



Budget Reporting and Financial Statements

Exploring investment in prevention



[CIPFA Thinks Newsletter](#)

The Chartered Institute of
Public Finance & Accountancy

- Alignment between budgeting, financial reporting and statistical returns
- Place based decision making
- Segmental reporting - services vs outcomes
- Use established practices to address new and emerging issues



Defining prevention

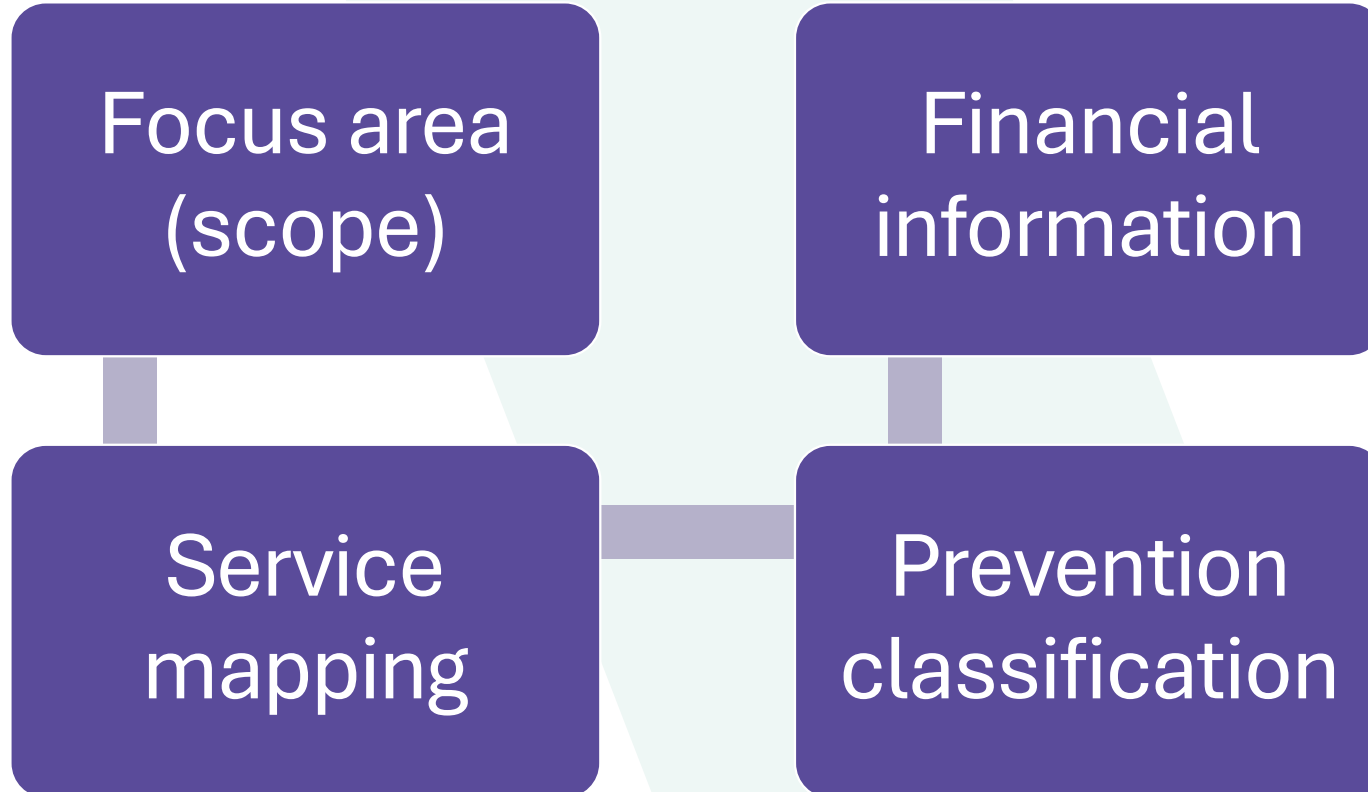


Ambiguity should not stand in the way of progress!

Classification of activity

Prevention	Activity designed to increase the resilience of individuals and communities and reduce or delay the likelihood or severity of future demand for reactive activity
Enabling	Activity not in itself preventative but required to support or facilitate delivery of preventative activity
Non-preventative	Activity designed to support operational or reactive services, does little/nothing to reduce likelihood/severity of future demand for reactive activity

4 step approach

**Principles:**

- clarity of focus area
- collaboration is key
- balanced view of classification
- consistency of financial information

What it offers:

- makes prevention visible in financial terms
- consistent, adaptable method
- shared understanding of prevention
- foundation to support dialogue, decisions, planning



Prevention can and should be quantified

requires professional judgement - consistency over precision



Collaboration is essential

involve service leads, policy and finance



Builds shared understanding

process creates platform for dialogue
highlights role in prevention and creates basis for planning



Prevention gains traction when embedded in strategy

unifying mission creates alignment, momentum and can attract funding



Understanding preventative investment complements wider work

combine with service evaluation, design and development to create clearer picture for long-term planning