

# Public Document Pack



## NOTICE OF MEETING

|                      |                                               |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Meeting</b>       | Children and Families Advisory Panel          |
| <b>Date and Time</b> | Tuesday 30th January 2018 at 1.30 pm          |
| <b>Place</b>         | Chute Room, Ell Court, The Castle, Winchester |
| <b>Enquiries to</b>  | members.services@hants.gov.uk                 |

John Coughlan CBE  
Chief Executive  
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

## FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting may be recorded and broadcast live on the County Council's website. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the Filming Protocol available on the County Council's website.

## AGENDA

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence received.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 3 - 6)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.

### 4. DEPUTATIONS

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements the Chairman may wish to make.

**6. HAMPSHIRE SUPPORTING FAMILIES PROGRAMME (SFP) UPDATE**

(Pages 7 - 16)

**7. PARTNER'S IN PRACTICE UPDATE** (Pages 17 - 32)

**8. HAMPSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17** (Pages 33 - 98)

**9. THE CARE LEAVER SERVICE AND EXTENDED DUTIES IN RELATION TO THE CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WORK ACT 2017**

(Pages 99 - 112)

**ABOUT THIS AGENDA:**

**On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.**

**ABOUT THIS MEETING:**

**The press and public are welcome to attend the public sessions of the meeting. If you have any particular requirements, for example if you require wheelchair access, please contact [members.services@hants.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@hants.gov.uk) for assistance.**

County Councillors attending as appointed members of this Committee or by virtue of Standing Order 18.5; or with the concurrence of the Chairman in connection with their duties as members of the Council or as a local County Councillor qualify for travelling expenses.

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

AT A MEETING of the Children and Families Advisory Panel of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Tuesday 17th October 2017

Chairman:  
p Councillor David Keast

p Councillor Roz Chadd  
p Councillor Martin Boiles  
p Councillor Ann Briggs  
p Councillor Fran Carpenter

Councillor Pal Hayre  
p Councillor Jackie Porter  
p Councillor Robert Taylor  
p Councillor Malcolm Wade

## 11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Members were present and no apologies were noted.

## 12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

## 13. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed

## 14. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received.

## 15. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman asked if any Panel Members had visited a Children's Home since the last meeting and if they had anything they would like to feedback.

Various Members had been to Swanwick Lodge and all agreed that they were impressed with what they had seen. The Centre is becoming more like a home, the young people present were happy and looked after by the dedicated staff.

Cllr Wade commented that he was impressed on a visit to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

## 16. **YOUTH JUSTICE ANNUAL PLAN**

The Panel received a report from the Director of Children's Services which provided an overview of the work and an update of recent developments within Hampshire's Youth Offending Team. The annual Hampshire Youth Justice Plan was also included.

Hampshire's Youth Offending Team aims to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people aged 10-17 years. This aim involves significant criminal justice statutory functions which include the assessment and supervision of children and young people subject to out of court disposals, court orders, custodial sentences and bail and remand.

In addition to the statutory functions, Hampshire's YOT also has a significant investment in the prevention of offending, with the aim of diverting children and young people away from the criminal justice system at an earlier stage.

In response to questions members heard that;

- The data reported on is from 2014/15 as this is the most recent verified information. Hampshire does keep and use up to date data however this can not be published until confirmed by the Youth Justice Board (YJB)..
- One of the core reasons that reoffending rates have not dropped is that the cohort has become smaller and those whose needs are more challenging remain.
- There are many initiatives to help prevent offending behaviour, such as the Wessex Dance Academy, however there is a lot in this area for District Councils to contribute to.
- The reduction in young people entering the criminal justice system is attributed to the effectiveness of the YOT and the work done to divert young people before they offend.
- In response to financial pressures, more work is being undertaken with partner agencies in relation to the complex individuals who are still offending.

**Resolved:** That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note the work of the Youth Offending Team and the Youth Justice Plan for Hampshire.

## 17. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE AND SAFEGUARDING UNIT: ANNUAL CARE PLANNING AUDIT**

The Panel received a report from the Director of Children's Services which provided an update of the work of the Independent Reviewing Service (IRS) and Safeguarding Unit. The report was accompanied by the annual audit of care plans and care planning for children looked after by the authority.

The Panel heard that the performance of the IRS and Safeguarding Unit remained strong and the Care Plan Audit highlights many positive areas. However there are some areas that require improvement in relation to planning for children for whom the authority has a corporate parenting responsibility.

The Panel heard that the IRS had a high workload but the number of Children on Child Protection or Child Looked After Plans remained stable. Currently, 80% of reviews are being completed on time with the remainder being only days late meaning there is no risk of drift. A recent Bright Spots survey found that Hampshire children who are looked after are happy although there were concerns from some 8 to 11 year olds around bullying at school..

In response to questions members heard that;

- Less than 2% of children had signed their plan and only four had been signed by the parents. Officers explained that this was not the only indicator of engagement and is not considered a key indicator. It was also noted that signing a Plan was hard to achieve practically but it was thought that new technology will improve this.
- The Care Plan Audit was for all Hampshire looked after children, including those placed outside of Hampshire borders or with a private agency. The Audit did not include children from other local authorities being looked after within Hampshire.
- There were differences in the audit outcomes between the East and the West of the county which are being addressed by Children's Services management.

**Resolved:** That the Children and Families Advisory Panel;

- Note the continuing sound work of the Independent Reviewing Service and Safeguarding Unit.

And

- Note the outcomes of the annual audit of Care Plans and Care Planning for Hampshire's 'Looked After' children.

## 18. **ESTABLISHING A CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

The Panel received a report from the Director of Children's Services in relation to the creation of a sub-committee of the Children and Families Advisory Panel (CFAP) to act as a dedicated Corporate Parenting Board (CPB).

The Panel heard that the role of the CPB would be to promote the best outcomes for children in care and care leavers and enable Councillor led engagement and advice to CFAP and the relevant Executive Member. Alongside the report was a proposed Terms of Reference for the CPB.

**Resolved:** That the Children and Families Advisory Panel;

- Agrees to the formation of a sub-committee known as the Corporate Parenting Board on the basis set out in the report and in the attached draft terms of reference.
- Agrees to the adoption of the proposed Terms of Reference for the Board.
- Appoint three Members to the Board, on a proportionate basis and identifies one of them as Chairman and another as Vice-Chairman. In addition, that the Children and Families Advisory Panel appoint a substitute member for each political group.
  - The Panel appointed Cllr Chadd (Chairman), Cllr Briggs (Vice-Chairman) and Cllr Wade alongside Cllr Carpenter (Conservative Deputy) and Cllr Porter (Liberal Democrat Deputy)

- Recommends to County Council the appointment of three co-opted Care Ambassadors as Members of the Board as set out in the Terms of Reference.

## 19. UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN UPDATE

The Panel received a report from the Director of Children's Services in relation to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) being cared for by Hampshire's Children's Services.

The Panel heard that the majority of the UASC cared for by Hampshire had come into the UK of their own accord, although a significant minority who arrived over the last 6 months had been accepted by the South East Dispersal Scheme. It is suggested that each local authority should support a number of UASC that equates to 0.007% of their population, for Hampshire this would be 195 children and Young People.

A large number of UASC are placed with Independent Fostering Agency carers outside of Hampshire in order to achieve suitable placements for them. However this incurs a large cost and has an impact on both Social Workers time when visiting and their ability to form a relationship. Alongside this, the demand for Interpreters has increased across the county which puts a strain on good practise.

The Panel heard that these complications affect performance indicators as it is difficult to know historical details around UASC's education or health. In addition, there is often a need for emergency placements for those who arrive without warning and a subsequent move to a permanent placement, affecting placement stability.

In response to questions Members heard that;

- Social Workers often will not know UASC's date of birth and so an Age Assessment is completed by two Social Workers. In Hampshire, this does not involve any invasive methods of measuring age.
- Some UASC make contact with their families when they arrive, but not all do.
- Best practise for UASC is shared within the South East Region Migration group and advice is provided by London Boroughs as they have more experience. However, some Councils are not playing their part in relation to their quota of UASC.

**Resolved:** That the Children and Families Advisory Board note the contents of the report and that an updated report be provided in February 2018.

---

Cllr Keast, Chairman, Children and Families Advisory Panel

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Report

|                         |                                                      |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Committee/Panel:</b> | Children and Families Advisory Panel                 |
| <b>Date:</b>            | 30 January 2018                                      |
| <b>Title:</b>           | Hampshire Supporting Families Programme (SFP) Update |
| <b>Report From:</b>     | Director of Childrens Services                       |

**Contact name:** Ian Langley, SFP Strategic Lead

**Tel:** 01962-8475772      **E-mail:** ian.langley@hants.gov.uk

### 1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 The Children and Families Advisory Panel is asked to:

- a) Note the continuing work of the Supporting Families Programme
- b) Consider the positive outcomes being achieved through the programme for families in Hampshire in need of support.
- c) Note the future direction and next steps.

### 2. Summary

2.1 This report provides the Children and Families Advisory Panel with an update on Phase Two (2015-20) of Hampshire's Supporting Families Programme (SFP) which is part of the national Troubled Families Programme.

### 3. Contextual information

#### Phase One of the national Troubled Families Programme (2012-2015)

- 3.1 "Troubled Families" is a programme of targeted intervention for families with multiple problems. Phase One of the national Troubled Families Programme was targeted at supporting 120,000 families comprising children with poor school attendance, young people who are offending, and family members committing anti-social behaviour or claiming out of work benefits.
- 3.2 Local authorities identify 'troubled families' in their area who can benefit from support to turn their lives around, with a key principle being to assign a key worker whom the family trust. Central Government pays local authorities by results for each family that meet set criteria or move into continuous employment.
- 3.3 The Programme has been led by the Department for Communities and Local Government. £448 million was allocated nationally to Phase One of the programme, which ran from 2012 to 2015.

- 3.4 Hampshire County Council's implementation of the programme has become central to how it works with partners in local communities to identify, engage and support families whose members may be at risk of poor outcomes.
- 3.5 The criteria for targeted families include factors directly related to health e.g. mental health, physical health, substance misuse, obesity and malnutrition.
- 3.6 In December 2012, the County Council commissioned the University of Portsmouth to undertake an independent evaluation of the Phase One of the programme in Hampshire. This evaluation has demonstrated good evidence of a transition to *whole family working* – a key principle of the programme – as well as significant savings and cost avoided to the public purse (see also 4.1).

#### Phase Two of the national Troubled Families Programme (2015 – 2020)

- 3.7 In 2014, the Government announced Phase Two of the programme up to 2020. This increased the number of families nationally to be targeted for support from 120,000 (Phase One) to 400,000 families in Phase Two. The Phase Two criterion for identifying families was also extended to include families with children who need help, and those experiencing domestic abuse issues or health problems.
- 3.8 As a result of this broadened criteria, the target number of families in Hampshire to be identified, engaged and where possible 'turned around' by 2019/20, increased to 5,540. This challenging target represents 1,108 families on average per annum, which is over double the Phase One average of 530 families each year.
- 3.9 In Phase Two, the largest proportion of targeted families has been nominated on the basis of meeting the mental health criteria (63%). Significant numbers of families have also nominated under the criteria of poor school attendance (46%), children assessed as needing early help (55%) and being in receipt of out of work benefits (37%). The early help figure has risen by 10% over the last year which may be associated with the roll out of the Family Support Service which commenced on 1/4/17.
- 3.10 A notable number of families have also been nominated for anti-social behaviour, rent arrears/financial difficulties and domestic abuse issues. The proportion of families identified with domestic abuse issues is lower in Hampshire compared with other areas. The Police secondee to the SFP central team is strengthening links/processes within Hampshire Constabulary to ensure that families experiencing domestic abuse, but who are below the threshold for statutory intervention, are not missed where they would benefit from the programme.
- 3.11 To date, few families with adult offenders have been nominated to the programme. Three SFP events for Hampshire Community Rehabilitation Company (HCRC) front line staff took place in May/June 2017 to raise the profile of the programme. Materials have also been developed to support HCRC staff to increase the numbers of families coming into the programme who include adult offenders with parenting responsibilities.



- 3.12 Links have been developed with HMP Winchester as the new Governor is keen to develop support for men in custody and their families. For example granting an additional visit for families whose children have improved school attendance following support from their male relative in custody, which might include the male in custody reading with the child.
- 3.13 In 2016 North East Hampshire & Farnham CCG (NEHF) as the lead CCG for children and maternity attached a senior manager to the SFP central team to strengthen links with health stakeholders. This arrangement was initially for a year but was quickly extended until March 2019 by NEHFCCG. The role is believed to be unique amongst Troubled Families programmes nationally.
- 3.14 The SFP Health Lead has focussed on strengthening links with GP's (for whom a shortened nomination form has been created), CAMHS, Health Visitors, School Nurses, Health Visitors, Substance Misuse Providers (children/young people and adults) and Wellbeing Centres (adult mental health). This has increased both numbers of families nominated to the programme by health professionals and families where a health professional is leading the work with families on the programme.

#### 4. Finance

- 4.1 The University of Portsmouth evaluation of Phase One of the Hampshire Supporting Families Programme calculated the programme had potentially avoided/saved costs of £2.4m per annum broken down as follows:

| Impact                                                                              | Potential costs avoided/saved £'000 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reduced child care placements                                                       | 667                                 |
| Reduction in Children in Need                                                       | 69                                  |
| Reduction in persistent school absence                                              | 57                                  |
| Reduced incidents involving the police (arrests, ASB, criminal damage, shoplifting) | 248                                 |
| Reduced benefit claims                                                              | 1,357                               |

- 4.2 Notably this calculation does not include health or housing costs so is likely to be an underestimate of the overall impact.
- 4.3 In Phase Two attachment fees for working with families fell to £1,000 per family with a reward payment of £800 available for 'turning around' families against up to six criteria that may apply. This has made the claiming of Central Government payment by results grant funding more complex.
- 4.4 In 2016/17 Hampshire fell short of the DCLG target for identifying/engaging the target number of families by 170 families (see 4.2). There is a low risk that DCLG could claw back £170,000 of attachment fees under their Financial Framework for the Programme. To date DCLG have not indicated any intention to do this.

- 4.5 Cautious budgeting has ensured there is no financial risk to the programme in 2017/18. During the last two financial years of the programme (2018-20) DCLG targets for Hampshire fall significantly from the present level of 1,413 families in 2017/18 to 1,093 families in 2018/19 and 276 families in 2019/20. It is expected that an increased monthly number of family nominations can be maintained to make up the previous shortfall of families (see 5.3 below). This will reduce or eliminate any financial risk to the remainder of the programme.

## 5. Performance

### Number of families identified and engaged in the programme

- 5.1 By the end of Phase One (2012-15) Hampshire had exceeded the DCLG target (1,590) by identifying/engaging with 1,972 families. This gave Phase Two a head start as 382 families were rolled across into the new phase, enabling the County Council and its partners to exceed DCLG targets in the first year of Phase Two (2015/16).
- 5.2 During the second year of Phase Two (2016/17) there was a significant slowdown in family nominations - a 9.5% fall compared to the previous year, although activity was still significantly higher than it was in Phase One. This period coincided with the restructure of the Family Support Service across the county.
- 5.3 In 2017, the number of families nominated resumed an upward trajectory, coinciding with the commencement of the new Family Support Service. So far in 2017/18 an average of 94 families per month have been identified/engaged. If this rate continues Hampshire will reach the DCLG Phase 2 target (5540) by September 2019, six months before the programme is due to end.
- 5.4 Action continues to be taken by the SFP central programme team to increase awareness of the programme and nominations from key professionals, such as health, housing, probation, social care and education. A housing specialist is currently being recruited to a vacancy within the SFP central team to strengthen links with housing providers and increase family nominations from those agencies.

### Positive family outcomes achieved

- 5.5 The success threshold in Phase Two is higher compared to Phase One since positive family outcomes must be sustained for at least six months (an academic year for school attendance) against all of the family issues that apply (up to six rather than two or three in Phase One). The only exception remains where a family member claiming an out of work benefit enters and sustains employment for a least 6 months, enabling a claim to be made in its own right.
- 5.6 By the end of 2016/17, positive family outcomes for 271 families had been registered with DCLG for the payment of reward grant to the County Council. In October 2017, a claim for 107 families was approved, bringing the total to 378. A claim for a further 20 families have been submitted to

DCLG in December 2017 and it is anticipated the grand total will rise to circa 500 by the end of 2017/18.

- 5.7 All the positive family outcomes submitted to DCLG by Hampshire have been scrutinised by the County Council's internal auditors. In September 2016, DCLG undertook a spot check of reward claims and provided largely positive written feedback on the quality of data and the validity of claims made.

## **6. Strategic Partnership and Commissioning**

- 6.1 SFP is led by the County Council which convenes a Strategic Programme Board to involve partners and stakeholder in the development and delivery of the programme and to monitor and manage performance. There is a multi-agency central programme team and a network of identified Senior Responsible officers for each district whose role is to co-ordinate the identification of local nominations for the programme and interventions with families, involving relevant local partners. This is supported by a multi-agency shared information and case management system.
- 6.2 The County Council commissioned an intensive family support service from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2017 to work with 250 families each year nominated under the programme. The commission was in three geographic lots and the provider was Transform - a voluntary sector consortium led by Barnardos working with local voluntary organisations.
- 6.3 Following consultation with key stakeholders (in particular borough and district councils) and with Executive Member approval, a contract for the new Supporting Families Intensive Support Service between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2020 was commissioned on the basis of a range of approved contracted providers under a single framework.
- 6.4 The new framework contracts provide greater flexibility than previously, with several providers in each of the ten lot areas (based on district and borough council areas, with Hart and Rushmoor combined), and a minimum of two providers in each district. If a provider in any district reaches capacity with the number of families they could support at particular time, there is at least one more provider in each district to whom families could be nominated.
- 6.5 Due to increased competition in the market, the unit cost per family has fallen since the service was originally commissioned in 2013. This has enabled both a reduction in the cost of the contract and an increase in capacity to support the 376 families each year.
- 6.6 The move from the contract with the *Transform* consortium to the providers on the new framework contract has taken place smoothly. The transition was assisted by the fact that two of the former *Transform* consortium (Family Lives and Motiv8) were successful in becoming providers under the new framework contract and retained their existing staff and expertise. Two additional new providers, CSW Ltd and MIND have also made a good start to delivering intensive support to families in Hampshire. By the end of

November 2017 the providers had collectively engaged 277 families so on track to meet the contractual target (see 6.5).

- 6.7 The SFP Health Lead has been part of the evaluation panel working with HCC for the provision of comprehensive 'Integrated Substance Misuse Service', including adults, young people, and pharmacy-based drug treatment services. Ensuring a 'family approach' is embedded into the Service and that the whole family's needs are met.

## **7. Consultation and Equalities**

- 7.1 An equalities impact assessment was completed by the SFP as part of the initial programme planning in October 2012. This highlighted the programme may disproportionately impact upon families within particular age groups and families with women in the household due to the restrictive DCLG definition of a troubled family in Phase One. The extended DCLG criteria used to identify Phase Two families means this is no longer the case.
- 7.2 This is a positive programme designed to improve the lives of some of Hampshire's most troubled families and communities, and therefore the impacts are likely to be positive.

## **8. Future direction**

- 8.1 The original transformational ambition of the programme remains steadfast; to acquire learning and implement improvements to the way agencies work together with families. This includes working with the whole and extended family rather than different agencies working with individual members of the family in isolation. This is reinforced by the County Council working with partners to apply DCLG's [Service Transformation and Maturity Model](#). This model and toolkit supports local areas to address meaningful cultural and system change and to assess how they are performing in transforming their services working with all partners and more can be achieved.
- 8.2 Much of the learning from the Phase One evaluation has been fed into the Maturity Model. In order to build on the learning and to further assess the impact and outcomes of the STFP an independent academic evaluation of Phase Two has been commissioned from Southampton Solent University (SSU). An interim report will be provided in early 2018 with the final report a year later. The evaluation (which will endeavour to include health and housing costs) will support the development of the business case for future investment in the programme post 2020.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Strategic Plan**

|                                                                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b> | yes |
| <b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>              | yes |
| <b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>                  | no  |
| <b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>     | yes |

**Other Significant Links**

| <b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Title</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <u>Date</u>       |
| Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <u>29/10/12</u>   |
| Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme update.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <u>22/7/13</u>    |
| Supporting Troubled Families in Hampshire Programme Update and Preparations for Phase Two.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <u>14/12/14</u>   |
| Supporting (troubled) Families Programme (STFP) update report to Cabinet.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <u>15/9/17</u>    |
| Supporting (troubled) Families Programme (STFP) update report to Policy and Resources Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <u>23/11/17</u>   |
| <b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |
| <u>Title</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <u>Date</u>       |
| DCLG Financial Framework for the Expanded Troubled Families Programme<br><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-framework-for-the-expanded-troubled-families-programme">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-framework-for-the-expanded-troubled-families-programme</a>                                                | <u>April 2015</u> |
| DCLG Supporting disadvantaged families<br>Troubled Families Programme 2015-20: Progress so far<br><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611991/Supporting_disadvantaged_families.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611991/Supporting_disadvantaged_families.pdf</a> | <u>April 2017</u> |

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

| <u>Document</u>                                                                                                                                 | <u>Location</u>                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Hampshire Supporting Troubled Families<br>Final Evaluation Report Phase One,<br>Professor Carol Hayden, university of<br>Portsmouth <u>2015</u> | Children's Services SFP Central<br>Team |

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

**Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:**

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. An equalities impact assessment was completed by the STFP central team as part of the initial programme planning in October 2012. This highlighted that the programme may disproportionately impact upon families within particular age groups and families with women in the household due to the restrictive DCLG definition of a troubled family in Phase One. The extended DCLG criteria used to identify Phase Two families means this is no longer the case.

