



Coventry Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2008 – 2009

Business Plan 2009 – 2012



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Chair's Welcome

Welcome to Coventry Safeguarding Children Board's 2009 – 2012 business plan, which includes the 2008/09 annual report. The business plan provides an overview of our statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children through co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of work across partner agencies.

Helping to safeguard all children and young people and protecting those who have been harmed or are at risk of harm through abuse and neglect is the purpose of the CSCB. All the agencies that form the CSCB give this work priority. The national and local focus on child protection during the last year has highlighted how vulnerable many children and young people are. The agencies in Coventry are working to develop and improve our services so we give the best response we can to the children, young people and families who need our protection and help. This is complex and very demanding work. We are committed to improving our services and this report sets out what we have done in 2008/09 to improve and what our plans are for 2009/12.

Major achievements across the CSCB and subcommittees throughout 2008/09 include:

- Refreshing governance structures to ensure CSCB independence and promote effective engagement with the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.
- Working with partnerships and agencies to ensure strategic and operational support in the integration of CAF across partnerships and agencies including in the commissioning of services, service design and delivery
- Ensuring continued consistency in the application of thresholds and clear criteria for undertaking CAF to enable practitioners to identify when the threshold for CAF and Referrals to Social care are met.
- The Child Death Review process in line with government requirements came into effect from 1st April 2008; the CSCB successfully implemented this relatively new area of focus locally and have collaborated with Solihull and Warwickshire LSCBs to set up an overview panel across Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire. An annual report with key themes from the first year of implementation will be available later this year.
- There has been a sharp focus on key themes arising from accidental injury and death, themes identified from Serious Case Reviews and the Child Death Review Process have highlighted messages, which are being delivered to members of the public eg co-sleeping.
- A Safeguarding Children Licensing Officer has been appointed and has begun to strengthen relationships with other 'responsible authorities', work has also taken place towards safeguarding children in licensed premises
- The CSCB commissioned one Serious Case Review of a child in July 2008, this was concluded in March 2009, the delay in completion was due to criminal proceedings in this case.
- Interagency procedures for safeguarding children are continually being updated; updates this year include safeguarding children in whom illness is fabricated or induced and resolution of professional disagreement in work relating to the safety of children. Current developments are the updating of the CAF levels of need. In the coming months the format of these procedures will change dramatically with a much easier to navigate format and a take the test facility, which can be undertaken as part of an induction for new staff across agencies.

<http://www.coventrycypsp.org.uk/ccm/navigation/safeguarding-children-board/inter-agency-procedures/>

Chair's Welcome

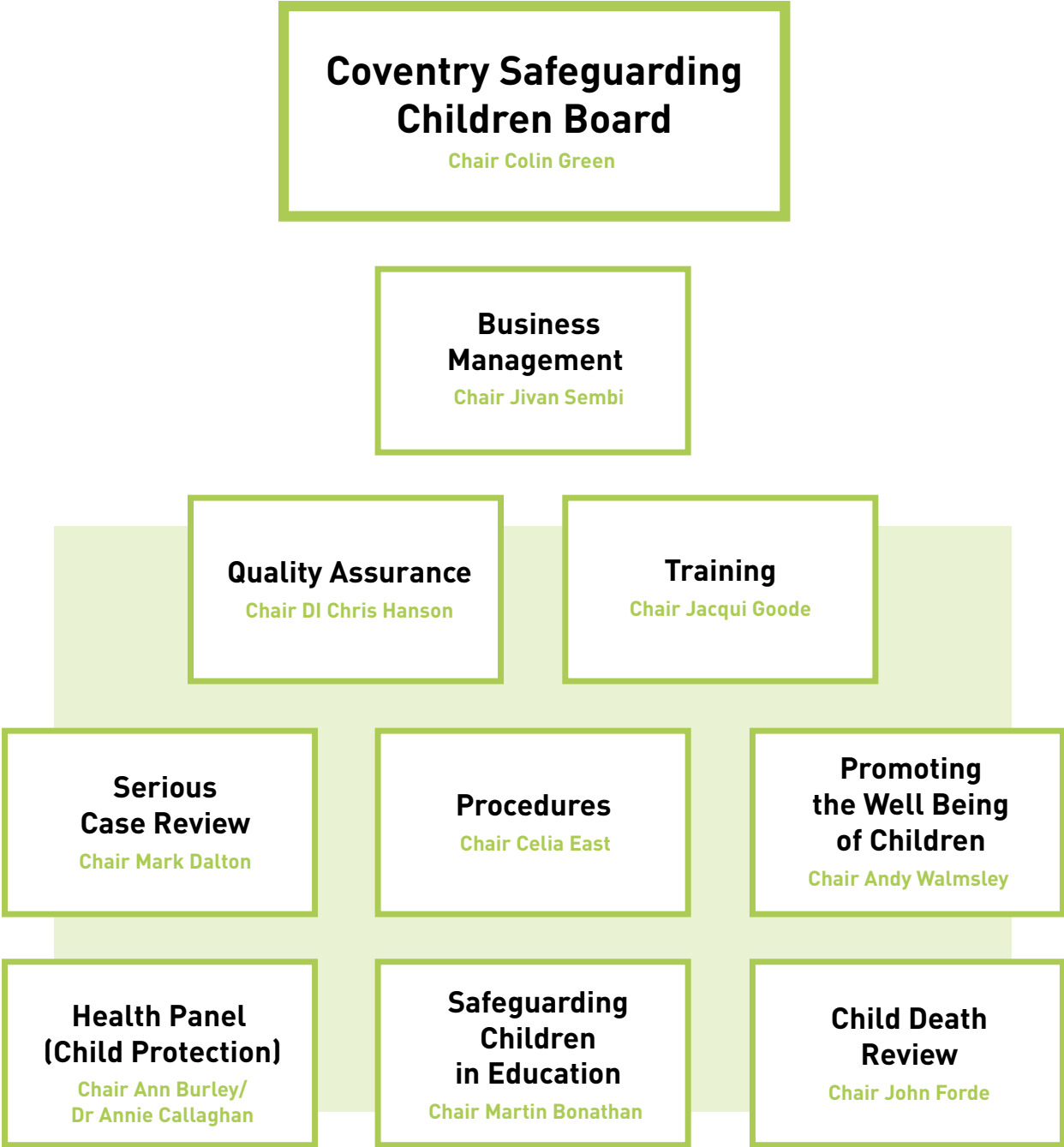
- The CSCB Training subcommittee produce and deliver an annual comprehensive inter-agency training programme available to professionals working across the city. This is supported by a fulltime training officer and a pool of trainers from various organisations who offer the core of the training targeted at ensuring staff know what to do if they are worried about a child. This is delivered on an interagency or single agency basis. Recent additions to the training programme are courses covering child neglect, hidden sentence and child trafficking.
- The training programme is available in hard copy or on <http://www.coventrycypsp.org.uk/ccm/navigation/safeguarding-children-board/inter-agency-training-opportunities/>
- In response to a growing demand for places on the Introduction to Safeguarding Children course we have managed to increase the pool of interagency trainers which has led to almost doubling the number of courses for 2009/2010.

I would like to thank the many individuals and organisations who have contributed to the work of the Board over the past year, without whom the Board would not have been able to progress and achieve in safeguarding the children and young people of Coventry and supporting their parents and carers. I look forward to working with you in the years ahead to achieve on our next set of priorities for Coventry.



Colin Green
Chair, Coventry Safeguarding Children Board

Coventry Safeguarding Children Board Structure

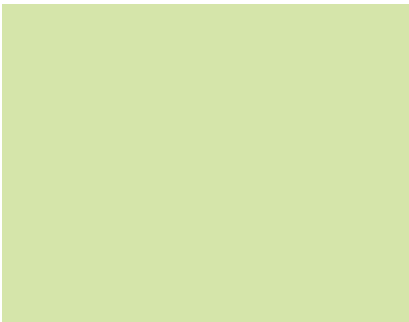


Personnel involved in CSCB work

Members of Adult Mental Health Services	Toni Docherty	Josie Jackson	PC Jayne Ross
Mohammed Ali	Maureen Donnelly	DS Debra Jennings	Steven Rudge
Dr Ashley-Smith	Neil Duke	Teresa Johnson	Leanne Schrouder
Chris Ashton	Jane Dunne	Rosie Jones	Karen Scott
Sue Aucutt	Celia East	Penny Kay	Jivan Sembhi
Jill Ayers	Matt Edge	Amanda Kehoe	Sam Sharkey
Chris Ballard	Dr Hossam	Georgina Kell	Chris Shearsby
Faye Baillie	El-Gammal	Christine Kellam	Michael Sheath
Geoff Barnsley	Cathy Ellis	Tina Kelly	Sandra Shipton
Ramona Barreto	Chris Fawkner	Sally Kemp	Dr Peter Sidebotham
Caroline Baugh	Kingsley Field	Nick Kempton	Kam Sidhu
Karen Bayliss	George Fisher	Sandra Kerr	Andrea Simmonds
Christina Beck	John Forde	Brian Kerrigan	Marian Simpson
Clive Bennett	Teresa Gallagher	Amanda Lamb	Ann Smith
June Berrow	Oilette Gayle	Wendy Lane	Jane Smith
Sarah Biggs	Mary Geach	Myran Larkin	Hilary Snell
Martin Bonathan	Iqbal Ghag	Sgt Nick Le Poidevin	Gill Sowerby
Constance Booth	Karan Gilmore	Beverly Lennox	Josie Spencer
Jane Brooks	Ch/Supt Steve Glover	Dara Lloyd	Steve Stewart
Jenny A Brown	Jacqui Goode	Sarah Malam	Vanessa Stidworthy
Ann Burley	Jane Goodyear	Gurprit Mann	Sara Swann
Celia Burnett	Tracy Gourley	Susan Mason	Christine Taylor
Dr Ann Callaghan	Diane Grant	Collette Maunders	Dominic Tolley
Dr Alison Callaway	Colin Green	Sue Maxwell	Mike Tomkinson
Debbie Carter	Paul Green	Carmel McCalmont	Anne Walker
Gillian Carter	Penny Greenaway	Celine McCrea	Richard Walker
Jayne Casey	Chris Halek	Geraldine McKeown	DI Kay Wallace
Dr Supratik Chakraborty	Beverley Hall	Dr Karen McLachlan	Andy Walmsley
Sarah Chand	Stephen Hall	Mitchell Moore	Mandie Watson
Carol Clarke	Julie Hampson	Ray Moore	Pauline Watts
Nobby Clarke	Chris Hanson	Monique Morrison	Andy Waugh
Ann Clarkson	Tracy Hardie	Denis Murphy	Lisa Webb
Lesley Cleaver	Angela Harlock	John Murphy	Mary Weeks
Jon Clugston	Shirley Heath	Debbie Nash	Julie West
Members of COMPASS	Bill Hedges	Dawn Neale	Mandy Whateley
Cath Cooper	Hardeep Heer	Sarah Newton	John Wheeler
Terry Cranston	Suzanne Henley	Dikeledi Nhlathp	Sandra Williamson
Linda Crisp	Dyan Hewett	Sarah Norton	Christopher Wilson
Sarah Crowther	Jane Hill	Hayley Owen	David Wilson
Pauline Cutler	Helen Hipkiss	Julie Page	Julie Wood
Mark Dalton	Andy Hiron	Baiju Panchmatia	Kevin Wright
Anne Daly	Viv Hogg	Angie Parkes	Heather Wright
Sam Davies	Peter Holden	Nira Parmar	Val Wright
Bob Dhammi	DCI Sue Holder	Andy Pepper	Christine Yeap
	Ian Holloway	Anne Pluska	DS Kerry Young
	Noelle Holton	Andrew Reece	
	Sally Ingram	Sue Richardson	

2009 – 2012

Business Plan



Key priorities for CSCB and subcommittees in the coming years are to ensure the 2009 – 2012 objectives are delivered, these are further detailed in this report. The objectives include:

- Be clear that all partners share responsibility for all Coventry's children and young people.
- Have a shared understanding of good multi-disciplinary assessment, intervention, planning and review of practice
- Ensuring the recommendations of the Protection of Children in England Report, 2009 Lord Laming, are implemented.
- Effective management of serious case reviews in line with new guidance as well as learning lessons.
- Maintaining focus on the effectiveness of safeguarding children subject to child protection concerns
- Continue to strengthen the current arrangements for monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements with the focus on quality of practice and actively improving this with regard to domestic violence and neglect
 - Maintain robust monitoring arrangements to audit quality of practice and develop performance framework.
 - Review and agree a data set and performance framework based on key priorities identified
 - Agencies are engaged in the collection and sharing of qualitative data
 - Quality of multi-disciplinary assessment practice
 - Quantitative data on child protection activity across partner agencies which focuses on neglect and abuse including domestic violence
- Benchmark current supervision /support practice around the management oversight and supervision offered to practitioners across agencies
- Programme of audits focussing on the quality of inter-disciplinary practice including core assessments
- Board has a role in setting standards for oversight and supervision across agencies
- Ensure the consistent application of thresholds across the city are applied consistently to safeguard children with a particular focus on
 - Children subject to the Common Assessment Framework interventions
 - Children with complex needs and where parenting capacity is compromised
 - Domestic Violence and Abuse
 - impact on children
 - Accidental injury arising from neglect
- Maintain the robustness of Child Death Reviewing arrangements, responding to the emerging issues for the City.
- Maintain an interagency training programme supporting the priorities set by the Board
- Maintain and strengthen the working relationships with key partnerships in achieving its objectives, namely
 - Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership
 - Domestic Violence and Abuse Partnership
 - Community Safety Partnership
 - Youth Offending Board
 - MAPPA Arrangements

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people requires effective coordination in every local area. The Children Act 2004 and the subsequent Working Together Guidance to Safeguard Children (2006) places a statutory responsibility on LSCBs to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of services to safeguard children and young people in its area.

