

The match between needs and services in the UK

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Overview

- Introduction to the study & method (5 mins)
- Results - the two circles diagram (5 mins)
- Implications for policy and practice (5 mins)

The Background

- Local Authorities in the UK are tasked with improving child outcomes.
- There is little data on the broad spectrum of needs experienced in local areas.
- It is generally hoped that targeted services are reaching those in need.

The Question

Do services get to the right children?



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The data tools

- Developed Children Count 9-16 Well-being survey instruments designed to measure the well-being of children at local level.
- Comprised of standardised and validated instruments
- Covers a wide range of key developmental outcomes and associated risks.



The Method

- Surveys administered to all children 9-15 in 3 Local Authorities in Scotland (n=26,100)
- Response rate = 86%
- Survey data is matched to existing service use data using unique IDs.

‘High Need’

Threshold of 5+ severe risks from:

- Poor engagement with school
- Substance misuse
- Likely Anxiety or depression
- Offending behaviour
- Hyperactivity or ADHD
- Bullying victimisation
- Poor family management
- Family conflict
- Interaction with antisocial peers
- Friends use of drugs
- Permissive parental attitudes to antisocial behaviour
- Permissive parental attitudes to substance use
- Overcrowded accommodation



Targeted Services

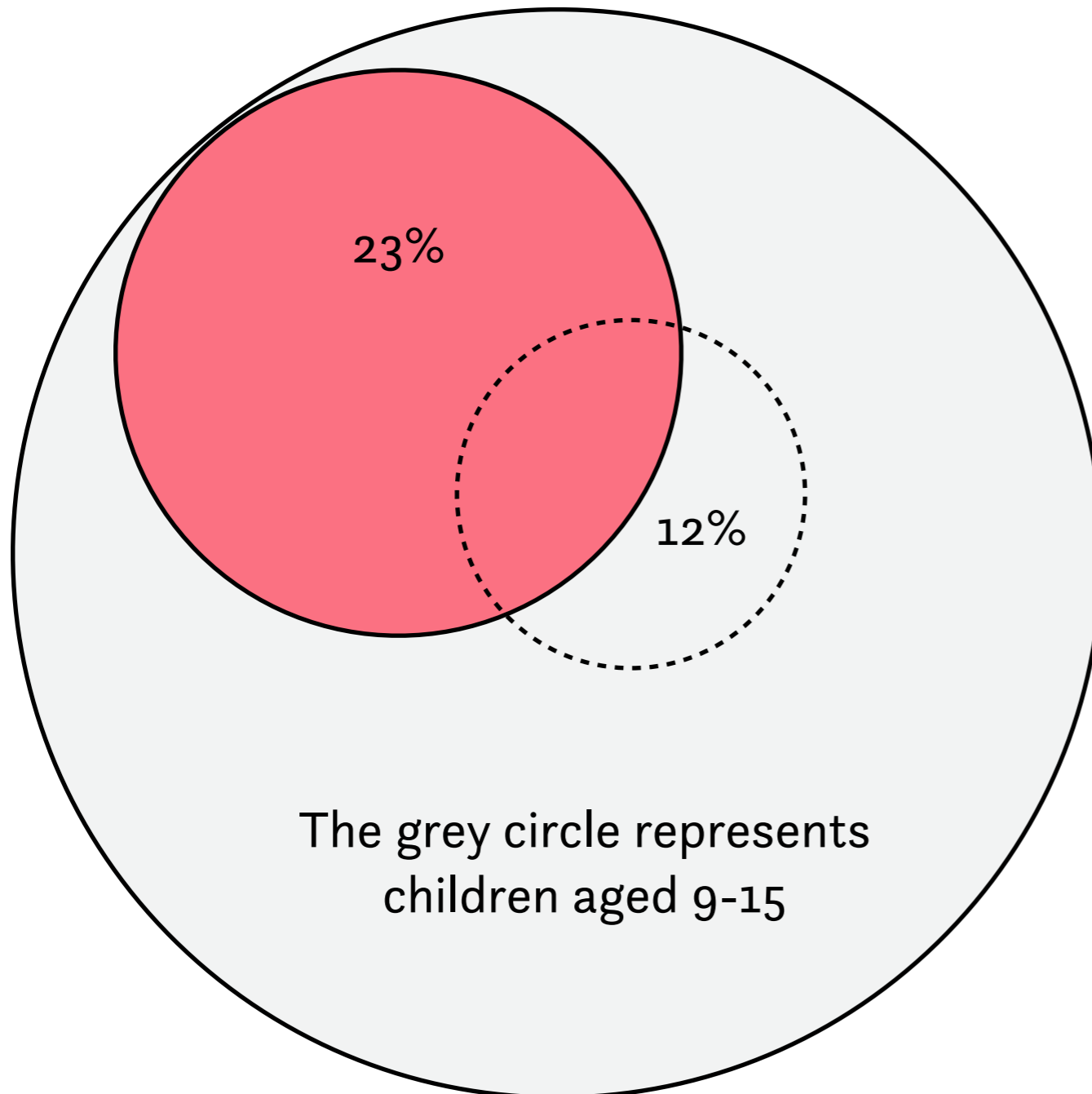
Provided via each Local Authority, generally covering:

