

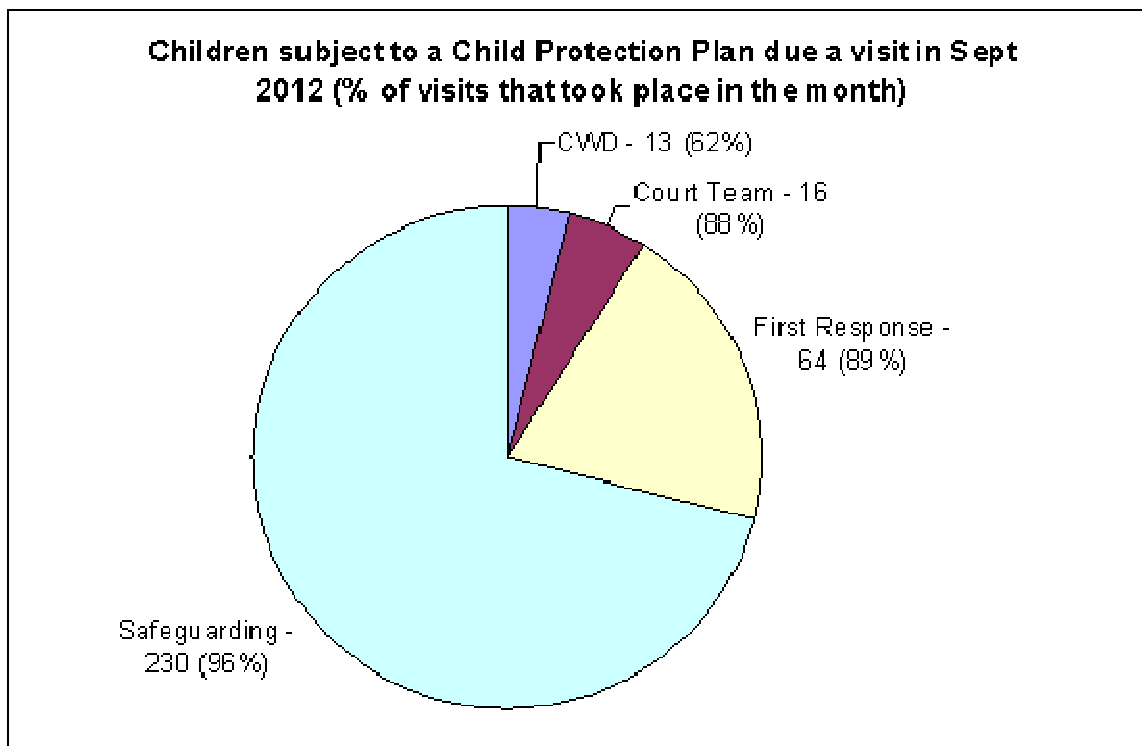


Briefing for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee
Title:	Visits to Children subject to Child Protection Plans
Report by:	Rachel Oakley, Head of Service, Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Practice Development
Date:	22 November 2012

Introduction - Reported visits in September 2012

At the end of September there were 326 children subject to plans, 92.6% visits were recorded as having taken place within the month. This ranges as follows:

Disabled Children	62% visits recorded as having taken place within timescale
Safeguarding and Support	96% visits recorded as having taken place within timescale
First Response	89% visits recorded as having taken place within timescale
Court Team	88% visits recorded as having taken place within timescale



Objective:

To validate that there was a written report uploaded on to FWi of visits to children subject to child protections plan during the month of September 2012.

Methodology:

At the end of September 326 children were subject to Child Protection Plans, of this number it was reported that 92.6% (302) had had a child protection visit during the month.

A random sample of 23 children's files, within the age range of 0-17 were audited to ensure that the individual child was seen during the visit and a record was in place to confirm this.

The 23 children identified had between them a total of 32 siblings, their files were also checked to ensure that a visit had taken place and they had been seen individually by a social worker. This made a total sample of 55. Where issues of concern were identified they have been reported directly to the responsible Head of Service.

The Template:



Visits are recorded on a Child Protection Visit template which is uploaded on FWi as a case note. The template is in “word” and is not part of an “episode”, templates appear to have been amended over time and there is not one standard format and in some cases the text has been corrupted.

As this is a standalone template there is no system built into FWi for manager’s authorisation.

Of the total number of 55 children whose files were checked 78% (43) were seen and a record made of the interaction with the child and the social workers observations, this is in addition to the general family information held within the report.

Quality Concerns:

Three of the children had visits entered as having taken place but there was no written record of the visit on file, four connected siblings also had no record of a visit in September.

In one instance (1 child), a template was uploaded and counted as a visit but the family were not in and therefore the children not seen.

In the case of two large families the social worker conducted the visit and copied over the record of the visit on to all the children’s files, however, not all the children were seen on the visit. In one instance an older child was out, whilst in another the social worker only saw one child. The reasons why this happened were evident; however, it did mean the social worker did not have contact during the month with those children.

One visit was recorded on a child-in-need template and a further four visits were recorded in unstructured case notes.

In the cohort there were a small number of families with four or more children, in these families the attention and focus afforded the children individually tended to be less.

Points for consideration:

- Review and reformatting of Child Protection Visit template – this has been referred to the Operational System Support Team to include in their work plan.
- Establish clarity on recording practice in relation to the recording of visits to individual children and sibling groups – this will be address as part of MOSAIC which will support family based recording.
- Further thought on working with large families and how individual children are seen alone and the voice of all of the children heard, integrating learning from past Serious Case Reviews – this is on the OD



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Commissioning Agenda for 2013/14 and will form one aspect of the short course programme.

- Services to establish who to take ongoing responsibility for quality checking child protection visits
- Managers to re-issue the guidance on expectations for statutory visits