



EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 03 JUNE 2011

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR QUARTER 4: 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (EACPC) of Child Protection Activity in East Ayrshire for the quarter 4; 1 January to 31 March 2011.
- 1.2 The data informing this report was submitted by Social Work and has been formulated taking information from the Social Work Information System and in discussion with the Locality Service Managers. Data was also submitted from Child Protection Team NHS Ayrshire & Arran, Ayrshire Family Protection Unit, Strathclyde Police and information from the Early Intervention and pre-referrals weekly monitoring (GIRFEC group) database.

2. OVERVIEW

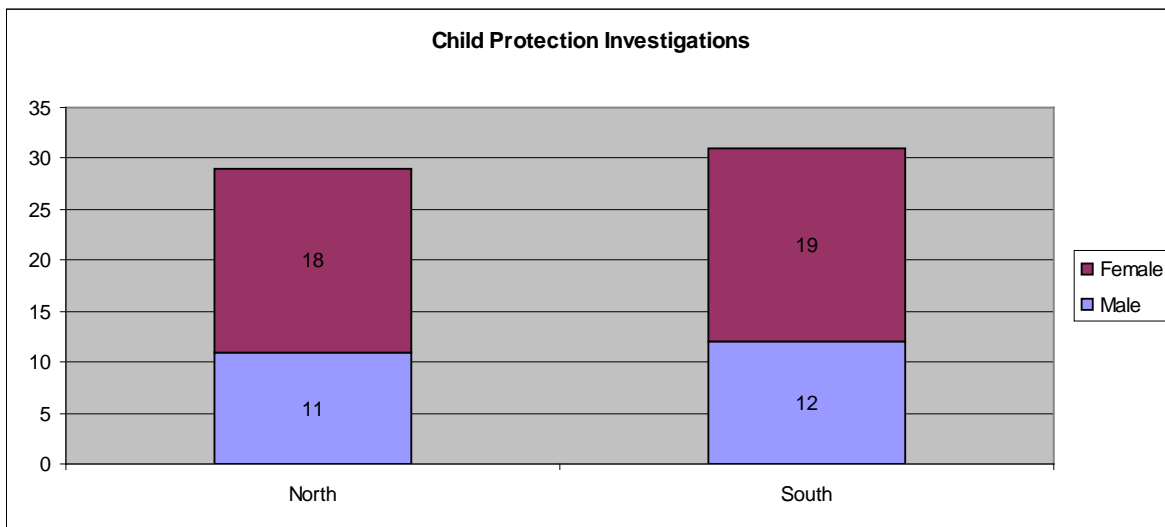
- 2.1 This quarter the number of children on the East Ayrshire's Child Protection Register has increased from the previous quarter, with 59 children's names on the Register (36 family groups) as at 31 March 2011, compared to 55 children (31 family groups) last quarter.

3. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF DATA

3.1 Child Protection Referrals

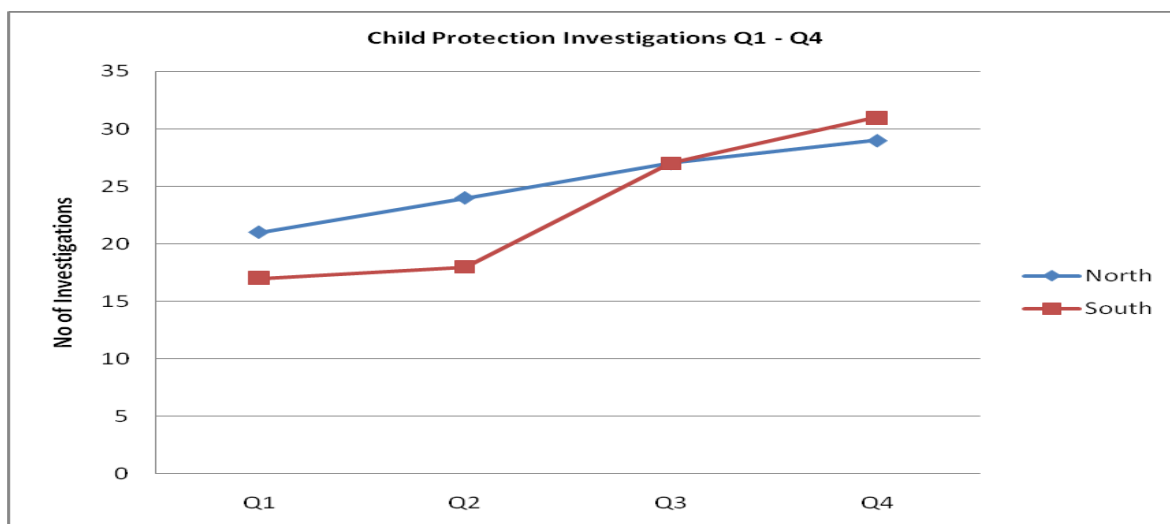
The agreed EACPC Framework for Performance and Management information details the information in relation to Social Work referrals that we endeavour to present to the committee in the future. Strathclyde Police received 177 child referrals from 01 January 2011 to 31 March 2011. In this quarter there were 258 reported domestic incidents involving children. This is a decrease from 272 in quarter 3.

3.2 Child Protection Investigations



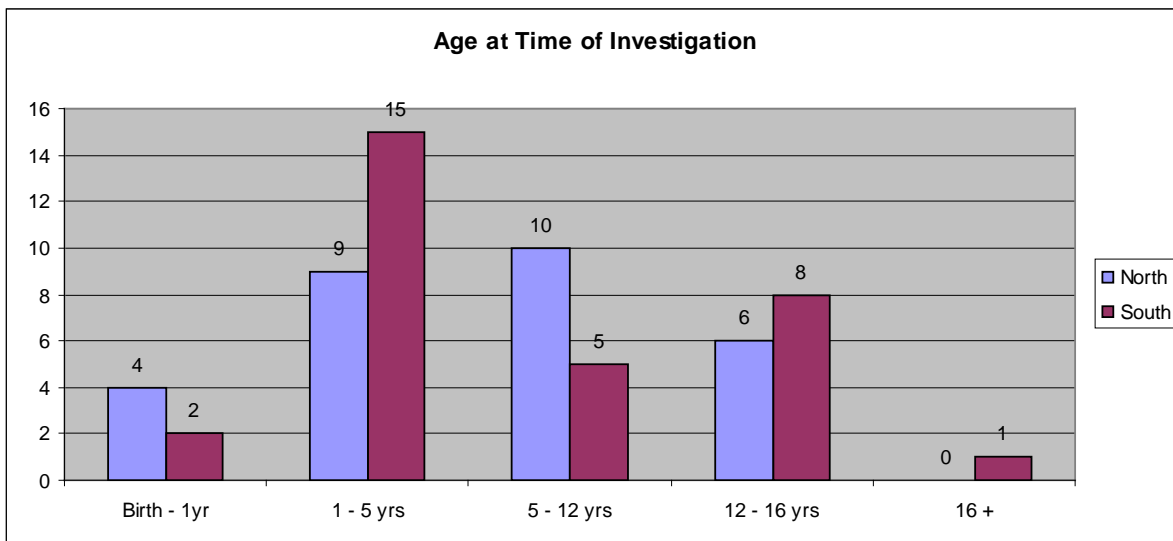
During the quarter:

