

Effectiveness of Safeguarding - Stocktake

Children and Young People's Trust Board

January 19th 2008



NHS



Brighton and Hove
Children and Young People's
TRUST



Background

- Local Authorities and NHS organisations required to take stock of the effectiveness of safeguarding practice

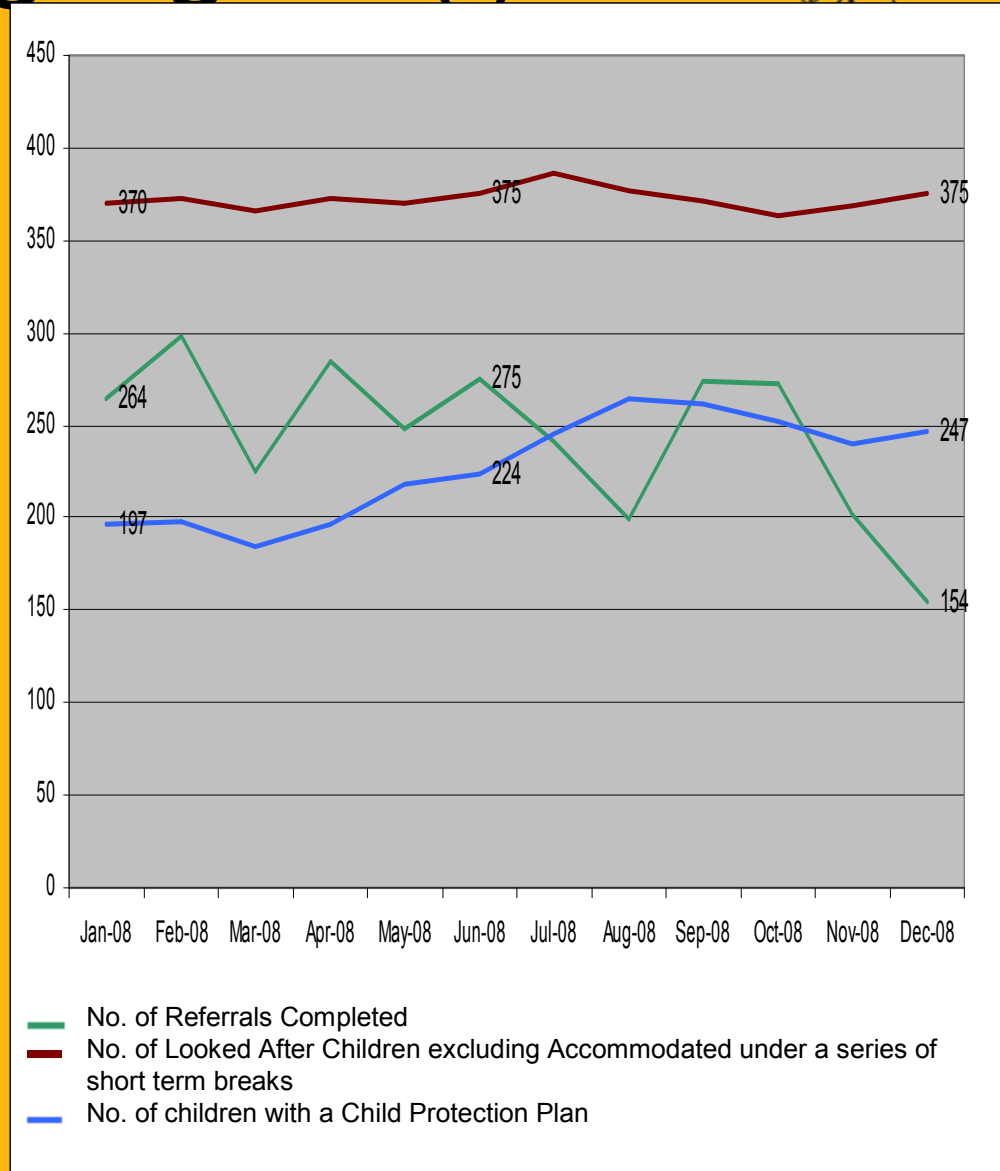
This report sets out:

- Safeguarding arrangements across the Children and Young People's Trust Partnership
- Summary of assurance provided by external inspection
- Programme to further assess and improve practice

