

APPENDIX 2

Statistical Information about the Child Protection Service

- 1.1 This appendix details the volume of work around child protection and provides some selected statistics as initial benchmark data. The data is current as at 24th May 2004. It is proposed that this data is developed and refined over the next 2-3 months so that agreement can be reached about what statistics should be provided on a regular basis to Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Panels.
- 1.2 On average there are 1044 Children in Need referrals made to CSF on a monthly basis. These constitute roughly half of all referrals received by Referral and Assessment Teams. Children in Need referrals are divided between the Quadrants as follows :-

| East | North | South | West | Total |
|------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| 317 | 221 | 261 | 245 | 1044 |

All of these referrals have to be assessed for the action which should be taken.

- 1.3 Of these referrals, some 249 per month are related to child protection. These are distributed between the quadrants as follows :-

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| East | 71 |
| North | 60 |
| South | 60 |
| West | 58 |
| Total | 249 |

Intelligence has to be gathered on these referrals and decision made about whether Section 47 enquiries – Child protection investigation - should be undertaken. Of the 249 referrals, some 151 move into formal investigation. The existing method of collecting statistics around Section 47 enquiries is currently being refined and even more accurate data will be available in the future.

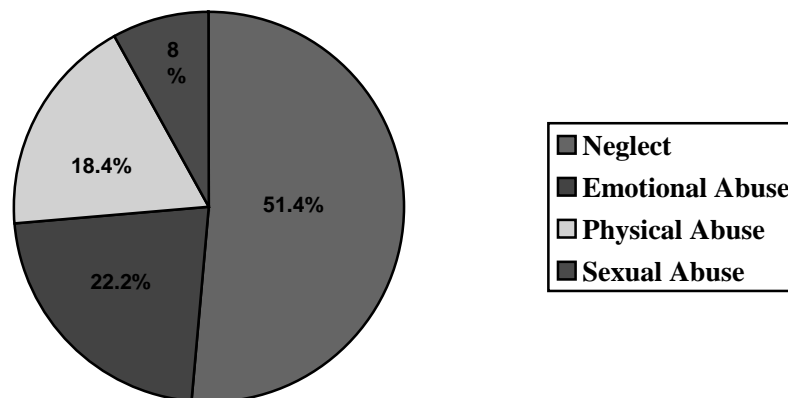
- 1.4 A number of the enquiries lead to the setting up of an initial child protection conference which consists of multi agency colleagues. This conference decides whether or not children should be placed on the child protection register. In the past 12 months, 575 children have been so placed. This is an average of 47 per month.

- 1.5 Review conferences are held on all children on the register. The first review is held 3 months after the initial conference and six monthly thereafter. The outcomes of these are that children either continue to be registered or are de-registered. In the past 12 months 876 children (average 73 per month) have been de-registered.
- 1.6 As a consequence of the differentials between registration and de-registration the number of children on the register as at 30 April 2004 amounted to 490. At the time that the statistics were provided for the SSI Inspection there were 610 children registered.

The categories of children registered in April 2004 were as follows :-

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Neglect : | 252 |
| Emotional Abuse : | 109 |
| Physical abuse : | 90 |
| Sexual abuse : | 39 |
| Total | 490 |

The relevant percentages are show in the pie chart below :-



- 1.7 The number of children on the child protection register as at 24th May 2004 was as follows:-

| East | North | South | West | Total |
|------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| 122 | 118 | 87 | 132 | 459 |

Each month the Director reports to SSI on the number of unallocated cases. At the end of April 2004 there were 26 unallocated cases which amounted to 5.28% of the register. CSCI expect Authorities not to carry unallocated cases above 5% of the total register. In the past few months, unallocated cases have fluctuated both above and below this 5% threshold. CSF is therefore still operating at the margins of capacity.

- 1.8 The ability to allocate and manage child protection relies to a large extent on having staff in post. CSF continues to struggle to maintain a viable workforce. The data available for 24 May 2004 shows that of the establishment of 215 qualified social workers, the vacancies amounted to 92 and the uncovered posts to 45. Details relating to each quadrant are set out below :-

| | North | South | East | West | Totals |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Establishment | 52 | 48 | 67 | 48 | 215 |
| Vacancies | 18 | 14 | 37 | 23 | 92 |
| Uncovered Posts | 5 | 5 | 32 | 3 | 45 |

The recent measures agreed by Cabinet to improve recruitment and retention are intended to reduce the number of vacancies to 15 within one year.