

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2012
7.00 PM**

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall

AGENDA

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1. Apologies for absence	
2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations	
<i>At this point Members must declare whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, or other interest, in any of the items on the agenda, unless it is already entered in the register of members' interests or is a "pending notification" that has been disclosed to the Solicitor to the Council. Members must also declare if they are subject to their party group whip in relation to any items under consideration.</i>	
3. Minutes of meeting held on 23 July 2012	1 - 10
4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions	
<i>The decision notice for each decision will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision may then be implemented on the expiry of 3 working days after the publication of the decision (not including the date of publication), unless a request for call-in of the decision is received from any two Members of a Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Commissions. If a request for call-in of a decision is received, implementation of the decision remains suspended for consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Committee or Commission.</i>	
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6. Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report (PSCB) 2011/12 and Business Plan 2012/13	19 - 66
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11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 12 November 2012



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Committee Members:

Councillors: S Day (Chair), C Harper (Vice Chairman), N Arculus, B Rush, J Shearman, B Saltmarsh and D Fower

Substitutes: Councillors: J R Fox, M Nadeem and Thulbourn

Education Co-optees: Jane Austen (Roman Catholic Church Representative), Mr Frank Smith (Church of England Representative), Alastair Kingsley (Parent Governor Representative), Brian Opie (Parent Governor Representative)

The Revd Canon Tim Elbourne, (Director of Education & Training), Diocese of Ely

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Paulina Ford on telephone 01733 452508 or by email – paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE
BOURGES & VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH
ON 23 JULY 2012**

Present:	Councillors S Day (Chairman), Harper, N Arculus, B Rush, B Saltmarsh, J Shearman	
Also present	Alastair Kingsley Tim Jeffery Jane Morton Irfan Damani Chloe Fuller	Parent Governor Representative CEO, Spurgeons Senior Assistant Director, Barnardos Youth Council Representative Youth Council Representative
Officers in Attendance:	Malcolm Newsam Wendi Ogle Welbourn Adrian Chapman Paulina Ford Marie Southgate	Executive Director, Children's Services Assistant Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention Head of Neighbourhoods Services Senior Governance Officer, Scrutiny Lawyer

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

There were no declarations of interest or whipping declarations.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2012

The minutes of the meetings held on 11 June 2012 were approved as an accurate record.

4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions

There were no requests for Call-in to consider.

5. Portfolio Progress Report from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services introduced the report which provided the Committee with an overview of Children's Services performance since her last attendance at Committee on 14 November 2011. Highlights included:

- Children's Social Care
- Two year old funding Pilot Status
- Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Services
- Children's Centres

The Committee were informed that the two new Assistant Directors, Sue Westcott responsible for Safeguarding Families and Communities and Wendi Ogle Welbourn, responsible for Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention had had a positive impact on the department since joining. The new Liquidlogic IT system had now been implemented and this had also had a

positive impact on the way social workers were able to carry out their work. The Cabinet Member for Children's services acknowledged the hard work and effort that all the staff and Directors had put into improving the performance of the department. The Committee were informed that the Scrutiny Task and Finish group were receiving regular detailed reports on the Children's Services Improvement Plan.

The Cabinet Member also informed Members of the various groups and activities available for girls and young women across the city. The issue of activities available had been raised at the meeting in November by the Committee. The Cabinet Member advised that a complete list could be provided for the Committee.

Fostering to adoption and the issue of foster carers who wished to adopt but had not been able to due to financial disadvantages was also mentioned as this had been highlighted at the meeting in November. The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that when adopting a child they become a part of the family and therefore accept the financial responsibly. In a few exceptional cases there may be additional needs for a child that had challenging circumstances and additional financial support may be provided.

Observations and questions were raised and discussed including:

- Are you now able to say what a realistic number of cases each social worker should have? *Members were informed that there was a much better understanding of what this should be and there was a daily monitoring system of case loads now in place. The case load sizes were now within the boundaries and the extra money approved by Council to increase the number of social workers alongside the clearing up of the backlogs had had a dramatic impact on workloads reducing the caseloads. Good focused management of teams would also ensure good management of caseloads.*
- The report states "we have commenced the commissioning of high level family support". Please can you explain what this means. *Members were informed that this was work that had been started by the new Assistant Director Wendi Ogle Welbourn and a report on the work would be brought to the Committee at a future meeting. The work involved targeting the families most in need of help and providing them with high level targeted support and early intervention.*
- Do you expect to have addressed all the weaknesses identified by Ofsted within the 18 months time table that you have set? How will you know that you have successfully addressed all the weaknesses and how can this Committee help you with the challenging time table that you have set yourself. *Members were informed that a good start had been made to Phase Two of the Improvement Programme and the Independent Advisory Board, Internal Advisory Board and Scrutiny would help in validating if the programme was on track and when all the weaknesses had been addressed.*
- Two Year Old Funding Pilot Status. Why had the Voyager area of the city been selected for the funding and not the PE1 area? *The Assistant Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention informed Members that she would seek clarification but had understood that the funding was around deprivation and had to be targeted at child poverty. There had been a shortfall in child care places in the Voyager area and therefore this area had been selected to receive the funding.*
- Was the High Level Family support the same as the Family Intervention Project. *Members were informed that it was not. There were many services and initiatives in place in Peterborough and they needed to be put into a coherent framework to ensure that the right services were getting to the right children at the right time.*
- The Chair advised that the members of the Scrutiny Task and Finish group monitoring the Children's Services Improvement Programme had been meeting with social workers and attending visits with them. The visits had proved beneficial to be able to see first hand the excellent work that was being done by the social workers. The Chair asked if the social workers received any recognition for the good work that they did. *Members were informed that there was a recognition scheme within the council which provided staff awards for Excellence. At a recent Staff presentation from the Chief Executive there had been a*

section on Excellence awards and approximately 50% of the awards had gone to those who worked in children's services and the largest proportion had been in social care. The Director of Children's Services informed Members that there had been a real recognition of the achievements and engagement that staff had had with the improvement programme which had been most noticeable in the turnaround of referral and assessment service. Personal Development Reviews were being completed for every member of staff within Children's Services and within that there had been recognition of past performance and clear targets were also being set. The social work forum was also now in place.

- *What was happening with regard to the shortfall of social workers? Members were informed that thirty new staff would be starting during August and September. Newly qualified social workers and experienced social workers were now applying to work at Peterborough. A good induction programme, reasonable work loads, a high standard of training and development and high quality supervision and support all provided an environment to keep social workers in Peterborough. The environment was much better than last year. The average time it took from applying to arriving had been reduced from 18 ½ weeks to 6 ½ weeks.*
- *How confident was the Cabinet Member that when the current Director left Peterborough that a suitable replacement of the same calibre would be found. Members were informed that the process of advertising had started already and interviews would take place during the middle of September. The Cabinet Member was optimistic and an early indication was that the calibre of person applying was of the calibre that would be required to fulfil the role.*

ACTIONS AGREED

That the Committee note the report and;

1. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services provide a further progress report to the Committee in January 2013.
2. The Assistant Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention to provide the Chair with a list of where the additional 2 year old child care places would be provided in reference to the Two Year Old Funding Pilot.

6. Children's Services Improvement Programme

The Executive Director of Children's Services introduced the report. The report informed the Committee on progress that had been made on the Children's Services Improvement Programme which had been put in place following an Ofsted Inspection in August 2011. The progress report had been a regular report to the committee and the last update to the committee had been in June 2012. Members were advised that good progress had been made on Phase Two of the programme. Completing initial assessments within ten days had reached 99% which had exceeded the target of 74% in the improvement notice. Completion of core assessments within 35 days had reached 92% which had exceeded the target of 85% in the improvement notice.

There had been an independent visit from Jane Held, the Independent Chair of the External Improvement Board who had provided a progress report to the Minister, Tim Loughton. Her report back to the Minister had stated:

"The Council has continued to progress its improvement activity robustly and swiftly. This is demonstrated, not only by the data, but by what social workers are saying 'on the ground'. There is a clear understanding politically of the tasks ahead and the determination to sustain the trajectory."

Observations and questions were raised and discussed including:

- Now that more time was being spent on quality had this impacted on the performance. *Members were informed that Phase two of the improvement programme was about the quality of the care planning in the long term teams and all the indications were that this was an area for improvement. All cases had been audited and each case had an action plan which would inform social workers of what work would be needed to be done to bring a case up to the required standard. Almost 95% of assessments were completed in the referral and assessment team and those team managers had to sign off the quality before the case was signed off. Indications were that the required standards were being met.*

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the Safeguarding Improvement Plan and the progress that had been made since the last report in June 2012.

7. Children's Centres

The report informed the Committee on the progress of the Children's Centres and implementation of the new children's centres contracts.

Tim Jeffery, CEO gave a presentation on Spurgeons which highlighted the following:

- Spurgeons was an organisation that was child centred and focused on helping children achieve the best possible outcomes and was founded in 1867 by Charles Spurgeon.
- Core values were: "we are Caring, Holistic, Inclusive, Responsive, Professional, and Hopeful"
- Strengths: Focus on Leadership, Community based, Learn from experience, Relational, Focus on Strengths, Innovative and Creative, Values-based.
- What they did:
 - 95 projects in England in 2012/13
 - Third largest voluntary sector provider of Children's Centres nationally
 - Managing Sure Start Children's Centres for 12 years
 - Spurgeons Children's Centres were linked together locally and nationally.
 - Early Years
 - Young Carers
 - Family Support specialist services
 - Support to Parents
 - Children separated from their parents
 - Children who have been bereaved
 - Work with prisons and prisoners' families
 - Excluded young people at risk of offending
 - Youth and Community Services
 - Support for community and faith based groups through Spurgeons Network

Building on strengths and working together:

- Working with all stakeholders
- Integrated services
 - mainstream, specialist, commissioned and community services
- Multi agency professionals and linking to statutory services
- Parents as partners
- Partnership in Children's Centre governance
- Community involvement
- Sharing good practice

Harnessing strengths and resources:

- Needs in Peterborough were varied, wide-ranging, and changing

- Geographical diversity and distinctiveness
- Responsive to offer flexible, accessible, locally focused services
- Using evidence and data to help make decisions and targeting services to have the greatest impact
- Early identification of needs and opportunities
- Employ Community Engagement Coordinators
- Drawing on local expertise and services

Jane Morton, Senior Assistant Director, gave a presentation on Barnardos which highlighted the following:

- Barnardo's as an organisation and its vision: *"Our vision is of innovative children's centres which act as a community resources for families supporting and facilitating all to achieve their aspirations and potential"*
- Values:
 - Respecting the unique worth of every person
 - Encouraging people to fulfil their potential
 - Working with hope
 - Exercising responsible stewardship
- What Barnardo's hope to achieve in Peterborough Children's Centres:
 - A Locality service which worked as a cluster and was a community resource of targeted and universal services to families with children from pre-birth to age 5 that identified needs early and prevented emerging problems for children and families from escalating.
 - The commitment was to focus resources and efforts on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families that would benefit the most from the support within a universal setting

How Barnardo's would achieve those objectives:

- Building on the best
- Cluster working
- Partnership working
- Innovation through empowerment
- Resources to front line working
- Safeguarding
- National and local expertise
- Out reach to in reach
- Increase use of volunteers providing routes into employment
- Skilled and supported workforce

Changes that had taken place so far included an induction for staff in:

- IT Skills
- E Learning
- Health & Safety
- Safeguarding
- Data Protection
- Information sharing
- Equality & Diversity
- Skills audits
- E Learning and Training Events

The journey forwards would include:

- A restructure as necessary during July to September and re-launch of the service in September.
- A dynamic and vibrant service which actively seeks to meet the needs of young families and children
- Continuous consultation with all stakeholders
- Continuous empowerment of service users
- Happy and thriving children

Observations and questions were raised and discussed including:

- How would the changes that you are both making feed through in a positive way to the delivery of the service to young people. *Jane Morton for Barnardos informed Members that there was an ongoing continuous dialogue with young people and their families to ensure that what was being delivered was what they wanted.*
- *Tim Jeffrey for Spurgeons informed Members that when there was less money some things would have to give and that they would look at targeting the families that were most in need and the most vulnerable children. They would also find ways of working with local community groups and with other providers in the area and make use of more signposting out to things that were going on. The children's centre would become much more of a vehicle for the whole community. More parent led pier groups would be started so that parents would be able to volunteer and contribute to help others. There would eventually be more groups co-ordinated by the children's centres but led by the community.*
- Members wished to ensure that whilst the targeted groups received more focus that the other services did not decline. They felt it was important to ensure a good consultation process was in place.
- Had the consultation with the users of the centres taken place? *Tim Jeffrey informed Members that consultation was ongoing and continuous. The process of restructuring had started and there had been some changes in Management but the services had remained the same. Jane Morton advised that there had been a four month stand still period where they were getting to know the services and therefore no consultation had taken place as yet. It was a key factor of children centre delivery that consultation regarding any change must take place.*
- Were you still employing the same number of staff as you were when you took the contract over? *Members were informed that no changes had taken place in the first four months but that the changes were now beginning to take place at senior level staff.*
- Members were concerned that no engagement had taken place with the local ward councillors as yet.
- The Assistant Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention advised Members that Barnardos and Spurgeons had been appointed because they had a track record of delivering Children's Centres in an environment where there had been a reduction of funding. Both organisations would create economies of scale. A reduction in staff did not necessarily mean a reduction in delivery. They would be looking at innovative and different ways to deliver the service needed.
- The Chair quoted an example of Honeyhill Children's Centre where there had been several agencies delivering services from the centre but that this had not been identified to the Spurgeons when they took over and it had caused some confusion. Had this been sorted out? *Members were advised that the situation had now been clarified and all partners had been identified and also those who were working within the management of Spurgeons.*
- The Chair advised that she had recently attended a meeting of a parent run group at Honeyhill. The parents had been upset that the centre manager had been moved without them being notified and that they had not been consulted. They had been concerned that they would not have the same team at the centre. There were a lot of vulnerable people attending the children centres and they gained confidence in the people that worked with them. The Chair sought assurance that the people attending the centres would still feel

confident to attend and use the facilities having had staff changes. *Tim Jeffrey advised that during the next few months there would inevitably be staff changes but every effort would be made to ensure that the key worker relationships would be affected as little as possible.*

- Would all the centres deliver the same activities? *Tim Jeffrey advised that they would not deliver the same activities as they would need to be responsive to each community. There would be some core activities that would be delivered at all centres and then different ones dependant on the needs of the community.*
- Do you feel that the length of time that you have the contract for is long enough for you to invest in. *Jane Morton responded that Barnardos had run contracts across the country for varying lengths and felt that the timeframe for this contract would allow them to get the services to the way they needed to be commissioned to deliver them in an appropriate manner.*
- You have stated that there had been a reduction in funding which would lead to a reduction in staffing and that you would be using more volunteers. Can you assure the Committee that you are not soaking up the staff you are losing by bringing in volunteers to take those places? *Tim Jeffrey responded that in terms of the money that was available for the contract and the work that was done Spurgeons would provide the maximum number of staff that was possible within that. Included in that was the provision to recruit and support volunteers to do as much additional work within that. The focus was to provide the very best service for children.*
- Can you assure the Committee that those people that work for you are from the community in which the children's centres were based? Therefore if the centre was based in Gladstone Street there would be a cross section of staff for example from the Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities. *Tim Jeffrey responded that this would definitely be the case and had always been a priority for Spurgeons to employ people from the local communities.*
- The Youth Council representative asked what was the age range that they worked with. *Members were advised that they worked with young people up to the age of 25.*
- Members noted that the report had stated that "significant changes had to be agreed with the Local Authority prior to implementation". Could you clarify what a "significant change" was, who would make that decision and would the Committee see what those changes were when they were made. *Members were advised that significant change was the transformation of the service as had been talked about during the meeting and did not refer to anything else.*
- Who reviews and discusses the changes. *Members were informed that there was regular monitoring of the contract to oversee the changes. The Assistant Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention advised that the monitoring fell within her responsibility.*

The Chair thanked the CEO of Spurgeons and Senior Assistant Director of Barnardos for attending the meeting and providing an informative presentation and response to questions.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Committee agreed that:

1. Spurgeons and Barnardos return to the Committee in a one year to provide a progress report.
2. Spurgeons and Barnardos actively engage with and invite local ward Councillors to visit the Children's Centres.

8. Poverty Reduction Strategy

The report provided the Committee with a final draft of the Poverty Reduction Strategy for comment prior to formal approval. The Assistant Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention advised the Committee that the Action Plan now included timescales and group leads for each theme.

The Chair asked Councillor Shearman to report on the work that he had completed whilst he was the Poverty Champion for the Committee from January to June 2012. Councillor Shearman gave an account of the work that he had undertaken during this time. This included attending a conference on tackling poverty prior to being appointed Poverty Champion in November 2011. Meetings with the Lead Officer for Poverty to discuss the role of the Poverty Champion. The role of the Champion had been identified as someone who would raise the profile of child poverty issues, assist with activities and initiatives that support progress with the eradication of child poverty and make a personal pledge committing to action to eradicate child poverty. The poverty champion would put poverty into the public eye and would recruit other poverty champions (younger and older people) and key messages would be put out in the media in terms of poverty. Councillor Shearman had also had discussions about fuel poverty and attended the Fuel Poverty Conference in March 2011.

Councillor Shearman had at a previous Scrutiny meeting held 12 March 2011 suggested to the Principal / Head of Service at City College Peterborough who was in attendance to contact the PCC Lead Officer for Poverty to talk about putting on courses that could address the needs of families or parents who were in poverty.

At a recent council meeting Councillor Shearman had asked the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning what the council was doing about fuel poverty. A full answer was received.

Councillor Shearman advised that the Lead Officer, Sian Peer had now left the authority.

Councillor Shearman welcomed the initiative from the Chair of the suggestion that there was no longer one Member responsible for Poverty but that each member of the Committee took responsibility for each of the seven strands of the Poverty Reduction Strategy to share the workload.

The Chair thanked Councillor Shearman for the work that he had done whilst in the role of Poverty Champion.

Observations and questions were raised and discussed including:

- Had the lead officers been in place long for each of the seven objectives and key deliverables of the strategy? *Members were informed that some officers were already doing the work as their day job e.g. PCVS were leading on the work regarding objective 5: Increased financial capability, employability and take-up of benefits as this was the work they normally did. Everyone leading on the agenda was passionate about it.*
- Please could you clarify objective 6: "Improved mental health within the local population to reduce the gap in health inequalities and to promote healthy lifestyles". Should it read "to improve mental health services". *Members were informed that it meant improving mental health across the whole city rather than individuals. Wording could be added to make it clearer.*
- Members wanted to know if officers agreed with the statement "Poverty is considered as specific incomes, domains alongside multidimensional frameworks and particular movements in time". There were parts of the report that were obliquely worded and the objectives were not clear. How did the objectives fit in with other policies? *The Assistant Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention informed Members that the draft policy had been in circulation for a long time and agreed that some of the terminology within the strategy was difficult to interpret. The strategic objectives had come out of a lot of work that had been done with strategic partners across the city. The action plan would provide the detail behind the objectives and this could be provided to Members along with the Single Delivery Plan which supported some of the objectives in the Strategy.*
- Members suggested that the Lead Officers and Councillors responsible for each of the strands meet to discuss the objectives in more detail.

- How do you measure and understand Poverty? *Members were informed that the current measure of poverty according to Government was defined by people who were 60% below the median income nationally. Government had recently announced a move away from this single measure and may also now look at people who were in criminality or substance misuse and to take a much broader view. Guidance was still to be issued on the change.*
- The report lists areas where Peterborough did well and areas for concern and action. Are you able to say which of these were more important and should be focussed on? *The Assistant Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention informed members that all the information had been considered and it was then decided which were the most important areas and these formed the seven Strategic Objectives.*
- Objective 5: "Increased financial capability, employability and take-up of benefits amongst families". Do we really want to encourage and increase benefit take up? *Members were informed that the first priority would be to support people in gaining employment however there were some people where this was not the case. There were some vulnerable groups who were elderly or disabled and those groups would be supported within this objective.*
- Members wanted to know what the next steps were for the Strategy. *Members were informed by the Director of Children's Services that the Committee needed to agree to adopt the strategy but was unsure of whether it would then go to Cabinet and would seek advice.*
- Members requested that the wording in the Strategy be looked at again and the comments of the Committee be taken into consideration regarding the rewording of the Strategy. *The Assistant Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention welcomed the opportunity to revisit the wording and advised that the comments of the Committee would be taken into account.*

The Chair proposed that rather than one Poverty Champion supporting the Poverty Reduction Strategy that each Member of the Committee take a lead in representing the Committee on each of the seven Strategic Objectives. The Committee agreed to this proposal. The Senior Governance Officer would write to the Head of Neighbourhood Services advising him of which committee member would be the Lead Member for each of the seven strands. This proposal replaced the decision made at the meeting held on 11 June 2012 to have one Poverty Champion.

ACTIONS AGREED

1. The Committee endorsed the proposed Poverty Reduction Strategy.
2. The Committee requested that the Head of Neighbourhood Services:
 - I. Provide the Committee with a copy of the Action Plan.
 - II. Arrange a meeting between the Lead Officers for each of the seven Strategic Objectives and Lead Members assigned to each of the seven strategic objectives to meet and discuss the objectives in more detail.
3. The Governance Officer to write to the Head of Neighbourhood Services with the names of the Lead Members appointed to each of the seven strategic objectives within the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

9. Forward Plan of key Decisions

The Committee received the latest version of the Council's Forward Plan, containing key decisions that the Leader of the Council anticipated the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the course of the following four months. Members were invited to comment on the Plan and, where appropriate, identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's work programme.