- A total of 60 children were subject to Child Protection Investigations making up 36 family groups.
- 29 of the children (15 family groups) live in the North of the Authority.
- 31 of the children (21 family groups) live in the South of the Authority.
- For the North, this was an increase of 5 investigations for individual children.
- For the South it was an increase of 13 investigations for individual children.



This illustrates that from quarter 1 there has been a quarterly rise in the number of child protection investigations from 38 in quarter 1 to 60 in quarter 4.

3.2 Age at time of Investigation

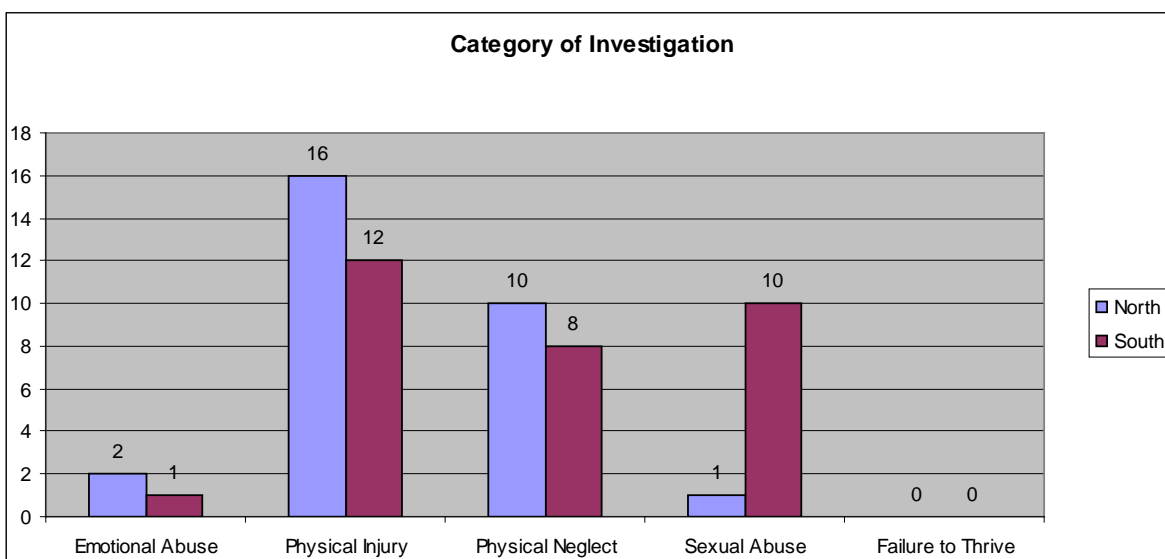


Children aged 1-5 years make up largest group of children about whom there was concern, which is a change from the last quarter when children aged 5-12 years made up just under half of all investigations.

Of the 60 investigations the children were the following ages:

- Birth to 1 year : 6 children (+2 from the previous quarter)
- 1-5 years : 24 children (+11 from the previous quarter)
- 5-12 years : 15 children (11 less children than the previous quarter)
- 12-16 years : 14 children (+3 from the previous quarter)
- 16+ : 1 child (+1 than the previous quarter)

3.3 Child Protection Investigations by category



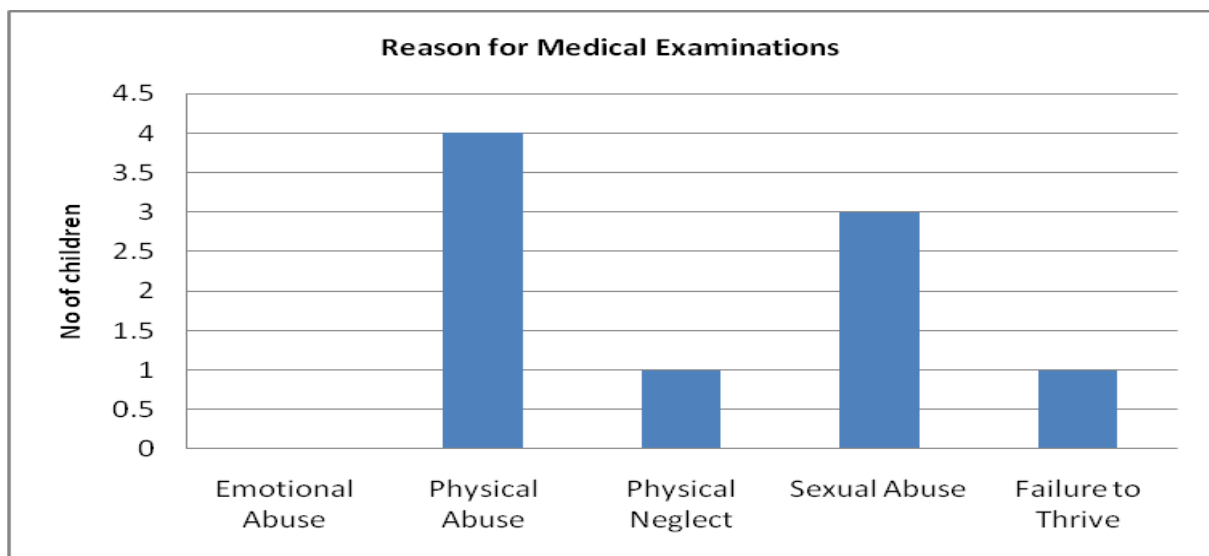
These figures highlight that Physical Injury was the main category of concern in the North and South of the Authority which is consistent with last quarter.

