

ESSEX POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
 Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



Meeting	ECFRS Performance & Resources Board	Agenda Item	6
Meeting Date	30 th April 2018	Report Number	
Report Author:	Community Development and Safeguarding Manager		
Presented By	Director of Prevention, Protection & Response		
Subject	Safeguarding Update – March 2018		
Type of Report:	Information		

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the board are asked to note the following contents of the report for information.

BACKGROUND

Safeguarding updates are submitted to the ECFRS Performance & Resources Board Meeting on a monthly basis.

OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

Adult Safeguarding referrals March 2018

Crews North West	6
Crews North East	1
Crews South West	4
Crews South East	3
HFS Technicians	9
Community Builders	2
Technical Fire Safety	
Community Safety Officers	1
Internal referrals	2
TOTAL	28

Children's Safeguarding referrals March 2018

Education Officers	7
Crews	4
Community Builder	

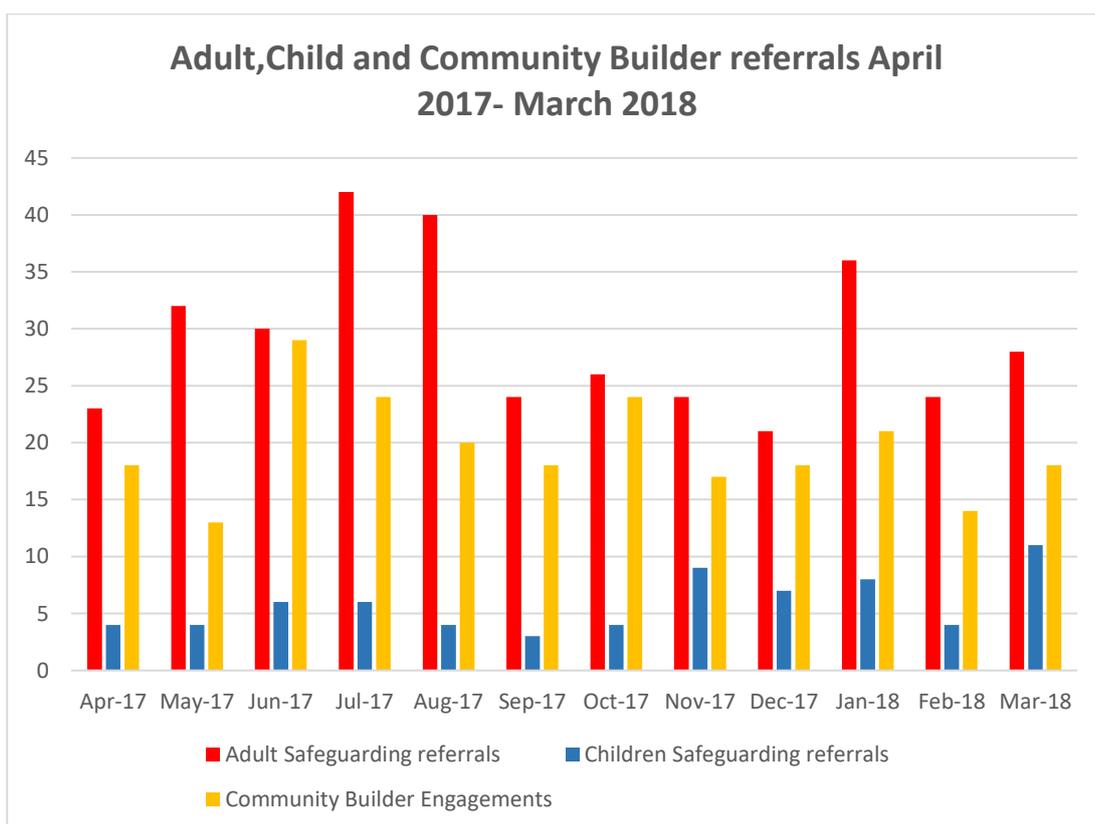
JFS	
TOTAL	11

The Education Officers have submitted 7 referrals this month. Whilst these are addressed at the time with the Safeguarding Lead at the school, we have to assess them on receipt and always call the school to ensure concerns have been addressed and if there is any further support required from ECFRS. We also offer a JFS visit if applicable and this information is then relayed to the families.

Community Builder Engagements February 2018

North East	6
North West	3
South East	7
South West	2
TOTAL	18

Comparison Trends for the previous 12 months



Total number of outstanding/open referrals

The current number of outstanding referrals being case managed currently stands at 105. In February, the Essex Safeguarding Board were contacted to see if they can reduce the amount of time and numerous requests we have to make before an update is received. KS forwarded a detailed list of outstanding cases up and including November 2017 which

was then distributed within social care to the appropriate areas. Some responses has been received but many still outstanding as of March 2018. In addition, we are still not receiving updates for the cases since Nov 2017 therefore the back log is increasing daily this is an ongoing issue and needs suitable practices put in place. The addition of an assistant is proving extremely valuable in addressing the backlog but we are still finding the referral update route problematic and increasing all the time with the amount of new referrals being referred into the team.

Any trends/ areas attracting most referrals

The majority of referrals are regarding concerns for older people and their welfare, including hoarding. We have seen an increase in Children referrals this month and the majority of these were following cyber safety lessons for Year 6 and admissions to unsafe practices by the children. In all these cases the school addressed the concerns as per their procedures.

UPDATE ON RESOURCES

Community Builders:

With a vacancy still in the South East DF is looking to advertise. The Community Builder work load has seen a continuing increase in 2018 following the 300% increase for 2017. The number of cases so far this year is already 25% up on this time last year with fewer Community Builders in situ and shows no sign of abating. A lot of the increase is the referrals into the Home Fire safety team for more vulnerable members of the community and the number of cold calls we have to address when no contact details are available.

Rural Builders.

The two Rural Builders involved in the collaboration project begin in earnest on the 1st April working with Essex Police teams. They have already carried out many engagements within the fire service and have attended many joint meetings and partnership groups in readiness for the role out of the project. DF and KS are working closely with Ian Gennery and the collaborations teams. This has seen again in an increase work load for the Safeguarding team as they work closely with the collaboration team with this pilot programme, ensuring that there is appropriate monitoring, allocation, collation and support available.

BENEFITS AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

Additional support is now in place to assist the Safeguarding Deputy with the continually increasing work load. Good progress is now being made liaising with Social care to reduce the number of outstanding cases but it is evident that further practices will have to be put in place to ensure that updates are received in a time line that doesn't result in further back log. We are aware of current changes within social care teams but hope that we can establish a system whereby they update us automatically, as per SET guidelines moving forward.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Overtime for the personnel carrying out the DBS checks.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no equality and diversity implications associated with this paper.

WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT

The Service is currently progressing a DBS policy with the representative bodies. Dave Bill to update.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications associated with this paper.