

# Social Care: who cares?

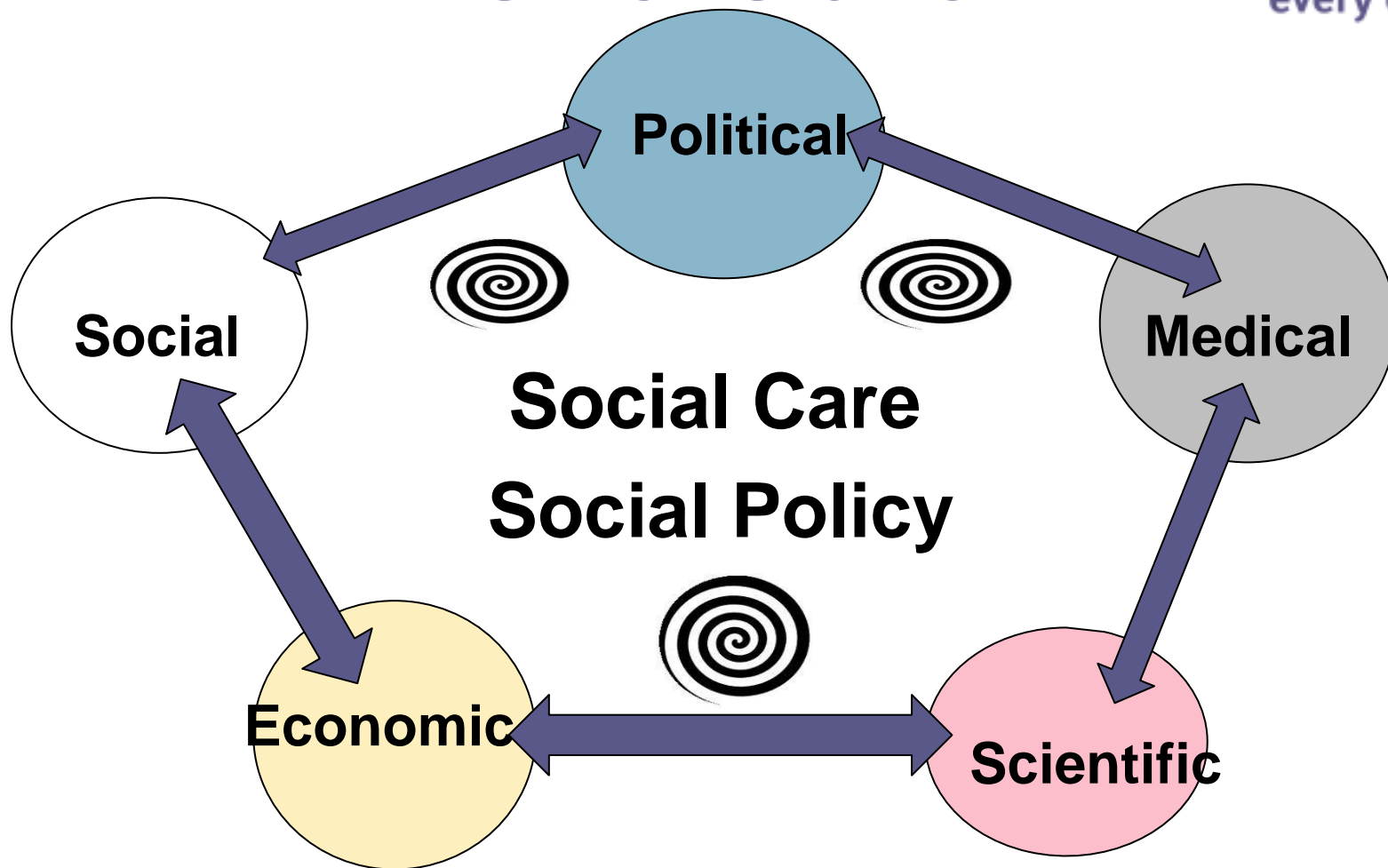
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# Social Care is not static



# What is social care?

- Its not the education part-Teacher of Deaf children/ CSW.. there is some cross over..
- Its not the Health part/ Audiology/ENT/ SLT..

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Its....

- advice and information
- provision of home equipment
- access to Early Years and Family Support befriending/key-working/ homecare
- child protection/support for children in public care..... preventative to state intervention



# Why is social care important for deaf children/young people? (DCYP)



- We know that DCYP
- are 3.4 x's greater risk of abuse than hearing children.
- 40% will experience mental health problems in childhood.
- Educational attainment significantly behind national average/ their hearing peers.



# Key social care law: Where do deaf children fit in?.....

- Children Act 1989 – deaf children are ‘disabled’ are so are ‘children in need’.  
Duty to undertake a statutory assessment (section 17) but many dont
- Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970
- Equality Act 2010- ‘disabled’ status.
- Children Act 2004- single directorate of Educ/Social care/ pooling of budgets/all agencies safeguard promote welfare/ 5 ECM outcomes/CAF