1.3 This is a positive programme designed to improve the lives of some of Hampshire's most troubled families and communities, and therefore the impacts are likely to be positive.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1. A key objective of the programme remains to reduce offending and anti social behaviour amongst families targeted for support.

### **3. Climate Change:**

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? Not applicable
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? Not applicable

This page is intentionally left blank



## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

|                         |                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Committee/Panel:</b> | Children and Families Advisory Panel |
| <b>Date:</b>            | 30 January 2018                      |
| <b>Title:</b>           | Partners In Practise Update          |
| <b>Report From:</b>     | Director of Children's Services      |

**Contact name:** Cathi Hadley, Strategic Lead for Transformation, Children & Families

**Tel:** 01962 846541      **Email:** [cathi.hadley@hants.gov.uk](mailto:cathi.hadley@hants.gov.uk)

#### 1. Recommendation

1.1. That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note the work undertaken in relation to the Partners in Practise programme.

#### 2. Summary

2.1. The purpose of this presentation is to update members of the Children and Families Advisory Panel on the progress made by the Partner's in Practise initiative.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Strategic Plan**

|                                                                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>              | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>                  | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>     | <b>Yes</b> |
|                                                                                   |            |
|                                                                                   |            |

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

DocumentLocation

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

**Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:**

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

Due to the nature of the report there is no need for an Equalities Impact Assessment.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

Due to the nature of the report there is no impact on Crime and Disorder.

### **3. Climate Change:**

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Due to the nature of the report there is no measurable effect on Hampshire's carbon footprint/energy consumption.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

Due to the nature of the report there is no effect on climate change.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Partners in Practice update

## Partners in Practice

**Cathi Hadley**

Strategic Lead for Transformation

Children and Families

# Our vision

## A radical whole system change to create:

- A **family** service – a system focussing on improving outcomes for the child in the context of their family
- A social work led, integrated, **multi-disciplinary service**, from the front door through to specialist services
- Social workers are supported to deliver **meaningful interventions** based on an underpinning methodology of **resilience** that creates lasting change
- A service where good practice is **free to flourish** unfettered by bureaucracy and unnecessary regulatory demands
- Children are supported by and within their own **family/community** wherever possible. Where children do come into care longer term their experience will be life changing for the better

# Our vision

## Outcomes we are targeting

- Best possible outcomes for children and their families
- Hampshire becoming an outstanding authority
- Continue to keep children safe
- Operating within our budget primarily through a safe and significant reduction in children in care



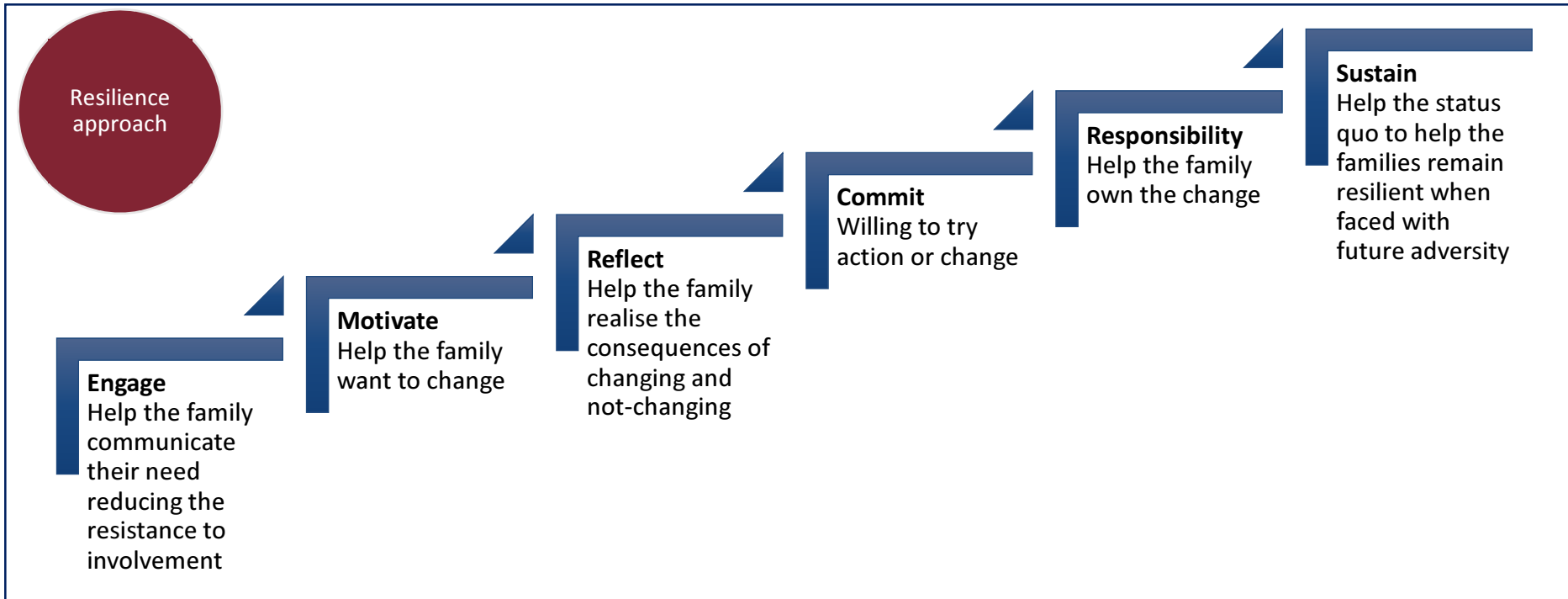
# Where we are focusing



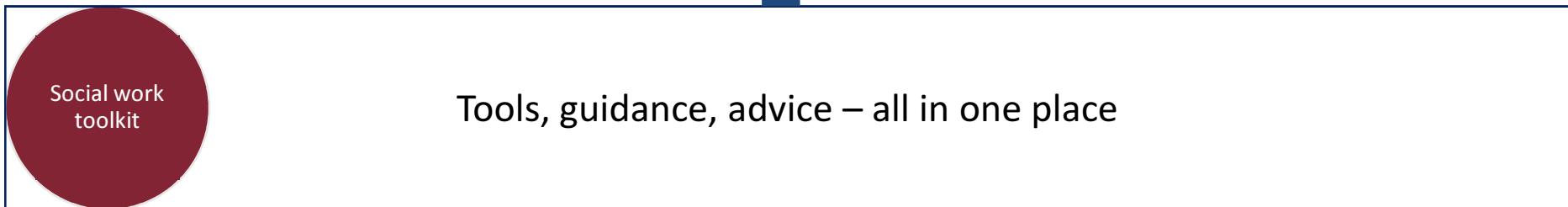
Page 24



# Our new way of working



Page 25



# Building trust with families

Building trust  
with families

## The CAST model

**Objective: Reduce transitions for families between teams**

- Successful pilot in Basingstoke – also showed reduction in case loads
- Validated by Oxford Brookes assessment which found:
  - Staff had more time with families
  - Assessments of family needs were better
  - Links to actions from assessments were clearer
- In process of rolling out across county

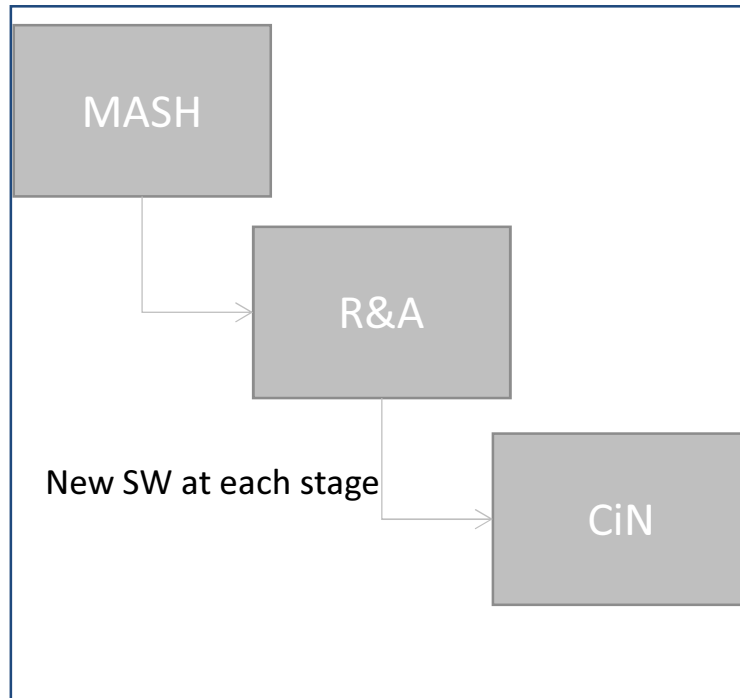


# Building trust with families

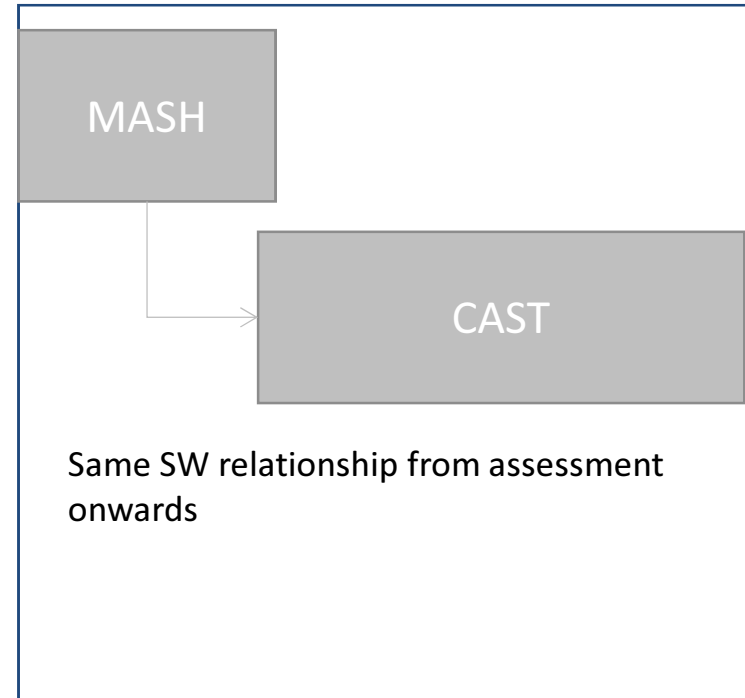
Building trust with families

## The CAST model

### Previous model



### CAST model



Page 27

# Working across disciplines

Working  
across-  
disciplines

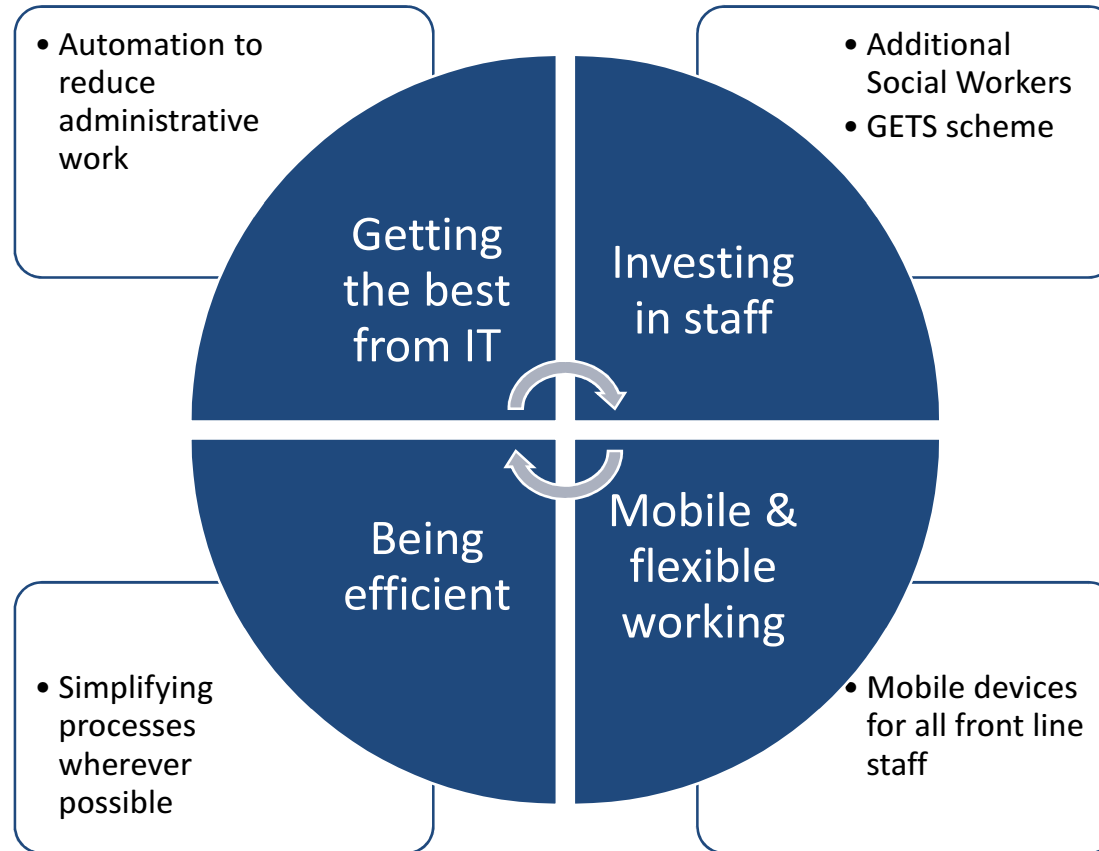
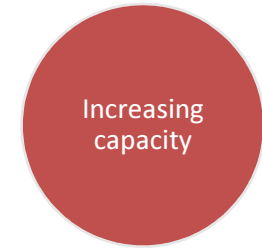
- Re-design of our service delivery model to be...
  - Multi-disciplinary
  - Focused on needs of family
- New disciplines to include:
  - CAMHS
  - Adult wellbeing
  - Perpetrator
  - Substance misuse
  - Domestic abuse
  - Health visitors
  - School nurses

# Reunifying children home

Reunifying  
children  
home

- Reunification programme in place across Hampshire based on NSPCC research
- Oxford Brookes University completed literature review – now undertaking comparison to our programme
- Looking at how we embed into our system – from point of entry onwards

# Increasing capacity



Page 30

# Plans for first half of next year

## Complete

- Rollout of mobile devices
- First version of toolkit live
- 1<sup>st</sup> GETS cohort recruited

## Jan - March

- Begin rollout of resilience approach
- Rollout CAST model

## April – June

- Introduce multi-disciplinary teams
- Second version of toolkit
- 1<sup>st</sup> phase of process and technology changes



# Questions





## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

|                         |                                                             |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Committee/Panel:</b> | Children and Families Advisory Panel                        |
| <b>Date:</b>            | 30 January 2018                                             |
| <b>Title:</b>           | Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17 |
| <b>Report From:</b>     | Director of Childrens Services                              |

**Contact name:** Sophie Butt, Strategic Partnerships Manager, HSCB

**Tel:** 01962 876231

**Email:** [sophie.butt@hants.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.butt@hants.gov.uk)

#### 1. Recommendations

1.1. The Children and Families Advisory Panel is asked to:

- Note that the child protection partnership is working effectively across Hampshire but there are pressure points in relation to the volume of activity in the system.
- Ensure that learning from SCRs is embedded in respective agencies and leads to effective information sharing between organisations.

#### 2. Executive Summary

2.1. This attached annual report from the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) provides an independent analysis of the safeguarding services provided to children and young people in Hampshire over 2016/17. It contains a summary of the work undertaken to deliver the HSCBs Business Plan, and outlines the priorities over the next year.

2.2. The HSCB is constituted of membership from a range of partner agencies including Children Social Care, Health (CCG / Provider / Public Health), the Police, Probation, Youth Offending Team, Education and the voluntary sector. The annual business plan and work programme is developed in partnership with all agencies.

#### 3. Background

3.1. The HSCB had five strategic priorities during 2016/17. Highlights of achievements include:

a) Neglect:

- Publication of the joint HSCB / IOWSCB Neglect Strategy.

- Publication of the joint Neglect Thresholds Chart and Key Indicators Chart for 4 types of Neglect
- Launch of the HCC CSD online Interactive Thresholds Chart.

#### b) Trigger Trio

- Establishment of the HCC CSD Family Intervention Teams (FIT)
- Completing the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) on Domestic Abuse – a multi – inspectorate inspection of partner agencies. Feedback from the inspection commented that:

*‘The HSCB is dynamic and forward thinking. During inspection, it was evident that individual leaders take responsibility for their organisation’s role within the board and that this has led to tangible improvements in multi-agency arrangements’.*

- Continued development of the multi-agency action plan through the JTAI Implementation Group.

#### c) Key Safeguarding Issues

- Missing Exploited and Trafficked Children;
  - CSE Risk Questionnaire (mini SERAF) for Acute Health Settings.
  - Establishment of the multi-agency Willow Team.
- Publication of the HSCB and HSAB Hampshire Female Genital Mutilation Strategy and Pathway, in response to the new national Duty Guidance.
- Publication of the HSCB Self Harm Pathway for multi-agency professionals.
- Publication of guidance on New Psychoactive Substances in response to the new legislation surrounding these substances.

#### d) Quality Assurance

- Implementation of a new multi-agency Data Set aligned to HSCB Board Priorities
- Held 10 Learning Lessons Events plus a separate event for professionals in Independent Schools to disseminate learning from Serious Case Reviews and other local learning reviews.
- Undertaken two multi-agency audits of the MASH
- Completed the first annual MET Local Effectiveness Assessment across all HSCB partner agencies.
- Revised our approach to the annual Section 11 audit and for the first year GPs across Hampshire participated.

- Completed the annual Safeguarding in Education Audit across all schools.

e) Stakeholder Engagement

- Re-launch of HSCB Website informed by Parent / Carer and Children's feedback
- Winchester Diocese have become a HSCB Board Member
- Run a multi-agency conference on Adolescents at Risk Conference which included participation of children from the Police and Crime Commissioner Youth Panel and pupils from local colleges.
- Published new quarterly Newsletters outlining new products and initiatives from the board.
- Held 47 Learning Events that are free for professionals from all HSCB members and the voluntary sector.
- Launched the Virtual College e-learning suite providing free access to a large range of eLearning courses on safeguarding to all professionals in Hampshire.

2.2 HSCB's priorities for the current year (2017/18) are:

- Neglect (Training, Evaluation Framework and online Toolkit).
- Children and Young People Affected by the 'Trigger Trio' (joint working with the Safeguarding Adults Board).
- Key Safeguarding Issues;
  - Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children.
  - Suicide and Self Harm.
  - Electively Home Educated Children.
  - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

2.3 A full overview of the work of the HSCB during this period, as well as an independent analysis of the safeguarding services provided to Hampshire's children can be provided to the Panel in Autumn 2018.

2.4 In addition to this summary the Panel should note that during 2016/17 the HSCB appointed a new Independent Chair. The previous Independent Chair, Maggie Blyth, stood down in October 2016 and the incoming Independent Chair, Derek Benson, joined in December 2016. Derek is also Independent Chair of the Isle of Wight Local Safeguarding Children Board and holds Independent roles elsewhere. Derek recently retired as the Deputy Chief Constable for Essex Police.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Strategic Plan**

|                                                                                                          |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>                        | No  |
| <b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>                                     | No  |
| <b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>                                         | No  |
| <b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>                            | Yes |
| <b>OR</b>                                                                                                |     |
| <b>This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</b> |     |

**Other Significant Links**

|                                                                      |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>                           |             |
| <u>Title</u>                                                         | <u>Date</u> |
|                                                                      |             |
| <b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b> |             |
| <u>Title</u>                                                         | <u>Date</u> |
|                                                                      |             |

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

**Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:**

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

The paper does not include any proposals or service changes therefore there is no impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

The contents of this report have no impact on Crime or Disorder.

### **3. Climate Change:**

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No proposals are being made in this report and therefore there is no impact on Hampshire's carbon footprint or energy consumption..

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No proposals are being made in this report therefore there is no impact on climate change.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17



Page 39



## Foreword from Derek Benson, Independent Chair of Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board



Page 40

I am pleased to introduce the 2016/17 Annual Report for the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB). I would like to thank all the partner agencies represented on the HSCB for their commitment to the Board and in particular place on record my thanks to my predecessor, Maggie Blyth, under whose stewardship the HSCB oversaw continued strengthening in the safeguarding of children and young people in Hampshire.

