

Update on Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Domestic Abuse

Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny

Date: 21st March 2018

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Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To update the Committee on work being undertaken regarding Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Domestic Abuse.
- 1.2 This is the second report and it has been requested to update the committee of the progress being made in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Domestic Abuse.
- 1.3 Tackling these areas of harm which children and their families in Swindon experience is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority of reducing vulnerability. It also contributes to the One Swindon Priority: Living Independently, protect from harm, leading healthy Lives and making a positive contribution. There are also links to the Crime and Disorder Act whereby Section 17 of the Act 1989 makes it a statutory responsibility for all local authorities to consider community safety as part of its core business.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report and provide appropriate challenge and scrutiny in relation to the information it contains. It is the responsibility of the author to take forward any actions required.

3. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):

- 3.1 The councils Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) working group was established in January 2015. This group changed in October 2017 to become a Child Exploitation Delivery Group, this group is chaired by David Haley Corporate Director of Children Services. The change is to acknowledge the emerging concerns in relation to children who are being criminally exploited in Swindon. The CSE strategy refreshed in 2017 is being re-written to incorporate Child Exploitation. There is a CSE delivery plan in place that each Head of Service has contributed to so that the strategy can be delivered. Actions are updated

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and reviewed at the delivery group meeting. The draft CE strategy will be taken to the Cabinet for sign off.

- 3.2 The Multi-agency Opal CSE Team continues to work with children who are at high risk of CSE. The practitioners work closely with MASH and other agencies. There are key benefits of having the police as part of the co-located team. It enables a joined up response to children and their families. Information/intelligence is shared and themes can be identified.
- 3.3 The Opal service is child-centred; staff work flexibly by working outside normal office hours and weekends as/if required.
- 3.4 The Opal team and the CSE and Missing Manager have been providing a training and awareness raising programme to schools, colleges, Young Peoples Housing Providers, Foster Carers and Early Help Services.
- 3.5 The CSE e-learning module is now mandatory for all SBC staff. Compliance to completion of this training is being monitored through the CSE delivery plan. The Council Communications team are promoting the requirement for all staff to undertake the training in March. There will be an alternative option put in place for council employees who are not able to complete the course on line.
- 3.6 It has been agreed that the Opal team will be moving to become a Child Exploitation Team. This is in response to the emerging concern in relation to Children who are being Criminally Exploited, linked to County Lines. Wiltshire Police have already seconded an officer into the team as part as a pilot to scope the need.
- 3.7 There are additional training courses in place for Children's Services practitioners to enhance skills and practice. Courses are: Working with parents: CSE and Children with Learning Difficulties and Boys and LGBT (called not just for girls). It is particularly important to highlight to practitioners and partners that boys are being sexually exploited. The training is facilitated by a multi-agency group of trainers co-ordinated by the CSE and Missing Manager. The training is open to partner agencies and administered through Swindon Borough Council Children's Work force Development Team.
- 3.8 As part of a bid made to One Swindon a successful conference was held in February in Swindon and the focus was the impact of Trauma on children who have been sexually assaulted and how perpetrators groom children and the adults around them. This training was very successful and the evaluations received have been positive.