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the Forward Plan.

10. Work Programme

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme for 2012/13 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

ACTION AGREED

To confirm the work programme for 2012/13 and the Senior Governance Officer to include any additional items as requested during the meeting.

It was highlighted that the unvalidated examination results would be published at a later date this year and therefore the report to committee would have to be rescheduled. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Group Representatives meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 10 September 2012.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 9.15pm

CHAIRMAN

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
10 SEPTEMBER 2012	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Children’s Services

Contact Officer(s) – Anne Garratt (Service Manager for Fostering and Adoption)
Contact Details – 01733 863843 / Anne.Garratt@Peterborough.gov.uk

FOSTERING ACTION PLAN

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee with information about the Fostering Service through the presentation of the Fostering Action Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee members are requested to comment on the action plan, note the contents and to consider if there are any matters they may wish to scrutinise in the future.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Fostering Service is the regulated service for the recruitment and supervision of foster carers for looked after children from the age of 0-18 years. The aim is to have sufficient numbers of foster carers to ensure that there is placement choice to meet the needs of each child, that all looked after children are given the opportunity to be placed in a safe and nurturing family to support them through childhood and beyond so that they can reach their full potential and we reduce the number of children placed with agency foster carers.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Peterborough has a number of children who are unable to live with their birth family and who require foster carers to care for them whilst they are looked after.

The Peterborough Fostering Service was part of an OFSTED pilot inspection in December when the service was considered to be satisfactory.

The Fostering Service is inspected by Ofsted on a three yearly cycle.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The Fostering Action Plan highlights the key actions to ensure the fostering service is able to meet the needs of looked after children in Peterborough and that they reach their full potential.

The action plan details the involvement of children and young people in ensuring their views about the care they receive is heard and where appropriate acted upon.

The Fostering Service priority is to ensure that carers are supported in their role and to provide a range of training opportunities to enhance and develop their skills.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The report is city wide and has no implications for an individual ward.

The Fostering Service is part of Children's Services and reports to Malcolm Newsam, Director.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 A group of foster carers have been consulted in terms of the recruitment strategy.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 The Fostering Service is responsible for the implementation of the action plan.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 Children Act 1989 and 2004
Fostering Service Regulations 2011.
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010
The Munro review of Child Protection

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Fostering Action Plan.

Report on the Fostering Action Plan

Annex A

The fostering action plan was developed in April 2012 to ensure that we recruit and retain skilled and experienced carers for children who are looked after. The plan has a range of actions to ensure that the views, wishes and feelings of children are taken into account, and that we provide a high quality service to both carers and children

Permanency Planning:

We are committed to ensure that looked after children are given the opportunity to be placed in a safe and nurturing family setting permanently. A permanency policy and procedure were implemented in July 2012 which ensures that by the time a child has been looked after for four months they have a permanency plan. This permanency plan is agreed at the child's statutory child care review and is then presented to the permanency panel for ratification. The plan is then agreed by the Agency Decision Maker and reviewed at every child care review.

The options to secure permanency include returning home to their family, living with connected persons, Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order, long term fostering, living independently, residential care or adoption. Plans are based on the assessed needs of the child taking into account the views of the child, parents and any significant others. 20 children will be presented to the Permanency Panel in the coming months to secure their permanent placement.

Reconfiguration of the Service:

The Fostering Team was reconfigured in July 2012 into three parts, the recruitment and assessment of new carers, the assessment of connected persons (formerly family and friends carers) and thirdly the support and supervision of approved foster carers.

Recruitment:

We have three dedicated workers leading on the recruitment strategy with colleagues from corporate marketing. This has resulted in focused and successful activity programmed throughout the year. Promotional materials have been developed, the information pack for potential new carers has been updated, banners have been placed across the city including the "Fabulous Forty" lamp post banners. There has been a leaflet drop in the north of the City with a further drop planned for October. There has been local media coverage in the press and other publications and specific recruitment activity at various festivals and fetes and other venues across the city.

We are currently working with colleagues in Community Cohesion to hold a conference in January with faith groups to raise the awareness of both fostering and adoption in the City. This is part of our aim to recruit sufficient carers from diverse backgrounds to meet the needs of looked after children.

There has been a staff incentive programme to recruit carers and there are ongoing discussions about involving foster carers in the recruitment campaign.

The Fabulous Forty campaign launched in April of this year has resulting in 33 households currently being assessed. The processes around assessment have been streamlined, Skills to Foster training

runs alongside the assessment to avoid delay, and timescales put in place with the expectation that from expression of interest to approval will take 6 months. All of the 33 households currently being assessed are booked into the Fostering Panels between August and February 2013 for final approval. The Fabulous Forty campaign has focussed on recruiting mainstream foster carers for children of all ages. The households currently being assessed should provide a minimum of 33 placements. This will enable us to reduce the number of children placed with external agency foster carers. Our target is 79 new carers (households) over the next 2 years, we are well on our way to achieving this.

The Room to Spare campaign which will run from September to December will again focus on recruiting mainstream foster carers for children of all ages. Our targeted recruitment campaign in January 2013 will focus on carers for 10 – 15 year olds with health and additional needs.

Connected Person's Assessments:

There are a number of children who are unable to live with their immediate family but can be cared for by members of their extended family (connected persons). The Fostering Service is responsible for the assessment and support of these carers, many of whom go on to become their permanent carers through the making of a Special Guardianship or Residence Order, thereby securing the Child's permanent care. We are currently assessing 10 such households.

Retention of Foster Carers:

We currently have 115 approved fostering households providing homes for 167 looked after children. There is a range of support services to those carers to assist them in their role of caring for a looked after child. All foster carers have a supervising social worker who visits regularly. A comprehensive training programme has been developed, a series of support groups have been organised and carers have access to specialist advice.

An out of hour's telephone helpline is available to all carers.

Support may also be provided to the young person by the Psychologist for looked after children, additional training for the foster carer, additional activities for the young person.

Ensuring the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people are acted upon:

A questionnaire has recently been sent out to looked after children to find out their views about their placement. This information will be used in foster carer recruitment and training. Children and young people are also asked to provide their opinion about their foster carers for the foster carer's annual review. Young people meet with the Independent Reviewing Officer as part of their statutory review and they also have the opportunity to complete the consultation document Your View.

Future Plans:

- Implementation of the fostering action plan.
- Build upon successful recruitment and retention to date.

Recommendations:

The Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the contents of the fostering action plan and consider if there are any matters they may wish to scrutinise in the future.

Action Plan – FOSTERING

Issue	Action Required	Owner and target date of completion	Progress	Evidence Action Completed
1. An up to date Statement of Purpose of the Fostering Service	Statement of Purpose to be reviewed and updated.	Ann Garratt 27.09.12	Review has started	Statement of Purpose to be presented to DLT and Corporate Parenting in November 2012.
2. Evidence that the views, wishes and feelings of looked after children are acted upon unless this is contrary to their interests and in those circumstances they are helped to understand why	<p>Questionnaire to be sent to all looked after children to ascertain their views about their care and placement</p> <p>As part of the review process children should be asked their views about their placement</p> <p>Ensure the sharing of a bedroom is agreed by each child's social worker, takes into account child's wishes and each child has own area in bedroom</p> <p>Develop a Children's Guide in a range of formats appropriate to the needs of children in placement</p> <p>Strengthening the Children in Care Council</p>	<p>TJ Trambadia July/August</p> <p>John Scott August 2012</p> <p>Deborah Glassbrook February 2012</p> <p>TJ Trambadia October 2012</p> <p>Sue Westcott and TJ Trambadia October 2012</p>	<p>Questionnaire sent out in July and August</p> <p>IRO's to send information to supervising social worker</p> <p>Audit undertaken</p> <p>Children's guides available to looked after children</p>	<p>Information used to inform recruitment and training from October 2012</p> <p>To be included in foster carers annual review from September 2012</p> <p>Children's Guide to be given to all looked after children November 2012</p> <p>Report to CMT by Sue Westcott 24/08/12 and Legal. Drawing up proposals for change with Committee structure. Children in Care Council will play key role in developing foster carer service and in the Corporate Parenting Panel</p>

Issue	Action Required	Owner and target date of completion	Progress	Evidence Action Completed
3. Implement an effective recruitment strategy to ensure there are sufficient carers to be responsive to the current and predicted future demands on the service (NMS 13.1)	<p>Development of Sufficiency Placement Strategy</p> <p>Reconfigure the fostering service to include recruitment team</p> <p>Recruitment team to work with Marketing Team to develop marketing tools</p> <p>Recruitment of an additional 40 fostering households</p>	<p>Wendi Ogle-Welbourne September 2012</p> <p>Deborah Glassbrook June 2012</p> <p>Yvonne Petticrew Karen Gilgan June 2012</p> <p>Ann Garratt Andrea Robertson Yvonne Petticrew March 2013</p>	<p>Presentation to DLT August 2012. To be rolled out September 2012</p> <p>Use of local media, press and radio articles May onwards</p> <p>33 Form F assessments currently being undertaken scheduled for panels for approval August 2012-February 2012</p>	<p>Sufficiency Placement Strategy informs recruitment strategy October 2012</p> <p>Recruitment team in place, responsible for recruitment activity and ensuring potential carers are supported through the assessment process</p> <p>New promotional materials being used as part of the Fabulous Forty and Room to Spare campaigns</p> <p>Increased placement choice for children. Reduction in the use of agency carers</p>
4. Ensure all written references are confirmed by telephone for all people working in or for the fostering service (NMS 19.1)	<p>All Form F assessors to be aware of this requirement</p> <p>Ensure all HR files reflect this</p>	<p>Deborah Glassbrook</p> <p>Simon Batty</p>	<p>Training delivered to staff</p>	<p>Evidenced in completed Form F's</p> <p>Completed as part of Ofsted inspection</p>
5. Ensure carers have access to a choice of relevant training opportunities at different times of the day, evening and weekends to reflect individual needs and the diverse way of learning (NMS 20.8)	<p>Learning and development training manual to be developed</p> <p>Identify senior social work lead for training</p> <p>Programme of support groups for foster carers for the year</p>	<p>Andrea Robertson Elizabeth Virtue September 2012</p> <p>Deborah Glassbrook May 2012</p> <p>Alison Cotterill</p>	<p>In draft form July 2012</p>	<p>Manual available to all carers September 2012</p> <p>Shamena Sadiq identified as training lead</p> <p>Programme in place</p>

Issue	Action Required	Owner and target date of completion	Progress	Evidence Action Completed
6. Ensure all reviews of foster carers are sufficiently thorough to allow the fostering service to properly satisfy their carers ongoing suitability to foster (NMS 13.8)	<p>Training for all social workers who supervise foster carers</p> <p>Practice Workshop held on monthly basis in the team including lessons learnt from complaints and Independent Review Mechanism and Independent Assessors.</p> <p>Annual foster carers reviews completed and agreed by Agency Decision Maker</p> <p>Every three years the annual review is considered by the Fostering Panel unless there are issues requiring consideration at earlier date</p>	<p>Deborah Glassbrook June 2012</p> <p>Andrea Robertson July 2012-March 2013</p> <p>Andrea Robertson</p> <p>Andrea Robertson Sarah Borthwick</p>	<p>3 foster carer reviews currently outstanding of 111 and these are scheduled to be presented to Fostering Panel in September 2012</p> <p>1 extra fostering panel scheduled for September</p>	<p>Practice Workshop Programme in place</p> <p>All foster carers reviews completed in time</p> <p>In place and 3 year review dates given at second annual review and diarised in.</p>
7. Ensure all staff are provided with regular supervision and PDRs are completed annually	<p>Monthly completion of supervision monitoring form</p> <p>PDRs to be completed</p>	<p>Andrea Robertson monthly</p> <p>Andrea Robertson August 2012</p>		All PDRs completed and placed on supervision file
8. Ensure an effective system is in place to monitor the quality and adequacy of record keeping and taking action when needed (NMS 26.2)	<p>Migration to Liquid Logic</p> <p>Liquid Logic manual for fostering written and implemented</p>	<p>Deborah Glassbrook April 2012</p> <p>Liquid Logic August 2012 Andrea Robertson</p>		<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>

Issue	Action Required	Owner and target date of completion	Progress	Evidence Action Completed
	Remedial work on data migration Case auditing on monthly basis as part of supervision	Andrea Robertson Andrea Robertson Ann Garratt	Training planned Training planned for team manager audit cases using Liquid Logic tool.	Accurate fostering records October 2012 To be evidence on Liquid Logic September 2012

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
10 SEPTEMBER 2012	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer(s) – Felicity Schofield, LSCB Chair and Judy Jones LSCB Business Manager
Contact Details – fj.schofield@btinternet.com and judy.jones@peterborough.gov.uk tel 01733 864715

PETERBOROUGH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (PSCB) 2011/12 AND BUSINESS PLAN 2012/13

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee with information about the work of the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) through the presentation of the annual report for 2011-12 and the business plan for 2012-13.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee members are requested to comment on and note the contents and to consider if there are any matters they may wish to scrutinise in the future

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. Safeguarding children is fundamental to the success of the sustainable community strategy.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In March 2010 the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 introduced a requirement for LSCB's to produce and publish an annual report. The first annual report under the new regulations was produced in 2011 and was presented to Scrutiny in September of that year.
- 4.2 In May 2011 Professor Eileen Munro published her review of Child Protection which had been commissioned by the Government in June 2010. She recommended that legislation be amended to require the annual report to also be submitted to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, to the Local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 4.3 In July 2012 the Government published their response and accepted the recommendation and is to identify an appropriate legislative vehicle as soon as practicable.
- 4.4 The revision of Working Together 2012 is currently being consulted on with a closing date of 4 September 2012. It retains the requirement noted at 4.2

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The annual report highlights the significant events during the last year, summarises the work of the sub committees, highlights some areas of good practice and presents some statistical

information about safeguarding performance. It was presented to the PSCB on 12 July and agreed subject to some minor changes.

5.2 The business plan for 2012-13 reflects the statutory responsibilities of LSCBs and is particularly influenced by the Children's Services Improvement Plan following the Ofsted Inspection, the Munro review and an external review of the PSCB, undertaken in Feb 2012 and presented reported to the PSCB in March 2012.

5.3 The Board's priorities are to embed the monitoring of quality and effectiveness, monitor the effectiveness and value for money of early help services, ensure PSCB Interagency procedures and practice guidance are developed, reviewed, implemented and are compliant with equalities legislation and ensure the governance of the PSCB reflects its relationship to other boards.

5.4 The PSCB continues to work closely with the Cambridgeshire LSCB and has established joint sub committees for Policy Practice and Procedures, Safe Recruitment and E Safety. This prevents duplication of activity for some of our partners who operate across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. A joint task and finish group has been established to develop awareness and guidance with respect to child sexual exploitation.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 PSCB is funded by the City Council, Cambs Constabulary, NHS Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust and Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. The work of the Board is supported by a small team of 4 with the appointment of a half time Quality and Performance Officer post for 1 year from September in order to embed multiagency monitoring of effectiveness.

6.2 The work undertaken by partners is city wide.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The annual report and business plan has been developed with partners who submitted information for inclusion. They have had the opportunity to contribute to the priorities through discussion at PSCB meetings and received a presentation of the document for final comment at the meeting on 12 July.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 The annual report will be published on our web site and circulated widely. It will also be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The business plan is being implemented and will be monitored through the PSCB Chairs meeting.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 and the changes as outlined in the consultation of Working Together 2012

The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report May 2011

A Child Centred System. The Governments Response to the Munro Review July 2011

The Children's Safeguarding Performance Information Framework .June 2012

10. APPENDICES

10.1 PSCB Annual Report and Business Plan (Appendix1)



2011/12 ANNUAL REPORT and 2012/13 BUSINESS PLAN

Funding Partners:

Peterborough City Council
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
NHS Peterborough
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Probation Trust
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)

Board Partners:

As above
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust
Schools
NSPCC

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Or visit our website at www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk

FOREWORD:

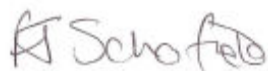
Welcome to the Peterborough Safeguarding Board's 2011-12 annual report. This has been another challenging year for partner agencies across Peterborough, with continued resource constraints and major organisational change, especially across the health service, the police and children's services.

At the beginning of the year, the death of a child from abuse and the subsequent serious case review shocked and distressed us all. However, partners have responded by working together in a challenging and constructive way so that lessons have been learnt and subsequently implemented.

Also, as this year began, we became aware that the improvements within children's social care which had been reported during the previous year had run into difficulty and that the service's ability to respond to safeguarding referrals was deteriorating. However, the true extent of these difficulties did not become apparent to either the Board or to individual partners until the Ofsted inspection of safeguarding in August 2011, which judged safeguarding services to be inadequate. Whilst the improvements made by the Board itself and the work of partners were both judged to be satisfactory, the extent of the challenges facing children's social care were huge.

It is difficult to overstate the turmoil that results from such an inspection outcome, not only across children's services but across the partnership, making 'normal service' almost impossible. However, by December 2011 we had a new interim director of children's services and some stability and a sense of direction was becoming more evident. This sense of purpose, together with optimism for the future, has continued through the remainder of the year with the arrival of two new assistant directors both of whom demonstrated their commitment to partnership working at an early stage.

Throughout this difficult year, partners have continued to demonstrate their willingness to support both the work of the Board and to improve safeguarding services for children and their families. I should like to thank everyone from front line practitioners through to senior managers for their continued hard work and dedication.



Felicity Schofield
Chair
June 2012

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to

- Provide an outline of the main activity and achievements of the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) during 2011 – 2012
- Provide an assessment of the effectiveness of safeguarding activity in the city
- Provide the general public, practitioners and main stakeholders with an overview of how well children in Peterborough are protected
- Identify gaps in service development and any challenges ahead.



The Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) is established under section 13 of the Children Act 2004 which required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) by the 1 April 2006. Detailed guidance, issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, is contained in Working Together to Safeguard Children; Chapter 3 (revised 2010)

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 introduced a requirement for LSCB's to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. Subsequently the Government's response to Professor Munro's review of child protection (2011) was to agree that the annual report should be submitted to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

THE BOARD OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board's purpose is to co-ordinate and to ensure the effectiveness of local arrangements and services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment; and
- preventing impairment of children's health and development; and
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Our Vision is to safeguard and protect all the children of Peterborough

This is achieved through:

- engaging in activities that safeguard all children and aim to identify and prevent maltreatment or impairment of health and development
- leading and co-ordinating proactive work that aims to target particular groups
- leading and co-ordinating arrangements for responsive work to protect children who are suffering or at risk of suffering maltreatment (Working Together Chapter 1 paragraphs 1.20 – 1.24)

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board undertakes its work recognising the diverse needs of children and will promote equality of opportunity.

In order to promote the highest standards of safeguarding work Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board encourages a culture of constructive challenge and continuous improvement by and between member organisations.

STRUCTURE CHART



PSCB Office:
 Business Manager Full Time
 Training & Development Mgr 3 days
 Business Support Officers 1 Full time
 1 x 20 hours

The main board, the operational chairs group, serious case review panel, child death overview panel and each subgroup have their own terms of reference, annual work plans and reporting expectations. The work plans of the groups are the way in which the PSCB business plan is progressed.

Each subgroup is chaired by an agency representative and each has multi-agency representation. Groups are supported by the Business Manager and Business Support Officers. The Independent Chair of the Board meets with group chairs on a bi-monthly basis. The Board receives reports on a regular planned basis from the chairs of the groups.

