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1. **Does the local authority gather information on cases/referrals where an early help/intervention service is offered to children with needs recorded at a threshold below/prior that of 'child in need' (Children Act 1989)?**

   The local authority keeps some records in relation to Early Help but this does not constitute a full record of all early help cases. We operate an "Early Help Unit" which can give advice, offer sign positing to other agencies and receive referrals for the County Council's "Family Service" and for Children's Centres. It also receives notification of completed "Early Help Assessment Forms" and associated plans being delivered in Universal settings although it is acknowledged that the return rate for this is significantly below the number of EHAFs being completed in reality. There are also other routes in Children's Centre services (which are managed by an external partner) and into other voluntary sector projects which are not recorded by the Early Help Unit.

2. **Please can you tell me the numbers of closed, opened, and active cases of early intervention with children, young people and their families not reaching thresholds for recording as Children in Need statutory cases.**

During 2016/17 the Early Help Unit received approximately 4800 referrals. Of those:
- 9% were given advice and closed with no further action
- 16% were already open to an early help service so required no further action
- 3% were rejected due to a lack of consent
- 17% were identified as needing lead professional in a universal service or with a voluntary sector provider
- 6% were passed to a Children's Centre
- 39% were passed to the Family Service

The Family Service opened approximately 1875 cases in 2015/16 and closed 2214. The Family Service's current caseload (snap shot 28/09/17) is 2054.

Children's Centres closed approximately 1800 cases during 2016/17. The average caseload (snapshot) taken at the end of each quarter was 1704.

3. **What groups of practitioners are case-holders or 'lead professionals' with regard to early intervention work with children and families?**

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The authority operates a thresholds document called the Pathway to provision. There are four levels:
Level 1: Universal provision
Level 2: Early help – emerging need
Level 3: Early help – entrenched need
Level 4: Need for specialist services – thisiis the level at which children would reach the CiN threshold.

Level 3 cases (those with "entrenched needs") are held by lead professionals in the council's "Family Service" or by Children's Centre workers.

Level 2 cases (emerging need) can be held by any professional working regularly with the family using the Early Help Assessment Form and planning documentation. Some cases will be held by the Children's Centres or Family Service.

4. **Please supply broad detail of models of practice used in working with this service users group. For example, Team around the Child, or Team around the Family, Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or other multi-agency systems of practice.**

All cases have an allocated key worker for the whole family. All work is based on a holistic, whole family model. Planning and review meetings are based on a "Team around the Family" approach. The Early Help Assessment Form is based on the CAF and is used by most professional outside of eth Family Service. The Family Service uses the same Child and Family Assessment that social work colleagues do and the same suite of supporting assessment tools.

There is a "menu of intervention" with specific evidence based packages of support for families, children and parents available to cases at levels 3 and 4 of the Pathway to Provision.

5. **If primary reasons for referral are routinely recorded in any statistical returns or reports for this service user group, please supply aggregate data for the most recent annual report?**

These are the factors recorded at assessment by the Family Service:

Presenting factors	2015-16	2016-17
Child		
Young Carer	5%	0.3%
Attachment issues	10%	12.0%
Teenage Pregnancy	0%	0.4%

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Inappropriate sexual behaviour	3%	8.0%
Risk of CSE	8%	10.0%
Developmental delay	2%	2.0%
Risk of school exclusion	14%	13.0%
Persistent school absence	23%	24.0%
Missing person	4%	4.0%
Missing education	6%	5.0%
Risk of NEET	5%	4.0%
Social skills and self care	5%	6.0%
Substance misuse (CYP)	6%	6.0%
Physical health (CYP)	4%	5.0%
Emotional health (CYP)	43%	49.0%
Physical disability	2%	2.0%
Learning disability	10%	11.0%
Crime, bullying or ASB	11%	12.0%
Child of serving prisoner	1%	2.0%
Defiant/ Disruptive behaviour	45%	48.0%
Bullying/ discrimination	3%	8.0%
Indicators of neglect	5%	4.0%
Parent(s)		
Parenting Ability	48%	58.0%
Adult disability, physical or mental health, substance misuse	15%	7.0%
Family		
Debt/Poverty	5%	4.0%
Violence within family	22%	26.0%

These are the factors at assessment recorded by the Children's Centre (using Family STAR),

Health	17%
Carer Welbeing	34%
Progress to work	6%
Provide home and money	11%
Routines	32%
Set boundaries	59%
Support learning	20%
Social networks	20%
Keeping safe	12%
Emotional needs of child	26%

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6. **In addition, if data breakdown of cases by age, gender, and ethnicity is recorded, please supply with the other information requested as above.**

Whilst this data is recorded it is not currently possible to provide an aggregated report due to changes in data reporting systems. The number of records means that manual collation would take approximately 2-3 weeks of time.

7. **Does the authority compile strategic reviewing reports describing and analysing the early help/intervention work undertaken with children and families and can recent examples be supplied as part of this FOI request? For example, any recent reports or audits which describe the frameworks and models for local multi-agency practice in early help or intervention would be greatly appreciated.**

I have attached here the Family Service operating model. The Pathway to Provision can be found at:

http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/pathway-to-provision