The purpose of a Local Safeguarding Children Board is to co-ordinate safeguarding arrangements across agencies and to ensure these are effective. In my view, this has never been more important as changes in legislation and associated guidance will require an increased commitment to partnership working based on mutual trust, respect and cooperation. The annual report covers the local and national context, governance and accountability arrangements, priorities, achievements and learning, and concludes with a formal summary statement about the sufficiency of arrangements to ensure children are safe in Hampshire.

HSCB receives a range of data and information from partner organisations as well as conducting audits and reviews, which allow the Board to assess child protection and safeguarding in the county. Our focus spans the work of children's social care services, education, health, the police and other agencies, both in terms of their individual service provision and how effectively they work together.

Having been in post since December 2016 I have formed the view that Hampshire remains exceptionally well placed to maintain a high standard of service provision, with strong partnership arrangements in place and a determination to deliver further improvement.

HSCB will closely monitor the anticipated guidance emerging from the Children and Social Work Act 2017, implementing change where it will lead to improved safeguarding and better outcomes for children in Hampshire, an aspiration in keeping with the Board's record to date.



HSCB played a key role in the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of Hampshire agencies during the year. The feedback from the joint Inspectorates was both highly positive and assuring, stating that 'the HSCB is dynamic and forward thinking'. They commented that 'it was evident that individual leaders take responsibility for their organisation's role within the board and that this has led to tangible improvements in multi-agency arrangements. Consideration and analysis of the regular multi-agency audits undertaken by the partnership promotes a high degree of self-awareness, and this knowledge is used to ensure that learning is fully shared and makes a difference to improving practice' (*Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Hampshire, February 2017*).

Having developed a comprehensive multi-agency dataset during 2015/16, considerable work has been undertaken within the Partnership Support Team who support the work of the Board, and across the wider Board membership, to ensure that the shared dataset informs partnership working by focusing on the key criteria.

The Joint HSCB / IOWSCB Neglect Strategy was launched during 2016 and has been well received from professionals across a wide range of agencies. This positive work will be embedded further during the coming year with the development of a toolkit, evaluation framework and a multi-agency training package.

Our priorities for 2017/18 were agreed with partners with the aim of delivering improvements in key areas that affect the lives of children and young people. This includes: how to develop a better

understanding of and response to neglect; the impact of domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health in the home; and how to deliver effective, co-ordinated approaches to issues such as child sexual exploitation, children who go missing and those who self-harm. Critical to achieving successful outcomes will be improved communication with children and young people, understanding their 'lived experience' and giving them a voice that is not only listened to but acted upon. The Board is also committed to maintaining its robust quality assurance framework to enable scrutiny of the quality and impact of front-line practice to be assessed and continuously improved.



**Derek Benson**  
**Independent Chair**

## Contents

|                                                                                              |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Foreword from Derek Benson, Independent Chair of Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board ..... | 2  |
| The Board .....                                                                              | 5  |
| What is the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB)? .....                              | 5  |
| How the Board works .....                                                                    | 5  |
| Structure of HSCB in 2016/17 .....                                                           | 6  |
| Day to day, the work of HSCB includes .....                                                  | 6  |
| Finance .....                                                                                | 7  |
| The local partnership and accountability arrangements ..                                     | 8  |
| Key relationships with other partnerships .....                                              | 12 |
| Local Demographics and Safeguarding Context .....                                            | 13 |
| Local Demographics.....                                                                      | 13 |
| Early Help.....                                                                              | 18 |
| Progressing the Board’s business plan .....                                                  | 27 |

|                                                                                                        |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Priority 1 – Neglect .....                                                                             | 27 |
| Priority 2 - The impact of substance misuse, mental health problems and domestic abuse in adults ..... | 30 |
| Priority 3: Key safeguarding issues .....                                                              | 34 |
| Priority 4: Quality Assurance .....                                                                    | 41 |
| Priority 5 – Stakeholder Engagement.....                                                               | 51 |
| Serious case reviews and child deaths .....                                                            | 55 |
| Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) .....                                                                      | 55 |
| Child deaths .....                                                                                     | 57 |
| Priorities for 2017/18.....                                                                            | 58 |

## The Board

### What is the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB)?

HSCB is the key statutory body overseeing multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements across Hampshire. The work of the Board is governed by statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the statutory objectives of Local Safeguarding Children Boards, which are:

- To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area.
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

### How the Board works

Everything we do is underpinned by two key principles:

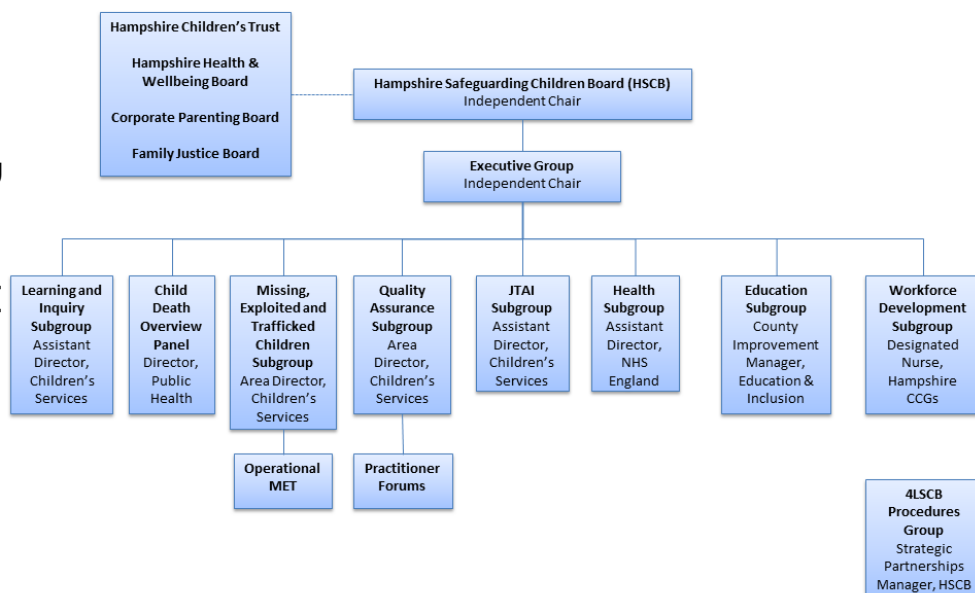
- **Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility** - For services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part.
- **A child centred approach** - For services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of the individual children whilst recognising the support parents and carers may require.

HSCB has an Independent Chair and members who are senior representatives from a range of agencies. The Board is collectively responsible for the strategic oversight of local safeguarding arrangements. It does this by leading, co-ordinating, challenging and monitoring the delivery of safeguarding practice by all agencies across the county.

HSCB's independent chair is Derek Benson and he is accountable to the Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council. He met the Chief Executive and Council Leader and the Director of Children's Services for Hampshire regularly throughout 2016/17 and worked closely with them on safeguarding related challenges.

## Structure of HSCB in 2016/17

The main Board is supported by a range of sub-groups that enable its functioning. The overall structure is illustrated below.



## Day to day, the work of HSCB includes

Undertaking multi-agency thematic audits and partnership reviews into the effectiveness of services. In 2016/17 this included work in relation to:

- Safeguarding disabled children and young people self-assessment.
- Multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) file audit.
- Missing, exploited and trafficked children effectiveness self-assessment.
- Prevent training audit self-assessment.

Scrutinising quarterly data and analysis reports so that HSCB is clear on the needs of children and the challenges in relation to safeguarding in Hampshire.

Overseeing the training and learning opportunities that are available for the children's workforce, and reviewing the effectiveness of these through evaluations, observations and longer term impact audits.

Managing the completion and publication of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and Partnership Reviews ensuring that the learning from these improves services for children.

Checking partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their organisations through audits, visits and challenge days.

## Finance

The budget for HSCB in 2016/17 was £375,900. This was based on the same level of Board partner contributions as 2015/16 and a carry forward underspend of £31,700.

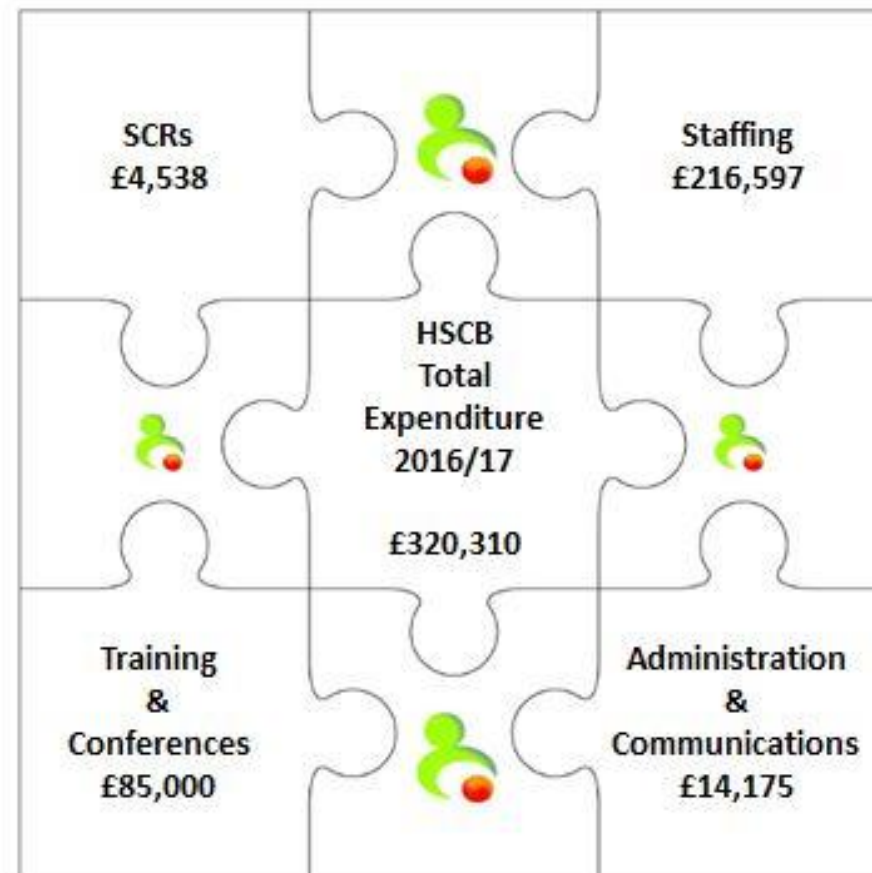
The year end position provided an under-spend of £55,590, largely due to the fact there were no new SCRs commissioned during the year.

The Board have agreed to carry forward the under-spend to support new SCRs commissioned and specific activities and projects during 2017/18.

The low spend on the SCR budget offset small pressures on the administration and communications budget (£675) and staffing budget (£1,297).

Income received from non-attendance at training courses was used to support the increase in training costs as a result of staff absence.

## HSCB Expenditure



## The local partnership and accountability arrangements

### Independent Chair

The Board is led by an Independent Chair, Derek Benson, ensuring a continued independent voice for the Board. The Independent Chair is directly accountable to the Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council and responsible with partner agencies for the effective working of the Board and delivery of its agreed objectives. The Independent Chair works closely with the Director of Children's Services and the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services

### Local Authority

Hampshire County Council is responsible for establishing an LSCB in their area and ensuring that it is run effectively. The ultimate responsibility for the effectiveness of the HSCB rests with the Leader of Hampshire County Council. The Chief Executive of the Council is accountable to the Leader.

The Lead Member for Children's Services is the Councillor elected locally with responsibility for making sure that the local authority fulfils its legal responsibilities to safeguard children and young people. The Lead Member contributes to HSCB as a participating observer and is not part of the decision-making process.

### District Councils

The 11 District and Borough Councils were represented on the Board by Simon Eden, Chief Executive of Winchester City Council for part of the year before he retired. Bob Jackson, Chief Executive of New Forest District Council joined the Board in September 2016. There is also District/Borough representation on the Learning & Inquiry Group (formerly the Serious Case Review Committee), Quality Assurance Group, Workforce Development Group and the Strategic Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children Group.

*'The involvement of District/Borough Councils in the work of the Board can help improve the welfare chances of children in Hampshire. Within our community, safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. Although District/Borough Councils do not have a direct statutory responsibility, many of the services provided can help with child safety at a local level, examples being housing management and taxi licencing. In addition, District/Borough Councils have significant knowledge of their local communities and are accessible local points of contact that can help with public engagement. Being part of the Board helps ensure that there is a coordinated approach and provides a challenge to the contribution that each agency represented can make to improving the lives of children in Hampshire'* (Bob Jackson, Chief Executive of New Forest District Council).

## Lay Members

HSCB had two Lay Members on its Board through 2016/17, both of whom played an important role challenging, supporting and holding partners to account in the way they meet their safeguarding duties. They also assist in developing stronger public engagement and awareness of children's safeguarding issues.

Lay Members help the Board stay in touch with local issues so that its work is relevant to Hampshire's communities. One Lay Member stood down from their position at the end of the year having served for six years on the Board. Their position will be recruited to during 2017/18.

*'As a Lay Member of the board I am not, nor would expect to be, privy to the internal occupations of all the constituent bodies that provide such a valuable and effective service to the people of Hampshire. However, because of that separation, I am able to maintain an independent scrutiny of safeguarding activity.'*

*My observations have not caused to me to waver in my opinion that most of the organisations that find themselves with responsibility for the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people perform their functions with the utmost endeavour and professionalism.*

*Despite the complexities of the safeguarding agenda, I am confident that the structure of the board and its supporting committees enables weaknesses to be identified and addressed in a timely*

*fashion. The constant reassessment of safeguarding priorities, trends and strategy, informed and supported by audit and "challenge" activities, such as the Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children Challenge Day, is effective and detailed.*

*The quality and quantity of training offered to and shared among the organisations is impressive and reflects current concerns. The board and committees are supported by a committed and professional, if somewhat overworked, administration and management team. The support offered to me personally has been most welcome and any matters that I considered to be of concern have been dealt with quickly and I have been kept informed of any outcomes.*

*As an independent Lay Member, I cannot help but be concerned that going forward and facing further cuts in funding, safeguarding organisations will find themselves extending their already stretched resources in caring for the children of Hampshire to the point where this may adversely affect their ability to do so. I hope that this will not be the case and have the utmost confidence in the determination of professionals such as social services, probation service, medical services and police to continue to offer a continuing high level of care' (Graham Cull, HSCB Lay Member).*

## Designated Health Professionals

The Designated professionals provide the Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England, Public Health, HSCB and partners with advice and support to ensure that outcomes for children continue to improve. Four Named GPs joined the Hampshire safeguarding and looked after children's team in May 2015. In November 2016 an audit of GPs told us that 100% of GPs knew who their local Named GP was and 97% knew how to contact them. 35% of staff who attended training had contacted the team on a previous occasion, and 100% found the advice helpful.

*'We work with colleagues to provide advice and support to GPs and practice nurses. We provide safeguarding training to primary care staff through educational half days (supported by our designated nurse for children in care and senior leads from children's services), practice visits, biannual training for GP practice safeguarding leads, a quarterly newsletter and an annual conference. We are present on sub-groups for Health, FGM, MET and neglect. We also participate in serious case reviews; attend review panels and learning outcome events. We work closely with our Wessex and Surrey counterparts to build cross-border links and attend the Wessex Safeguarding network. Nationally we are members of the Primary Care Children's Safeguarding Forum' (Hampshire Named GPs).*

## NHS England (Wessex)

NHS England South (Wessex) in collaboration with CCG safeguarding leads and partner agencies has successfully implemented a safeguarding programme. The aim of the programme is to identify and share best practice models of safeguarding across the Wessex region (Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight and Dorset) to ensure consistent and sustained responses to improve outcomes for vulnerable people. Some of the work streams include:

- Multiagency task and finish group established to identify clear information sharing processes for early risk (with a focus on domestic abuse).
- Dataset to measure activity and progress against the national priority areas.
- Leadership programme for designated and named professionals.
- Mapping of post abuse therapeutic support services across Wessex and development of a quality assurance framework to support high quality services.
- Development of the safeguarding leaflet 'Pocket Principles of Protection' for healthcare staff which has been cascaded to 50,000 frontline staff across Wessex.
- Comprehensive webinar safeguarding programme for primary care successfully rolled out in collaboration with CCG designated professionals and named GPs.



## National Probation Service

The National Probation Service (NPS) are responsible for the management of offenders who pose a high or very high risk of serious harm. In addition, the NPS provide assessments to the Courts to inform sentencing decisions and understanding of risk. The NPS also manage all offenders who are subject to Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements including: most registered sex offenders, people who have committed serious violent offences (receiving more than 12 months custody either served or suspended) and other offenders who present a significant risk where a coordinated approach is required to manage them. As well as the direct management of offenders, the NPS provide a network of hostel places for high risk offenders as well as programmes to address sexual offending.

## Hampshire and IOW Community Rehabilitation Company

Hampshire and IOW Community Rehabilitation Company (HIOW CRC) supervise offenders aged 18 and over in the community who are sentenced by the court to either a Community Order or a Suspended Sentence Order, and are low or medium risk of serious harm. It also supervises people allocated to the service who are in custody and those released from prison on licence. HIOW CRC commissions a service called Through the Gate which aims to help prisoners preparing to make the transition from custody through to the community.

HIOW CRC provides more than 120 group work spaces each year for men convicted of more serious or persistent domestic abuse offences, who have been made subject to Community Orders with a requirement to attend Building Better Relationships – a 26 week accredited programme targeted at reducing domestic violence. These men are often living within the family home, where children could be impacted by their behaviour. While on the programme, a participant's partner will be visited and supported by a Partner Link Worker.

In addition, the CRC is commissioned by CAFCASS to provide a limited number of spaces on the BBR programme to men ordered by the Family Courts to undertake a targeted domestic abuse intervention.



## Key relationships with other partnerships

### Hampshire Children's Trust

Hampshire Children's Trust is responsible for developing and promoting integrated front line delivery of services which serve to safeguard children. The Chair of HSCB is a member of the Children's Trust and the Chair of the Trust sits on HSCB. HSCB presents its annual report to the Children's Trust outlining key safeguarding challenges and any action required from the Children's Trust.



### The Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board brings together leaders from the County Council, NHS and District and Borough Councils to develop a shared understanding of local needs, priorities and service developments. The two Boards have an established protocol outlining how they will work together including consultation on commissioning proposals that affect how children are safeguarded. HSCB reports annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board and checks how it is tackling the key safeguarding issues for children in Hampshire.

### Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is an elected official charged with securing efficient and effective policing services in his or her area. The Police and Crime Commissioner's Youth Commission is actively involved in the work of HSCB. During 2016/17 this included attending and participating in the HSCB annual conference.

## Local Demographics and Safeguarding Context

### Local Demographics

Hampshire County Council is the third largest county in the country (based on population) with 1.32 million people including 309,462 children and young people aged 0 – 19 (ONS Census, 2011). For 2017, the population is predicted to be 1.83 million based on SAPF (April 2016).

Hampshire has a predominantly white ethnic population 90.9% of children of compulsory school age and above of white ethnicity (DfE sfr/28/2017).

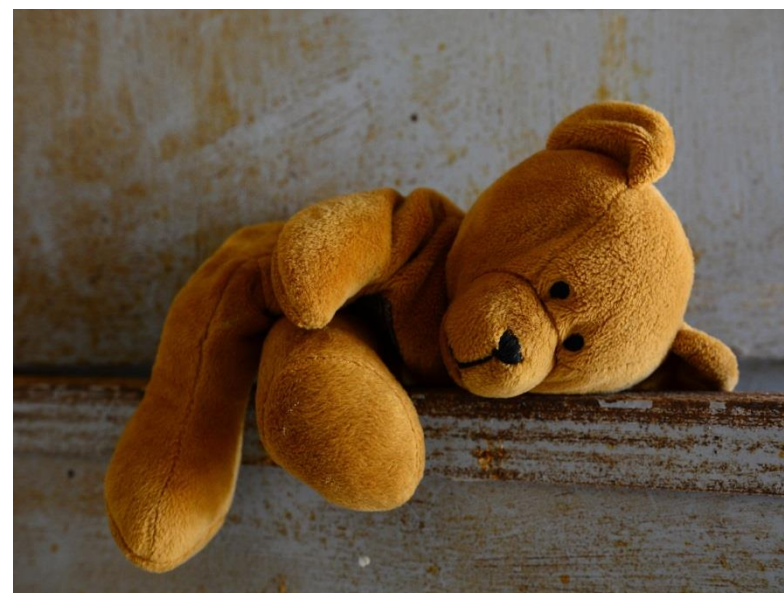
94% of children in Hampshire of compulsory school age and above have English as their first language (DfE sfr/28/2017).

The county is a mix of urban and rural populations, with areas of affluence and areas of significant deprivation. There are six areas in Hampshire that are listed in the 20% most deprived in England, including Eastleigh, Gosport, Havant, New Forest, Rushmoor and Test Valley (Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2015).

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board’s (HSCB’s) underlying philosophy has been to focus attention on those children who are most vulnerable and at risk of suffering harm.

### Vulnerable groups

Many groups of children in Hampshire are vulnerable and are at increased risk of being abused and / or neglected. These groups are not exhaustive and many factors, such as going missing from home, living in households where there is domestic abuse, substance misuse and / or parents with mental health difficulties can place children at increased risk of harm. The needs of these children, and other vulnerable groups, are outlined below to provide an understanding of local context.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Please note some figures in this section will be subject to official validation.

