



<b>Briefing for:</b>	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee
<b>Title:</b>	Summary of contacts into the First Response Service from the 1 <sup>st</sup> January and 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2010 of children aged 0 -5 years.
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Sylvia Chew, Head of Service, First Response
<b>Date:</b>	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 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 and again on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010. There was marked improvement from the July 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 audit. On the 5<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Number of Contacts Jan 2010</b>	120	106	<b>226</b>		103	86	<b>189</b>
<b>Number of contacts that went to a Referral Jan 2010</b>	34	25	59		26	17	43
<b>Referral Source CHILD CONTACT POLICE</b>	49	46	95		46	40	86
<b>Referral Source EDT</b>	14	13	27		11	9	20
<b>Referral Source - CONTACT FOR CHILD</b>	57	47	104		46	37	83
<b>Outcome of Referral - CHILD REFERRAL</b>	34	25	59		26	17	43
<b>Outcome of Referral - CLOSED CHILDREN</b>	3	2	5		3	2	5
<b>Outcome of Referral - INFORMATION &amp; ADVICE ( children )</b>	13	10	23		13	9	22
<b>Outcome of Referral - INFORMATION &amp; ADVICE GIVEN</b>	8	9	17		7	9	16
<b>Outcome of Referral - NO FUTHER ACTION</b>	29	23	52		24	19	43
<b>Outcome of Referral - OPEN CASE PASS ON INFORMATION</b>	31	32	63		28	25	53
<b>Outcome of Referral - REFFERAL FOR A CAF</b>	0	3	3		0	3	3
<b>Outcome of Referral - BLANK</b>	1	3	4		1	3	4