



Haringey Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee

THURSDAY, 25TH MARCH, 2010 at 19:30 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Councillors Davies, Jones, Lister, Mallett and Oatway

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of late items of urgent business. Late items will be considered under the agenda item they appear. New items will be dealt with at Item 7 below. New items of exempt business will be dealt with at item 10 below.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is being considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of the consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest.

4. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 6)

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2010.

5. QUALITY OF PRACTICE AUDIT - UPDATE (PAGES 7 - 12)

To provide information on the process and operation of the new audit framework which has been developed and in operation since October 2009.

6. CONTACTS INTO FIRST RESPONSE IN JANUARY 2010 OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE (PAGES 13 - 16)

To provide the Committee with a summary of the number of children under five years of age who came to the notice of the First Response Service during January 2010.

7. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted under item 2 above.

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of item 9 as it contains exempt information as defined in Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985) paras 1 & 2 namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

9. REFERRALS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE (PAGES 17 - 24)

To receive details of a brief audit of cases.

10. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted at 2 above.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Date of next meeting: 29 June 2010 (provisional)

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MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 25 JANUARY 2010

Councillors Davies, Jones, Lister, Mallett and Oatway

Also Present: Sylvia Chew, Hilary Corrick, Marion Wheeler

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
CSPPAC31	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>None received.</p>	
CSPPAC32	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of urgent business.</p>	
CSPPAC33	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Cllr Oatway declared that she was still involved in the Disciplinary Panels with regard to Baby P.</p>	
CSPPAC34	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2009 be agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING - HEALTH VISITING SERVICE</p> <p>Cllr Mallet presented a report which had recently been considered at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the health visiting services. Members noted that in July 2008 the decision had been made by the PCT, due to staff shortages, to temporarily suspend the traditional universal health visiting services and to concentrate on those in greatest need. This meant that children and families were assessed at the new birth visit, or on the first contact with the service and were then prioritised for further intervention. Where there were no concerns families were given contact details for any queries or concerns that they had. This was called "progressive universalism". The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had expressed concern that they had not been informed of these changes earlier and felt that there could be some stigmatism around targeted services.</p> <p>Officers advised that they had experienced some difficulties with contacting health visitors but that the situation should improve with the move to multi agency working and the location of three health visitors to be based in their offices. However there was concern that the health</p>	

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	<p>visiting duty desk was staffed by health visiting staff or administrative staff.</p> <p>Members expressed concerns around how the targeting was carried out and that the U5s were a particular vulnerable group. Also there was no reference to the views of families.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That a report be prepared for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee child protection meeting in March to include proposals for NHS Haringey to carry out an evaluation and to convening a Parents Focus group to establish their views.</p>	Hilary Corrick
CSPAC35	<p>THRESHOLDS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</p> <p>In collaboration with children and young people's partnership agencies the Children and Young People's service had produced a threshold of need and service document. This set out levels of need and risk which triggered referrals to universal or targeted services. Also it provided a guide to practitioners in all agencies that worked with children to assist in assessing and identifying children's level of need and to consider which services might be available to meet those needs.</p> <p>It was noted that each individual child's situation was unique to them. Also the members noted that children could and did move from one level of support to another. For some children/young people it was clear that they fell on the continuum, whilst for others a practitioner might need to use the threshold guidance which had been produced to determine additional needs and where they fell in the continuum. This process could help to decide if a CAF would be appropriate to help identify need and response. The cooperation and engagement of parents and carers was central to understanding where a child's needs might lie.</p> <p>It was noted that most children and young people needs would be met through universal services such as schools, GP surgeries etc as well as support from within the family and from friends, whilst a relatively small number of children and young people at risk of significant harm or significant impairment to health or development required specialist support, usually led by Children's Social Care.</p> <p>In between levels 1 and 4 were the vulnerable children/young people who had additional needs and were in need of targeted support.</p> <p>It was noted that training had been given to all partner agencies, schools and GP's and posters were on display in key work places within the Authority. Biannual events with schools were planned in order to address any concerns. It was hoped that the training would identify any gaps or overlaps in service provision and support would give a wider picture of the whole process.</p>	

