

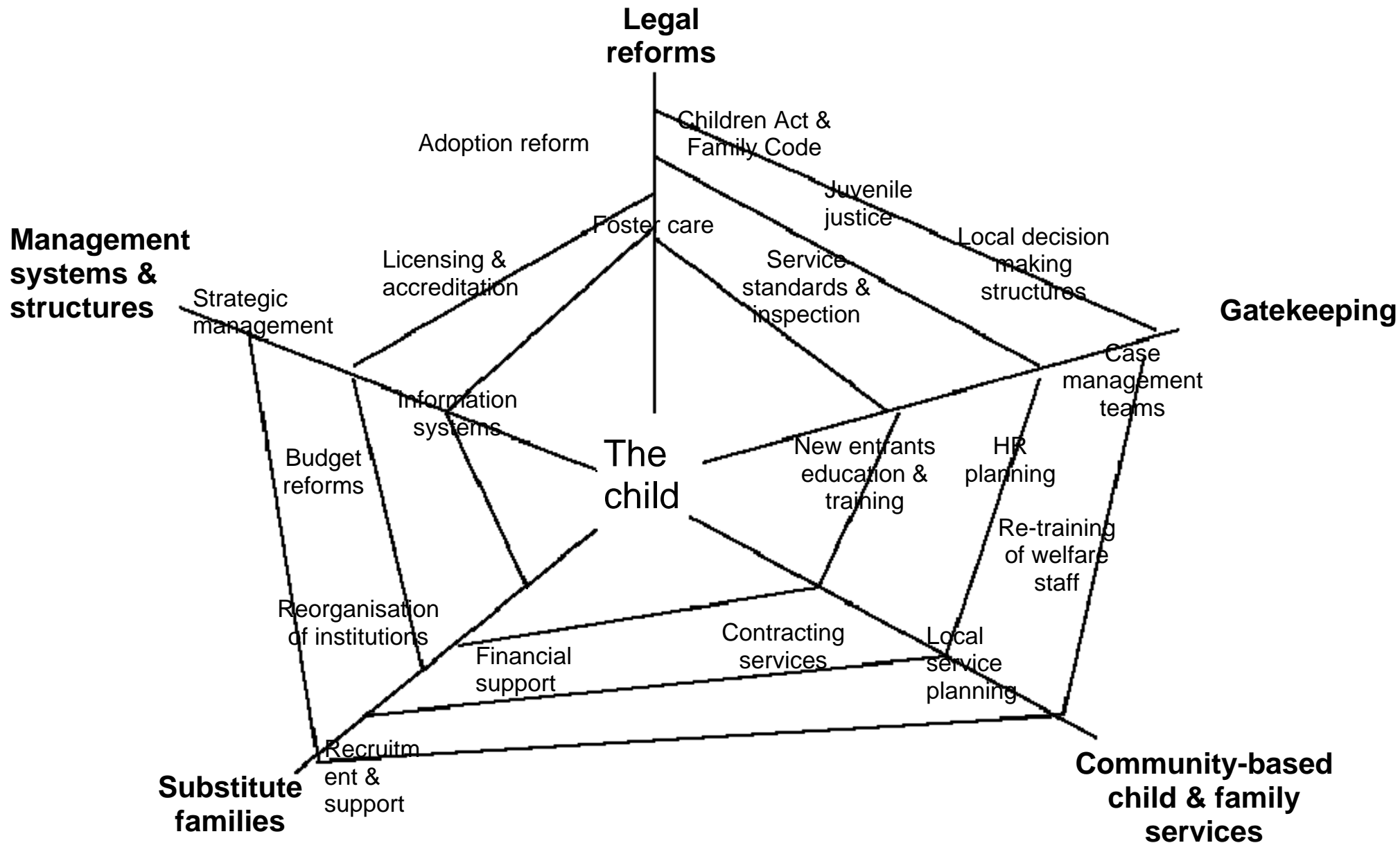
Local gatekeeping functions

Second Child Protection Forum
Bishkek, 12-14 May 2009

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Child Protection web



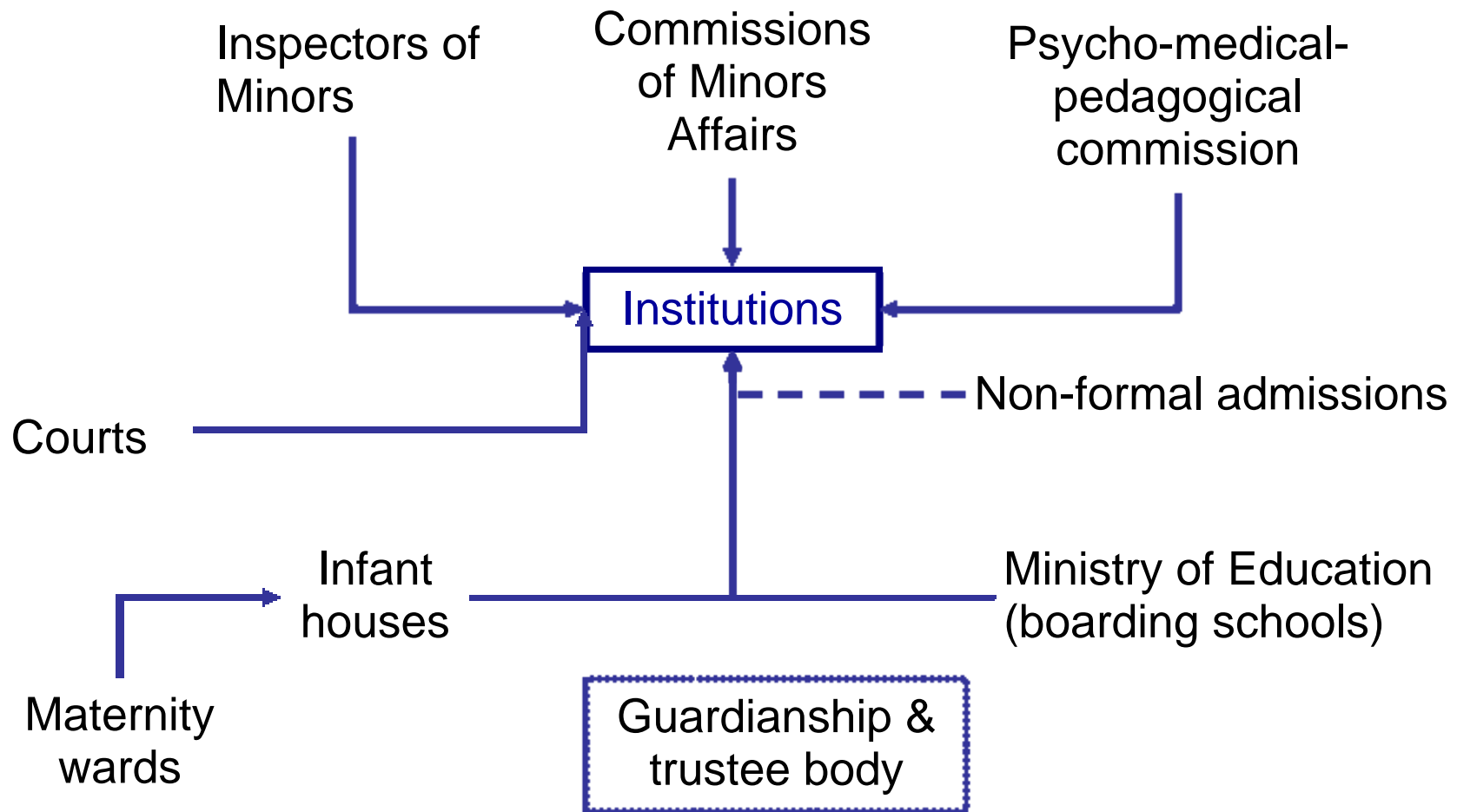
Gatekeeping

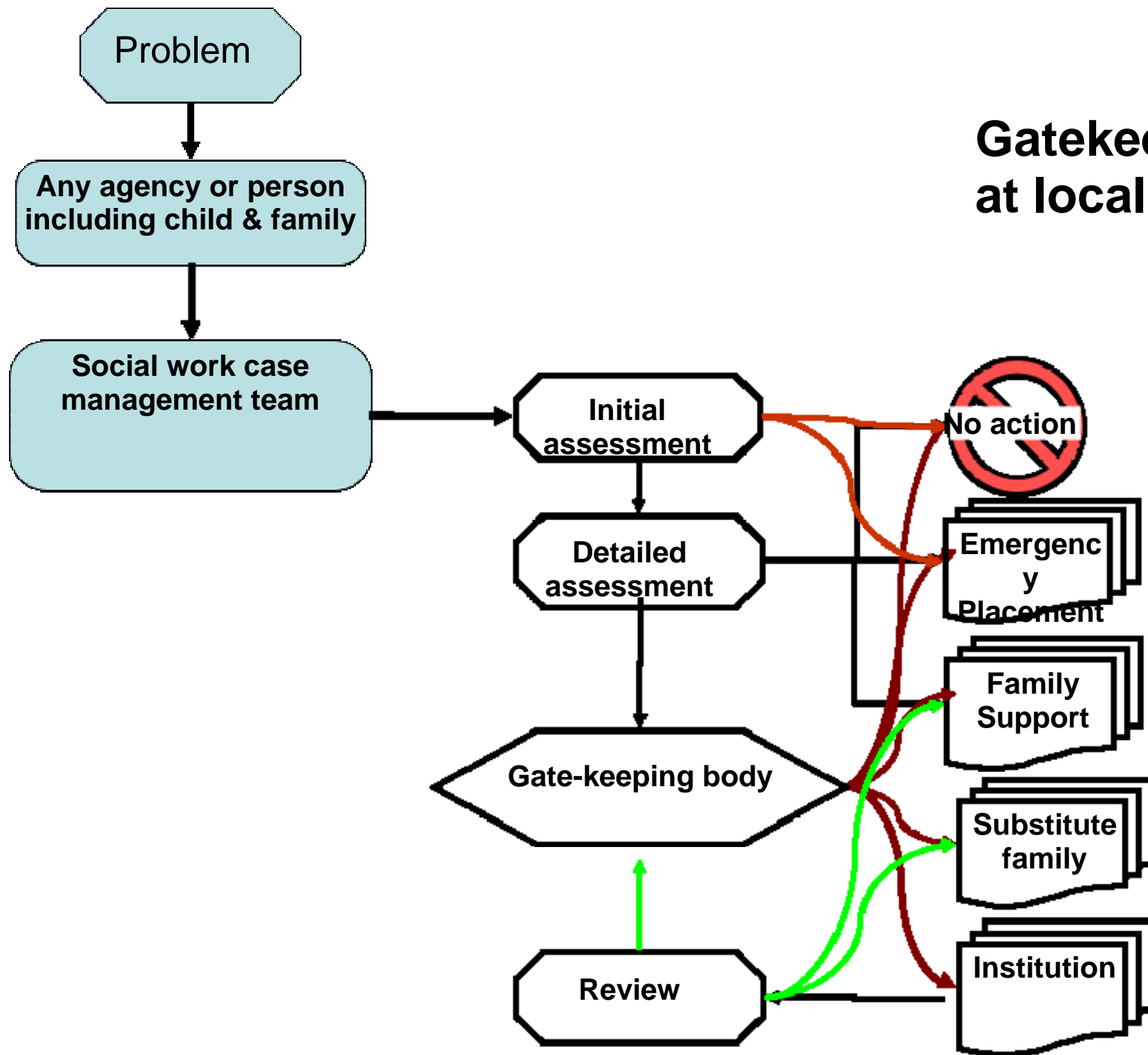
Policies, procedures and services to restrict the flow of children into institutions and contribute to their onward progression back to their families or substitute families

Components of gatekeeping

1. An agency to coordinate the assessment of vulnerable children and families
 2. A range of family support services in the community that are alternatives to institutions
 3. Decision making based on assessment of need
 4. Information systems to monitor trends and outcomes for children
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Entry routes: traditional soviet system





