

The transition to adulthood and Lessons from other LA's

John Prior, Executive Headteacher and Deputy CEO
Orchard Hill & College Academy Trust

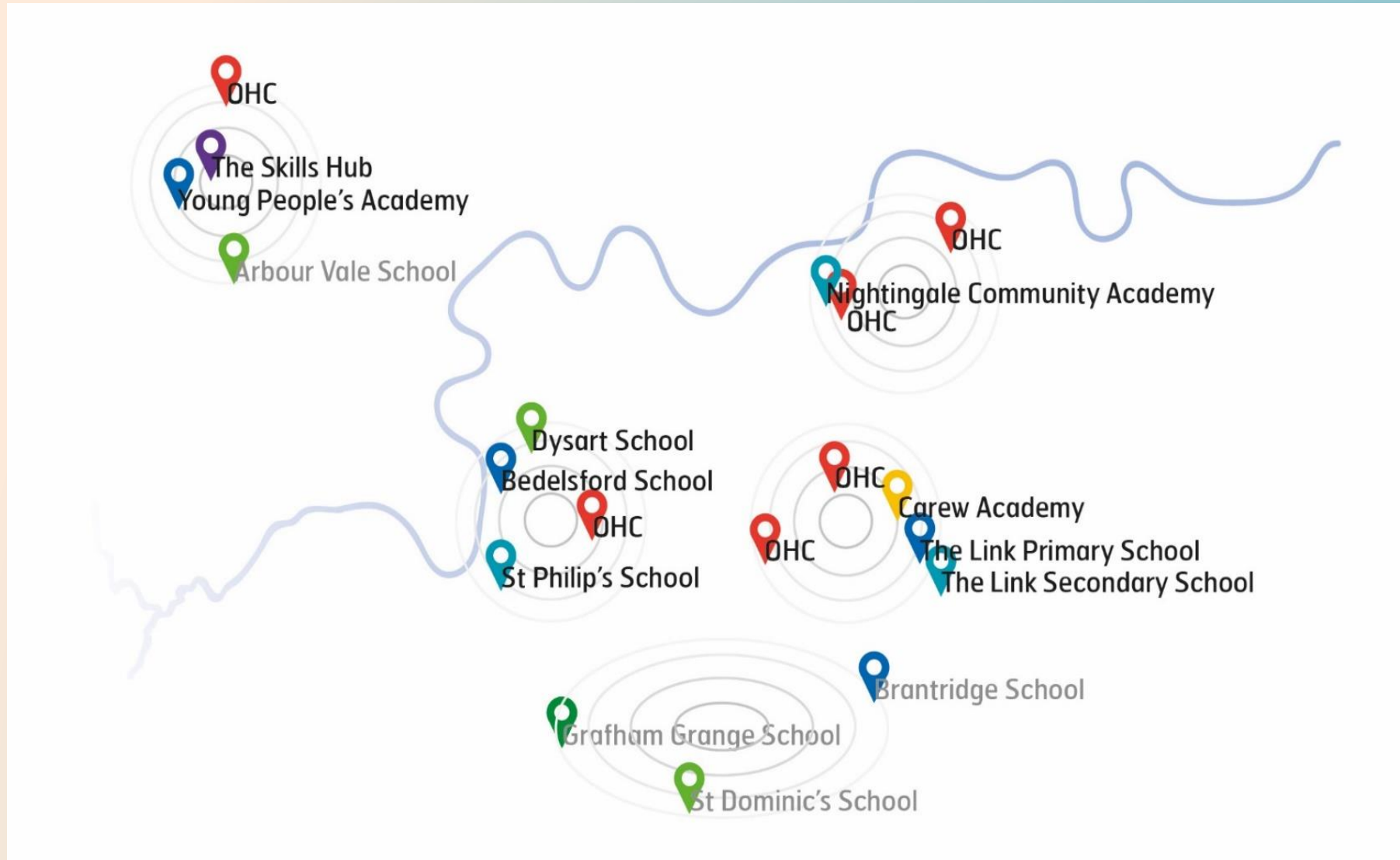
SEND Futures Conference

RBK & LBR: 3rd July 2018

Transition to adulthood and lessons from other Local Authorities

John Prior
Executive Headteacher/Deputy CEO
Orchard Hill College & Academy Trust

OHC&AT Locations



Range of SEN pupils and students in OHC&AT

Additional needs

Mental health

Behaviour

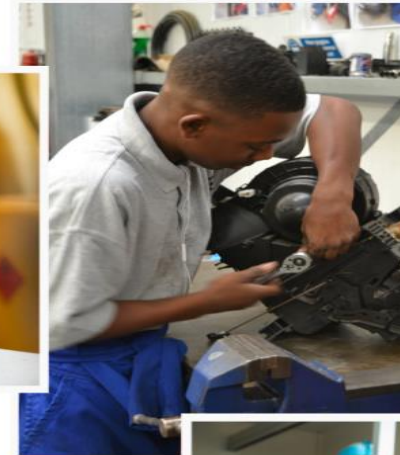
Attention Deficit
Hyperactivity Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Medical/Physical

Speech, language and
communication needs

Visual/hearing impairment



Profound and
Multiple
Learning
Difficulties

Severe
Learning
Difficulties

Moderate
Learning
Difficulties

Social, Emotional
and
Mental Health

Speech and
Language
Difficulties

Alternative
Provision

Cohort categories



What do we mean by 'good outcomes'?

Code of Practice (2015):

- **Higher education and/or employment** – including exploring different employment options, such as support for becoming self-employed and help from supported employment agencies
- **Independent living** – enabling people to have choice and control over their lives and the support they receive, their accommodation and living arrangements, including supported living
- **Participating in society** – including having friends and supportive relationships, and participating in, and contributing to, the local community
- **Being as healthy** as possible in adult life

What does this mean for schools and colleges in terms of accountability and Ofsted?

What's important? A few...

- The importance of partnerships –
 - *Avoiding the cliff-edge*
 - *Compliance - 'must this' and 'must that'*
 - *Person vs Process – proactive pathway planning*
 - *Not just Education, Health and Social Care*
- Engagement with families
- Self-advocacy
 - *Avoiding tokenism – 'the ascertainable voice of the child'*
- Training and development
 - *Maintaining high expectations – Orchard Hill: 'at least one life-changing outcome per year'*
 - *Understanding co-morbidity*
 - *H&S and wellbeing*
- Starting early (not just from Y9)
 - *Independent careers guidance – what does 'careers' mean?*
- Reducing NEET rates
 - *At what point does this become 'less' important?*

