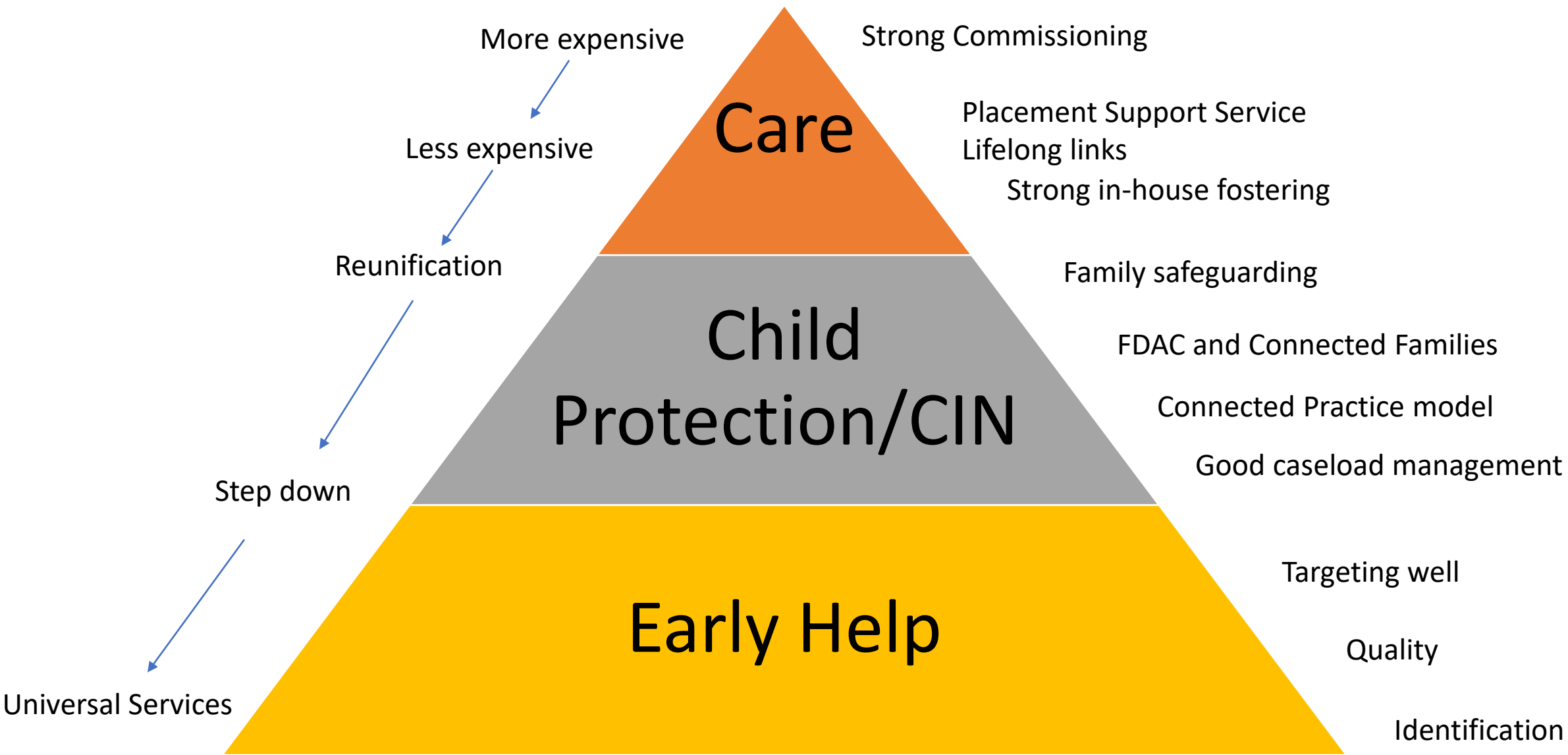


# Prevention, cost avoidance and quality in Children's Services

- The “pyramid” diagram overleaf sets out a broad approach in East Sussex both to prevent problems for children, young people and families and in doing so to reduce the cost of children's services to the county council
- The quality of services at all levels is critical to prevention and cost avoidance. The way for children's services to be financially sustainable is to ensure that they are of high quality, focussed on supporting and challenging families to improve their lives, and providing high quality support for children and young people who need care outside their family.
- The pyramid itself sets out three broad categories of need for children: early help, child protection/child in need and children who need alternative care. The left hand side sets out the objective of the service from ensuring affordable care, to reunifying children with families, to stepping children down to universal services. The right hand side lists the different services and strategies through which we try to achieve those objectives.
- There is no “choice” between good outcomes for children and affordability for the council: in fact affordability is ensured through quality services and good outcomes.

# Prevention, cost avoidance and quality



Care

More expensive

Strong Commissioning

Less expensive

Placement Support Service  
Lifelong links

Reunification

Strong in-house fostering

Child Protection/CIN

Family safeguarding

Step down

FDAC and Connected Families

Connected Practice model

Good caseload management

Early Help

Targeting well

Quality

Universal Services

Identification