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	<p>Members were informed that the Children's Service were working on joint protocols with Adult Services. It was acknowledged that some adults with children were vulnerable and needed support; this had to be taken into account and worked with. Also it was noted that the adult threshold for receiving support was high and many adults who did not met the threshold level needed support, especially if they had parenting responsibilities. .</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	
<p>CSPAC36</p>	<p>REVIEW OF ROLE OF INDEPENDENT PANEL MEMBER</p> <p>Following the establishment of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee in April 2009, Ms Hilary Corrick had been appointed for an initial six month period as an Independent Member to provide advice and to facilitate the Committee's work.</p> <p>The Committee noted the details of the work undertaken by Ms Corrick. It was agreed that it was essential that this Committee had the support of an independent social worker.</p> <p>The Chair reminded the meeting that it had previously been suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should consider organising a child protection conference along the lines of previously held health conferences.</p> <p>Cllr Mallet and Ms Corrick reported back from their meeting with the Chair of the LSCB on the role of this Committee. It was noted that the LSCB acknowledged the work being carried out by this Committee and its ability to delve in greater depth into issues than other bodies scrutinising child protection.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised of the essential role that the independent social worker played in supporting the Committee. 2. That officers pursue the possibility of Overview and Scrutiny Committee organising a child protection conference. 	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>CSPAC37</p>	<p>COMMITTEE'S ROLE REGARDING MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING AND AUDITING SAFEGUARDING IN HARINGEY</p> <p>Members discussed the role and future of this Committee. Whilst it was noted that there were a range of other mechanisms for scrutinising safeguarding work such as the Safeguarding Children's Board, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive Member for Children and Children's</p>	

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	<p>Services itself, this was the only backbench Member body that examined individual cases in detail. Also the Members on this Committee had received in depth training.</p> <p>It was considered that there was still work to be carried out and that to disband of this body would send out the wrong message. Members also agreed that in continuing the Committee's reporting mechanisms and influence should be higher within the Council structure and that it should report direct to full Council. This would ensure that information was disseminated better to all Councillors.</p> <p>Details of the work that the Committee had been involved with in respect of the voice of service users (children and their parents) and referrers and the tracking of cases over a period of time was noted.</p> <p>For the future it was agreed that the Committee should focus on particular vulnerable groups of children such as the under fives. Also it was agreed to focus on groups of vulnerable children who fell just below the eligibility thresholds, by exploring the robustness of preventative services by tracking some cases. Also the transition from children's to adult services and how children of adult service users were referred should be key areas for investigation by the Committee.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be informed:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) that there was a need for the continuation of this body b) of the proposed future areas of work c) of the suggestion that in order to give this body more influence, it should report direct to Council. 2. That officers seek approval for the Chair to give a presentation to full Council on the work of this Committee and suggested proposals for its future. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>CSPAC38</p>	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That as the following items contained exempt information (as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government 1972; namely information likely to reveal the identity of an individual, and information relating to any individual) members of the press and public should be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.</p>	
<p>CSPAC39</p>	<p>CHILD PROTECTION PROCESSES</p> <p>Members received a detailed report setting out the processes from</p>	