The identified categories of concern that led to the investigations of the 60 children were as follows:

- Emotional abuse : 3 children (1 boy and 2 girls)(+ 1 from the last quarter)
- Physical injury : 28 children (12 boys and 16 girls)(a decrease of 6 children investigated under this category from the last quarter)
- Physical neglect : 18 children (8 boys and 10 girls)(+ an increase of 8 children investigated under this category from the last quarter)
- Sexual abuse : 11 children (1 boy and 10 girls)(+ an increase of 1 from the last quarter)
- Failure to thrive : There were no investigations in this category.

3.4 Medical Examinations

From 01 January 2011 until 31 March 2011 9 medical examinations were undertaken in East Ayrshire as part of a child protection investigation.

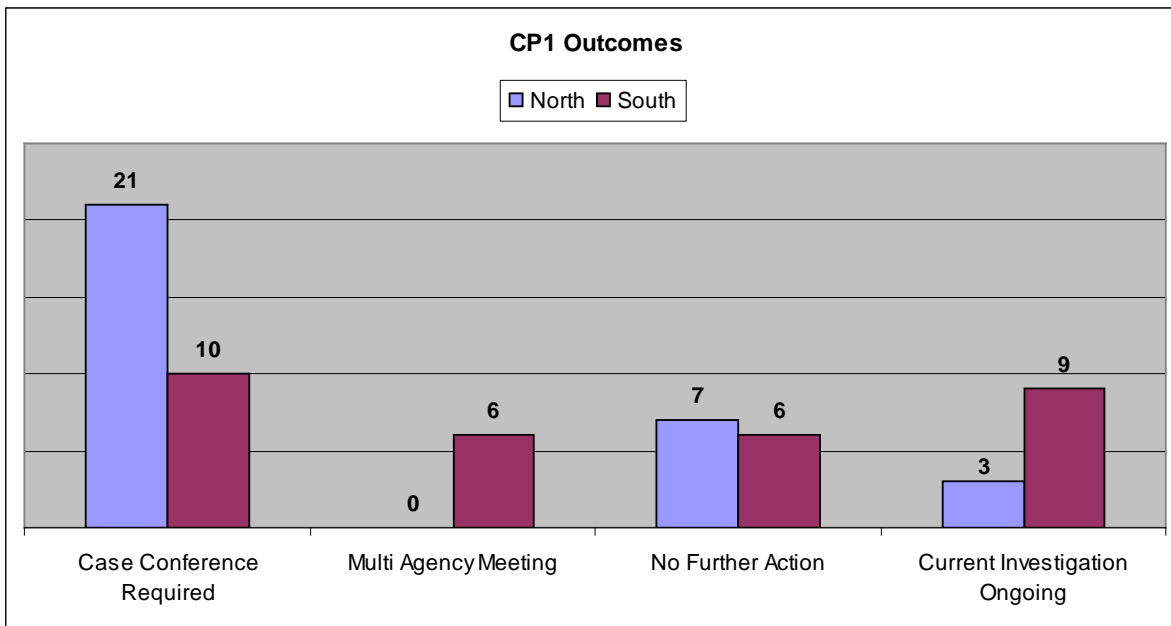


The 9 medicals were all conducted at Rainbow House.

3.5 Joint Investigative Interviews (JII)

In this quarter there were 8 Joint Investigative interviews conducted by the Police and social work.

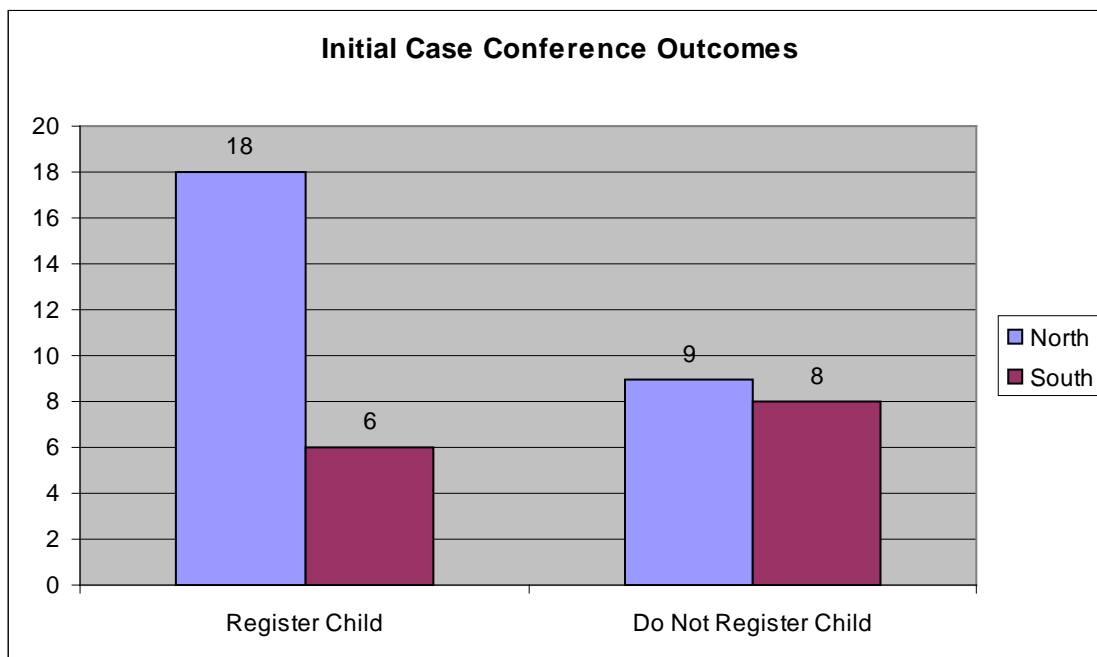
3.6 Child Protection Investigation Outcomes



Of the 62 investigations that were carried out:

- 31 of the investigations resulted in a Child Protection Case Conference.
- 6 children were discussed at a multi-agency meeting.
- 13 of the investigations resulted in no further action being taken.
- 12 investigations (6 family groups) require to be completed for this quarter.

