



Children's Social Care

Joint Cabinet & Executive Management Team

Tuesday 22nd October

A city of opportunity where everyone thrives

National Picture

- **Last year 2.4M people contacted Children's Services - this is a 78% increase over the last 10 years.**
- **S.47 Child Protection Investigations are up from 77,000 (2008) to 200,000 (2018), an increase of 159%.**
- **Children in Care (CIC) has risen 24% in the last 10 years.**
- **Children in poorer areas are 10 times more likely to enter care than those in affluent.**
- **Councils have had to spend £800M more on Children's Social Care in 2018/19.**

Southampton echoes the previous slide:

- **Contacts to the service per month:**
September 2018 – 1441
July 2019 – 1861
- **Number of Children in Need (CIN):**
September 2018 – 1087
July 2019 – 1948
- **Out of this, new referrals to the service:**
September 2018 – 226
July 2019 – 612

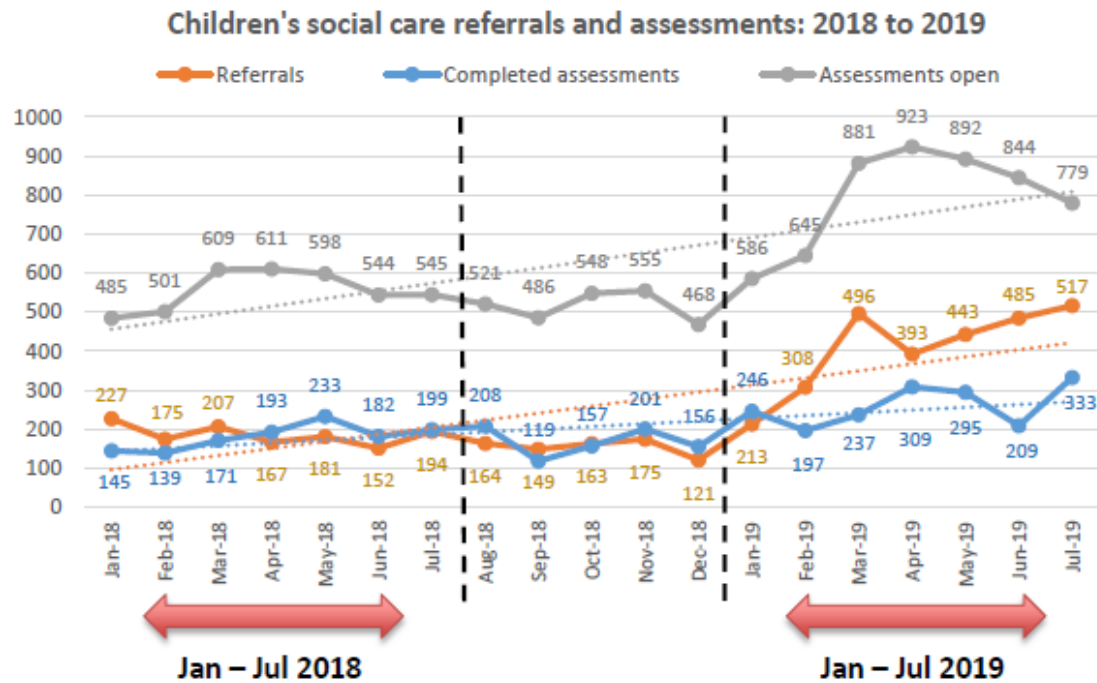
Southampton echoes the previous slide: (cont.)

