Young Futures Hubs in the North East – their promise and potential pitfalls

Luke Billingham

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Northumbria University NEWCASTLE

Safer Children Network North East

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1. Intro
2. Wider context: “Four Is”
3. YF Hubs – what we know so far
4. Potential for YF Hubs in the NE
5. YF Hubs – our hopes & concerns
6. Locally co-designing YF Hubs


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STUDIES IN SOCIAL HARM



AGAINST YOUTH VIOLENCE

A Social Harm Perspective

LUKE BILLINGHAM AND KEIR IRWIN-ROGERS

A Radical Journal of Geography

ANTIPODE

Sports Cages as Social Infrastructure: Sociality, Context, and Contest in Hackney's Cages

Luke Billingham

Social Policy & Criminology, The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK, luke.billingham@open.ac.uk

Fraser Curry

Department of International Development, King's College London, London, UK, fraser.curry@kcl.ac.uk

Stephen Crossley

Department of Sociology, Durham University, Durham, UK, stephen.j.crossley@durham.ac.uk

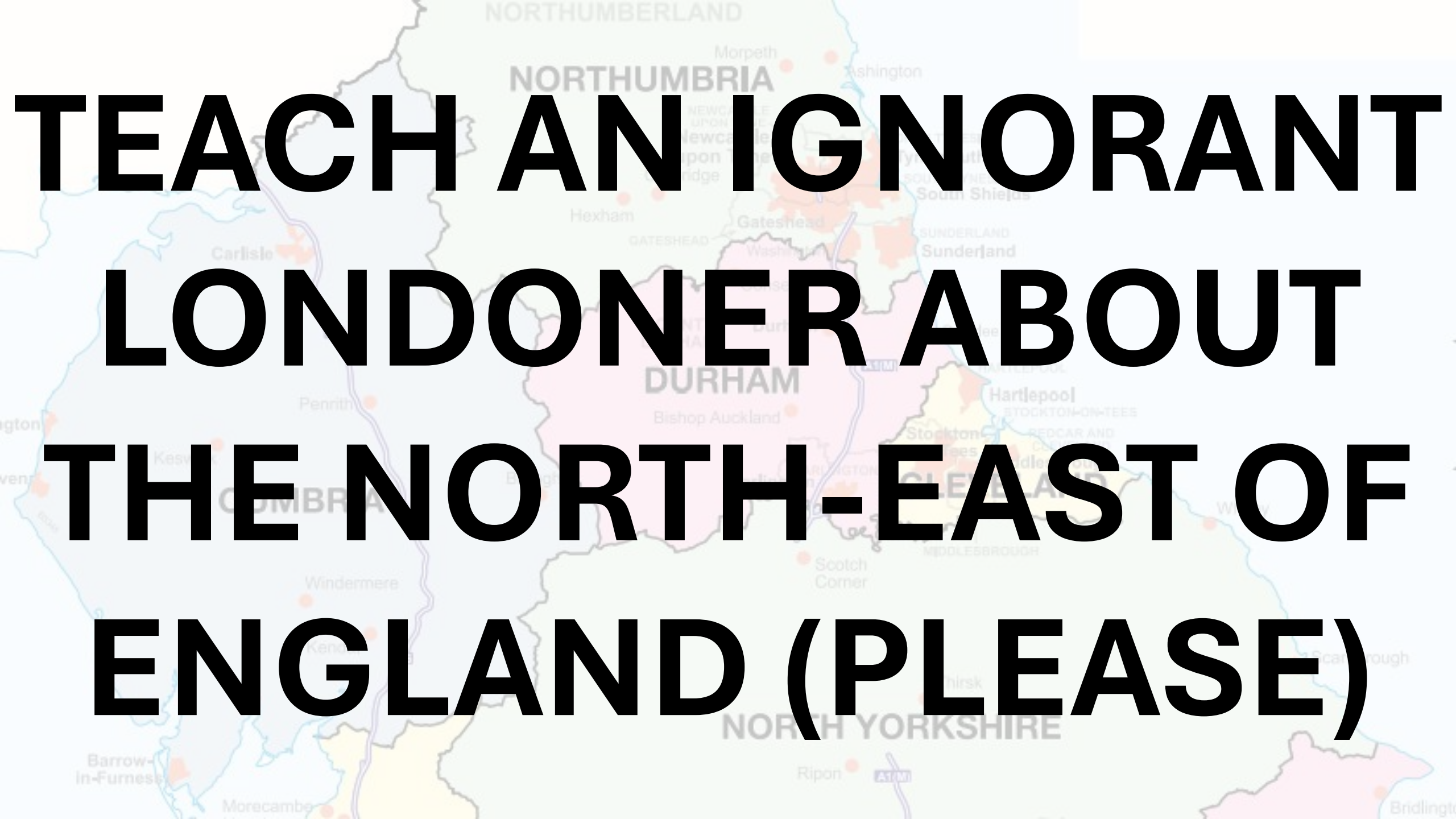
Work on YF Hubs...