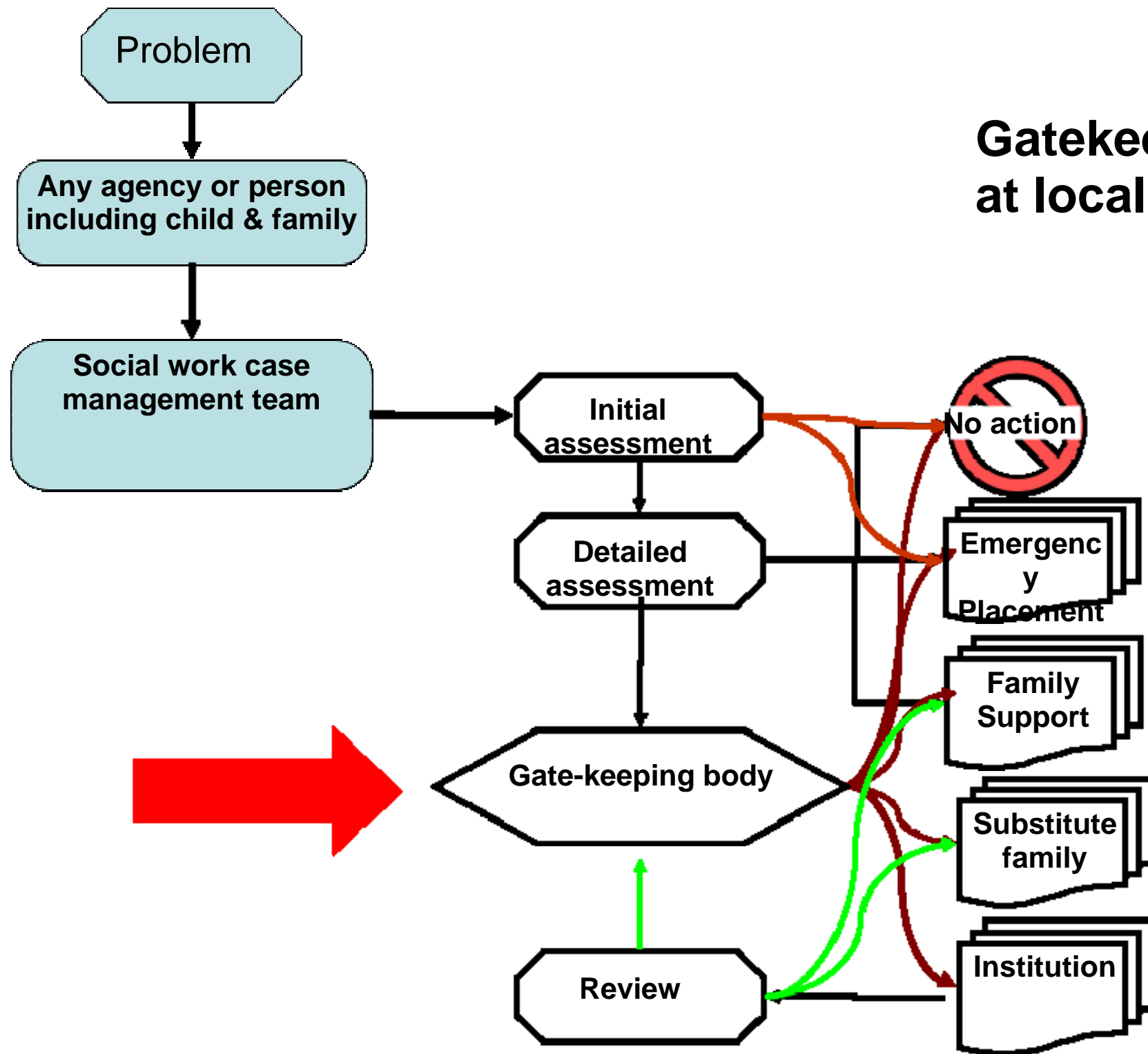
**Gatekeeping
at local level**

Detailed assessment

- Child's development needs
 - Health, education, emotional & behavioural development, identity, self-care skills, family & social relationships, etc
 - Parent's capacity to be parents
 - Basic care, safety, stability, guidance & boundaries, emotional warmth, stimulation
 - Community & environment
 - Housing, income, employment, wider family support, community resources, family functioning
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Intervention plan

- To support the child at home
 - Day care, after-school club, services for child with disabilities, legal advice, access cash benefits, emotional support, mother & baby unit, employment training, respite care for children with disabilities, non-formal education
 - Care in a substitute family
 - Foster care, kafala, adoption
 - Residential care in an institution
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**Gatekeeping
at local level**

Local gatekeeping body

- Independent of the social work case management team
 - Local knowledge about the community
 - Some control over local CP resources
 - Statutory basis in law
 - Accountable for local social welfare
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Gatekeeping body - membership

- Chaired by senior local government official
 - Department heads of local health, education, cash benefits agency, police
 - NGO representative(s)
 - e.g. Youth club, disability organisation, mothers union
 - Case management team leader – as adviser
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Gatekeeping body - remit

- To critically examine the recommendation of social work case manager to place the child in a substitute family or residential institution.
- To examine if all alternatives have been considered
- Authorise placement of child away from home
- To review the cases of children placed away from home to see how they can be returned home or in a substitute family

Monthly monitoring & information systems

- Case management team to gatekeeping body
 - Referrals, children supported at home, out of family placements by type
 - Local gatekeeping body to regional/national body
 - Number of children placed away from home by type
 - Number of children in institutions reviewed
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