

Annual Safeguarding Report Children Services 2021/22

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Purpose and agenda

To provide an annual update to Cabinet on safeguarding children activity within Children's Services during 2021/22.

1. Contextual Information
2. National Developments
3. Performance and Activity levels
4. Local Developments
5. Future Priorities

Contextual Information

November 2021

Hampshire volunteered to pilot a new **Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)** of our multi-agency Safeguarding arrangements across all partners, working **from initial contact to a Child Protection decision.**

Inspectors from Ofsted, CQC (Care Quality Commission) and HMICFRS (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services) gave **very positive feedback** following their visit.





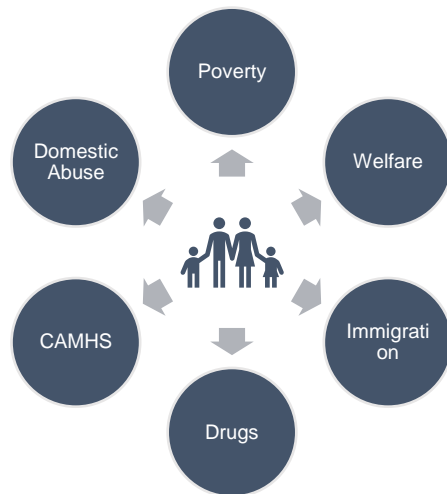
National Developments

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care

The review is considered a **once in a generation opportunity for radical change** and calls on government to be ambitious for children and to play a more active role in creating the conditions for success. The Director of Children's Services is a member of the National Implementation Board in his role as President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services.

The review...

1. Recognises the **context** Children's Services operate within.



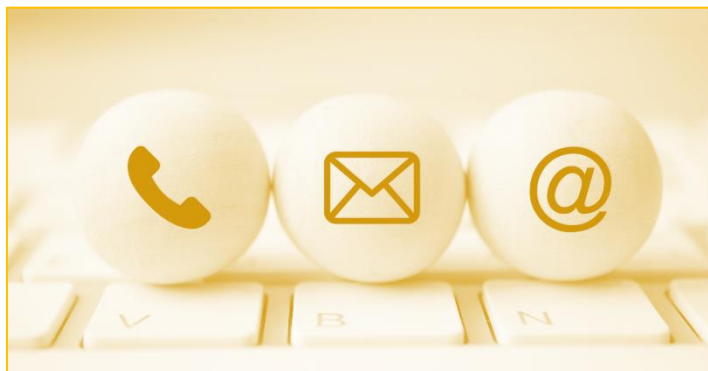
2. Emphasises:

- ✓ The importance of **universal services**
- ✓ **Family help**, which combines early help and lower level children's social care cares.

3. Calls for **investment** of £2.6bn to support transformation, which is expected to result in **savings** and a shift in the profile of spend from reactive, acute services, to early intervention.

Covid-19 – the new normal

While Covid-19 may no longer be a visible impact in daily lives, the long-term impact remains.



Contacts have increased by **18%**



Referrals to MASH have increased by **39%**



An increase in the **complexity** of cases related to childhood anxiety, child and family/adult mental health issues as well as domestic abuse and neglect.

Homes for Ukrainians



Our district Family Support Service (FSS) teams are leading on supporting **2500 Ukrainian refugees**, and their host families.

Processes are well embedded, including support groups in most districts.



The government have opened the scheme to unaccompanied minors who will receive a social work assessment and ongoing social work support, comparable with Private Fostering regulations.

Only **3 arrangements** have been approved as of 9 September 2022, and future demand is unknown.

Child Exploitation

The reports reference to exploitation includes the following risk areas; child sexual exploitation (CSE), online exploitation, criminal exploitation (CCE) including 'County Lines', drug related harm, knife crime and serious violence; as well as other forms of exploitation that involve coercion and control such as radicalisation and extremism; forced marriage, female genital mutilation.

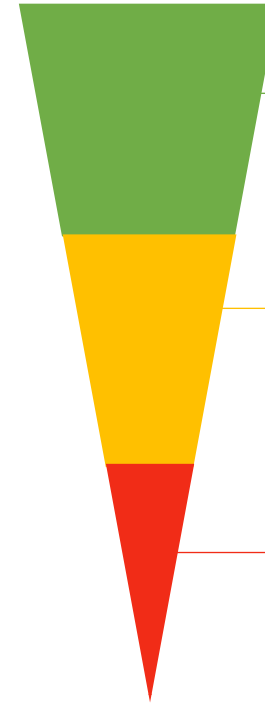
- ✓ The multi-agency Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton (**HIPS**) Child Exploitation Strategy sets out **how all agencies will work together**.
- ✓ Hampshire district led Missing Exploited and Trafficked (**MET**) operational sub groups **ensure the identification, support, safeguarding and diversion of children** who are at risk of, or being exploited within Hampshire's districts.

'County lines' and local drug peer networks remain an increasing concern

- ✓ Specialist work is undertaken by the pan-Hampshire Police Missing team, the Hampshire Children's Services specialist Willow team and Hampshire Constabulary to **identify and disrupt County Lines networks, and safeguarding vulnerable children**.