- Number of Single Assessments (S.A.) undertaken:
September 2018 – 112
August 2019 – 428
- Looked After Children (LAC) :
September 2018 – 499
August 2019 – 512
- Child Protection Plans have increased by 3%

Referrals and assessment trends



Referrals and assessments

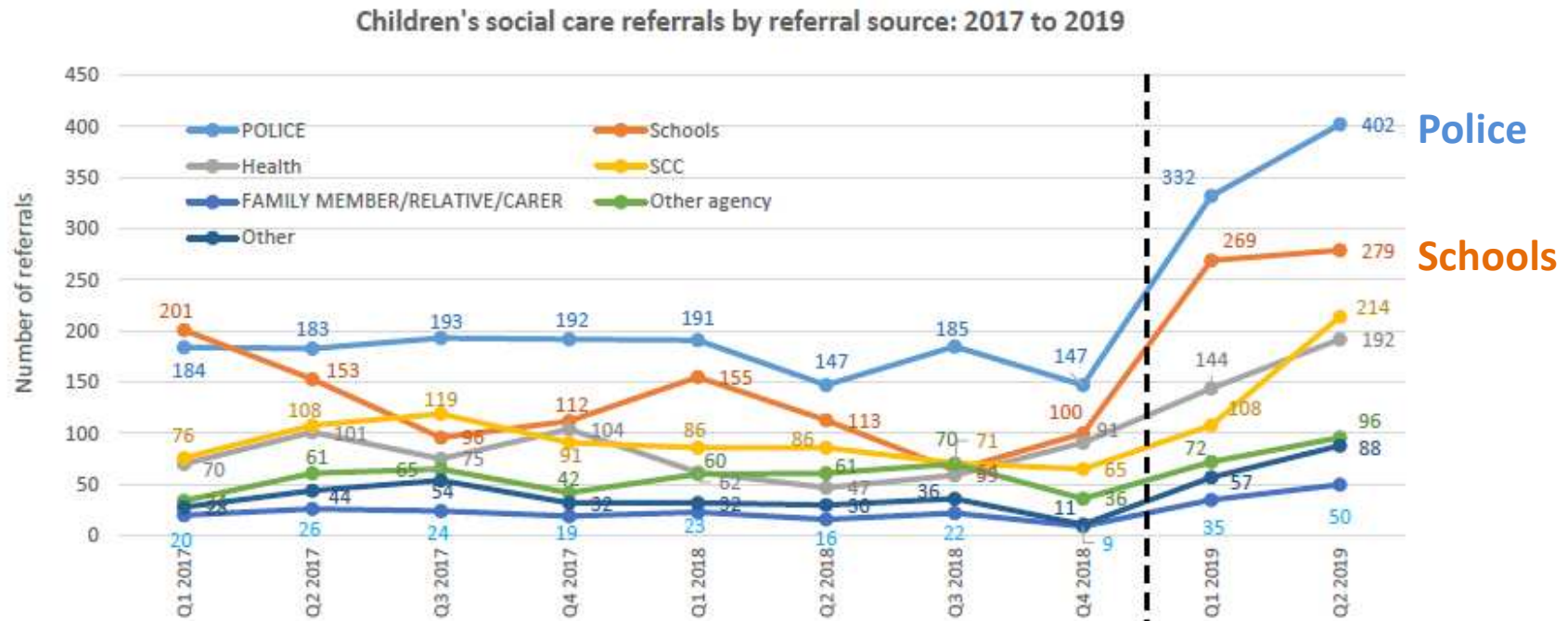


- Since January 2019, the number of referrals has increased, and despite a blip in April, appears to be continuing to increase
- Referrals increased by **119%** between January and July 2019, compared to the same period in 2018
- Naturally, this has resulted in an increase in the number of completed and open assessments.
- Completed assessments increased by **45%** between January and July 2019, compared to the same period in 2018
- Similarly, the number of open assessments increased by **43%** between January and July 2019, compared to the same period in 2018