MEMBERSHIP

Name	Agency
Felicity (Flick) Schofield	Independent Chair
Malcolm Newsam	Executive Director Children's Services
Sue Westcott	Assistant Director Safeguarding Families & Communities
Jill Houghton	Director of Nursing and Quality, NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Mark Hopkins	Assistant Chief Constable Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Ian Clift	Associate Director - Patient Experience, Cambs & Peterborough Foundation Trust
Chris Wilkinson	Director of Nursing, Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Mike Dyson	Assistant chief Probation Officer, Cambridgeshire
Issy Atkinson	Service Manager, CAF/CASS
Emilia Wawrzkowicz	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children, NHS Peterborough
Nick Edwards	Service Manager, NSPCC
Tim Bishop	Assistant Director Strategic Commissioning, Adult Social Care
Chris Emerson	Lay Member
Iain Easton	Head of Youth Offending Service
Kathy McDermott	Head Teacher; Representing Primary Schools
Georgie Billin	Asst. Principal; Representing Secondary Schools

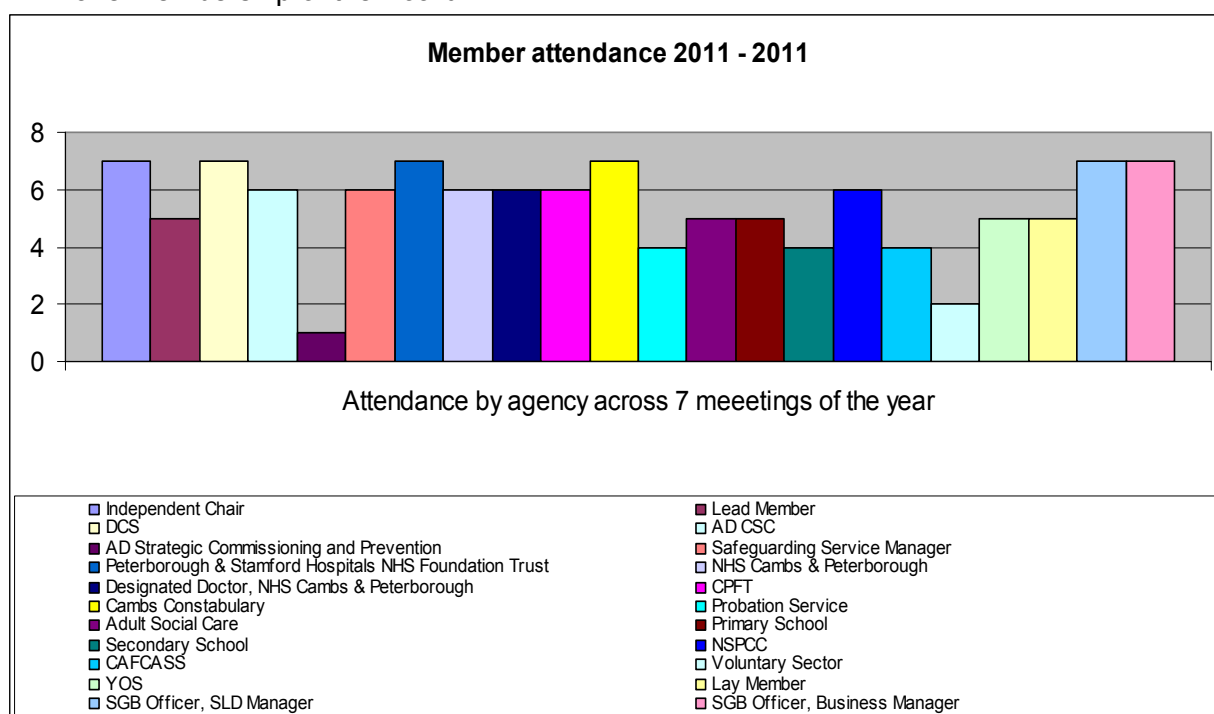
The membership has changed considerably during the year as a result of organisational change across the partnership.

A Lay member was recruited during the year who attended a development day and sits on the communication and information subgroup as well as on the Board.

Peterborough City Council has two lead members who have shared the responsibilities. Councillor Sheila Scott, lead member Children's Services and Councillor John Holdich OBE, lead member Education, Skills and University. They attend as participant observers. Elaine Lewis from Legal Services at Peterborough City Council is the Legal Adviser to the Board.

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETINGS

The PSCB met 7 times during the year, one of these meetings being the development day. Regular and consistent attendance does make a difference. Analysis of the attendance for 2011-12 is good as can be seen below. Members who had not attended were contacted by letter and subsequently two members ceased to have membership of the Board



BUDGET 2011 - 12

The budget is made up of contributions from partner agencies as shown below. The year began with an under spend which has been carried forward and will be partly used in 2012 – 2013 to pay for a half time Quality Assurance & Performance Officer (for one year) and will also be protected to pay for any further Serious Case Reviews which may need to be undertaken

Contributions from partner agencies:

Income in £ from Agency	2011 - 12
Peterborough City Council:	75,911
PCT	47,812
Police	37,773
Probation	9,664

CAFCASS	550
TOTAL	172,710

Costs:

Staff Costs (inc. on costs)	74,989
Independent Chairing – LSCB	37,796
Consultants (Overview Author)	8,296
Training (Trainers ,venues & refreshments)	7,597
Computer Equipment & Programmes	8,579
Other Supplies and Services (includes 2 Business Support Officers and photocopying, stationery etc)	37,896
TOTAL	175,153

MEASURING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BOARD

The table below provides a self assessment of the PSCB and includes findings (in italics) from recent inspections, using the model developed by the centre for Research in Social Policy in their Research Report “The evaluation of arrangements for the effective operation of new local safeguarding children boards in England” (March 2010). This model is based on research which identified the factors which were more likely to ensure the effectiveness of an LSCB as a strategic partnership.



Effectiveness Factor	Effectiveness Indicator
Chairing, Governance and Accountability	
Strong Leadership of the Independent Chair	The current Chair has been in post since May 2010. <i>“Progress has been made in establishing the PSCB which is now operating in an adequate manner”</i> Ofsted Sept 2011
Clarity of Governance	PSCB has a comprehensive governance document. The Board has a “Memorandum of Understanding” with the Children’s Trust about respective roles which will need updating when the new arrangements are in place.
Understanding roles & responsibilities of Board members	The governance document is provided for all board members. An induction workshop has been developed this year for new members.

Priorities and Focus	The PSCB's priorities are outlined in the Business Plan. <i>"The business plan is good and provides impetus for the continued development and improvement of the board. Agency commitment to promoting safeguarding awareness across the city is good and underpinned by a wide range of accessible inter-agency training and publicity material"</i> Ofsted Sept 2011
Clear planning and reviewing of work	The business plan is underpinned by the individual work plans for each subgroup. These plans are reviewed at a bi-monthly chairs meeting. <i>"There has been some effective work undertaken by the board within its subgroups"</i> Ofsted Sept 2011
Clarity of purpose, values and vision	The governance document which includes the constitution and the business plan, details the vision, values and purpose of the board.
Appropriate levels of seniority	Board members are senior managers within their agencies. Details of membership are on page 6
Stability of Board membership	Membership of the board at agency level has been stable although as a result of organisational change the representation has changed. The graph below demonstrates generally good attendance.
Communication	
Strong partnership exists between LSCB and Safeguarding Operational Teams	The Board produces a regular newsletter for practitioners. Better communication from and to front line practitioners has been identified as an area for improvement the coming year
Open communication and shared language between professionals	The board has held 2 "front door workshops to "hear the voice" of practitioners but wants to improve on this issue in the coming year. It has re-established biannual workshops with practitioners from the voluntary and community sector.
Resources	
The LSCB has capacity to fulfil its responsibilities	The LSCB has a team of 4. Business Manager (full time), Training & Development Manager (22 hours) and 2 Business Support Officers (1x full time and 1 x 20 hour). It has agreed to support a Performance & Quality Assurance Officer for next year to drive the Performance Framework. The budget is currently adequate and enables the work to be undertaken.

EXTERNAL REVIEW OF THE BOARD

An independent review of the safeguarding board was undertaken in March 2012 as part of the work being led by the Improvement Board & the interim Director of Children's Services. The review was generally positive, recognising the journey the Board had been on since the Ofsted inspection of May 2010, when it was criticised. There were a small number of recommendations confined to key issues and these are set out below:

Recommendation 1	The implementation of the elements of the Improvement Plan that specify a role for the PSCB should be the highest priority of the PSCB and should take precedence (along with implementing recommendations arising from the SCR) in its business plan and agendas for the next year. In particular the PSCB should be clear how and when the actions and aims ascribed to it are to be achieved and who is responsible for working on them. Progress on each of the aims and actions above should be monitored at each meeting of the PSCB.
<i>The business plan for 2012 – 2013 references where each objective is linked to the improvement plan</i>	
Recommendation 2	The PSCB should review the monitoring and evaluation function of the main board and sub groups (taking into account the issues raised above) and produce an implementation plan for the further development of the function with immediate focus on key areas identified in the Improvement Plan. Partner agencies should provide additional staffing resources to the PSCB support team over at least the next year to assist with this.
<i>A revised performance management framework and dataset has been agreed. A Performance and Quality Assurance Officer post is being recruited to and reports to the board are being identified as for monitoring effectiveness, decision making and briefing/information purposes.</i>	
Recommendation 3	The independent chair of the PSCB should be a member of the revamped Children's Trust Board.
<i>It has been agreed that the chair will be a member of the new Children's Trust arrangements</i>	
Recommendation 4	In order to strengthen the leadership role of the PSCB and its monitoring function and to ensure key messages from the PSCB reach the highest level of governance and management in partner agencies in a timely way, the PSCB should negotiate with partner agencies changes to the PSCB constitution along the lines set out in the governance section of this report.
<i>It has been agreed that the annual report and business plan will be sent formally to the chief executive and chair of the governing body of statutory partners with a request that it is considered by their senior management team. Any comments will be reported back to the PSCB Chair</i>	
Recommendation 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration should be given to there being a senior manager from the education arm of the City Council's Children's Services on the PSCB main board. • The PSCB should commission an annual report which provides an overview of the main issues arising from an analysis of annual reports on safeguarding to school governing bodies. • The Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) should replace the Safeguarding in Education Group and it the

	<p>organiser of the CPIN should be a member of the chairs group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of the PSCB main board should attend each meeting of the CPIN
<p><i>An Education in Safeguarding report has been requested for presentation to the Board in November. CPIN has now replaced the Safeguarding in Education Group</i></p>	

PROGRESS AGAINST THE PRIORITIES OUTLINED IN THE 2011 – 2012 BUSINESS PLAN

The Business Plan for 2011 – 2012 was published as an appendix to the annual report 2010 – 2011. It was developed around 5 priorities which in turn informed the work of the sub-committees.



Performance Management

A performance management framework was agreed by the board in February 2011 and implemented. The outcomes from this are described within the framework (page 12-14) and in the report of the work of the Quality Assurance Group (see page 15). However, following the inspection, the Board recognised that a more robust approach was needed and a revised framework was implemented in March 2012 ready for implementation in the coming year.

Improve Processes and Procedures and Practice

The interagency procedures have been reviewed and are regularly updated on our website. New practice guidance has been agreed and implemented (see page 21-22)

Awareness of safe recruitment procedures and practices have been highlighted with a drive to deliver training to a wider audience

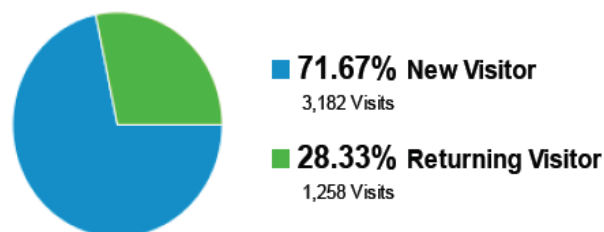
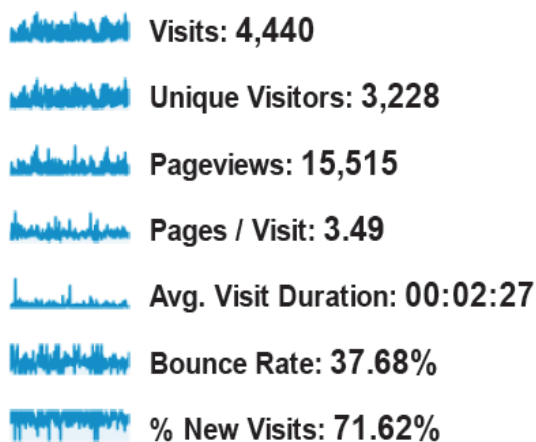
Training

A standard level 1 training pack has been developed for use by individual agencies to adapt for their own needs. This ensures a level of consistency across agencies. The annual training programme has continued to be organised to meet the needs of the target audiences laid out in Working Together 2010.

Raise Public Awareness

A communication strategy has been designed to be able to re-act to media interest (such as a Serious Case Review) and to be proactive in communicating information regarding safeguarding to the public and professionals. Increasingly the website is used by professionals and the public as can be seen by the statistics overleaf.

3,228 people visited this site



THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF THIS REPORT WILL COMMENT ON THE STATUTORY FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD AS OUTLINED IN THE INTRODUCTION.



- To monitor the effectiveness of local work.
- To co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL WORK TO SAFEGUARD & PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN

A performance management framework was agreed by the board in February 2011. The table below sets out the Board's progress as measured against that framework. It should be noted, however, that this framework did fail to identify quickly enough the shortfalls in safeguarding performance and, following the inspection in August 2011, a more robust framework was developed ready for implementation from April 2012.

Subject	Report to/frequency	Responsible	Purpose	Progress
Serious Case Review Action Plans (SCR's)	SCR Group to Chairs Group quarterly and PSCB six monthly	Chair of SCR Group	To enable the Board to monitor progress and impact from recommendations arising from serious case reviews.	The action plan from a previous year was signed off and another SCR was completed during the year. The action plan has been completed.
S11 Audit	PSCB QA Group quarterly, Chairs Group and PSCB six monthly	PSCB chair person, PSCB Manager & chair of QA Group	To enable the Board to monitor partner agencies' progress in fulfilling their safeguarding duties under	The S11 Action Plan regarding Inadequate responses is complete.

			Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.	Further scrutiny was undertaken of 2 specific standards
Single agency audits and quality assurance data	QA Group as and when completed	QA Group	To assure the Board that members are monitoring their own safeguarding practice effectively. Reports to the board will identify any performance area which might be of concern to the Board, together with action being taken by the Agency.	The group received information about children missing education, adoption, an audit of supervision and hospital concern sheets but failed to get agencies to report on their audit work in a way which enabled any emerging patterns across the partnership to be identified.
Multi Agency Audits	2 multi agency audits each year as identified in the Business Plan, plus further audits may be undertaken in response to issues identified through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious Case Reviews • Section 11 returns • Inspections • Single agency audits Reporting to Chairs Group and PSCB 6 monthly	QA Group	To enable the Board to monitor key areas of safeguarding activity as identified in the Business Plan.	The QA group struggled to resource the agreed multi agency audits & to gather sufficient information from other audits to effectively monitor performance. However, 2 multi-agency audits were completed with findings reported to the PSCB.
PI's	QA Group to Chairs Group and PSCB quarterly	QA Group	To report to the Board on areas of safeguarding performance which the QA group has	The group reviewed a dataset at each meeting, with quarterly

			identified as priorities for the year.	reports presented to the Board. However it was mainly social care data. A comprehensive multi agency dataset is being introduced in the coming year.
Themed Reports	Child protection conferencing data – quarterly LADO – half yearly Private Fostering – half yearly CAF – half yearly Details of children missing from home and/or care	Board Manager	To enable the Board to monitor performance in areas for which it has a statutory responsibility and/or which are identified in the Business Plan as a priority.	The provision of these reports has been regular as indicated and the format of reports continues to develop. The timeliness of conferences slipped during the year and then improved.
PSCB annual report	Chair of PSCB to Board annually	Chair of PSCB and Board Manager	To assure the Board that the PSCB is providing value for money and is effective in overseeing work undertaken and services provided to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.	The report contains a mix of PSCB and Partner activity and was presented in July 2011
Child Death Overview Data	Chair of CDOP Annually	Chair of CDOP	To provide an overview of activity and highlight any trends	The report was presented in July 2011

THE QUALITY ASSURANCE GROUP

The **Quality Assurance Group** is responsible for analysing the effectiveness of safeguarding services both in single agencies and across partners. Throughout the year, it struggled to deliver the comprehensive information both the group and the Board needed to confidently monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding practice. Capacity issues across the partnership and some lack of direction within the group resulted in slow progress, although, as can be seen on pages 12-14, overall most actions identified by the framework were completed.



Two multi agency audits have been undertaken in order to check on the quality of practice which had been either highlighted as poor or where there may be concerns. There has been an audit of strategy meetings as a result of a serious case review recommendation and a repeat audit of pre birth assessments following a similar audit last year. The strategy audit results were poor and the group acknowledged that practice has moved on from October 2011, when it took place, and the audit will be repeated in order to compare results. The pre birth audit revealed a more positive picture of multi agency assessments. The group has also developed bespoke audit proformas for the multi agency audits

A S11 audit was completed which is an audit of those agencies who have a statutory responsibility under the Children Act 2004. The results were positive with 43% of the standards being good; 55% adequate and only 2% being judged as inadequate. This was followed by a deeper consideration of 2 of the standards to see if it was possible to tease out good practice which could be shared - in particular how service development can be informed by the views of children, young people and their families.

Following the SCR surrounding the abuse of children in a nursery in Plymouth a review was held to satisfy the Board that safeguards are in place in Peterborough

In addition to social care audits, hospital audits of concern sheets were discussed which gave valuable information regarding the vulnerability of under 5s. Neglect was highlighted as the greatest area of concern.

CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL

The Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) was established in April 2008 as a new statutory requirement as set out in Chapter 7 of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2010. It is chaired by the LSCB independent Chair. Its primary function is to review all child deaths in the area, which it does through two interrelated processes; a paper based review of all deaths of children under the age of 18 years and a rapid response service which looks in greater detail at the deaths of children who die unexpectedly.

Over the last year, twenty children have died in Peterborough, which is the same number as last year. Of those children who died, 70% were babies under a year old with the majority not leaving hospital and dying in the first few days and weeks of life. This pattern is similar to previous years.

Not all the children who died this year have been reviewed by the CDOP panel, which this year reviewed the deaths of seventeen Peterborough children and young people (some of whom will have died the previous year). There is often a gap of several months between a death and that death being reviewed, whilst all relevant information is gathered.

Of the deaths which were reviewed, the pattern of deaths was similar to that noted overleaf with the majority being babies under a year old. The next largest group was teenagers aged 15- 18 years old with five young people dying for a number of different reasons. In the two previous years since figures have been collected there have been no teenage deaths, so this represents a significant change which will be explored further in the coming year.

It is the purpose of the child death overview panel to identify any 'modifiable' factors for each death, that is, any factor which, with hindsight, might have prevented that death and might prevent future deaths. There were only two cases where a modifiable factor was identified, with both cases being very different. Consequently it is not possible to make general statements.

East of England 2010 regional figures suggest that there is only one type of child death which appears as both significantly prevalent and significantly modifiable and this is sudden unexpected death in infancy.

Over the coming year, the CDOP intends to look at what further advice and support can be given to families and professionals on this issue.

THE SERIOUS CASE REVIEW PANEL

The purpose of this sub group is to undertake serious case reviews and other multi agency case reviews where it is believed that lessons could be learned about improving partnership working. A serious case review must be undertaken when a child dies and abuse or neglect is considered to have been a factor in their death.



The main focus of work for the subgroup throughout this year has been to undertake and then implement the learning from a serious case review following the death of a young boy in March 2011. The review was completed in September and subsequently, considerable progress has been made in implementing the learning.

The Serious Case Review undertaken highlighted the importance of conducting thorough assessments in a timely way which include male partners and in particular the significance of domestic abuse. This learning has been translated into workshops for practitioners highlighting the developments in practice required to safeguard children. In conjunction with the Child Death Review Panel, the guidance for practitioners has been clarified to ensure the immediate protection of siblings in cases where a child dies suddenly.

The executive summary and overview report from this review are available on the PSCB website.

The sub group has also discussed the messages arising from other serious case reviews nationally and their implications for Peterborough, and has considered cases where a child has died and a serious case review may have been needed. All relevant learning has been included in multi and single agency training events to ensure that the messages are fully disseminated.

The sub group has considered carefully the recommendations from the Munro review of child protection with regard to using a different approach to serious case reviews and anticipates adopting a revised methodology in the coming year, once it has been finalised by the Government and new Guidance issued.



PRIVATE FOSTERING

Private fostering is legally defined as an arrangement that occurs when a child who is under 16 (or 18 for a child with learning difficulties and/or disabilities) is cared for by someone other than their parent or a close relative for 28 consecutive days or more. A private foster carer may be a friend of the family or the child's friend's parents. However, a private foster carer is sometimes someone who is not previously known to the family, but who is willing to foster the child privately.

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory responsibility to oversee these arrangements. An annual report is presented to the PSCB by the Local Authority officer who has responsibility for private fostering

Figures for the last 2 years are shown below:

April 2010 until March 2011

Notification of new Private Fostering arrangements received during year (01/04/10 - 31/03/11)	Arrangement began before 01/04/10- and continuing on 01/04/10	PF ended during year & Reasons
26	4	21 Residence Orders: 3 16 th Birthday: 5 LA Accommodation: 7 Return to Parent / Close Relative: 6

April 2011 until March 2012

Notification of new Private Fostering arrangements received during year (01/04/11 - 31/03/12)	Arrangement began before 01/04/11- and continuing on 01/04/11	PF ended during year & Reasons
11	9	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>Residence Orders: 3 16th Birthday: 2 LA accommodation: 1 Return to Parent / Close Relative: 7</p>

As can be seen there has been a decrease in notifications in 2011-12. During the year, the private fostering officer moved to the Fostering Team as it was considered this would raise the profile of the arrangements.

MISSING CHILDREN

Having implemented a multi agency protocol for children missing from home and care, a multi agency group meets regularly to review its operation. A single point of contact has been established within the 8-19 Service, which ensures that an impartial return home interview can be offered to all young people. This has proved successful in offering ongoing support to young people who otherwise may have been unaware of services available to them as can be seen from the details below.



