## ADCS SAFEGUARDING PRESSURES RESEARCH – PHASE 8

Carole Brooks

Director

Carole Brooks Associates Limited

@carolebrooksuk



# Thank you!



1. 125 data collection forms returned from local authorities (83%)



2. Interviews with 21 directors or assistant directors of children's services



3. Regional quarterly common core dataset (to June 2022)



4. Review of a range of relevent literature, policy and nationally available datasets

#### 2 November

- Interim report
- Special thematic report on children's mental health

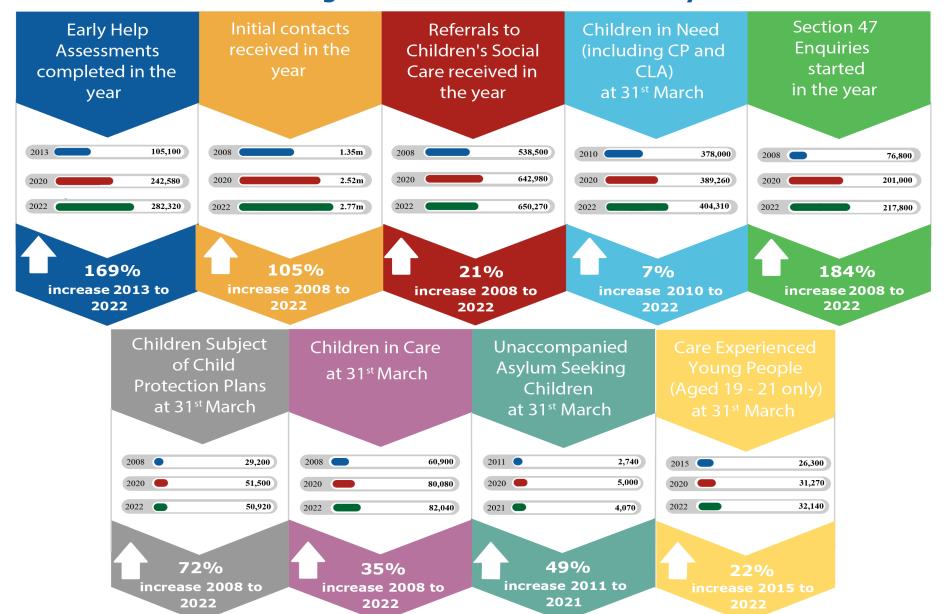


- Timeline
- Covid timeline

#### **End November**

- Full report
- Executive summary

### **Safeguarding Pressures:**Change in children's services activity





#### Top 4 funding pressures:

- Placements
- SEND
- Increase in demand for services and complexity of presenting needs
- Agency social workers

+7.5% to 'stand still' = £778m on 2022/23 budget (based on 65 respondents)

Reduce

Innovation and models of practice
Investment in capital programmes
Necessity to make savings due to pressured council budgets
Grants

Children's Services Budget and Spend

Inflation and impact on operational costs
Increasing private sector costs for placements and social work staff
More demand throughout Early Help and Social Care Services, including growing
number of care leavers

External pressures from partners
Funding local government pay award
Increased Special Guardianship Orders being funding
Continued pressures as a result of Covid-19 pandemic