## Children with a child protection plan

Children who have a child protection plan (CPP) are considered to be in need of protection from either neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse, or a combination of one or more of these. The CPP details the main areas of concern, what action will be taken to reduce those concerns and by whom, and how we will know when progress is being made.

There has been a gradual decline in the number of children subject to a CPP across the previous 12 months with 1,265 at the end of March 2017 (48.8 per 10,000 under 18 population) compared to 1,435 (52 per 10,000 under 18 population) at the end of March 2016. Although the number of referrals has increased over the same period, single-agency audits evidence that there has not been a lowering or change in thresholds.

The HSCB routinely scrutinises child protection activity at a county level and where required looks at what is happening at a local level to understand any specific trends or issues impacting on safeguarding activity.

## Children in Care

Children in care are those looked after by the local authority. Only after exploring every possibility of protecting a child at home will the local authority seek a court decision to move a child away from his or her family. Such decisions, whilst incredibly difficult, are made when it is in the best interest of the child.

There were 1,439 children in care at the end of March 2017 compared with 1,309 at the end of March 2016. While the total number of children in care has risen, in part due to an increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, there are robust systems in place to ensure that the correct children become looked after. Significant work is ongoing to identify children who could either reunify home or have an alternative care plan such as a Special Guardianship Order.

All children in care are subject to regular independent reviews to ensure that their circumstances are reviewed and their needs are met. The local authority and other agencies work together to ensure that children are offered the best possible care and this work is co-ordinated and overseen by the Hampshire 'Care Matters Board'.

The vast majority of these children are placed in foster care (75%). 10% of children were in some form of residential placements with 27% of those being children with disabilities and complex needs. The ethnic profile of children in care in Hampshire is similar to the general population and the overall profile is similar to that of England as a whole.

## Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

There was a sustained increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) over 2016/17 from 28 at the end of March 2016 to 74 at the end of March 2017. This trend will continue to rise due to proximity of the Portsmouth port and the agreement that Hampshire will take children from Kent and Portsmouth Local Authorities under the National Dispersal Scheme.

Hampshire County Council continues to offer foster care as a first response including all of the support that comes with a wrap-around Children Looked After plan. This includes a trafficking risk assessment and support through the Barnardo's Independent Trafficking Advocates (ICTA) Service. Children's Services also consider Section 47 planning if children are deemed to be trafficked.



[www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk](http://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk)

## Children who are privately fostered

When a child is 'privately fostered', that is placed by their own parents with another carer who is not a close relative for 28 days or more, the local authority has a duty to safeguard the child through a process of assessment and ongoing monitoring. There is an onus on all those who work with children to recognise and report such situations where they come across them.

The number of reported and assessed privately fostered children in Hampshire is monitored through the Board's Quality Assurance Subgroup. This has always been a low number, given the size of the county, and at the end of March 2016 the Local Authority was aware of 12 children who were privately fostered. This figure has remained consistent to previous years but is suspected to be an inaccurate reflection of actual private fostering arrangements. The Board recognises that an emphasis on raising awareness with front line staff, and the public, is important to ensure that appropriate referrals and checks are made so that all children are kept safe. Further work will be undertaken by the Quality Assurance Subgroup in the coming months to recommunicate the message regarding responsibility to refer private fostering situations to children's services.

[www.twitter.com/HampshireLSCB](https://www.twitter.com/HampshireLSCB)

## Disabled children

The need to safeguard disabled children and provide effective support to children and their families is a priority nationally and locally. In 2016/17, the local authority integrated its disabled children services into the governance structure for its mainstream children’s social care services for children and young people to ensure that disabled children are ‘everybody’s business’.

In light of the local authority’s integration of its disabled children services into its mainstream services for children and young people, HSCB’s Disabled Children Subgroup was discontinued and outstanding work was incorporated into the workforce development, data and participation work-streams. This ensured that the voice of disabled children was reflected across the broad range of HSCB activity and its associated subgroups.

The Board’s disabled children audit questions have been mainstreamed into the revised 4LSCB ‘Keeping Children Safe’ audit programme, which ensures that agencies consider the needs of this group of children across all areas of core business.

| Disabled Children                                                                  | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Referrals to Children's Services                                                   | 2,097   | 1,817   | 2,495   | 2,765   |
| Total number of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan in the year | 73      | 52      | 80      | 104     |
| Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at year end                  | 69      | 45      | 84      | 84      |
| Total number of children Looked After by the Local Authority across the year       | 332     | 318     | 311     | 334     |
| Total number of children Looked After by the Local Authority at year end           | 258     | 250     | 245     | 248     |

Since 2014/15, the number of referrals to Children’s Services for disabled children has increased by 52% and twice as many disabled children became subject to Child Protection Plans during the year 2016/17 compared to 2014/15. However, the number of disabled

children in the care of the local authority has remained steady with a reduction of two children over the same period.

The YPEG (Young People's Engagement Group) is well established and has provided disabled children's services with robust feedback and challenge and is supporting schools and short break providers to ensure that the voice and views of disabled children informs the planning and development of services. The Hampshire Parent Carer Network (HPCN) also provides feedback from a parent/carer perspective.

The training and development offer has been revised and strengthened in regard to the safeguarding of disabled children and further work is being undertaken to develop an advanced training offer for social workers and the police.

The Department for Education is working with leading local authorities as Partners in Practice to understand how local authorities get to good and what it takes to move from good to excellent. Hampshire County Council Children's Services is a Partner in Practice. This government programme aims to use partnership between local and national government to improve and reform services for children and young people.

As part of the Partners in Practice Programme, Hampshire Children's Services with partners are driving process and cultural changes to develop a more personalised and strength-based model of practice to enhance families to build their resilience and keep children living in their communities wherever possible and

appropriate. To do this, services and social work tools need to be developed to provide targeted and timely responses to a family's identified needs.

Hampshire is also exploring a new model of multi-disciplinary working and potentially integrated teams. An integrated approach will be piloted during 2017.

### **Children who offend or are at risk of offending**

Children involved with Hampshire Youth Offending Team (HYOT) often present with complex needs requiring significant support both in and out of custody. HYOT has continued to see the number of children they work with decrease from previous years. The number of children worked with through pre-court disposals and community orders has reduced from 604 in 2015/16 to 332 in 2016/17. Similarly, the number of children in custody (on remand or sentenced) has decreased in each of the last three years from 40 in 2015/16 to 28 in 2016/17. The overall decline is consistent with a national reduction in the number of children formally entering the criminal justice system.

In December 2016 Youth Crime Prevention (YCP) came back under the responsibility of HYOT and they have worked on Prevention Programmes and Community Resolutions with a further 416 young people.

## Early Help

The ten early help hubs continued to operate during 2016/17 providing a single point for the coordination of level 3 targeted early help across Hampshire. Detailed work commenced on the proposed Family Support Service (FSS) and following extensive consultation, and an Executive Member Decision Day in July 2016, work commenced with the new model being operational for December 2016. Despite the changes and impact on staffing and delivery, the level 3 offer to families remained and the numbers being supported remained steady. At 31st December 2016, 1,183 families (2,699 children) were open to early help hubs and 1,247 families (2,787 children) at 31st March 2017.

Between December 2016 and March 2017 developments continued to align the FSS and Supporting Troubled Families programme with the implementation of new processes from April 2017.

There was a focussed programme to ensure FSS staff were appropriately trained for the requirements of FSS and all ten hubs published timetables for delivery for evidenced based groups and surgeries sessions from April 2017.

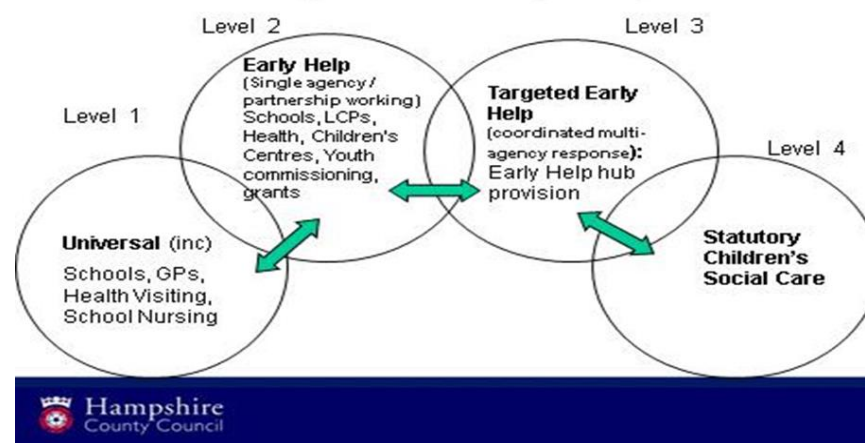
### Spotlight on: The Family Support Service

The Family Support Service (FSS) is Hampshire County Council Children's Services contribution to the overall Hampshire early help offer. The local FSS manager is the local strategic link and facilitates the early help hub which coordinates the multi-agency level 3 offer.

The level 3 offer comprises of 1 to 1 direct work with families and an evidenced based group work offer (some places in each group can be filled with families at a lower level of need and also those open to statutory social care). For families with level 2 needs (lower level / single issue) there is a group work offer, often called priority groups, which aims to respond to local needs, e.g. young parents, service families and also appointment based 30 minute surgeries.

Building capacity and confidence in practitioners is key to the early help developments in Hampshire and the FSS is currently working alongside partners to continue to develop opportunities including training, peer supervision, surgery consultations and joint home visiting. There is also an updated online service directory and FSS webpages.

### The Hampshire Early Help model



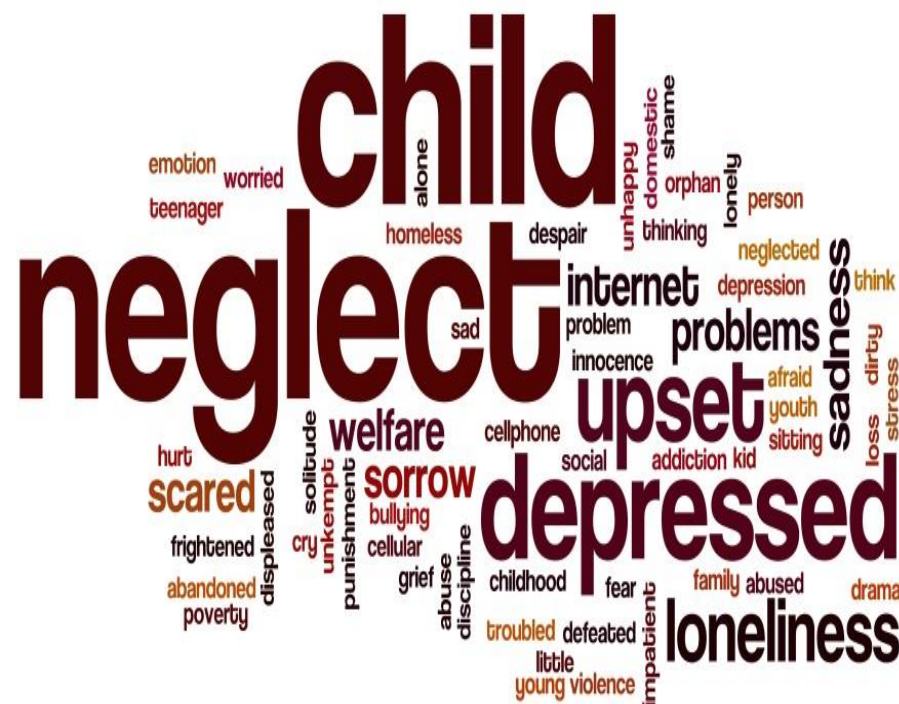


## Children's Reception Team Contacts2

| Children's Reception Team Contacts 2016/2017 |                 |                                |                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total CRT Contacts                           | Police Contacts | Combined Contact Calls/ Emails | Out of Hours Contacts (not included in total CRT Contacts) |
| 72,717                                       | 34,471          | 38,246                         | 42,984                                                     |

In 2016/17, the Children's Reception Team (CRT) in Hampshire was managing in excess of 6,060 contacts per month, peaking at 7,621 in March 2017. The volume of Children & Young People Referrals (CYPR's) from Hampshire Constabulary accounted for approximately half of the contacts received. In order to address this high volume the following was undertaken:

- Streamlining the CYPR process
- Out of Hours assisting with the triaging of CYPR's.
- Commencing work between Children's Services and Police to ensure that incidents being reported via a CYPR are around child welfare concerns.
- Discussions have now occurred at MASH Board.

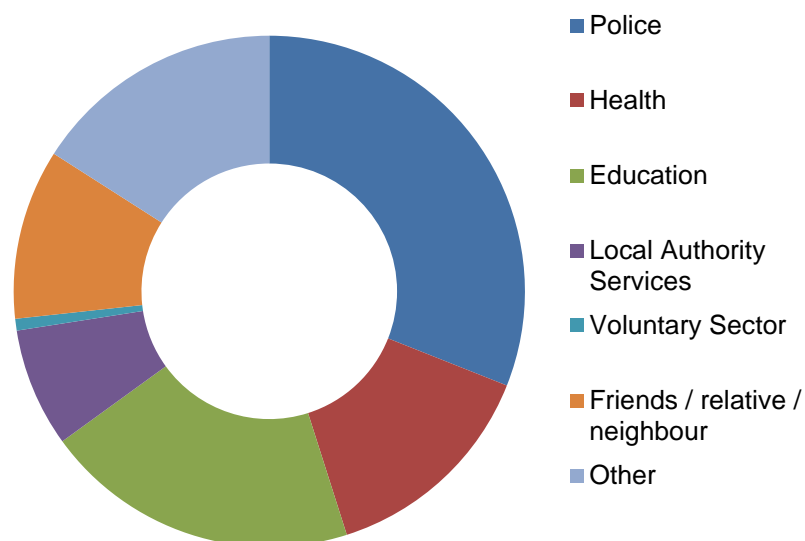


Page 57

<sup>2</sup> Figures as at 4 August 2017

## Referrals to Hampshire Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

### Referrals to MASH 2016/17

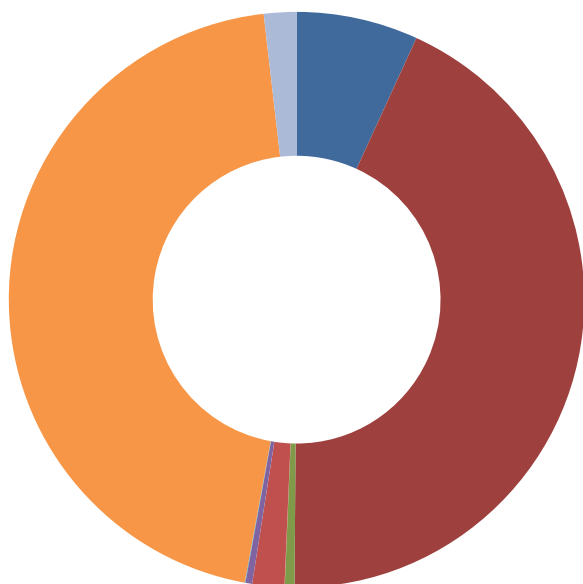


| Referrals to MASH 2016/17      |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Police                         | 10,784        |
| Health                         | 4,898         |
| Education                      | 6,928         |
| Local Authority Services       | 2,617         |
| Voluntary Sector               | 258           |
| Friends / relative / neighbour | 3,744         |
| Other                          | 5,548         |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>34,777</b> |

Police and education are the main sources of referrals. Police account for 31% of the total number of referrals into MASH with education making up 20%.

## Outcomes Following Referral to Hampshire Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub

### Outcome of Referrals to MASH 2016/17



- S47 Investigation
- Specialist Assessments
- Progress to Guardianship application
- Fast Track Disabled Children Team
- Early Help Attendance Legal Panel referral
- Referral to another agency
- No Further Action
- Single Assessment
- Progress to Mental Health Assessment
- Progress to Assessment (A&OP)
- Early Help
- Other Local Authority Child Protection Plan
- Advice Information

| Outcomes of Referrals to MASH 2016/17       |               |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|
| S47 Investigation                           | 2,377         |
| Single Assessment                           | 15,051        |
| Specialist Assessments                      | 188           |
| Progress to Mental Health Assessment        | 0             |
| Progress to Guardianship application        | 0             |
| Progress to Assessment (A&OP)               | 5             |
| Fast Track Disabled Children Team           | 1             |
| Early Help                                  | 625           |
| Early Help Attendance Legal Panel referral  | 1             |
| Other Local Authority Child Protection Plan | 131           |
| Referral to another agency                  | 12            |
| Advice Information                          | 15,748        |
| No Further Action                           | 636           |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>34,777</b> |

Over the last 12 months, 43% of all MASH referrals progressed to C&F Assessments, which is consistent with figures from 2015/16. Over 2016/17, MASH have managed a total of 34,775 referrals of which 2,377 (7%) progressed to Section 47 investigations.

The progression rate outlined above illustrate that thresholds within CRT and MASH have been consistent over the last 12 month period. This is particularly relevant for the percentage of contacts resolved and progressed to referral. Regular audit of work

undertaken within MASH along with the multi agency audit days, led by HSCB support ensure that the thresholds in MASH are consistent and robust. This has been further reinforced within findings from Ofsted inspections plus the Joint Targeted Area Inspection of the multi-agency response to domestic abuse in Hampshire which stated that ‘thresholds for referral into children’s social care are clearly understood and consistently applied’.

CRT/MASH have worked closely with the Willow Team to review and update the initial SERAF screening tool used at first contact, to assist with the identification of Child Sexual Exploitation. This screening tool is completed for all contacts where a child is over the age of ten years and ensures that the need for a full SERAF is identified where required. The use of the SERAF screening tool is due to commence in the Out of Hours Service during August 2017.

The Inter Agency Referral Form (IARF) has been reviewed and updated and will replace email referrals, enabling staff within CRT to manage contacts and referrals more effectively.

### **Children who are at risk of exploitation**

Multi-agency work to identify children and young people who may be at risk of exploitation and trafficking in Hampshire remained a Board priority for 2016/17. Children deemed at risk are managed through the Hampshire operational Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Group. The work from this group is carried forward through the multi-agency specialist Willow Team and Hampshire Constabulary’s Missing and Exploited Team. At the end of March

2017, 24 children were assessed as being at high risk of exploitation and 75 were assessed as being at medium risk.

The dominant themes of child sexual exploitation in Hampshire, as nationally, continue to present as:

- **The Boyfriend Model** - This model has become increasingly evident in relation to transient drug dealers exploiting teenagers both sexually and criminally with the exploited party trafficking drugs on behalf of the dealers.
- **The Party Model** - Older males orchestrating situations where drugs and alcohol are provided to vulnerable young people and sexual offences and CSE take place.
- **Peer on Peer** - Particularly notable in cyber enabled CSE offences where there are higher levels of young people communicating.

There are cross-overs between all three models where social groups are seen to offend collectively, typically against a group of younger females.

The majority of Willow Team cases are linked to grooming via the Internet or ‘peer on peer’ incidents.

90% of offenders are white males in the age range of 18 to 25 and the victim profile has parity with the South East regional data, indicating that mid-teen white British girls form the core group

targeted by perpetrators. The impact of exploitation on boys is not always recognised and this will be a priority for the HSCB's Strategic Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children Group.

Over the coming year, HSCB will also be strengthening the remit of it's Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children Group to cover gang-related activity.



## Missing Children

There were 4,092 missing episodes and 496 absent reports (no apparent risk of harm to either the subject or the public) for under 18 year olds in 2016/17 (Hampshire Constabulary).

Analysis of Children's Services data indicates that approximately three quarters of children that go missing are not looked after or not known by the local authority. Children who are looked after by the local authority accounted for half of the total number of incidents, highlighting the vulnerability of such children.

The UK Missing Persons Bureau highlights that the 12-17 year old age range was the most likely age grouping to go missing in 2014/15, representing 56% (104,714) of the total missing incidents (187,947). The data from Hampshire is consistent with the general trends in the UK. As expected, there is evidence that the summer periods with the warm weather/lighter evenings see an increase in missing incidents within Hampshire.

Processes for monitoring children going missing include rigorous follow-up actions including a welfare check by the Police as well as return interviews with volunteers or social workers, to ascertain why the child went missing, where they have been, what they were doing and what support should be put in place to prevent this happening in the future.

## Young people with mental health issues

During 2016/17, 8,335 children and young people were referred to the specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). This is a 17.8% increase on the previous year of 1,491 referrals. Of the children referred, 6,175 children went on to receive a full assessment. 3,926 assessment appointments and 2,900 first treatment appointments were undertaken. In excess of 80,000 clinical appointments were undertaken throughout the year. At the end of March 2017, there were 6,275 open cases of young people receiving an on-going service.

The service has seen a significant increase in the number of urgent and crisis presentations requiring immediate assessment. These are both those who present in Accident and Emergency departments, often with high levels of deliberate self-harm, as well as those referred directly into the service with complex and high risk behaviours.

## Waiting times

The waiting times for both assessment and treatment are much longer than the service would like. This is due to the significant increase in demand and lack of capacity within the service to meet this. 42.5% of young people were assessed within the 4 weeks target, 56.3% of young people were treated within 18 weeks. The service received 531 urgent referrals which needed to be seen within a four hour period, 100% of these were responded to within the required timeframe.