The core functions and objectives of an LSCB are set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance, these include:

- a) Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the local authority.
- b) Communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- c) Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners
- d) Participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority
- e) Effective coordination of any unexpected child death, analysing deaths of children normally resident in the area of the authority and undertaking reviews of serious cases.

The CSCB was launched in April 2006 and has been effectively fulfilling its statutory responsibilities by providing a strategic direction, challenge and scrutiny in relation to the wider safeguarding agenda across the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, its constituent partners and organisations working in the field of safeguarding children in Coventry.

The CSCB has representation across agencies, including Health (PCT, UHCW and CWPT) Council, Police Probation, Schools, CAF/CASS and NSPCC.

Relationship and accountability between the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership and Coventry Safeguarding Children Board

In 2007 the links between the work of the Safeguarding Children Board and Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership were formally established and agreed.

The CSCB remains an independent statutory body and this is reflected in its constitution.

The CSCB has a key role in ensuring and scrutinising the work of the sub groups of the CYPSP where they address the safeguarding agenda and in reporting the effectiveness of the City's safeguarding arrangements to both the Children and Young People's Commissioning Board and the Local Strategic Partnership.

CSCB had a role in ensuring that the work of the sub groups of CYPSP were addressing the safeguarding agenda and in reporting the effectiveness of the City's safeguarding arrangements to the Children and Young People's Commissioning Board.

The relationship between the CSCB and CYPSP has continued to be strengthened and stronger links are established between the work of the CSCB and the CYPSP.

- CSCB is represented on the Programme Board in reviewing the work of the Partnership sub groups and reports progress to the Commissioning Board as part of the Programme Board's regular performance management arrangements.
- The LSCB reports formally to the CYP Commissioning Board on the state of wellbeing of children and young people in the City annually.

- Members of the CSCB who are also members of CYPSP and its subgroups and other partnership will represent the Board and its interests. These members will feedback relevant information to the CSCB at the meetings of the Board. Each member will be identified as the named Safeguarding champion in relation to specific partnerships.
 - The Safeguarding Manager joins the Programme Board in reviewing the work of the Partnership sub groups and reports progress to the Commissioning Board as part of the Programme Board's regular performance management arrangements
 - The LSCB reports formally to the Local Strategic Partnership and the CYP Commissioning Board on the state of wellbeing of children and young people in the City on an annual basis.
 - The Chair of the Staying Safe Subgroup would be represented on the CSCB.
 - The Chair of the Programme Board is a statutory member of the CSCB
 - The Chair of the CSCB is a member of the CYPSP

The CSCB continues to establish and strengthen working relationships with key partnerships in achieving its objectives

- Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership
- Domestic Violence and Abuse Partnership
- Community Safety Partnership
- Youth Offending Board
- MAPPA and MARAC arrangements

Staying Safe outcomes for which CSCB will take lead Responsibility

The CSCB will take lead responsibility for the following outcomes

- Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation, including children subject to Common Assessment Framework
- Safe from accidental injury arising from neglect only
- Safe from death through the establishment of Child Death Panel

Staying Safe outcomes for which CYPSP and Community Safety partnership will take lead Responsibility

- Safe from bullying and discrimination
- Children missing from home and care
- Safe from accidental injury and death
- Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school
- Children and Young People have security and stability and are cared for.

A range of subcommittees sit under the CSCB, undertaking and overseeing work streams of the Board with membership representing the breadth of agencies working with children and young people. The subcommittees include:

- Business Management Group
- Quality Assurance,
- Procedures,
- Training Strategy,
- Serious Case Review,
- Child Death Review working group
- Promoting the Wellbeing of Children (CAF) Steering group
- Safeguarding Children in Education
- Child Protection Panel - in Health.
- Task and Finish groups

Business Management

Chaired by the Head of Safeguarding and involving chairs of subcommittees, LSCB Business Manager and Interagency Training Officer. Its main purpose is to ensure that the progress against the business plan is achieved, assist the Chairs to identify cross cutting issues and themes across the subcommittee activity, identify the key issues for consideration by the Board as well as to make decisions and report these to the Board.

Quality Assurance

Chaired by the Detective Inspector from the Police and is responsible for receiving and acting on comments or complaints, from families or CSCB agency staff, arising from child protection enquires/conferences. It undertakes and commission's audits in respect of inter-agency child protection services, by agency request and CSCB agreement, evaluating how well agencies work together to protect children. Audits are undertaken with the aim of enhancing, and where necessary seeking to improve, interagency working to safeguard children.

Training

Chaired by the Manager of the Employment Development Unit for social care and is responsible for providing a comprehensive interagency training programme covering child protection and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in response to local training needs. This group is responsible for monitoring the quality of safeguarding training delivered to member agencies and ensuring that all staff requiring access to training are being reached.

Serious Case Review

Chaired by the Manager of the NSPCC service in Coventry and responsible for undertaking reviews of cases where abuse or neglect of a child or young person is known or suspected, and the child or young person has been seriously harmed or died, and where there is a case for concern as to the way in which the local professionals and services worked together to safeguard the child or young person. Members are required to analyse and review each case to identify learning, identify clear recommendations and specific actions for implementation, then disseminate findings across partner agencies.

Procedures

Chaired by the Review and Quality Assurance Manager and advises on and agrees local policies and procedures for interagency work to protect children within the framework provided by 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2006).

Promoting Children and Young People's Wellbeing (CAF)

Chaired by the Assistant Director Strategic Services and is focused on the implementation of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) across Coventry. Its aim is to promote multi-agency working and information sharing, in relation to identifying earlier and more effective multi-agency support to families, thereby reducing the need for child protection intervention. It is responsible for training professionals to use the PCYW model across agencies.

Safeguarding in Education

Chaired by the Head of the Special Education Needs Service and is responsible for the safeguarding issues impacting on schools and educational establishments within the City ensuring that there is the widest possible dissemination of information and communication. This group ensures that education services in the widest sense are aware of their responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and child protection. This group ensures that open and clear communication is maintained between the Safeguarding Children Board and the whole of the Education Service.

Child Protection Health Panel

Co-chaired by the Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse for Child Protection. This group was introduced following government guidance 1995, 'Clarification of Working Arrangements between NHS and other agencies' (DOH). It recognised the complexity of communication within and across health. Specifically it aims to ensure communication and resolution of issues across the health economy in Coventry. The Panel facilitates NHS Trusts in ensuring that effective arrangements are in place.

Child Death Review Panel and Working group

Panel members are responsible for ensuring effective communication and coordination in the event of an unexpected child death in Coventry in line with the agreed Rapid Response procedure. Members are also required to analyse and review all Coventry resident child deaths (0 to 18 years) to identify learning and disseminate findings.

Quality Assurance Subcommittee

– Chair Detective Inspector Chris Hanson, West Midlands Police

- Develop and implement a programme of continuous sampling and qualitative audits of case files across agencies focusing on the effectiveness of multi-agency child protection practice
- Undertake a range of bite size audits monitoring the effectiveness of interagency engagement and involvement in child protection meetings to ensure children are safeguarded.
- Undertaking a multi-agency audit of Laming compliance for front line services
- Update Section 11 audit tool for CSCB member agencies to undertake
- Audit key issues arising from Serious Case Review action plans as identified by the Business Management Group, SCR Subcommittee or CSCB
- Monitor and audit issues identified through the Child Death Review process
- Compile a data set and performance framework based on key priorities identified by the CSCB
- Carry out an audit into the views and participation of children and young people in the Child protection process
- Dissemination of learning from audits and monitoring activities, working with relevant subcommittee and existing processes
- Consider and address any service user's complaints regarding the Child Protection Conference process

Training Subcommittee

– Chair Jacqui Goode, Head of Service, Employee Development Unit, Coventry City Council

- Continuous review of the inter-agency Training Programme
- Disseminate findings from National Research Project in relation to the evaluation of inter-professional training
- Establish formal links with Children, Learning and Young People Workforce Development Strategy Group.
- Support and develop multi-agency training pool for the delivery of Introduction to Safeguarding Children Training and other relevant training programmes.
- Establish formal link with Serious Case Reviews.
- Attendance monitoring by agency influenced and assisted by the training strategy sub-committee
- Implement the Evaluation framework in relation to the Safeguarding Children and Domestic Violence training course
- Analyse the cost of delivering Training Programme and ensure value for money

Serious Case Review Subcommittee

– Chair Mark Dalton, Manager, NSPCC

- Consider serious case reviews in accordance with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2006' and any further guidance produced by the DCSF
- Provide training and on-going support for staff involved in the serious case review process at all levels
- Develop a Serious Case Review Toolkit incorporating best practice models.
- Ensure dissemination of lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews to wider professional audience
- Monitor agency action plans following case reviews
- Update the procedures and reporting formats to ensure compliance with Chapter 8 and learning from Ofsted evaluations under review.
- Maintain formal links with the Child Death Review Panel in Coventry regarding avoidable child deaths

Procedures Subcommittee

– Chair Celia East, Review and Quality Assurance Manager, Safeguarding Children Service, Coventry City Council

- Advise and advocate that organisations working, or in contact with children, operate safe recruitment and HR practises including information on vetting and barring that take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Develop a procedure/guidance for faith communities to understand their role and responsibility in relation to safeguarding children
- Give guidance to external organisation in drafting child protection procedures/policies
- Procedures to be reviewed / updated during 2009 – 2011
- Missing Children
- Serious Case Review Toolkit
- Forced Marriage
- Internet safety
- Allegations of abuse against those who work with children
- Safeguarding children from sexual exploitation

Promoting Children and Young People's Well-being (implementing the Common Assessment Framework) – Chair

Andy Walmsley, Head of Strategy Services, Coventry City Council

- Set-up service level agreements across the partnership, outlining how CAF will be used.
- Focus on the development of CAF, specifically in children's centres and in areas of Early Years, Health and the Third sector.
- Maintain levels of support to schools, using coordinators and Multi Disciplinary Team's, providing lead professionals, family support workers and advice and guidance.
- Update procedures and processes relating to CAF and disseminate to all trained workers.
- Develop a webpage to inform and promote the CAF process
- Progress the national ECAF/Contact agenda.
- Finalise the 'script' for Referral and Assessment Service for improved communication regarding referral into CAF arena and appropriate referral to CAF process.
- Increase the use of Share Care and improve systems where required. Encourage that concerns are raised as a direct route to CAF.
- Develop a training programme with a focus on the development of skilled workers 'fit for CAF'.
- Equip managers to support and monitor CAF roles within agencies and services. Ensure supervisory skills.
- Provide city-wide CAF Training and support in promoting all areas of CAF development.
- Address the wider training needs across the city in relation to CAF development (e.g. DV, social and emotional, and psychological needs)

Child Protection Health Panel

– Co Chairs Ann Burley, Designated Nurse, Child Protection Coventry NHS/ Annie Callaghan, Designated Doctor, Child Protection, Coventry NHS

- PCT contracts and Service Level Agreements to include a statement regarding Safeguarding Children Responsibilities
- Health Training strategy to be compliant with Intercollegiate guidance
- Develop an action plan re Trusts Gap analyse re 'Baby P' and HCC (now CQC) Safeguarding Children audit to ensure provider Trusts meet requirements
- Named Professionals to ensure communication of relevant issues from and to CSCB subcommittees
- Implementation of Action Plans from Coventry Serious Case review.
- Further develop health response to local domestic abuse initiatives
- Further development of Child Death Review Teams In conjunction with neighbouring PCT's (Warwickshire & Solihull)
- Implement recommendations from CSCB / Trusts audits.
- To enable GPs and Doctors to contribute to child protection meetings. (CQC May 2009, Laming Recommendation 2009)

Longer term objectives

- Implementation of The Protection of Children in England: Laming review and government action plan 2009 health requirements.
- Health Economy SCR procedure updated
- Implement DCSF Staying Safe Action Plan Indicator 3: Hospital Admissions caused by unintentional & deliberate injuries to children

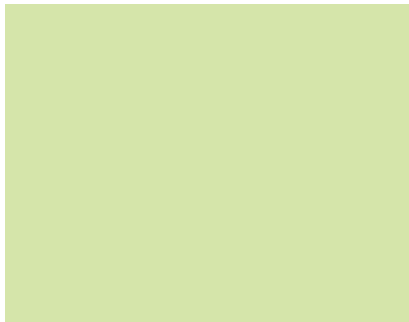
Safeguarding Children in Education

– Chair Martin Bonathan, Strategic Lead,
Special Education Needs, Coventry City Council

- Consider any new guidance or information nationally or locally in relation to education and safeguarding children
- Ensure that all head teachers and chairs of governors have undergone safer recruitment training, either face to face or online
- Produce a report collating the findings from the audit carried out with schools and FE colleges regarding 175 or 157 of the Education Act to measure their compliance with this.
- Review training of Link Teachers to ensure compliance with agreed training requirements
- Consider all SCR's undertaken by the CSCB, to learn from these cases and strengthen safeguarding processes

2008 – 2009

Annual Report



1

Introduction

The primary aims of Coventry Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) are to coordinate and monitor the effectiveness of local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, ensuring joint working across services and agencies.