Impact that lasts:

Ensuring Young Futures Hubs fulfil their potential

A blueprint for Young Futures hubs

Department for Education



TEACH AN IGNORANT LONDONER ABOUT THE NORTH-EAST OF ENGLAND (PLEASE)


NORTHUMBERLAND
NORTHUMBRIA
Morpeth
Ashington
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
Newcastle upon Tyne
NORTH TYNESIDE
Tynemouth
SOUTH TYNESIDE
South Shields
Corbridge
Hexham
Gateshead
GATESHEAD
SUNDERLAND
Sunderland
Consett
Carlisle
COUNTY DURHAM
Durham
Peterlee
DURHAM
A1(M)
HARTLEPOOL
Hartlepool
Penrith
Bishop Auckland
STOCKTON-ON-TEES
Stockton-on-Tees
REDCAR AND CLEVELAND
Middlesbrough
Keswick
Brough
DARLINGTON
Darlington
CLEVELAND
CUMBRIA
Whitby
MIDDLESBROUGH
Scotch Corner
Windermere
Kendal
M6
Scarborough
Thirsk
NORTH YORKSHIRE
Barrow-in-Furness
Ripon
A1(M)
Morecambe





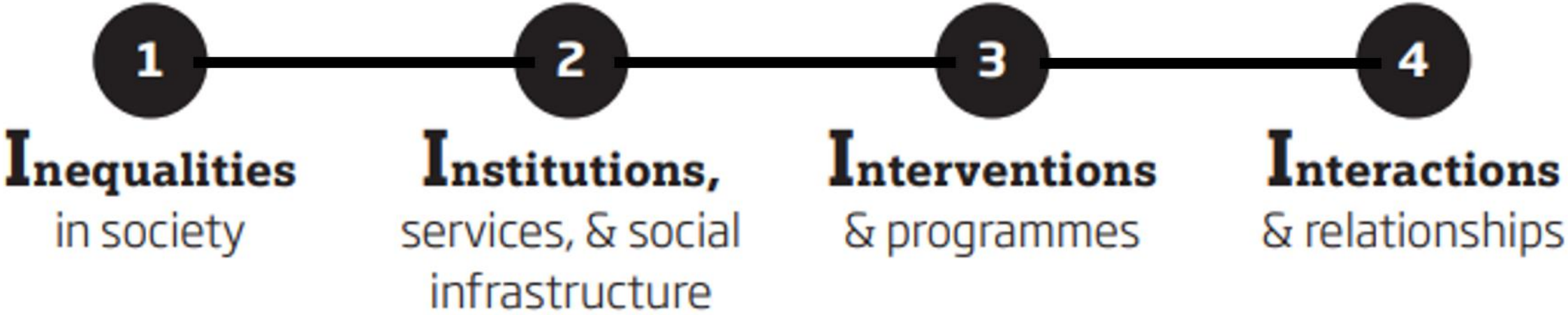


DIFFERENT TEAM

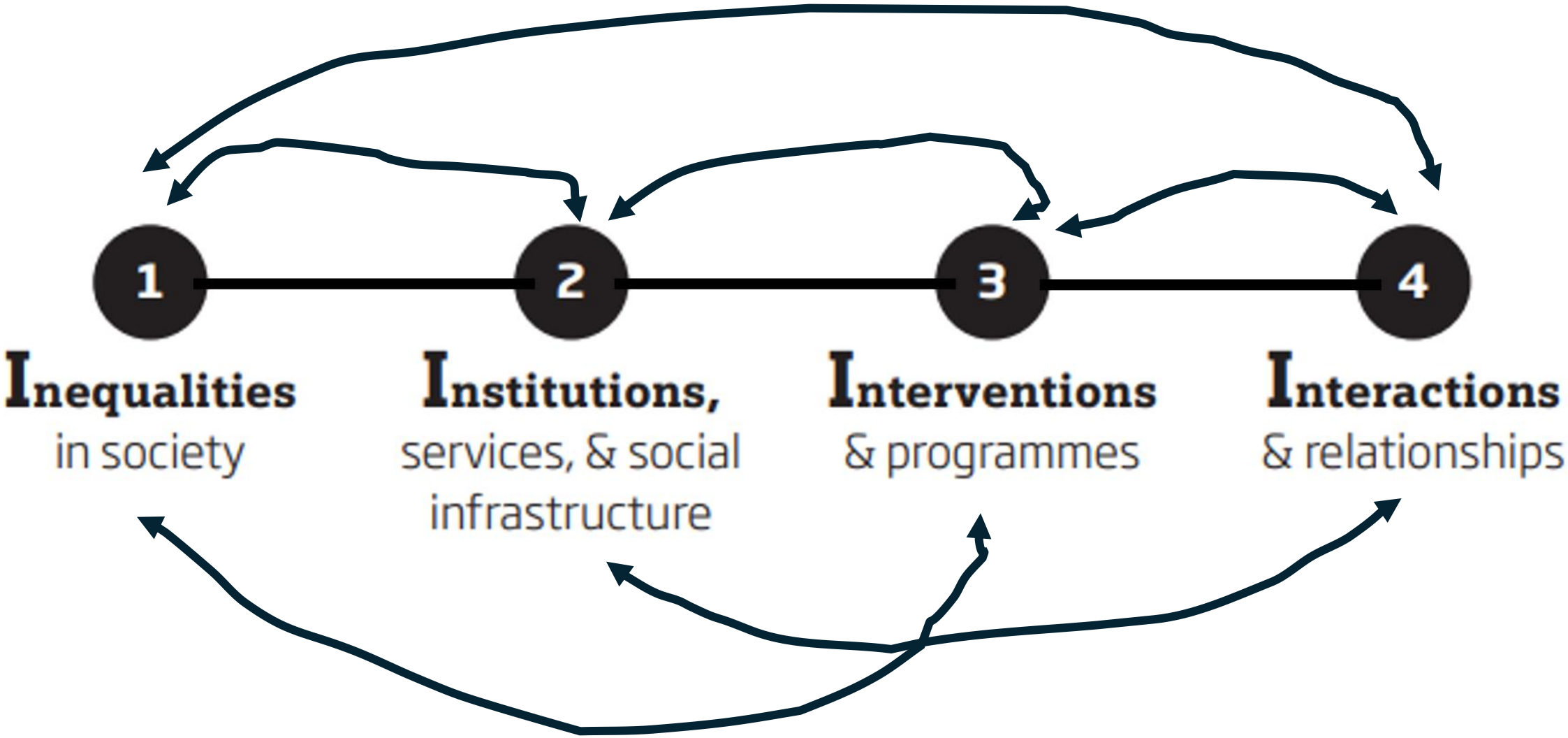
FOOTBALL MEANS NOTHING TO ME

Wider context: The “Four Is”

What needs to change to make life better for Britain’s children and young people?