[www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk](http://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk)

## Inpatient admissions

The total number of young people admitted to psychiatric inpatient care throughout 2016/17 was 79; this was 11 more than 2015/16. There are on average 35 young people in hospital at any one time. Less than half of these young people are placed locally either at Leigh House or the Priory in Marchwood. The remaining children and young people are placed in provision outside of Hampshire, sometimes hundreds of miles from home, making this very difficult for families to provide support as well as making care planning and transition arrangements more challenging for the local CAMHS teams. There is often significant delay in securing an appropriate bed and some young people have had extended stays on paediatric wards, or being risk managed at home whilst a bed is identified and secured.

## Specialist Eating Disorder Team

In 2016 CAMHS received some additional funding to develop a county wide specialist eating disorders team, which was launched on the 6th of June.

The service modelled approximately 150 referrals a year. However up to the end of March 279 referrals had been made. A number of cases have presented as acutely unwell due to late detection of their eating disorder or due to rapid weight loss requiring intensive treatment sometimes by multiple teams to manage their risk, this can include admission to a paediatric setting.

[www.twitter.com/HampshireLSCB](https://www.twitter.com/HampshireLSCB)





During 2016/17 there have been around 300 new pupils who are EHE, all parents have been written to and offered a home visit. Around 30% accepted and visits have taken place – 105 reports have been produced. Links are maintained with local EHE groups including liaison over some difficult cases that has involved social services. The Area Strategic Manager (ASM) has also been involved extensively as Chair of the Association of Elective Home Education Professionals (AEHEP) to encourage the Department for Education to review the guidance around EHE. The guidance was written in 2007 is out of date and is not in line with later safeguarding advice and guidance.

### Children who are Electively Home Educated

Elective Home education (EHE) numbers have continued to rise to over 1,300 at April 2017, a 38% rise since April 2016. These figures reflect national trends. Reasons why parents choose EHE vary but the underlying factors include dissatisfaction with school for one reason or another including SEN, alleged bullying and a general unhappiness with the curriculum. Changes in modern life style also mean that parents can more easily EHE especially parents who work from home. However the term EHE is a legal term and, whilst the vast majority of parents do provide an adequate education there are no common standards.





## Progressing the Board's business plan

During 2015/16, HSCB focused on the following five priorities:

- Priority 1: Neglect.
- Priority 2: The impact of substance misuse, mental health problems and domestic abuse in adults on children and young people.
- Priority 3: The multi-agency response to missing, exploited and trafficked children; female genital mutilation, suicide and self harm and novel psychoactive substances.
- Priority 4: Quality assurance, measuring impact and embedding learning.
- Priority 5: Stakeholder engagement.

### Priority 1 – Neglect

Neglect seriously impacts on the long term life chances for children. Neglect in the first three years of life can seriously effect brain development and have significant consequences through adolescence and into adulthood.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) defines neglect as:

*The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:*

- *Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);*
- *Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;*
- *Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or*
- *Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.*

*It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.*

The table below indicates a reduction in the number of children in Hampshire who are subject to a Child Protection Plans (CPP) under the category of neglect since 2015/16. The proportion of cases on a CPP due to neglect has increased over the previous four years. It is thought that this is due to greater awareness of the indicators of neglect among professionals.

Number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan (CPP) at 31 March 2017 by initial category of abuse

|            |         | Period  |         |         |         |                              |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
|            |         | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17                      |
| Hampshire  | CPP     | 1,145   | 1,111   | 1,354   | 1,441   | 1,263                        |
|            | Neglect | 534     | 584     | 828     | 916     | 829                          |
|            | %       | 46.6%   | 52.6%   | 61.2%   | 63.6%   | 65.6%                        |
| South East | CPP     | 6,010   | 7,200   | 7,790   | 8,070   | Published<br>October<br>2017 |
|            | Neglect | 2,480   | 3,090   | 3,850   | 4,340   |                              |
|            | %       | 41.3%   | 42.9%   | 49.4%   | 53.8%   |                              |
| England    | CPP     | 43,140  | 48,300  | 49,690  | 50,310  |                              |
|            | Neglect | 17,930  | 20,970  | 22,230  | 23,150  |                              |
|            | %       | 41.6%   | 43.4%   | 44.7%   | 46%     |                              |

Each period is a snapshot as at 31 March of each statutory year. Statutory year statistics extracted from DfE published reports.

Neglect has also featured in a number of serious case reviews (SCRs) commissioned by HSCB. The recommendations from SCRs into Child E, Child M and Child X all highlighted a need for an enhanced understanding and more coordinated multi-agency responses to the complex issue of neglect.

In response to the rising numbers of neglect cases, as well as findings and recommendations from serious case reviews, the Board established a multi-agency task and finish group focussing on neglect. The group, in partnership with colleagues from the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Board, developed a strategy including an Indicators Matrix and Neglect Thresholds Chart to assist professionals in recognising neglect in children and understanding what level of support and help they, and their families, may need. The strategy was launched in October 2016 at events in both Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. These events were well attended and allowed practitioners an opportunity to use the guide to recognising neglect and undertake analysis of real case studies using the four types of neglect described in the strategy. This proved an effective way to introduce the strategy and make it 'real' for practitioners. Feedback from the launch events was extremely positive, and an evaluation of the impact of the strategy will take place over the coming year.

*This was an excellent informative event; the strategy tool provided is a really helpful document, both informative and practical. I will be using it in our next safeguarding newsletter*

*Really helpful I have shared it across my organisation*



## **Priority 2 - The impact of substance misuse, mental health problems and domestic abuse in adults**

### **Family Intervention Team (FIT)**

Hampshire County Council Children's Services piloted multi-disciplinary Family Intervention Teams (FIT) during 16/17 as part of the Innovation Programme. The FIT Pilot set out to provide more creative and holistic interventions to improve overall family functioning, particularly for families with 'toxic trio' issues including: domestic abuse, parental substance misuse and parental mental health. The pilot programme involved small teams of three workers (FITs) experienced in either domestic abuse, adult mental health or adult substance misuse, working closely with some Child in Need teams to benefit families with a Child in Need or Child Protection Plan and at least one of the three toxic trio issues.

FIT continues to be a positive resource across social work teams and continues to encourage good collaborative working across partner agencies. The FIT allows Social Workers to access immediate advice and support in respect of domestic violence and substance misuse issues, and allows for much greater joined up working across services to respond to safeguarding concerns and risks within these areas quickly.

Since FIT workers have been a shared resource across social work teams, as oppose to being allocated to one team, we have seen a greater emphasis on them becoming involved from the outset, especially where high risk referrals for domestic violence and

substance misuse are received, requiring Child Protection investigations. This has worked well in ensuring that immediate resources are in place to work with the family and respond to the risks.

Having the FIT workers based within Children's Services encourages open and good communication and a more coordinated family approach. There continues to be positive feedback from Social Workers that this is beneficial, contributing to much better information sharing and ultimately a better service for clients and outcomes for our families.

The FIT workers are able to be persistent in their approach, especially with families that may be more challenging or harder to engage. This has led to better outcomes on families engaging with the work that is set out in plans, and overall families have largely engaged well with FIT interventions.

## Joint Targeted Area Inspection of Domestic Abuse

Between 5 and 9 December 2016, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary (HMIC) and HMI Probation (HMIP) undertook a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Hampshire. This inspection included a 'deep dive' focus on the response to children living with domestic abuse. Key aspects of this approach were as follows:

- Joint - truly joint - balanced team of inspectors working together to look at what is happening for children
- Targeted - not universal; targeted on areas and targeted on specific groups of children
- Area - not a local authority inspection - inspection of how police, health, probation, youth offending services and the local authority work in Partnership in any given area

The inspection report, published in February 2017, stated that 'Strategic arrangements for responding to domestic abuse in Hampshire are robust and effective. Across all partners, the overall standard of practice is strong and the areas for improvement are minor'.

A range of good practice was highlighted by the inspection team from across HSCB including the following:

### Local Safeguarding Children Board

- 'The HSCB is dynamic and forward thinking. During inspection, it was evident that individual leaders take responsibility for their organisation's role within the board and that this has led to tangible improvements in multi-agency arrangements'.
- 'Consideration and analysis of the regular multi-agency audits undertaken by the partnership promotes a high degree of self-awareness, and this knowledge is used to ensure that learning is fully shared and makes a difference to improving practice'.
- 'There are a number of effective sub-groups that support and feed into the HSCB'.
- 'Considerable work has been undertaken within the HSCB to ensure that the shared dataset informs partnership working by focusing on the key criteria and supporting any partner who requires additional input to provide the most relevant data'.

## Leadership

- 'Strong, established and mature partnership working'.
- 'The open style of leadership and innovation is creatively driven by the director of children's services. Considerable support for this innovation is offered from both the lead member and the chief executive'.
- 'The five clinical commissioning groups within the complex health economy of Hampshire work collaboratively on the safeguarding agenda, including on policies, strategies and working groups. The senior safeguarding leads show commitment to improving quality across provider organisations within the county'.
- 'Police leaders are highly committed to the partnership and have prioritised the protection of children living in homes where domestic abuse occurs'.
- 'Domestic abuse steering group in place for over five years'.
- 'Strategic intention successfully translated into practice'.
- 'Clear culture of strong, co-ordinated leadership underpinned by a commitment to continuously improving services'.
- 'Senior leadership keep in touch with frontline practice and individual outcomes for children'.

## Services

- 'Sophisticated understanding of domestic abuse evident through the innovative role of the domestic abuse workers in the family intervention teams'.
- 'Clarity in commissioning arrangements that have streamlined domestic abuse services effectively into two key providers supported by smaller localised grant-supported projects and individual agency work'.
- 'Significant investment to co-locate key partner agencies and share systems'.
- 'Clear referral pathways with clearly understood and consistently applied thresholds'.
- 'Family intervention team (FIT) includes specialist domestic abuse workers'.
- 'Range of perpetrator programmes and interventions available'.

## Professionals and Managers

- 'Frontline social workers are committed and highly knowledgeable about individual children and strive to ensure that each child has their needs met at an appropriate level of intervention'.
- 'Focused, skilled practitioners who understood the needs of children and the impact of domestic abuse'.
- 'The partnership in Hampshire has thoughtful and accessible senior managers who are visible to practitioners and who know their services well'.

- ‘GPs spoken to were aware of the named GP in their locality and could offer examples of work undertaken by them in relation to practice’.
- ‘Examples seen in all the teams of management oversight and analysis to improve outcomes for children’.

#### Engagement

- ‘The voice of the child is well understood and is given a high profile across partners. The voice and lived experience of children was particularly well recorded in perinatal mental health, child and adolescent mental health service (CAHMS) and health visitors’ records considered by inspectors. Social workers place a high priority on the voice of the child and know children with whom they work well’.

#### Hampshire’s Five Clinical Commissioning Groups

- ‘A strong commitment has been made to the Named GP role across Hampshire. The four Named GPs work collaboratively and lead on initiatives to support safe practice in primary care. GPs spoken to were aware of the Named GP in their locality and could offer examples of work undertaken by them in relation to practice. Impact at an operational level is shown through the safeguarding primary care meetings and through Named GP safeguarding leads meetings held regularly. In one practice, a range of professionals including a health visitor, a school nurse, a community mental health worker, a community police

officer, and a troubled family worker attended. An invitation had also been made to the military welfare office, and the inspector saw evidence of a number of domestic abuse cases being discussed’.

A small number of areas for improvement were identified and these are being addressed via HSCB’s JTAI Group, which was established in early 2016 to coordinate and manage delivery of the joint action plan submitted to the inspectorates.



## Priority 3: Key safeguarding issues

### Missing, exploited and trafficked children

Hampshire, like every other area of the country, is faced with the challenge of tackling the issue of children going missing, being exploited and/or being trafficked (MET). These issues are a key priority for HSCB and the multi-agency response in Hampshire is led by the HSCB Strategic MET Group along with a number of supporting work streams.

There are clear links between child exploitation and those children who are trafficked and/or go missing and the matters cannot be dealt with in isolation. HSCB has combined these three areas to ensure a robust multi-agency response.

### Identification and risk assessment

HSCB continues to promote use the Barnardo's Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (SERAF) to assess CSE risks to children along with an adapted Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Questionnaire (CSERQ4) for acute health settings. The latter was developed and implemented by an HSCB task and finish group with significant input from the 5CCGs.

### The Willow Team

The Willow Team is a children's social care led multi-agency specialist MET team launched in October 2015. The team comprises

a team manager, three social workers, two nurses, one child and family support worker and administrative support. The team work collaboratively with Barnardo's workers, Hampshire Constabulary's Missing & Exploited Team, Hampshire's Youth Offending Team and the Children & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

The team operates across Hampshire and works directly with children identified at risk of one or more elements of MET. The team receives referrals from Hampshire's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) relating to children who are not currently open to Children's Services and where concerns are raised that they are at high risk of MET; and / or children who are in contact with known perpetrators of exploitation or trafficking. The team will also support all unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and will undertake trafficking risk assessments.

The team also requests for support for children currently open to Children's Services. In such cases support can be offered in a number of ways such as:

- Direct work with the child/parent/carers/residential workers.
- Mentoring to professionals including teachers, social workers, school nurses etc. to support them to undertake direct work with the child.
- Consultation advice and support to professional groups.
- Undertaking awareness raising.
- Disruption of perpetrators in collaboration with Hampshire Constabulary.



An external evaluation was undertaken by The Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brookes University, which focussed on the quality and impact of support to young people identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation. The report highlighted that:

- ‘Local agencies have a good understanding of the remit of the Willow Team and that there is strong support for a dedicated multi-disciplinary team providing a range of services including 1:1 work with children at risk, or who have suffered from CSE’.
- ‘Where the young person engages with the Willow worker, they and their key carer(s) almost invariably appreciate the warm, non-judgemental approach and the ability of the Worker to educate both the young person and the broader family about risks relating to sexual exploitation (through use of one to one conversations, DVD’s, and worksheets)’.

### **Willow Team Case Study**

*Ali is a 15 year old and at the time of referral into the Willow Team was living part time with her father and part time with mother. A police report was generated that Ali had been coerced into sending indecent images and videos to an unknown male online.*

*The case has been opened for a formal assessment due to these concerns and part of the assessment was around how well the family were being protective around social media use.*

*The assessment showed that Ali had repeatedly been contacted and groomed by the male. Ali was made to feel good by the contact and this was a ‘pull’ factor to her continued contact with the male.*

*The assessment showed that Ali was having her basic care needs met. We identified though that parents were behaving very differently in their approach to boundaries. One parent was very liberal and not enforcing appropriate boundaries whilst the other was stricter and took more of an interest in the child’s behaviour with social media. Parents were encouraged to take protective steps by stopping internet use and her use of alcohol whilst with one of the parents. Whilst assessing it was clear that the separation of the parents was a challenge. Neither were working together to keep Ali safe and boundaries were so different with each parent that the risk was increased due to lack of communication and joined up parental working.*

*The assessment was completed with the social worker recommending direct work by Willow to support Ali being better aware of healthy relationships, grooming issues and the dangers of using the internet. Parents also were part of the keeping safe work and we encouraged more joined up conversation around parenting and boundaries.*

*When the case was closed the risk had been greatly reduced and we further supported school staff around risks which benefitted many other children.*

Ali said: 'I now know how to find out if someone is sketchy (suspicious, unpredictable, untrustworthy)'.



Page 74

## Hampshire Constabulary Missing & Exploited Team

Hampshire Constabulary's Missing and Exploited Team (MET) has seen the force's Goldstone Team merge with existing missing person officers and co-ordinators. The team have been established under the Neighbourhood and Prevention Strand of policing ensuring a joined up approach between district teams, MET and partner agencies.

The ME Team proactively manage those children who are at the highest risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and/or missing incidents, with a renewed focus on targeting and assisting in the disruption of perpetrators. The use of Child Abduction Warning Notices has proved an effective tool in managing and preventing further harm. The team is also pioneering the use of the C5 perpetrator notice to identify and divert those people who display worrying sexual behaviour but whose actions have not reached the threshold for a prosecution.

One of the ME Team's aims is to decrease the demand that frequent missing children place on colleagues by seeking practical solutions to reduce the number of incidents. This is achieved through proactive intervention and effective partnership working. The team also support colleagues conducting missing person investigations, providing up-to-date information on Risk Management Plans and, where possible, offering practical support and expertise.

In addition, the team seek to identify victims and perpetrators at the earliest opportunity and to coordinate the initial police response, as well as raising awareness within districts of vulnerable individuals, directing any intervention and safeguarding work where it is appropriate to do so, allowing leaders to better manage and reduce the risk of harm.

In 2016/17, the ME Team was led by Chief Inspector Debra Masson, with support from Detective Inspector Julia Fabrizi and Detective Sergeant Abigail Leeson.

### **Health MET Task & Finish Group**

In November 2015, the health sub group of HSCB commissioned a task and finish group to enable health partners to engage in the MET agenda. The purpose of the group was to raise awareness of the issues across all frontline health staff in Hampshire and enable them to make referrals to support those young people at risk.

The terms of reference of the group included inclusion of the HSCB training slides to be included in health organisations training and improved uptake in the use of the agreed assessment tool for individual children thought to be of risk of child exploitation (CSE).

The group was chaired by the Designated Nurse for looked after children and the membership was drawn from across the health economy. The group comprised Primary Care (GPs), Acute Providers (Hospitals), Community Health Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Dentists, Opticians,

Pharmacists, Sexual Health Service, Drug and Alcohol Services, Out of Hours GP Services and the Ambulance Service.

The membership adopted the training slides in early 2016 into their safeguarding training programmes for their organisations and then progressed to look at the assessment tool. The tool agreed for use by HSCB was the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (SERAF) developed by Barnardo's. The documentation was reviewed and the group felt that it was appropriate for certain services such as Sexual Health, Drug and Alcohol and Maternity services but was not practicable for other areas of health.

The Named GP for Safeguarding, representing Primary Care on the group, sourced some research undertaken in Wales who were early implementers of the Barnardo's SERAF. The researchers had consulted just under 1,700 young people in the development of a shortened questionnaire that could be used in areas of health with reduced capacity to complete a full SERAF.

The membership of the group reviewed the research and agreed to progress to the four question shortened assessment for a number of health areas. This was to be known as the Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Questionnaire 4 (CSERQ4).

A matrix was developed to identify which health agencies would be expected to complete the full SERAF and those where the CSERQ4 was appropriate. The questionnaire and the user matrix was taken to HSCB in June 2016 and approved with roll out commenced in July across all health partners.

Following implementation, a GP made a referral following completion of the CSERQ4, which resulted in a young person being protected via the section 47 safeguarding process.

In 2017/18, an audit will be undertaken across some of the health provider’s frontline staff to establish their level of knowledge about CSE and the CSERQ4.

### Female Genital Mutilation

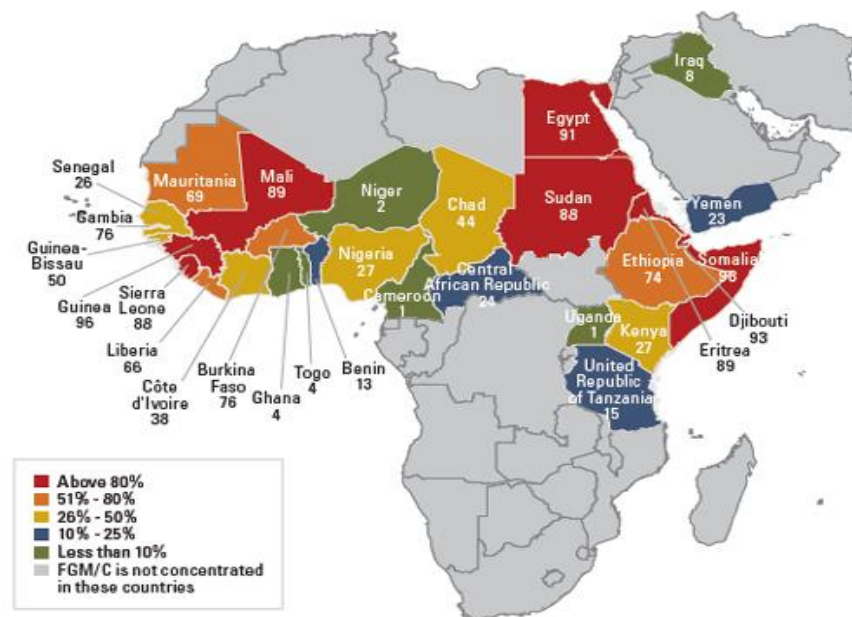
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is medically unnecessary, extremely painful and has serious health consequences for women who undergo it both at the time when the mutilation is carried out and in later life. From 31 October 2015, and the publication of the FGM Duty Guidance, health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales must report known cases of FGM in under 18 year olds to the police.

The HSCB Health Safeguarding Group established a Task and Finish Group to develop resources to support professionals meet their responsibilities included in the new Duty Guidance.