- Social work services (e.g. being Looked After)
- Educational support (above monitoring)
- Youth Justice contact
- Mental Health (CAMHS)

Universal service provision is not counted!



Results



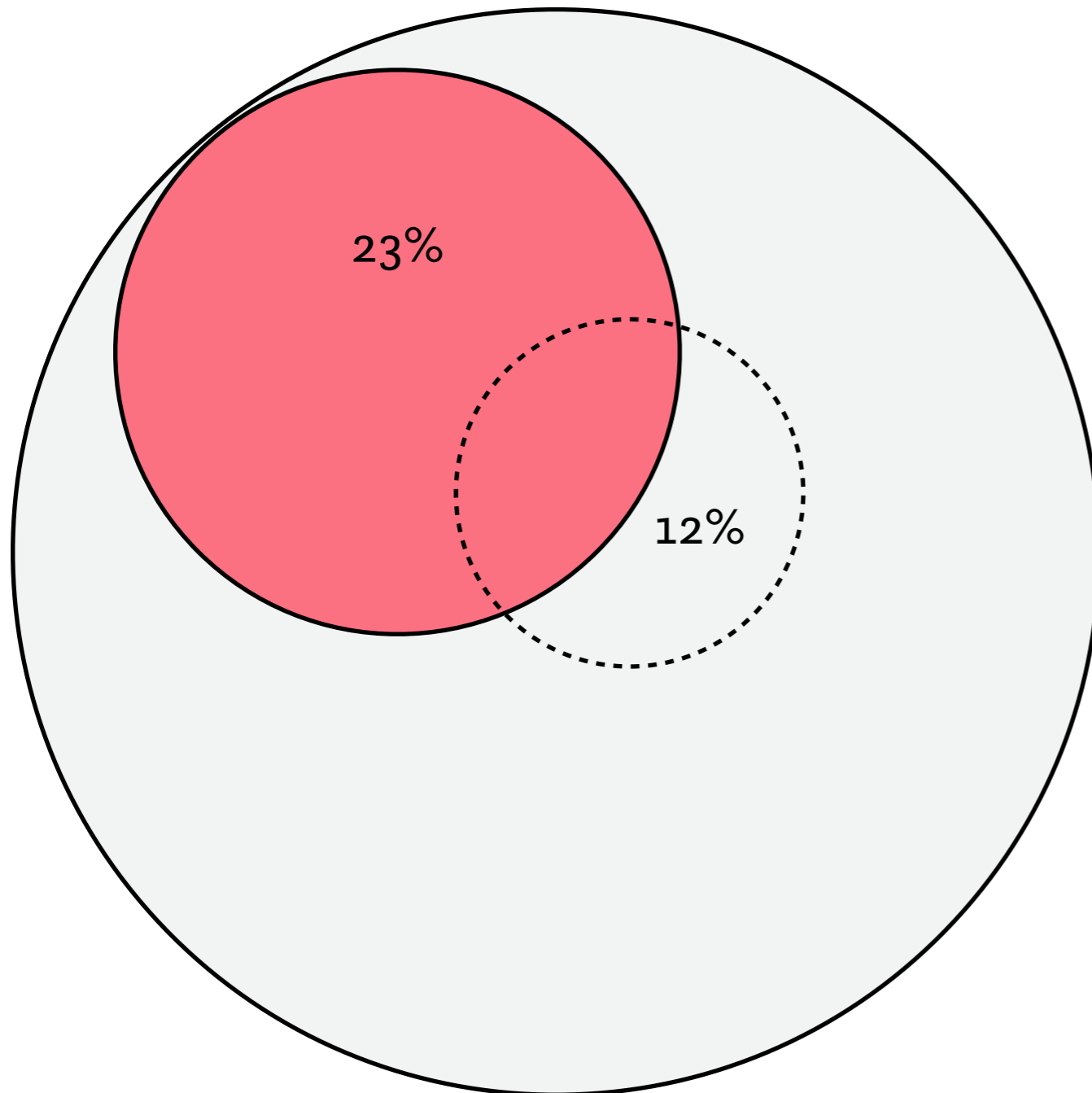
23% currently experiencing 'high need'.
(21% - 24%)

12% currently receiving targeted services.
(9% - 14%)

24% of 'high need' children receiving a targeted service.