Wider context: The “Four Is”

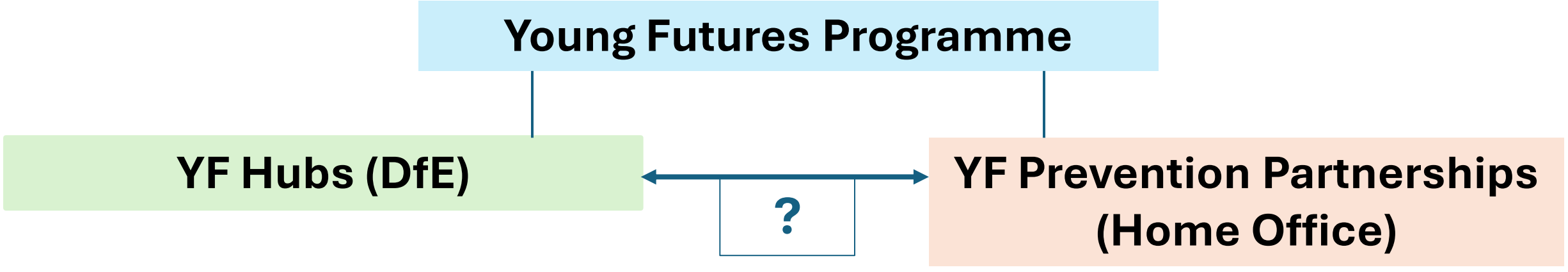


Young Future Hubs – what we know so far

Young Future Hubs – what we know so far

Manifesto pledges

- "Labour will intervene earlier to stop young people being drawn into crime, creating a new Young Futures Programme with a network of hubs reaching every community"
- "Labour's new Young Futures hubs will provide open access mental health services for children and young people in every community"
- "We will create local prevention partnerships that will identify young people who could be drawn into violence and intervene"