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- 3.9 Child Exploitation awareness sessions have taken place with members through the Conservative and Labour groups.
 - 3.10 Links have been made with Parish Councils and awareness session delivered to Haydon Wick Parish Council. Unfortunately a session planned for all parish councils had to be postponed due to illness of the facilitator from police and locality manager. This is being re-arranged.
 - 3.11 MARP was independently re-evaluated in April 2017. The independent reviewer concluded "MARPs functioning was unrecognisable from the previous evaluation. The previous evaluation was largely positive but there have been major improvements since that time. A meeting that generates over seventy actions to safeguard children is a powerful influence. Overall I thought MARP was impressive." "MARP appears to be a hard-working and effective process that is making a significant contribution to safeguarding children. It is also an evolving and improving entity which is important because it is clear the perpetrators of abuse perpetually change their methods and open up new challenges. I hope efforts will continue to identify clearer evidence of impact and to strengthen existing safeguarding arrangements."
 - 3.12 MARP continues to ensure there is a focus on perpetrator disruption in relation to children. There has been an increase in the number of Child Abduction Warning Notices issued. Wiltshire police have also successfully obtained sexual risk orders.
 - 3.13 A gap has been identified by MARP regarding the transition of those high risk/exploited young people who do not meet the criteria for receiving adult services. As a result a briefing paper was submitted to the Swindon Local Safeguarding Adults Board recommending that a coordination group was established. This group is now in place chaired by adult's services. One of the key developments is the extension of the remit of the Community Partnership led Community MARAC for risk management. This is a positive development. These young adults will be reviewed in this forum.
 - 3.14 As a result of the emerging concern in relation to Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) a Multi-Agency development group was established. There is no national definition of CCE so the group adapted a definition used by Wiltshire Police "*When a child is forced, coerced, compelled or exploited to commit offence by a third party who stands to gain*".
 - 3.15 The group has developed and piloted a joint CSE/CCE screening tool to identify children who are being exploited. Comments from practitioners using the tools have been positive.

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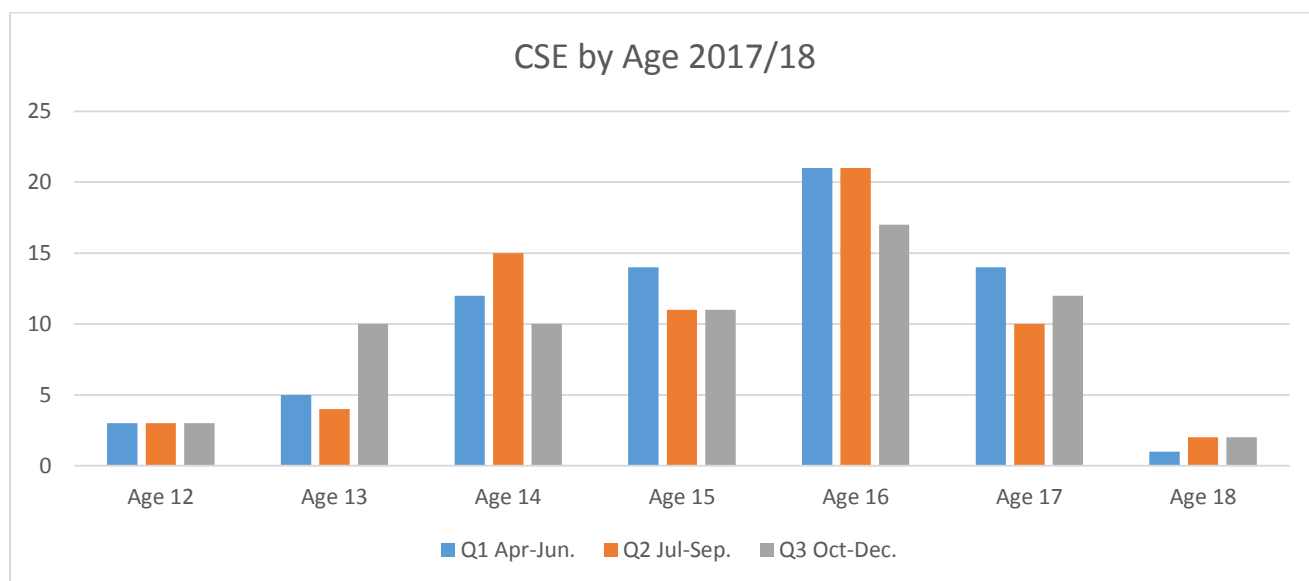
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- *A useful tool in up skilling our practitioners to identify signs and symptoms of child criminal exploitation.*
- *The tool allowed for us to identify those children at risk or not of CCE.*
- *Helped identify risk and guide discussion particularly with parents.*
- *Some reluctance from professionals initially but once used was found to be beneficial for clarifying and engaging with parents/children.*
- *It got parents thinking about the behaviours they were seeing.*

A performance scorecard is in place for CSE. The following quantitative information is collected on a quarterly basis.

Table 1 shows the age of children subject to CSE by age across Q1 Q2 and Q3.