The Group developed a multi-agency FGM Strategy. The Strategy, which was jointly developed by the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) and Hampshire Adult Safeguarding Board (HASB), provides frontline staff with guidance on safeguarding women, children and young girls who have undergone or at risk of undergoing FGM. The Strategy is supported by a range of practical guidance and procedures for frontline staff including:

- Flowcharts for under 18s.
- Flow chart for adults over 18s.
- Risk assessment tool for use in practice.
- Guidance on reporting and recording of FGM.

The Strategy was published in October 2016 and is supported by e-Learning, which is available at no cost to all staff in Board partner agencies.



Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM/C, by country (WHO, 2016).

## How the views of Children and their families inform the work of CAMHS

Hampshire CAMHS considers working innovatively and creatively with families and young people as integral to its philosophy and certainly a key to future success. Over the last 12 months The Fit Fest health and wellbeing events continue to build on the early success which to seek to build resilience and coping skills with young people, and introduce the ethos of balanced well managed lives through arts and physical activity. CAMHS have seen approximately 600 young people through both the events and mobile Fit Fest.



## Spotlight on Fitfest

Fit Fest continues to be a real hit with young people and schools. Over the last 12 months resources have allowed for one Hampshire wide event and 7 mobile Fit fests to take place (2 secondary schools and 5 junior schools). This has amounted to 563 young people in Hampshire that have had input that supports their emotional and psychological health, provided life skills, encouraged them to be physically active and given them an experience of how the arts can benefit them. They had opportunities to see for themselves the amount of different organisations that are available to support them whatever their needs are .....all in just one day. Some of the feedback from YP has included:

*I now know what to do in a crisis*

*I learnt how to deal with panic attacks*

*There are lots of organisations that can help*

*There are lots of others like me*

This year CAMHS are looking forward to a mobile Fit Fest in an Aldershot school and a Havant Fit Fest event that will see approximately 150 young people from the Havant area benefitting from these events.

A brand new development is PACE (Parent and Carer Events). These events provide access to a number of relevant organisations that provide advice and information. The events run 12 different 45

minute workshops delivering on what to look for, top tips and signposting where to go for support, on a range of issues from managing anxiety, challenging behaviour, Autism, gender identity to talking to your child about sex and relationships or substance use.

The feedback from the evaluations on the 2 events to date that were attended by over 320 people at each event stated that 92% would recommend the event to others, and 84% said that the event met their expectations. Some professionals have attended including teachers, GPs and school nurses who have found the training well balanced with the information that they needed for their role. These events are rolling out across the county.

The participation of young people and parents through the ACE programme (Advise/consult/experience) is more embedded into local teams with regular ACE groups happening and participation in various ways happening on a regular basis. This includes interview panels, developing self-help for YP/Parents, preparing a short film about CAMHS and participating in staff induction.

During the year a group of multi-agency professionals developed a Self Harm pathway in response to recommendations made in a multi-agency learning review. The purpose of the document is to provide practitioners with a clear pathway to follow in the event that a child is self harming, or tells them that they have self harmed. The Pathway was published in April 2017.

## **New Psychoactive Substances**

Following a presentation from Hampshire Constabulary's Mental Health Lead on Acute Behavioural Disturbance/Excited Delirium/Excited Delirium Syndrome and the link to usage of psychoactive substances, the Education and Health Subgroups of HSCB commissioned task and finish groups to develop guidance for professionals. This followed implementation of the Psychoactive Substances Act, which came into force on 26 May 2016 and made it an offence to produce and/or supply any substance intended for human consumption that is capable of producing a psychoactive effect.

The guidance was developed in collaboration with HSCB partner agencies and addressed recognition of symptoms, effects and responses. The final version of the document was published in October 2016 and can be found on the HSCB website.

[www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk/procedures/resource-library/](http://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk/procedures/resource-library/)

## Priority 4: Quality Assurance

HSCB undertakes regular auditing of multi-agency child protection in Hampshire. This work is commissioned by the Quality Assurance Group and learning is disseminated to front-line practitioners via partner agencies. Over the last year, the Board undertook a programme of thematic multi-agency audits to establish how well agencies work together to identify and respond to key safeguarding issues.

### Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Audits

In May and October 2016, a multi-agency group comprising members of the Quality Assurance Groups of HSCB along with staff and partners who work as part of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), reviewed 10 cases referred to MASH.

The audits followed the journey of each child from the point of referral into MASH through to the actions and outcome reached, including decisions taken by district social work teams. For the October audit, the cases reviewed featured alleged domestic abuse.

These audits identified timely and appropriate information-sharing between partner agencies, good multi-agency understanding of risk factors that led to robust case decisions, clear application of thresholds, timely responses to child protection investigations and good management oversight along with examples of professional challenge. These audits also identified the need to strengthen the

‘voice of the child’ across HSCB activity, which is being taken forward as a priority in 2017/18. There is confidence that the ongoing multi-agency auditing of MASH is ensuring the Board, and partners, understand the effectiveness of current practice and where improvements may be needed.



## MET Local Effectiveness Assessment

HSCB's 'Challenge Day' on Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (MET) children took place on in May 2016. The purpose of this day was to explore the extent to which MET / CSE was embedded within partners' policies and procedures, assessment tools and training. It was also intended to establish how linked in partners are to the work of HSCB's strategic MET subgroup and to better understand any barriers to effective partnership working.

The panel comprised leaders from across HSCB who received presentations from 14 agencies on their responsive to issues of MET. Agencies presenting included:

- Children's Services
- Hampshire Constabulary
- West Hampshire CCG
- Adult Services – Transition Team
- Youth Offending Team
- Southern Health
- Hampshire Hospitals
- Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust / CAMHS Provider
- National Probation Service
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Rehabilitation Company
- Borough Councils (Eastleigh, Fareham and Gosport)
- CAF/CASS

This event proved highly effective in identifying areas of strength across HSCB and opportunities for further improvement. All agencies received written feedback from the Independent Chair of the Board, which will be revisited in 2017/18 to ensure that progress has been made.

## Section 11 Audit

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As part of its statutory duty to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each organisation in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board undertakes annual monitoring of compliance with Section 11 safeguarding standards.

In March 2016, a 4LSCB audit tool was issued to leaders of the following 33 agencies. Strengths and areas for improvement were identified by Board partner representatives who attended one of six evaluation days, which took place between June and July 2016.

A clear commitment to keeping children safe was evident along with positive examples of how agencies ensure a child-focus across their services. Agency feedback was issued formally via the HSCB Independent Chair, which identified areas of good practice and opportunities for strengthening safeguarding arrangements. For



2017/18, the Section 11 audit will review progress made against areas identified as requiring improvement in 2016.

### **Section 11 GP Audit**

For the first time, GPs were also involved in the Section 11 audit with a 94% response rate from Hampshire's 150 practices. This highlighted some excellent work with most practices having both a safeguarding lead and deputy, which was later recognised in the Joint Targeted Area Inspection of Hampshire. Practices were aware of how to access training and were sharing lessons learnt from incidents and reviews back to staff.

### **Safeguarding in Education Audit**

In 2016, there was a 97% return rate from education settings, across all sectors, in relation to the annual education audit (compared to 99% in 2015). This small drop in the return rate has been addressed by the Education Subgroup and changes have been made to the audit process to improve communication between HSCB and education settings, particularly the further education sector.

The returned audits indicate compliance across all areas and evidence good levels of compliance with statutory obligations under Section 157 and Section 175 of the Education Act 2002. Schools were able to show they undertake child protection training, adhere to safer recruitment guidance and implement their own child protection procedures.

This year, for the first time, the Southern Internal Audit Partnership conducted a supplementary quality assurance review, which was designed to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding frameworks in maintained schools. The review focused on:

- Policies, procedures and training.
- Governance.
- Record retention and transfer of records.

The audit was undertaken in March 2017 and the findings will be reported within the 2017/18 annual report.

HSCB have organised the second annual conference for designated safeguarding leads across all sectors. This conference will highlight changes in guidance, learning from local and national safeguarding experiences, Board developments and key changes in children's social care. The events will be delivered in multiple locations across the county during the summer term 2017.

### **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**

The LADO should be informed of all allegations against adults working with children, providing advice and guidance to ensure individual cases are resolved as quickly as possible. LADO work is measured over academic years due the weight of referrals involving school staff. The number of referrals has continued to remain high at 761 in the year 2015/16 (up 12% on the previous year); a similar

total is anticipated for the year 2016/17. In Hampshire, the LADOs also offer advice on child safeguarding issues.

The range of organisations referring positively reflects a continuing awareness of this statutory within the broadly defined children’s workforce. In the last year the LADOs repeated a survey of customers’ views. This again demonstrated high levels of positive feedback across the range of indicators. In particular, people found the service easy to contact, understood the role after speaking to the LADOs and were clear what would happen next. Feedback included:

*Excellent and calm support given at a potentially difficult time.  
Thanks to all.*

*I was thoroughly impressed with the speed of response from the LADO, the advice and information given and the overall experience.  
I would rate it as outstanding.*

### **Children Living in Secure Accommodation**

#### **Swanwick Lodge**

Swanwick Lodge, a Secure Children’s Home, is a national resource registered with Ofsted to care for 16 young people of either gender aged 10 to 17 years who are deemed to be at such a significant risk of harm to themselves and others that they need to reside in

secure accommodation. This provision is usually made under section 25 of the Children Act (1989). Four beds were previously offered under a block bed contract to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) which expired on 31 March 2016. Hampshire County did not seek an extension to the contract and all young people are now placed at Swanwick Lodge on welfare grounds.

During the reporting period of 2016/17, Swanwick Lodge delivered a range of improvements to the premises including:

- New offices have been implemented to improve the working conditions for the staff at the home.
- A large refurbishment of its soft furnishings, living spaces and dining rooms to make the home more comfortable and user friendly for the children that live here. This included new dining room tables and chairs and graphics and wall art throughout the home (chosen by young people).
- Additional safe works were undertaken on a designated bedroom on each unit to allow the room to function for children with more complex needs (a high dependency room).
- The library was converted into two visitor rooms to allow for more capacity for young people to have both professional and personal visits and contact. One of the visitor rooms has also been set up with full video conference facilities for court appearances etc.
- A fully furnished hair and beauty salon has been built in the home with the aim of promoting educational/vocational opportunity’s for young people at the home.

- The gym underwent a full security upgrade and cosmetic refurbishment to both reduce the risk of absconding, and to make the gym more user-friendly. Additional ventilation was installed as well and the gym is currently in the process of having solar panels installed also.
- Works on the homes high & low level windows to provide additional security and reduce the risk of absconding and potential harm.
- Anti climb works have been completed around the home, including a high wall in garden and anti climb up grades in the admissions courtyard to reduce the risk of absconding in the home.

In light of improvements to the premises, staffing vacancies and the challenging and complex needs of the cohort of young people accessing the secure welfare estate, Swanwick Lodge was not able to achieve full occupancy in 2016/17. However, occupancy has increased to an average of 71.5% compared to an average of 50% for previous reporting periods.

During the reporting period, there were a total of 317 instances of restraint, a decrease from 344 restraints in the previous reporting period. The vast majority of restraints continued to be brief with only 2% of holds used lasting no more than five minutes (compared with 6% in 2015 and 8% for both 2014 and 2013). The level of recorded injury was proportionate to the amount of restraints that had been undertaken. Each restraint will usually involve multiple holds with the majority (97%) being guided moves and lower-level techniques.

The majority of incidents and restraints during 2016/2017 reflect the challenging behaviours and complexity of need among a small proportion of the young people accommodated. Three particularly complex young people accounted for 30% of all restraints over the 12 month period.

### **Swanwick Lodge Case Study**

*Child X arrived having had eight placements in the last two years from foster care to open children's home. She had absconded numerous times and displayed other risk taking behaviours. The local authority considered her to be at very high risk of CSE, had absconded frequently and was found in the company of a number of unknown males.*

*Child X presented as low in mood often, with extremely low self-esteem on arrival at Swanwick Lodge. A POP (Pillars of Parenting) consultation was held with advice and guidance from the Swanwick Lodge Psychologist. A work plan of intervention was formulated and this ran alongside a stabilisation programme overseen by the Head of Health and Wellbeing, Recovery Support Workers and care staff through Stage 1, building positive relationships with adults, role-modelling, building self-esteem, emotional attachments, structure and routine, life skills etc.*

*Child X moved onto Stage 2 whilst at Swanwick Lodge where by she was able to manage her emotions more effectively, focus on her achievements, build confidence and self-esteem. Her self-harm significantly reduced and then stopped prior to her leaving. She*

*worked with the CSE worker and recovery workers to identify how she was putting herself at risk.*

*She attended education regularly and prior to her leaving, sat her functional skills tests Level 1. She enjoyed her activities, taking pride in displaying her art work and projects and made some amazing cakes in life skills sessions. She also engaged in child development and realised she had a passion for working with children, identifying a future goal as a nursery worker or similar.*

*When Child X left, she bought gifts for all the staff and wrote in her exit interview*

*‘Dear all staff, I would like to say thank you for everything you have done for me, you have made me a better person’.*



## **Bluebird House**

Bluebird House is an adolescent forensic medium secure unit and part of the national network of adolescent medium secure services. It is a national unit, commissioned by NHS England, and admits young people from all over the country. Young people are aged between 12 and 18 years and admission criteria include that they suffer from a mental disorder, are detained under the mental health act 1983 and pose a high risk of harm to other people. There are three wards with 20 beds altogether.

### *Use of restrictive interventions*

Young people admitted to Bluebird House pose many high risks of harm to others, and as such, present with a range of severely challenging behaviours. This sometimes requires the use of restrictive interventions such as restraint in order to manage the immediate risk, in order to keep not only that young person, but the other young people as well as staff members safe. All restraint is carried out in accordance with legal framework as prescribed in the mental health act code of practice, and trust policies and procedures.

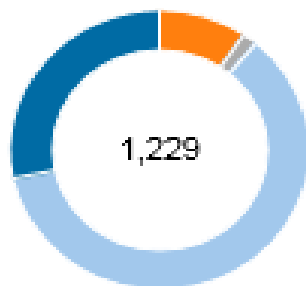
All incidents, including episodes of restraint, are reported on the trust incident reporting system. This information is available to clinical teams in Bluebird house to identify emerging trends, and to track the progress of individual young people.

### Restraint use in 2016/17

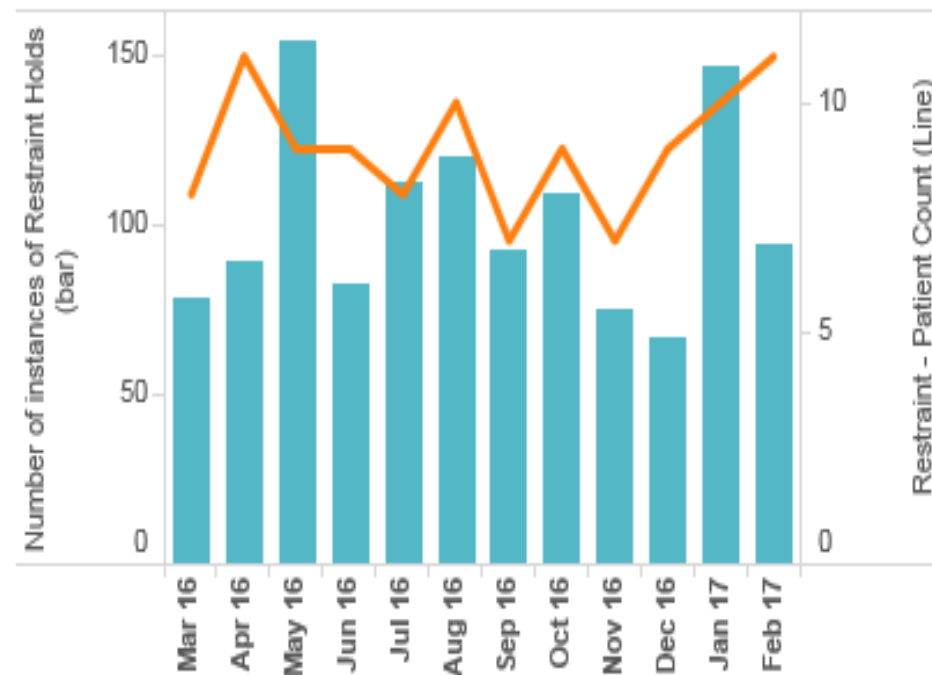
As can be seen in the following graph, there were 1,229 episodes of restraint between April 2016 and February 2017. Of these, the majority (745) were required to manage the risk of harm to others, 347 interventions were to manage risk of harm to self, 117 to stop patients from inflicting serious damage to property and in 20 cases the incident forms did not specify the cause for use of restraint.

#### Reasons for Restraint

- Damage To Property
- Not Known
- Risk Of Harm To Others
- Risk Of Harm To Self



A peak in the use of restraints was noted in May 2016, when restraints were used 155 times, followed by a similar peak in January 2017, when restraints were used 147 times. Restraint was only used 67 times in December 2016. The increase in the use of restraint in May 2016 and January 2017 can be explained by the admission of new patients, whilst a number of staff were on leave in December 2016, which has the effect of changing the interpersonal dynamics on the ward, which in turn also has an impact on risk incidents.



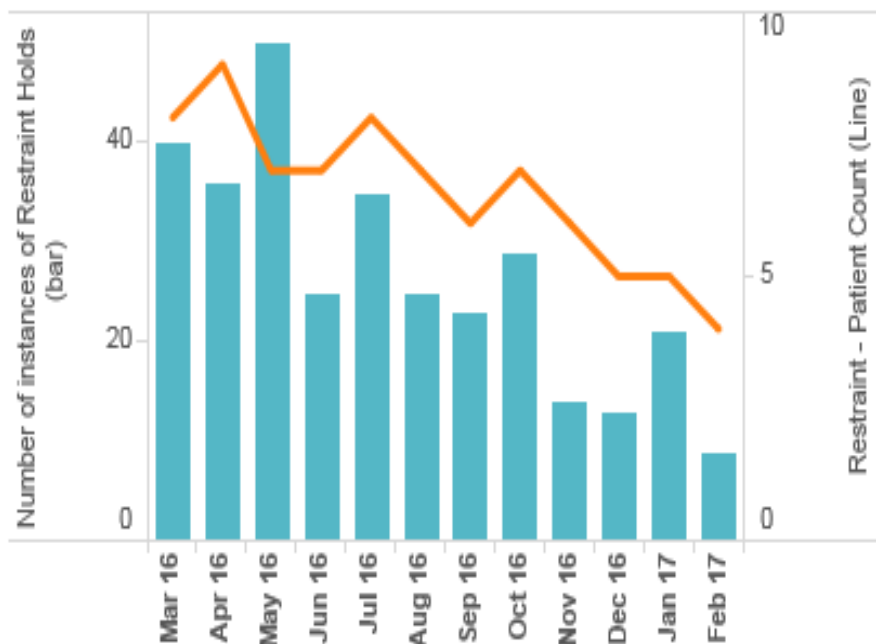
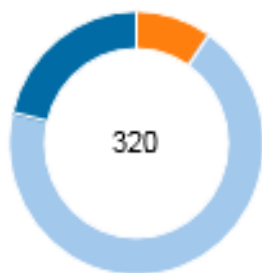
Of the 1,229 episodes of restraint recorded in this time period, 320 episodes involved the use of prone restraint, while 100 episodes involved the use of supine restraint. The hold known as 'walking figure of four' was used 165 times, whilst the hold described as 'seated figure of four' was used 127 times.

The next graphs show the use of prone restraint in Bluebird House in this time period. As can be seen, the use of this particular hold has decreased steadily in recent months. This has coincided with training being provided to the Bluebird house staff team in the use

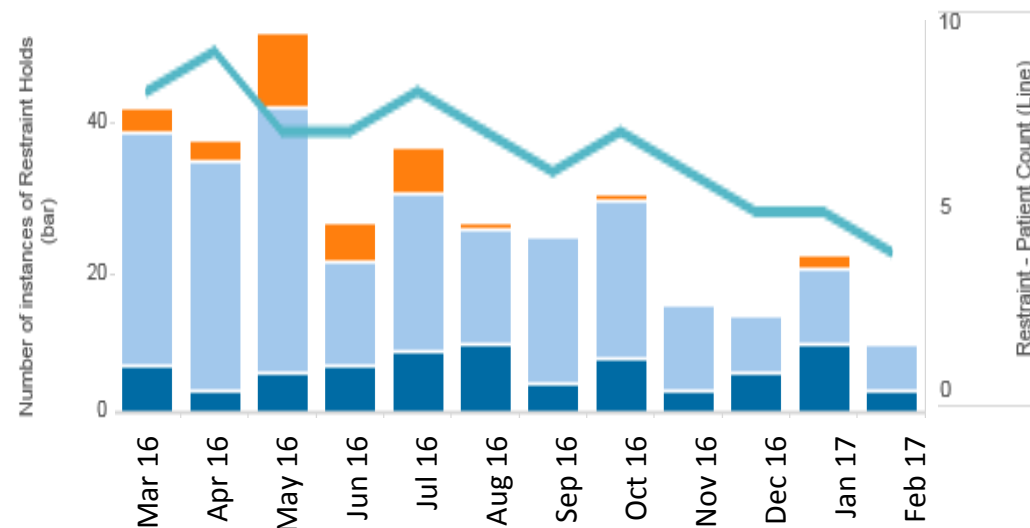
of supine restraint, and where possible, supine restraint has been used in preference to prone restraint.