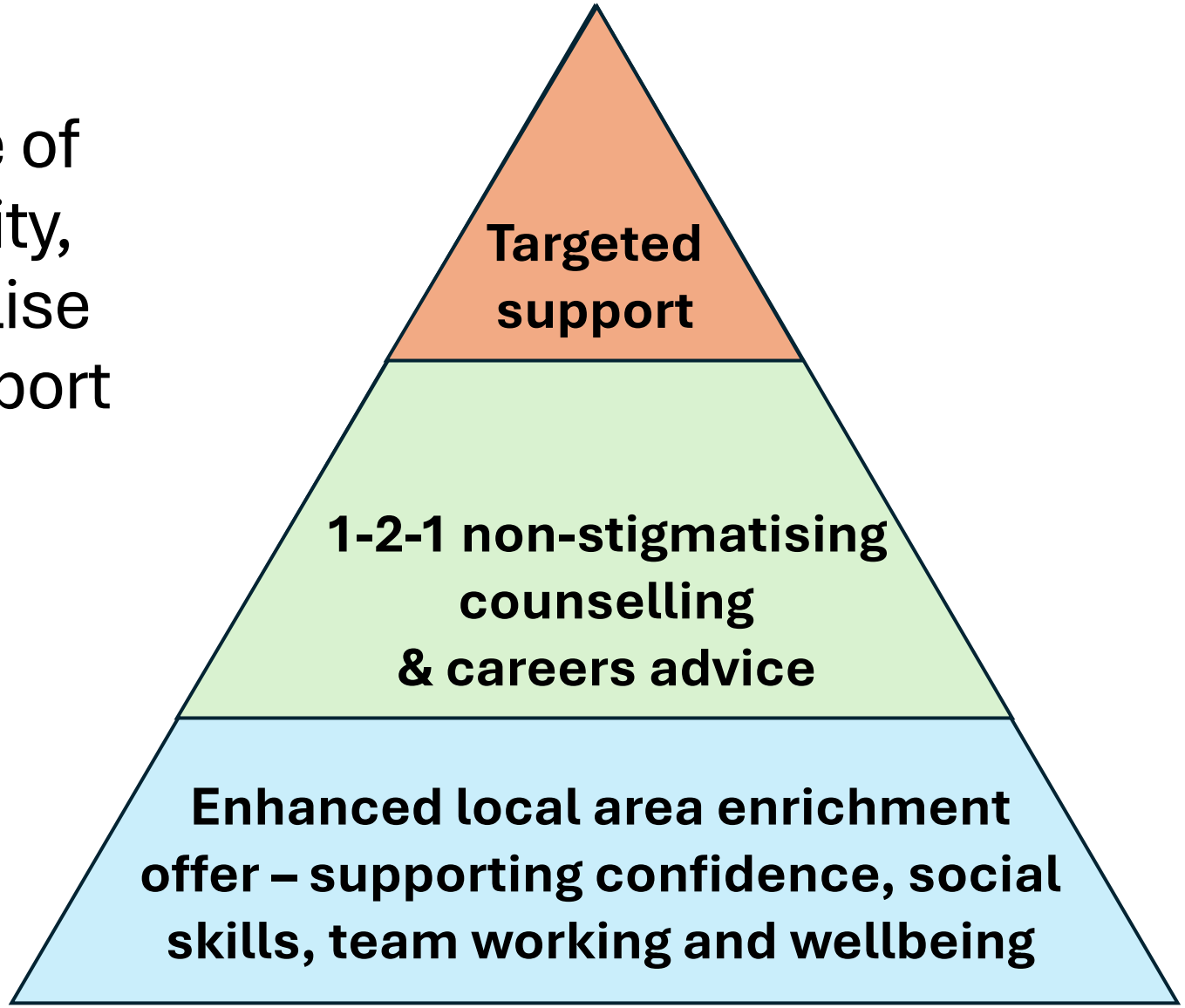
Young Future Hubs – what we know so far

Key aims: Young Futures Hubs will (1) reduce crime, (2) improve mental health and (3) support development opportunities (inc. careers)

- Delivered by/through Local Authorities
- No capital funding – so LAs need to use existing spaces
- "Open access with some targeted support"
- Core age range of 10-18
- Tailored to local need, co-designed around existing provision
- A few "early adopter" YF Hubs to open in 2025/6 "where there are high rates of anti-social behaviour and knife crime"
- Workforce will be youth workers, mental health staff, careers specialists
- Further details (inc. extent and longevity of funding) depends on (a) Spending Review in June; (b) National Youth Strategy

Young Future Hubs – what we know so far

"Young people have a range of needs that vary in complexity, and change. We conceptualise hubs as providing tiered support to meet these."



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Young Futures Hubs in the North East

What might/should these look like?

The North East of England

- Three police force areas
- Two VRU (Northumbria, Cleveland)

Fourteen Local/Unitary Authority Areas

- County Durham
- Cumberland
- Darlington
- Gateshead
- Hartlepool
- Middlesbrough
- Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- North Tyneside
- Northumberland
- Redcar and Cleveland
- South Tyneside
- Stockton-on-Tees
- Sunderland
- Westmorland and Furness

However, SYV/CCE and young people's experiences do not always align neatly with professional or geographical boundaries



The North EAST PICTURE

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	North East England	All England
Percentage of constituencies where at least 25% of children are in poverty	89%	66%
Employment rate	73%	76%
GCSEs in English and Maths	75%	78%
Obesity prevalence	32%	26%
Economically inactive due to long term sickness	31%	24%
Female/Male Healthy Life expectancy	58/57	62/62
Children in care rate per 10,000 children under 18 years	113	71

Department for Education (2023) data

	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	North Tyneside	Gateshead	Northumberland	Durham	Stockton-on-Tees	Middlesbrough	ALL ENGLAND
Number of pupils	14606	12220	11531	19193	31391	12357	9484	**3165037**
Number of children cautioned or sentenced for an offence	965 (7%)	560 (5%)	555 (5%)	791 (4%)	1346 (4%)	760 (6%)	640 (7%)	**128277 (4%)**
Number of children cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence	263 (2%)	126 (1%)	127 (1%)	155 (1%)	315 (1%)	132 (1%)	97 (1%)	**34118 (1%)**
Suspended from school	16%	12%	14%	13%	14%	15%	22%	**14%**
Free school meals	49%	36%	39%	31%	40%	36%	53%	**35%**
Children in need	12%	10%	12%	18%	12%	14%	15%	**11%**

Young Future Hubs – our hopes & concerns

HOPES – How could YF Hubs work best? Which existing provision could this enhance?

