

July 2022



Children and Families Scrutiny Panel
Highlight Report
Early Help and Prevention
Dan Buckle, Head of Service

What is Early Help?

When a child/young person/family needs something extra, early help is the initial response offered by all services in contact with children, young people and families. This builds an understanding to address extra needs and prevent situations from getting more difficult for children and young people. The aim of Early Help is to build on people's strengths and resources to manage their own dilemmas, resolve their own difficulties and prevent further problems in the future.

Children and Families First (re-branded)

Four teams delivering two key elements of early help (0-19):

- Generic and targeted group work delivering evidence backed interventions (i.e EPEC, EY, NF Parenting, FGCs)
- Case holding work – 12-16 week targeted interventions

Key D22 changes

- Separated out group work and case holding tasks
- Created dedicated parenting/group work team
- Introduced Social Work spine
- New leadership structure – Social Work managers
- Introduction of clinical leads

Integrated/co-located services

Service operates primarily from seven centers across the City.

East

Townhill Park - Cutbush Lane

Thornhill - Byron Road

Weston - Foxcott Close

Central

Pickles Coppice Children's Centre - Windermere Avenue

The Ashby Centre - Stratton Road

West

Clovelly - Clovelly Road

Swaythling - Honeysuckle Road

Co-location with:

- 0-19 PHN (health visiting/school nursing)
- Midwifery
- Community/Voluntary sector

Performance

- Approx. 1,000 children open
- Approx. 175 new referrals each month
- 25-30 cases 'stepped up' each month

- Performance tracking
 - Cases open
 - Assessments on time
 - Visits
 - Plans
 - Supervisions

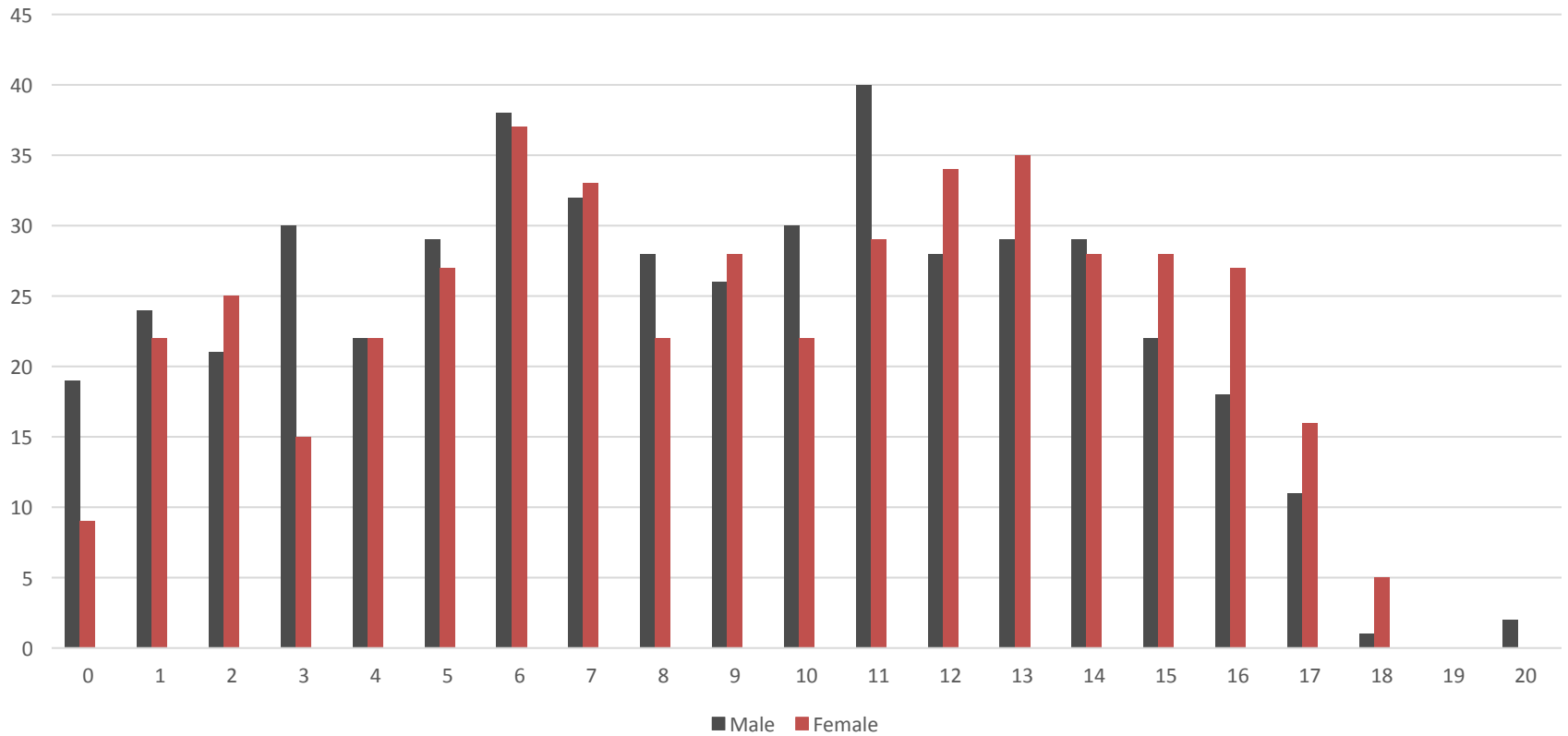
Group Activity

- 100 stay and play sessions running per month
- 14 parenting courses across the City
- Inc. 5 evidenced based group programmes

