



Hampshire
County Council

Annual Safeguarding Report of Children's Services 2018/19

Stuart Ashley
Assistant Director

Purpose/Structure

Purpose: To provide an annual update to Cabinet on safeguarding children activity within Children's Services during 2018/19

Structure:

- Sets the service context
- Identifies key national developments
- Summarises key performance and activity levels
- Details a number of key local developments
- Sets future priorities.

Service Context

November
2018

Focused visit from Ofsted inspecting children subject to a child protection plan, including the quality and impact of pre-proceedings work (before we got to court to seek removal of children)

Very positive feedback from Ofsted post visit

April/May
2019

Hampshire was subject to a full Ofsted 'Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services' inspection

Outstanding overall and across the other three areas of judgement, including 'The experiences and progress of children in need of help and protection'

One of only two LAs to receive the highest judgement

Service Context: Ofsted said...

Children's Services in Hampshire are outstanding

Children's lives consistently improve as a result of the help they receive

Since the last full inspection in 2014, the director and his leadership team have resolutely focused on continuing to improve the help, care and protection provided to children

Social workers are highly skilled at building meaningful relationships with children; engaging them in their assessment and plans.....

Strong political and corporate support ...have helped the leadership team to implement an ambitious transformation programme



National Developments

County Lines' is an increasing concern in Hampshire...

- A business model for organised criminal gangs
- Expanding their drug selling market
- Target vulnerable children/ adults, enticing them with money, drugs, alcohol, friendship and 'standing'
- Used as drug mules to move drugs and money from local areas back to inner cities and vice versa
- They then entrap the young person, usually by robbing them of their 'takings', creating long term debt that's never repaid
- National issue but Hampshire is not immune due to its geography /proximity to large cities



National Developments

To tackle this:

- Specialist work undertaken by the pan-Hampshire Police Missing team and the Hampshire Children's Services specialist Willow team
- The Willow team is a multi agency team consisting of specialist social workers and health professionals, working closely with Hampshire Constabulary to protect the highest risk children
- Together with Hampshire Constabulary there is a coordinated deployment of these specialist resources to identify networks, ensuring the safeguarding of the most vulnerable children and the disruption of county lines activity



National Developments

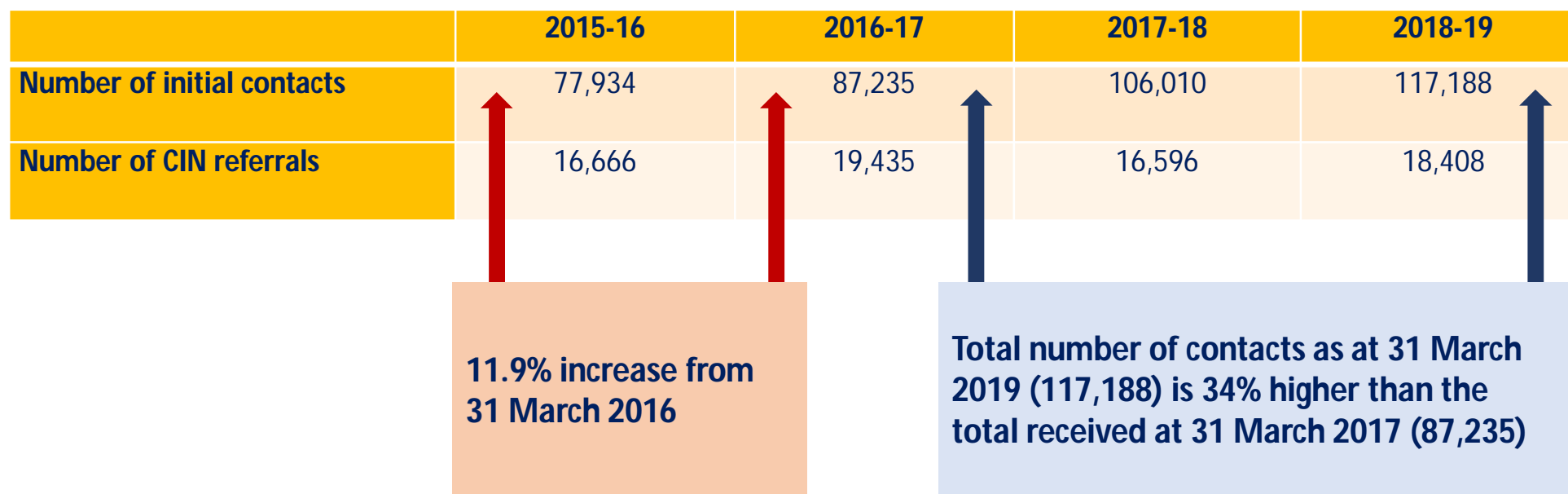
Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC):

