

Social Services

Current Pressures and Response Plan

November 2021

Demand for Children's Services – Overview

	Contacts	Referrals	well-being assessment	Strategy discussions	Section 47	Initial child protection conferences	added to child protection register	Care and support caseload	started to be looked after
Percentage increase	↑ 49%	↑ 138%	↑ 79%	↑ 50%	↑ 41%	↑ 24%	↑ 28%	↑ 31%	↑ 14%
2021/2022 (predicted based on April to November data)	46,660	5,641	3,980	4,947	3,739	574	538	2,391	291
2019/2020	31,323	2,373	2,218	3,293	2,645	462	419	1,819	255



Recovery Funding

Covid Hardship Fund - “claims basis” likely to be maintained until March 22

Social Care Recovery Grant - Allocation to Local Authorities be spent by end of March 22

- Address the adverse impact of Covid 19 has on unpaid carers
- Ensure the right support is available to maximise peoples ability to remain in or return to their own home as quickly, sustainably and safely as possible
- Work in partnership to develop local service structure to deliver care and support to meet local population needs.
- Increase the capacity and reach of domiciliary care.
- Prioritise the wellbeing of the social care workforce (improve terms and conditions and ensure there is continued focus on supporting wellbeing and mental health)

Winter Pressures Funding – Allocation to Health Boards but for “Whole System” activity

Childrens Services

PREVENTION : Ensure the right support is available to maximise peoples ability to remain in or return to their own home as quickly, sustainably and safely as possible

- **Interventions Hub:** Bringing together and enhancing edge of care services
- **Additional reunification :** Supporting Children and Young People to return home
- **Kinship Care:** Additional family network support and supporting social workers
- **Kinship to SGO:** – Step down of kinship cases to special guardianship orders
- **PWP to Care & Support:** Removal of care orders for children currently place with their parents, where it is safe to do so
- **Adult Social Worker Pilot** – Adult social workers (Substance misuse, mental health & domestic violence specialists)

Childrens Services

PEOPLE: Address the adverse impact of Covid 19 has on unpaid carers



Detailed plans being worked for respite provision, especially for Child Health and Disability Cases where we know we have an emergency need support families who are reaching crisis point and have had to manage with reduced support over the last 18 months.

Childrens Services

Placement Stability for Looked After Children

- **Enhanced Placement Finding** : 2 x placement officers and 1 x G8 Placements Manager
- **In-house fostering & Supported Lodgings**: Support the additional in-house cases and increased level of assessments (additional fees)
- **Residential In-house provision** - Service Manager to oversee the newly created residential provision
- **Independent Fostering** : Foster Development Worker
- **Complex Case Funding Review** : – increase commissioning capacity to review all our high costs placements to ensure children and YP are in the right setting for their needs and the appropriate partner support
- **Step down from residential to in-house foster care** : – additional fees and wrap around support for foster carers to take children with higher needs that are currently being met by residential care

Childrens Services

WORKFORCE : Supporting and growing the Social Care Workforce

- **Temporary practice lead and recruitment** – practice lead in each of the areas to support newly qualified staff
- **Complex Case & Mentoring (Locality & I&A)** – experienced social works to take on the most complex court cases and co-work them with permanent members of staff to transfer of knowledge and upskill
- **Social Work Resource Assistant** – additional support for social worker to free up their time for direct contact and case work with children and their families
- **Additional business support** in line with increased demand (conference secretary/PLO support/High Risk Panel)