least does not increase it



What can I do?

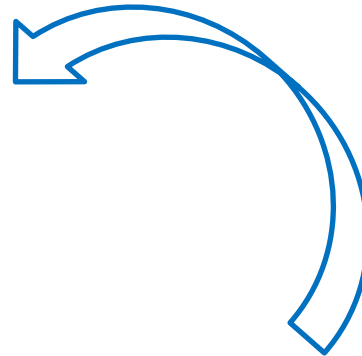
Help break the cycles

A lot of the '**downward spiral**' relationships we've looked at during this session need to be '**broken**' in order that the experience of poverty isn't passed on from generation to generation

Thinking about managing service delivery

Consider the difference that front-line staff can make

FOR EXAMPLE:



Double-click to hear about how the worker helped the family in the case study with their housing challenges

Thinking about managing service design

Consider what connects resources and services to the areas in which families that may be experiencing poverty live

How much does it cost?

Is it publicised in the right places?

Can you get to it over the phone?
Or online?

FOR EXAMPLE:

Housing officers in one part of the city are being trained through the city wide literacy strategy ESCAL as part of a trial in Sheffield to enable them to identify literacy needs in the home

Sheffield National Health Service has a 'care close to home' principle to ensure that services are designed to maximise access

Thinking about managing partnerships

Consider the difference all the services, resources, and activities in Sheffield can make

FOR EXAMPLE:

Sheffield City Council and partners are working with hospitality and public venues to help them become **breastfeeding friendly**

Various agencies and organisations in Sheffield come together to hold **Multi Agency Allocation Meetings** to determine the most appropriate package of support for families they work with

Thinking about managing partnerships

Child poverty doesn't exist in a vacuum
Consider how it interacts with other strategies and initiatives

FOR EXAMPLE:

Sheffield City Council is developing a housing strategy for 2011-21

How can multiple strategies work together rather than duplicate?

How can child poverty challenges be reflected in other initiatives such as the housing strategy?

How can your service or agency contribute to the goals of Sheffield's child and household poverty strategy and related strategies?

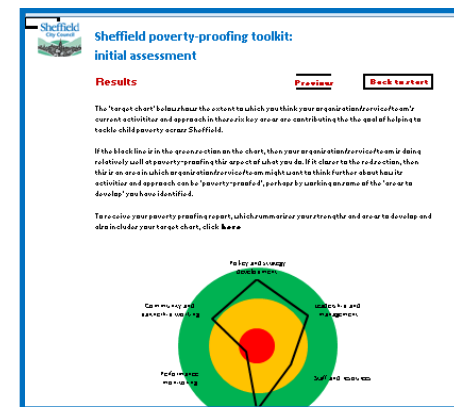
Over to you...

How does your organisation, service or team help families who may be experiencing poverty with challenges related to communities, housing and health?

Are there any gaps in the support provided or available?

Are there any changes that could improve the service for families that may be experiencing poverty?

Have a go at completing part of the poverty-proofing toolkit for an agency, service or team that provides (or signposts to) health services, housing services or other support in Sheffield



Summary

In this part of the training module we've looked at:

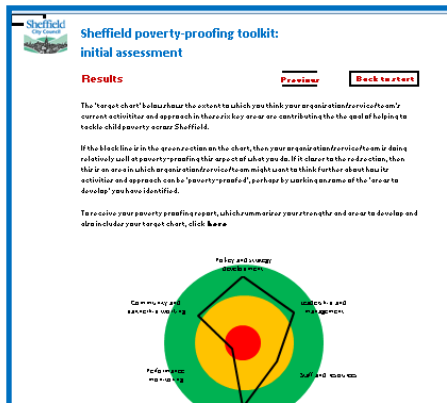
How challenges around communities, housing and health interact with child poverty

How these problems can persist and affect families

Options for embedding and improving various kinds of support within what your agencies and teams do

What next?

Complete another session within the training module?



Find out more about something that has been discussed in this session?

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Employment and skills

Communities, housing and health

Complete the rest of the poverty-proofing toolkit for your agency or team?