This report provides an overview of the work of the CSCB and its subcommittees during 2008/09, summarising its key strategic and statutory responsibilities.

At the heart of Coventry Safeguarding Children Board's work is the need to safeguard our children and young people from incidences of child abuse and neglect and to strengthen the range of early identification and preventative support services to support children, young people and their families in need.

2

Legislative requirement for Safeguarding

The Children Act 2004 and the subsequent guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2006) sets out a range of statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including the creation

of a Local Safeguarding Children Board by 1st April 2006. Membership of the CSCB meets the requirement of the Working Together guidance, with partnerships and organisations represented at Board level.

3

Reports received by the CSCB

To ensure the CSCB maintain an overview of the quality of work carried out to safeguarding children in particular circumstances the CSCB have requested and received the following reports:

- Children Missing from Education/Care
- Private Fostering Arrangements
- The effectiveness of Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
- Joint Police and Social Care Domestic Violence Screen Project
- Safeguarding Children using the Internet
- Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Toolkit

Chair Mark Dalton

The Serious Case Subcommittee has commissioned and overseen 1 serious case review of a child during 2008/2009.

It has also considered the circumstances surrounding the death and serious injury of 8 children/young people where a serious case review was not necessary.

One of these incidents resulted in the Serious Case Review Subcommittee commissioning an independent systematic review, an approach which the CSCB may use and adapt to improve the serious case review process in the future.

Following the three serious case reviews that were concluded in 2007/2008 the Serious Case Review Subcommittee members delivered extensive feedback sessions across Coventry to disseminate the learning from these serious case reviews. A total of 165 staff representing all member agencies attended these half-day sessions.

During the last twelve months the process for conducting serious case reviews as well as the specific findings has come under increased scrutiny from Ofsted and the general public following the publicity surrounding the death of Baby Peter. The Serious Case Review Subcommittee has responded to numerous requests for specific information about serious case reviews and have contributed to regional and national best practice guidance.

In July 2008 the Chair of the Serious Case Review subcommittee delivered a series of joint training with a children's centre manager around messages from Serious Case Review's combined with tools for practitioners going into family homes to highlight accident prevention with parents and families.

Chair Celia East

Over this year the subcommittee has seen a change in the chairing arrangements from Sandra Kerr Integrated Service Manager, Children's Social Care to Celia East Review and Quality Assurance Manager, Safeguarding Children Service. Marian Simpson, Head of Special Education Needs as vice-chair was able to chair the group during the interim period. This ensured a smooth transition between chairs and continued engagement from members.

The Safeguarding Children Board have advised and advocated safer recruitment practise to schools through the delivery of the National College for School Leadership Safer Recruitment training. A number of sessions were delivered with 140 head teachers and governors receiving the training (this does not include the online training that schools have completed).

Work is currently underway for delivering a more generic form of this training to the wider member agencies of the safeguarding children board. Sessions are due to commence in August 2009.

The development of guidance for faith communities to understand their role and responsibility in relation to safeguarding children has not been achieved due to being unsuccessful in the recruitment of a development officer to work with faith groups in raising their awareness in this area.

A West Midlands best practise multi agency protocol for managing sudden unexpected deaths in infants and children under 18 has been produced.

The group has received and commented on external child protection procedures. The group are no longer offering to receive and amend procedures, but will give information to organisations to develop and finalise their procedures.

The group have agreed that the NSPCC stop check booklet offers up to date advice for external organisations to use as guidance to produce their own child protection procedures.

In March 2009 the procedures group agreed a major update to the Interagency procedures in terms of the layout and usability, the proposed plans will make it easier and more efficient to use and access by staff. It will also allow new staff to familiarise themselves with key procedures and test their own understanding of these.

Following the findings of a Serious Case Review conducted in Coventry and feedback from interagency practice, a procedure for the resolution of professional disagreements in work relating to the safety of Children has been produced to ensure professionals have a clear understanding of how to address and if necessary escalate concerns about other professionals across agencies.

A procedure for Child trafficking and exploitation has been produced regionally across the West Midlands and implemented locally replacing and encompassing the previous sexual exploitation procedure.

The procedures subcommittee are currently finalising the updated procedure for children in whom illness is fabricated or induced, in line with recent DCSF guidance.

Although the update of the procedure for conducting a serious case review was due to take place this year, this has been delayed to ensure it complies with new guidance from government and the outcome and recommendations of the Laming Review – The protection of children in England.

The missing children procedure is currently being revised to encompass children missing from home and to update sections covering children missing from education and children missing from care.

Chair Jacqui Goode

Between April 2008 and March 2009 1717 people have attend an interagency course or event, this includes those who attended training relating to the Common Assessment Framework. This is an increase of 229 staff attending courses from the previous year. Those attending come from a variety of services and range from strategic personnel to front line staff.

The Interagency pool of trainers delivering the Introduction to Safeguarding Children training has increased over the last year, a further 7 professionals were trained this year bringing the pool of trainers to 22.

Interagency trainers are from the following agencies:

- Social Care
- PCT
- UHCW
- Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust
- Early Years
- Education
- NSPCC
- West Midlands Probation
- Private Nursing Agency

The Interagency training programme was reviewed over this period with new courses introduced to the programme these include:

Hidden Sentence – delivered by the Common Assessment Framework Team, is a recent addition to the Interagency training programme. This training considers the impact and needs of children and families when a family member goes to prison.

Neglect – this training aims to give a clearer understanding of neglect and its effect on children. It looks at effective interventions and addresses issues around thresholds, working together and sharing information.

Trafficking – sessions on trafficking have been included into the sexual exploitation and safeguarding children from abroad courses.

The Safeguarding Children Board hosted its annual Conference focusing on safeguarding trafficked children in May 2008. This was an extremely well attended conference, which attracted over 80 professionals across Coventry from a range of organisations including, health, police, social care, schools, NSPCC, Barnardos, Youth Offending Service.

The Safeguarding Children Board in conjunction with the Domestic Violence and Abuse Partnership (DVAP) held an awareness raising event specifically for health professionals about Female Genital Mutilation in March 2009. Following DVAP research in this area it found that health staff needed more knowledge and information, particularly focusing on the health implications and needs of female children and adults in this area. The event attracted over 40 professionals from a range of health professions working with both adults and children.

Following an audit undertaken by members of the Quality Assurance Subcommittee into Child Protection Enquires joint training was delivered to 40 social care and police professionals across Coventry to implement good practice in undertaking joint child protection enquires.

Other areas that the Interagency Training Officer has influenced or delivered safeguarding children training over the year include:

- Voluntary organisations linked with the Minority Group Support Service and with the West Indian Centre. These include Afghan Society, Black Boys Can, Eritrean group, Geek group, Gujrati School, Hidayah Malaysian School.
- Volunteers involved in a Sure Start Project, supporting families from abroad, reaching a range of diverse background and culture including Somali, Polish, Sri Lankan, Iraqi, Zimbabwean, Pakistani, Indian and Irish.
- Coventry City Council Children's Workforce Development Induction training, which is part of a programme to establish an integrated children's workforce.
- Henley College staff have been trained and supported in devising a training package in safeguarding children in sport.
- Childminding managers have been trained and supported to deliver safeguarding children training to childminders

Evaluating Interprofessional Training for Safeguarding Children Project National Research

Coventry Safeguarding Children Board participated in a research project funded jointly by the DCSF and the Department of Health as part of the Safeguarding Children Research Initiative. It was carried out by researchers at Bristol and Durham universities in collaboration LSCBs in four parts of the country. Coventry was chosen as one of eight safeguarding boards to participate in the project.

The aim was to develop an evidence base for inter professional training to safeguard children.

The project evaluated the outcomes for nearly 1,500 participants on 139 courses ranging from level 1 to level 3 training.

A considerable amount of work and time was given to the research project by the Interagency Training officer, Training Clerk and also members of the Training Strategy Subcommittee.

The project was recently completed. It was submitted to DCSF and Department of Health in March 2009. It is hoped that the findings will contribute significantly to the developments of safeguarding children following the recent Laming review. Overall, the report gives a strong endorsement to interagency training, finding it effective and economical.

Some of the key findings:

- Positive outcomes from training were found consistently across the eight safeguarding boards and these were irrespective of participants' gender, age, ethnicity, service experience and being told to attend training rather than volunteering.

- The improvements, in all areas tested, between the start and end of courses were not simply highly statistically significant but the "effect sizes" were "large" or "very large" meaning substantial, observable change in knowledge, attitudes, skills and self-confidence attributable to the effects of the courses.
- The interagency training programmes are very substantial and offer training on important safeguarding issues in accordance with the guidance in Working Together.
- Interagency training makes a substantial contribution to learning the skills and knowledge of the "Common Core" and therefore to the training of the children's workforce in general.
- The Training Strategy Subcommittee is a good example of effective partnership working, with members believing that their agency's and the partnership's goals with respect to interagency training were interdependent and mutually beneficial.
- Training courses are led by enthusiastic, skilled and experienced trainers using participative educational models.
- The opportunity to learn together to work together was very highly valued by participants, even more so at the end of courses than at the beginning.
- These courses were considered good value for money.

Professor John Carpenter, director of the project at Bristol University, thanked the training coordinators for their dedication and enthusiasm saying, "Without your help we could never have completed this research and been able to provide such a strong message about the importance and value of interagency training to safeguard children."

Chair Ann Burley

All NHS Trusts have a Named Doctor and Nurse for Child Protection in place.

The rapid response to Sudden Unexpected Child deaths, West Midlands SUDI protocol is in place and being followed.

Health organisations have participated in the establishment of Child Death Review Panels and continue to contribute.

University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) facilitated a multi-professional Child Protection study day

CSCB Fabricated or Induced Illness procedure has been updated.

UHCW have an ongoing Child Protection audit programme based on Laming (2003) recommendations.

UHCW presented the outcome of the above audit to CSCB and an agreement was reached to undertake a joint agency audit.

The Named Doctor at UHCW has presented child protection issues to Adult services and anaesthetists.

Health have participated in 'Child Protection and the Law' a Warwick University Health module.

Training has been successful in increasing the number of Doctors able to undertake Child Sexual Abuse Medicals. Competencies have been assessed against skills outlined in the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH)

Work is continuing in developing the Child Sexual Abuse service.

All but one of the actions from recommendations of SCR has been implemented.

All Trusts have completed the Health Care Commission (now Care Quality Commission) Safeguarding Children audit.

Health professionals participated in the Female Genital Mutilation seminar.

Health participated in sessions to provide feedback to professionals from Coventry's recent Serious Case Reviews, which was hosted by Coventry safeguarding Children Board in partnership with Coventry Domestic Violence and Abuse Partnership.

Following the development of CSCB procedure Safeguarding Sexuality Active Children and Young People, the Designated Nurse provided 5 multi-agency awareness sessions, and 2 additional sessions within health, 1 multi-professional and one aimed specifically at Pharmacists.

Chair Martin Bonathan

One of the main areas of activity for the education sub-committee in 2008/9 was to carry an audit of Coventry schools safeguarding procedures to monitor compliance with the Section 157 of the Education Act. The report was completed in Spring 2008 and presented to the Safeguarding Children Board. The audit was completed by all schools and indicated that most schools did comply with the safeguarding requirements of the Act although a number of omissions were identified and followed up either with individual schools or through general feedback to all schools. The audit was followed up by a more in depth sampling of school safeguarding policies. 10 per cent of schools representing a cross section submitted their policy to the sub-committee, which is in the process of analysing the policies with a view to issuing guidance to schools on the content and format of child protection and safeguarding policies.

Safer recruitment training has continued to be held for head teachers, staff and governors. The online training provided by the NCSL was not felt to be as accessible as it might have been and therefore a face-to-face training was developed which proved to be more successful. By January 2009 87% of senior staff in schools and 51% of governors had been trained. The sub-committee considered the new vetting and barring legislation being brought in and the importance for schools and services to ensure that recruitment processes are compliant in the future. Plans are also in place to ensure that safer recruitment training is delivered to services where staff are not school-based.

The training for Link Teachers has been kept under review to ensure compliance with agreed training requirements. Further consideration is being given to developing more specific training for schools in the light of schools' concerns about safeguarding issues and the increased scrutiny they are subject to through OFSTED inspections.

The subcommittee has also been in communication with schools over internet safety issues and has approved the roll out of an internet monitoring software package developed by Forensic Software. The software package has been carefully vetted and is in use in a number of other local authorities. Before the full rollout it was piloted in a small number of schools. A successful Safer Internet Day took place on 10 February 2009.

In October 2008 the sub-committee discussed the issue of Missing Children and the duty on local authorities to have arrangements in place to identify children of compulsory school age who were not receiving suitable education. It was agreed that, when the final version of guidance on Children Missing from Education is received from the DCFS, a process for disseminating this to schools would be arranged. Briefing notes sent to schools concerning child protection alerts will also include a checklist with clear practical actions for staff in schools to undertake.

Finally, a number of Serious Case Reviews were discussed during the year with the purpose of identifying any issues for schools and education that needed to be followed up. Issues raised by these discussions included the effectiveness of communication links between the Domestic Violence Unit, Health, Social Care and the differing thresholds of concern between agencies. These were followed up by a presentation and discussion by the Domestic Violence Unit.

