



Multi-Agency Audit of Reports to Initial Child Protection Conferences

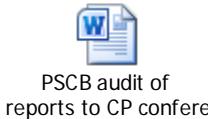
September 2017

What we did

The PSCB MESC Multi-Agency Audit Team coordinated a thematic learning review to consider the quality of agency reports to Initial Child Protection Conferences.

The purpose of the review was to:

- Consider whether the current standard of recording, assessment and analysis in these reports is sufficient to allow the conference to ascertain the risk and protective factors to the child; or whether further training, guidance and practice standards are required
- Repeat the audit completed in March 2016 to consider the quality of information supplied to child protection conferences since the introduction of a Restorative Approach to these conferences
- To consider whether the recommendations made in March 2016 are still relevant. The work to implement these was postponed until after the introduction of the Restorative Conference Approach



How we did this

We used the same audit tool as had been adopted in March 2016, with a few amendments to reflect recent changes in practice, this enables us to directly compare these findings to the earlier audit.



The PSCB Business Manager was supplied with a list of all Initial Child Protection Conferences that took place in July. From this list a total of 10 cases were randomly selected, ensuring there was a representational selection from each of the three locality areas in Portsmouth. To ensure the auditors considered the same information that was available to the conference, the reports were sourced from the Service Quality Team who manage the administration for all child protection conferences.

In total there were 54 reports which broke down into the following from each service area:

Childrens and Family Services: 10	School Nurse: 5
Hampshire Constabulary: 10	GP: 6
Probation: 2	Health Visitors: 1
YOT: 1	Community Paediatrician: 1
Housing: 7	Maternity Services: 2
Nursery: 1	Family Nurse Practitioners: 1
School: primary 3, secondary 2, pupil referral unit 1	Early Intervention Practitioners: 1

What we found

Of the 52 reports audited 42.3% were considered to be of a good quality overall, 42.3% were considered to be adequate, and the remaining 15.4% were of an inadequate quality overall. The table below shows how these percentages break down by service.

	Good	Adequate	Inadequate
Social Worker	2	8	0
Police	10	0	0
Housing	4	2	1
GP	1	4	1
School	2	2	2
School Nurse	0	3	2
Early Intervention project	0	2	0
Maternity	1	0	1
Community Paediatrician	1	0	0
Family Nurse Partnership	0	1	0
Health Visitor	1	0	0
Nursery	0	0	1
Youth Offending Team	0	1	0

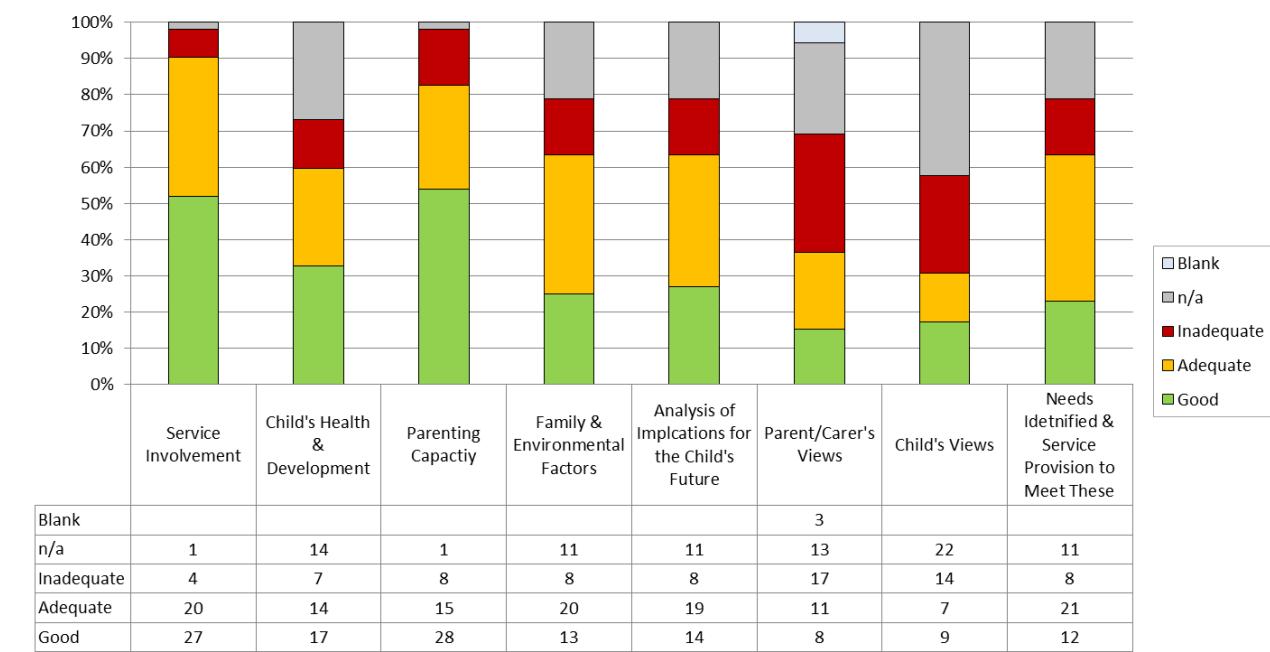
These findings would suggest that there was not been any significant change in the overall quality of reports to Initial Child Protection Conference since the previous audit completed in March 2016. In this first audit there were a total of 35 reports in the sample. Of these 48.6% were considered to be of a good quality overall, 28.6% were considered to be adequate, and 14.3% were of an inadequate quality overall (the remaining 8.5% were not given an overall grade).

The current report template is made up of 8 areas upon which the person preparing the report is asked to comment:

1. Details of service involvement
2. Information and knowledge relating to the child's health and development
3. Information and knowledge relating to the capacity of the parents/carers to safeguard and promote the child's welfare
4. Family and environmental factors
5. Analysis of implications for the child's future safety, health and development
6. Parent/carer views
7. Child/ren's views
8. Need identified and service provision

The chart below shows the quality of information contained within each of these sections across all services.

All services grades by indicator



In the spreadsheet embedded in this report you can see more detailed charts that break down by sector the grades given for each of these areas.



reports to CP conferences - charts

What we recommend should happen now

- 1) For the Board to develop guidance and examples of good practice to share with agencies to improve the quality of reports to Initial CP Conferences by end of March 2018
- 2) The PSCB Chair will write to all partner agencies summarising the findings of this audit and to reinforce the expectation that:
 - a) the child's views and wishes are included in reports to ICPC (where children are pre-verbal or have limited communication skills, that an observation of their interactions with their parent/carer are included); and
 - b) reports to ICPCs are shared with families prior to conference.
- 3) For the Clinical Commissioning Group to monitor how many CP Conferences receive reports from GPs, to explore the barriers to GPs providing reports and provide guidance to help them understand the importance of submitting a report. An audit of reports to ICPC's will be conducted in July 2018 to look for improvement in this area
- 4) A short audit of reports to ICPC's will be conducted in July 2018 to look for improvement in the points raised in the second and third recommendations