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	<p>referral to review for children “at risk of significant harm”. It was noted that referrals were possible from a number of sources such as the police, a professional in the child’s network, or from the public, including a family member. The process for assessing a child who could be at risk was set out in the Pan London Child Protection Procedures. Every referral into the service was looked at and assessed by the screening manager. Where the screening manager concluded that a child was at risk a referral was made to the police Child Abuse and Investigation Team and a Child Protection Strategy meeting convened within 24 hours. If the meeting concluded that there was insufficient evidence to suggest significant harm a social worker would be allocated and a core assessment carried out. Details of the S47 core assessment which was carried out when the social worker had concerns was noted. Where substantial concerns remained following the strategy meeting, albeit not life threatening an Initial Child Protection Case Conference was convened within 15 working days of the Strategy meeting. This meeting would determine whether a child had a ongoing risk of significant harm and should therefore be the subject of a child protection plan. In less urgent cases a Core Assessment, taking up to 35 working days could be undertaken before the Initial Child Protection Conference, but there would be regular strategy meetings during that time frame to ensure the child’s continued safety. Members were informed that the police now require updates every seven days if there was a single agency investigation. Details of the processes and timescales for reviewing a child protection plan were noted. Currently there were 264 children who were the subject of a plan, this constituted 54 per 10,000 and was higher than the national average of 42 per 10,000 which was of 31 March 2009, although it was noted that the national figure may well now be higher. In future with a more effective CAF model and better intervention strategies it was hoped that this figure would be reduced. In circumstances where the harm was found to be so great that children could not remain with their parents immediate alternative care was found either through police protection, an Emergency Protection order through the court or, if parents agreed, children could stay elsewhere whilst the investigation and planning took place.</p> <p>Details of the cases subject to ongoing social work intervention that were being tracked since July 2009 were noted.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the conference feedback from parents and children and were pleased to note the number of children and young people who wished to be involved.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	
CSPPAC40	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING - That the next meeting be re- arranged to</p>	

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	<p>either 18 or 25 March and that the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Well Being and Children and Young People be invited. It was agreed that this would be the last meeting for this Municipal year. (Subsequently agreed for 25 March)</p> <p>Items for the agenda to be:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Follow up report on recommendations made to Cabinet.2. A report on children with vulnerable parents3. A report on the transition of children to adult services.4. Details of all children under 5s referred in January 2010, or if the numbers were excessive, then to examine Under 2s or a random percentage of referrals.	<p>AD Safegu arding</p>
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Cllr Emma Jones

Chair



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Briefing for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee
Title:	Quality of Practice Audit - update
Lead Officer:	Marion Wheeler AD Safeguarding Children and Young People's Service Marion.wheeler@haringey.gov.uk 0208 489 1912
Date:	March 2010

1. Describe the issue under consideration

Quality of Practice Audits

A new audit framework has been developed and was implemented throughout September 2009 with the first set of audits focusing on quality of practice completed in October 2009. A random sample of cases were selected from across Children and Families and allocated to Heads of Service and Senior Team Managers for auditing.

2. Background information

The audit is divided into 10 domains/sections (Referral and Response, Risk Assessment, Key Decisions, Key Assessment Episodes, Key Planning and Reviewing, Child/YP focused practice, Supervision/ Management Overview, Direct Engagement/professional relationships, Reporting and Recording and Case Transfer and Closure).

More specific themed audits will also be conducted periodically where a need has been identified.

Heads of Service are responsible for following up actions in relation to all audits rated as inadequate. A sample of these audits is then re-audited on a quarterly basis and notified to Assistant Director and Deputy Director to ensure any identified issues have been followed up and relevant action taken. These audits are undertaken on a monthly basis with a monthly report and overview



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presented to the Children and Families Performance Management Team for discussion.

3. Summary of Key Messages – (October - December and February Audits)

Cases Audited

- 181 Cases audited across Children and Families
 - 34 Children Subject to a CP plan
 - 39 First Response Team Cases (excl CP)
 - 40 Children in Need and Safeguarding Team Cases (excl CP)
 - 31 Children in Care
 - 15 Leaving Care
 - 22 Children with Disabilities

Overall Ratings

- 1 Case rated as outstanding
- 63 Cases rated as good (35%)
- 78 Cases rated as adequate (43%)
- 35 Cases rated as inadequate (19%)
- 4 Cases rated as critical