This is a new service and details are only available as follows from 1st January to 31st March:

- 26 notifications of young people missing from home and care, regarding 22 young people
- ages ranged from 8 to 18, with the majority being 15-17
- 4 of these went missing more than once, each on 2 occasion during this period. 2 of these young people had previously been missing between June '11 and Dec '11
- 7 of these young people are in care, and a further 3 are open to Children's Social Care

Outcomes:

- 16 return visits have taken place.
- in all other cases follow up takes place via phone, letter and/or contact with Social Worker or other professional involved
- outcomes include
 - in 3 cases, issues have been resolved through the family
 - 3 young people are living/have now moved outside Peterborough
 - 4 young people are actively supported by/undergoing assessment with Children's Social Care
 - 1 young person is working with the Youth Offending Service

ALLEGATIONS MANAGEMENT

Working Together 2010 states that “LSCB’s have a responsibility for ensuring there are effective interagency procedures in place for dealing with allegations against people who work with children”. An officer called a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) manages this process and the role has the following responsibilities:

- a) To advise those involved in the children’s workforce about concerns about possible abuse to children by paid or unpaid workers.
- b) To liaise with Ofsted in respect of concerns about organisations providing registered services to children.
- c) To decide as to whether the allegation should be monitored or managed through the LADO process by making a judgement of the following.
 - Has a person working with children behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child?
 - Has the person committed a criminal offence against or related to a child?
 - Has a person behaved in such away that indicates unsuitability to work with children?

In the previous 12 months the LADO has dealt with 28 allegations which is a decrease of 11 from the previous year. There has been a reduction in the number of allegations year on year over the past 3 years which have led to the holding of a complex strategy meeting to discuss and make plans. This is believed to be as a result of raised awareness across agencies as the LADO role has become more established. This raised awareness has led to more appropriate notifications.

	April – Mar 11/12
Social Care	5
Education	8
Early Years	2
Health	1
Police	-
Foster Carer	4
Secure Estate	1
Faith Groups	2
Other	5
Total	28

Case outcomes (some of the same cases resulted in both/all of the below actions) In comparison with the previous year there were fewer unsubstantiated outcomes and fewer suspensions but more substantiated outcomes, which supports the view that notifications are more appropriate.

	April 2011- March 2012
No Further Action	2
Substantiated	11
Unfounded	5
Unsubstantiated	8
Malicious	1
Suspension	7
Dismissal	2
Resignation	0
Cessation of use	1
Section 47 investigation	10

Criminal investigation	7
Caution	0
Conviction	1
Acquittal	1



CO-ORDINATING LOCAL WORK TO SAFEGUARD AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN

As noted earlier the subgroups carry out the work of the business plan which is monitored by the Chairs group who in turn report to the Board on progress. The work of the Quality Assurance Group, Child Death Overview Panel and Serious Case Review Group has already been highlighted. This section will focus on the work of the other subgroups.

STRATEGIC LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP (SLDG)

Working Together 2010 states “it is the responsibility of the LSCB to ensure that single agency and interagency training on safeguarding and promoting welfare is provided in order to meet local needs. This covers both the training provided by single agencies to their own staff and multi agency training where staff from more than one agency train together”. The Strategic Learning and Development Group are responsible for fulfilling this role. The group is chaired by the NSPCC. The Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding In August 2011 noted “safeguarding awareness across the city is good and underpinned by a wide range of accessible interagency training”

During the year 2011 to 2012 a total of 495 individual training places have been filled by 308 individual participants. Across the year 24 training events have been delivered, covering 14 learning topics as follows:

- An introduction to child development 0-5 years
- An introduction to child development 6-16 years
- Child protection refresher training
- Domestic violence and abuse- risk assessing the situation
- Safeguarding children and young people from new arrival communities
- Safer recruitment
- The effects of domestic abuse
- Working together to safeguard children
- Working with people who display sexually harmful behaviour
- Your role at a child protection conference

- Assessment, Intervention and Moving On
- An introduction to safeguarding children
- Designated Safeguarding Officer training
- An introduction to normal child development
- Recognising and responding to signs and symptoms of child abuse
- The impact on children of parental mental health problems
- Working with sexually exploited young people
- Framework for child protection
- Several workshops addressing learning from serious case reviews,

In addition a voluntary sector forum meeting was held to share information, good practice and new initiatives between the rich voluntary sector in Peterborough and the Board.

The PSCB annual conference 'Child Sexual Abuse – an insight to offender behaviour' was held on 3rd November 2011. The attendance of 128 was the largest ever experienced for a PSCB conference. Feedback from attendees was excellent, with good representation from all agencies.

During the year the following has been undertaken in addition to the training delivered.

- A standard training pack has been developed to ensure quality and consistency
- A learning impact tool, which is a web based tool designed to evaluate the impact that training has had on the practice of participants. One month after a training event participants are contacted to complete the tool and a follow up e mail is sent as a reminder one month later. These measures have led to an increase in responses
- A validation panel now sits quarterly to ensure single agency training is validated and revalidated to ensure content is current

Comments from participants regarding training are generally positive, however further work is needed to ensure that the training being provided is meeting all partners' needs as some agencies are under represented.

The SLDG annual report is available on our website www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk

POLICY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES GROUP (PPP)

This group is a joint group with Cambridgeshire and is chaired by the police. Its overall purpose is to develop local policies and procedures which support effective local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

During the year the following have been completed:

- Revision of the joint working protocol for practitioners working with parents and carers with mental health problems
- Revision of the guidance for professionals working with sexually active young people under the age of 18
- Missing Children Protocol
- Support Policy for Designated Persons in Schools
- Consideration of Single Agency Safeguarding Policies for Fire and Rescue and Youth Offending Service
- Establishment of a task and finish group to develop a strategy on child sexual exploitation (see overleaf)
- Bruising in Pre Mobile babies
- In addition national guidance is reviewed and the following has been placed on our web site. A) Provision of Therapy for Child Witnesses ;B) Child Trafficking

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Half way through the year, in response to the governments action plan "Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation" 2011, the Policy Practice and Procedures Group established a task and finish group. The purpose of the group is to identify any gaps in service delivery.



A scoping exercise is being undertaken to establish a current understanding regarding the extent of Child Sexual Exploitation within Peterborough and Cambridgeshire including safeguarding professionals' understanding, knowledge and awareness of procedures. The scoping exercise also explores and reports on exploitation methods and aims to identify gaps in agencies' safeguarding procedures and business.

A multi agency strategy, linked to the missing children protocol, will be developed and implemented during 2012/13.

SAFER EMPLOYMENT GROUP (SEG)

The overall purpose of this joint Peterborough/Cambridgeshire subgroup is to promote safe employment standards, monitor partner's compliance with these standards, provide and quality assure safer employment training and develop associated policies in conjunction with Human Resources colleagues. It is chaired by an Education Safeguarding colleague who also regularly delivers training on safe recruitment.

During the year the following has been undertaken:

- Promoting safe employment standards and other safe employment information across LSCB partner organisations.
- Monitoring PSCB partner compliance with safe employment standards.
- Developing associated policies in conjunction with HR colleagues for partner agencies adoption or amendment as appropriate.
- Consideration of regular LADO reports and any identified issues.
- Participation in the regional safe employment forum in order to contribute to and benefit from other Local Authority's safe employment activity.
- Responding to central government consultations as required.
- Revision and updating of the Key Employment Standards .There have been some amendments to policy so as to incorporate changing responsibilities relating to the Independent Safeguarding Authority and Criminal Records Bureau review.
- The Chair of the group continues to deliver safe recruitment training on behalf of the PSCB.
- An audit was undertaken to evaluate the relevance in Peterborough of the North Somerset Serious Case Review Recommendations.

E SAFETY

This group is made up of representatives from both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Safeguarding Boards and is chaired by the Head of the Education Safeguarding Service in Cambridgeshire.

The purpose of the e-safety sub-group is to ensure that agencies have in place the tools, knowledge and guidance to raise awareness, prevent and manage any safeguarding issues that may arise from the use of technology.

In the last year the group has:

- Produced an audit tool and check list to help agencies gauge their preparedness to deal with e- safety matters.
- Linked with the Internet Watch Foundation based in Cambridgeshire whose Hotline can be used by anyone to report inappropriate, indecent or obscene images found online.
- Developed guidance on the safe use of social networking.
- Provided advice and guidance on maintaining professional boundaries during online communication with children and families, how to keep personal details secure and ensure staff uphold their reputation.
- Future work will include an update of the E-safety pages on the LSCB website including consulting with children and young people about what they would like to see on there.

They also hope to produce comprehensive guidance on how to manage e-safety incidents, which routes to take and who to report to which will be made available to all agencies.



COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION GROUP (C&I)

The overall purpose of the group is to have a communication strategy which will provide an overarching framework for ensuring the work of the board is effectively communicated to agencies and the public. The group is chaired by an Education Safeguarding colleague and the Lay Member of the Board is a member.

The group has recently invited colleagues from adult services to become members as messages regarding safety cross over children, young people and their families and adults with vulnerabilities.

During the year the following has been undertaken:

- Quarterly newsletter highlighting the work of the Board and partners
- Updated web site
- Development of “The Knowledge” a web based quiz to test out professionals knowledge of the interagency procedures
- A drama production on “Sexting” a topic chosen by young people. A DVD has been produced with an accompanying lesson plan for secondary schools. This has been provided for all schools in Peterborough and all secondary schools in Cambridgeshire.(see over page)

THE VOICE OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

In order to understand what the safeguarding concerns of young people are and if the interventions in their lives are having a positive impact two initiatives are highlighted below.

A DVD has been created jointly with the Children's Trust in response to a group of young people who revealed the emerging issue of a new form of bullying, known as 'sexting'.

The DVD has been created to warn children and young people about the risks and implications of sending sexually explicit images online or when communicating with technology.

'Privates in Public' is a 17-minute film created by young people in association with [Bluemint Media](#).

A recent survey by the [Beatbullying charity](#) suggested that one in five 11 year olds have received a sexually explicit or distressing text or email.



The publicity in the local media following the launch of the DVD, noted the following:

"The sending of such explicit messages is a worrying trend. We should encourage young people to use technology but it's really important they are made aware of the irreversible consequences of their actions too. In some cases a person can face criminal charges for sending 'sexts'."

In 'Privates in Public', a teenage girl commits suicide after images she sent to her boyfriend are circulated amongst peers. Her boyfriend is sent to prison as the sending of such images is an offence.

The DVD and lesson plan has been provided for local secondary schools to be included as part of Personal Social Health and Economic education lessons. It is important children and young people are aware of the legal ramifications and significant social harm 'sexting' can have on their lives.

'Privates in Public' was premiered in March 2012 at a launch event at the Town Hall. Invited guests included the Mayor, Councillor Paula Thacker MBE, Malcolm Newsam, Director of Children's Services, Councillor Sheila Scott, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor John Holdich, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, Flick Schofield, Chair of the PSCB, members of the Children's Trust and the Safeguarding Board and importantly the young people involved in the drama production.

THE ENGAGEMENT OF PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE PROCESS.



The child protection coordinators monitor whether reports have been shared with families prior to a conference, whether parents have been invited to conference and how children and young people's wishes and feelings have been gathered.

As part of the introduction of the Signs of Safety Framework (a more interactive way of conducting a conference which is far more family friendly) the child protection coordinators offer to visit families prior to conference as a way of encouraging and enabling more meaningful participation.

A questionnaire is used when a child protection plan has been removed as a result of positive work with the family and the risk has been reduced. Some comments from families are included below:

"It was all spot on! I've stepped up and started to communicate more. My social worker was brilliant she made me confident; thanks for all your help."

"I had a different chair each time, the 1st one was very undermining I felt like a school child in the head's office, I thought it was how I was supposed to feel; the other 2 were superb. The 2nd social worker was fantastic."

"I didn't have a good relationship with my 1st social worker but subsequent workers were more understanding. I couldn't see my own faults but had a feeling something wasn't right. The children's dad should have been invited; I don't think the social worker put enough pressure on him as they did on me."

"It was difficult but it was straightforward, it was as it should be."

"you need to make sure papers are provided in advance, I found it was very much like follow the leader; there's no back up for social workers particularly those who are part time; it is intimidating but having a pot of tea might help."

"I felt misrepresented, social worker said she had been but she hadn't, since change of worker everything changed; I felt still at square 1 because workers hadn't done what they said they would. I enjoyed the work with FAST even though I didn't want to start with. Although it has been really stressful it has been positive and it has also sorted out my marriage. It opened our eyes"

"Taking the time in the first place to explain what the concerns were and why the plan was put in place initially; I am in a better place now than when the 1st conference was held."

"Taking things slowly really helped."

"I had a good social worker who listened to me, although I didn't agree with the plan I am in a better place now because of it."

These comments have enabled conference chairs and practitioners to reflect on and improve their practice.

National Youth Advocacy Service

NYAS is Peterborough's advocacy provider for children and young people within the authority. Advocacy is provided for children and young people who are: looked after by the authority, classified as being "In Need", being dealt with in the child protection system, care leavers, young people with a disability, children being fostered or placed through "placement with parent" regulations, staying with family and friends or who are attending Family Group Conferences. Typically advocacy is offered to children and young people between the ages of 5 and 18, although if the young person has a learning difficulty or disability this can be extended to the age of 21.

In 2011-12 there were 266 referrals to the NYAS advocacy service. Analysis of these referrals shows that the majority of these referrals were linked to providing support to children and young people at Child Protection Conferences, Child Care Reviews and other review meetings (155 cases). There were slightly more referrals for males than females and the vast majority of referrals were for white British young people (222), but the other referrals did reflect the diverse population of Peterborough.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS HIGHLIGHTED BY OUR PARTNERS

The Board is made up of agencies as outlined and they were given the opportunity to contribute to this annual report. Each agency was asked to state in plain english what their statutory responsibility is and what their key achievements have been in the previous 12 months.

Children's Social Care

The agency has a

- Statutory Responsibility for Safeguarding under S11 of the Children Act 2004
- A duty to carry out the functions under the Education Act with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- A duty to ensure all children are protected from harm including disabled children, unaccompanied asylum-seeking or refugee children

Following on from the Ofsted Inspection in August 2011 significant activity has focussed on 10 core tasks and are highlighted as key achievements:

- **Tackle backlogs by bringing in additional staff**
This additional capacity has been a major contributor to clearing up all of the outstanding initial and core assessments.
- **Make structural changes to front door**
We have re-engineered the working processes within the Contact Centre and between the Contact Centre and the Referral and Assessment Teams. We have also introduced the Early Intervention Service which has successfully diverted families into the 8-19 service and the early years' service
- **Restore reasonable workloads by rebasing the establishment**

The establishment was increased from 56 staff to 81. This, alongside the clearing up of backlogs has had a dramatic impact on workloads – reducing the caseloads in R and A from on average 30 per worker to 13 and in Family Support from 27 to 20

- **Strengthen the quality of work undertaken in the assessment teams**
The introduction of the three pod system, a duty manual and three strong managers has considerably strengthened the quality and timeliness of assessments undertaken. We also adjusted the arrangements so that all core assessments are completed within the Referral and Assessment team
- **Reduce workloads by restoring throughput, pruning caseloads and reducing CIN**
In December we had 1486 open children in need cases- at the end of April this had been reduced to 984; a reduction of over 500 cases
- **Strengthen leadership and accountability**
We quickly appointed two new and experienced Assistant Directors who commenced end of March/ early April. This has added considerable leadership capacity.
- **Implement an effective quality assurance framework.**
The quality framework will be a key driver for our work over the next 6 to 12 months
- **Put in place a compelling workforce strategy**
We have completed the workforce strategy, rolled out a marketing campaign and set up a micro-site. We have moved from a position to no-one applying for jobs in Peterborough to a regular stream of experienced applicants
- **Building an effective commissioning framework and range of preventive services**
There is still more to be done on this and this will be driven by the Assistant Director Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention
- **Providing front line teams with fit for purpose ICT, business support and working arrangements**
A new Integrated Children System (Liquid Logic) was commissioned to be implemented from April 2012. We have also dispensed with hot desking, relocating the teams into team structures.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust

Every NHS Trust has a statutory duty to have arrangements in place to ensure that the organisation and all staff working within it have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Safeguarding Children Team provides expert advice and support to the Trust's mental health services and child health services in Peterborough.

Key achievements

- We have completed the integration of safeguarding teams from the Trust and Peterborough universal and specialist children's services, including the recruitment of new liaison and supervision safeguarding nurses.
- We have worked with partner agencies to revise and update multi-agency guidance for joint working with families where there are parental mental health problems. This has been accompanied by a programme of training, including a series of dates for social workers in Peterborough and multi-agency courses for the LSCB.
- We have led on the development of new guidance and a standard operating procedure for staff working with peri-natal mental health problems.
- We have developed a new knowledge and competency framework for safeguarding which will form part of the performance and appraisal process

for all clinical and non clinical staff in the Trust. It is currently being rolled out across the Trust.

- We have introduced new measures to improve handover of safeguarding concerns between health visitors and school nurses. The Children's Division have begun a comprehensive review of safeguarding supervision and have completed an audit of current provision.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary



Safeguarding vulnerable members of the public is a key priority for the police. All officers and staff have a responsibility to protect children and to support this process the police, with others have developed a Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU). Officers send a referral if they have identified concerns with a child that does not require immediate action, and specialist officers and staff within the MARU assess the referral and decide whether a crime has been committed and which other agencies may need notifying.

The police have a dedicated team of specialist investigators that deal with child abuse, based at Thorpewood Police Station in Peterborough. Working closely with this team is the Paedophile Investigations Unit, which investigates child abuse images on the internet.

Additionally the police work with other agencies particularly the Probation Service in managing registered sex offenders who live within the community to minimise their risks to children.

Key achievements

- As part of a redesign process, the Constabulary has reconfigured some of functions that are delivered, moving the investigation of crimes with obvious safeguarding implications into a specialist department.
- The Constabulary has reinforced its commitment to the safeguarding of the vulnerable, expanding the Public Protection department to take responsibility for not only the investigation of child abuse, but for all rape, adult abuse and domestic abuse investigations across Peterborough. Additionally the Constabulary has set up a missing persons unit within Public Protection bringing a common safeguarding focus to missing children investigations.
- Particularly noteworthy is the instigation of the Domestic Abuse Investigations and Safeguarding Unit (DAISU). Domestic Abuse leads to acute and lingering damage to children living in these homes. The DAISU has a dedicated team working out of Peterborough using the intervention of the criminal justice process, to better safeguard victims as well as children.

The new missing person's team is committed to working with colleagues within the Constabulary, partners and third sector organisations to;

- Prevent children going missing, particularly to reduce the instances of repeats.
- Conduct thorough investigation to locate children who do go missing and ensure a good level of service/ support to their families
- Reduce levels of victimisation and criminality amongst those going missing.

This team will manage all high risk missing person's investigations from the outset along with all medium and low risk investigations after 24 hours.

The team will act as a single point of contact for all our partners for concerns in this area. We will work together to reduce the number of repeat cases, requesting and attending strategy meetings and working towards joint action plans.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Trust

The hospital has highlighted 2 aspects of their wide ranging services to be reported in this annual report.

The Midwifery Team for Vulnerable Women (Rainbow Team) provides maternity care to disadvantaged women including those in prison, those suffering from addictions, learning difficulties or mental health problems and those experiencing abuse. The midwifery team adopts an honest and open holistic approach. Early intervention and signposting to partner agencies is paramount to improve the health and social well-being of mother, baby and their families.

Referrals to the team have significantly increased over the last twelve months the total referrals are anticipated to have increased by over a hundred from the preceding year. This demonstrates that maternity staff now have a greater understanding of issues that can potentially impact on both the health and social well being of families.

This has proven that the targeted training which is now offered to maternity staff has had a direct effect on raising awareness thus increasing referrals to the team.

Because of the positive impact of the training within the maternity service and the acknowledgement of safeguarding, the team has been given the additional resources of another midwife from the community setting to work with them. The aim of the yearly rotation of a midwife from the community is to enable the cross transfer of knowledge and skills in relation to Safeguarding which will allow the acknowledgement of safeguarding issues to be highlighted at an early opportunity and thus hopefully allowing time for additional work to be completed with the prospective parents before the arrival of the baby.

And

The play team together with the safeguarding team have produced age appropriate play packs to use with children in hospital.

This will enable children of most ages to express their feelings via play, using a variety of methods such as happy/sad faces and families

To prompt the staff to improve their documentation for safeguarding and to gather details that may help with a safe outcome for the child, we now have a logo HIPPO, specific to all safeguarding documentation.

All communication, play resources will have this HIPPO stamp.

H - How long visited for

I - Interaction between child and carers

P - Parenting abilities

P - People visiting the child

O - Other concerns

This development followed the recent serious case review held in Peterborough

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust supervises about 3000 offenders in the county. The Trust aims to protect the public, safeguard children and reduce reoffending. Working in partnership with others Probation manages these offenders on community orders and licence from prison, delivering programmes which support rehabilitation and reduce the likelihood of further offending. Where offenders fail to comply with these requirements they are returned to Court or prison and information on the risks offenders may pose both to children and adults is shared and managed with criminal justice and other statutory partners.

Key achievements

- Whilst the Trust reduces but cannot remove risk of reoffending the number of further serious offences committed by offenders under supervision in Cambridgeshire is the lowest figure for the past five years (3).
- The Trust scored highly in audit by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation in 2010 and has fully implemented requirements for improvement including those linked to safeguarding in 2011.
- The Trust has again sustained high standards of performance for public protection and offender management work evidenced through the national probation trust performance framework (PTRS)
- Staff training remains a priority and 30% of operational staff have received or refreshes their safeguarding training.
- The Trust has extended alcohol and domestic abuse programmes available to the courts to better target interventions towards offenders who are a risk to adults or children.
- The Trust together with local sentencers has reached more than 50 community groups this year to raise awareness and understanding about how Courts and probation work together to safeguard adults and children and in particular reduce the risk which some offenders represent to children
- The Trust has improved systems for communicating and sharing information with key partner agencies about risks to children and adults beyond the statutory meeting of MAPPA and Child Protection Conferences and core groups
- The Trust has reviewed its arrangements for managing offenders convicted of domestic abuse offences, increased the range of sentences available to courts and improved jointly the way in which we manage information in relation to parents risks to children whilst completing our Domestic Abuse Programmes

NHS Peterborough

NHS Peterborough is a commissioning health organisation, often referred to as the PCT. It is responsible for the contracting of health services from provider organisations.