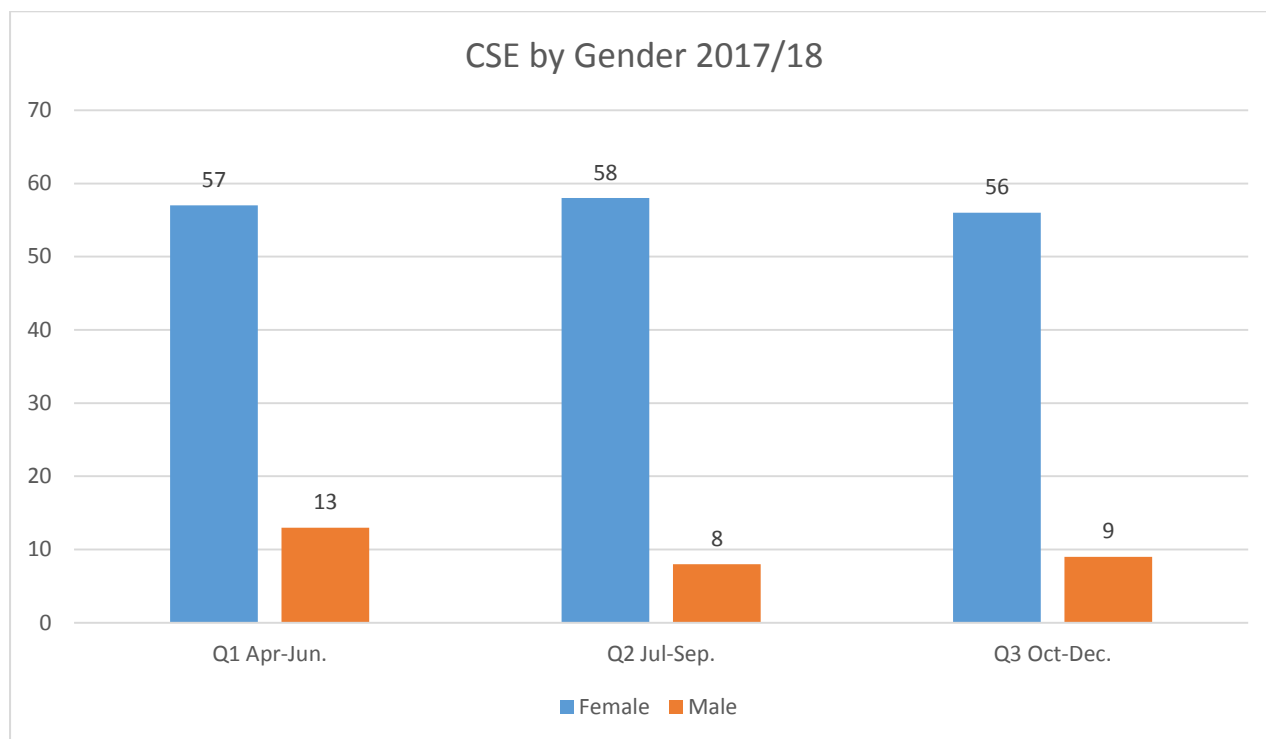
This information evidences that the target age where children become subject to CSE is from 16 years onwards. However this also indicated that the prevention strategies for children below 16 years should be strengthened.

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Table 2 shows the number of children who are subject to CSE by gender across Q1, Q2 and Q3



