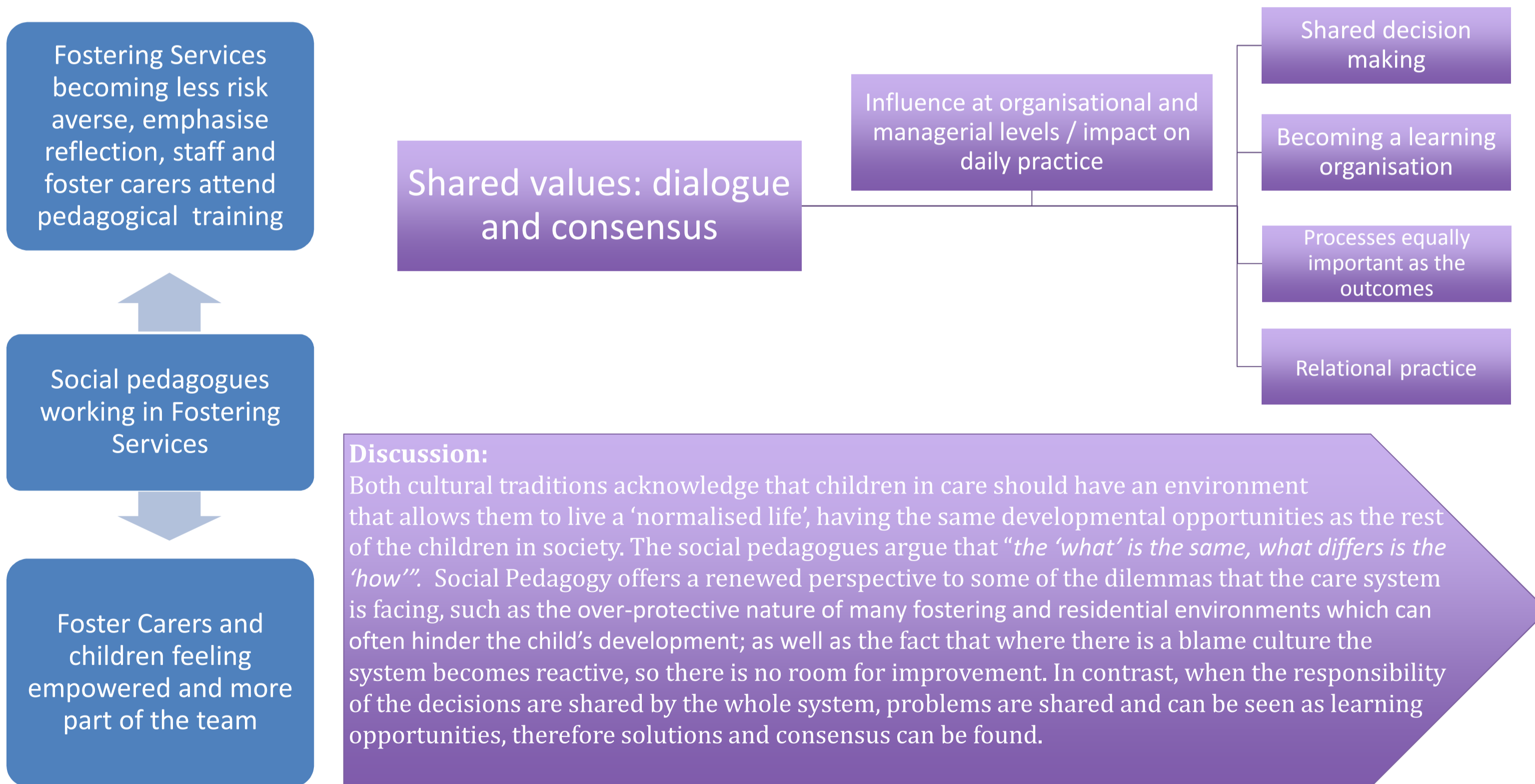
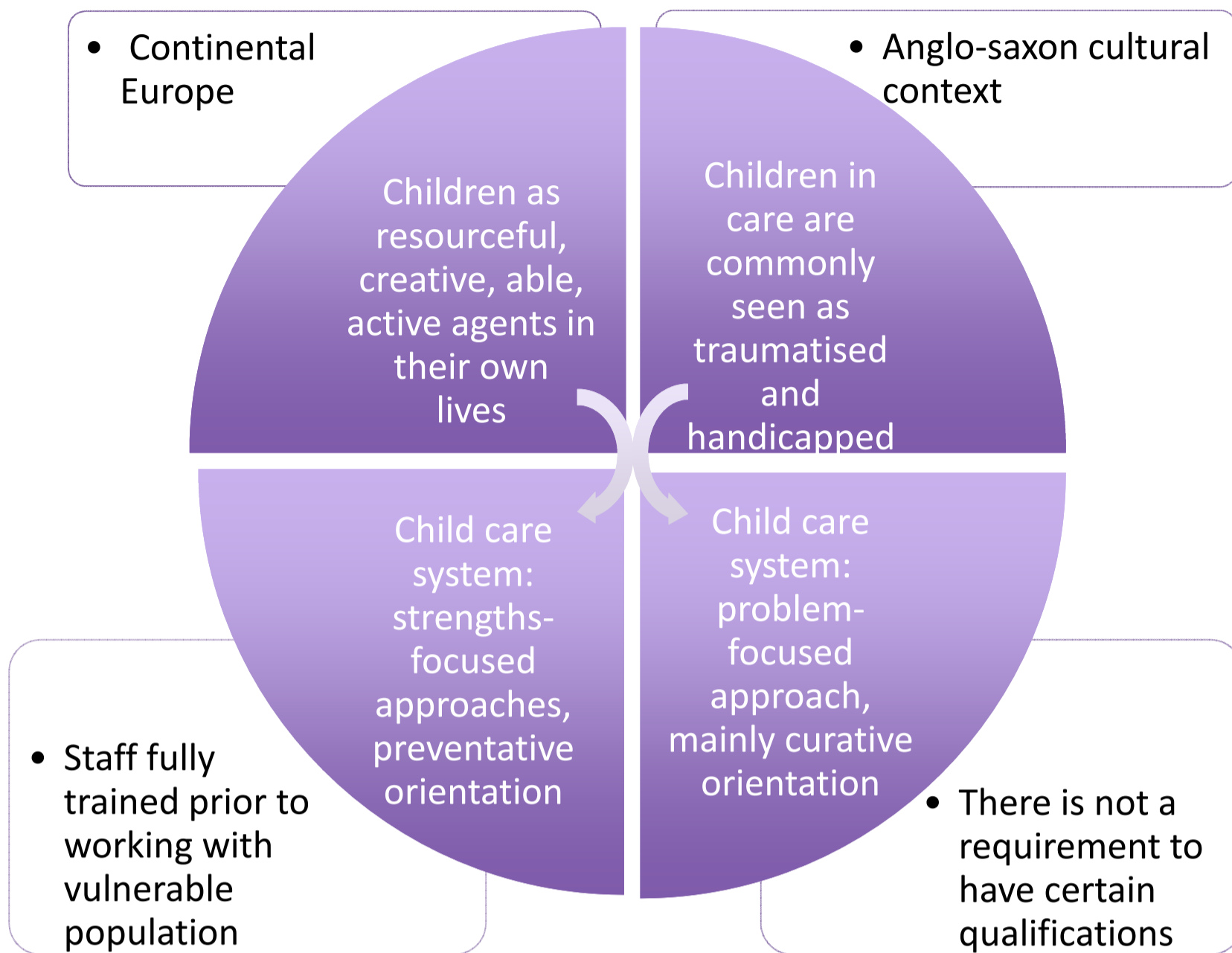


# The meeting of two cultures: reflections from the Head, Heart, Hands programme

From 2012 to 2015 thirteen European social pedagogues worked in the UK as part of the Head, Heart, Hands programme to demonstrate how social pedagogy can have a positive impact on fostering services. The group reflections from their experience forms the basis of two academic articles.



- Challenges**
- High staff turnover hinders building longstanding relationships
    - Some activities foster carers wanted to undertake with children were still perceived as 'too risky' and thus overruled
    - Hierarchical structures and bureaucratic processes hinder professionals 'thinking outside the box'
  - The general recognition that foster carers should be treated as professionals does not always materialise in practice

- Opportunities**
- Allows to practice in a much more intuitive way, to do 'what works'
  - Group reflection helps social workers to seek support from their colleagues
  - Foster Carers are encouraged to talk about their feelings and reflect on children's behaviour
  - Enhanced collaboration and relationships between social workers and foster carers
  - Children are included in decisions that concern them