Domain Ratings

- Areas of **good** practice – Supervision and Management overview, Key Assessment Episodes and Case Transfer and Closure.
- Areas of **poor** practice – Key Decision Meetings, Child and Young Person Focused Practice and Referral and Response

4. Summary of Key Messages January 2010 Audit – Themed Child Protection Core Assessment

- In January 2010 a themed audit tool was devised based on the standard quality of practice audit tool, to look specifically at how the new format of the child protection core assessment is working. 39 cases were looked at across 3 domains, strategy discussion, child protection core and conference.
- In the **strategy discussion** domain, 11 cases were rated as Inadequate, 16 cases rated as adequate and 11 cases were rated as good. In the **child protection core assessment** domain, 2 cases were rated as inadequate, 21 cases rated as adequate and 15 cases were rated as good. In the domain that looked at the **child protection conferences**, 2 cases were rated as inadequate, 7 cases were rated as adequate and 26 cases were rated as good.

5. Options for consideration

This item is for members information. The documentation will assist members in understanding the newly developed audit tool being used across children and Families social work teams to ensure that we continue to progress



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improvements in the quality of social work practice undertaken by staff with vulnerable children and families in the borough

- **Financial Implications**

None

- **Legal Implications**

None

- **Policy Implications**

Development of management tools to embed and deliver evidence of robust auditing and management oversight of the quality of our social work practice is a key action in the Haringey Safeguarding (JAR) plan

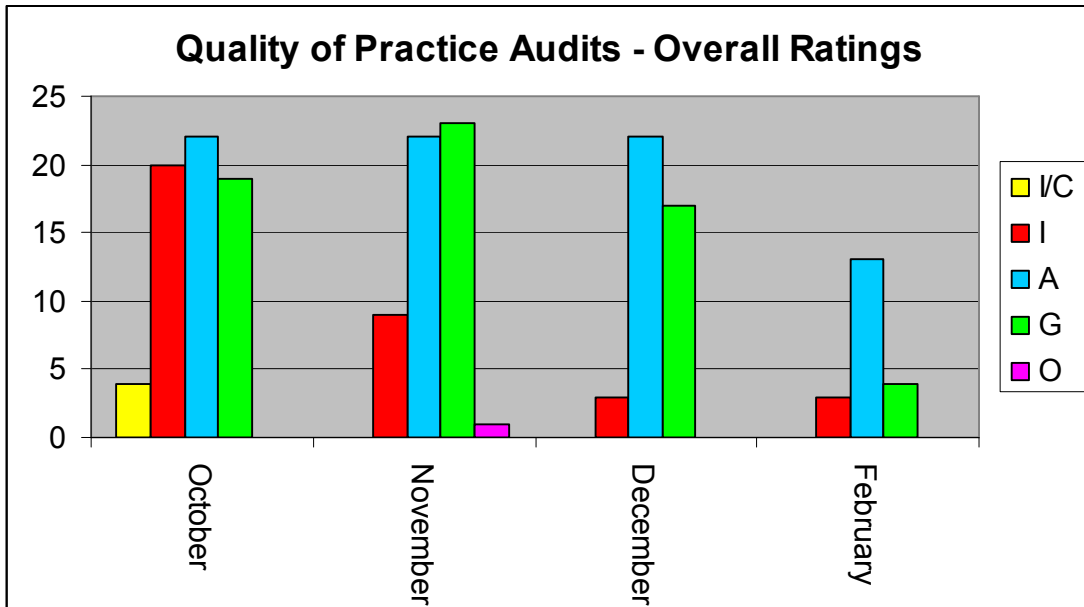
- **List the proposed routing for the report through the formal decision making process**