Referrals by source trend



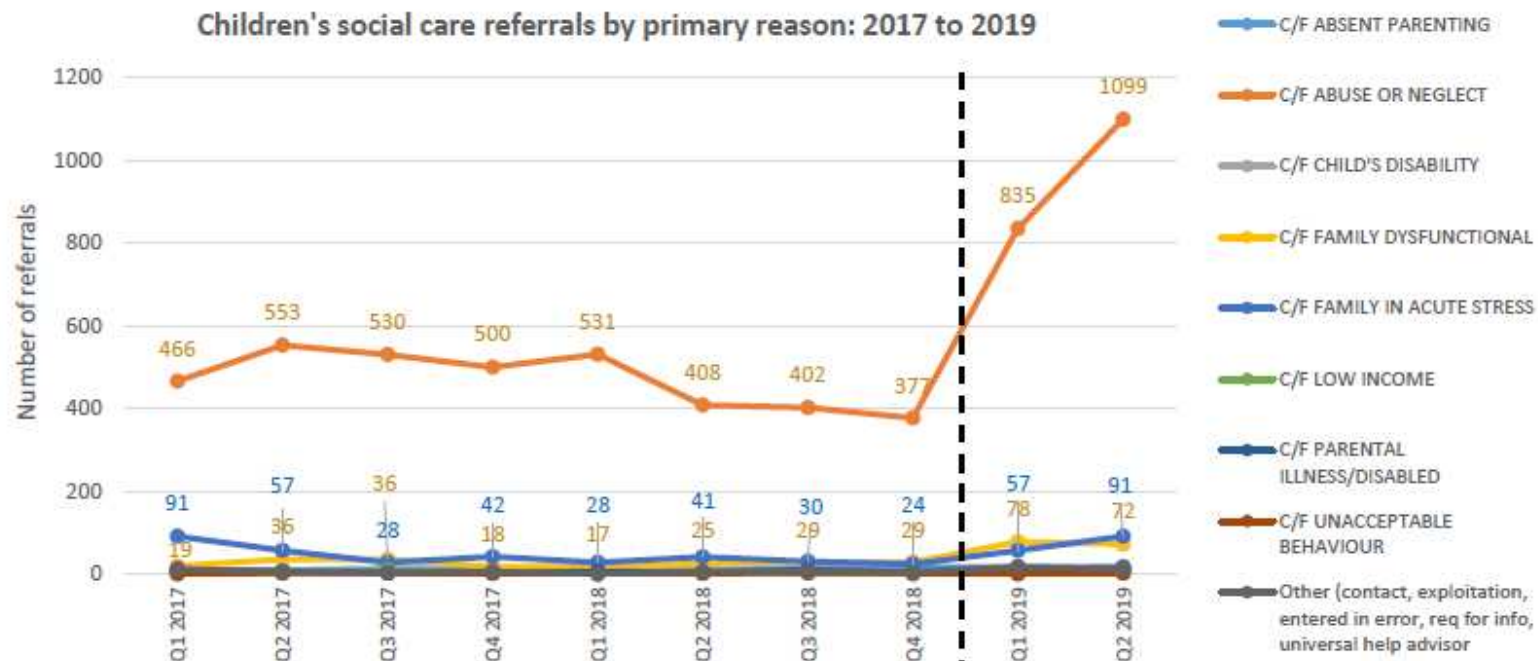
Where are referrals coming from?