The main health providers include the following:

- Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who manage hospital services
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust who provide mental health services. Since April 2011, they also provide Peterborough's Health Visiting and School Nursing services, as well as other children community services.
- General Practitioners are independent contractors and are supported by the PCT.

Key achievements

GP engagement and the preparation for transition has continued to be a high priority this year and will continue to be.

- Level 3 training was made available to the GPs over the previous twelve months and this has been positively evaluated, showing an increased awareness of safeguarding children and young people issues.
- The GP resource pack has been updated quarterly and disseminated amongst practices. It includes information to support GP practices in governance related issues and identifying vulnerability in families.
- As a result of a recent serious case review, bespoke training and support has been offered to an individual practice and any further developments will be then disseminated across the wider GP community.
- The Designated Professionals have also continued to deliver advice and consultation when required on a case by case basis.

A quality monitoring framework has been developed. This provides continued monitoring on Section 11 action plans, along with a series of key performance indicators that provide positive outcomes for children and young people. Quarterly reporting to the PCT, by health organisations who deliver services has been established and will continue following transition to Clinical Commissioning Group arrangements

- In November 2011 all involved partners with the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU) supported a health workshop to begin exploring the development of the relationship between health and MARU. Following this a working party has developed a business plan to progress the relationship commissioners. The relationship between MARU and health is significant in the future effectiveness and efficiencies of partnership working, improved communications and risk assessments regarding safeguarding children, adults and domestic abuse.
- The Health Safeguarding Group (HSG) has continued to provide an excellent forum for the sharing of research and best practices across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough health services, the dissemination of learning from serious case reviews and management reviews and importantly the support of safeguarding professionals across the health economy.
- The Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) has continued to provide an excellent service across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It also now provides services for Bedfordshire and Luton, and continues to develop as a centre of expertise and quality service provision.
- As a result of the serious case review the management of sudden and unexpected deaths in children has been reviewed and improved.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)

Cafcass has a statutory duty to safeguard the welfare of children and young people in all Children and Adoption applications to the Court. We are an independent Government organisation that ensures the voice of children and young people are heard in Court and that arrangements for their care are safe.

We have continued to respond to rising demand in care applications by ensuring that every child has a Children's Guardian at the first court direction. Care applications have increased year on year from an average of 7 a month in 2010 to 13 up to February 2012.

We are working with the Local Practice Improvement Group, part of the Family Justice Council to reduce the time taken for care applications to progress through the court system.

Key achievements

- Our Early Intervention Service in Private Law ensures that all applications for Residence or Contact are screened for risk factors within 24 hours of receipt. A Safeguarding Report is available to the Court at the first directions hearing and a Family Court Advisor is available to ensure the safe progress of the matter.
- All of our work in public and private law is allocated on receipt of a request from the Court and we are currently working with 273 families in Cambridgeshire to ensure any decisions the Court makes are safe and provide an effective and positive outcome for the children and young people involved.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care (ASC) moved from the PCT back to the council on the first of March 2012 after being part of the PCT via a partnership agreement for the previous eight years. This has meant that the council has re-established an Adult Social Care Directorate – headed by the Director of Adult Social Care and three Assistant Directors responsible for Care Services delivery; Strategic commissioning; and Quality Information and Performance.

The priorities for Adult Social Care are:

1. Promote and support people to maintain their independence
2. Delivering a personalised approach to care
3. Empowering people to engage with their communities and have fulfilled lives

The ASC directorate is the lead agency for Safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and hosts the Safeguarding Adults Board which meets bi-monthly.

In this very early stage the key achievements have been:

Maintaining continuity and integration of services while moving the service back to the council.

Starting the process of reviewing all our contracts with providers to ensure they are fit for purpose – including around safeguarding.

Young Lives

Young Lives is an organisation which supports voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations working with Children, Young People and Families across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. We have three strands of work.

- Provide support, representation, training and other services to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to improve the effectiveness of their work with children, young people and their families
- Enable children, young people and their families to develop their skills and confidence, through a range of engaging active citizenship and participatory activities that help them maximise their potential.
- Inform, advise and provide up to date and relevant personalised information to help parents make informed decisions for their families

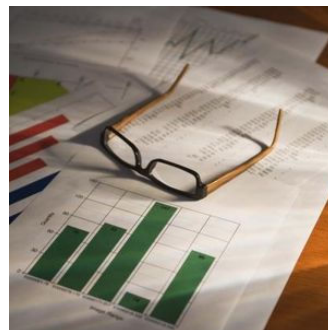
Membership of Young Lives opens up a range of services.

Key achievements

- As part of our Support and Development strand, in 2011/12 we focussed on providing Safeguarding Training, CRB checks and Human Resource services to the sector.
- We delivered Warner Interviewing training out of county and also fronted an on line Safeguarding training video for CODE which provides information and support to Dental Surgeries throughout the UK.
- We delivered 12 open courses to 125 individuals. These courses consist of Introduction to Safeguarding, Warner Interviewing, DCPO (Designated Child Protection Officer), and Refresher Safeguarding.
- In addition to this we delivered 14 hosted courses to various organisations ranging from small voluntary organisations to the NHS.
- As part of our role as an Umbrella Body we have carried out 264 CRB checks this year on organisations working in the Peterborough area. These checks are carried out for any agency working with any vulnerable group.

SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE DATA

There are 44,300 children and young people aged 0 – 19 years in the city council area with 24% of this population living in poverty. There are a high number of families from Eastern Europe who have settled in the city but other cultures and ethnic groups are also represented. This brings with it challenges for all of our partners in the city



Within the current child population 99 different languages are spoken and 27% of school pupils have english as their second language. There are marked differences in the levels of deprivation and affluence in Peterborough with some wards represented in the highest quartile of deprivation and others in the top quartile for affluence.

Nationally there has been a rise in the numbers of young people subject to a Child Protection Plan as can be seen below in figures published by the Dept for Education. A new method of calculating these statistics was introduced in 2010. These figures are now taken from the Children In Need Census

National Trends in Child Protection

Category of abuse	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Neglect	12,500	13,400	15,800	17,200	18,700
Physical abuse	3,500	3,400	4,400	4,700	4,500
Sexual abuse	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,200	2,300
Emotional abuse	7,100	7,900	9,100	11,400	12,100
Multiple	2,700	2,500	2,900	3,400	5,000
Total	27,900	29,200	34,100	39,100	42,700

Peterborough's data is set out below and reveals an increase in the numbers of children subject to a child protection plan this year.

Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12
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Child Protection	140	146	167	153	172	181	185	191	211	219	194	185
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Category of abuse or neglect which triggered the Child Protection Plan

Neglect	68	74	74	64	75	80	85	87	99	100	83	86
Physical	15	14	13	15	15	18	16	17	17	28	31	27
Sexual		2	8	7	8	8	8	10	11	10	15	10
Emotional	37	43	61	59	66	71	70	72	79	78	62	60
Combination	20	13	13	8	8	4	6	5	5	3	3	2

Subject of a Child Protection Plan

Temporary	14	17	12	15	14	18	10	10	9	3		
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Age

Under 1	8	14	16	14	17	20	19	21	21	23	16	15
1 - 4	58	60	65	59	66	69	70	67	70	75	67	64
5 - 9	43	42	48	43	47	45	48	51	54	56	53	56
10 - 15	29	28	36	35	40	43	43	45	58	56	51	44
16 +	2	2	2	2	2	4	5	7	8	9	7	6

Gender

Male	77	75	87	80	90	96	98	92	99	104	90	86
Female	63	70	79	73	82	85	87	99	112	115	104	98

Ethnicity

White British	102	102	117	107	114	124	125	134	151	148	135	141
Gypsy/Roma							2	2	2	1	2	1
Any Other White Background	15	15	20	19	21	19	17	19	20	32	24	18
WHITE	117	117	137	126	135	143	144	155	173	181	161	160
White and Black Caribbean	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	3	1	1	1
White and Black African		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
White and Asian	6	7	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	2	2	2
Any Other Mixed Background	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	2	1	4	2	2
MIXED	13	16	16	13	13	14	14	10	10	8	6	5
Indian					1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pakistani	5	5	7	5	8	7	9	7	7	7	7	6
Bangladeshi												
Any Other Asian Background		1										
ASIAN or ASIAN BRITISH	5	6	7	5	9	8	11	9	9	9	9	8
Caribbean												
African					2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Any Other Black Background	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			1	1	1
BLACK or BLACK BRITISH	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	2	2	3	3	3
Chinese												
Any Other Ethnic Group		1	1	1	1							
Not Stated	2	3	3	5	9	11	11	15	17	18	15	9

In the year from April 2011 to 31 March 2012 the number of children with a child protection plan increased from 140 in April 2011 to 185. In January 2012 the total reached it's highest with 219 children having a child protection plan. Significantly, there have been a number of large families being made subject to a child protection plan, including families with 12, 9 and 8 children.

It is also consistent with statistical neighbours who have all experienced a rise in the numbers of children with a child protection plan. Nationally the Baby Peter Case has

been acknowledged as causing a rise in referrals. In addition, within the city, the effect of the poor safeguarding inspection has had a similar effect.

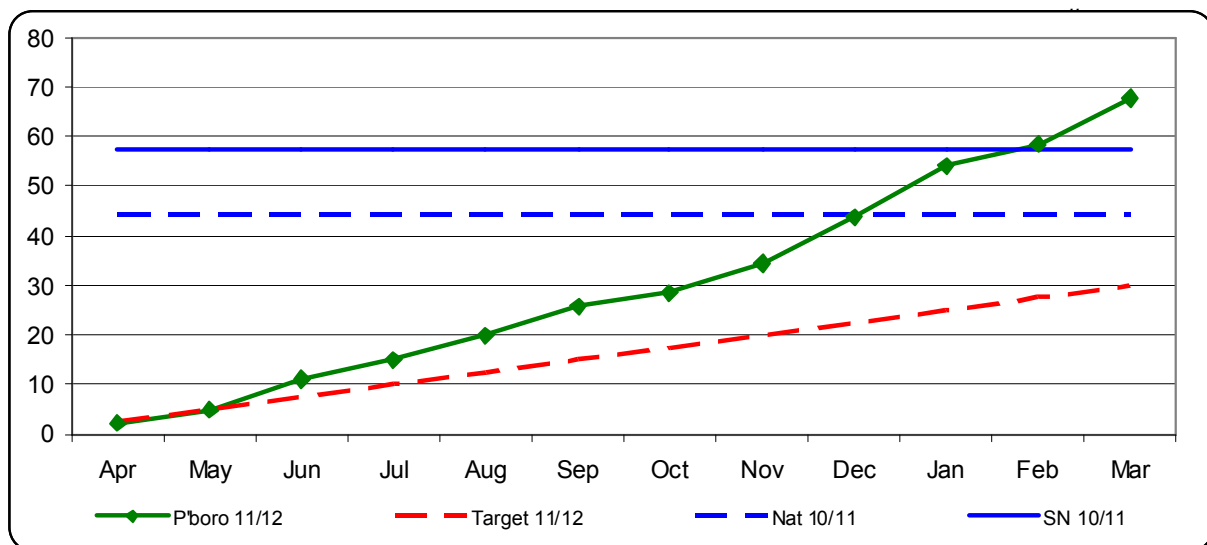
There continues to be a higher rate of males than females with a child protection plan. This has been a consistent feature over the past 4 years.

Throughout the year the highest numbers of children with a child protection plan are classified as white/British. Of the total number of children with a child protection plan at 31 March 2012 141 (76%) were classified as white British. At the end of the reporting period there were 5 children with disabilities who were subject to child protection plans. This is an area which will be looked at in greater detail in 2012-13.

The highest category of abuse or neglect which triggered the child protection plan has been neglect. Whilst this has been consistent over the last 5 years there has been a steady increase in the category of emotional abuse, especially in the last 6 months of 2011/12. Physical abuse is the third highest category with sexual abuse the lowest.

There are a higher number of children in the age range 1 to 4 years that are the subject to a child protection plan. At the end of this year children 1 to 4 accounted for 34% of the number of children with a child protection plan. 54% of children with a child protection plan were in the 5 to 9 or 10 to 15 age range. The remainder being under 1 year (8%) and over 16 (3%).

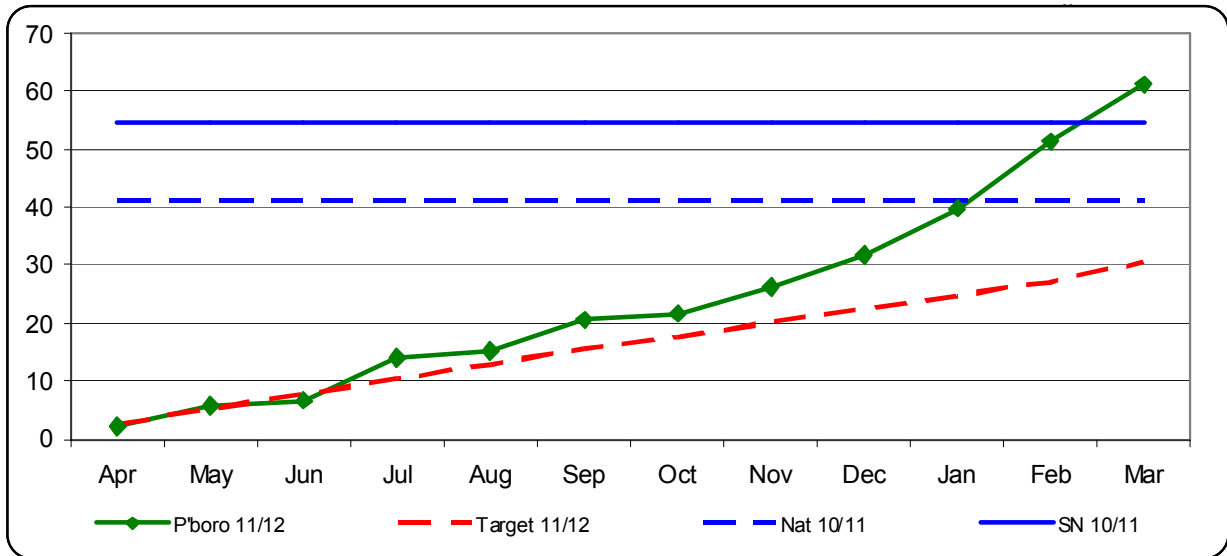
The Number of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan per 10,000 of the local population (aged under 18)



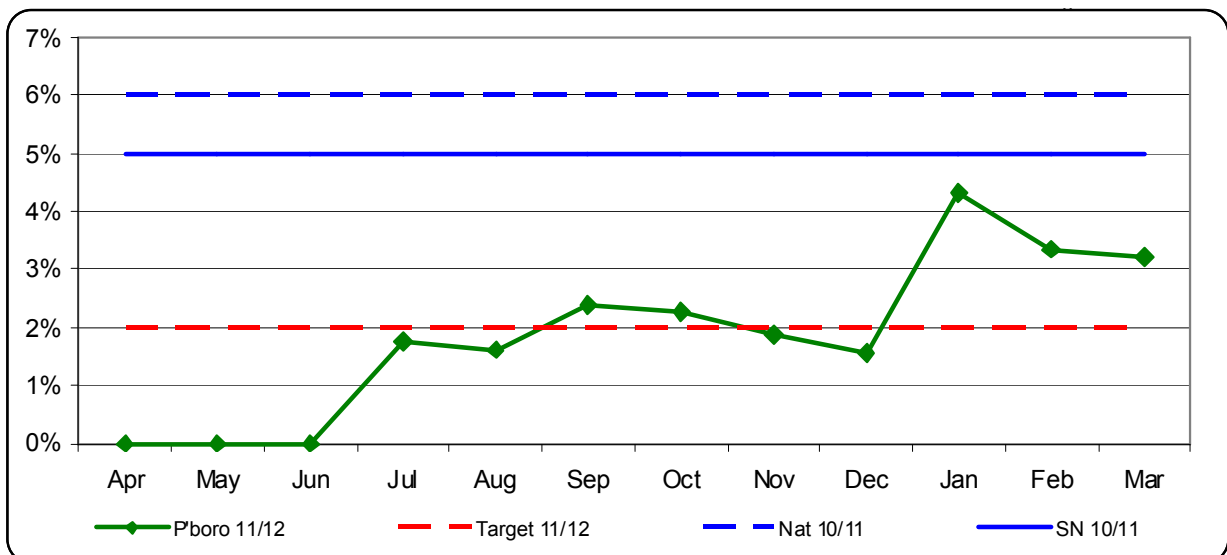
The number who became subject to a CP plan for second or subsequent time

In this year 276 (67%) children became the subject of a child protection plan. This is higher than our statistical neighbours whose 2010/11 target was 60%. Of the 276 children who were made the subject of a child protection plan, 34 children had previously had a child protection plan in Peterborough.

The number of discontinuations of a Child Protection (CP) Plan per 10,000 of the local population under 18



Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more



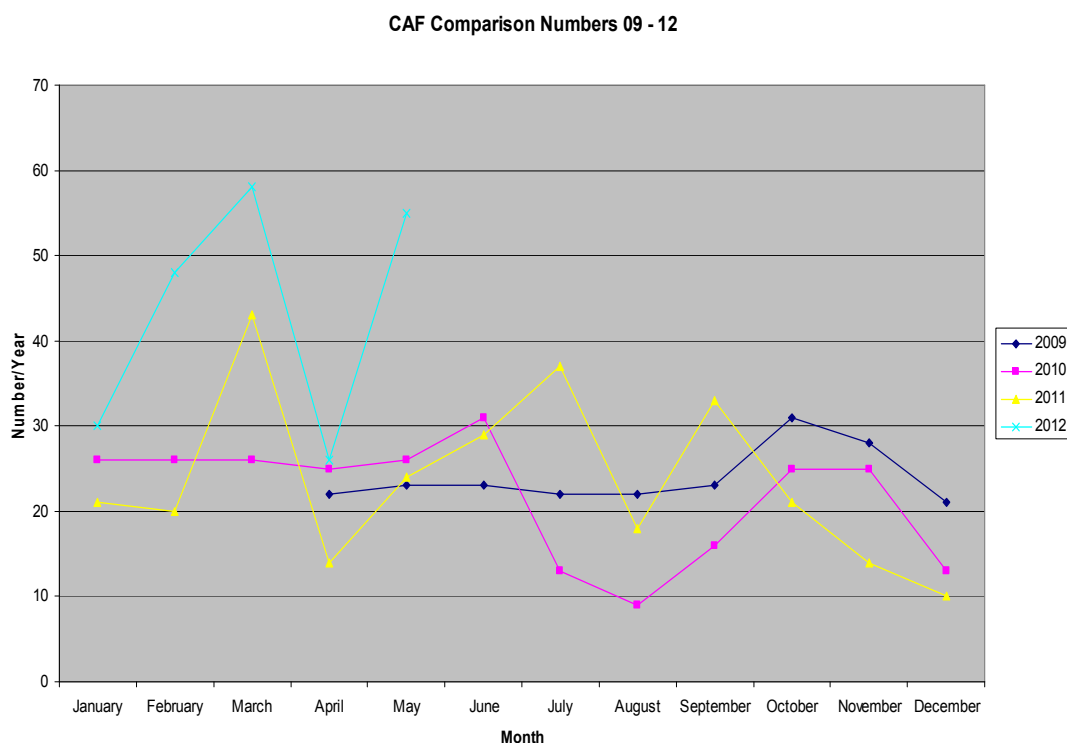
249 children's child protection plans were ended in the year 2011/12. Of those 8 children had been subject to a child protection plan for 2 years or more.

This data demonstrates that the child protection conferencing service has been extremely busy throughout the year. There is a clear focus on child protection plans being reserved for those children who are identified as at risk of significant harm and on removing the plan when evidence shows that the risk has reduced to an acceptable level.

COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK DATA

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) for children and young people is an approach to conducting an assessment to identify a child's unmet needs. It has been designed to help practitioners assess needs at a much earlier stage. Professor Eileen Munro in her review in 2011 argued strongly that the provision of early help was not just about preventing abuse or neglect, but improving the life chances of children and young people.