Children who go missing

Children who go missing from home or care, shows a **continued improving position.**



Fewer children are going missing.

There is a **robust and effective response** from Children's Services and Hampshire Constabulary when they do go missing.

Hampshire have employed two specialist workers (based in Willow) who monitor missing children on a daily and weekly basis and work with district teams to **ensure appropriate safeguards** are in place to **prevent repeat occurrences.**



Performance and Activity Levels

Continuing increase in demand

Contacts and Referrals

- The total number of contacts as at 31 March 2022 is 21% higher than the total received at 31 March 2021.

| Contact and Referrals | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of initial contacts | 106010 | 117188 | 125413 | 126153 | 153033 |
| Number of referrals | 35953 | 40014 | 44434 | 48826 | 60761 |

Child and Family Assessments.

- The timeliness of completing a Child and Family Assessment is **a very positive picture**.
- Timeliness has not fallen from the high 80s for the last five years** and is higher than the majority of other local authorities in the region.

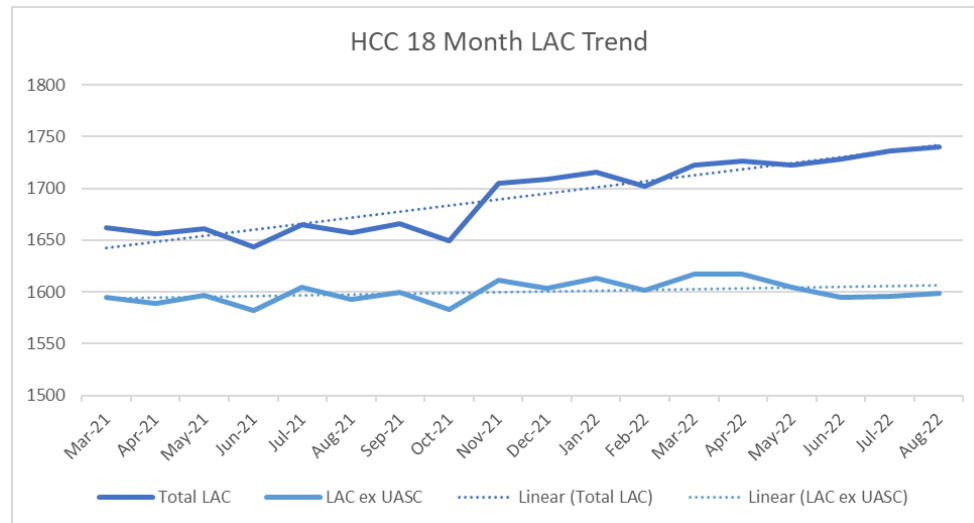
| Assessments | 2017-18 | | 2018-19 | | 2019-20 | | 2020-21 | | 2021-22 | |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| Assessment Timeliness | 18496 | 87.90% | 18003 | 90.90% | 19712 | 92.61% | 15924 | 95.30% | 21188 | 95.90% |

Child Protection Plans.

- Due to the **short and long-term impact of the covid pandemic**, numbers of children on a child protection plan **have increased**.
- The previous **positive reduction** is considered to be **as a result of more effective interventions with children and families at the Child in Need level**.
- A **low percentage** of child protection plans are lasting beyond two years **indicating proactive work**.
- Relatively few** require a repeat plan **within two years**.

| Child Protection Plans (CPP) and visits | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| No of children on CPP | 1293 | 1097 | 938 | 1000 | 1022 |

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)



- Numbers of children in care have **increased by 69 (4%)** over the past year **due to an increase in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)**.
- UASC now make up 8% of children in care, compared to 4% 18 months ago

Given the rise in UASC a specialist UASC team will be set up, to support UASC and former care leaver UASC in Hampshire.

| UASC Care Leavers | Apr-Jun 2019 | Jul-Sep 2019 | Oct-Dec 2019 | Jan-Mar 2020 | Apr-Jun 2020 | Jul-Sep 2020 | Oct-Dec 2020 | Jan-Mar 2021 | Apr-Jun 2021 | Jul-Sep 2021 | Oct-Dec 2021 | Jan-Mar 2022 | Apr-Jun 2022 |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Period End | 328 | 329 | 327 | 334 | 335 | 341 | 347 | 363 | 365 | 369 | 402 | 417 | 423 |

The average age of UASC arrivals is **17 years**. There has therefore been a **209% increase** in the number of UASC care leavers since June 2017 (137)



Local Developments

Recruitment and Retention



- ✓ The Independent Review of Children's Social Care provides the opportunity to consider use of differently qualified professionals to support children and families.
- ✓ We are planning **pilots** in Hampshire to consider the roles **in our statutory teams**.

