

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting8th March 2012

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 those pressures and were provided with information up to the end December 2011.

It was explained that there had been a reduction in the number of referrals with figures reaching 204 in November then declining to 124 in December.

The number of children subject to a child protection plan had continued to rise reaching an all time high of 301 in December. This reflected the high volumes of referral and assessment activity earlier in the year.

The number of looked after children had risen to 336 in December.

It was noted that the overall staffing situation was positive. One Specialist Team Manager post remained vacant although it was being covered by an agency manager. In terms of social work posts there were no vacancies at the end of December 2011 and there were no unallocated cases.

Members noted the budgetary pressures facing the service and were informed of some key areas that continued to have an impact on the budget.

Cabinet was provided with details of progress relating to initiatives introduced via the EIT Review of Child Placements.

RESOLVED that:

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

and budget.

2. further update reports be submitted to Cabinet on a quarterly basis in order to continue to monitor the impact of these workload pressures.

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 Friday 12 March 2012

Proper Officer
12 March 2012