Not for decision making

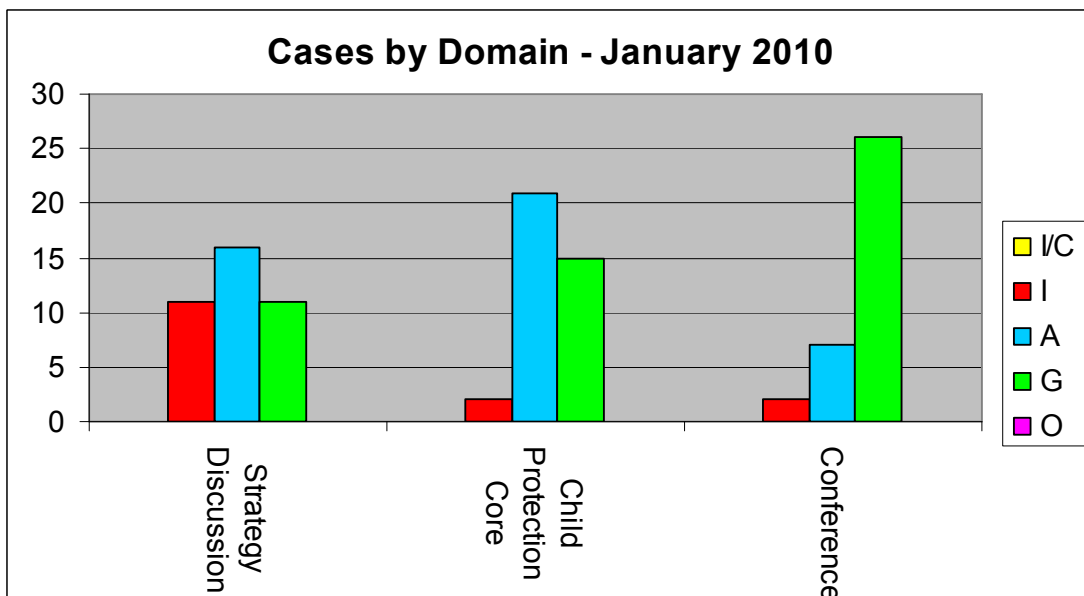
See appendix 1 for detailed analysis and summary of the practice audit findings



Summary of Cases Audited – number by rating - October to December and January



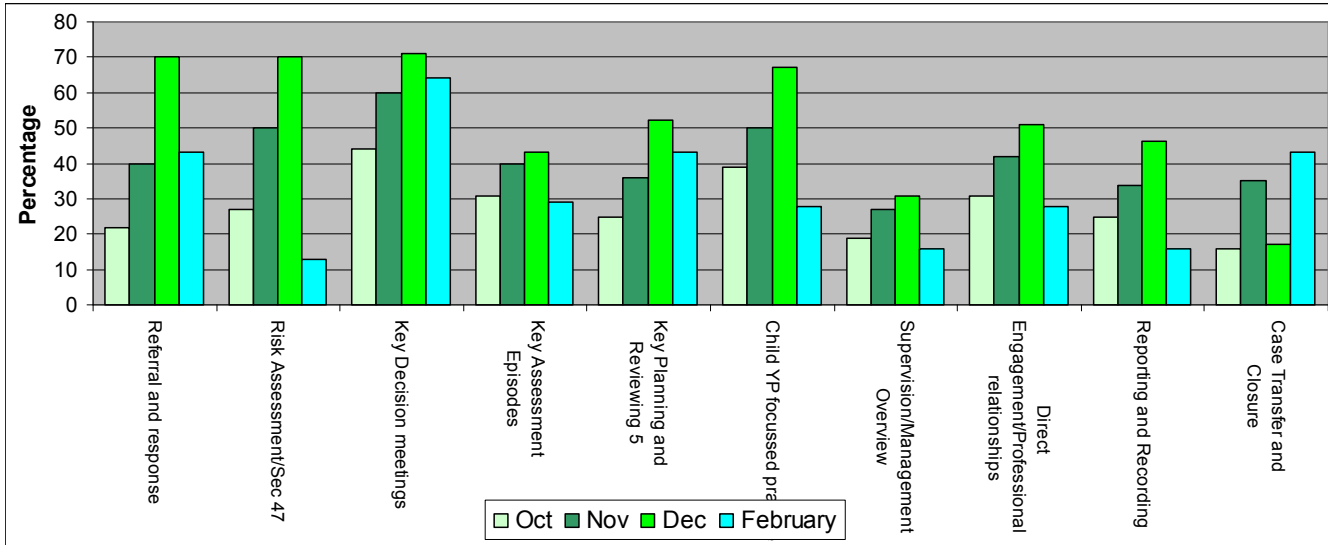
January Audit Theme: Child Protection Core