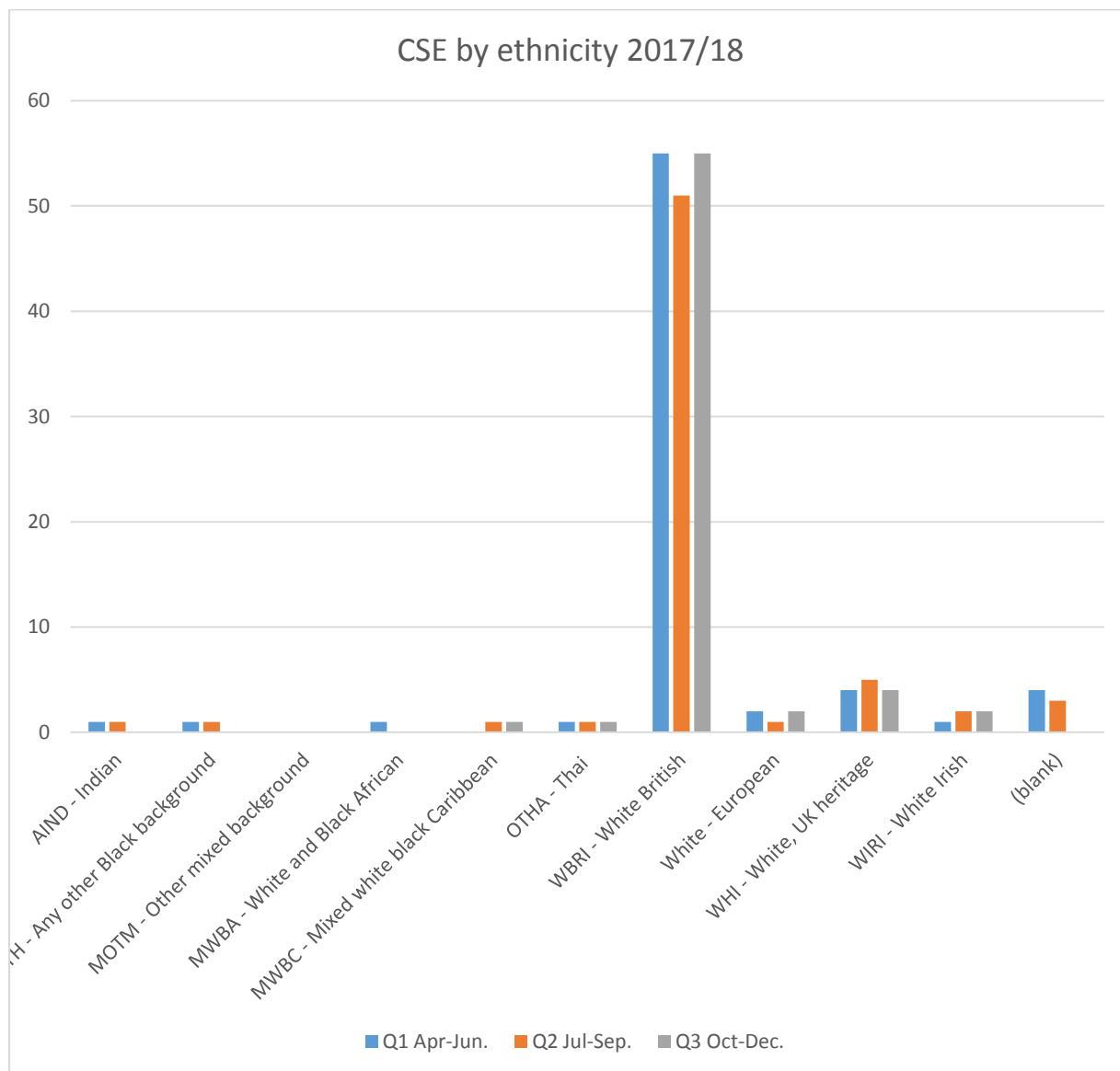
This information shows us that boys are increasing as victims of CSE, with the average number across the three quarters doubling that of 2016/17. This was previously an area of concern as professionals do not always recognise boys as being subject to CSE. So this increase is positive in terms of identification.

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Table 3 shows the comparison of children subject to CSE across Q1,Q2 and Q3