Chair DI Chris Hanson

This subcommittee has seen the loss of an audit officer who's time was split between interagency auditing and audit for children's social care, this has had a dramatic effect on the output of this subcommittee, reducing the number of audits it has been able to complete.

An audit of Initial conferences to ensure that child protection thresholds are appropriately and consistently applied was completed in March 2009 with the designated nurse, PCT leading on this.

The Safeguarding Children Board has commissioned an audit into the views and participation of children and young people in the child protection process. This piece of work commenced in March 2009, the timescales for this has been extended to ensure a big enough sample of views are sought to inform the delivery of services to young people. This work is expected to be completed in September 2009.

Each agency completed a self assessment in relation to the processes they have in place for managing allegations against staff in line with DCSF guidelines. This assisted agencies in having more robust systems across agencies and assigning designated roles that complimented the Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Over the last year one short audit was brought to the Subcommittee for further examination this was in relation to having quorate at conference, this came after a small spate of child protection conferences being cancelled. The circumstances were considered in these cases and further monitoring of conferences took place. Along with emphasising the importance of having quorate at conference with other subcommittees, through which messages were filtered down to professionals. After further monitoring, this no longer appeared to be a concern.

A specific case issue was brought to the subcommittee regarding the management of planning for unborn children where there are child protection concerns. After reviewing practise it was agreed that the process for unborn children should be made more explicit within Interagency procedures.

Chair Andy Walmsley

The CAF team continue to progress the development of CAF across the city. There is evidence of increased usage and information sharing across agencies and services. As a tool, CAF is clearly instrumental in developing integrated working and in influencing practice in relation to safeguarding children and young people.

The number of CAFs completed since its commencement to March 2009 is 904.

Number of CAFs completed between April 2008 and March 2009 is 433. This is an increase of 177 (69%) on the previous year (April 2007-March 2008)

Since September 2008 the CAF team have offered support to schools and agencies, with a particular focus on schools as the education setting is the main user group (70%) See appendix 1

Progress has been made in relation to concerns entered on Share Care. Quick response and appropriate actions are ensuring improved safeguarding.

Two Multi-Disciplinary Teams are established and have provided family support workers, lead professionals and advice and guidance for more complex cases.

An audit across Primary schools has shown an increase in participation and an appreciation of the support work from the CAF Co-ordinators.

Schools continue to raise concerns about their capacity and capability to undertake 'high-end' level 3 CAF work. The Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) are picking up these cases and supporting schools.

Training sessions continue to be well attended, 1572 assessors have been trained to date (see section 12)

Awareness raising and refresher sessions have been held across a range of agencies and services, including YOS, Early Years, Social Landlords, Prison workers, Connexions workers, Education Welfare Officers, Educational Psychologists, Social Care (RAS), various schools, LBSS and MGSS.

Work is ongoing revising procedures and processes as a result of learning from practice and from listening to practitioners. This has resulted in a revised model, placing emphasis on reducing the number of professionals being asked to attend meetings and in producing family support plans that are outcomes focused and time limited. The new model places an emphasis on the shared responsibility of the team around the family working together to provide support and safeguarding for families. The lead professional role is one of coordinating and monitoring rather than one with sole responsibility. In good CAF work, assessment, understanding needs and action planning is ongoing.

Coventry as part of Local Authority Research Consortium (LARC) has agreed to undertake research around the use of CAF and improving outcomes. We will focus on local data around behaviour in schools and will contribute to a larger evidence base, which will be compiled as part of this NFER project.

Participation in regional meetings and national CAF and contact point development work is underway.

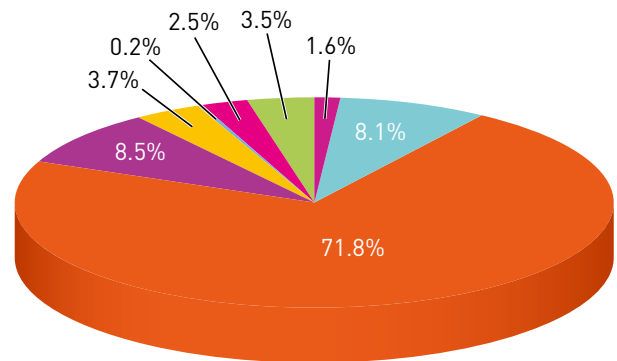
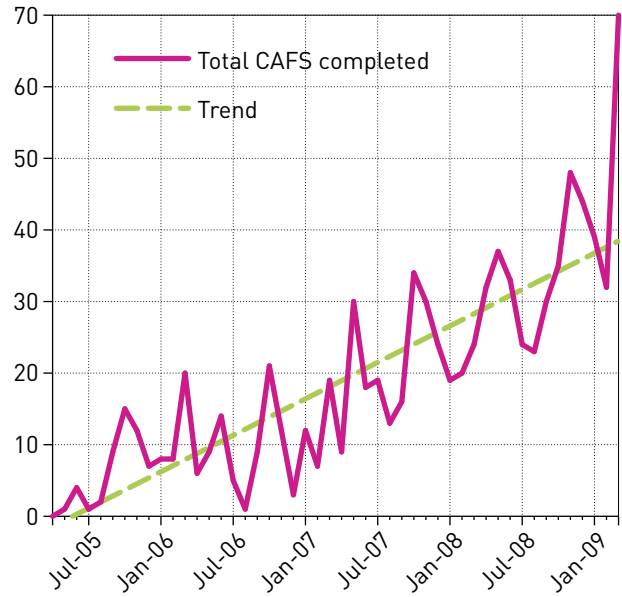
Pilot work has contributed much to the development of good practice and to our understanding in relation to areas of impact. The early work in BEST, the work of the MDTs and a range of pilot activities has resulted in the production of case studies and continues to inform practice.

CAF Reviews and evaluations continue to demonstrate improved outcomes for children, young people and families.

Protocols and procedures have been developed to ensure appropriate entry into and exit from Social Care or CAF. Work on a 'script' for frontline staff in RAS has been developed and will be trialled.

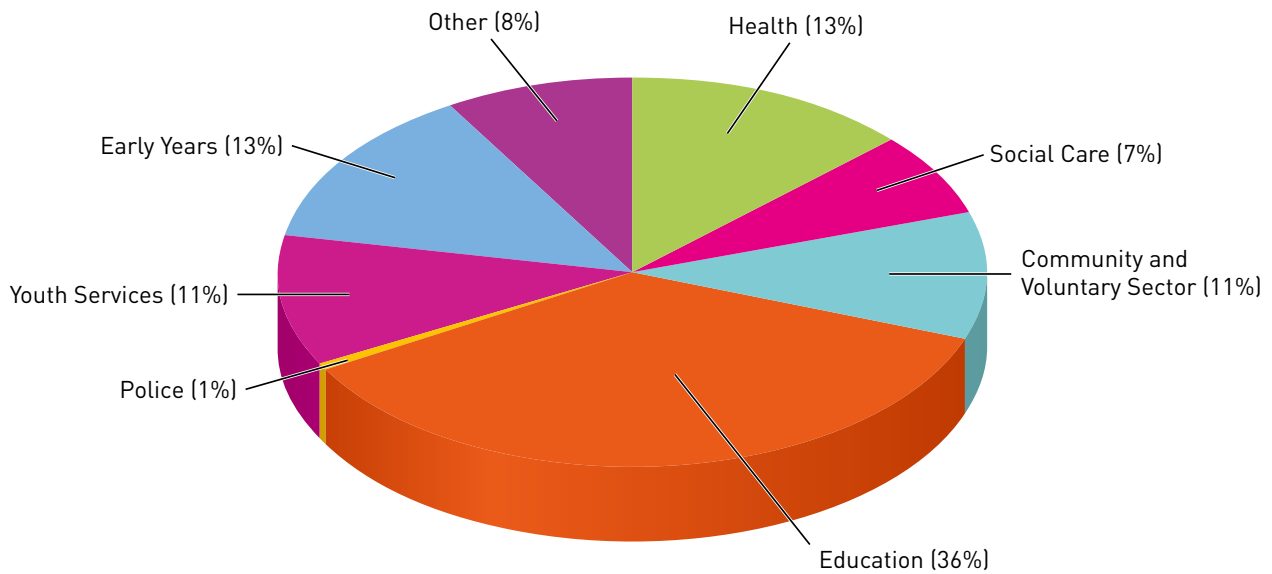
A link worker from RAS will manage the interface and work with the CAF team to ensure all contacts, once directed to CAF, are being monitored and supported.

Month	CAFS
April 2005	0
May 2005	1
June 2005	4
Jul 2005	1
Aug 2005	2
Sep 2005	9
Oct 2005	15
Nov 2005	12
Dec 2005	7
Jan 2006	8
Feb 2006	8
Mar 2006	20
April 2006	6
May 2006	9
Jun 2006	14
Jul 2006	5
Aug 2006	1
Sep 2006	9
Oct 2006	21
Nov 2006	12
Dec 2006	3
Jan 2007	12
Feb 2007	7
Mar 2007	19
April 2007	9
May 2007	30
Jun 2007	18
Jul 2007	19
Aug 2007	13
Sep 2007	16
Oct 2007	34
Nov 2007	30
Dec 2007	24
Jan 2008	19
Feb 2008	20
Mar 2008	24
April 2008	32
May 2008	37
Jun 2008	33
Jul 2008	24
Aug 2008	23
Sep 2008	30
Oct 2008	35
Nov 2008	48
Dec 2008	44
Jan 2009	39
Feb 2009	32
Mar 2009	70
Total	908
CAFS completed April 2005 – March 2008	461
CAFS completed April 2008 – March 2009	447

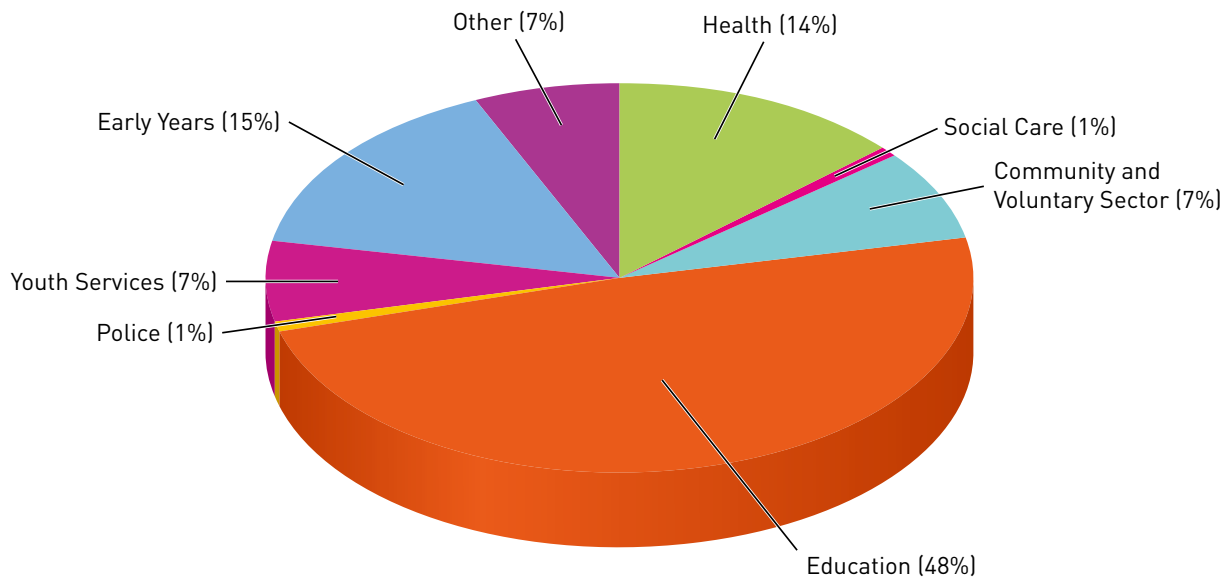


- Youth Services
- Health
- Social Care
- Education
- Police
- Early Years
- Other
- Community & Voluntary Sector

Category	CAFS
Community & Voluntary Sector	7
Early Years	35
Education	311
Health	37
Other	16
Police	1
Social Care	11
Youth Services	15
Total	433



Category	Description	Totals
Health	Includes CAMHS, TAMHS, Family Nurse Partnership, Speech and Language, Health Visiting and PCT	208
Social Care	Includes Young Carers	108
Community and Voluntary Sector	Includes Zone Supported Housing, NSPCC, VIBES at Coventry MIND, Children's Society, Terrence Higgins Trust, One Body One Life	165
Education	Includes BEST/MDT, LABSS, Primary and Secondary Schools, Pre-School Education Service, Education and Learning Services, CAFES & MGSS	562
Police	Includes National Probation Service	10
Youth Services	Includes Youth Offending Services, Connexions, National Probation Service	170
Early Years	Includes Early Years and Childcare service, Children's Centres, Private Nurseries and Pre-Schools	207
Other	Includes COMPASS, Employee Development Unit and Strategic Services	132
Total trained in Coventry		1562



Category	Description	Totals
Health	Includes CAMHS, TAMHS, Family Nurse Partnership, Speech and Language, Health Visiting and PCT	31
Social Care	Includes Young Carers	2
Community and Voluntary Sector	Includes Zone Supported Housing, NSPCC, VIBES at Coventry MIND, Children's Society, Terrence Higgins Trust, One Body One Life	17
Education	Includes BEST/MDT, LABSS, Primary and Secondary Schools, Pre-School Education Service, Education and Learning Services, CAFES & MGSS	112
Police	Includes National Probation Service	2
Youth Services	Includes Youth Offending Services, Connexions, National Probation Service	15
Early Years	Includes Early Years and Childcare service, Children's Centres, Private Nurseries and Pre-Schools	35
Other	Includes COMPASS, Employee Development Unit and Strategic Services	15
Total trained in Coventry		229

Chair John Forde

This is the end of the first year of the child death review processes being in place.

