

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8th July 2021

Subject: – Contacts & Referrals to Children's Services

Purpose: To look at the increase in contacts and referrals 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 advise Scrutiny of the elevated levels of activity within the service and the implications should this pattern continue

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: **NO**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr. Glynog Davies, Education and Children's Services

| Directorate: | Designations: | Tel Nos. / E Mail Addresses: |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Education & Children | | |
| Name of Head of Service: Stefan Smith | Head of Children's Services | 01267 246530 SJSmith@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
| Report Authors: Noreen Jackman | Service Manager | 01267 24653 NJackman@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
| Stefan Smith | Head of Children's Services | 01267 246530 SJSmith@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |

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1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The number of Contacts & Referrals received by Children's Services has increased significantly during 20/21

The report attempts to illustrate the position and trajectory of referrals; the nature of those referrals and the implications 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.

7. Staffing Implications

- If the service continues to experience increased levels of referrals 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

1. Scrutiny Committee – Not applicable

2. Local Member(s) - Not applicable

3. Community / Town Council - Not applicable

4. Relevant Partners - Not applicable

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - Not applicable

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED

YES via Exec Board Member briefing to be held 7th July 2021

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