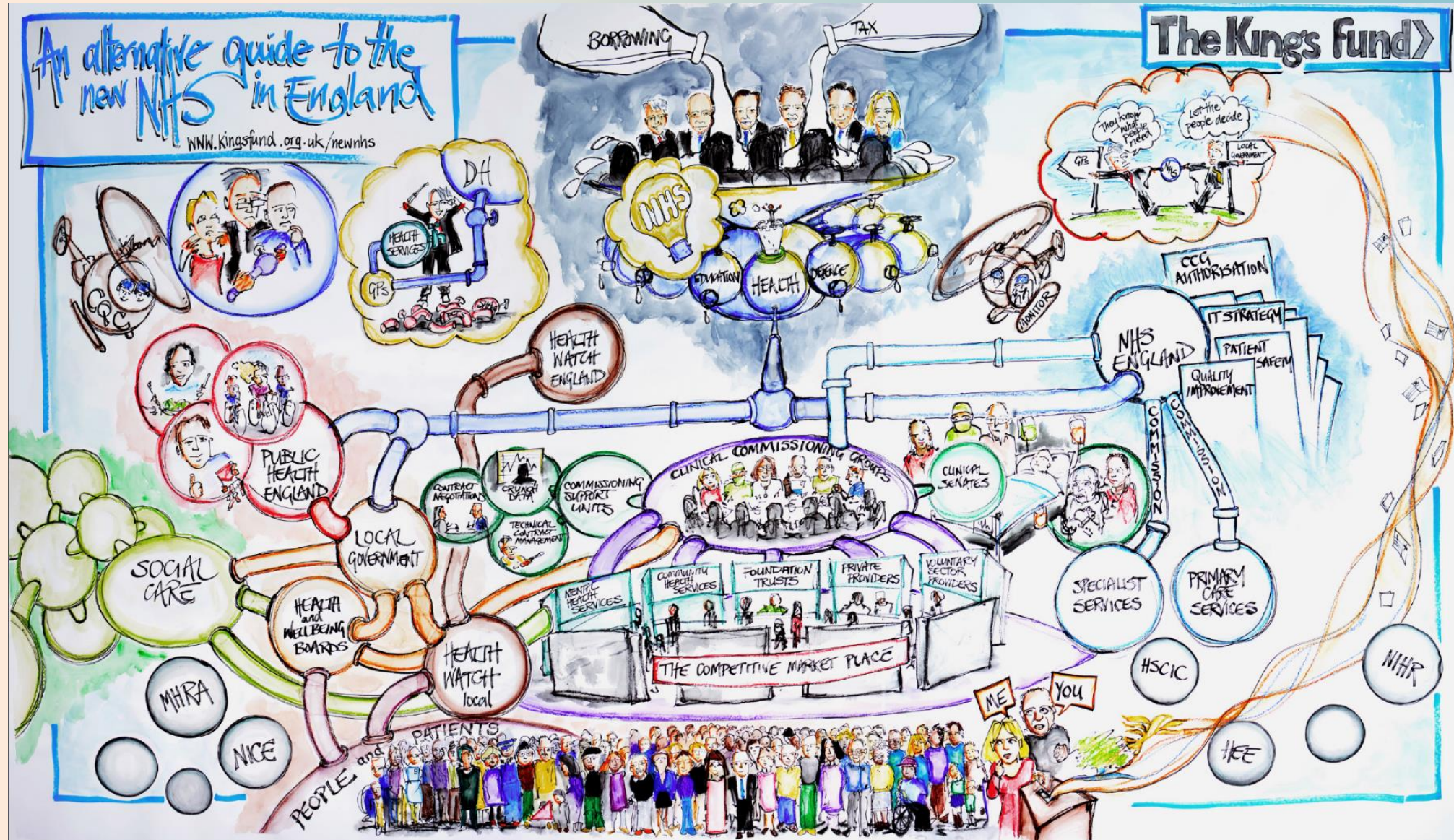
(some) issues and challenges

- Competing financial pressures
 - What gives way?
 - Managing economies of scale
 - Spend to save versus lack of investment
- Is there enough provision?
 - Is there enough *appropriate* provision?
 - Is there enough 'affordable' provision?
 - Delivering on the CoP aspirations locally: *preparing for and finding employment, finding somewhere to live, and participating in the community*. What is meant by 'community'? Who decides?
 - How to minimise transitions
- Building the workforce
 - Recruitment and retention, consistency
 - Reducing turnover and preserving high quality delivery
- Political upheaval and legislative volatility
- Broader societal attitudes towards disability, especially in more straitened times

Commissioning for adulthood



Joint commissioning - not hard?



(some) common challenges across all LAs

In no order...

- Cumulative fiscal pressure for LAs and local government
- Staff turnover and 'leech' of expertise
 - Increasingly 'relationship dependent'
- Need to be reactive impairs ability for longer term strategic planning
- Demographic change and growth
- Political uncertainty, locally and nationally
- Commissioners are also funders
- Dilution of Local Offer puts collaboration and effective communication at risk

What RBK & LBR is doing well...

- Comparatively stable leadership (officers)
 - *Supports relationship building*
 - *Deepens understanding of local context*
 - *Ability to foresee challenges and respond proactively*
- Student and stakeholder focused
 - *And also solution-focused*
- Flexible and collaborative mindset – not driven by ideology and dogma
 - *OHC&AT: 'we don't mind how it works for our students - as long as it works'*
- Supporting successful provision to develop and grow and be part of the wider SEND strategy
- And, ultimately, a great sense of optimism