- Plan to expand EPEC offer to include parenting teenagers
- Planned role out of New Forest Parenting Programme – under 11's with ADHD

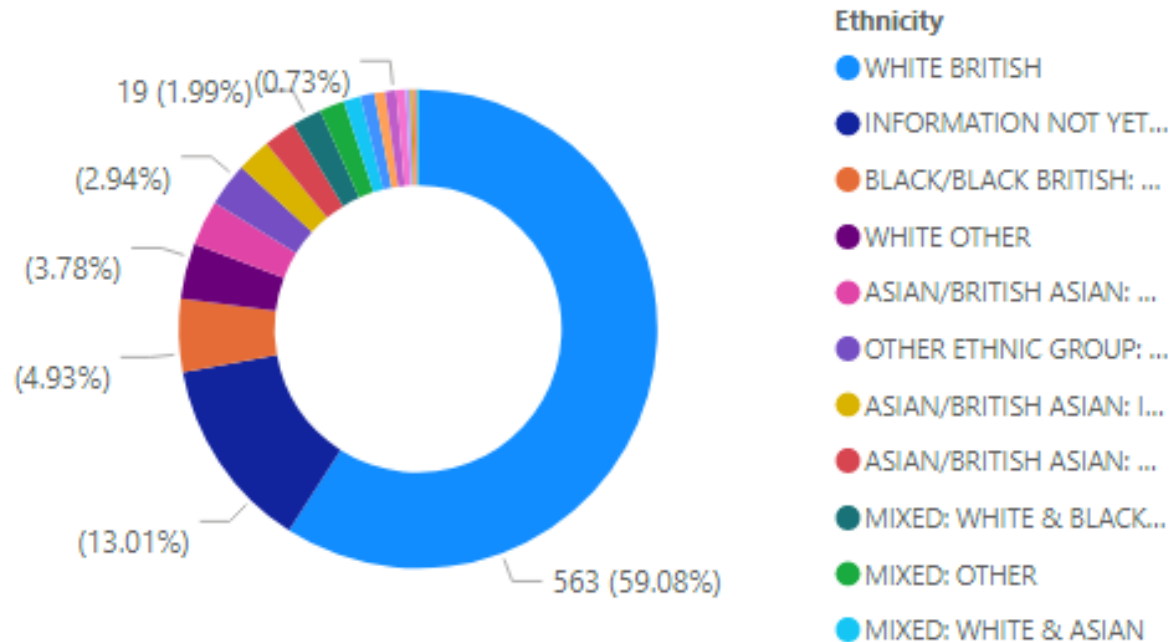
Breakdown by age

Ages of Children



Cases by ethnicity

Cases by ethnicity



Priorities

- Improve consistency in practice standards
- Establish clinical lead positions
- Better collaboration and co-working with PVI sector
- Co-ordination of locality services
- Joint working with Solent 0-19 colleagues
- Family Hub development

Family Hubs

Family Hubs are centres which, as part of integrated family services ensure families with children and young people aged 0-19 receive early help to overcome a range of difficulties and build stronger relationships. Effective early intervention can improve children's wellbeing, educational attainment and life chances, reduce family poverty, improve mental health and lead to lower crime, unemployment and other negative outcomes.

Family hubs are for families with children of all ages, but with a great [Start for Life](#) (the critical 1,001 days from conception to age 2) offer at their core. This includes mental health advice for new parents in the weeks immediately before and after birth and support for parents to build strong relationships with their babies.

Positive practice examples

Identifying families not taken up 2 year funding offer. Pro-active 'door knocking' in the community.

- Visited 155 families
- Discussed the funding with 60 families, supporting with completing the paperwork or leaving the information with the family
- Identified that 26 of the children were waiting for a space in September
- Information and contact details for the local centre were posted through the letter box of those not at home

Parent feedback – Social Work in C&F1st

“So to start from the beginning, I was left a voice mail saying child services are contacting me regarding my eldest son. Its safe to say my heart absolutely dropped. I’ve never had anyone involved with my boys so I got very anxious and upset (as i think anyone would). I instantly thought someone was coming to take my boys especially when I got a call to say someone was coming to see us. When the Social Worker spoke to me she did make me feel a bit more at ease as she said she’s only here to help with my child’s routine and so that me and my ex partner have good communication regarding our child. She has helped me do a “working in school” course which I am really enjoying. I’m an anxious person and this has really helped me to come out of my comfort zone as I’m talking to other people and putting my own input in. I wouldn’t have done this without her help so I’m really grateful. I’m glad me and my ex can talk now too instead of it going through a third party as It makes everything a lot less complicated. Having children services involved was very scary for my but I’m grateful for the help I have had.”