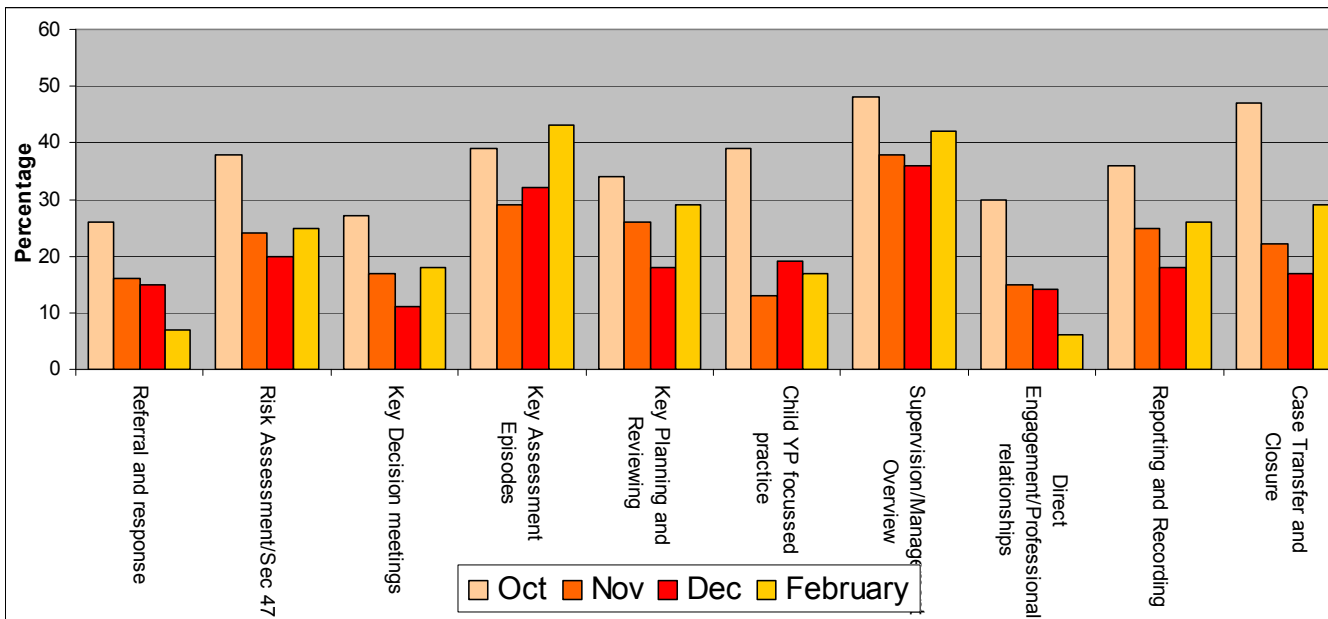
Comparisons of Good Practice (Oct-Dec, Feb)



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Comparisons of Poor Practice (Oct-Dec, Feb)





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KEY –

IA – INADEQUATE / CRITICAL – needs immediate manager action

IA – INADEQUATE

A – ADEQUATE

G – GOOD

O- OUTSTANDING



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Briefing for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee
Title:	Summary of contacts into the First Response Service from the 1 st January and 31 st January 2010 of children aged 0 -5 years.
Lead Officer:	Sylvia Chew, Head of Service, First Response
Date:	25 March 2010

Introduction

This report is to inform members of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Panel about the numbers of children aged between 0 – 5 years who came to the notice of the Children & Young People's Service (CYPS) between 1st January and 31st January 2010.