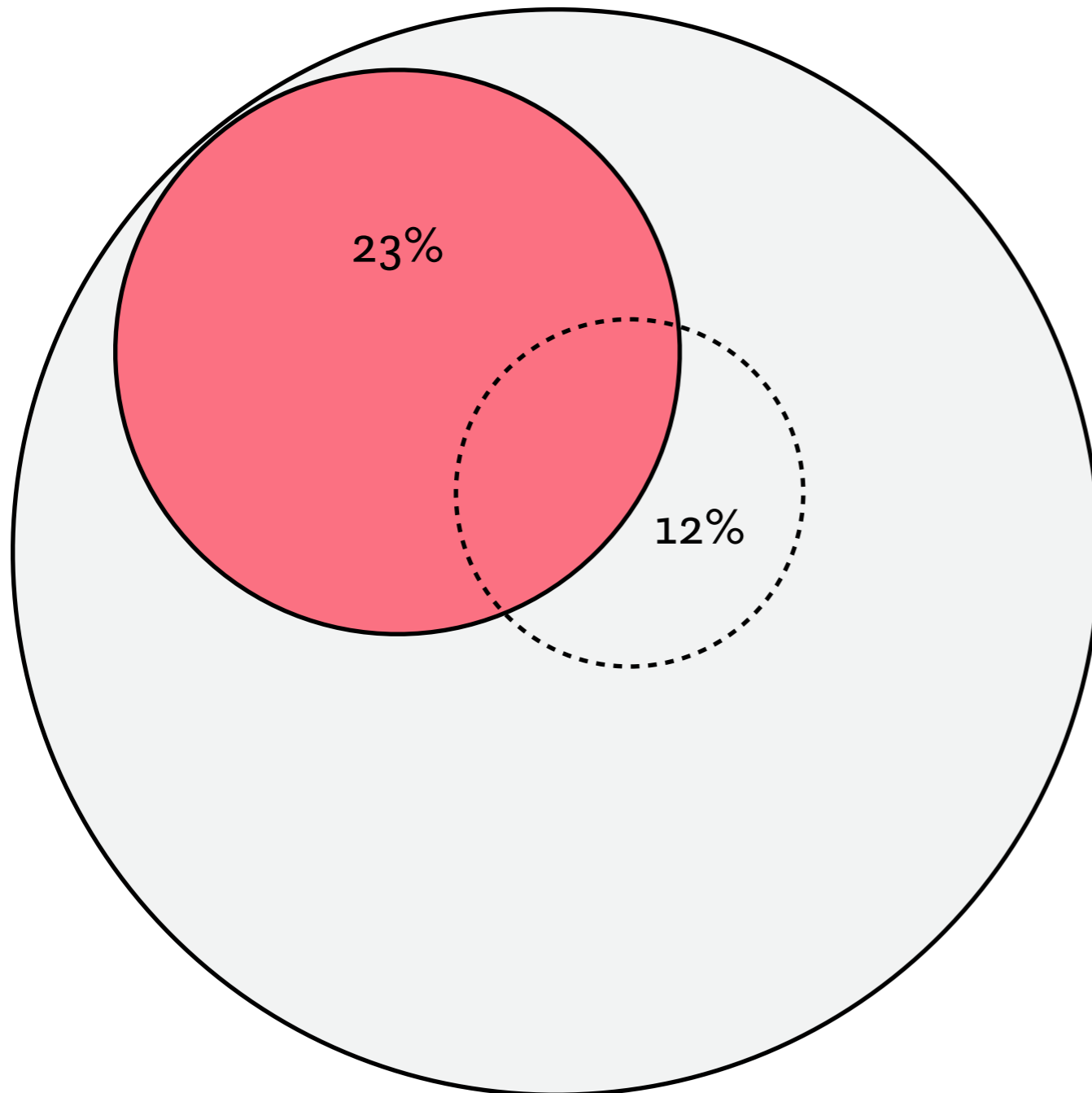
or 40% currently receiving targeted services are 'high need'.

