

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

23 November 2017

### CHILD PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

#### Report of the Director for People

|                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Strategic Aim:                 | Safeguarding   |  |
| Exempt Information             | No   |  |
| Cabinet Member(s) Responsible: | Mr R Foster, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People (Safeguarding) |  |
| Contact Officer(s):            | Tim O'Neill, Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive                | 01572 758402<br>toneill@rutland.gov.uk   |
|                                | Rebecca Wilshire, Head of Children Social Care                             | 01572 758258<br>rwilshire@rutland.gov.uk |
| Ward Councillors               | N/A  |  |

#### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

1. Notes the contents of the Child Protection Annual Report 2016-2017

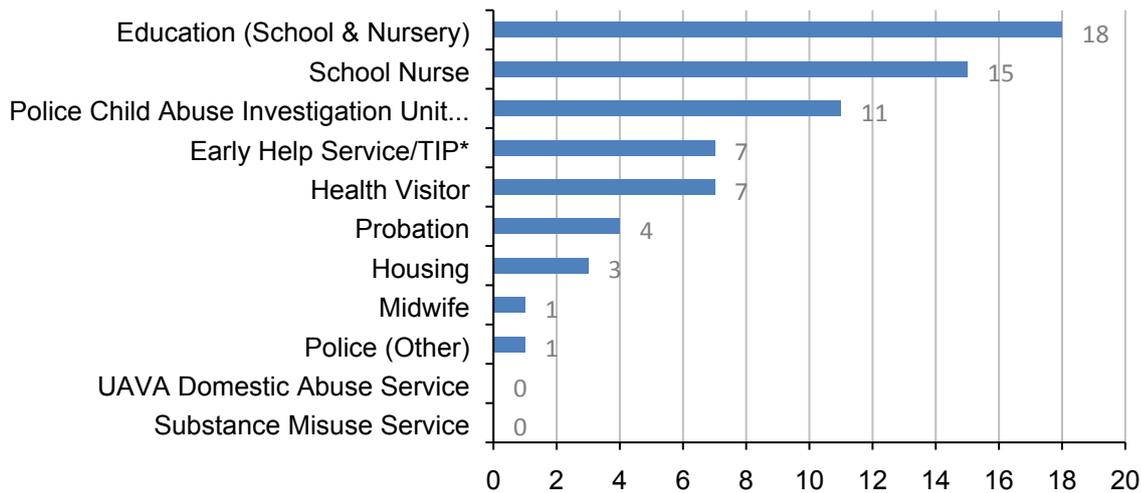
#### 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT (MANDATORY)

- 1.1. This is our Annual Activity Report 2016/17 with regards to Child Protection Activity
- 1.2. The report will outline statutory responsibilities as well as aims and objectives for 2017/18
- 1.3. The report will offer oversight of Rutland data with regards to Children subject to Child Protection
- 1.4. The report also highlights the journey and improvement of our safeguarding services

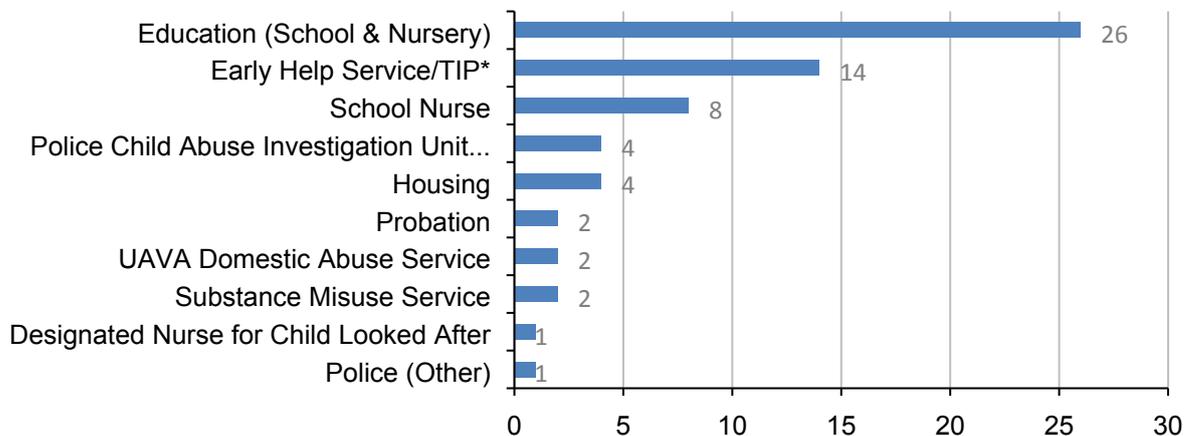
#### 2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS (MANDATORY) (YOU CAN CHANGE THIS HEADER IF REQUIRED TO REFLECT SPECIFIC TOPICS IN THE REPORT)

- 2.1. The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service (SQAS) organises and chairs Initial Child Protection Conferences and Child Protection Review Conferences.