3.7 Initial Case Conference - Outcomes



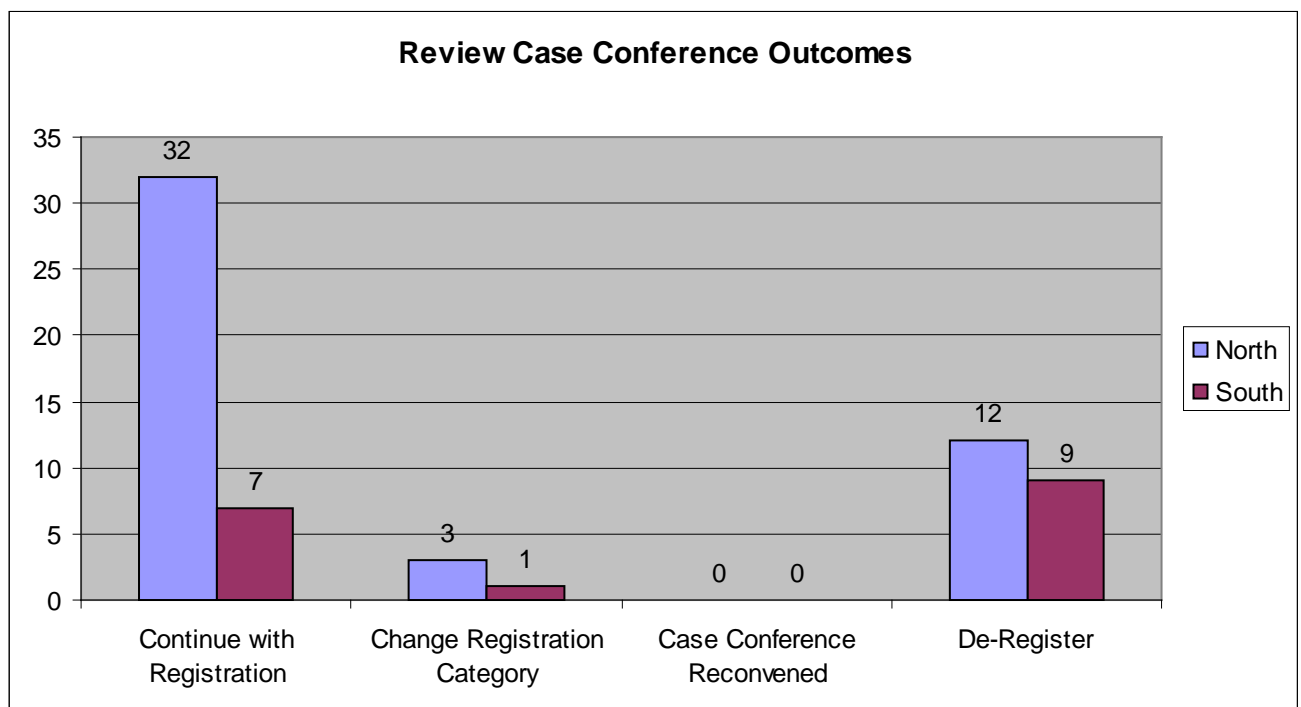
41 children were discussed at Initial Child Protection Case Conference this quarter, an increase of 12 children from the last quarter. Of these:

- 24 were placed on the Child Protection Register
- 6 of the 24 children registered had previously been the subjects of Child Protection Registration.
- 17 children were discussed and a decision taken not to place them on the Child Protection Register

Of the 6 children who were reregistered:

- 1 had been returned to their parent due to a family placement having broken down. This child was accommodated after the Case Conference in line with the multi agency recommendation of the Conference.
- 1 child's parents had relapsed into substance misuse.
- 2 children were being exposed to domestic violence, the relationship with the perpetrator having been re-established. These children were accommodated after the Case Conference in line with the multi agency recommendation of the Conference.
- 2 children were subject to a rehabilitation plan with their parents.

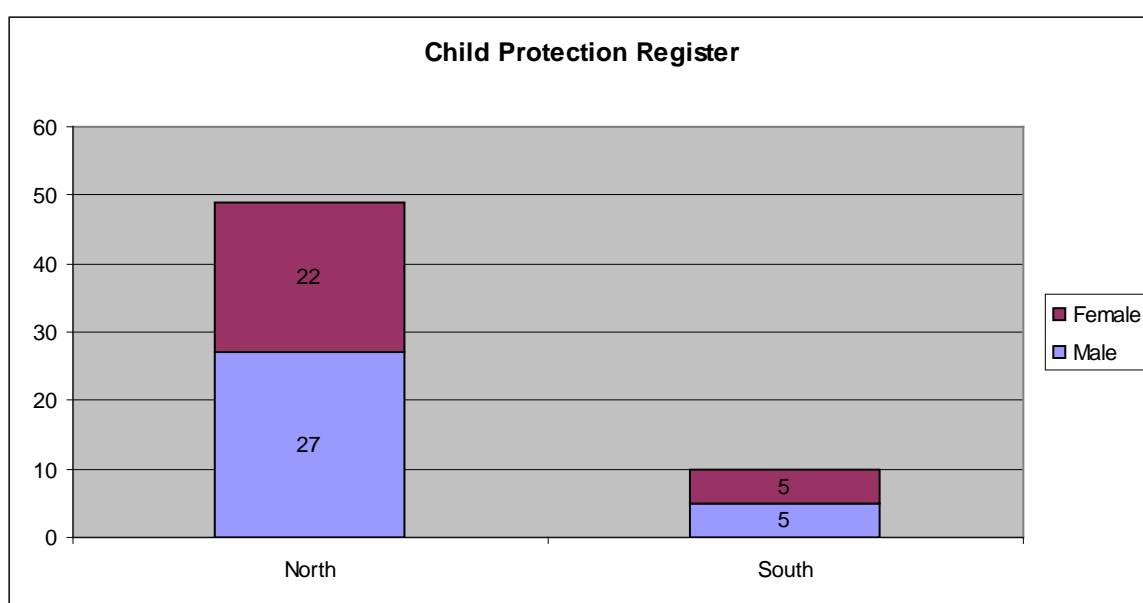
3.8. Review Case Conferences



The Registration of 64 children was reviewed at case conference for this quarter. Of these:

