

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....17th March 2011

1. Title of Item/Report

Children's Social Care Workload Pressures

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a further report relating to workload pressures within Children's Social Care. Members were updated on these pressures and were provided with information to the end of December 2010.

It was explained that the number of referrals remained high with 200 being received in November.

The number of initial assessments and core assessments remained high although the numbers had fallen since the previous quarter.

The overall number of children who were subject to a child protection plan had continued to reduce from the peak of 282 in February to 217 in December.

The number of section 47 investigations had fallen although this had not impacted significantly on the number of child protection conferences and children becoming subject to a child protection plan.

Reference was made to staffing issues and it was noted that the Emergency duty Team Manager and First Contact Deputy Manager posts had been filled and generally the overall staffing situation continued to progress.

Cabinet was provided with key elements from the Munro Review, which had looked at the child protection system in England.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The continued workload pressures within the social care system and the associated impact this was having on caseloads, performance and budget be noted.

2. Further update reports on a quarterly basis in order to continue to

monitor the impact of these workload pressures be received.

3. Reasons for the Decision

There was a significant and continuing rise in social care workload which could potentially impact on the Council's ability to effectively safeguard children, fulfil statutory duties and remain within allocated budget

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on 25 March 2011

Proper Officer  
21 March 2011