

Intervention Systems Mapping: An EIF Tool to facilitate service improvement

The Intervention Systems Mapping tool is designed to help local areas to use evidence to strengthen early intervention pathways that support children and families during maternity and the early years. In particular the tool:

- Develops a shared local understanding of current interventions, including what they are intended to achieve, who they are for, how they are currently operating, and whether they are supported by evidence.
- Supports partnership working by mapping out interventions that target the same outcome for different groups in pathways. This can lead to the identification of gaps in current provision of maternity and early years services.
- Helps local areas to establish where there is a case for change and provides tangible advice on steps to improve the local provision of maternity & early years interventions that work for children and families.

How does Intervention Systems Mapping help?

The Early Intervention Foundation champions and supports the use of effective early intervention to improve the lives of children and young people at risk of experiencing poor outcomes. Effective early intervention actively strengthens protective factors and targets threats to a child's physical, cognitive, behavioural, and social and emotional development before problems materialise or get worse.

Intervention Systems Mapping supports local areas in reflecting on what knowledge is available about the effectiveness of individual interventions, and whether they combine to make a comprehensive early intervention system that helps to prevent negative long-term outcomes and enhance children's future health and life chances.

Contributing to local planning

Intervention Systems Mapping is for local areas that want to improve service delivery across their local maternity and early years system. Using the tool will help local leaders and commissioners to make informed decisions on priorities for improvement and resource allocation. It also guides local arrangements for data collection, monitoring, and evaluation.

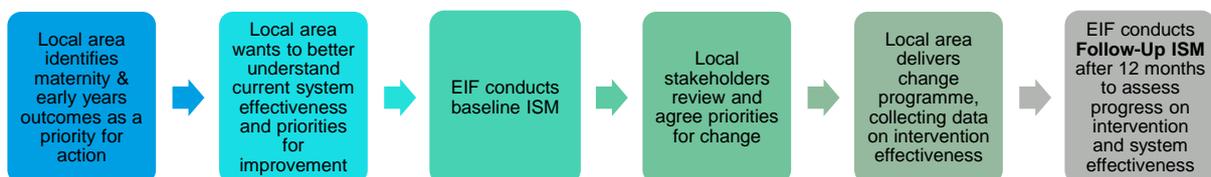


Fig. 1

What to expect

Intervention Systems Mapping consists of three parts:

- 1. Pathways analysis.**

This maps out current service provision and highlights any gaps, if applicable. Evidence-based interventions that may be suitable to fill such gaps are identified.

- 2. Intervention analyses.**

Each intervention analysis assesses the theoretical, evidence, monitoring and evaluation strengths and gaps for individual interventions. An intervention analysis looks at existing evidence of impact (or lack thereof) but does not assess efficacy. Each analysis offers advice which aspects might benefit from a careful revision, to ensure interventions are set up and monitored in a way that allows local areas to understand whether the intervention works.

- 3. Intervention cost analysis.**

Considering the cost analysis alongside the results from the pathways and intervention analyses can facilitate conversations about assumptions around the value for money. This third section can help local areas to prioritise the possible starting points for improvement identified in the pathway and intervention