

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16TH MARCH 2022

Subject: Contacts & Referrals to Children's Services

Purpose: To look at the increase in contacts and referrals, pressures and demands within Children's Services.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

Increase in the volume of work within the service; the challenges faced and the potential need for additional resourcing during this period and beyond with the impact should the increased levels of referrals continue.

Reasons:

To provide Scrutiny Committee with an update regarding the elevated levels of activity within the service and the implications should this pattern continue.

To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision:

No

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. Glynog Davies, Education and Children's Services

Directorate: Education & Children	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E Mail Addresses:
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1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The number of Contacts & Referrals received by Children’s Services increased significantly during the pandemic in addition to experiencing a local recruitment issue reflected in a nationwide crisis in not being able to recruit social workers to vacant posts.

The report attempts to illustrate the position and the impact of this on the service; the nature of those referrals and the implications for the service should the situation continue.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Stefan Smith Head of Children's Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	NONE

5. Risk Management Issues

If the service continues to experience an increasing level of referrals and child protection cases, there is a risk that we will see more children coming into the statutory service with the implication being a likelihood of increased child protection cases and more children coming into care.

6. Staffing Implications

If the service continues to experience increased levels of referrals and vacancies continue there is a concern this will impact on staff emotional and physical wellbeing

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Stefan Smith

Head of Children's Services

None

**CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)
AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES via Cabinet Member briefing

Include any observations here

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THERE ARE NONE