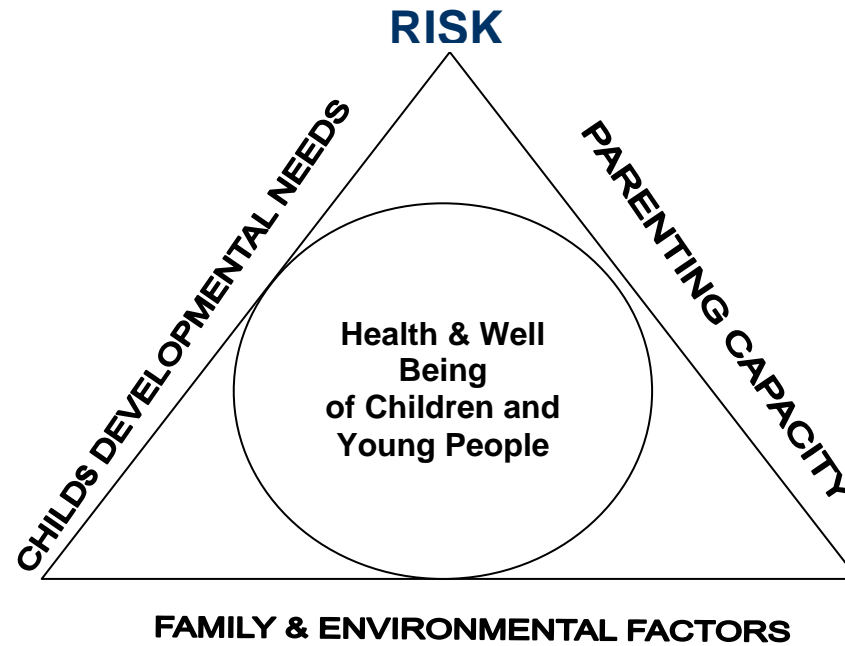




Risk and Protective Factors

The following risk and protective factors are based on long-standing research evidence. The protective interventions have been shown to alleviate some of the predicted negative outcomes for children by building resilience. If the risk factors are present in a family, and there are no corresponding protective factors, the evidence tells us that a high percentage of these children will have poor life outcomes (offending/mental ill health/repeat abuse-neglect as parents). It is important to have knowledge of the potential risks **and** the protective factors in a family, and also to remember that these are only **predictive** indicators: we do not fully understand why some children ‘escape’ the poor outcomes.

- Irritable/sleepless child
- Child with additional needs/specific learning disabilities including ASD, Aspergers, or ADHD
- Child with communication difficulties
- Poor school attendance & attainment
- Low self-esteem/self harming
- Defiant / angry child
- Child affected by bereavement



- Mother under 20 yrs at first pregnancy
- Parent with history of poor school attendance & attainment
- Parent formerly “Looked After”
- Parent misuses substance or alcohol
- Parent with mental health difficulties
- Poor attendance at health appointments (GP, midwife, health visitor, clinic)
- Domestic abuse
- Parent with learning difficulties
- Parent with physical disability
- Parent affected by bereavement

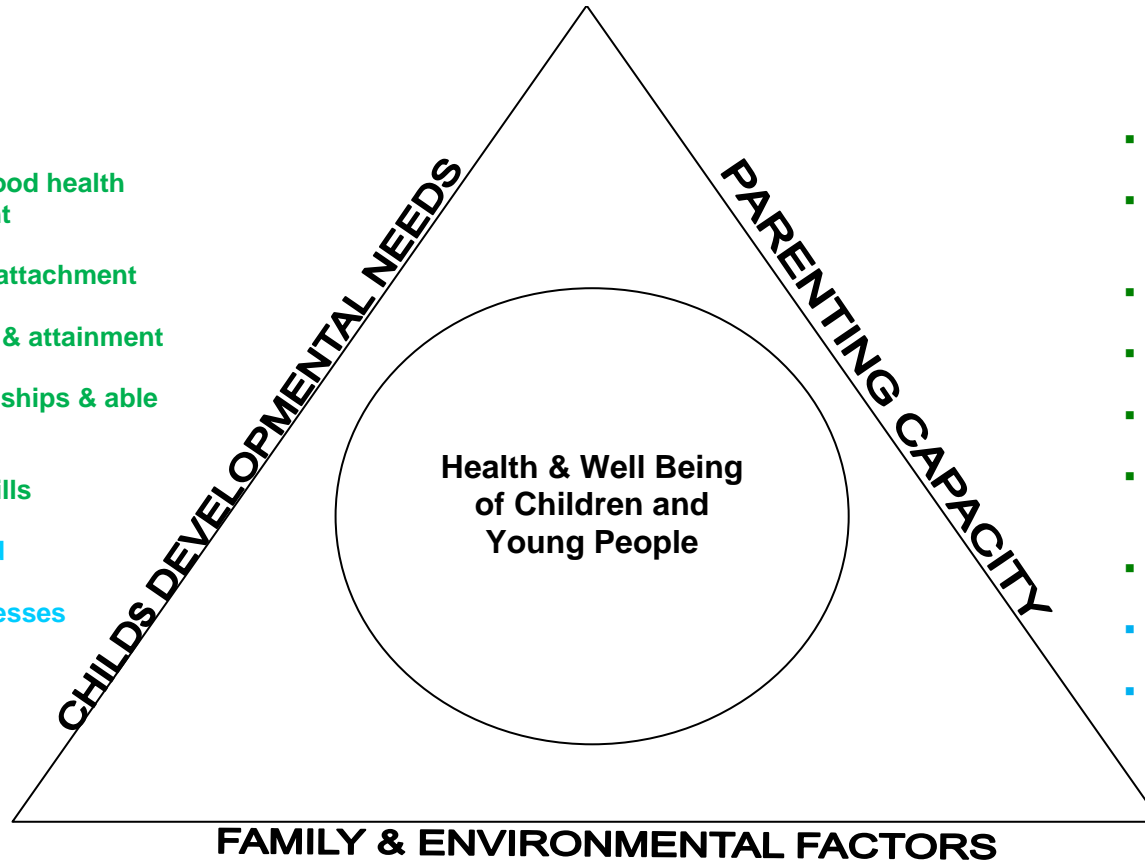
Key code:

- High evidence risk
- Medium evidence risk

- Single parent
- Serial relationships
- Reconstructed families (Step parent /children)
- Low income/or debt
- Out of work
- Frequent moves
- Homeless/insecure housing
- Poor quality housing
- Uncertain immigration status



PROTECTIVE FACTORS



- Able bodied child with good health and positive development
- Calm child with positive attachment
- Good school attendance & attainment
- Child has secure relationships & able to express self verbally
- Good communication skills
- Calm and accepting child
- Acceptance of loss processes

- “Older” mother
- Parent with good physical and mental health
- Controlled use of substances
- Positive attitude to education
- Family support
- Good attendance at health checks & other appointments
- Shared parental responsibility
- Parent with no additional needs
- Acceptance of loss processes

Key code:

- High evidence
- Medium evidence

- Stable relationships
- Positive contact with absent parent
- Stable and well managed income
- Employed
- Stable neighbourhood / community links
- Secure tenancy or owned occupier
- Positive acceptance of child
- Housing meets decent housing standards