The following graphs show the increase in the numbers of CAFs registered

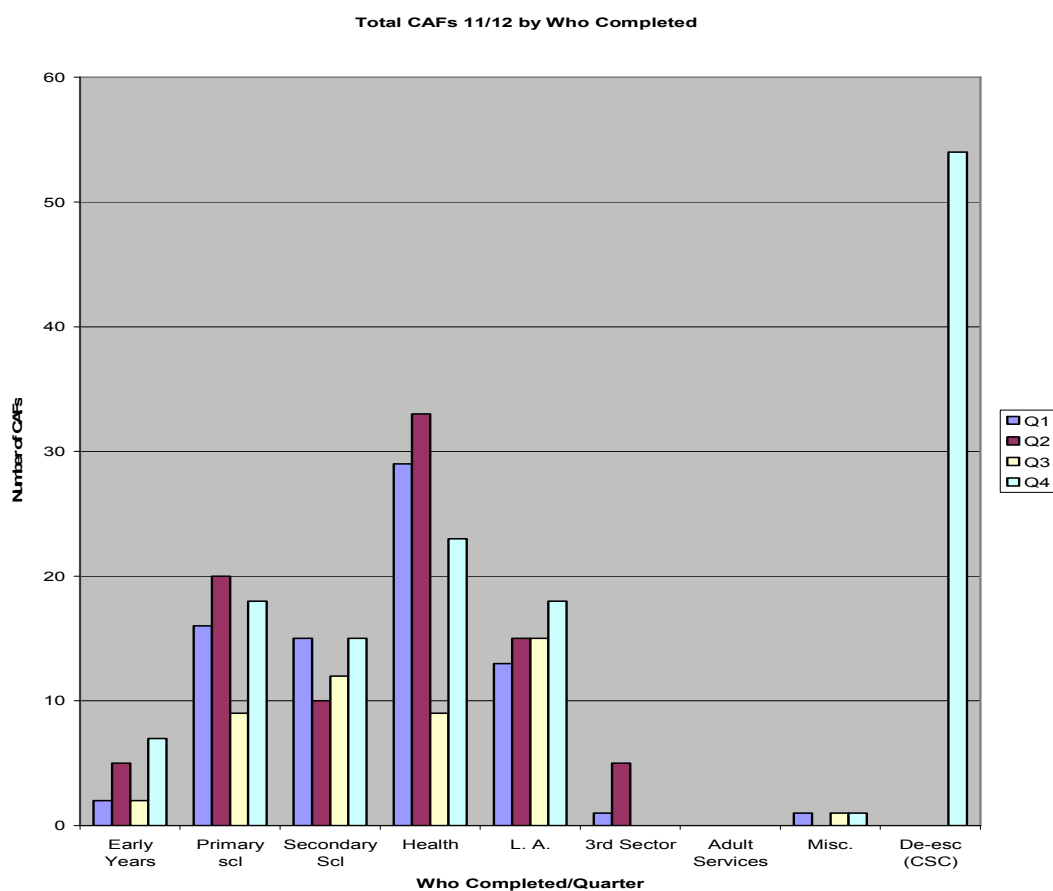


CAF data is currently collected monthly in respect of the number of CAF's registered, who completed the CAF,

The first graph shows the total number of CAF assessments registered on the central CAF database since April 2009. The information can be explained/analysed in the following ways:

- Figures were not available prior to April 09 due to the introduction of a new recording system
- 'Dips' in numbers of CAFs recorded per month can mostly be explained by school holiday periods
- The first few months of 2010 are an average over the quarter and so the numbers appear are the same each month
- 2011 generally shows an increase in the number of CAFs over the year
- 2012 shows a significant increase in the number of CAFs produced so far this year (see below)

The following graph shows where the CAF originated



A new arrangement was put in place between Children’s Social Care and the CAF team in Feb 2012 where families being closed to CSC support but who may need continued support at a lower level, were to be ‘de-escalated’ to CAF. A CSC assessment would be registered as a ‘deemed CAF.’ As this was only introduced in Feb it accounts for why the de-escalation totals only shows a quarter 4 figures.

- Prior to the introduction of de-escalations CAFs registered by schools account for almost 40% of all CAFs registered (21% primary, 18% secondary)
- The introduction of de-escalation cases has made a significant difference to the number of CAFs registered accounting for 16% of the CAFs registered throughout the whole year even though the system only operated for 2 months of 2011/12
- There are no CAFs instigated by adult services. This is a matter which the Safeguarding Board have the opportunity to highlight when it receives the annual CAF report in September.

The number of CAFs registered by health services is high due to those completed by the ‘Vulnerable Women’s Midwifery Team’ who use the CAF assessment to access Children’s Social Care.

FINAL ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Ofsted inspection in August 2011 highlighted a difference between its findings and the understanding of the Board with respect to the effectiveness of safeguarding in Peterborough. The inspection caused the board to reflect on the effectiveness of its governance, monitoring and quality assurance systems and has taken urgent action to improve them. One of the aims of this year's business plan is to ensure that the Board has a more accurate understanding of safeguarding work within and across each of its partner agencies.

Significant progress has already been made in this respect through the introduction towards the end of the year of a more robust and comprehensive performance framework, ready for implementation from April 2012. This framework includes a multi agency dataset which all Board members have signed up to, twice as many multi agency audits and ensures that the views of frontline practitioners are heard through regular workshops.



Overleaf at Appendix 1 is the overarching business plan for the Board for 2012-13

Appendix 1 Business Plan 2012-2013

Our overarching strategic objective is to scrutinise and challenge the effectiveness of services delivered to children and families in Peterborough in order for children and young people to be safe and achieve positive outcomes.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

	Objective	Lead	Actions	Outcome
1.	Embed the monitoring of Quality and Effectiveness Linked to Children's Services Improvement Linked to the Simpson review of the Board Linked to Ofsted evaluation schedule Jan Linked to existing Working Together 2010	PSCB Quality and Effectiveness Group	See Performance Framework/Monthly Audit Plan	PSCB enabled to have sufficient knowledge and understanding to effectively challenge agencies to deliver positive outcomes
		Communication and Information Group	Ensure voice of children, young people and their families is heard and informs practice	PSCB enabled to challenge agencies to deliver appropriate services to meet the needs of children, young people and families
		Strategic Learning and Development Group	Ensure engagement with practitioners to inform an understanding of current practice	Develop the appropriate learning and development opportunities
		Strategic Learning and Development Group	Monitor the impact of continuous learning	A more confident workforce

Supported by the work plan for each group

EFFECTIVENESS OF EARLY INTERVENTION

	Objective	Lead	Actions	Outcome
2.	Monitor the effectiveness and value for money of early help services including early years provision Linked to Munro Review Linked to Children’s Services Improvement Plan Linked to Ofsted Evaluation Schedule Jan 2012	PSCB Quality and Effectiveness Group	Receive regular reports and monitor impact of universal and targeted services	Good quality early intervention will enhance outcomes for children and reduce referrals to statutory agencies
		Strategic Learning and Development Group	Ensure training meets the needs of practitioners to manage risk	A more confident workforce
		PSCB	Monitor the impact of current resource constraints on the provision of services	PSCB to satisfy itself that children are not falling through the net

Supported by the work plan for each group

DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

	Objective	Lead	Actions	Outcomes
3	<p>Ensure PSCB Inter agency procedures and practice guidance are developed, reviewed, implemented and are compliant with equalities legislation</p> <p>Linked to Children’s Services Improvement Plan</p> <p>Linked to existing Working Together 2010</p>	Policy Practice and Procedures Group	Embed revised Working Together and Assessment Framework	Opportunity to review compliance with guidance
			Establish Task and Finish Group to develop and promote guidance in the area of child sexual exploitation	Better understanding leading to targeted services
		Safer Employment Group	Review agencies HR policies	A safer workforce
		Quality and Effectiveness Group	Monitor if thresholds are understood by all	Consistency of referral and response
		Strategic Learning and Development Group	Develop training which meets the needs of staff working with child sexual exploitation	Increased knowledge leading to greater protection for this vulnerable group
		E Safety Group	Promote best practice e safety work	Parents, Carers, Professionals and Young People better safeguarded

Supported by the work plan for each group

Appendix 1 Business Plan 2012-2013

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

	Objective	Lead	Actions	Outcomes
4	<p>Ensure the governance of the PSCB reflects its relationship to other Boards and establishes the framework for its leadership role</p> <p>Linked to the Simpson review of the PSCB recommendation</p> <p>Linked to the Children's services Improvement Plan</p> <p>Linked to the Ofsted evaluation schedule 2012</p>	PSCB Board and Chairs Group	Review membership of PSCB and governance arrangements in line with Simpson review	Safeguarding to be further embedded in the governance of partner agencies
			Establish a "risk matrix"	Awareness of potential risks and remedial action which may be required
			Review the Memorandum of Understanding with the revised Children's Trust arrangements	PSCB and Children's Trust able to work effectively together

Appendix 2

SAFEGUARDING - KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to ensure children stay safe, it is important that everybody knows their responsibilities around safeguarding. This guide is here to help:

1. Members of public

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child or young person, or that they may be subject to abuse or harm:

- **Don't ignore your concerns** - contact the Police or the Children's Services Contact Centre (contact details below) who will make appropriate and sensitive enquiries. Your confidentiality will be maintained at all times.
- It is better that a nagging doubt is reported, and turns out to be nothing than for nobody to help a child who is suffering harm.

2. Practitioners

All those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This duty extends to your private life as well as your professional one.

We would expect you to:

- Be familiar with and follow your organisation's policy and procedures for safeguarding the welfare of children.
- Know who to contact to express concerns about a child's welfare.
- Attend training that raises awareness of safeguarding issues and equips you with the knowledge and skills you need.
- Never ignore a 'nagging doubt' and to report any concerns you have.

3. Organisations

All organisations that work with children and young people need to be aware of how the issues of safeguarding apply to the organisation, staff, volunteers and trustees.

Your organisation needs to make appropriate plans for:

- A member of your staff team reporting concerns about the safety of a child they are working with.
- Your organisation being asked by Children's Social Care or the police to provide information about a child or a family.
- An allegation being made against a member of your staff.
 - To help your organisation deal with these issues you should have a safeguarding policy and a set of procedures that all staff, volunteers and trustees must follow. These should be based on the Safeguarding Board's multi agency procedures (see PSCB website www.peterboroughscb.org.uk).
- Your organisation should provide appropriate training for staff, to ensure they have the knowledge and skills they need to keep children safe (see PSCB Workforce Development Brochure on the web site).
- You should ensure that you are recruiting safely, so that checks are made for any staff who may have access to vulnerable people during their work.

Appendix 2

- Two key pillars of a safeguarding culture are rigorous risk assessments and a code of conduct. It is essential that everyone involved in your organisation knows what behaviour is acceptable and what is not. Creating a safeguarding culture within an organisation is much easier if everyone is fully aware of the behaviour and conduct that is expected from all.

Useful Contacts:

- Contact Centre Duty Officers 01733 864180 and 864170 (out of hours 01733 561370)
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary 101
- NSPCC 0808 800 5000
- Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board 01733 863744
- Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board web site
www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk

Appendix 2



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
10 SEPTEMBER 2012	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer(s) – Wendi Ogle-Welbourn
Contact Details – 01733 863749

RESPIRE AND HOME SUPPORT UNIT – CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (CHERRY LODGE)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is being presented to make the committee aware of the short breaks services available in Peterborough for children and young people with disabilities with the focus on plans to establish Cherry Lodge as a central 'hub' that connects to a variety of 'wrap around' short breaks services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 We ask the committee to consider the information provided which describes our current short breaks services and to support our plans for future service development.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 In line with the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011, the local authority must provide 'a range of services which is sufficient to assist carers to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively.' With this as the objective, PCC under the Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention directorate, provides a variety of short breaks services to children and young people with disabilities between the ages of 4 and 19 via established and newly commissioned services. Meeting our responsibilities under this legislation links to the commitments outlined within the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Single Delivery Plan to support vulnerable people, to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and specifically to ensure people living in Peterborough are supported in caring for others, including children and disabled family members.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Cherry Lodge

Cherry Lodge is a purpose built, 8-bedded children's home providing short break and residential care for children and young people with severe and complex disabilities. Currently, there are 4 young people receiving a residential provision and 22 young people receiving a short breaks provision.

The home opened 8 years ago with a remit to provide needs-led packages of care with the hope that the request for residential placements would reduce. Throughout the time Cherry Lodge has been open there have been less requests for residential care and the young people who have moved into the residential provision have tended to be older than during the period when short breaks were not available through Cherry Lodge. In most instances, these young people have graduated from a short breaks provision to a residential provision in a timely and positive way rather than as a result of family crisis which has been attributed to the increasing demands of caring for a severely disabled child.

Cherry Lodge has demonstrated that forging links with partner agencies enables children with complex health needs to access a provision where their social needs are given due consideration and priority and they have the opportunity to engage with children and young

people who do not have such significant health needs.

During the home's last full inspection Cherry Lodge was judged to be Outstanding (see appendix 1). The inspector stated that 'children and young people benefit from attending a provision where their individual needs are recognised and their wishes and needs are listened to. This allows them to make exceptional progress. Staff have consistently high aspirations for young people and place the well-being of each child at the centre of their practice. Children and young people are kept safe, each child's individual communication style is valued and respected, and positive styles of behaviour are encouraged'.

4.2 **Outreach support**

Outreach services have been introduced to several families that have access to Cherry Lodge over the last two years and this has served as an effective alternative to increasing children's short breaks packages away from the family home. Building on the success of this service, plans are underway to offer outreach to families as a stand alone or intermediary service as well as an addition to a service in place.

4.3 **The Family Link Service**

The Link Service has recently transferred to Cherry Lodge from the fostering service. As well as expanding the service that has already been established, a Retained Link Carer Scheme is currently being implemented. A Link Carer with the necessary expertise has been retained by the department to provide regular short breaks to children and young people with complex and multiple needs including associated health needs. The primary aim of the scheme is a reduction in the numbers of younger children accessing residential short breaks services such as Cherry Lodge and The Manor. Several children between the ages of 2 and 5 have been identified as prospective matches for the retained link scheme. More retained carers will be recruited in response to need. Children accessing the retained link scheme will also periodically access activities and opportunities within Cherry Lodge so should a retained carer be unable to provide care to allocated children as a result of a medical emergency for example, Cherry Lodge could, if necessary be considered as an alternative. Future plans include drop in sessions for Link carers, children and young people to offer opportunities for support, advice and friendship.

4.4 **The Manor**

The Manor is a purpose built 8-bedded children's home providing a variety of short break services to children and young people with disabilities. There are currently 31 young people receiving a short breaks package at The Manor and 51 young people accessing their clubs and activities service. They are supported by a staff team who are equipped to meet the diverse range of needs of the children and young people who access The Manor and the services it provides.

Children and young people who access the home for day-care or overnight care require a higher level of support due to their behavioural or physical difficulties than those that access the various after school and holiday clubs that are on offer. These children and young people benefit from a safe environment in which to play develop and socialise and they have regular opportunities to access activities and events within their local community and further afield.

The clubs and activities service was developed following a best value review of Children's Services during which it was acknowledged that some parents, carers, children and young people didn't necessarily want day or overnight care and were looking for alternatives. The Manor responded to this by organising successful, well attended drama, art and cooking clubs.

The Manor and Cherry Lodge work closely together to ensure that cost effective consistent services are being delivered. Joint training initiatives that are coordinated from The Manor are in place and key staff from both homes are qualified to cascade training to their colleagues within the homes and carers from the Family Link Service.

Both homes recording systems and risk assessments are based on generic templates that will have adaptations where necessary dependent on the home's individual requirements. This strengthens consistency for the children and young people when, to minimise the need for agency workers, staff move between the homes to cover staff shortages.

During The Manor's most recent interim inspection the inspector found that 'young people continue to receive highly individualised, well planned packages of care' and 'staff work closely with schools and other people involved in the care of the young people; this ensures good continuity of care and young people make good progress'.

4.5 Continuing Care

As some of the young people who access Cherry Lodge are partly or fully funded by Continuing Care or Continuing Health Care, several senior members of the team are experienced in assisting health professionals with the completion of the appropriate checklists and assessments and presenting them to JASP. Recent collaboration between commissioning and health colleagues has seen the introduction of a more stream-lined process the benefits of which are already being seen. It has been agreed that Cherry Lodge staff and The Manor staff will complete CC checklists for the children accessing these provisions, the outreach service and the Link Service in liaison with the appropriate health professional if necessary. As well as the obvious financial benefits, having CC assessments in place and under regular review alerts adult providers of the need for specialist health support and it will inform commissioners who are scoping future service development.

Responsibility for managing and circulating a list of children and young people who have been or will be assessed for CC will be taken on by Cherry Lodge as of this month. The Head of Commissioning for Health and Well-being will have the current list to refer to in preparation for the JASP each month.

4.6 Peterborough's Range of Short Breaks

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 tasks the local authority to 'prepare a statement for carers in their area setting out details of the range of services provided.' Peterborough's Short Breaks Services Statement acknowledges the view expressed by parents, carers and young people during the Aiming High consultation that 'the school holiday periods are the biggest area of concern and worry'. In addition to the services already described, among the range of services offered to target school holiday periods as well as throughout the year are sports, leisure and play opportunities, specialist play-schemes, targeted youth clubs, after school clubs, befriending and family activity days all of which evidence the authorities commitment to provide a varied range of services. Commissioners ensure parents, carers, children, young people and other agencies are aware of services that are available regularly and intermittently.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 Continuing to develop short breaks that are creative and appropriate remains a priority within the Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention directorate and establishing a central 'hub' at Cherry Lodge is key to this. The focus throughout will be on the preventative nature of short breaks being central to service delivery and the views of children, young people and their families being incorporated into that service delivery. This links to the commitment within the Childrens Services Improvement Plan to 'put in place a range of preventative services'. In addition, the draft Equality Action Plan refers to the 'work required internally by the authority and externally focussed actions that concentrate on the services we deliver and how we work with particular agencies and communities'.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The short breaks services that have been described are reliant on PCC funding. While the preventative nature of current and future service delivery is a long-term, cost effective model there are the on-going financial implications to consider particularly as the rising population in Peterborough will have an impact on the annual budgets necessary to continue to provide the level and range of services.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 As we have developed our range of short breaks services we have referred to feed-back from the parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who were involved in the Aiming High consultation.

In addition, the views and thoughts of children and young people and their families are encouraged in less formal consultation opportunities such as via Ofsted questionnaires and during child care and children in need review meetings.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 We suggest that as services are developed the committee will be advised of progress as part of our on-going review process. Any further up-dates that the committee require will be presented as necessary.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 The following documents were referred to while compiling this report:

The Draft Equality Action Plan
The Sustainable Community Strategy
The Single Delivery Plan
The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011
Peterborough's Short Breaks Services Statement

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 None

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES & TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 8
10 SEPTEMBER 2012	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer(s) – Malcolm Newsam
Contact Details - 863606

CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the Improvement programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To note the progress made on the core strategy.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy identifies "Improving Health" and "Supporting Vulnerable People" as priorities. Improvement in Children's Social Care is key to the delivery of these priorities.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Following an Ofsted Inspection in August 2011, the Council has engaged in a programme to secure rapid improvement. This improvement will be driven by three key elements:

- The Children's Services Improvement Programme
- The Core Strategy which focuses effort on what we must prioritise
- The leadership of Members and officers in delivering the required changes

4.2 The Council's progress is closely monitored both internally and externally by this Committee, the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group and the External Improvement Board.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 Highlights:

- Strong performance has continued in the referral and assessment service. Our year to date figures in July show we have completed 98% of initial assessments within 10 days and 88% of core assessments within 35 days. There are few outstanding assessments and those completed out of timescale only miss the due date by a few days. The Referral and Assessment Service are continuing to close and transfer work in a timely manner.
- Referrals and initial assessments have continued to be generated at or around our statistical neighbour average and we have seen a gradual reduction in volumes of core assessments. This is explained in more detail below.
- The "Assurance" audits have now all been completed. In total 954 cases were graded of which 392 (41.1%) were adequate, 413 (43.3%) remedial and 149 (15.6%) inadequate. We are now in the process of ensuring action plans are on the system

and have been completed.

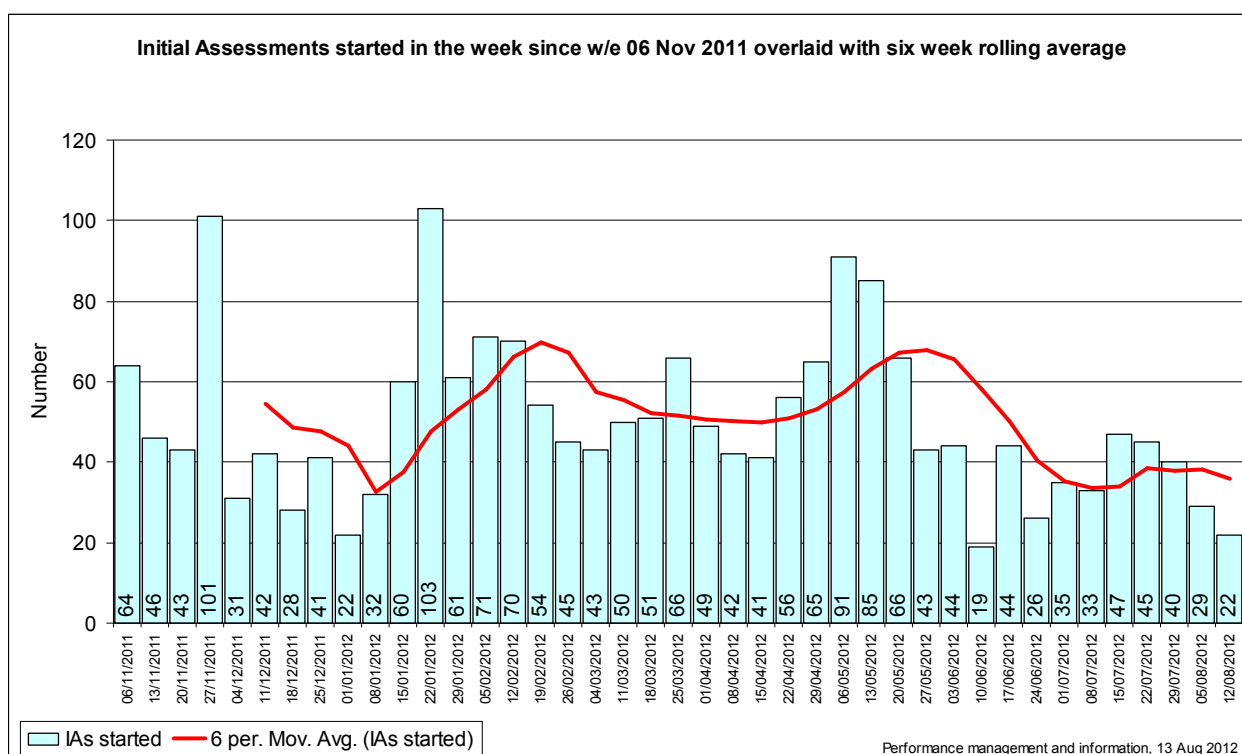
- We have now moved into a position of being slightly over-established with qualified social workers. This reflects the overlap of new staff with exiting agency staff.
- We have introduced a new weekly report management information tool focussed on the work of the Family Support Teams and the LAC service. This is supported by highlight reports written by Team Managers and presented at a weekly meeting chaired by the Assistant Director. This is already having a marked effect in engaging front-line managers in the improvement programme while identifying where support and attention is required.

