

Session 2:

Local Voices, Local Change: Co-Production as a Driver of Early Years Integration



DARTINGTON
SERVICE
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CO-PRODUCTION

BLACKPOOL

Co-production builds connections and creates changes that benefit the entire community. It is through shared experiences, shared knowledge, shared learning and shared power that sustainable change can happen.

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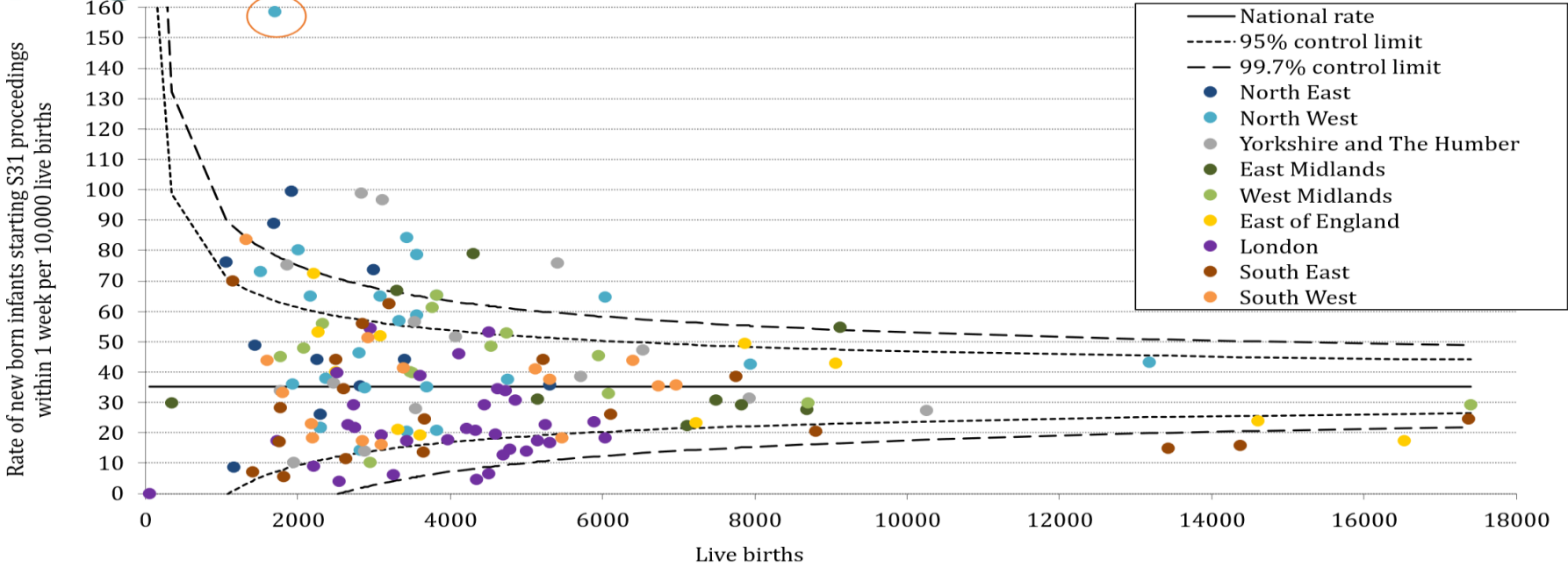
A Journey from Born into Care to Waves

A scenic view of a beach at dusk. The sky is a mix of blue and orange. In the background, a long pier extends into the sea. To the right, a large building is lit up, and a tall, lattice-structured tower is illuminated with bright pink lights. The tower's reflection is clearly visible in the shallow water in the foreground.