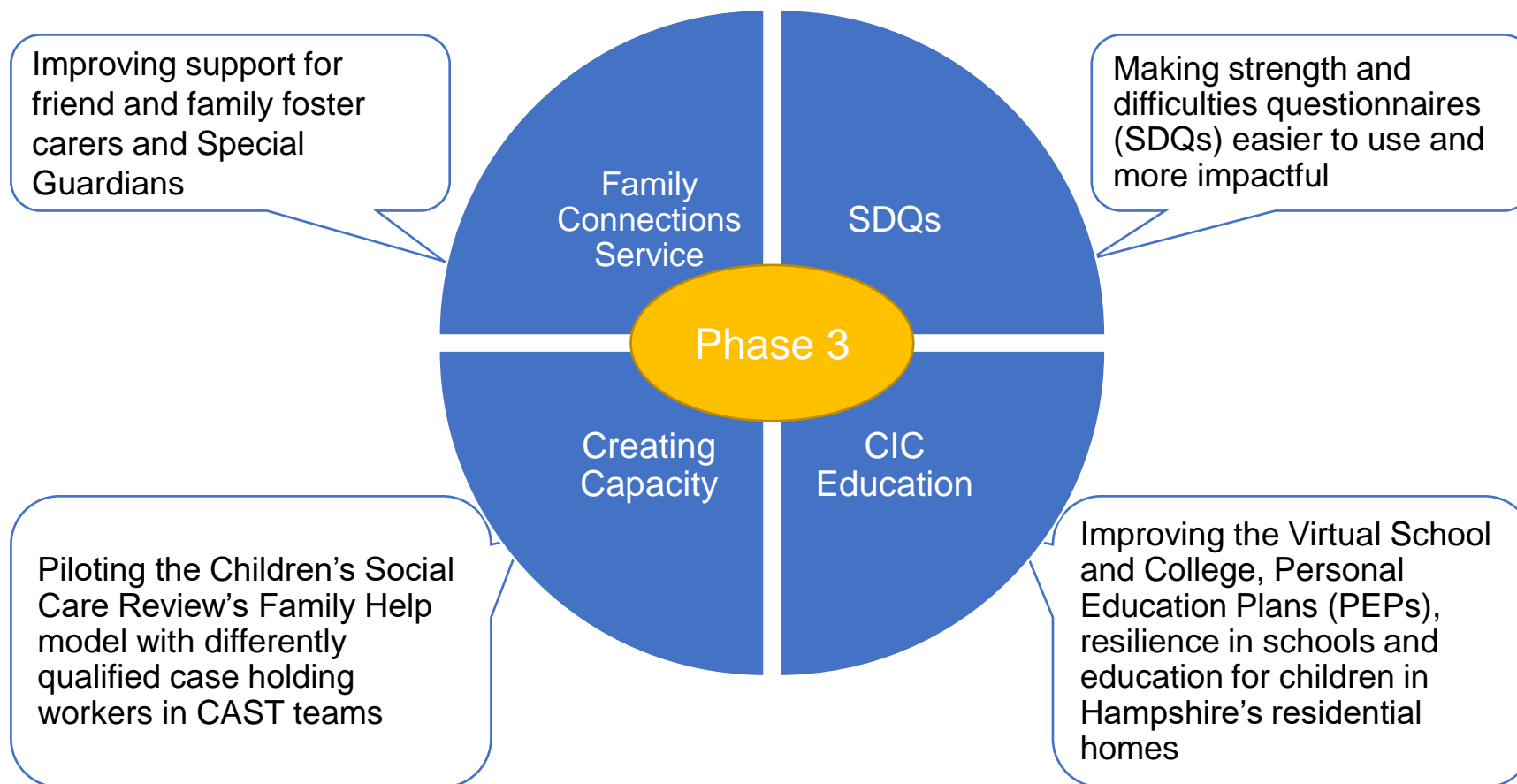
Our proactive recruitment strategy also...

- ✓ Utilises a positive **partnership with Community Care** for marketing and advertisements
- ✓ Targets **graduates straight from universities** to our highly regarded newly qualified worker programme.
- ✓ Includes **oversees recruitment** of 25 social workers this financial year.
- ✓ Will **grow our own social workers**. The first cohort of Social Work Apprentices graduated in August 2022, and 3 x more spaces will be offered this financial year.

Transforming Social Care

The Transforming Social Care Programme continues at pace to deliver innovative whole system change and continuous improvement to our social work practice.

The 2020 and 2021 Annual Safeguarding Report gave an overview of Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects.



Youth Offending and Sector Led Improvement

Youth Offending Service

During the last year Hampshire Youth Offending Team (HYOT) has continued to deliver youth justice and youth crime prevention to the children of Hampshire, progressing against last year's plan.

Sector Led Improvement



- ✓ Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have received funding to deliver over 1000 days of support to other children's services per year through the DfE's newly established **Sector Led Improvement Programme (SLIP)**.
- ✓ Hampshire continues to support the **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)** to undertake specific social work improvement support with the British Overseas Territories.
- ✓ Hampshire leads DfE funded improvement through the **South East Regional Improvement Alliance**.

This work is fully funded by the DfE and FCDO and Ofsted's most recent inspection report confirms that this work is **not detrimentally impacting oversight and management** of Hampshire Children's Services.

Future Challenges and Operational Priorities

The **escalating costs of placements** for children in care resulting from demand outstripping supply is a key area of focus, in addition to challenges and priorities already mentioned.

It is essential that our transformation work continues at pace to:

1. Keep more children at home, where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
2. Ensure children have the right placement to meet their needs.

Thank you

Questions?