5.2 Challenges:

- The reduction in children with a plan has been scrutinised by the Assistant Director and the primary factor appears to be premature de-planning without clear evidence of a demonstrable change in the risk factors. The Child Protection Chairs have been working on a consensus model of decision making, but we have taken immediate steps to address this and will be amending the multi-agency procedures to reflect a clearer recognition of the accountability for this crucial decision.

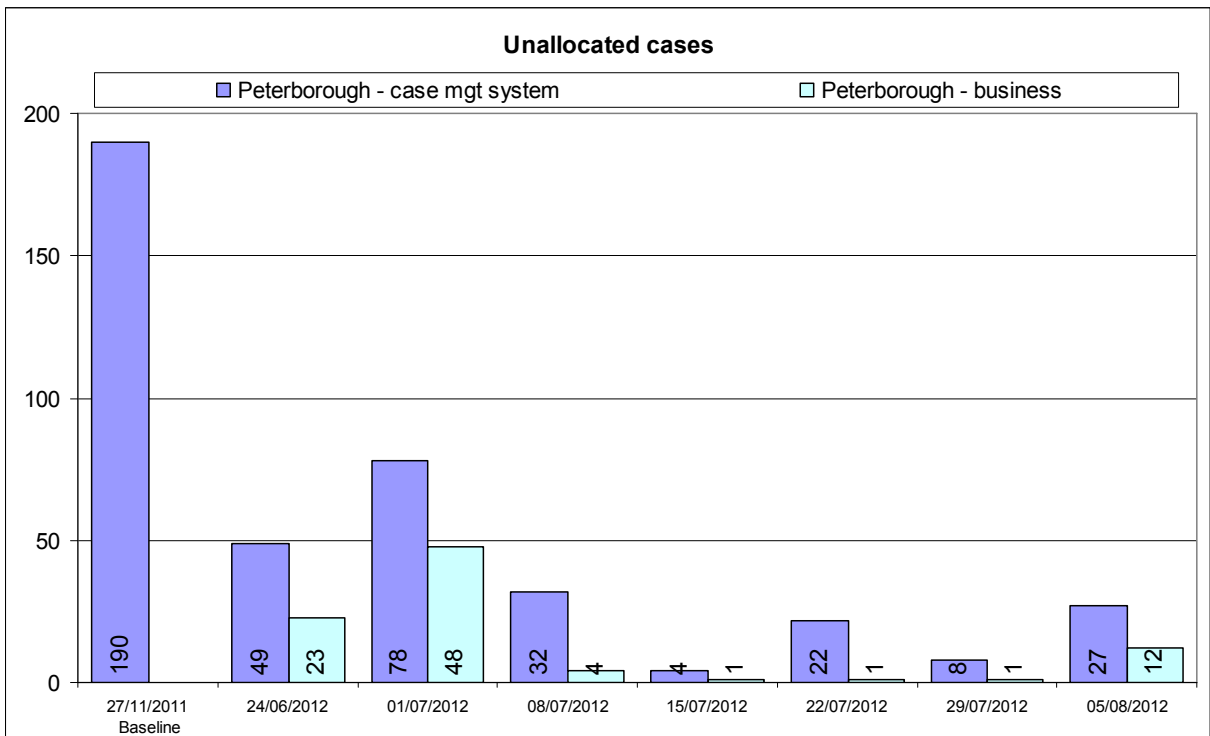
Assessment Activity

As highlighted above we have reduced the volume of new initial assessments. This has been consistently maintained for the last twelve weeks and is beginning to settle at around the rate for similar authorities. We will need to review this after the school holidays.



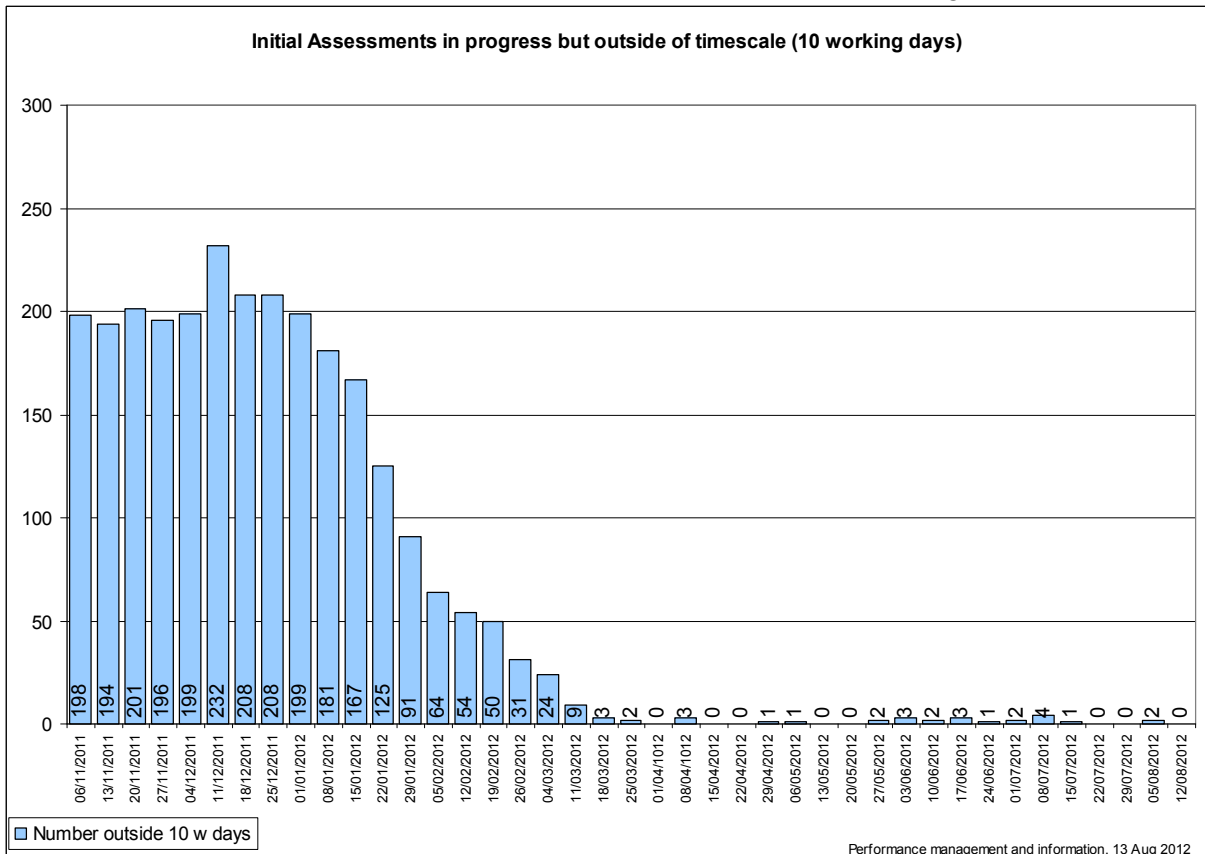
Unallocated Cases

Unallocated cases remain at a minimal level and none are unallocated for more than 28 days.

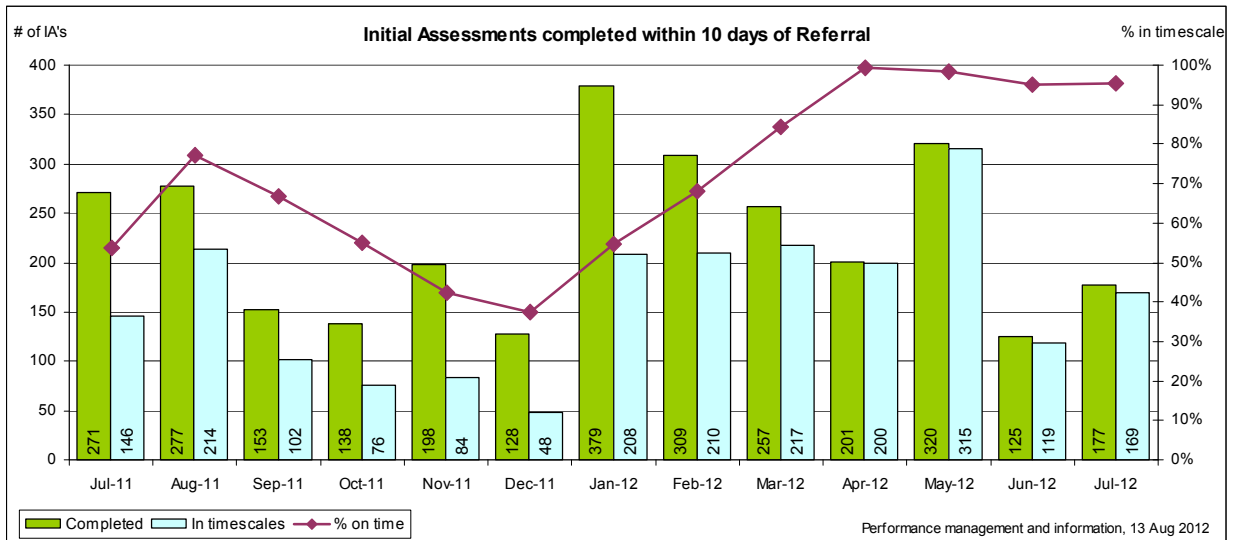


Initial Assessments

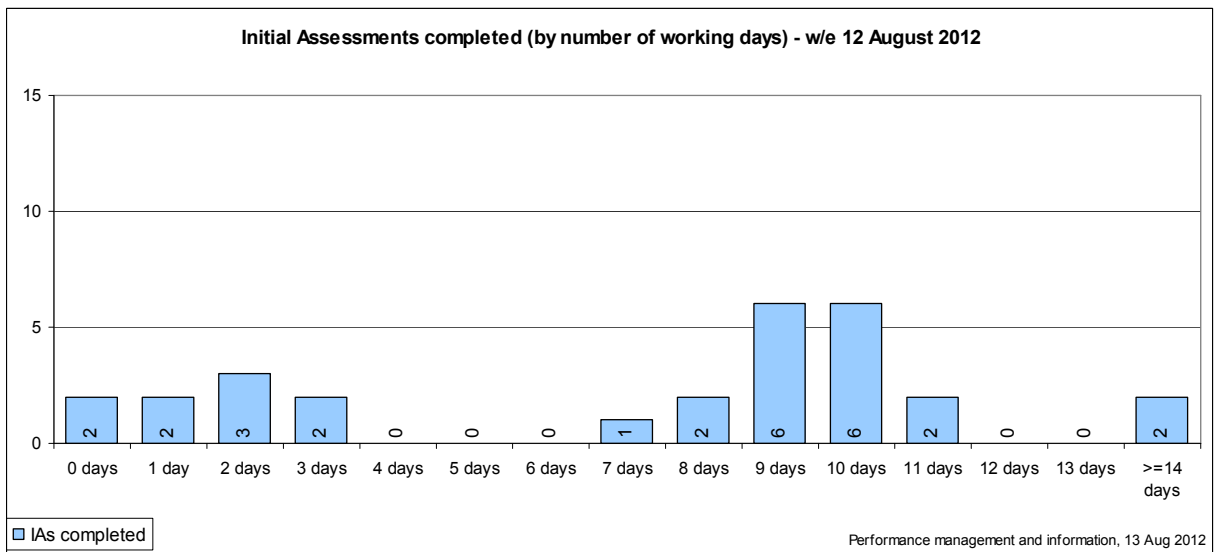
Performance on Initial Assessments out of timescale remains outstanding.



Timeliness of assessments remains extremely strong averaging above 90% all year.

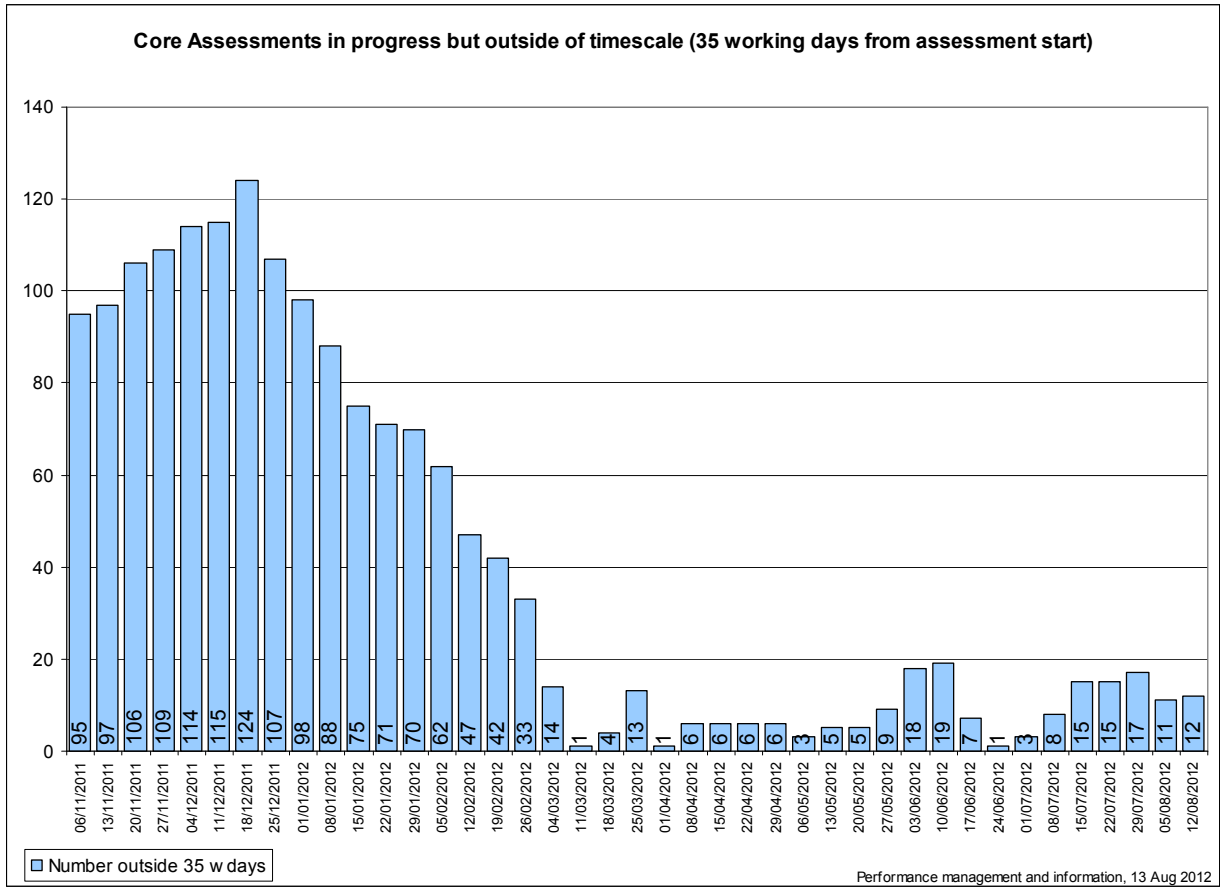


Liquid Logic allows us to report on the spread of completion dates for initial assessments. This demonstrates a mature spread of completion times.

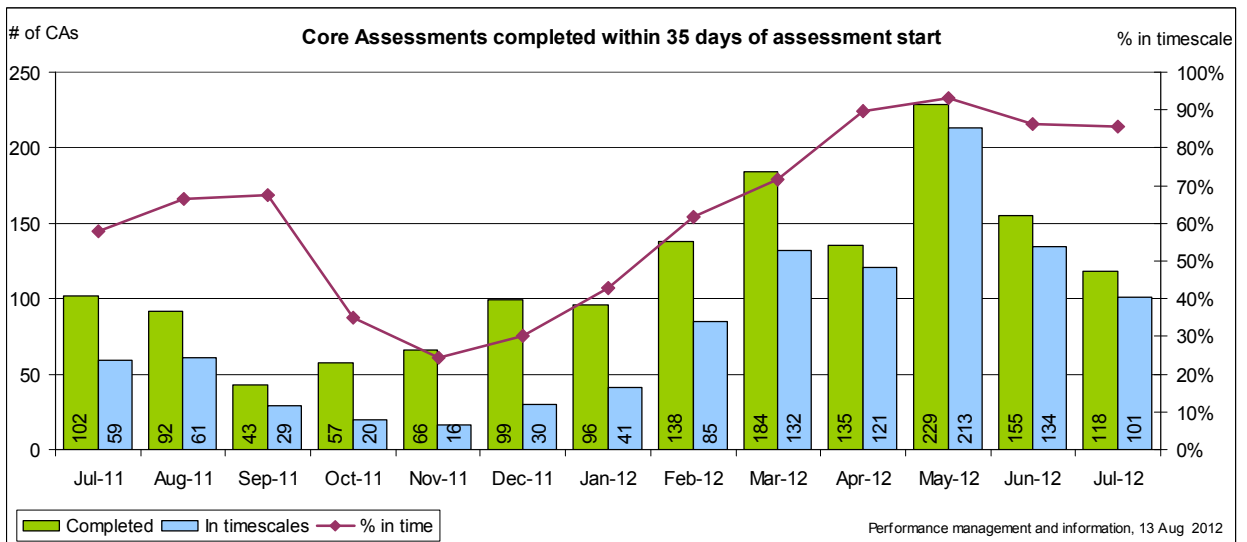


Core Assessments

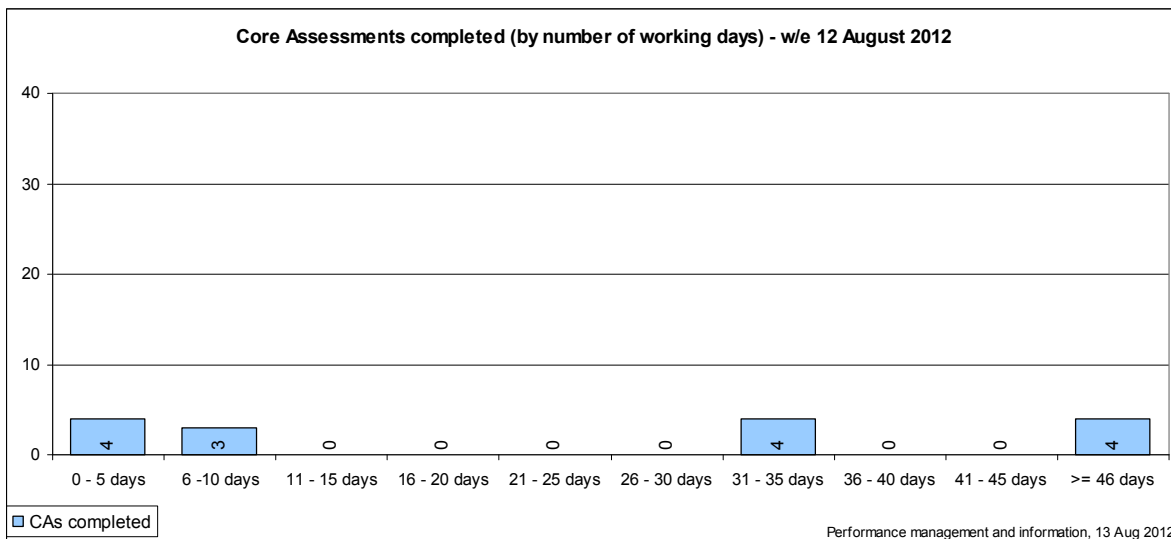
There remain very few core assessments out of timescale. These are almost all in the long-term teams and are usually reassessments.