### Reasons for Restraint

- Damage To Property
- Risk Of Harm To Others
- Risk Of Harm To Self



The following graph shows the use of prone restraint for each cause group - risk to others, risk to self and damage to property.



Damage To Property  
Risk Of Harm To Others  
Risk Of Harm To Self

|     |
|-----|
| 31  |
| 221 |
| 68  |

## Bluebird House Case Study

*CK came from a disrupted background, like so many of our young people. Both her mother and father have mental health difficulties. Her parents separated when she was 3 years old and has had limited contact with her father. She had a turbulent relationship with her mother, and her mother had a partner who was physically abusive towards both CK and her mother. CK's family have been known to the social services prior to CK's birth, and at the age of one she was placed on the child protection register under the category of neglect. CK then became a Looked After Child in 2011 and subsequently placed in foster care. She had numerous placements before being admitted to an adolescent mental health unit.*

*CK had a positive relationship with her maternal grandmother, who was suddenly killed in a hit and run accident in November 2013, which was a significant loss for CK.*

*CK was placed under section 3 of the Mental Health Act following escalation in risk taking behaviours in September 2013 whilst in Alpha Hospital, Woking. She frequently absconded as well as engaging in self-harm behaviours. Her behaviour deteriorated further following the death of her grandmother, including a serious incident where she sustained multiple fractures and required a splenectomy. CK also displayed increased physical violence towards staff, and due to continual escalation of incidents she was transferred to Bluebird House in September 2014.*



*CK initially appeared as settled, before displaying behaviours such as assaults and self-harm in an inconsistent manner. She also spent time in high care due to the high levels of anxiety she experienced. We recognised that due to frequently feeling let down and abandoned by those she cares about meant she both felt the need for care and attunement from others but also was very frightened of getting too close and being let down.*

*Working within an attachment and trauma model meant that our initial therapeutic task was to help CK build stable, reliable relationships at Bluebird House in order to help her manage her emotions and distress. This was done by listening to CK and involving her in her care, creating care plans with her, providing*

*consistency and creating new skills as well as developing her existing ones. By creating this secure base with the nursing team CK was able to engaged in different therapies as well as developing skills to help her regulate her emotions and cope with the difficult thoughts she experienced. Work with the psychology team focused on building her knowledge of her emotions as well as specific anxiety work increasing her confidence in things such as leave and meeting new people.*

*When she initially came to us, the thought of going on leave caused her such high levels of anxiety that she did not want to access it. The secure base we built with CK meant she was able to say when she needed help, when things were too much for her and also when she was having urges to hurt herself. These skills helped with her access to section 17 leave, which progressed from escorted car leave to unescorted community leave and solo train travel.*

*CK also engaged very well in family therapy which lead to re-engagement with her mother and grandfather and then later on with her father. Within family therapy CK worked on managing her family relationships and their complexities without feeling responsible for them. It also helped to build communication skills within the whole family, increasing the support around CK.*

*CK's presentation during her admission changed dramatically from high levels of assaults on staff and frequent incidents of self-harm, to occasional incidents of self-harm. As described above, CK built skills managing her emotions and behaviours meaning she could access a community placement and in May 2016 CK commenced*

*extended section 17 leave to a supported accommodation placement before being discharged to this community placement in April 2017.*





What do you bring to the Board?

***As a doctor I listen to children and try to bring their viewpoint to our work with the Board.***

**Simon Jones, Designated Doctor**

### **HSCB website**

It was with great pleasure that Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) launched its new website in November 2016 for both Board partners and the public.

The new website was developed in consultation with professionals, parents and young people. Members of the Hampshire Foster Network, the Parent and Carer Network and parents from across Hampshire were given the opportunity, via an online survey, to share their views on how they would use a LSCB website. They told us that they would look to the HSCB website to give them information on a broad range of safeguarding themes, and to also be signposted to local contacts and other agencies who can provide more detailed information should they require it.

Young People from the Youth Parliament, and the Youth Commission, told us that they wanted pages aimed at them and their peers, that signposted them to local agencies and support networks that they could contact if they or a friend needed them. They told us that they were more likely to access this information

## **Priority 5 – Stakeholder Engagement**

In its 2015/16 annual report, HSCB identified improvements around engagement with stakeholders, communities, the wider public and children and their families.

### **Voluntary Sector**

HSCB has a positive relationship with the Hampshire Voluntary Alliance. The Alliance is open to any charity / voluntary organisation working with children and young people in the local authority area of Hampshire. Through this relationship, HSCB has gained voluntary sector representation on the Board and a number of sub groups. Voluntary Sector organisations have also participated in the Child M Serious Case Review published over this period.

The HSCB Annual Conference was directly informed by the views of children and young people. Members of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Youth Commission, along with sociology students from a Post 16yrs college attended the day. They worked with groups of multi-agency professionals, listening to the presentations and actively engaging in discussions. A student from the college opened and closed the conference jointly with the Independent Chair of the Board and members of the Youth Commission delivered a presentation on adolescent mental health. Their engagement provided professionals with the opportunity to hear the views of young people on what they consider to be the safeguarding risks and challenges facing adolescents in Hampshire.

via the website which would come up via an internet search than download a specific app on their device.

HSCB has used this feedback in developing the new website. The website has a clear layout and structure which enables relevant safeguarding information to be found more easily. The site is updated on a regular basis and further developments are planned for 2017/18.

From the website launch in November 2016 up to 31 March 2017, there were a total of 10,919 hits.

[www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk](http://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk)

### Communication from the Board

Newsletters are produced after each Board meeting for dissemination across the HSCB network. They provide an overview of decisions made by the Board, signposting to any new policies or resources and give notice of upcoming events and training.

#### *Case Study: Linking in with Local and National Campaigns*

*HSCB and Hampshire County Council supported the Department for Education's campaign: "Together we can tackle child abuse" with a press release to Hampshire media that included copy of the DfE's campaign poster, adapted to carry the Hampshire County Council logo and Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board logo and the Hampshire reporting telephone number. A news item for County*

*Council staff was carried on Hantsnet, the Health and Wellbeing Newsletter and the County Council's Newsletter to Parish Councils, an article placed in Your Hampshire (Hampshire County Council's e-magazine for residents) and social media activity was undertaken through the Council's social media channels on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, and utilising the DfE campaign graphics.*

*HSCB contributed to, and promoted, Hampshire Constabulary's online child exploitation campaign, which launched in May 2016. This social media campaign highlighted the dangers of child sexual exploitation and featured a blog written by 15-year-old 'Alice', her friends, family and teachers, which goes into detail about how exploitation happens and how it can be identified by those around her.*



[www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk](http://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk)

[www.twitter.com/HampshireLSCB](https://www.twitter.com/HampshireLSCB)

## Workforce Development

HSCB continues to support agencies in meeting their responsibility to ensure staff receive safeguarding training by providing a multi-agency training programme. The development of the 2016/17 programme was based on themes from the HSCB annual training needs analysis, HSCB business plan priorities and national and local learning from serious case reviews.

A total of 47 learning interventions were delivered over this period and were attended by 1010 people from multi agency settings and voluntary sector. As well as core safeguarding courses the HSCB provides training for practitioners working with vulnerable groups such as disabled children.

### Key training provided by the HSCB

- 2 day Working Together training was offered on 9 occasions and was attended by 144 people in total.
- Training on working with hostile families and disguised compliance was offered on 5 occasions and attended by 102 people in total.
- Training on child sexual exploitation was offered on 4 occasions and attended by 68 people in total.
- Learning Lessons workshop was run on 10 occasions and attended by 134 people in total.
- Training was offered on Safeguarding Disabled Children and was attended by 66 people.

Feedback from the courses continues to be positive, as indicated by the following:

#### Working with Hostile Families and Disguised Compliance

*'I would highly recommend to all practitioners working with families to attend this training'.*

*'I came away from the day knowing that it was the best piece of learning I had done in a long time. I have started to put in to practice what I have learnt and will carry this into my practice for a very long time'.*

#### Working together in Child Protection

*'Every, professional involved and working with children should attend this training in order to understand their role and responsibilities'.*

*'I realise the importance of clear communication and cross agency collaboration'.*

#### Listening and Responding to Children Who May Be At Risk of Harm

*'Fantastic course very useful. I have been able to put into practice straight away. Thoroughly recommend'.*

#### The Impact of Domestic Violence

*'Training was factual dynamic and involved everyone. The information was very useful'.*

*'This event was very interesting and helped me to widen my knowledge about the impact of DV on children and family. Extremely pleased to have done the training'.*

## HSCB Annual Conference

The HSCB annual Conference for 2016/2017 was themed on Adolescents at Risk, and included sessions on Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children, Suicide and Self Harm and Domestic Abuse and Coercive Relationships. Evaluations indicate that there was an increase in understanding of the health impacts on adolescents at risk as well the impact of domestic abuse on adolescents.

*I thought this day was very good well organised with a good selection of speakers*

*True and effective multi-agency working in safeguarding is the coming together of partner agencies for a common goal. We are very lucky in Hampshire to have a significant number of examples of effective multi-agency working and partnership aimed at improving outcomes for children and young people. A good example was our HSCB annual conference in 2016. As part of a multi-agency planning committee, we pulled together a conference programme that incorporated a young person co-hosting the day with the independent chair, 15 young people joined the conference, a powerful drama from "Alter Ego" and attendance reflected a good multi-agency audience. As we embrace the new children and social work act, I look forward to continued partnership working in Hampshire*

**Cynthia Condliffe, Designated Nurse**

[www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk](http://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk)

## Moving forward – A Blended Approach to Learning

In addition to the above HSCB, in partnership with Children Services Workforce Development, have purchased a licence for access to Virtual College which offers the alternative to class room based learning. The Virtual College offers an extensive suite of e-learning courses that will be available, for free, to all staff in Board partners' organisations and across the voluntary sector from April 2017. Some of the Virtual College courses will be partnered to form a pre-requisite for in-person training delivered as part of the Board multi-agency training programme.



[www.twitter.com/HampshireLSCB](https://www.twitter.com/HampshireLSCB)

## Serious case reviews and child deaths

### Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)

Working Together 2015 defines a serious case requiring review as one where:

- (a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
- (b) either — (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

The update to Working Together in 2015 also stated that ‘serious harm’ includes, but is not limited to, cases where the child has sustained, as a result of abuse or neglect, any or all of the following:

- A potentially life-threatening injury.
- Serious and/or likely long-term impairment of physical or mental health or physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.

LSCBs must always undertake a review of cases that meet the criteria of a SCR. The purpose of an SCR is to establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the case about the way local professionals work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

HSCB is also committed to undertaking smaller scale multi-agency case reviews in instances where the case does not meet the criteria for a serious case review but it is considered that there are lessons to be learnt for multi-agency working.

During the year the number of referrals made to the Learning and Enquiry Group (LIG) has remained steady in comparison to recent years. Between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017 the SCRC received 12 Referrals. Of these:

- Two resulted in SCRs being commissioned.
- Four resulted in MARs being commissioned.
- Six did not result in any requirement for review.

| Outcome                   | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/6 | 2016/17 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| Referrals                 | 36      | 13      | 11      | 17     | 12      |
| No further action         | 32      | 9       | 2       | 10     | 6       |
| SCRs                      | 1       | 3       | 4       | 1      | 2       |
| MAR/Single agency reviews | 3       | 1       | 5       | 6      | 4       |

### Publication of reviews

During 2016/17 HSCB has published the SCRs on Child M and the Position of Trust Learning Review, both of which are available on the HSCB website.

## Case Study: Child M

HSCB commissioned a SCR following the accidental death of a child who at the time of death was on a child protection plan for Neglect.

Learning from the SCR included:

- The importance of effectively involving faith and community groups in assessments of families.
- The need to understand parental capacity to sustain change in cases of neglect.
- The need for a whole family approach when considering interventions.

Work has been undertaken on all areas of learning including the launch of the HSCB and IOW Neglect Strategy in October 2016. A toolkit of local interventions is currently being produced and will be available for practitioners to use in autumn 2017.

This case was included in the Learning Lessons Workshops highlighting the importance of the voice of the child and the need to contact all agencies who may be involved in a families life to inform assessments.

Details of all recommendations and actions undertaken by the Board and Partner agencies for all published reviews can be found on the HSCB website.

[www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk](http://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk)

## Disseminating Lessons Learnt from reviews

10 Learning Lessons workshops were held during 2016/17 utilising learning from SCRs and MARs completed since 2014. Case studies were written to include a mixture of the complex needs identified in some of our reviews. The sessions were aimed at frontline staff and Team Managers in all agencies involved in working with families. The sessions were interactive and required frontline staff to consider what information on a family may be held within other agencies and the importance of information sharing.

Feedback from the events included:

*Very good; informative session that had the right balance of delivery and participation. Good opportunity to liaise with multi agency partners.*

*Very good and worthwhile session*

An area highlighted for improvement was that greater communication was required when SCRs are published, as only 41% of those attended had knowledge of this.

## Task and Finish Groups

In addition to commissioning and overseeing SCRs and MARs the Hampshire Learning and Inquiry Group established two task and finish groups in early 2017. The first group was to undertake a thematic review of SCRs and MARs completed since 2014. The

[www.twitter.com/HampshireLSCB](https://www.twitter.com/HampshireLSCB)

report will be published during the summer 2017. It will include a number of themes that have arisen in previous reviews, examples of good practice and useful tools including guidance, policies and training available to support staff working with children and families.

The second task and finish group was set up to review awareness within the workforce of hidden adults, which is a theme that arises nationally as well as locally in SCRs. Having undertaken the review the group has developed a best practice guide including agency flow charts and a top ten tips to identify hidden adults in a child's life. This will be published summer 2017.

## **Child deaths**

The arrangements for the review of child deaths continued from 2015/16 with deaths being reviewed individually by the 4LSCB Child Death Overview Panel's (CDOPs) across the Pan-Hampshire area. Data and analysis is shared to identify any common themes and patterns, and, to inform the 4LSCB CDOP Annual Report.

The CDOP in Hampshire have worked with agencies to improve the quality, timeliness and data analysis provided to the CDOP. This has been undertaken in a number of ways including updated recording forms tailored to individual agencies to improve the receipt of targeted information; cross-agency awareness raising of the correct process and importance of notifying a child death; and the development of a new CDOP database.

During 2016/17 the Hampshire CDOP were notified of 61 child deaths. Of these 54 were reviewed within the year.

The largest proportion of child deaths was in very young babies between 0-27 days old. This is in line with national findings.

There was an increase in the number of child deaths with identified modifiable factors. This is likely to an increased understanding of modifiable factors within the Hampshire CDOP, and, a more consistent approach to applying them. Modifiable factors identified during 2016/17 included; smoking in the household; emotional/ behavioural/ mental health conditions in the parent/ carer; substance/ alcohol misuse in the parent / carer; poor management of a long term medical condition.

A number of these areas are already reflected in the HSCB Business Plan for 2017/18, including mental health and substance misuse challenges in parents and carers. Further information on the full range of recommendations made to HSCB can be found in the CDOP Annual report 2016/17 available on the HSCB website.

## Priorities for 2017/18

A range of work has been achieved over the previous financial year, which has seen the developments of key strategies and plans and the strengthening of our quality assurance framework. The Board felt it was important to maintain momentum and continue to develop these areas of work to ensure that professionals across the partnership are best equipped to identify, protect and support children at risk in Hampshire.

The priorities for 2017/18 are:

- **Priority 1:** To enhance the understanding of neglect amongst professionals across Hampshire, and give them the tools to better identify indicators of neglect, and, understand what interventions are available to support and protect children affected by and / or at risk of neglect. This will build on the information contained in the joint Hampshire and Isle of Wight Neglect Strategy that was published in 2016.
- **Priority 2:** Ensure that Board partners recognise the needs of children and young people when considering the impact of domestic abuse, substance misuse, and mental health in adults.

- **Priority 3:** To ensure a coordinated multi-agency approach and response to key safeguarding issues including: Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children, Suicide and Self Harm, Elective Home Education and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.
- **Priority 4:** Quality Assurance, Measuring Impact and Embedding Learning.
- **Priority 5:** Improve the way the Board communicates with and engages key stakeholders.

### Key threads that run through all priorities

- Voice of the child - to ensure that our work is child centred and we continually seek to engage and involve young people.
- Multi-agency partnership working - including the voluntary, faith and community sectors.
- Lessons are identified and shared from case reviews and multi-agency audits.



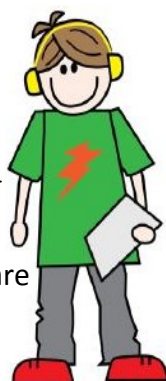


# Annual Report Summary 2016-17

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) is a statutory body that leads on keeping children safe and ensuring their wellbeing in the local authority (LA) area of Hampshire. The Board is a partnership of local agencies who work together to make sure that child protection services in Hampshire are effective and keep children safe

**309,462**

children & young people  
aged 0-19yrs



**94%**

of children in Hampshire of compulsory school age and above have English as their first language

**9.1%**

of children aged 0-17yrs are  
from black and minority  
ethnic groups

Hampshire has areas of affluence and significant deprivation. Six areas in Hampshire are among the most deprived in the country

**82**

UASC Care Leavers

Unaccompanied Asylum  
Seeking Children (UASC)

**74**

who are the  
responsibility of the LA

**8,335**

children & young people  
referred to the specialist  
**Child and Adolescent Mental  
Health Service**

**79**

admitted to psychiatric  
inpatient care

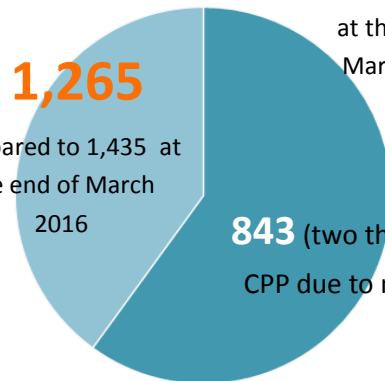
**Children on Child Protection Plan**

at the end of  
March 2017

**1,265**

compared to 1,435 at  
the end of March  
2016

**843** (two thirds) on  
CPP due to neglect



**1,439**

children in care at the  
end of March 2017



**75%**

in foster care

**952**

Care Leavers

**2,787** children from **1,247** families

receiving early help support  
at the end of  
March 17



**694**

children went missing (&  
returned) from home

**383**

referrals to the Children  
Missing Education Officer

**117**

Looked After Children  
went missing (& returned)  
from care

**142**

children receiving  
specialist support in  
relation to child  
exploitation

**47** learning events delivered with **1,010** people attending

Working Together Training attended by **144** multi-agency professionals

**72,717**  
Children's Reception Team Contacts



**28,192**  
referrals to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub



**1,769**  
Section 47 investigations

Working with Hostile Families & Disguised Compliance training attended by **102** professionals

**10** Learning Lessons from Case Reviews workshops with **134** attendees in total

**97%** of schools across Hampshire completed a safeguarding audit

**4** 'deep-dive' multi-agency audits undertaken focussing on the experiences of **33** children

**14** agencies attended a 'Challenge Day' to provide assurance regarding their response to Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children

**33** agencies submitted a self-assessment of compliance with safeguarding standards

## Lessons Learnt from Serious Case Reviews and Audits

- Design an online toolkit and evaluation framework for neglect and deliver multi-agency training aligned to the HSCB Neglect Strategy
- Develop a statement of expectation regarding safeguarding supervision for all multi-agency professionals
- Strengthen the 'voice of the child' within agency assessments
- Ensuring that all relevant professionals, including those working in community and voluntary organisations, fully contribute to child protection conferences
- Ensuring that 'hidden adults' (e.g. father figures) are identified in case records
- Improve completion and quality of the domestic abuse risk assessment tool (DASH)

## Priorities for Next Year

- Children affected by and/or at risk of neglect
- The impact on children of the 'toxic trio' in adults (substance misuse, parental mental ill health and domestic abuse)
- Closer working with the Safeguarding Adults Board
- Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children
- Suicide and self-harm in children and young people
- Stronger relationships with those in the community and voluntary sectors



## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

|                         |                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Committee/Panel:</b> | Children and Families Advisory Board                                                             |
| <b>Date:</b>            | 30 January 2018                                                                                  |
| <b>Title:</b>           | The Care Leaver Service and Extended Duties in relation to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 |
| <b>Report From:</b>     | Director of Children's Services                                                                  |

**Contact name:** Juliette Blake, District Manager

**Tel:** 01252 796230

**Email:** Juliette.blake@hants.gov.uk

#### 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note the contents of this report.

#### 2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Children and Social Work Bill was introduced to the House of Lords in May 2016; all parliamentary stages were concluded early April 2017 and the Bill received Royal Assent becoming law in April 2017.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 is to improve decision making and support for children in care and previously looked after children. It implements several changes and extension of duties for care leaver services across England and amends the Children Act 1989, section 23C, to offer former relevant (FR) care leavers a Personal Adviser up until their twenty fifth birthdays, if they wish to access this for advice and support.
- 2.3 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 is intended to: improve support for children in care and care leavers; promote the welfare and safeguarding of children and make provisions about the regulation of social workers.
- 2.4 The Act makes it a statutory duty for each local authority to form a Corporate Parenting Board, as well as to consult with partner agencies and relevant persons to develop and publish a 'local offer for care leavers' by 1 April 2018. The local authority must then, from time to time, revisit and update the offer.
- 2.5 The Act sets out seven corporate parenting principles [below] for local authorities to consider in order to ensure that they are the best corporate parents they can be to the children in care and care leavers they support

and to ensure that children remains the central focus [Children and Social Work Act 2017, s1 (1)]:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and,
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

2.6 In addition, the Government sets five key outcomes that we need to ensure for our care leavers:

- Better preparation and support to live independently
- Improved access to education, employment and training
- Stability, and to feel safe and secure
- Improved access to health support
- Financial stability

2.7 The Government has stated that new burdens funding will be available to support the extension of duties under the Act, and in particular the extension of the support offered to care leavers by Personal Advisers until they reach 25 years of age. However, it is not yet clear how much funding will be available, or when.