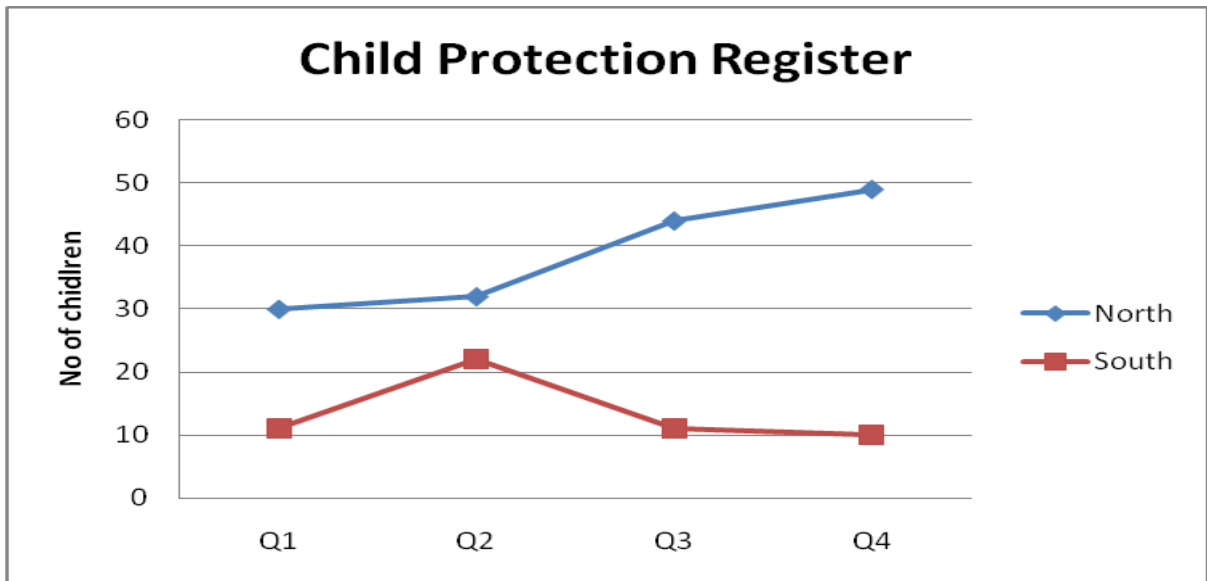
- 39 children continued on the Register with the original category of registration.
- 4 children had the category of registration changed.
- 21 children were removed from the register.
- No case conferences had to be reconvened and this is in keeping with the last quarter.
- The number of children removed from the register for this quarter had dropped to 21, compared to 44 in the last quarter. This can in part be explained by the removal of two large sibling groups (8 children) from the Register in the last quarter.

3.9 Child Protection Register as at 31 March 2011



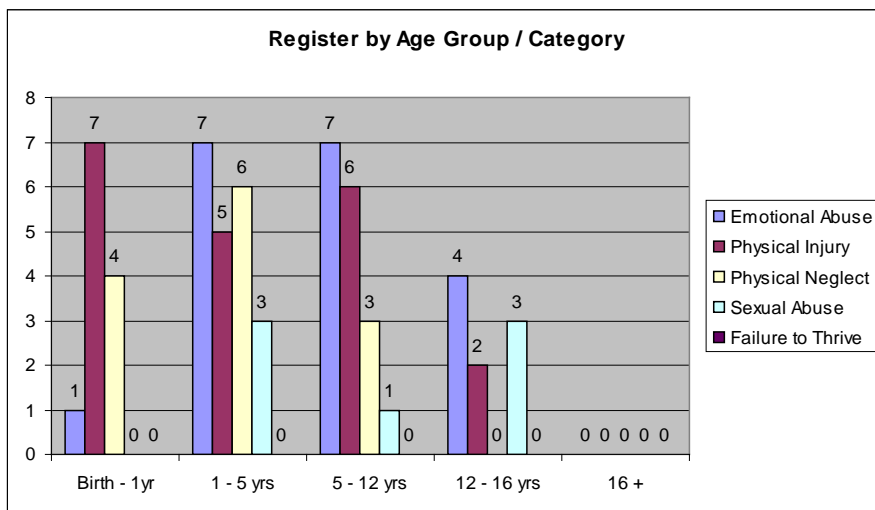
At the end of the reporting period there were a total of 59 children (36 family groups) on the Child Protection Register, the age ranges as follows:

- Birth -1 year : 12 children, an increase of 1 from the previous quarter
- 1-5 years : 21 children, an increase of 2 from the previous quarter.
- 5-12 years : 17 children, a decrease of 2 from the last quarter
- 12-16 years : 9 children, an increase of 3 children from the last quarter.
- Graph 3.8 provides a more detailed analysis regarding the age of children on the Register
- 49 of the children live in the North of the Authority (29 family groups)
- 10 of the children live in the South of the Authority (7 family groups)



This illustrates that there has been a quarterly rise in the number of child protection investigations, leading to increased registrations.

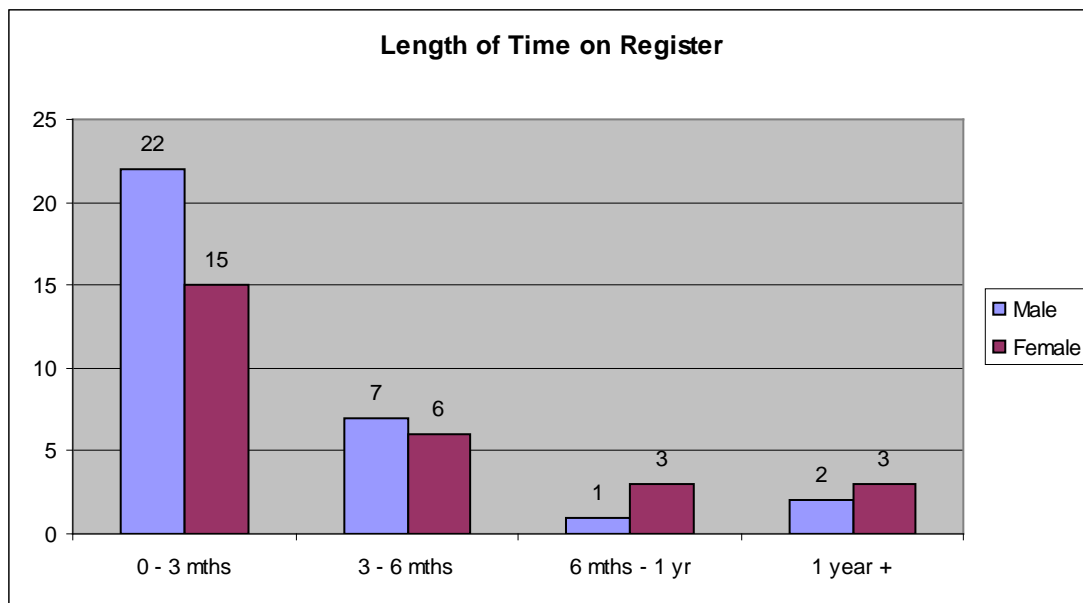
3.10 Child Protection Register by Age Group / Category



Out of 59 children on the Child Protection Register the registration categories were:

- Emotional abuse : 19
 - Physical injury : 20
 - Physical neglect : 13
 - Sexual abuse : 7
 - Failure to thrive : 0
- The categories of Emotional abuse, Physical Injury and Sexual Abuse all increased within this quarter compared to the last. The number of children registered under Physical Neglect decreased by 7. As in the previous quarter Failure to thrive was not the main presenting concern for any children.