- Become looked after children and the responsibility of the Local Authority, but the implications are wide reaching and complex
- As at 30 June 2019 the total number of UASC (under 18 years) looked after by Hampshire is 127, a reduction of 22, from 149 reported last year
- The reduction is due to the fact that a significant proportion of these children arrive at the age of 17 so they reach maturity during the year, become eligible care leavers

	Apr-Jun 2016	Jul-Sep 2016	Oct-Dec 2016	Jan-Mar 2017	Apr-Jun 2017	Jul-Sept 2017	Oct-Dec 2017	Jan-Mar 2018	Apr-Jun 2018	Jul-Sep 2018	Oct-Dec 2018	Jan-Mar 2019	Apr-Jun 2019
Quarterly Data	7	19	27	20	17	27	18	14	29	31	17	18	7

Performance and Activity levels

Contacts and Referrals:



Performance and Activity levels

Child Protection Investigations and Assessments:

- % of child abuse investigations (section 47) progressing to an initial child protection conference remains at around the same level
- Thresholds are being consistently applied
- The timeliness of completing a Child and Family Assessment, is a very positive picture given the large number

Section 47 and Assessments	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
% of S47 going to ICPC	4182	44.9%	4,211	43.7%	3926	44.9%	4317	40.6%
C&FA Timeliness	16931	88.3%	19841	89.6%	18496	87.9%	18003	90.9%



Performance and Activity levels

Children in care:

Full Time Children Looked After (CLA)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 Q1 Apr-Jun
No of full time CLA	1267	1339	1305	1440	1592	1664	1637

Cohort increased by 72 (4.5%) over the last 12 months, slightly under the national rise

- Transformation of children’s social care, new strengths based methodology, the ‘Hampshire Approach’ evidencing positive early impact
- As of August 2019, the total number of children in care is now lower than it was in September 2018

Local Developments

Recruitment & Retention

- Strategic response to the aggressive tactics of agencies, Hampshire County Council established its own agency in partnership with Kent to source and supply social workers
- Council's investment of £6.5m in over 100 new social work posts
- Graduate Entry Training Scheme (GETS) continues to be our principal, and most successful, means of recruiting social workers – 147 and rising
- Establishment of an Apprenticeship Social Work Degree scheme with Winchester University



Local Developments

The Hampshire Approach:

- A resilience, strengths based way of working with families grounded on academic research
- 87% of staff now trained in some aspects
- Dynamic and sustainable multi-disciplinary service



Ofsted:

... has equipped social workers with the tools, skills and time to work directly with children and families. Consequently, children's needs are better understood, intervention is purposeful, and children and families are being helped to become resilient'

Future Challenges & Priorities

1. Number of children entering the care system remains a challenge – embedding our new operating model is essential
2. Costs associated with the placements for looked after children will continue to be a significant pressure for the County Council. Supply v Demand
3. Child exploitation, in all its forms, continues to be an increasing area of work, particularly ‘County Lines’
4. Recruitment and retention of social workers will continue to need to be addressed

Questions