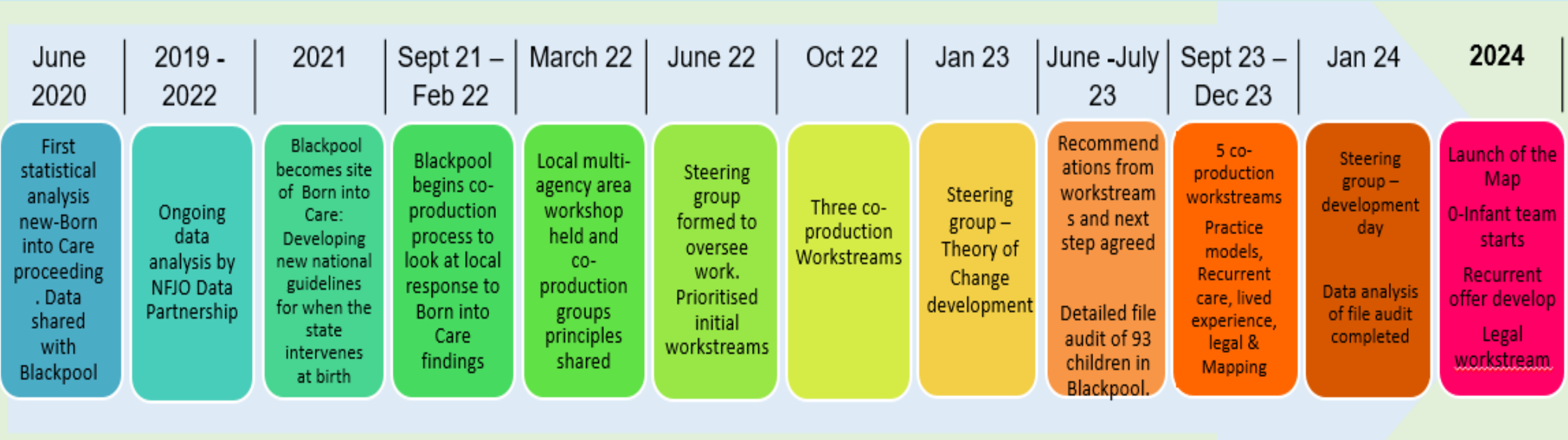
Present by: Michaela Goodridge & Charlotte Wright

Background: Understanding the Local Challenge

Incidence rates: local authority variation [England 2016]



Our Response To The Challenge



Examples of changes in the system

Co-Designed System Tools

Co-designed system maps and guidance tools, clarified support pathways, reducing confusion and enhancing communication for families and practitioners.

Earlier Referrals

Embedding earlier referrals to children's social care promoted proactive engagement instead of reactive responses to family needs.

Standardised Birth Planning

Standardising birth planning by 34 weeks allowed parents more time to prepare, understand concerns, and access necessary support.

Cultural Shift in Services

Services became more aligned, and focused on strengthening family relationships, improving trust and collaboration.



The Waves Offer: Specialist Support for Parents

The Waves Offer sits within a system of wider support for parents

For Baby's Sake, Early Help, Early Parenthood Service, Lancashire Women

Dedicated Therapeutic Support

Waves provides key workers offering consistent therapeutic support before and after care proceedings to ensure continuity.

Parent Supporters with Lived Experience

Experienced parent supporters walk alongside families, providing empathy and practical guidance based on firsthand knowledge.

Specialist Midwifery

Offer trauma-informed, compassionate care during pregnancy and after birth.

What do Waves do?



- Walk *alongside*, not ahead
- Therapeutic keyworkers build trust, stability and therapeutic support
- Parent Supporters connect through shared experience
- Sharing tools, tips and hope from real-life experience
- We listen with empathy, no judgement
- We translate system language into real language
- We connect parents to the community and build bridges between parents and the system.

Impact: What Difference Does It Make?

For Parents:

- Feeling understood reduces isolation – **We remember**
- **Hope** – we are proof that positive change can happen and hope grows when change feels possible
- Better understand meetings and planning – **we speak their language**
- **Parents move from – to:**

Surviving → Participating

Silence → Voice

Shame → Self belief

Isolation → Connection



For the System:

- Meeting parents where they are improves engagement and follow-through.
- Therapeutic keyworkers build relationships, insight, trust and stability.
- With their lived experience, Parents Supporters can identify barriers that other professionals might miss.
- Parent Supporters are professionals; they just have different expertise.
- It's the combination of all the different expertise in Waves that brings the magic into play.

Any Questions?



“ Thank You! ,”

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