Increase

	CAUSES AND DRIVERS	PRESENTING NEEDS	EFFECTS
SOCIAL FACTORS: changes to the underlying needs faced by the local community, children and parents	<ul> <li>Population change</li> <li>Increasing migration &amp; UASC</li> <li>Welfare reforms</li> <li>Unemployment/ insecure work</li> <li>Cost of living and energy crises</li> <li>Poverty</li> <li>Social media and cyber-bulyling</li> <li>Lack of affordable housing</li> <li>Lack of support networks and isolation</li> <li>Organised crime and exploitation</li> <li>Adverse childhood experiences</li> <li>Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic</li> <li>Impact of Ukraine/Russia War</li> <li>Media reporting of child deaths</li> </ul>	Reduction in family resilience and ability to 'cope' Greater demand for support from early help, social care, youth justice and other services. Homelessness, eviction, housing issues Migration from high cost urban areas to other LAs Domestic abuse Lack of emotional resilience Children who have missed developmental milestones in Covid. Parental mental health Parental drug and alcohol abuse Child's mental health  For children and families:  More people requiring high level intervention such as social care.  Poor health Social isolation Poor employment prospects Poor mental health  Suicide and self harm Unhealthy relationships Crime and criminal exploitation, including gang activity Industrial action Child deaths	
SYSTEM AND PRACTICE FACTORS: the way that the system of services responds to children and families requiring help  INFRASTRUCTURE:	<ul> <li>Etc</li> <li>Thresholds</li> <li>Models of practice and change programmes</li> <li>Changes in organisations (e.g. ICBs)</li> <li>Information sharing and systems</li> <li>Reduction in T4 mental health services</li> <li>Placement sufficiency</li> <li>Placement market profit-making organisations</li> <li>Workforce sufficiency (e.g.SW, EP, HV, OT, SALT)</li> <li>Delays in care proceedings</li> <li>Waiting lists for some support or interventions</li> <li>How effectively partners work together</li> <li>Inspection and regulation</li> <li>Budgetary challenges and short term funding</li> <li>Effectiveness of commissioning</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Behaviour</li> <li>Greater complexity /multiple issues</li> <li>Neglect (intentional and unintentional)</li> <li>Social isolation</li> <li>Revolving door and episodic need for support from services</li> <li>Delays</li> <li>Poorer school attendance</li> <li>More complex and multiple needs presenting</li> <li>Poor attainment</li> <li>Child disengagement from education and other services</li> <li>Exposure to online harms</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>For services:</li> <li>Workers leaving their professions</li> <li>Increased demand and costs – social care and SEND</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Government legislation, policy and funding</li> <li>Political change</li> <li>Geography</li> <li>Local government reorganisation</li> <li>Isolated issues (e.g. IT outages)</li> <li>Structure e.g. district councils, combined authority</li> </ul>		

#### Children's Mental Health

- National policy aims to promote resilience, protecting and improving children and young people's mental health.
- Whilst patients 'accessing support' of mental health services has increased, significant evidence that 'current plans are not ambitious enough and more than half of young people were without the support they needed'.
- Limited national evidence about positive outcomes, increase in negative outcomes.

#### **Examples of solutions and mitigations** Issues Implementing early help processes and emotional Increase in children's mental ill-health Increase in peri-natal mental ill-health wellbeing services Confusing pathways to mental health services Redesigning CAMHS offer Wider roll out of MHSTs Waiting lists High 'do not attend' numbers Bespoke packages of care due to lack of Tier 4 beds 46% respondents: never/rarely sufficient CAMHS **Build emotional resilience** 79% respondents: never/rarely sufficient Tier 4 beds Support good emotional wellbeing Workforce sufficiency issues – lack of professionals Treat mental ill-health Cost



#### Watch out for full report

- Needs and factors
- Early Help
- Placements
- Sufficiency
- Workforce
- Finance
- UASC
- Whole system view
- Direction of Travel

http://adcs.org.uk/safeguarding/article/safeguarding-pressures-phase-8



**02** Nov 2022 in Safeguarding and Child Protection > Safeguarding & Child Protection >



#### **ADCS Safeguarding Pressures Research Phase 8**

ADCS has collected both qualitative and quantitative data from local authorities to evidence and better understand changes in demand for, and provision of, children's social care.

Safeguarding Pressures phase 8 interim report draws on qualitative and quantitative data from 125 local authorities, covering 83% of England's child population, to evidence and better understand changes in demand for, and provision of, children's social care. It provides an insight into the first two years of the pandemic period, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022, and shows that the impact of Covid-19 continues to be felt in children's lives, local communities and in public services. This, together with existing data, provides an insight into the safeguarding related pressures currently facing children's services across the country.

• Safeguarding Pressures Phase 8 Interim Report (pdf)

To accompany the latest report, ADCS has updated the timeline which illustrates the events and changes that impact on safeguarding children and young people in England. This update now includes a detailed timeline of Covid-19 related events and changes.

Children's Services Policy Timeline 2007 onwards