The Coventry Child Death Review (CDR) panel has had 4 meetings throughout the year, including the inaugural meeting, to familiarise panel members with the process. Over the year nine cases have been reviewed by the panel with a number of recommendations having been made from the reviews.

The local CDR panel consists of a fixed core membership from organisations that have a role to play in identifying issues and learning lessons. The CDR panel will also co-opt other relevant professionals as and when appropriate.

During this first year of reviewing child deaths systems and processes have continued to be implemented and refined, these include:

Setting up an on-line notification system, so that notifications can be sent securely to the Panel Manager working across Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.

Setting up of an audit trail for recommendations/ actions arising from the CDR panel to monitor all recommendations and ensure ownership and accountability.

Clarifying the process of when neonatal deaths will be reviewed at the local CDR panels.

Following the implementation of this process locally it has led to work in other areas:

Assisting the DCSF in developing a national electronic notification system.

A publicity campaign across Coventry and Warwickshire to raise awareness of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), which has been one of the key themes of the child deaths in Coventry.

The panel manager will be producing an overview report containing the findings of the first year of the child death review processes later this year, this will identify the number of deaths across the region, themes arising from these deaths and action taken to address areas highlighted.

Sudden Infant Deaths Syndrome (SIDS)

SIDS cases have generated the most debate and discussion. This culminated in the panel agreeing to contact the local Director of Public Health requesting her support in raising awareness amongst professionals and the general public regarding SIDS and key health promotion messages. As a result some funding for a local health promotion campaign has been granted.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Death delivered a conference in Coventry on 6th March that was well attended by professionals in Coventry. The panel manager has also gained some press interest in this including a front page article in the local newspaper and a radio interview highlighting ways to reduce the risk of SIDS.

Future Developments

Membership; will need to be reviewed within the next six months. The group can be very large and although this offers a broad level of expertise, on an individual case by case basis it is important to have the right people present who represent their organisation at the right level, so that decisions can be made in a timely fashion.

Conclusion

The Coventry Panel has worked very well to date, with this new process of reviewing deaths inline with DCSF guidance. This is a new process, so we have all had to get used to working within its constraints. Governance was an important issue that was resolved early on, for example each case given a unique identifier number. A log developed to track cases and actions on recommendations. In short, ensuring that robust systems are in place.

We will continue to review the work of the panel on an ongoing basis.

I have been delighted by the commitment and support shown by everyone to date.

John Forde

Consultant in Public Health
CDR Panel Chair (Coventry)

The Safeguarding Children Licensing Officer was appointed in November 2008 on a part time basis. The main responsibilities of the Licensing Officer is to (i) to execute the CSCB's statutory duties as 'Responsible Authority' for the protection of children from harm under the Licensing Act 2003 and (ii) to advise and support licensees regarding their role to safeguard children in a meaningful way, that would maximize the benefit to the community of Coventry.

The officer's role is to:

- Respond to licence applications by smooth processing, to expedite the issuing of licences with robust safeguarding measures in place
- Improve standards at licensed premises, by raising awareness of the potential risks to children and providing practical risk management advice to licensees
- Promote a sense of legal and social responsibility amongst licensees, their staff and customers, to safeguard children and contribute towards successful neighbourhoods;
- The following has also been achieved in the short time the Officer has been in post:
 - Guidance for Licensees about the Coventry Safeguarding Children Board's role as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003
 - Guidance to License Holders about the Coventry Safeguarding Children Board responsibility under the Gambling Act 2005.
 - Guidelines for Licensees and staff about safeguarding measures that can be implemented on their premises to ensure children are protected from harm in all instances.
 - A good practice checklist to help implement simple processes to ensure children are protected from harm.

Next steps:

- The installation of a computerised license database will greatly enhance information sharing between the responsible authorities and produce a more efficient service.
- Continue to visit premises across the city where appropriate to offer guidance and direction for the protection of children from harm
- Raise awareness for the general public about the role and responsibilities of the Board under the Licensing Act and Gambling Act and the need to protect children.
- Produce information and advice for supermarkets across the City regarding alcohol being brought for consumption by children or young people.
- Deliver training in partnership with West Midlands Police & Community Safety Partnership to Licensees about protecting children from harm
- To be involved with the Best Bar None award scheme to ensure accredited venues have good practices and procedures in place for the protection of children from harm
- Working with Trading Standards to test purchase premises across the city to identify and prevent future sales of alcohol to children and young people under 18.

Hayley Owen

Safeguarding Children Licensing Officer

Background and Context

In 2006 West Midlands Police made a decision to routinely notify Children's Social Care Services and Health professionals of domestic abuse incidents where children were present or normally resident.

A joint screening team involving Child Abuse Investigation Officers and Senior Social worker was set up to screen all notifications where children were present and assess level of risk and agree how these would be responded to. This protocol was agreed and the pilot commenced in October 2006 and has grown and evolved over the last 3 years. The pilot has had a lot of success in streamlining the response and intervention required.

The purpose of joint screening

- Improve timescales for sharing information between agencies
- Promotes the well-being and safety of the victim and safeguards the children affected by the domestic violence and abuse
- Share Information and understand what this means for child
- Consistent application of protocol in relation to notifications
- Ensure consistency in application of child protection thresholds
- Assess risk and respond to the needs of children affected by the domestic violence and abuse using Common Assessment Framework and the Integrated Children's System
- Measure the correlation between DARIM Assessment and CAF level of needs / Social Care response
- Reduce repeat abuse and re-referrals to Social Care

What actually happens?

Front line Police officers attend any domestic incident and assess risk using the d Domestic Abuse Risk Indicator Matrix (DARIM). Ambulance and A&E also send referrals to the screening pilot

Risk to adult victims are assessed by domestic violence officers and high level risks supported through MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Risks to children are assessed by child abuse investigation officers and social care.

Police and social care check their own systems for background information in relation to the address, the children and adults identified and look at the whole history of the 'family' before they assess risk and determine action

The screening pilot staff jointly (face to face) screen, assess risk and determine the level of response required for each notification

The risk assessment tool has over time evolved to included additional risk factors in addition to the DARIM.

Where the screening identifies actions required these are forwarded to relevant social care teams for action and follow up. These only include those notifications, which meet level 3/4 of the Promoting Wellbeing of Children and Young People levels of need.

Evaluation

The pilot was evaluated by Ravi Thira and Donna Chung from Warwick University in 2008 to assist the Safeguarding Children's Board to examine the effectiveness and benefits of the team to the two organisations and identify how it could be further developed to include other key partner agencies and enhanced for replication in other locations.

Findings

- Staff bring substantial experience of DVA & Child Abuse
- No correlation between high-risk adults & high-risk children
- Quality of information is significantly enhanced
- Safeguarding children leads to prevention strategies for adult victim.
- Achieves consistency and timeliness
- The 'intensity' of intervention aligned to seriousness of risk
- Improved safeguarding solutions for children
- Children assessed at Level 2 require a pathway to enable a holistic assessment under the CAF framework

The pilot has received acclaim from a number of other areas across the country and the WMP are rolling out the pilot across the force through the Public Protection Service Unit.

Improving what we do in 2009-2010

All risk assessment and screening tools have been consolidated and approved by the CSCB and DVAP

Aim to deliver a seamless service, screening to joint visits and strategy meetings

Engage Health and wider children's services

Work towards children assessed at Level 2 being supported via CAF

Share information with schools responsibly

Training based on risk assessment tools

Inform commissioning as unmet needs identified

Next steps

Secure resources across police and social care to improve administrative capacity to conduct information checks on all police and children's services IT systems.

Additional capacity across Child Abuse Investigation Officers and Senior Social Workers to provide greater continuity

Develop capacity within wider children services to respond to children within the common assessment framework.

The joint police and social care operational forum was established in 2004. The need for such a forum was reinforced following the Joint Best Value Review of Child Protection undertaken by West Midlands Police in June 2006 and April 2007.

The main responsibilities of the forum are:

- To coordinate joint working between the police and children social care in relation to child protection
- To provide the conduit for local issues to be fed into the regional strategic joint working body and vice versa
- To liaise at a local level with other partners in the area in relation to child protection
- To implement and monitor the joint protocol for joint agency working including information sharing in child protection.
- To implement the formal joint audit strategy outside the serious case review process between the police and children's services
- To monitor local performance in key areas
- To monitor local joint child protection training between the police and the local authority
- To put in place a mechanism to monitor and review the consistency of approach

The head of safeguarding and the detective inspector of the child abuse investigation team jointly chair this forum; with attendance from frontline managers across both agencies. The forum supports managers across both agencies to:

- promote effective joint working arrangements across both agencies
- undertake joint audits where appropriate
- address professional disagreement
- discuss complex cases
- identify good practice as well as address poor practice
- implement systems and process that support frontline practice
- consider joint training needs
- develop procedures and protocols as when required.
- monitor performance such as use of police protection power

The main focus of this group over the last year has been to increase the number of children and young people receiving information about using the Internet safely and responsibly. This was achieved through the promotion of Safer Internet Day, which took place on Tuesday 10th February 2009. 27 primary and secondary schools took part on the day.

To increase participation the Safeguarding Children Board produced wristbands promoting the 'thinkuknow' website to coincide with Safer Internet Day these were distributed to all 27 schools and youth services along with posters and leaflets for children and their parents. Prizes were given away during this day and Coventry Blaze ice hockey team members and mascot made surprise visits to schools across the city.

This was extremely successful in reaching over 9000 children and young people in Coventry.

In addition members of the group set up a stand in a busy supermarket shopping area to give advice and information to children and parents.

The group is currently working on developing training material for parents to enable them to support and advocate safe Internet use for their children.

This group has been set up in partnership with Coventry's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. The focus of this group has been to reduce the number of injuries or death suffered by children as a result of an accident.

Members of the group have produced a home safety checklist for practitioners to use when visiting family homes as an aid to identifying and discussing hazards with parents. Training on the purpose and use of this checklist along with feedback on Serious Case Reviews where an accident is the cause of the child's death has been delivered to practitioners in Coventry.

In June 2008 the group hosted its first Child Safety Week in Coventry, with a range of activities to raise awareness with children, parents and staff. All children's centre held sessions on various aspects of safety with parents and children. Other areas covered during the week were fire safety, risk and safety in play, road safety and Internet safety. To coincide with this the Safeguarding Children Board produced a child safety parent's guide, based on learning from accidents and deaths that had taken place in this city. It covers aspects such as sleeping arrangement for babies, smoking, bathing, car safety leaving children with others and safe use of equipment. As part of this promotion room thermometers were given away with the leaflets. These leaflets are distributed to every parent of a newborn baby via the health visitor to ensure key messages are being delivered to parents and carers.

Coventry and Warwickshire local Safeguarding Children Boards have jointly set up a forum focusing on safeguarding children in faith settings.

Members include representatives from the two Safeguarding Children Boards, the Christian denominations and representatives from multi faith forums around Coventry and Warwickshire.

The forum meets four times per year and acts as a point of reference on issues relating to safeguarding children in faith groups and communities in the area.

Members from faith communities share information and concerns and gain clarity around safeguarding children issues.

Safeguarding Children Board representatives discuss and share information about key aspects of safeguarding children that relevant to faith communities.

The group continues to work on widening its membership to have representation of other faith groups.

One of the groups ongoing activities has been exploring the implications for religious groups of the government's safer employment agenda, which focuses on recruitment policies for staff and volunteers and managing allegations against individuals.

Other areas of discussion and/or information sharing include:

- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- Offender behaviour
- Forced Marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Statutory responsibilities of Safeguarding Children Boards
- Warwickshire Sex Offender Disclosure pilot
- Information sharing
- Referral practice to Social Care

In the coming year this group will be considering how it engages with other faiths and organising an event specifically around safeguarding children in faith settings.