3.11 Length of time on the Register as at 31 March 2011



Length of time on the Register is as follows:

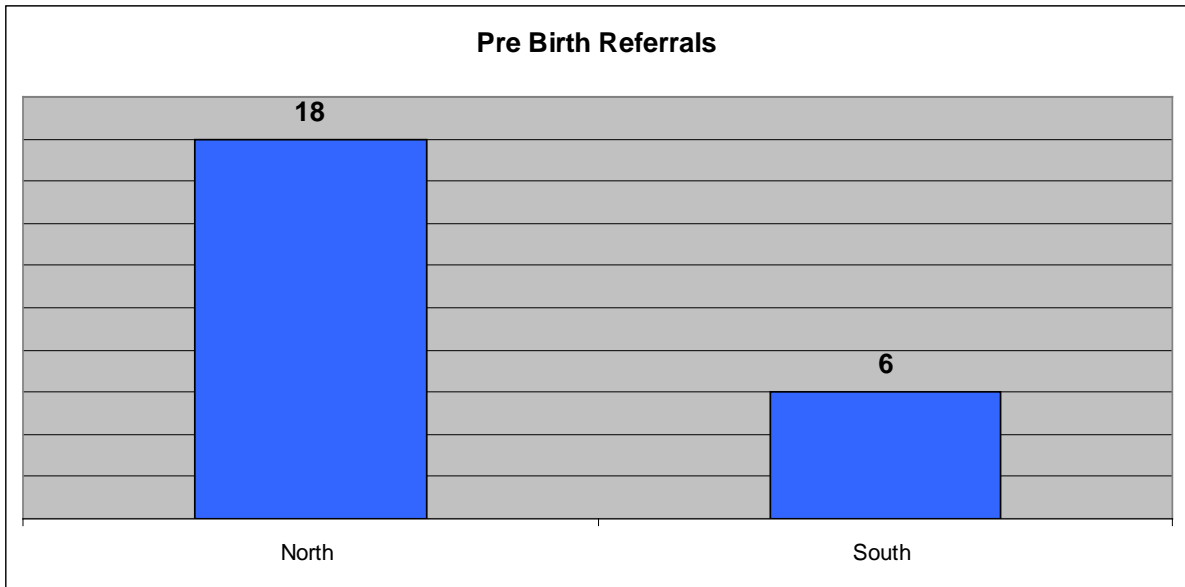
- 0-3 months : 37 children, compared to 34 last quarter
- 3-6 months : 13 children, compared to 7 last quarter
- 6mth -1yr : 4 children, compared to 9 last quarter
- 1yr + : 5 children, the same as last quarter

The 5 children (3 family groups) who have been on the Register for more than a year in this quarter are a different group of children from last quarter. Of these:

- 2 children (1 sibling group) are engaging in an ongoing AIMS assessment to assess the level of risk that still exists.
- 2 children (1 sibling group) are subject to ongoing rehabilitation plans with their parent.
- 1 child continues on the register due to the risk posed by a parent who spends periods of time incarcerated but returns to the family home on release.

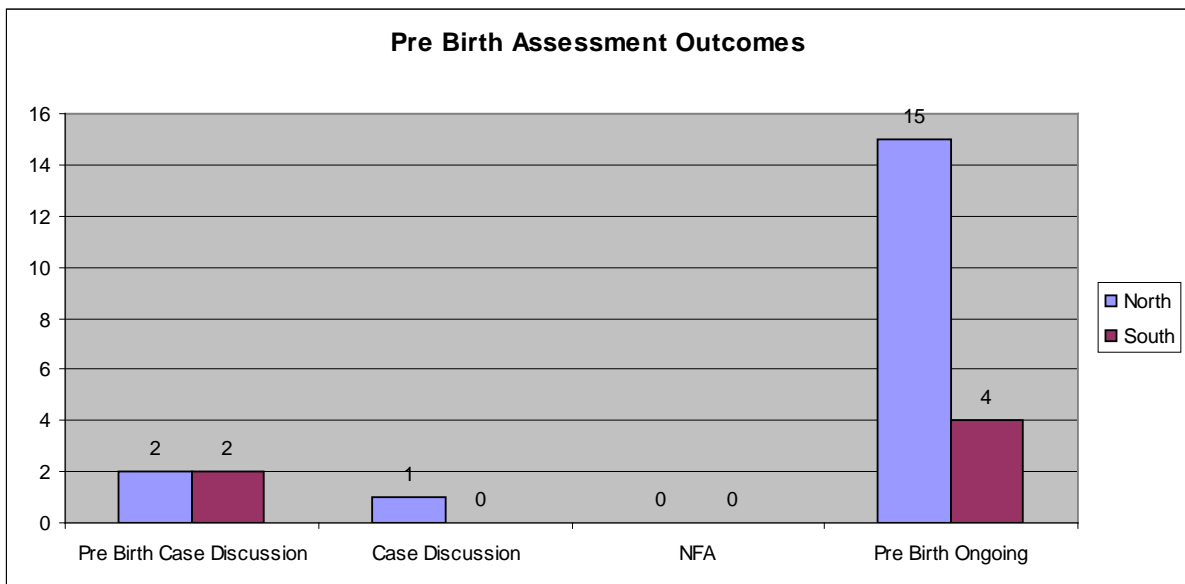
4. PRE BIRTH ACTIVITY

4.1 Pre birth referrals



24 pregnancies were referred to the Authority for this quarter under the Vulnerable Pregnancy Protocols, this is an increase 9 from the previous quarter. All of these pregnancies were subject to the Child Protection Alert System and investigated.