Referrals by reason trend



Primary reason for referrals

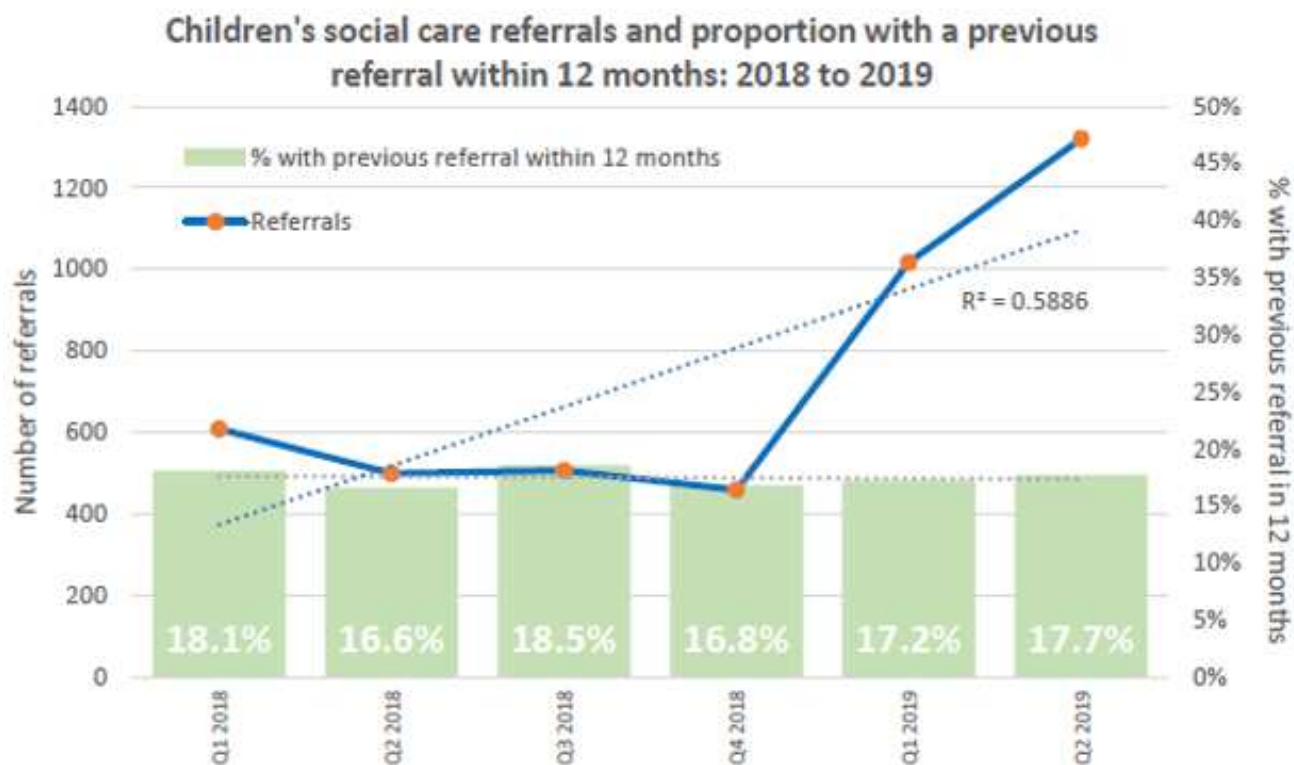


- The vast majority of referrals are for C/F abuse or neglect, although increases have been seen for other primary reasons, albeit on a smaller scale.

