

By: Bill Anderson, Director of Children's Social Services

To: Children's Champions Board – 23rd September 2009

Subject: Children's Social Services Annual Activity Report for KSCB –
1st April 2008 – 31st March 2009

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This attached report details the safeguarding activity of Children's Social Services (CSS) for the period 1st April 2008 to the 31st March 2009. It is an annual report produced for the Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB).

The report provides an overview of Children's Social Services activity in the context of the preventative agenda before going on to provide an analysis of referral activity, including some comparative data on last years activity in the context of referral source. Key issues identified are;

- CSS committed £3.1million to preventative services for 2008/9
- Referrals to CSS increased by 44.4% to 17,358
- 52.5% of referrals received by CSS did not meet the criteria for a social work initial assessment
- 22.9% of referrals received were assessed as a child protection concern
- The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan has increased by 6.5%
- 2.5% of referrals are recorded with a principle need around the parent's illness or disability
- Neglect continues as a principle category for determining Child Protection Plans

The report considers the increasing numbers of referrals which are being received by Children's Social services, and explores the dynamic of how many referrals do not meet the criteria for specialist intervention.

An overview of Children's Social Services intervention with other vulnerable groups is also examined, including looked after children and disabled children.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Note the contents of this report and the actions planned by Children's Social Services