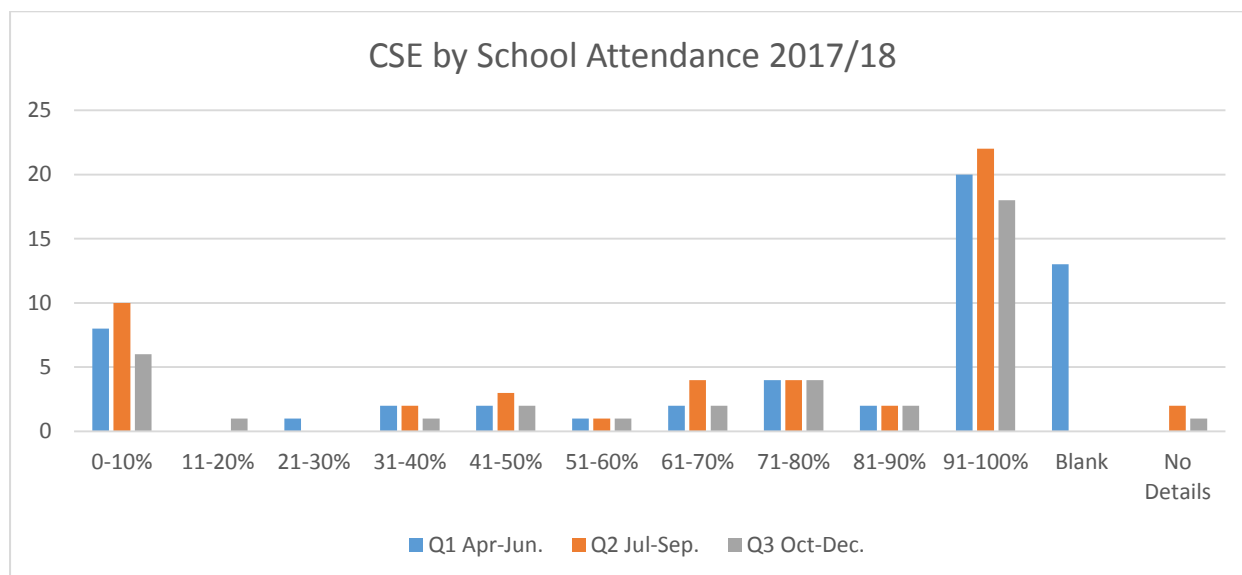
This table evidence that white British children are the highest ethnic group who are subject to CSE. This does not mean that other ethnicities are not subject to CSE rather it is not being identified and referred to services. The range of ethnicities being reported this year is broader than those of 2016/17, although numbers are low.

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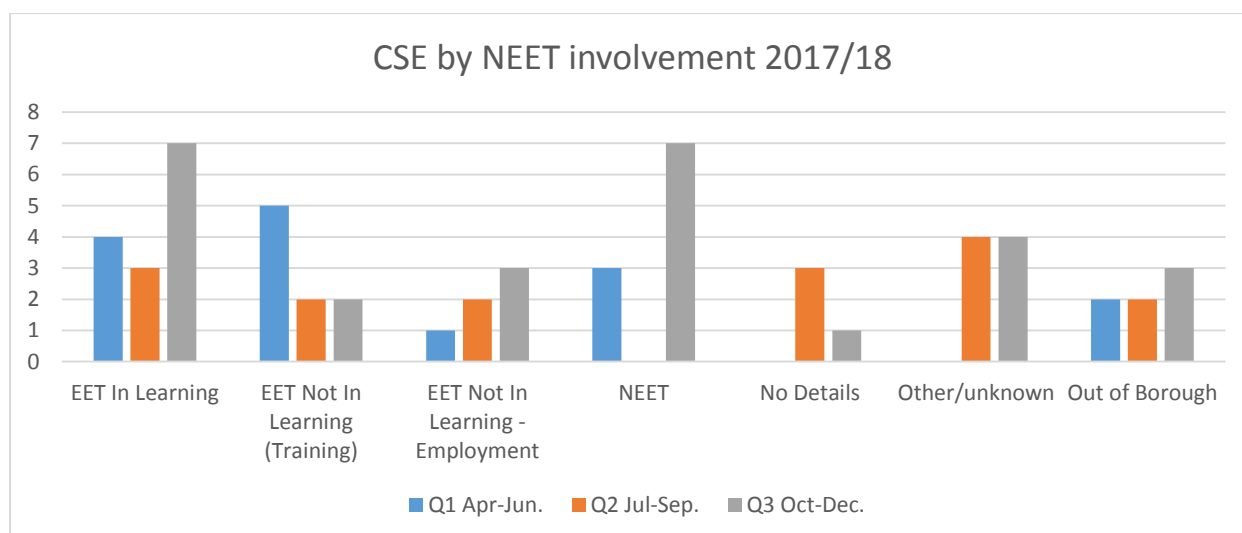
Table 4 shows the school attendance of those children subject to CSE (up to 16 years) and their school attendance across Q1, Q2 and Q3.



