

Ten years to unite the children's workforce?

13th October 2026

CENTRE FOR THE
CHILDREN'S
WORKFORCE

What brought you to this session this afternoon?

Why the children's workforce?

The children's workforce
is “hiding in plain sight”

Who has the most
under-recognised impact on
children and families?

1. A stronger shared story
2. New professional pathways
3. Cross-sector learning & innovation



CENTRE FOR THE CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE

The Children's Workforce Map

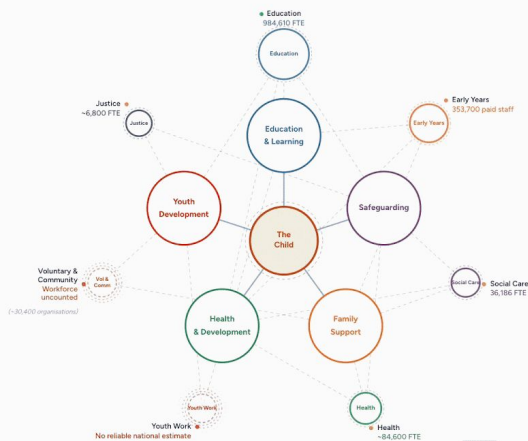
A national picture of who works with children and young people in England — how sectors connect through the functions they serve, at what scale, and where the evidence is strong, partial, or absent.



Connected system Sector overview Local snapshot Data gaps Method statement

Children are not served by services and sectors in isolation — they are served by the system around them. The diagram below organises the workforce by what it does for children. Five functional groupings show how roles from across different sectors work together. The inner ring shows these functions; the outer ring shows the seven sectors that contribute to them; the lines between show the places these sectors meet as a connected system.

Select any function in the inner ring to see which sectors contribute to it. Hover over any outer sector circle to see its workforce figures. Hover over a connecting line to see how that sector and function relate for children. [How to explore the map](#)



- Education & Learning** Partial
 - Education
 - Early Years
 - Youth Work
- Safeguarding** Partial
 - Social Care
 - Health
 - Justice
 - Education
- Family Support** Weak
 - Early Years
 - Social Care
 - Vol & Comm
 - Health
- Health & Development** Partial
 - Health
 - Early Years
 - Social Care
 - Education
- Youth Development** Weak
 - Youth Work
 - Vol & Comm
 - Justice
 - Education

1. A national picture with local application.
2. Education dominates the national picture.
3. Much of the connective tissue is invisible.

Great schools are
“necessary but not
sufficient”

Thinking about *coherent*
care and support for babies,
children, and young people in
a place....

Thinking about coherent care and support for babies, children and young people in a place...

2026

1. What are the defining features of current 'business as usual'?

2036

2. What of what's happening now do we need to sustain?

Thinking about coherent care and support for babies, children and young people in a place...

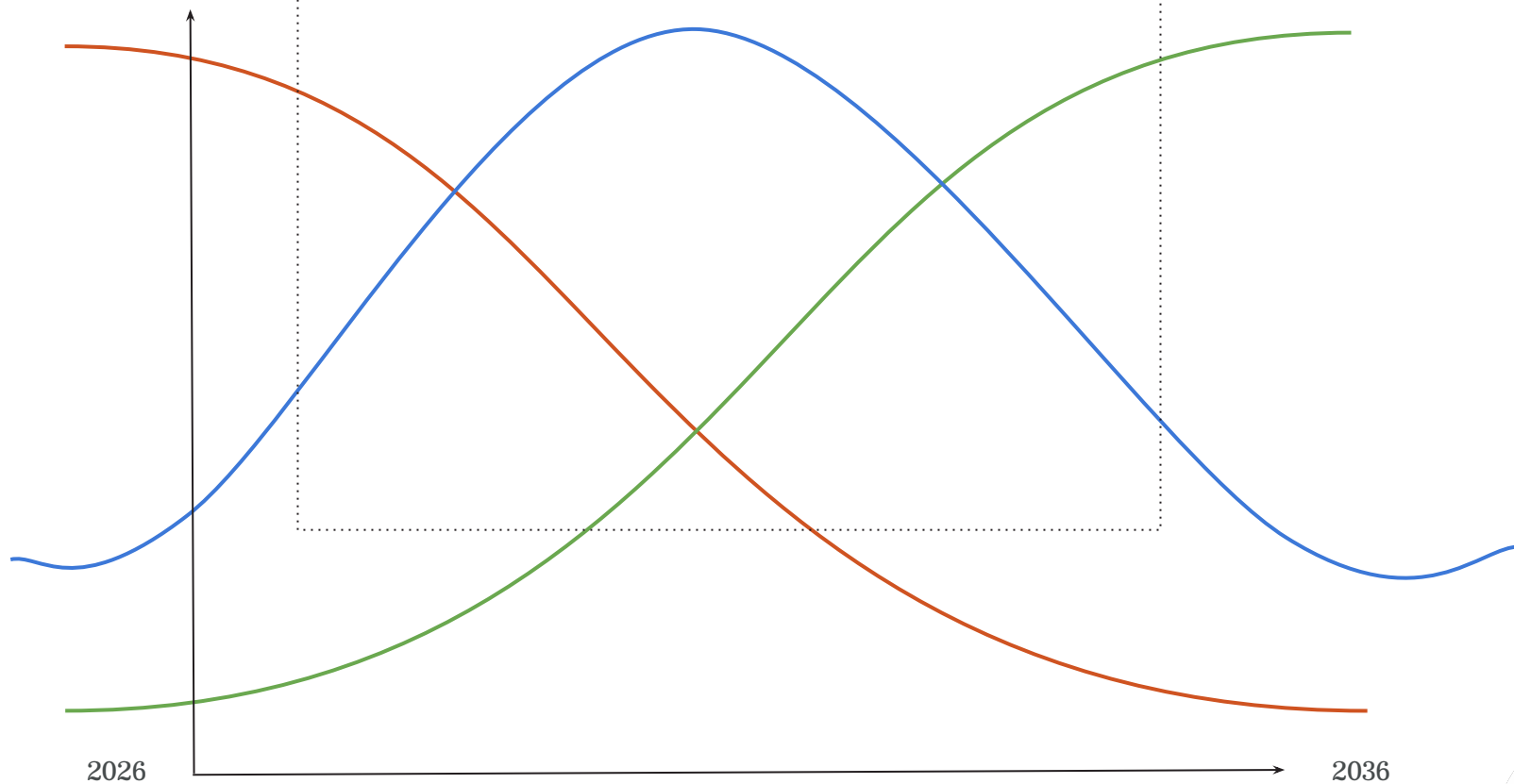
3. What is the future we'd like to bring about?