The details are summarised on the table below. (Table 1)

In total the First Response Service received 226 contacts relating to 120 children aged 0-2 years and 106 children aged 2 -6 years. Some children received more than one contact episode and the total number of children who came to our notice was 189. In all 32 cases were audited on the 5th February 2010 and again on the 5th March 2010. There was marked improvement from the July 1st 2009 audit. On the 5th February 2010 all cases which had progressed to referral were allocated and initial work including Strategy Meetings and Initial Assessments had been completed. There was clear evidence of children being safeguarded through multi agency child protection planning and good inter agency communication.

Referral sources

95 contacts were received via Police Notifications. These included incidents of domestic violence and some related to more than one child in the family.



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77 referrals came via the Emergency Duty Service. A number of these related to notifications from Maternity Units where babies with mothers known to the service had been born.

A further 104 referrals came from other sources, primarily midwives concerned about the welfare of unborn children, Health Visitors and schools.

Outcomes

63 of these children were already known to CYPS and the contact into the service was to provide new information. An example of this is a case where the contact was from the North Middlesex Hospital advising that baby had been born, and seeking a Pre-Discharge Planning Meeting. The audit of this case evidences good multi agency practice; there is evidence of a pre-birth assessment and planning with a Child Protection Plan in place. The contact from the hospital alerted the social worker to the birth and ensured a planned and safe discharge.

40 of the contacts resulted in the giving of information and advice. This included one case, where the concerns mostly related to late booking of the pregnancy but where maternal care was observed to be good. In keeping with agreed thresholds, this was passed back to the Health Visitor to monitor.

3 of the cases progressed to assessment under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). This number is still relatively low and we continue to work closely with the CAF Manager around this to ensure that the children with early indications of vulnerability are assessed and enabled to access early intervention and support services through the increasingly comprehensive Children's Network provision.

59 contacts progressed to the referral stage. All of these were allocated within timescales and the audit evidenced timely and appropriate work, including pre-birth assessments and conferences, work with families as children in need and, in one case where the mother could not be found, alerts were sent out to local hospitals in the event that she gave birth elsewhere.

Progress

The follow up audit in March 2010 demonstrated that some cases had appropriately either been closed or were now allocated within the Safeguarding and Support Service. This included one family who are being supported by the No Recourse to Public Funds' Team; one where social work management is from the Children in Care Service and another where social work support is provided by the authority where the family are now living.



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Table 1

	0 - 2 year olds	2 to 5 year old	Total with duplicates		0 - 2 year olds	2 to 5 year old	Total no duplicates
Number of Contacts Jan 2010	120	106	226		103	86	189
Number of contacts that went to a Referral Jan 2010	34	25	59		26	17	43
Referral Source CHILD CONTACT POLICE	49	46	95		46	40	86
Referral Source EDT	14	13	27		11	9	20
Referral Source - CONTACT FOR CHILD	57	47	104		46	37	83
Outcome of Referral - CHILD REFERRAL	34	25	59		26	17	43
Outcome of Referral - CLOSED CHILDREN	3	2	5		3	2	5
Outcome of Referral - INFORMATION & ADVICE (children)	13	10	23		13	9	22
Outcome of Referral - INFORMATION & ADVICE GIVEN	8	9	17		7	9	16
Outcome of Referral - NO FUTHER ACTION	29	23	52		24	19	43
Outcome of Referral - OPEN CASE PASS ON INFORMATION	31	32	63		28	25	53
Outcome of Referral - REFFERAL FOR A CAF	0	3	3		0	3	3
Outcome of Referral - BLANK	1	3	4		1	3	4

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Document is exempt

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