Repeat referrals



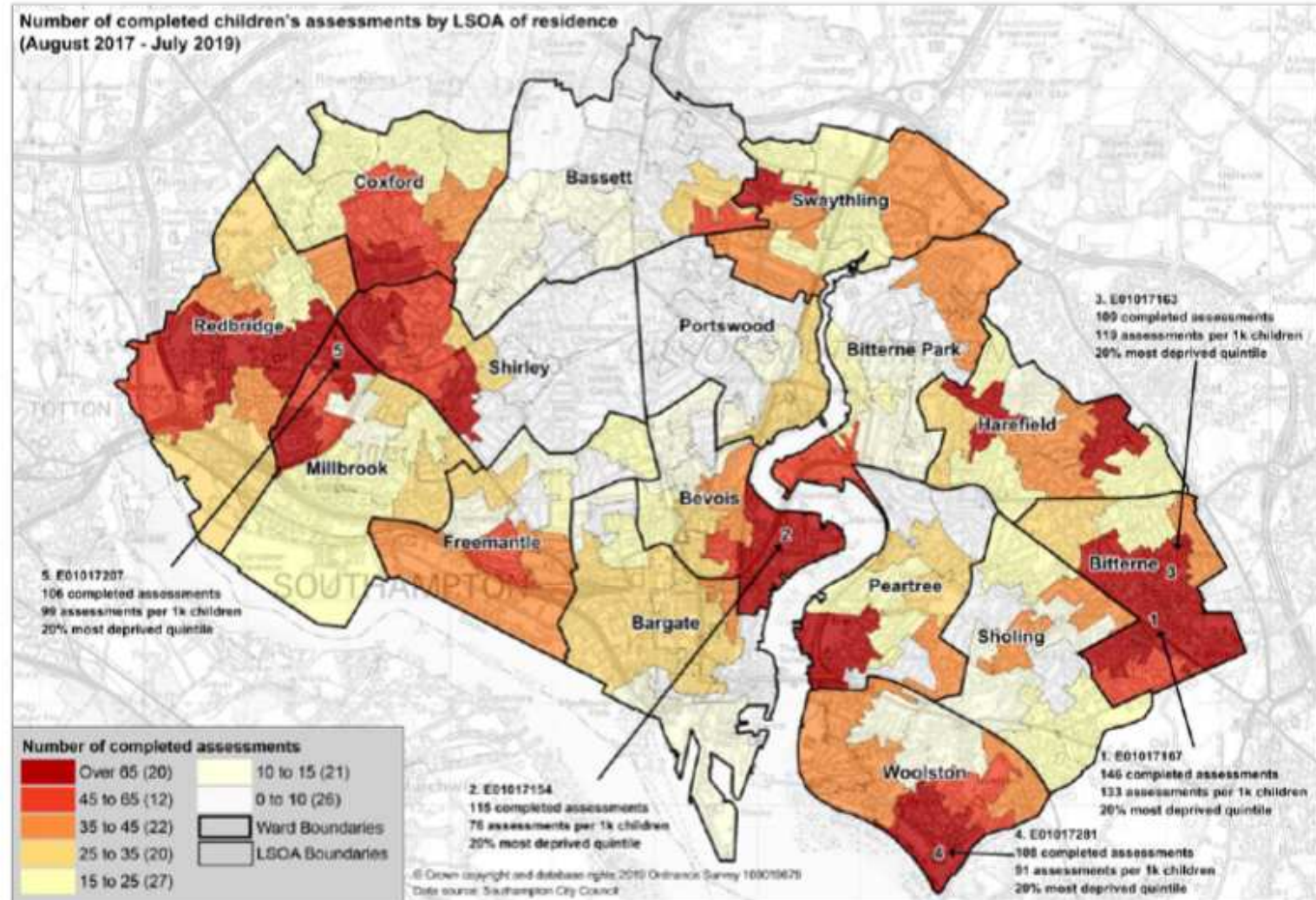
Repeat of multiple referrals



Maps – count of completed assessments



- **224%** increase in low income families.



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What we knew:

There were:

- **Issues in MASH – 700 extra cases in the system.**
- **Swamped by demand and now backlog of cases.**
- **Caseloads rising daily due to increase in contacts.**
- **Staff across service asked to help and take on assessments, adding to stress and panic.**
- **Staff going off sick, demoralised.**
- **Difficulty getting agency workers.**
- **Resignation of Service Lead for Children’s Social Care.**
- **3 Whistleblowers and Grievances.**

What we did:

- **Made sure children are safe.**
- **Went back to agencies to see if they held or monitor their referral.**
- **RAG rated cases.**
- **Phoned and contacted partner agencies.**
- **Isolated the problems: splitting duty from backlog of cases.**
- **Assessed the backlog and divided it into 3 peripatetic teams, plus outsourcing 300 cases.**

Data tells us:

- 1. Increase in demand and complexity.**
- 2. Increase in deprived areas.**
- 3. Risk adverse.**

A combination of factors caused the rise in demand with issues in MASH.

Current situation:

- **The service is currently calm.**
- **Performance across MASH / Assessment is improving.**
- **Prevented work from going into PACT.**
- **Support has been provided to PACT.**