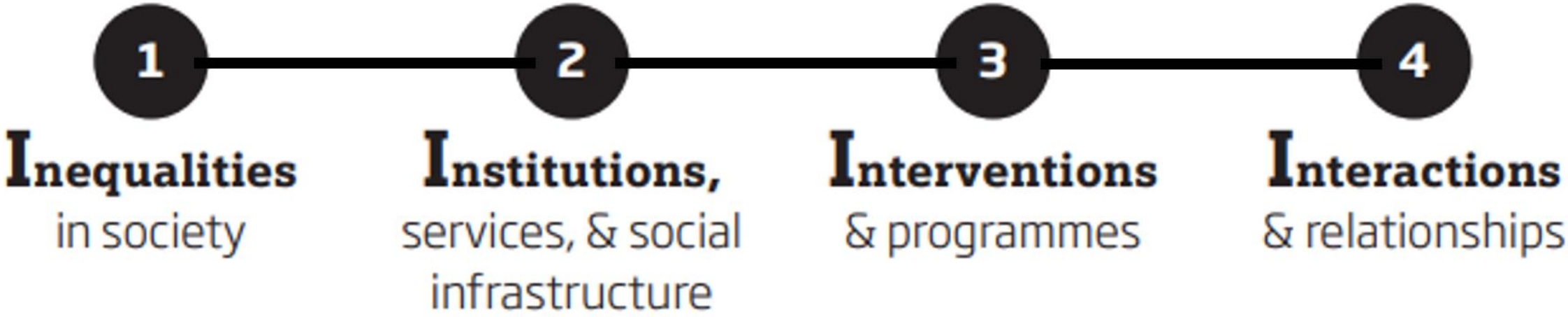
CONCERNS – What could go wrong with YF Hubs? What are the major risks?

QUESTIONS – Anything very significant seem unclear? (I can go back to DfE with these)

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My hopes for YF Hubs – Addressing the “Four Is”



My hopes for YF Hubs – “LASTS” principles

1. **Long-term:** Hubs should pursue long-term, collaborative, community-level impact.
2. **Area-based:** Hubs should be contextualised to meet local needs & localised in their commissioning, design & delivery.
3. **Shaped by youth voice:** Hubs must be guided by the voices of local young people.
4. **Tailored to relational working:** Hubs should provide conducive conditions for relational practice and cultural humility.
5. **Social infrastructure:** Hubs should become youth social infrastructure.

Sector hopes and concerns for YF Hubs

Hopes re YF Hubs

- Re-investment in young people & provision; positive messaging about young people
- Inter-departmental working and long-term missions
- Preventative focus
- Youth strategy
- Recognising value of existing local VCS provision
- Complementary with other hub initiatives (incl. DHSC ‘early support hubs’)

Concerns re YF Hubs

- Tensions between crime reduction, mental health and careers focuses
- “One size fits all” hubs vs. relabelling existing spaces without additional funding
- Time for design, development, ‘bedding in’ vs. fast-paced ‘piloting’ with short-term evaluation
- Connection with prevention partnerships? Stigmatising/labelling? Duplicating YOTs?

Locally co-designing Young Futures Hubs

Locally co-designing YF Hubs

A potential approach to local co-design…

- Funding for **initial design phase**, to last 6-12 months
- **Local design team** could consist of 50% young people, joined by youth professionals, commissioners, strategic leaders
- Supported by **external expertise** as needed
- Build upon (rather than duplicate) **existing research and data**
- Undertake stakeholder analysis to determine **co-design participants**
- Undertake a range of **co-design activities** with local young people and other participants
- Submit (5-year?) **plan** for Young Futures provision in neighbourhood

Locally co-designing YF Hubs in the North-East

1. Who would be in the **‘core team’** of people who would lead the whole co-design process, and be responsible for producing proposals?

2. What **sources of existing info** should feed into the co-design process, so that it doesn’t just duplicate previous processes or existing local understanding?

3. Who would **participate** in co-design activities to help shape the plans for the YF Hubs?

4. Which **co-design activities** do you think could work well?

5. What could **go wrong** through the course of the co-design process? Are there ways to **mitigate** those risks?