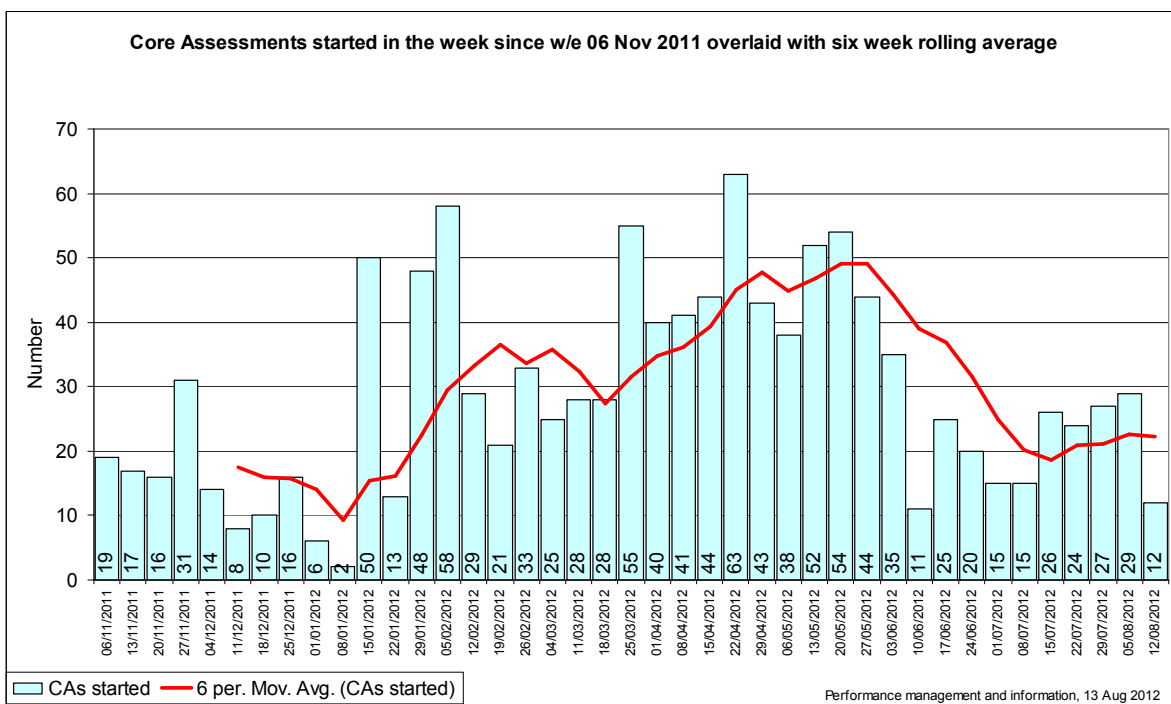
Timeliness remains very strong as can be seen by the following chart.



The spread of completion dates reflects that the predominant activity is around the 30 to 35 day mark.



We have been actively working on the threshold for initiating core assessments and the chart below shows the impact that this is having. We are beginning to get towards the average of similar authorities but it is too early to suggest this is a clear trend.



Workforce

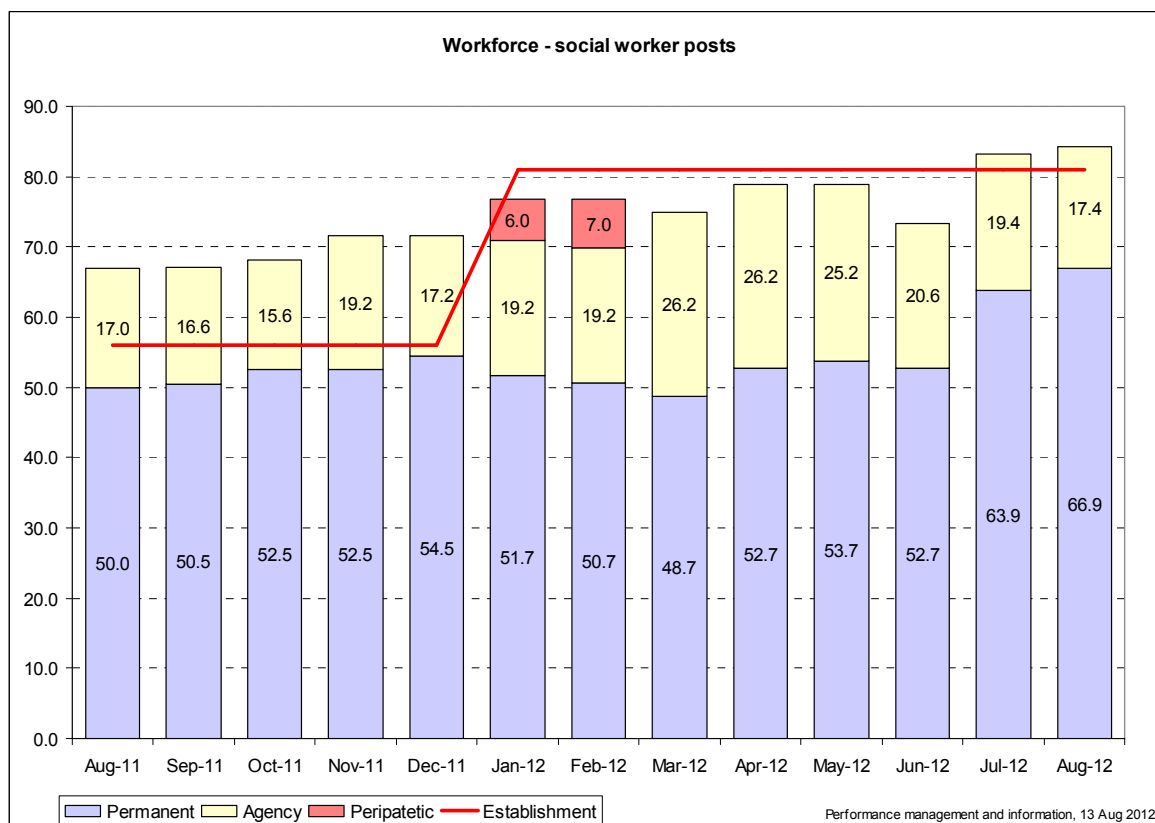
By the middle of August the permanent staff in the core safeguarding and LAC teams had been increased to 70. The Head and Heart recruitment campaign, whilst continuing, has shown a reduction in interest generated during the months of July and August. This is not unusual in any recruitment campaign given the time of year. The social worker vacancy rate currently stands at 14.1fte against the establishment of 81fte. However, taking into account the handover strategy in place between agency workers and incoming permanent Social Workers, the agency FTE is currently showing to be 17.4fte. An additional 7.0fte have been offered and are in the recruitment pipeline waiting to start; 2 scheduled to start in August, 4 in September and 1 in October.

Since the campaign was launched in April 2012, the department has only seen 4 permanent social workers leave which is an average of 1fte per month. An additional worker has transferred to the fostering service and one worker has reduced her hours by half. With the exit interview process implemented, work is in place to ensure that analysis of leavers takes place and informs management of trends to ensure improvements are made as required. Furthermore, an exit strategy plan has been implemented which allows for a short handover period between agency workers leaving and permanent new recruits to ensure stability is maintained. For experienced social workers the period is up to 2 weeks and for newly qualified social workers the period is up to 4 weeks.

We are now developing a medium term recruitment plan which will build into a campaign to recruit experienced social workers three times per year and newly qualified social workers once a year to link in with their studying being completed.

In addition to the recruitment plan, attendance at three recruitment events has been planned for the months of November 2012 and March 2013 (Community Care Children, Families Live 2012 and COMPASS).

Focus also remains on ensuring that Team Manager recruitment continues. Work has continued with Hunterlodge who are working on a passive advertising strategy for this cohort. This is expected to be launched in September in the Guardian, Linked In and also Children and Young People Now.



Summary

This has been a further month of impressive progress with improvement being sustained across the key areas.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The cost of the improvement programme can be met from within existing budgets. Resources are available to secure improvement in the immediate and longer term.
- 6.2 The Secretary of State has the power to issue a statutory notice if he is not satisfied that sufficient progress is being made.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Partner agencies, parents and children will be involved in the improvement activity.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 This Committee will continue to receive a regular update on progress and the Task and Finish Group will meet monthly to support the improvement.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1
- Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding: Peterborough 6th September 2011
 - Ofsted Unannounced Inspection of contact referral and assessment arrangements 3rd March 2011
 - Ofsted Safeguarding and Looked after Children Inspection: Peterborough 21st May 2010

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 9
10 SEPTEMBER 2012	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Report Author – Paulina Ford, Senior Governance Officer, Scrutiny

Contact Details – 01733 452508 or email paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk

FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This is a regular report to the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee outlining the content of the Council's Forward Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The latest version of the Forward Plan is attached at Appendix 1. The Plan contains those key decisions, which the Leader of the Council believes that the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Member(s) will be making over the next four months.
- 3.2 The information in the Forward Plan provides the Committee with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these key decisions, or to request further information.
- 3.3 If the Committee wished to examine any of the key decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated within the work programme.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Details of any consultation on individual decisions are contained within the Forward Plan.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Forward Plan of Executive Decisions

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**PETERBOROUGH CITY
COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN
1 SEPTEMBER 2012 TO 31 DECEMBER
2012**



FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 SEPTEMBER 2012 TO 31 DECEMBER 2012

During the period from 1 September 2012 To 31 December 2012 Peterborough City Council's Executive intends to take 'key decisions' on the issues set out below. Key decisions relate to those executive decisions which are likely to result in the Council spending or saving money in excess of £500,000 and/or have a significant impact on two or more wards in Peterborough.

This Forward Plan should be seen as an outline of the proposed decisions and it will be updated on a monthly basis. The dates detailed within the Plan are subject to change and those items amended or identified for decision more than one month in advance will be carried over to forthcoming plans. Each new plan supersedes the previous plan. Any questions on specific issues included on the Plan should be included on the form which appears at the back of the Plan and submitted to Alex Daynes, Senior Governance Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Town Hall, Bridge Street, PE1 1HG (fax 01733 452483). Alternatively, you can submit your views via e-mail to alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk or by telephone on 01733 452447.

The Council invites members of the public to attend any of the meetings at which these decisions will be discussed and the papers listed on the Plan can be viewed free of charge although there will be a postage and photocopying charge for any copies made. All decisions will be posted on the Council's website: www.peterborough.gov.uk. If you wish to make comments or representations regarding the 'key decisions' outlined in this Plan, please submit them to the Governance Support Officer using the form attached. For your information, the contact details for the Council's various service departments are incorporated within this plan.

NEW ITEMS THIS MONTH:

Jack Hunt and Ken Stimpson Schools Boiler Refurbishment - KEY/02SEP/12

SEPTEMBER

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p>Sale of surplus former residential care home - Eye - KEY/01OCT/11 To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Executive Director – Strategic Resources, the Corporate Property Officer and the Cabinet Member for Resources, to negotiate and conclude the sale of a former care home now surplus to requirement - The Croft, Eye.</p>	<p>September 2012</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, & Ward councillors, as appropriate</p>	<p>Simon Webber Capital Receipts Officer Tel: 01733 384545 simon.webber@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is taken.</p>
<p>Award of Contract - Bus Shelter Provision and Maintenance - KEY/01APR/12 Award of contract for the provision, installation, cleaning and maintenance of Bus Shelters.</p>	<p>September 2012</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Darren Deadman Travel Information and Monitoring Officer Tel: 01733 317464 darren.deadman@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is taken.</p>

<p>Moy's End Stand Demolition and Reconstruction - KEY/03APR/12 Award of Contract for the Demolition of the Moy's End Stand and Reconstruction</p>	<p>September 2012</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Internal and External Stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Richard Hodgson Head of Strategic Projects Tel: 01733 384535 richard.hodgson@peterborou.gh.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is taken.</p>
<p>Organic and Food Waste Treatment Services Contract - KEY/01MAY/12 To Award a contract for Organic and Food Waste Treatment Services.</p>	<p>September 2012</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Amy Nebel Recycling Contracts Officer Tel: 01733 864727 amy.nebel@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the Governance Team on week before the decision is taken.</p>
<p>Roundabout Junction 5 and Boongate West Widening Scheme - Contract Award - KEY/04JUN/12 To approve the award of a contract for construction of the Roundabout Junction 5 and Boongate West Widening Scheme to the successful Midlands Highways Alliance (MHA) contractor (tbc).</p>	<p>September 2012</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Consultation on scheme was carried out in 2010 /11 Financial Year and budget allocated in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for implementation in the 2012/13 Financial Year.</p>	<p>Stuart Mounfield Senior Engineer Tel: 01733 453598 stuart.mounfield@peterborou.gh.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is taken.</p>

<p>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Dickens Street Car Park - KEY/03JUL/11 To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Executive Director – Strategic Resources, the Corporate Property Officer and the Cabinet Member Resources, to negotiate and conclude the sale of Dickens Street Car Park.</p>	<p>September 2012</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Richard Hodgson Head of Strategic Projects Tel: 01733 384535 richard.hodgson@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>
<p>Management and Operation of Dogsthorpe Household Recycling Centre - KEY/01AUG/12 To award the contact for Management and Operation of Dogsthorpe Household Recycling Centre (HRC) (including the supply of containers and transportation of waste from the HRC).</p>	<p>September 2012</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Paul Robertson Waste Project Officer Tel: 01733 864740 paul.robertson@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is taken.</p>

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (PDCS) - KEY/01SEP/12 To approve the draft CIL for public consultation.	September 2012	Cabinet	Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital	Six week public consultation including Planning and Environmental Protection Committee.	Richard Kay Policy and Strategy Manager richard.kay@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is taken.
Jack Hunt and Ken Stimpson Schools Boiler Refurbishment - KEY/02SEP/12 Award of a contract to refurbish the boilers at Jack Hunt and Ken Stimpson schools under the PFI Conditions Fund works.	September 2012	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.	Sarah Walker Principal Assets Officer (Non Schools/PFI) Tel: 01733 864006 sarah.walker@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is taken.

OCTOBER

There are currently no Key Decisions scheduled for October.

NOVEMBER						
KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS

<p>Rolling Select List - Independent Fostering Agencies - KEY/01 JUL/12 To approve the list for independent fostering agencies.</p>	<p>November 2012</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Children's Services</p>	<p>Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities</p>	<p>Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Wendi Ogle-Welbourn Assistant Director for Strategy, Commissioning and Prevention wendi.ogle-welbourn@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is taken.</p>
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DECEMBER

There are currently no Key Decisions scheduled for December.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Communications
Strategic Growth and Development Services
Legal and Governance Services
Policy and Research
Economic and Community Regeneration
HR Business Relations, Training & Development, Occupational Health & Reward & Policy

STRATEGIC RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Director's Office at Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Finance
Internal Audit
Information Communications Technology (ICT)
Business Transformation
Strategic Improvement
Strategic Property
Waste
Customer Services
Business Support
Shared Transactional Services
Cultural Trust Client

CHILDRENS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT Bayard Place, Broadway, PE1 1FB

Safeguarding, Family & Communities
Education & Resources
Strategic Commissioning & Prevention

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT Director's Office at Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Planning Transport & Engineering (Development Management, Construction & Compliance, Infrastructure Planning & Delivery, Network Management, Passenger Transport)
Commercial Operations (Strategic Parking and Commercial CCTV, City Centre, Markets & Commercial Trading, Tourism)
Neighbourhoods (Strategic Regulatory Services, Safer Peterborough, Strategic Housing, Cohesion, Social Inclusion, Neighbourhood Management)
Operations Business Support (Finance)

ADULT SOCIAL CARE DEPARTMENT Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1FA

Care Services Delivery
Strategic Commissioning
Performance, Quality and Information

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CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
<p>11 June 2012 <i>Draft report 23 May</i> <i>Final report 29 May</i></p>	<p>Overview of Children's Services Contact Officer: Malcolm Newsam</p> <p>Poverty Action Plan To Scrutinise the Poverty Action Plan and make any recommendations. Contact Officer: Wendi Ogle-Welbourne</p> <p>Children's Services Improvement Plan – Progress Report To Scrutinise the progress of the Children's Services Improvement Plan and make any recommendations Contact Officer: Malcolm Newsam</p> <p>Children's (Social Care) Services Statutory Complaints Process (Children act 1989) Annual Report 2011 To scrutinise the Children's (Social Care) Services Statutory Complaints Process (Children act 1989) Annual Report 2011 and make any necessary recommendations. Contact Officer: Lynn Chesterton</p> <p>Review of 2011/12 and Future Work Programme To review the work undertaken during 2011/12 and to consider the future work programme of the Committee. Contact Officer: Paulina Ford</p>	<p>Items identified to be programmed into the work programme.</p> <p>Final draft to be brought back to the July meeting.</p> <p>Regular update noted.</p> <p>Report noted and comments made.</p> <p>Items from discussion to be programmed into the work programme.</p>

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
<p>23 July 2011 <i>Draft report 5 July</i> <i>Final report 12 July</i></p>	<p>Portfolio Progress report from Cabinet Members relevant to the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Children's Services <p>To Scrutinise and comment on the progress of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services</p> <p>Children's Services Improvement Plan – Progress Report</p> <p>To Scrutinise the progress of the Children's Services Improvement Plan and make any recommendations</p> <p>Contact Officer: Malcolm Newsam</p> <p>Children's Centres Update</p> <p>To receive a progress report on the commissioning of Children's Centres and implementation of the new children's centres contracts.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Pam Setterfield</p> <p>Poverty Reduction Strategy</p> <p>To scrutinise and make comments on the final draft of the Poverty Reduction Strategy.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Contact Officer: Wendi Ogle-Welbourne</p>	
<p>10 September 2012 <i>Draft report 23 Aug</i> <i>Final report 30 Aug</i></p>	<p>Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2011-2012</p> <p>To Scrutinise the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2011-2012 and make any recommendations</p> <p>Contact Officer: Felicity Scholfield</p>	

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
	<p>Children’s Services Improvement Plan – Progress Report</p> <p>To Scrutinise the progress of the Children’s Services Improvement Plan and make any recommendations</p> <p>Contact Officer: Malcolm Newsam</p> <p>Fostering - Action Plan</p> <p>To scrutinise the progress made on the Fostering Action Plan and make any recommendations</p> <p>Contact Officer: Sue Westcott</p> <p>Respite and Home Support Unit – Children with Disabilities (Cherry Lodge)</p> <p>To receive a report and comment on the recent Ofsted inspection at Cherry Lodge and to comment on the Short Break Strategy.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Wendi Ogle-Welbourne</p>	
<p>12 November 2012 <i>Draft report 25 Oct</i> <i>Final report 1 Nov</i></p>	<p>Presentation of 2012 Unvalidated Examination Results, EYFS – Key Stage 4 – A Level</p> <p>To scrutinise the 2012 examination results, assess the impact of the action plan to improve educational results and make any necessary recommendations</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jonathan Lewis</p> <p>Portfolio Progress report from Cabinet Members relevant to the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University <p>To Scrutinise and comment on the progress of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</p>	

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
	<p>School Improvement Strategy</p> <p>To scrutinise the School Improvement Strategy and make any recommendations</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jonathan Lewis</p> <p>Children’s Services Improvement Plan – Progress Report</p> <p>To Scrutinise the progress of the Children’s Services Improvement Plan and make any recommendations</p> <p>Contact Officer: Malcolm Newsam</p>	
<p>7 January 2013 <i>Draft report 14 Dec</i> <i>Final report 21 Dec</i></p>	<p>Portfolio Progress report from Cabinet Members relevant to the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Children’s Services <p>To Scrutinise and comment on the progress of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services</p> <p>Children’s Services Improvement Plan – Progress Report</p> <p>To Scrutinise the progress of the Children’s Services Improvement Plan and make any recommendations</p> <p>Contact Officer: Malcolm Newsam</p> <p>Prevention and Intervention Strategy</p> <p>Contact Officer: :Wendi Ogle-Welbourne</p> <p>Pupil Referral Unit</p> <p>Contact Officer:</p> <p>Youth Offending Service</p> <p>Contact Officer:</p>	

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
	<p>Improving Outcomes for Children with SEN</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jonathan Lewis</p>	
<p>9 or 21 January 2013 (Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committees and Commissions)</p>	<p>Budget 2013/14 and Medium Term Financial Plan To scrutinise the Executive's proposals for the Budget 2013/14 and Medium Term Financial Plan. Contact Officer: John Harrison/Steven Pilsworth</p>	
<p>11 March 2013 <i>Draft report 21 Feb</i> <i>Final report 28 Feb</i></p>	<p>Children's Services Improvement Plan – Progress Report To Scrutinise the progress of the Children's Services Improvement Plan and make any recommendations Contact Officer: Malcolm Newsam</p> <p>Presentation of 2012 Validated Examination Results, EYFS – Key Stage 4 – A Level Follow Up To scrutinise the 2012 examination results, assess the impact of the action plan to improve educational results and make any necessary recommendations. Contact Officer: Jonathan Lewis</p>	

Items to be programmed in:

Item	Referred from
<p>Reports on the 9 Key Challenges:</p> <p>Safeguarding, Families and Communities: Lead Officer - Assistant Director, Sue Westcott</p> <p>Key Challenges for 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve safeguarding • Increase placement choice and adoptions • Strengthen range of targeted preventative services <p>Education and Resources: Lead Officer - Assistant Director, Jonathan Lewis</p> <p>Key Challenges for 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement new approaches to transform standards • Improve outcomes for children with SEN • Improve attainment for vulnerable learners <p>Commissioning and Prevention: Lead Officer – Assistant Director Wendi Ogle-Welbourn</p> <p>Key Challenges for 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in place systems that co-ordinate early intervention and prevention services • Strengthen the Children’s Trust • Set up joint commissioning arrangements with health <p>A strategy on recruitment and selection of school governors as part of the improving attainment programme – Malcolm Newsam – to be included in the School Improvement Strategy Report.</p> <p>Update on Progress of Poverty Action Plan</p>	<p>11 June meeting</p> <p>23 July meeting for January 2013</p>