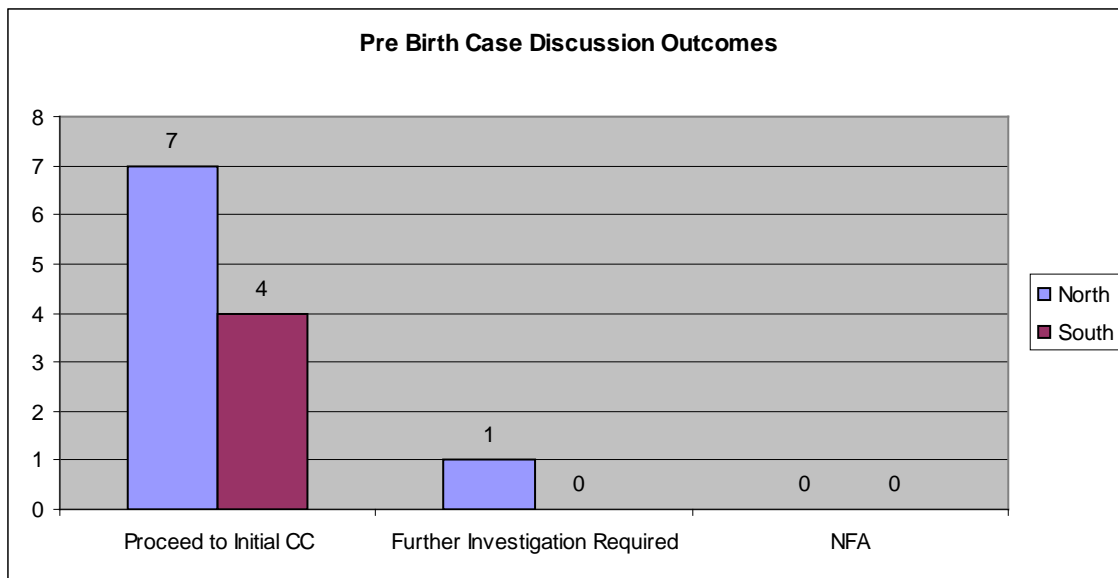
4.2 Pre birth assessments: Outcomes



In this quarter there were 24 Pre Birth Assessments initiated. Of the referrals received during this quarter:

- 4 unborns went on to be discussed at Pre Birth Case Discussion.
- 1 unborn was discussed at a case discussion.
- 19 unborns are subject to on going assessment. All of these pregnancies have dates scheduled for Pre Birth Case Discussions at 30 weeks gestation with the pre birth report due for completion at 28 weeks gestation. These dates fall after 31 March 2011.

4.3 Pre Birth Case Discussion – Outcomes

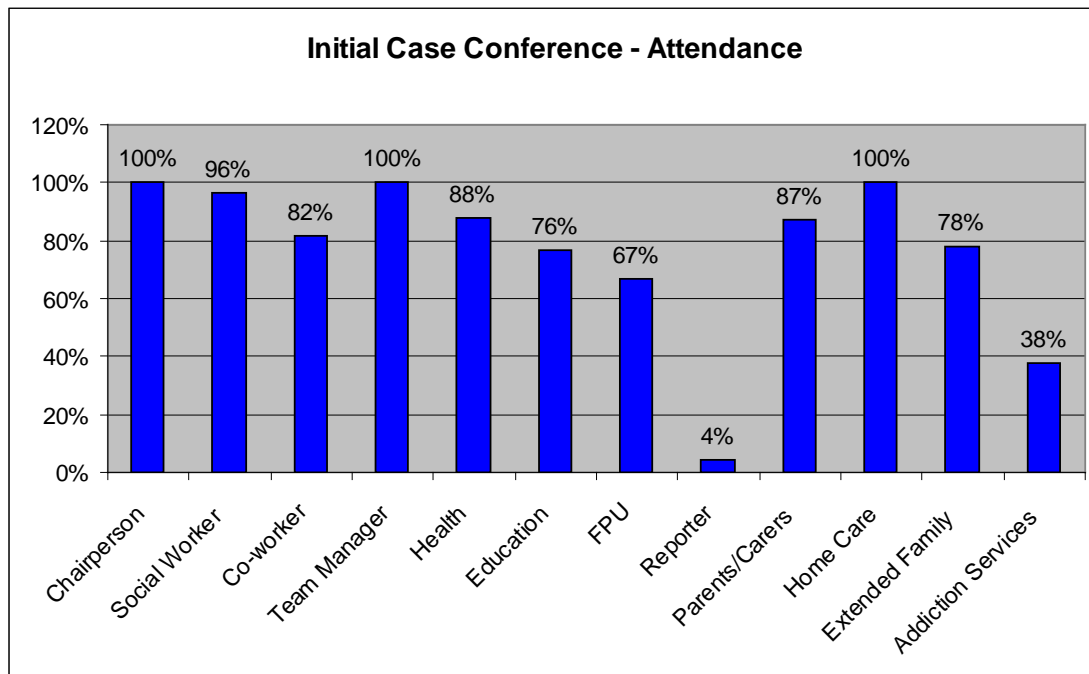


12 pre-birth case discussions were held in the reporting period, 8 of which had been referred before 1 January 2011. Of these:

- It was decided to proceed to an Initial Child Protection Case Conference for 11 of the children discussed in this forum.
- 1 Pre Birth Case Discussion was adjourned. It was later established that there had not been a pregnancy.