2.8 This report will highlight the new extended responsibilities as a result of the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and where, as a Council, we are in terms of implementing changes to meet these new responsibilities. It will explain what needs to happen going forward to ensure we are compliant with the Act.

### **3 The Hampshire Care Leaver Service - Current Responsibilities**

3.1 In Hampshire, the Care Leaver Service is provided by four Care Leavers Teams comprising Personal Advisers, administrative support and a Team Manager. The Personal Advisers in the Care Leavers Teams begin joint working with other teams when a child in care reaches the age of sixteen.

3.2 Local authorities currently have responsibility for care leavers up to the age of twenty one, or twenty five if they are in full time education or have a

disability. The care leaver must have been looked after by the local authority for at least 13 weeks in total since the age of 14. It includes young people who were detained (e.g. in a youth offending institution or hospital) when they turned 16, but who were looked after immediately before being detained. 'Care leaver' status applies to such children once they have left care; whether at 16, 17 or 18 years of age.

- 3.3 Those aged 16-17 are defined as either '**eligible**' (still looked after) or '**relevant**' (no longer looked after), whereas those aged 18-25 are defined as '**former relevant**' (FR). Young people in care aged 16 and 17 continue to have a qualified social worker who remains their key worker. However, they will also have a Personal Adviser who will also work with them from this point onwards. This Personal Adviser becomes the key worker and responsibility transfers to the Care Leavers Team once the young person turns 18 or if they are 16 or 17 and has already left care.
- 3.4 A '**qualifying**' care leaver is someone who was in care after the age of 16 but doesn't qualify as an eligible child or a relevant child because they do not fulfil the 13 week criteria. They must be under 21 (or 25 if they are in further education or training).
- 3.5 The Personal Adviser's role is to advise, assist and support a care leaver as they transition into adulthood and independence. The Personal Adviser becomes the key worker when the care leaver reaches their eighteenth birthday. For care leavers under the age of 21, the Personal Adviser undertakes statutory bi-monthly face-to-face visits, as well using other means to keep in touch, as agreed with the care leaver. The Personal Adviser needs to record and monitor a care leaver's progress, as well as offer practical, emotional and financial support to each care leaver they work with.
- 3.6 As of 11 December 2017, there were 535 care leavers (18 plus) open to the Hampshire Care Leaver's Teams as the key team. Of these care leavers aged 18-21, data taken on 30 November 2017 showed that eighty four were defined as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC); 34.9% were Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET); and 72.8% were deemed to be in suitable accommodation. The number of UASC within Hampshire has increased and is expected to continue to do so, partly due to the 'Interim National Transfer Protocol for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children 2016-17' and other resettlement schemes.
- 3.7 Care leavers are currently entitled to an assessment of their needs, a Pathway plan, a Personal Adviser, accommodation and maintenance. The care leaver must have an assessment of their needs at 16 and again on leaving care at 21 years (or 25 if appropriate), to ascertain any needs they may have and how these can be met.
- 3.8 The Personal Adviser is responsible for ensuring the care leaver has a relevant Pathway Plan which considers their needs and what needs to

happen to aid their transition into adulthood and independence. The Pathway Plan must specify, in consultation with the young person, how they wish to stay in touch and the frequency of this. [This 'staying in touch' is in addition to the statutory bi-monthly face-to-face visits.] The Pathway Plan needs to be clear on the agreed goals and how these will be achieved, by whom and by when. A Pathway Plan should be agreed in co-production with the care leaver so it can properly articulate where the young person is currently at and where they wish to get to. The Pathway Plan should also set high aspirations and be SMART and specific about who is responsible for each action and when they should be achieved/reviewed. The Pathway Plan must be reviewed at least every six months and in between if there has been a significant event. If a care leaver moves home, for instance, a Pathway Plan Review should be held within 28 days of this move.

#### **4 Current Financial Assistance, including Accommodation**

- 4.1 The Care Leaver Service is responsible for providing financial assistance to care leavers. Care leavers currently receive financial assistance for: higher education (£2,000 bursary); staying in full-time education (£1,200); Setting Up Home Allowance [up to £2,200 to buy essential items, pay for a TV license and home insurance]; £200 towards driving lessons; accommodation costs; £25 for birthday/Eid/Christmas; and, travel costs to and from education establishments or to see family. All except the birthday/Eid/Christmas money is a statutory requirement for the service.
- 4.2 A Personal Allowance which is the equivalent of social benefits [£57.90 per week] is also paid for a four week period from the young person's eighteenth birthday, in order to assist them whilst their application for social benefits is made and granted. For Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), these payments continue whilst the young person is deemed to have No Recourse to Public Funding (NRPF) as they are unable to claim social benefits, or work.
- 4.3 Accommodation makes up the majority of spend for the Care Leavers Service. Care leavers have priority need status in relation to housing and housing should assess their needs jointly with the Care Leaver Service. However, due to the shortages in housing stock, it is often the Care Leaver Service which is left to find and source accommodation for care leavers.
- 4.4 For most care leavers, the Care Leaver Service covers the costs of accommodation, unless these costs are covered by housing benefits. Under current legislation, the local authority must provide suitable accommodation to the care leaver taking into account their needs and wishes and review this accommodation after 28 days through a Pathway Plan Review. The Personal Adviser must visit the accommodation within one week of the care leaver moving into the accommodation.
- 4.5 The local authority must also provide housing for all 16 and 17 year olds and ensure that care leavers have the option to remain in their foster care

placement, under 'Staying Put arrangements', until they reach 21 years of age. Since May 2014, care leavers in foster care have had the right to remain with their foster carer(s) until the age of 21 years old, if both the care leaver and foster carer(s) are in agreement. The care leaver is no longer 'fostered' and the relationship with the foster carer changes to that of a host. By facilitating and promoting these arrangements, the care leaver is able to choose when they feel ready to move into more independent arrangements, rather than this being dictated by their chronological age.

- 4.6 The local authority will pay for the services of the host, but the young person is also expected to obtain housing benefit and make a contribution, if working, towards the cost. In other situations, the local authority may be funding high cost placements, for care leavers who are 'difficult to place' due to their history or current issues [drugs, alcohol, criminal activity etc.].
- 4.7 Other accommodation accessed includes supported lodgings, or private rented accommodation, often in a shared house. Currently, care leavers are exempt from the shared accommodation rate restriction in housing benefit until their twenty second birthday. They can claim the higher-rate one-bedroom rate.
- 4.8 There is a national difficulty in sourcing suitable accommodation, especially for those care leavers whose history, or current issues, make them difficult to place and this can result in them having to be housed in expensive placements. Housing benefits do not cover the costs of such placements.

## **5 Outcomes for Care leavers**

- 5.1 What we know from research is that children in care and care leavers tend to have poorer outcomes in relation to health, education, and employment than other children who are not 'care experienced'. They are more likely to experience mental health issues, self-harm, drugs and alcohol misuse, and teenage pregnancy, which is likely as a result of trauma and/ or neglect. In addition, they may not have had the opportunities or experiences to enable them to learn, or gain, the skills needed to live independently as an adult. Care leavers may not only struggle with emotional resilience and maturity, but also with practical life skills such as wiring a plug, paying for electric and gas, or cooking a basic meal. They are statistically more likely to have Special Educational Needs and disabilities. In addition, there is a growing number of UASC for whom Hampshire is responsible and who will invariably become care leavers. Many of these young people have had traumatic experiences and may need specific services and support to make the transition to adulthood and independence.
- 5.2 Research shows that care leavers feel isolated once they leave care and this can impact on their mental health and wellbeing. They may not have a family member to call upon when they require emotional, financial or practical support. Any activities or social networking events, therefore, which strengthens and build relationships prior to leaving care are beneficial.

5.3 When we consider young people who entered the UK as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), as soon as they turn 18, their right to support within the UK is removed and they must apply for extended leave to remain. This is extremely stressful and can be traumatic for the young person. These young people are not allowed to work whilst awaiting a decision on their claim and all of their financial needs are therefore met by the local authority. The impact of awaiting an outcome of such a claim cannot be underestimated and it may take several years for a decision to be made. Even once a decision has been made, the young person may then appeal this and again may have to wait for a considerable period of time to gain an outcome. The young person is therefore unaware of their fate until all rights have been exhausted and this can take its toll on their wellbeing and mental health. Unresolved legal status may prevent unaccompanied asylum seeking young people from accessing employment and/or education. In addition, it means they cannot claim any form of benefits, resulting in the local authority having to cover the full cost for accommodation.

## **6 The Children and Social Work Act 2017: extended duties**

- 6.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 stipulates that all local authorities should establish a Corporate Parenting Board and it also strengthens corporate parenting responsibilities. The Act also places a statutory duty on the local authority to publish a 'local offer for care leavers' by April 2018, setting out the services on offer from both the local authority and other agencies, as part of meeting the corporate parenting responsibilities. In addition, it extends support from a Personal Adviser to all former relevant care leavers until they reach the age of twenty five (instead of twenty one), if they choose to access a Personal Adviser. Previously, only care leavers accessing full-time education [or those with disabilities] continued to remain open to the Care Leaver Services between the ages of twenty one and twenty five.
- 6.2 The Act places a responsibility on the local authority to contact all former relevant care leavers aged twenty one and twenty four on an annual basis to remind them of their entitlement to advice and support from a Personal Adviser until they reach the age of twenty five. In effect, this enables an 'open door' approach to services and care leavers may choose to access support sporadically, or more regularly, depending on their need.
- 6.3 In cases where former relevant care leavers under the age of twenty five inform the local authority that they wish to receive support and advice, the local authority must provide a Personal Adviser until the care leaver reaches twenty five, or until s/he informs the local authority that s/he no longer wants a Personal Adviser. An assessment of need will be carried out and a Pathway Plan prepared. A full Pathway Plan may not be necessary, but it needs to state how the Personal Adviser will keep in touch. The assessment of needs is to determine 1) whether any services offered by the local authority may assist in meeting his or her needs, and 2) if so, what advice



and support would be appropriate for the local authority to provide for the purpose of helping the former relevant care leaver to obtain those services. The Pathway Plan produced must also include the advice and support that the local authority intend to provide.

- 6.4 The Act also applies to UASC, who may continue to have no recourse to public funds (NRPF) whilst awaiting the outcome of their claim from the Home Office as to whether they have leave to remain (LtR). In such cases, the local authority will need to continue to meet the care leavers' needs, including providing accommodation, emotional, practical and financial support. Whilst there is some scope to recuperate costs for UASC through the Home Office, this is only if the local authority has more than 25 UASC.
- 6.5 The Act sets out seven corporate parenting principles [Children and Social Work Act 2017, s1 (1)] to ensure local authorities remain child-focussed:
- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
  - to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
  - to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
  - to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
  - to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure best outcomes, for those children and young people;
  - for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and,
  - to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.
- 6.6 Section 2 of the Children and Family Act 2017 states that the local authority must publish information about:
- services which the local authority offers for care leavers as a result of its functions under the Children Act 1989; and,
  - other services which the local authority offers that may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living and,
  - where considered appropriate, information about services offered by others which the local authority has power to offer as a result of its functions under the Children Act 1989/ 2004.
- 6.7 The 'local offer for care leavers' should relate to the following six areas, as well as ensuring that the corporate parenting principles apply:
- health and wellbeing;
  - relationships;

- education and training;
- employment;
- accommodation; and,
- participation in society.

Once published, the local authority must update the local offer 'from time to time, as appropriate' but before publishing the offer, or updating it, the 'local authority must consult relevant persons about which of the services offered by the local authority may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living' [Children and Social Worker Act 2017].

- 6.8 The local offer needs to reflect what care leavers say they need, rather than the corporate view of what they need. This published offer will make it easier for care leavers to know what is available to them to help them transition into eventual independent living. In essence, the local offer needs to be based on what the care leavers say they need and it needs to be in a language that they will understand. It needs to consider what the Council can offer, but also statutory and non-statutory partners. The local offer should be co-created with young people so that it is relevant to them, and understood by them. However, the local offer will also need to be available in different formats to cater for different needs.
- 6.9 The legislation states that before publishing its local offer for care leavers (or any updated version) a local authority must consult relevant persons about which of the services offered by the local authority may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living. Arguably, the most relevant persons are the care leavers themselves. The draft Statutory Guidance also suggests engaging with education settings (early years, schools, further and higher education, employers), health services (CAMHs, adult mental health), housing services, immigration services, and the police and criminal justice agencies.
- 6.10 For agencies not included under 'relevant partners'; the Act introduces a 'care leaver covenant' to enable charities and private sector businesses to make commitments to care leavers, similar to the local offer, and within the spirit of the seven corporate parenting principles.

## **7 Hampshire County Council's current position in relation to the extended duties of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.**

Local authorities will have to 'have regard' to seven corporate parenting principles, which frame how they deliver services to children in care and care leavers.

- 7.1 The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) within Hampshire County Council has recently been established, with the first meeting being held 27 November 2017. Both elected members and co-opted care leavers attended the first Board, with support from a range of relevant officers. Whilst the CPB is still embedding, there is a clear understanding of the role the CPB will play in

scrutinising the provision of services on offer to children in care and care leavers and elected members well understand their corporate parenting statutory responsibilities.

- 7.2 The introduction of the seven 'corporate parenting principles' will provide a clear focus for future work and are contained within the terms of reference of the CPB. However Hampshire Children's Services has been working to similar principles for a number of years, as part of the 'pledge' to our care leavers.
- 7.3 There are many areas [below] where Hampshire County Council is already promoting good practice in line with the extended corporate parenting principles of the new Act:
- 7.4 In terms of employment, education and training, the national statistics (2016) show that 38% are classed as NEET. In Hampshire, as of 30 November 2017, 34.9% of care leavers aged 18-21 were deemed NEET, therefore Hampshire is performing better than the national average. However, we want all care leavers to attain educationally, as we know this impacts on job security, wages, well-being and self-esteem and identity.
- 7.5 In May 2017, the Virtual School expanded to create a Virtual College. Working closely with the Care Leavers Service and using care leaver data to identify care leavers, the College aims to improve care leavers' access to employment, education and training. Hampshire Children's Services is innovative in having a Virtual College and whilst this is currently considered good practice, it is not a statutory duty. Hampshire Futures also run various projects, some area specific, that care leavers can access.
- 7.6 This innovative work fits well into the corporate parenting principles.
- 7.7 The support available within Further Education provisions varies greatly, with some offering their own care leavers support and others not. Whilst we may not be able to promote offers out of area, there is scope to work with local universities and colleges to establish offers for care leavers, but also ensure appropriate support and information sharing, as the corporate parent. Many colleges are now expecting the care leaver's bursary to cover transport costs, which the local authority then refund, however there is scope for colleges to be challenged on this. The CPB could ensure that colleges and universities, collectively, offer services to care leavers, both to ease financial strain but also to ensure practical, emotional and financial support, and social networking is available to them.
- 7.8 Hampshire Children's Services also offer an AQA 'unite award scheme', teaching young people life skills in preparation for independence which focuses on five key areas - finance, health, cooking/food hygiene, household and personal development. The challenge is to encourage more of our care leavers to access such a scheme.

- 7.9 The Placement Commissioning Team (PCT) is working hard to commission and negotiate alternative accommodation for care leavers in Hampshire. However in light of the difficulties accessing sufficiency of accommodation for our care leavers, a current project is considering options for future provision, including a potential pilot, to start in 2018.
- 7.10 The Designated Nurse for Children in Care, Naomi Black, has been working with GPs and hospitals to develop a system which will alert medical staff if a person attending is care experienced. This, in turn, will alert medics to the possibilities of trauma from the person's past.
- 7.11 Hampshire Children's Services as a 'partner in practice' is looking at innovative ways to improve the support offered to our care leavers. We are aware of the limited access to mental health services, particularly for our most vulnerable young people and also the difficulties experienced when services transition from Children's Services to Adult Services. As such, Hampshire Children's Services, in conjunction with our health colleagues, is about to begin a pilot to employ eight 'Primary Mental Health Workers' who will work with care leaver's as a target group.
- 7.12 Hampshire County Council has linked up with Youth Options [a charity] to look at providing a bespoke programme for up to twenty five care leavers, to teach them life skills and build social networks which will aid their resilience and prepare them for independence. If this is successful, it is hoped that this can become available to all care leavers within Hampshire. Work has also been undertaken with the Hampton Trust to offer a bespoke course to care leavers called 'Safe Futures' which explores domestic abuse, healthy relationships and wellbeing. A pilot was trialled in the South East of Hampshire and feedback from the care leavers who attended was positive. It is now hoped that a second pilot can be held in the north east of Hampshire, and if successful, this could be this available to all care leavers.

There will be a duty on local authorities to consult on and then publish their 'local offer' to care leavers;

- 7.13 Work will begin in the new year to produce a published 'local offer' for our care leavers and this work will be overseen by the 'Sixteen Plus Board' and scrutinised and challenged by the CPB. This will be in co-production with our care leavers and other relevant partners, particularly the District Councils. There will be a consultation in this regard and details are yet to be worked out.
- 7.14 However, conversations have started with District Council's in relation to accommodation and Council Tax exemption for care leavers and with health regarding the Primary Mental Health Workers. In many local authorities, care leavers are already Council Tax exempt up until their twenty fifth birthday; something which was very much encouraged in the Government's Care Leavers' Strategy, 'Keep on Caring' (July 2016).

Local authorities will be required to offer support from a Personal Adviser to all care leavers to age 25. New burdens funding will be provided to support implementation of this change.

- 7.15 The Care Leaver's Teams are currently identifying all 'former relevant' care leaver's closed to the service and will send them a standard letter to their last known address informing them of the changes in legislation and asking them to make contact, if they wish to have the support from a Personal Adviser.
- 7.16 It is unclear as yet whether the additional funding that will be made available to local authorities will cover the increased burden and what that burden will look like in reality. However the service is currently undertaking some provisional forecasting work.

## **8 Conclusion**

- 8.1 Hampshire Children's Services is in a good position to meet the extended duties of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The seven corporate parenting principles are already embedded into local practice as part of the 'pledge' and will be contained within the CPB terms of reference. A number of innovative services for care leavers have or are being implemented and fully adhere to the corporate parenting principles.
- 8.2 The Corporate Parenting Board will lead the way in scrutinising and challenging in order to ensure that children in care and care leavers are receiving the very best from local services and are improving their life outcomes as a result.
- 8.3 For two tier authorities, such as Hampshire, the corporate parenting principles should include arrangements for ensuring how the County and District Councils work together in order to meet the principles.
- 8.4 Hampshire County Council needs to fully consider what services can be offered through the wider Council, under the seven corporate parenting principles. This may include considering apprenticeships within local authority departments, ensuring all care leavers automatically get a job interview if they apply for a job within the Council, or agreeing to provide all care leavers with free bus passes, or free leisure centre access etc.
- 8.5 Care leavers need to be consulted as to what they would find beneficial. Whilst care ambassadors may provide their views, this may not reflect the voices of all care leavers. As such, the Participation Officer will consider how best to capture the voices of all care leavers in relation to any services required and their experiences of these services, to report back to the CPB to help shape the future of the Care Leaver Service.
- 8.6 Charities and other agencies also have a role to play in making offers under the Care Leavers' Covenant. The message needs to be clear that it is

everyone's collective responsibility to ensure the needs of the care leavers are met and to explain what they have on offer for them. Whilst the Care Leavers Service has linked in with two such charities, the CPB can promote and encourage other charities to offer services under the key areas identified within the Act and to help ensure on-going support and development of life skills for care leavers.

**Useful links:**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/contents/enacted>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-to-statutory-guidance>

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

## Links to the Strategic Plan

|                                                                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:                        | Yes |
| People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:                                     | Yes |
| People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:                                         | Yes |
| People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:                            | Yes |
| OR                                                                                                |     |
| This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because: |     |

## Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

**1.1.** The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

**Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:**

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

## **2 Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1 There has been no identified impact on crime and disorder in the contents of this report.

## **3 Climate Change:**

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

There has been no identified impact on Hampshire's carbon footprint or energy consumption in the contents of this report.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

There has been no identified impact on the need to adapt to climate change in the contents of this report.