The largest cohort here have over 90% attendance, however this has dropped slightly for Q3. This indicates that there are slightly more children missing education who are at risk or subject to CSE than previously.

Table 5 shows the NEET Activity (17-18 yr olds) across Q1, Q2 and Q3.

This table evidences a reduction across Q1 –Q3 for those young people subject to CSE who are NEET.



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3.16 Honour Based Violence (HBV)/Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)/Forced Marriage

In 2017/18 there were 7 contacts to Children's Social Care in relation to FGM. 3 resulted in no further action and 4 progressed to assessment. This is an increase on last year where no referrals met the threshold for statutory assessment. There were 6 referrals in relation to honour based violence and 2 progressed onto assessments, 3 had a strategy discussion. There were no contacts concerning Forced Marriage.

There is a good awareness within MASH/FCP and the Assessment and Child Protection Team around concerns relating to FGM, HBV. Partner agencies are referring into the service and seem to also have a good understanding.

3.17 Specialist awareness courses continue in 2017/2018 and 20 practitioners attended. A good cross section of agencies attended from health, education, Voluntary sector, police and SBC were trained. There are a further two full day courses planned for 2018/2019 (March & October) and two half day sessions just on FGM.

3.18 The community safety partnership lead on the development of the Violence against women and girls strategy, HBV, FGM and forced marriage are key areas in the strategy and will form part of the delivery plan. CSE and Teenage Domestic Abuse are also key areas of the Violence against women and girls strategy.

3.19 The FGM protocol and practitioner toolkit has been updated.

3.20 Domestic Abuse

Swindon has estimated high levels of domestic abuse, compared with its 'nearest neighbours'. Evidence suggests that the number of children affected by domestic abuse has increased in recent years. Domestic Abuse continues to be a high priority across all of Children Families and Community Health and work is underway within the Community Safety Partnership to develop the risk, prevalence and impact of domestic abuse in Swindon.

3.21 A joint task and finish working group between children and adult services has been proactively progressing the development of services for Swindon in relation to Domestic Abuse. This is chaired by the Director of Public Health.

3.22 This group has been successful in its bid for funding from One Swindon and is looking at the best interventions nationally so that they can be commissioned for Swindon. The sum of 90K has been awarded for a two year project. These will include a holistic service for the whole family so that children, victims, and

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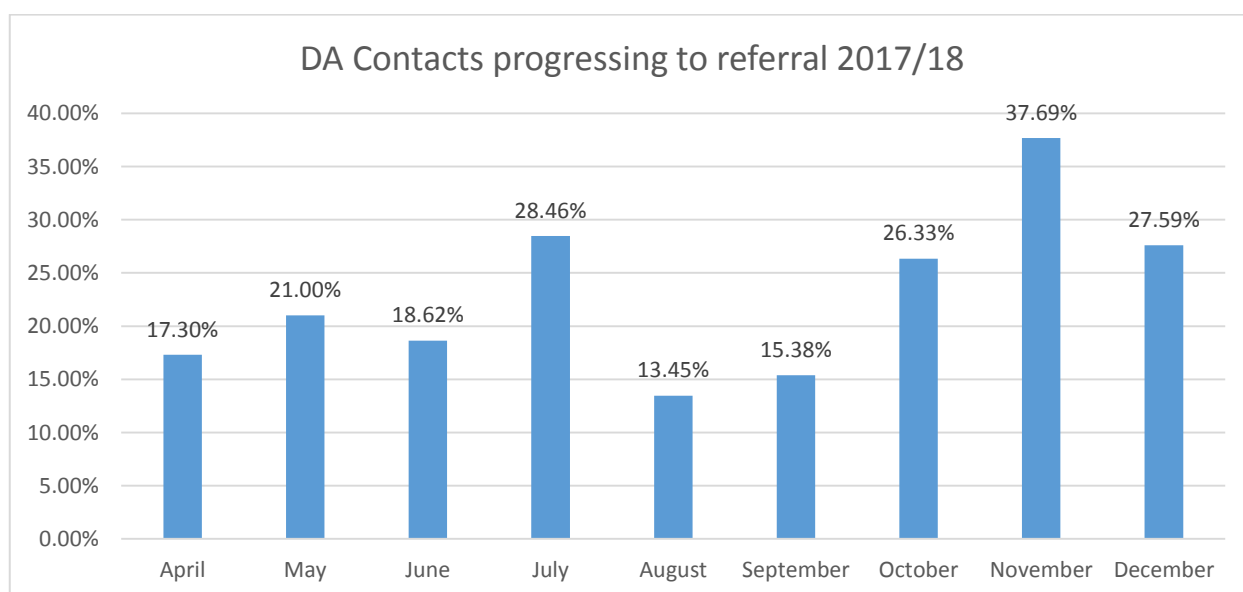
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perpetrators are supported in a joined up and safe way. A review of what is available within Swindon for families in regards to Domestic Abuse is also underway so that the gaps can be identified and plans to address these put in place. The training offered to practitioners who work with the families of Domestic Abuse is being reviewed to ensure that it addresses both the adults and the children's needs.

