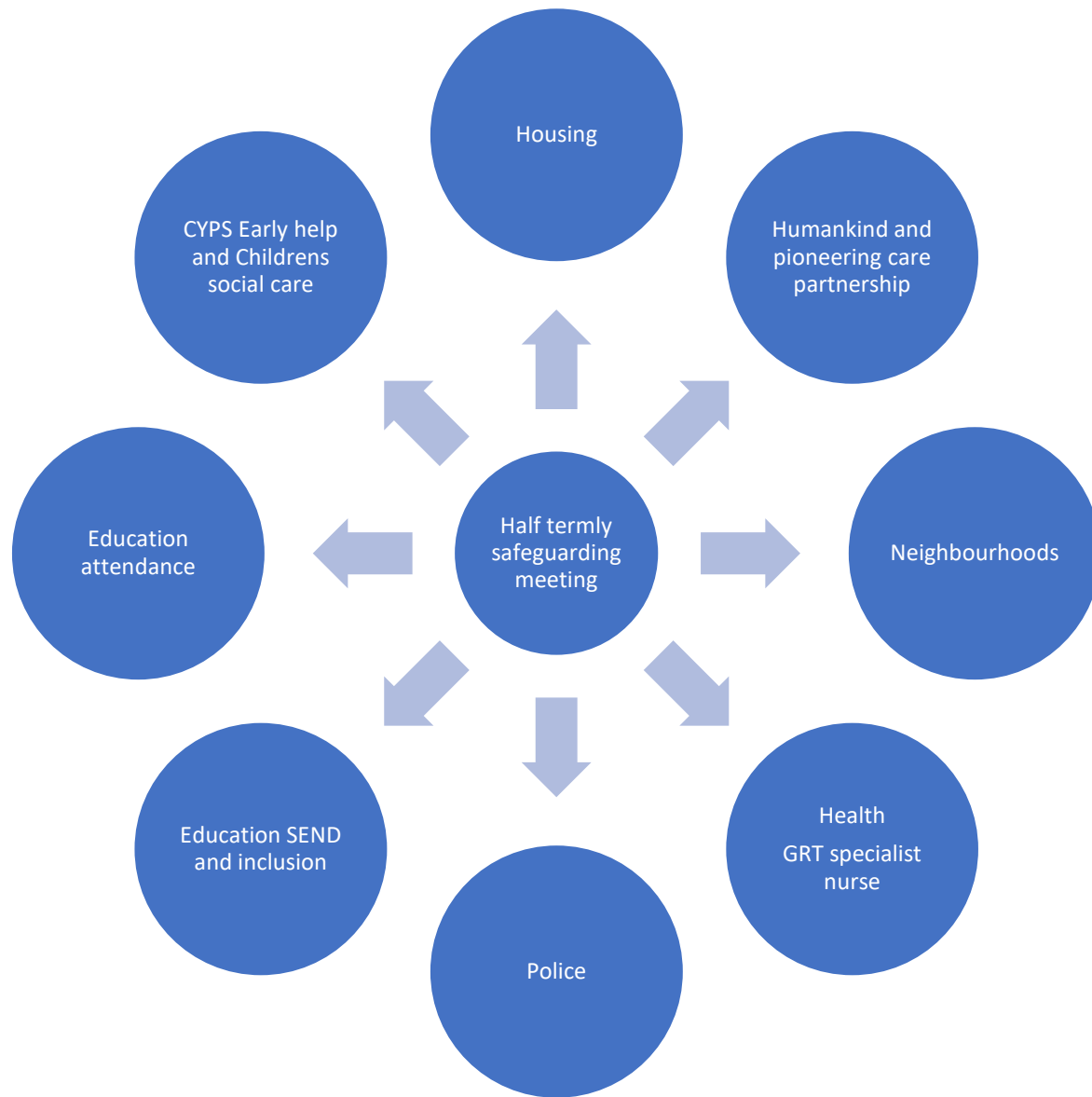




## Strengths based, relational practice with our Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in County Durham

- County Durham predominantly a white British rural population - strong mining heritage
- A long Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller cultural history and heritage in county Durham pre-dating 1549
- Only collected in census data since 2011
- Significant under reporting – suspicion of officialdom, negative and racist responses, mistrust of services, movement around the country or world
- On our current 6 permanent council sites in County Durham, we have 124 families with 203 children
- We also have Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families living all around the county in housing and families moving through especially in June
- In the last 5 years 81 of the children in statutory children's social care ascribe to be Gypsy, Roma or Traveller
- Research tells us these children will be significantly impacted by poverty, social exclusion, disrupted early schooling, hate crime, anti-GRT media and stereotypes, low rates of chronic sickness and high rates of economic activity, low educational attainment, bullying in schools, stressors such as access to benefits and housing, domestic abuse, coercion and control
- There is a need for cultural competence and sensitivity of practitioners and services, assertive and respectful engagement to build trust and relationship and multi-agency information sharing.



- Specialist teams in housing building links and relationships
- Wardens from within the community on each of the settled sites
- Specialist inclusion teams in education
- Specialist GRT post in health
- Half termly GRT safeguarding meeting
- Learning culture
  
- Case example for outreach support

# Things we "Must Do"

## How we Practice in Durham



1 We will use kind and clear language in all that we do.



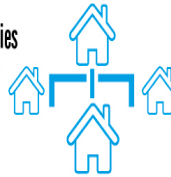
2 We will use creative tools in our direct work.



3 We will use mapping to inform our work.



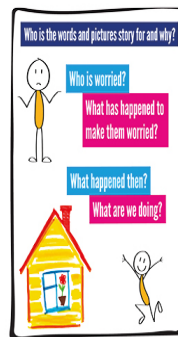
4 We will help families find and use their family networks.



5 We will use the Harm Matrix when we have worries.

Behaviour	Timespan	Severity			Impact on the child
		First	Worst	Last	

6 We will create Words and Pictures by working with parents, to help their children understand what we are worried about.



7 Monthly Group Supervision will be held by every team.



8 Sometimes we must remove children from the care of their family. Where we can, we do everything we can to return children home, by creating a timeline for safety planning on the first day of removal.



- An established strengths based, relational, trauma aware practice framework for all of our children, young people and families
- GRT cultural awareness workshops for all our NQSW
- GRT awareness workshops for multi-agency partners as part of our Durham safeguarding children's partnership and the Council's corporate training offer
- Workshops for teachers and school children celebrating GRT history and culture
- Library books and resources so these children feel seen
- Encouraging exploration of social graces and bias in supervision and group supervision.

## So where next for Durham children's social care....

- Our local community is becoming more diverse
- Our workforce is becoming more diverse and that diversity brings strength
- Our unaccompanied asylum-seeking team is established: 140+ children from 15 countries
- A real focus on decolonising our CPD offer
- Significant investment and a new lead post.