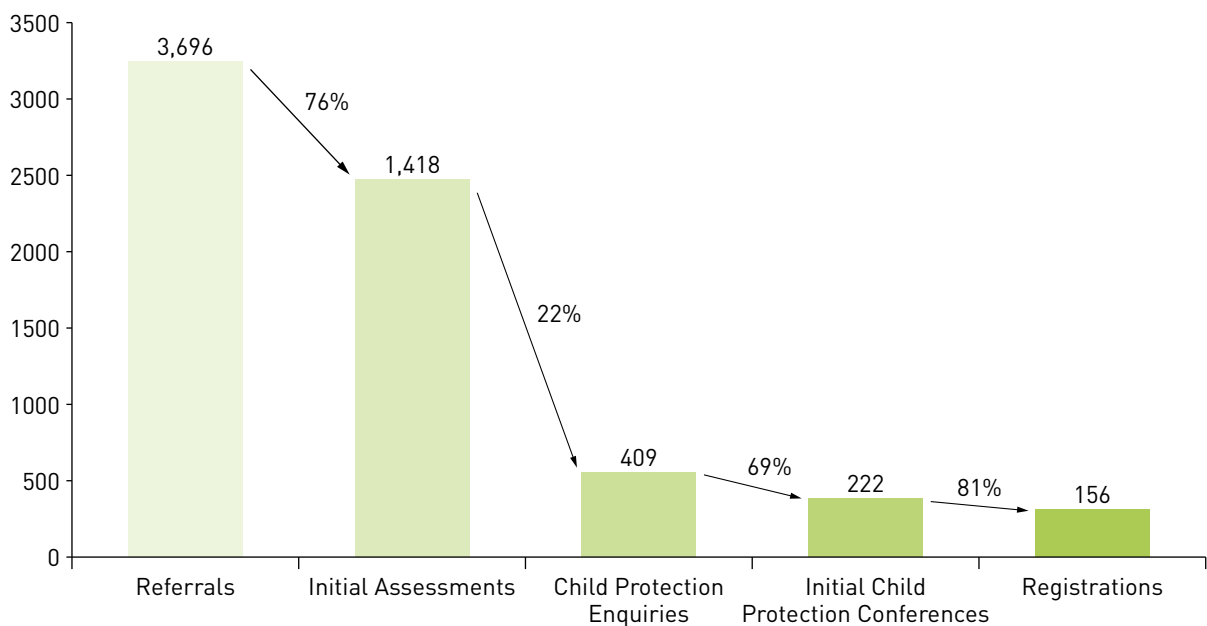
Budgets 2008/09	Amount including inflation £	Percentage of total budget
Local Authority Contribution	120,041	69.5%
Children Social Care	106,120	
Schools	10,769	
Early Years	3,152	
Coventry Primary Care Trust	39,884	23.1%
Police	3,231	1.9%
Probation	3,000	1.7%
CAFCASS	559	0.3%
Connexions	1,051	0.6%
YOS	1,051	0.6%
Training Income 2008/09	3,817	2.3%
Total Budget	172,634	

Expenditure		
Salaries	110,241	
Support Costs	4,862	
Equipment	1,598	
Training running costs	34,445	
Printing and publications	24,433	
Stationary	1,598	
Total Expenditure	175,383	
Budget	172,634	
Overspend	2,749	

Introduction

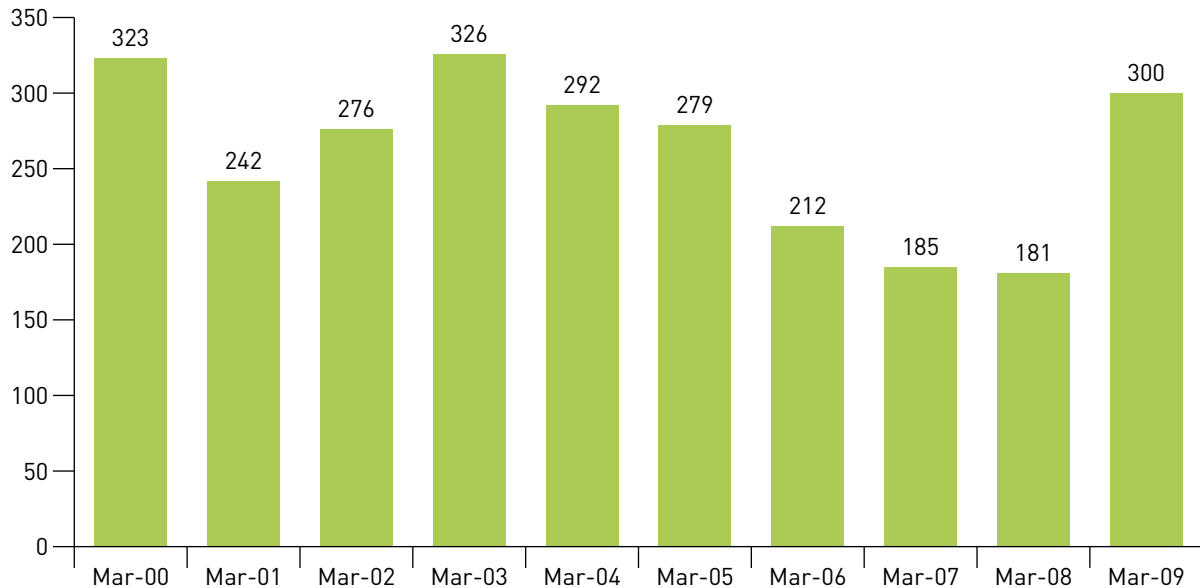
- The following report shows child protection information for the 2008/09 reporting year.
- Information from previous reporting years is included in this report for comparison.
- Each reporting year runs from 1st April until 31st March.
- Any national data quoted is from the DfES report "Referrals, Assessments, and Children and Young People who are the Subject of a Child Protection Plan or are on Child Protection Registers, England – Year Ending 31 March 2008".

Social care activity from referral to child protection plan



- In the 2008/09 reporting year, there were 3,246 referrals to Coventry's social care teams.
- 2,473 referrals (76%) proceeded to the initial assessment stage.
- 556 initial assessments (22%) led to the commencement of Section 47 child protection enquiries.
- 381 child protection enquiries (69%) resulted in a child protection conference.
- 309 initial child protection conferences (81%) led to new child protection plans (formerly known as registrations).

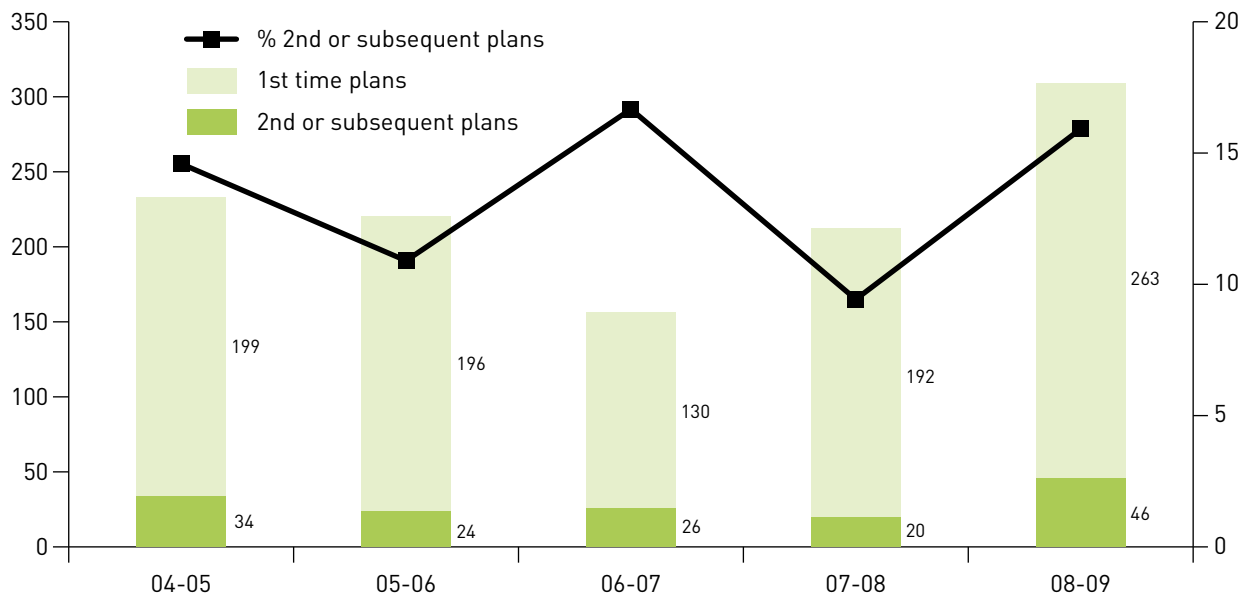
Children with a current child protection plan



- The number of children with child protection plans decreased significantly between March 2003 and March 2008. During 2008/09 there was a large increase in the number of children with child protection plans.
- At the end of March 2009, Coventry had 300 children with a child protection plan, an increase of 119 from the previous year end.
- There were 44.3 children with a plan per 10,000 of the population at the end of March 2009. This is higher than the statistical neighbour and all-England averages (28.1 and 26.5 respectively, as at 31/03/2008).

New Child Protection Plans: Second or Subsequent Plans (Formerly Re-Registrations)

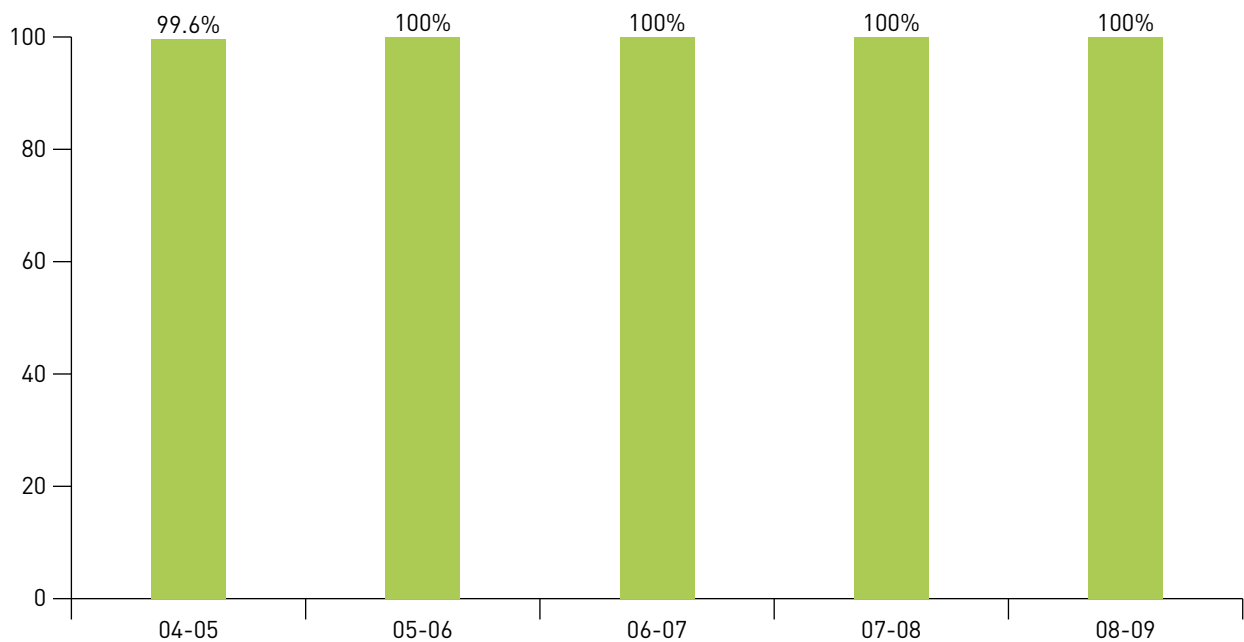
PAF INDICATOR A3: Percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time



- Children with a child protection plan should expect to see lasting improvements in their safety and wellbeing before their plan is ended. Ideally this leads to a child never needing another plan, unless there are drastic changes in a child's circumstances.
- A low percentage of children needing a second plan is therefore desirable, ideally between 10% and 15%.
- The percentage of children with a second plan decreased significantly between March 2003 and March 2006 but has been increasing again reaching 14.9% in March 2009.
- 14.9% is officially rated as "Very Good" performance.
- The national rate was 14% in 2007/08.

Child Protection Conferences – Reviews held on time

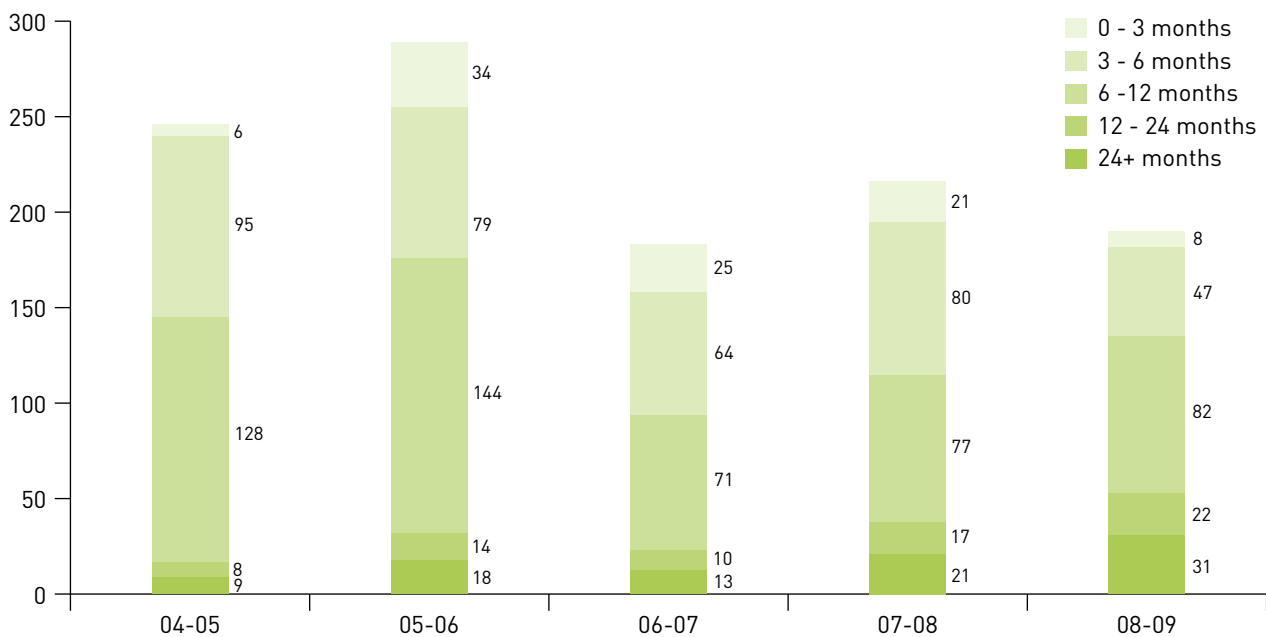
NATIONAL INDICATOR 67: The percentage of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed



- NI 67 looks at the percentage of child protection reviews which were held within statutory timescales. These timescales state that every child must have a review:
 - Within 3 months of the commencement of a new plan.
 - At six-monthly intervals thereafter.
- At the end of March 2009, all children who had been the subject of a child protection plan for three months or more had their reviews on time during the year, giving a PAF C20 figure of 100%.