- 3.23 Domestic abuse (DA) accounted for 21.3% of contacts for MASH in December 2017 (261 contacts) - however this is only where DA is identified as being the primary reason for referral. This is higher than any other category of need. Table 6 depicts the rate of domestic abuse referrals that progressed to referrals between April 2017 – December 2017. This shows the percentage of those contacts that became referrals to social care.

Table 6



- 3.24 MASH also have information sharing agreements with the refuge and they advise every time a Swindon family leave the refuge. Swindon's Women's Aid have also been completing some awareness raising workshops for the MASH consider how MASH can be more effective in how it engages with victims of Domestic Abuse.
- 3.25 Police are risk assessing domestic abuse notifications to consider the risk to a child and a RAG rating is being applied. This means that those children who

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are most at risk are identified early so that their safety needs can be identified and met.

- 3.26 The new model for sharing police notifications - Encompass - started in February 2017 and has become embedded across schools Early Years and GP surgeries. Training has been offered and delivered across these partner agencies. Feedback is very positive. Swindon is the first to do this with GPs. The police will be leading on a review of Encompass during 2018.
- 3.27 Police and the MASH manager have delivered joint training with frontline police officers to raise their awareness of how to record and share the information regarding the children while on visits to homes where DA has been reported.
- 3.28 The Respect Young People's Programme is currently being offered within the YOT and is a licensed programme that successfully works with young people aged 10 to 17 and their families. The programme delivers a structured intervention to help those families that are dealing with aspects of adolescent to parent violence throughout the borough of Swindon. The programme also works with young people and families who have experienced and witnessed domestic abuse historically. The aim of the programme is to offer early intervention to create positive change for these families by preventing the continuation of domestic abuse in the future and thus reduce the risk of family breakdown and criminality.
- 3.29 The programme in Swindon was previously funded by the Wiltshire Community Foundation for a period of 2 years from July 2016 and has now been implemented as a permanent intervention to be offered to families and young people across Swindon. Respect has successfully completed with 36 families in that time and currently has a waiting list of 66 young people with referrals being received via schools, Family Contact Point/MASH, Social Services, CAMHS, TAMHS, the police and any various other children's services across Swindon. Referrals can also be accepted by parents and young people themselves.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 This report is for information only.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

5.1 Financial and Procurement Implications

At the time of writing this report there is no discernible financial implications.

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5.2 Legal and Human Rights Implications

Human Right considerations have been taken into account fully in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with Convention rights.

5.3 All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

None.

5.4 Diversity Impact Assessment

This report is covered by the Diversity Impact Assessment for Swindon's Children Social Care.

5.5 Risk Management

There are no risk implications.

6. Consultees

6.1 The Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

7.1 None.

8. Appendices

8.1 None.