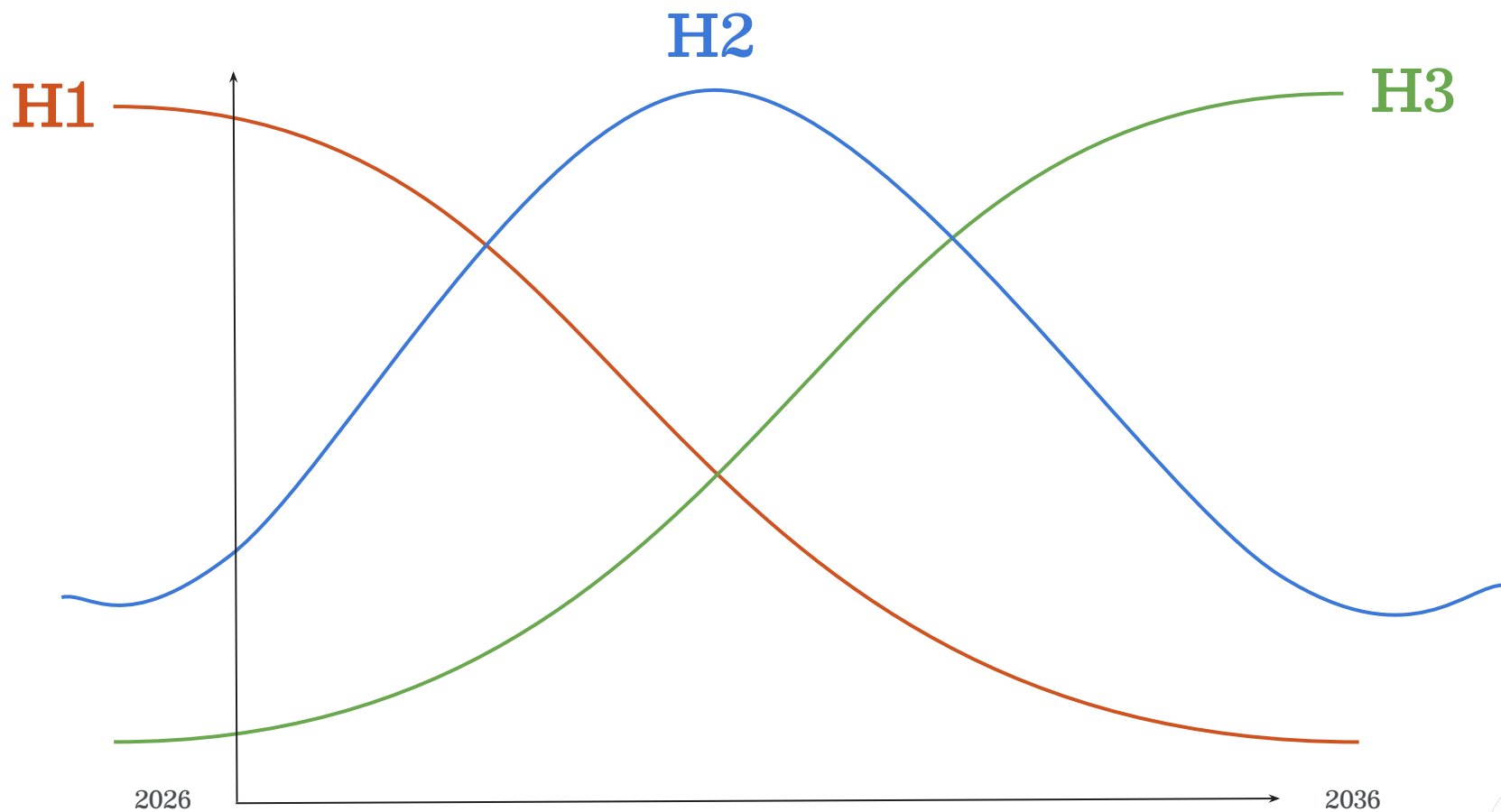
2036

2026

4. Are there any examples of this future in the present?

5. What do you think is the biggest opportunity to move from business as usual to the future you described?





In 2026, the systems around
children and young people were
defined by (H1)

But by building on things like (H3),
and investing in (H2), we now have
a system which is...(H3)

Thank you for joining us today.

Find out more about the Centre:
childrensworkforce.org.uk

Our map of the children's workforce in
England: **childrensworkforce.org.uk/map**

Receive the summary and continue the
conversation:

Finally, if you want to get in touch with Ned
or Beck, you can find us on
ned@childrensworkforce.org.uk and
beck@childrensworkforce.org.uk