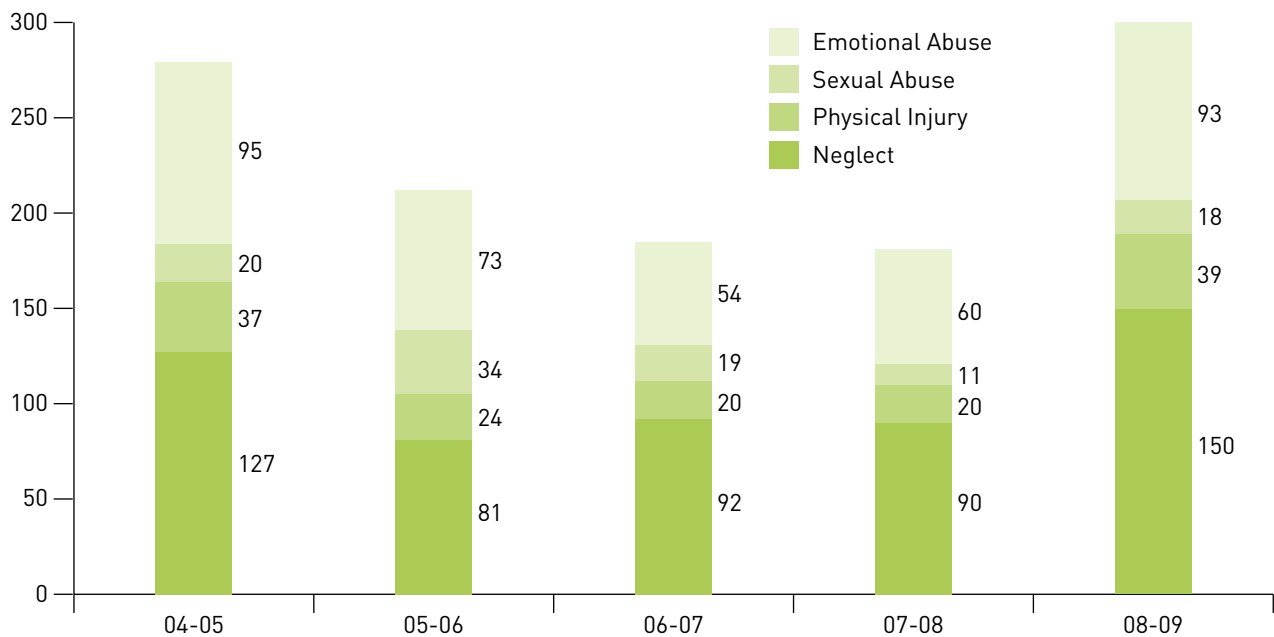
Ended Child Protection Plans – Plan Duration

NATIONAL INDICATOR 64: The percentage of discontinued plans which had been in place for 2 years or more



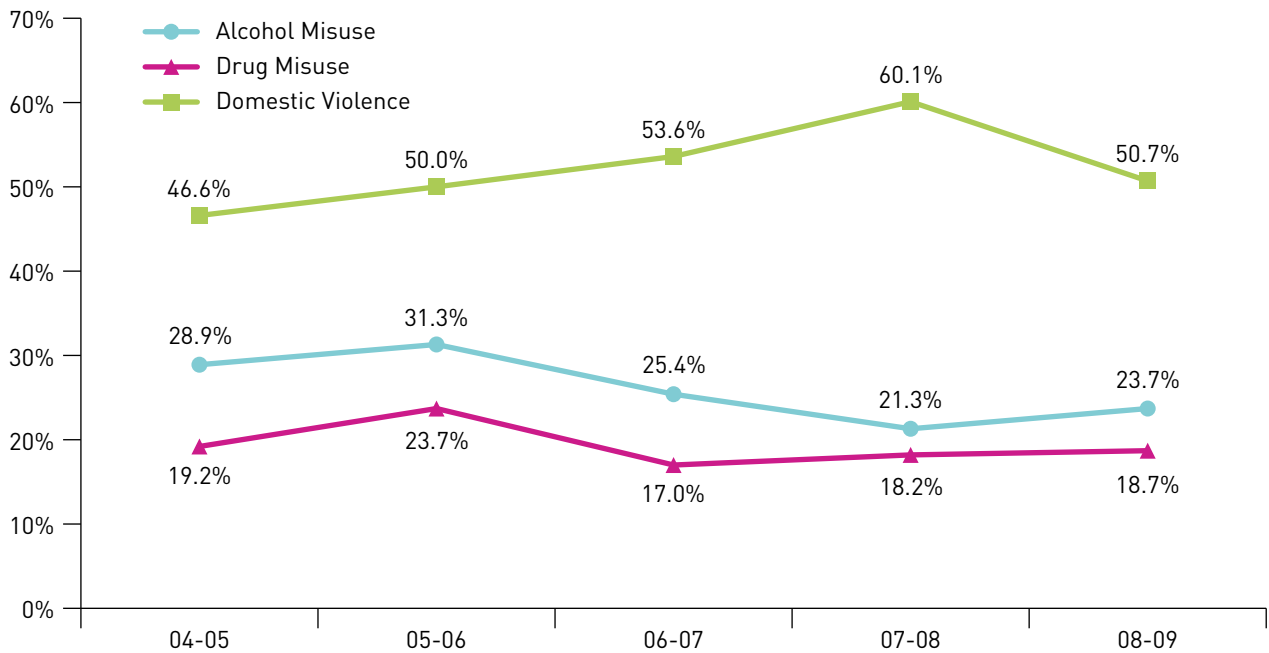
- A Child Protection Plan should ensure that children receive the services necessary to bring about any required changes in the family situation. This should lead to the plan being discontinued within two years.
- 8 Child Protection Plans were discontinued after more than 2 years in 2008/09, compared with 21 in the previous year.
- This gave an NI 64 figure of 4.2%, which is classed by the DfES as "Good".
- Nationally, 5% of plans were discontinued after more than 2 years.
- 72% of all Child Protection Plans were discontinued after more than 6 months. This is lower than percentages in the previous three years.
- Nationally 31% of child protection plans are discontinued within 6 months. In Coventry this figure is 28%.

Children with a child protection plan – Category of Abuse



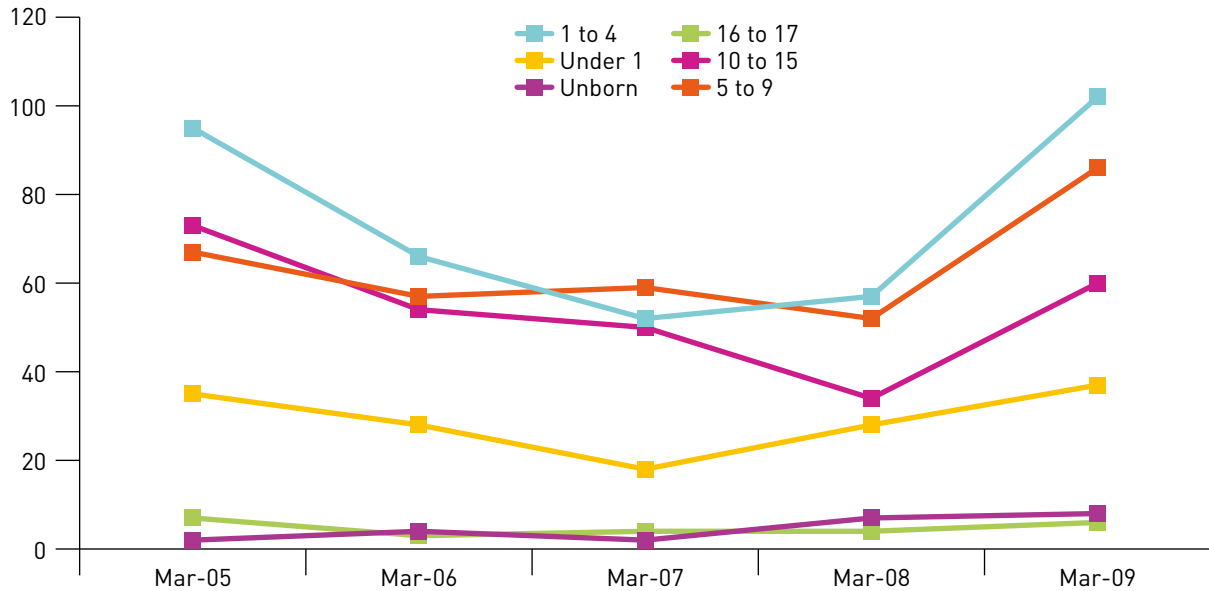
- The number of children with a child protection plan under the category of Emotional Abuse increased from 60 children in March 2008 to 93 children in March 2009.
- There was an increase in the number of children with a child protection plan under the category of Sexual Abuse from 11 children in March 2008 to 18 children in March 2009.
- Half of all the children with a plan at the end of March 2009 came under the category of Neglect. This is similar to previous years' data.
- Neglect was the most frequent category of abuse nationally, accounting for 46% of all children with a child protection plan as at 31/03/2009.

Child Protection Conferences – Issues at Conference



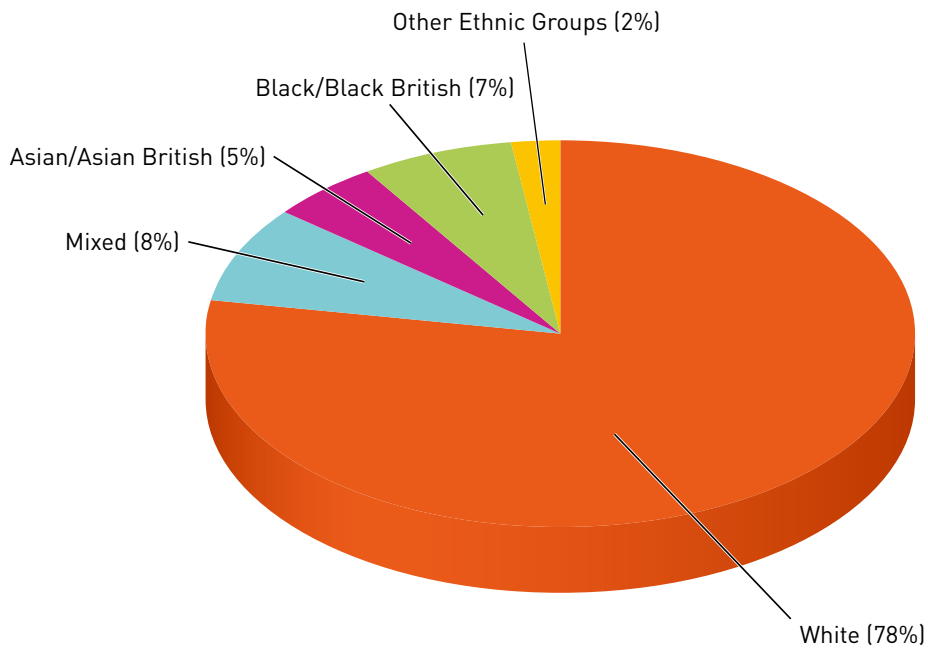
- The three key issues of domestic violence, alcohol misuse and drug misuse have been monitored at Child Protection Conferences since April 1999.
- 61.4% of conferences in 2008/09 identified at least one key issue as a factor at the conference.
- The percentage of conferences where domestic violence was a factor has decreased significantly. 50.7% of child protection conferences in 2008/09 identified domestic violence as a key issue, compared to 60.1% in 2007/08..
- The percentage of conferences where alcohol misuse was a factor has increased to 23.7%
- The percentage of conferences where drug misuse was a factor has increased slightly to 18.7%