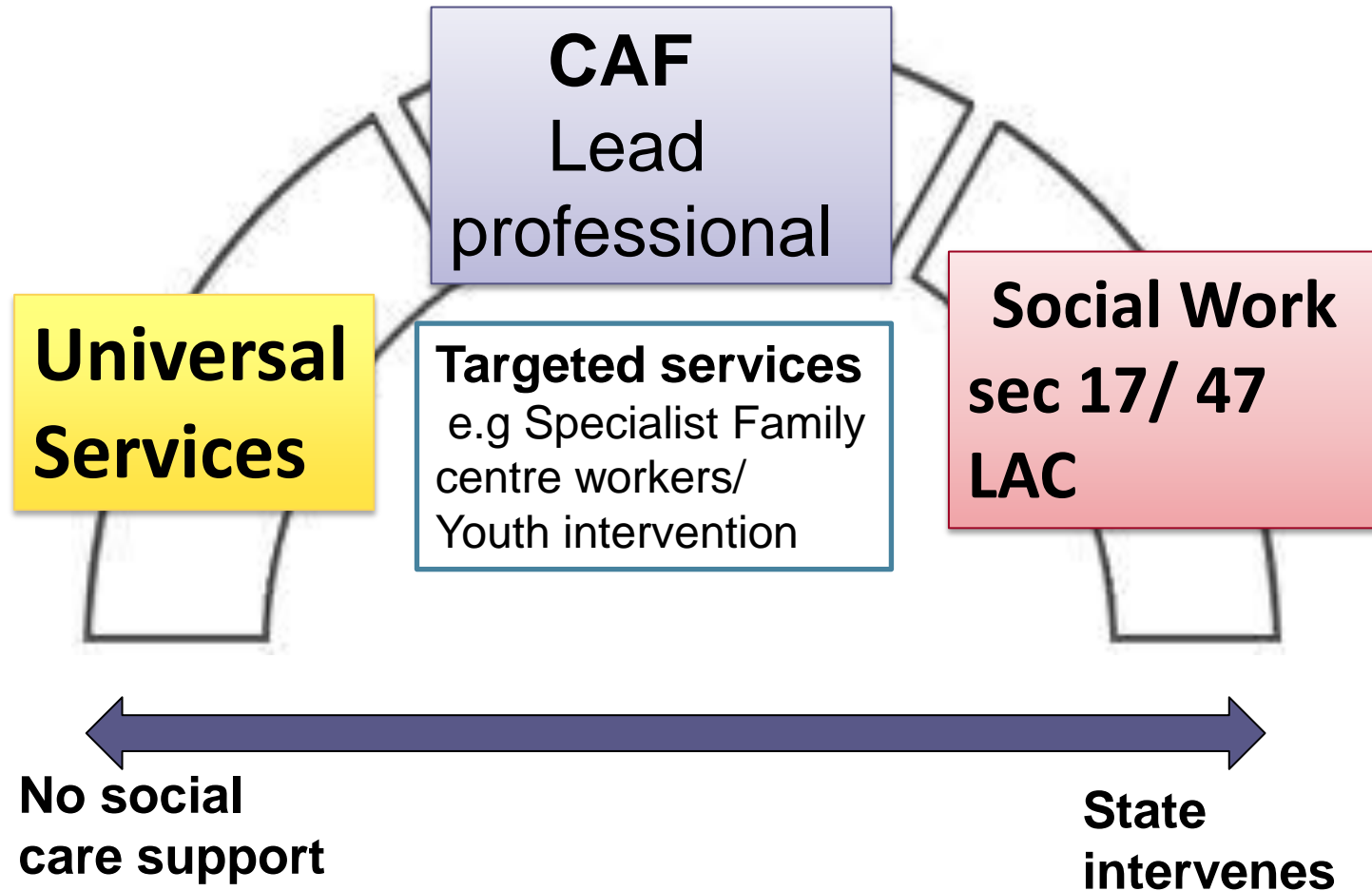
# Specialist social workers for deaf children

( Young et al 2008-10)



- Often have a greater focus on;
- holistic needs of family
  - aware of developmental issues for deaf children ( psychological)
  - socio-linguistic-cultural factors
  - social barriers
  - educational links
  - wider safeguarding issues perspective (preventative)
  - advocacy with mainstream services/teams

# The Common Assessment Framework (Children Act 2004)



# CAF-The dangers

- Creates new bureaucratic interface with social care- who before would have accepted such referrals.
- Professionals not aware 'enough of safeguarding. Now taking on 'social workers' Duties, increased safeguarding risks (see *Serious Case Review in 2011*)
- CAF's are not robust assessments





# Current social care provision



- Specialist social work teams largely gone (due to Children Act 2004) CWD
- Introduction of the Common Assessment Framework- early intervention agenda-raised thresholds
- Deaf children needs largely not recognised as significant – don't meet social care thresholds despite legal right to assessment.
- Use of RAS? Do they discriminate?

## Current Coalition Philosophy 2010-

- Provide the framework to allow professionals to do their job (Munro 2011)
- Reduce bureaucracy
- Local decision making to determine local needs
- Personalisation – agenda ( carried on from previous administration)



## Current climate..... where will deaf cyp fit it?



- Huge council cuts- raise 'eligible' needs e.g 'severe'
- Direction of social care travel- either early intervention v high end statutory e.g child protection.
- Current structure social care teams e.g CWD clear structural barrier to access social care. Some merging of adult and children social care barrier or opportunity?
- Children and Families Bill – a new route into social care via education EHC plans-merge assessments?
- Local offer will this drive services to be deaf accessible?

- Professionals outside of social care at interface with social care)- TOD's SALT's need greater robust CAF training/social care need of Deaf children.
- Social workers- but heavily compromised- workloads/lack of deaf awareness/ team thresholds /council thresholds
- Parent forms- increased localism into commissioning.
- Personalisation- budgets will this improve things???
- NDCS Family Officers/ campaigns/ alliances/ research
- Equality Commission? Driving the Equality Act duties?



**....in the end, nobody wins unless  
everybody wins..... ( B.Springsteen)**