5. ATTENDANCE AT CASE CONFERENCE

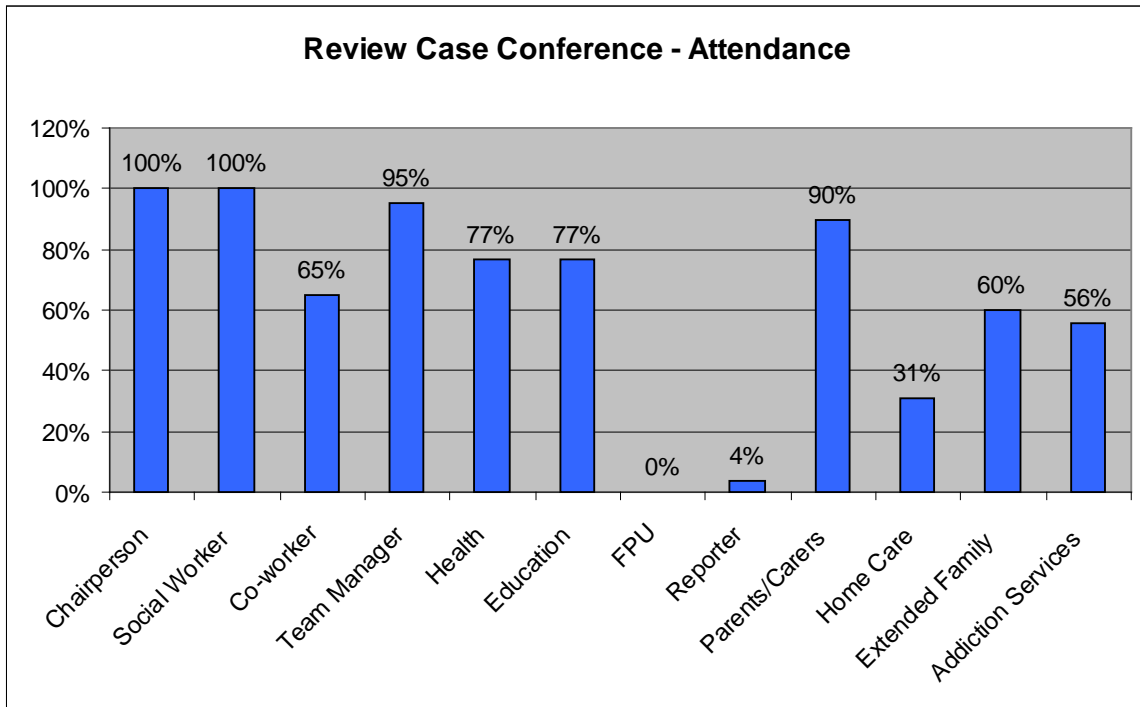
5.1 Initial Case Conference



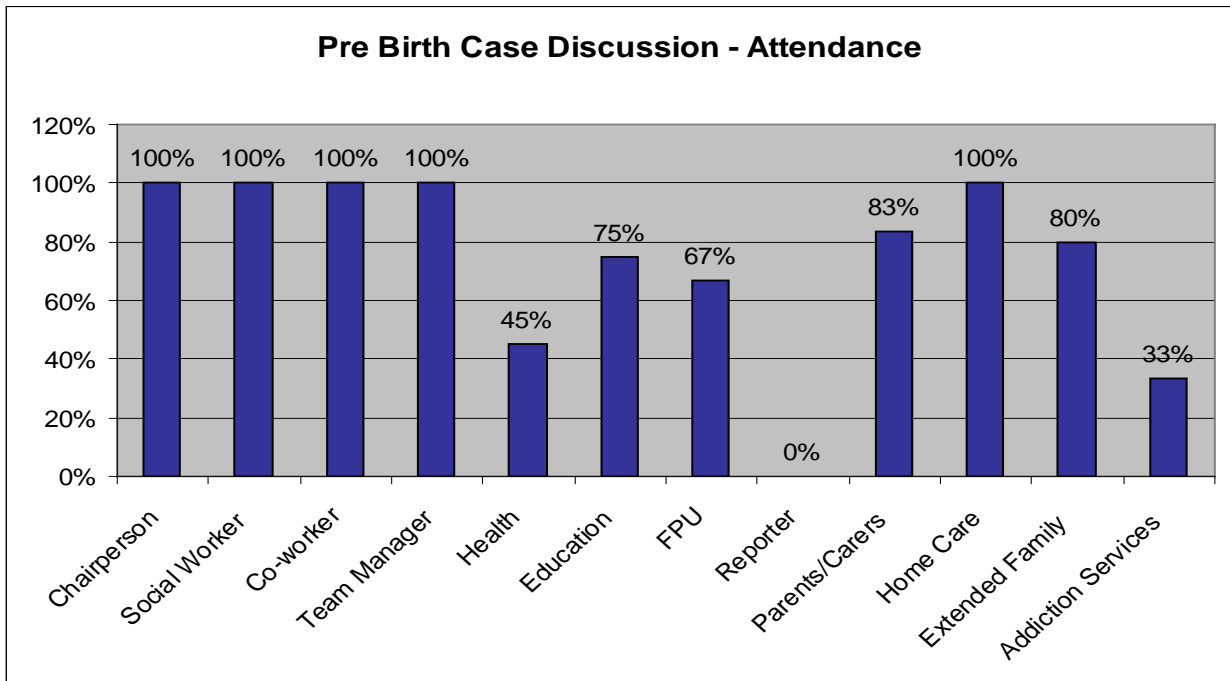
The statistical information in relation to information regarding attendance requires further development. For instance, if the named Team Manager does not attend the meeting but is attended by a colleague the system will record an absence. This has been rectified in this analysis by the completion of a manual trawl of minutes.

In relation to health, all health colleagues are included in one column, so when there is a high level of absence recorded, this does not reflect the high level of attendance by health visitors, midwives and school nurses at case conference.

5.2 Review Case Conference



5.3 Pre Birth Case Discussion



6. LEGAL MEASURES

6.1 Child Protection Orders Granted between 01/01/11 and 31/03/11

There were 3 Child Protection Orders granted this quarter. These were all in respect of newly born babies who had all been subject to the Vulnerable Pregnancy Protocols, who had been discussed at Pre birth discussion and proceeded to be the subjects of Child Protection Plans at Initial Child Protection Case Conference. The recommendation for all 3 children was to apply for Child Protection Orders on discharge from hospital, as parental agreement to accommodate the children was not granted.

6.2 Police Emergency Papers

There have been no incidents this quarter where Police emergency powers have been used.

7. EARLY INFORMATION AND PRE-REFERRAL MEETING ACTIVITY

7.1 In quarter 4 the group met on a weekly basis and considered 256 referrals. This is an increase in referrals in relation to 221 referrals in quarter 3 and 200 referrals in quarter 2. Of the 256 children discussed 137 (54%) had previously been referred to the group, in comparison to 58% in quarter 3 and 48% in quarter 2.

A decision for no further action was taken in relation to 38 referrals (15%) which is the same rate as the last quarter.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is asked to

(i) Note the contents of this report.

Susan Taylor
Chair of Child Protection Committee
May 2011

Report compiled by Diane Burns, Child Protection Co-ordinator