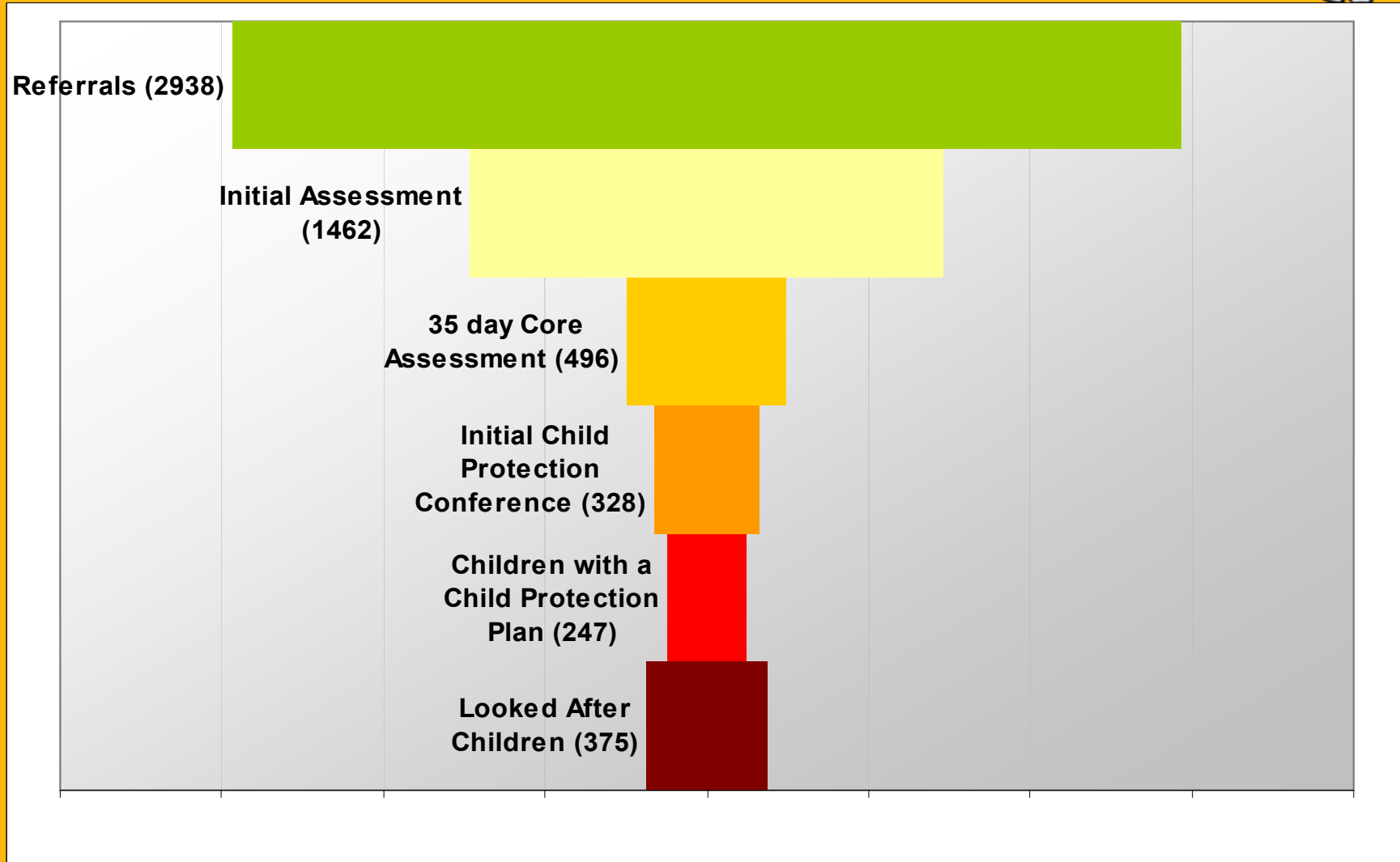
Data highlights (i)



- Numbers of Looked After Children have now levelled and are stable . There were 375 Looked After Children as at December 08
- Referrals to children's social care are relatively stable across the year with a slight downward trend overall. Low numbers reported in December reflect standard seasonal variation
- The steep rise in numbers of children subject to a child protection plan has now slowed and appears to be levelling. There were 247 children subject to a child protection plan as at December 08



Data highlights (ii)



Arrangements to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding practice:



- Appointment of a Director of Children's Services and designation of a Lead Member for children's services (Children Act 2004)
- Creation of a Local Safeguarding Children's Board (Children Act 2004 and Working Together 2006)
- Establishment of a Children and Young People's Trust to ensure planning and commissioning takes account of safeguarding and promoting welfare (Statutory Guidance 2008)
- Quality and Performance Branch to provide offline assurance including safeguarding and child protection
- Area and city wide safeguarding and child protection services, including internal management and assurance processes
- Integrated Safeguarding Children Training and Development Strategy

Summary of the assurance provided by external inspection



- CYPT safeguarding services judged to be adequate by the 2006 Joint Area Review, improving to good in the 2007 & 2008 APA
- All NHS Trusts in Brighton and Hove reported themselves compliant with Core Standard 2 Safeguarding Children in 2007/8
- See Appendix 2

Interim assessment framework



- Findings of the Joint Area Review of children's services in Haringey
- Preliminary issues identified by the Healthcare Commission
- GOSE's early draft Children's Social Care Performance Framework and LSCB Quality Assurance checklist
- Social Care Governance Exercise - CYPT Area Managers
- See Appendix 3

Assessment programme to review:



- Compliance with Climbie Inquiry (2005)
- Operation
- Compliance with the CYPT Supervision Policy
- Standards of record keeping on case files
- Thresholds for targeted and specialist safeguarding and child protection services
- CYPT Monthly Monitoring Reports - social care and safeguarding data
- Operation of Area Panels for complex, high risk cases

Next Steps:



- **Results of the assessment, including Healthcare Commission review reported to the CYPT Board, the PCT Integrated Governance Board and the LSCB.**
- **Recruitment and Retention strategy updated in respect of social work practitioners, support staff and managers.**