- 2.2. Initial Child Protection Conferences, are in relation to referrals and s47 enquiries.
- 2.3. Where the local authority identified there is reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, it will carry out an assessment under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 to determine if it needs to take steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children.
- 2.4. Nationally there was a 7.6% increase in s47 enquiries over 2015-2016. Last year 103 referrals in Rutland resulted in a section 47 multi-agency strategy discussion.
- 2.5. If concerns are substantiated from a s47, and the child is judged to be at continuing risk of harm then an Initial Child Protection Conference is convened within 15 working days. Nationally this increase was 2.3% in 2015-2016. 33 of the section 47 multi-agency strategy discussions in Rutland resulted in a request for an Initial Child Protection Conference.
- 2.6. During this period there have been 65 individual children subject to Child Protections Plans from 33 families including 2 unborn babies.
- 2.7. The rate per 10.000 children subject to a Child Protection Plan has consistently been below the national average of 43.1%
- 2.8. 5 Initial Child Protection Conferences were held which resulted in the threshold not being met for 6 children (1 unborn baby).
- 2.9. 2 Review Child Protection Conferences were no longer required as 2 siblings became Looked After and 2 other siblings went to live in their father's care following positive viability assessments.
- 2.10. On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 there were 20 children who were subject of a Child Protection Plan.
- 2.11. There have been no serious incidents notifications submitted to Ofsted, and no serious case reviews have been completed during this period.
- 2.12. There has been poor attendance from the Probation Service and the Specialist Substance Misuse Service and the Specialist Domestic Abuse Service, despite both being commissioned by the Local Authority.
- 2.13. Initial Conference attendance:



#### 2.14. Review Child Protection Conference attendance



2.15. Of the 53 Child Protection Conferences 20 involved domestic abuse being a risk factor.

2.16. Adherence to statutory timescales around the Conference process are monitored monthly and reviewed by Senior Managers. Performance data is used to ensure practice and capacity issues are addressed in a timely manner.

2.17. The SQAS has worked hard to maintain the performance targets set within the National Framework over the last twelve months.

2.18. The first half of this financial year saw a number of staff pressures in the service including interim cover and a drive to permanent recruitment.

2.19. An Ofsted Inspection was undertaken over four weeks from the 14<sup>th</sup> November to the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 which concluded that Rutland Children's Services requires improvement to be good. The Inspectors identified that the Child Protection Chairs were not consistently challenging poor-quality assessments and plans or delays in improving outcomes for children. A small number of cases were seen in which children were taken off plans too soon, before changes and improvements were sustained. These children became subject to repeat plans because of the same

risks and concerns that had been identified previously. The lack of contingency planning and consideration of pre-proceedings work means that some children experience drift and delay in securing improved outcomes". We are confident that the areas of improvement noted in the Ofsted report have been addressed and the SQAS Team have a clear footprint on children's files and offer the challenge as needed.

### **3 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1. The activity report for child protection is attached is to offer oversight into the position of our child protection services
- 3.2. Within the report we have made a number of further recommendations and areas for focus to continue to improve our service
- 3.3. The service continues to develop and go from strength to strength

### **4 UPATE ON SOME OF OUR PROGRESS SINCE APRIL 2017:**

- 4.1. We have set up a Domestic Abuse internal Working Group to explore the issues and challenges we have, this is enabling us to challenge partners around practice
- 4.2. We are now in attendance at the DVA (Domestic Violence and Abuse) Executive Group and Operations Group
- 4.3. We working with partners more productive and offering challenge where needed to improve attendance and whilst this is positive in some area like Turning Point we still have work to do with Domestic Abuse
- 4.4. Our Data is being collated in a more meaningful manner which informs our work and practice
- 4.5. Audits undertaken are demonstrating better outcomes for children and families and more timely responses
- 4.6. Signs of safety is fully embed in conference
- 4.7. Actions out lined in the report are am in place we just need to see them embedded for longer
- 4.8. We are planning a 'Mocksted' ( mock Inspection in December) to review progress and assess our position against all annual reports recommendations

### **5 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 5.1 There are no additional background papers to the report

### **6 APPENDICES**

- 6.1 Child Protection Annual Report 2016-2017

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.