Children with a child protection plan - Age Profile



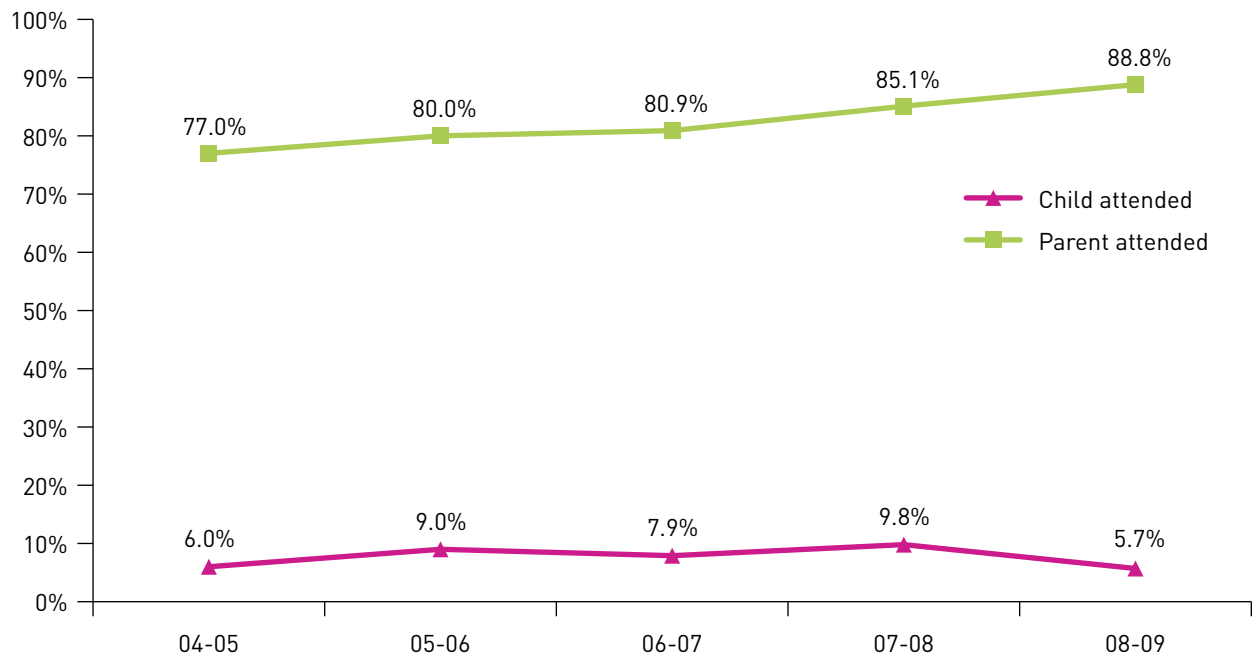
- The highest percentage of children with a plan at the end of March 2009 was from the 1 – 4 age group (34%).
- The number of children aged 1 – 4 has increased by 80% during 2008/09 (from 57 children in 2008 to 103 in 2009).
- The percentage of children aged 10 to 15 (20%) is significantly below the All-England average (26%)

Children with a child protection plan – Ethnic Origin



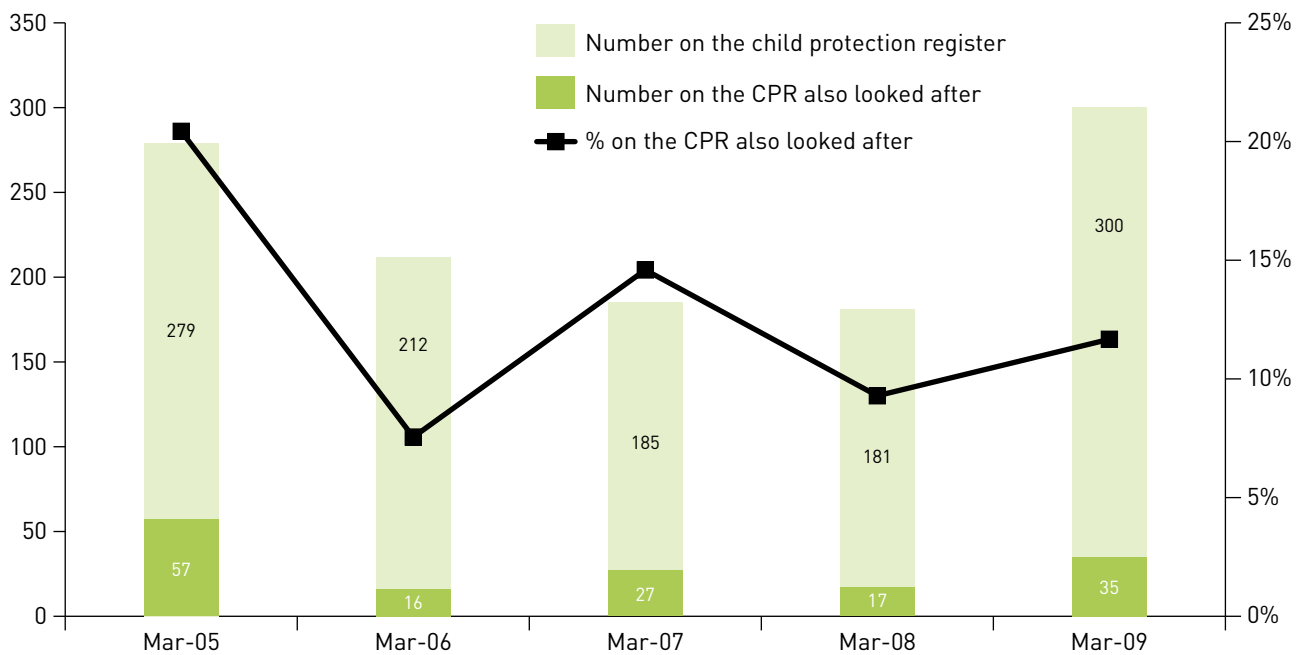
- The percentage of children with child protection plans from Black or Minority Ethnic Groups was 22.9% at the end of March 2009. This was close to the percentage of the 0-17 population of Coventry from BME groups (22.7%).
- This suggests that children from minority ethnic communities were being appropriately identified and provided with services in a comparable manner to white children.

Child Protection Conferences – Participation



- Parental attendance at conferences improved in 2008/09, from 85.1% to 88.8%.
- The percentage of children attending conferences decreased from 9.8% in 2007/08 to 5.7% in 2008/09.
- Fewer children attended conferences compared to previous years, however this percentage has consistently remained at under 10%.
- Although only a small number of children attended their reviews, a larger number may have communicated their views through advocates or other mediums.
- 78% of children with a CP Plan are aged under 10, which will have an impact on the numbers attending conference.

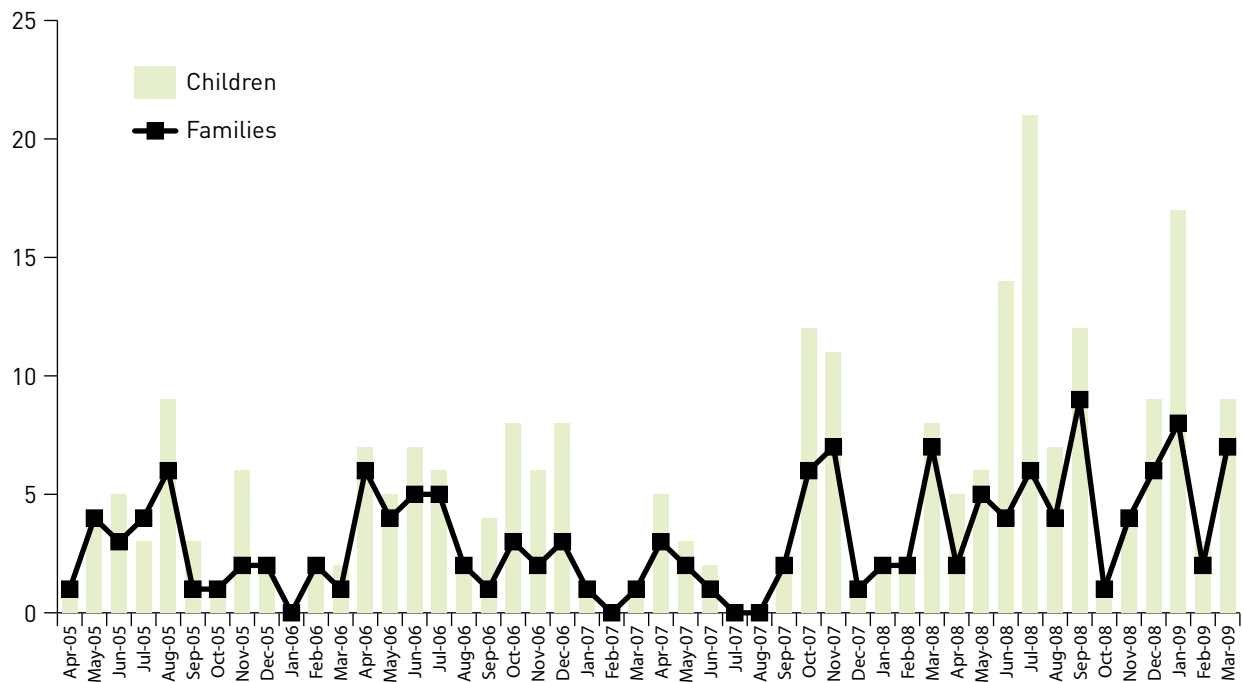
Children with a CP plan who are also looked after



■ The percentage children with a Child Protection Plan who were also looked after increased from 9.4% at the end of March 2008 to 11.7% in 2009. The national average at 31st March 2008 was 8%.

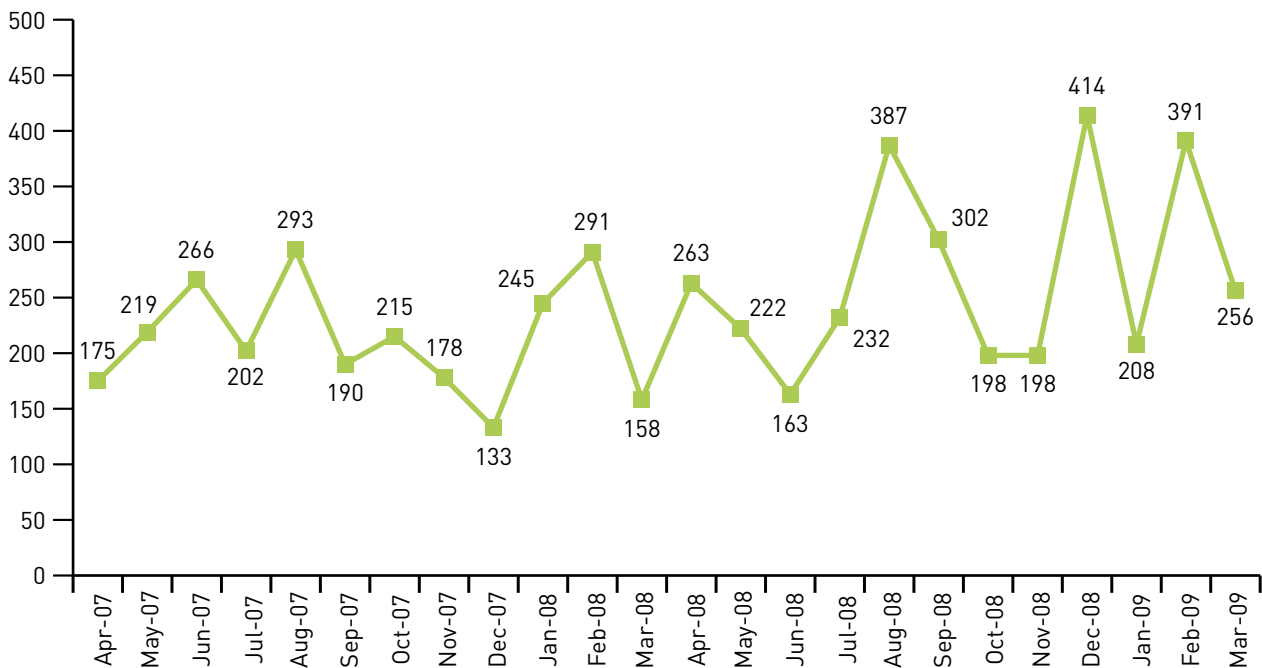
■ 35 children had a Child Protection Plan and were looked after at the end of March 2009, compared with 17 at the end of March 2008. This number had been falling steadily between March 2000 and March 2008.

Police Protection Powers



- Each year there has been an increasing number of children and families entering care via police protection.
- The latest trend shows about 5 families per month entering care via Police Protection.
- Between April 2005 and March 2006, 24 families became looked after under Police Protection (38 children).
- Between April 2006 and March 2007, 33 families became looked after under Police Protection (55 children).
- Between April 2007 and March 2008, 33 families became looked after under Police Protection (48 children).
- Between April 2008 and March 2009, 58 families became looked after under Police Protection (108 children).

Domestic Violence Screenings



- The number of Domestic Violence Screenings each month has generally increased over time.
- Between April 2007 and March 2008, there were 2565 Domestic Violence Screenings.
- 33.7% of screenings in 2007/08 required further investigation by Social Care.
- Between April 2008 and March 2009, there were 3234 Domestic Violence Screenings.
- 24.5% of screenings in 2008/09 required further investigation by Social Care

Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) data April 2008 – March 2009

- Total MAPPA level 2 and level 3 cases where risk to children was identified over the year is 30
- In the previous year there were 35 cases.
- The trend in Coventry is in keeping with the national figures – a reduction in the number of cases requiring MAPPA input.
- There have been no cases in Coventry where individuals have committed a serious further offence (e.g. murder, manslaughter, rape, sexual offences against a child robbery with a firearm, kidnapping) whilst subject to MAPPA arrangements.
- This indicates that the MAPPA process is successful in managing the risk the offenders pose.

For further information regarding the
CSCB Annual Report/Business Plan or any
other aspects of the work of Coventry
Safeguarding Children Board please email:

SafeguardingChildrenService@coventry.gov.uk

To find out more about Coventry Safeguarding
Children Board visit the CSCB website at:

www.coventrycypsp.org.uk/cscb