Implications



1. Level of 'high need' is great and a cause for concern.
2. Existing services cannot be reasonably expected to meet this level of 'high need' (esp. in the current context).

What can be done?



1. Shrink the size of red circle
2. Extend reach of services.
3. Align existing services with need via more effective screening
4. Think beyond services to civil society

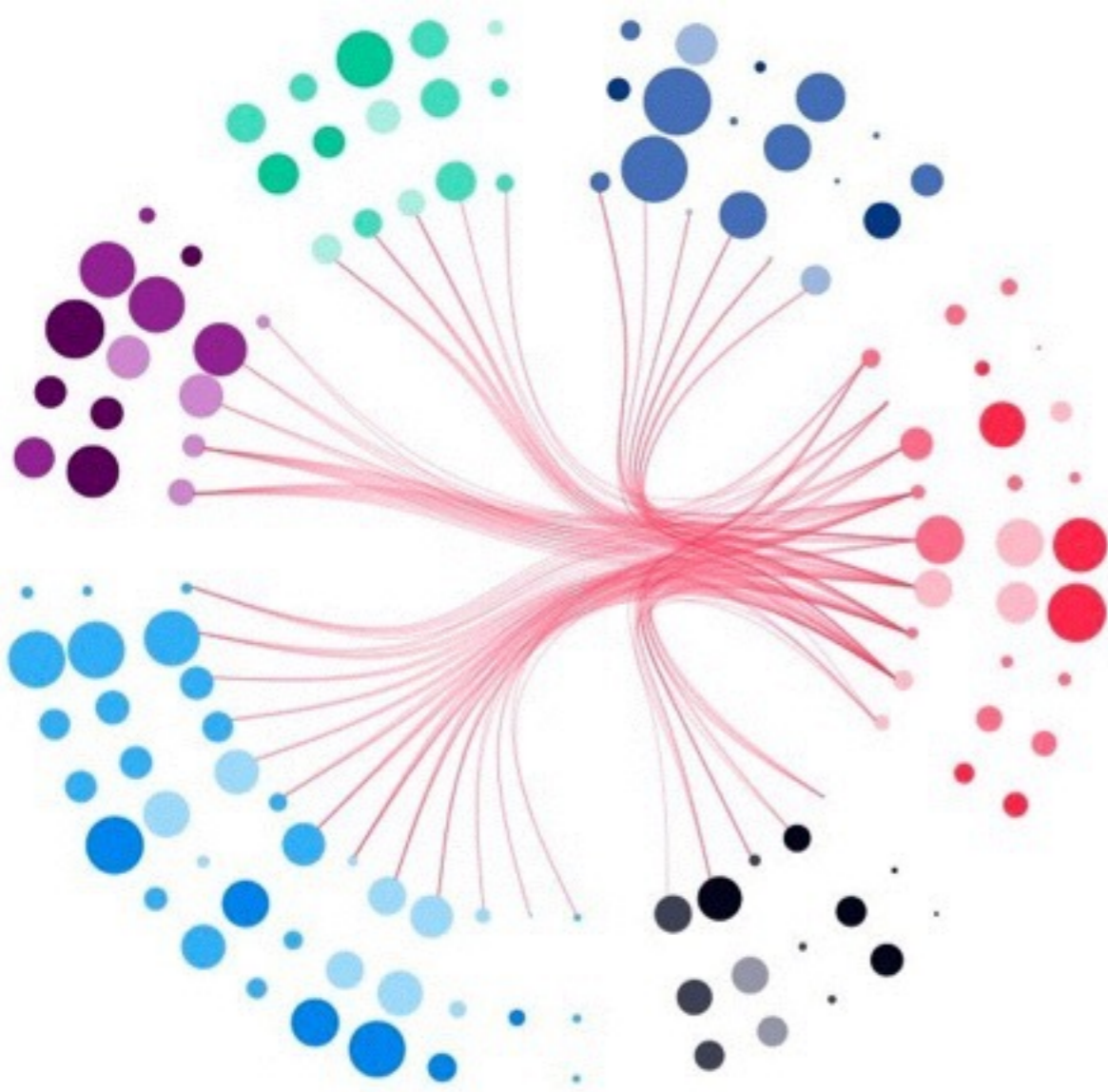
Want to see more?

Data Visualisation for engagement with research

Today at 11am Kramer 2b

and

Interactive data stand



Questions...

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