

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Corporate Parenting Board

RESOLUTION AND REUNIFICATION RESOURCE ACTIVITY REPORT FOR MAY 2009 – JANUARY 2010

Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning: Cllr Mike Carr

Director of Children, Families & Learning: Gill Rollings

21st January 2010

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Corporate Parenting Board with an overview of the development and activity of the Resolution and Reunification Resource during the period May 2009 – January 2010.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to note the information relating to the Resolution and Reunification Resource.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION, WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

3. It is over the financial threshold (£75,000)
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards
Non Key

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

4. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is

Non-urgent
Urgent report

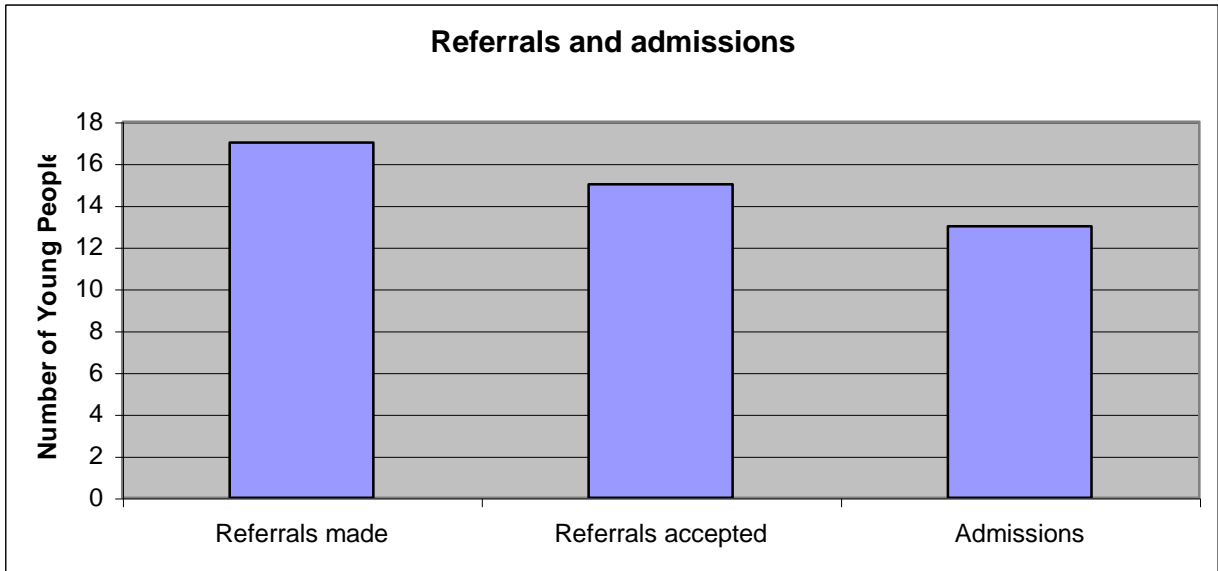
If urgent, please give full reasons.

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

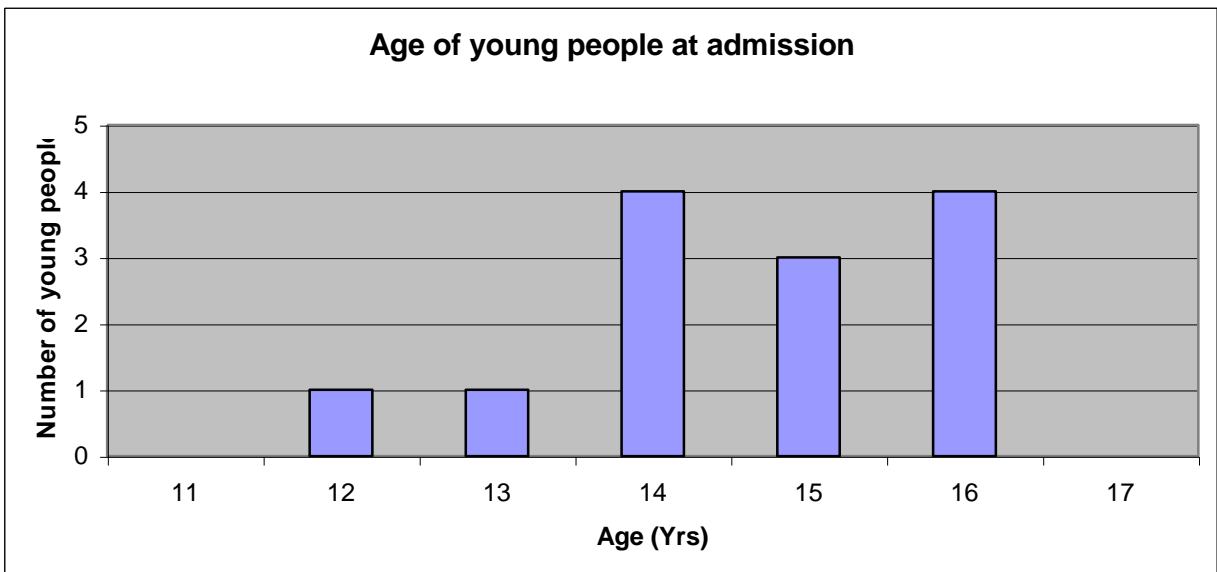
5. Under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, a Local Authority has the power to provide accommodation to any child in need where the person with parental responsibility for them is unable or unwilling to provide suitable accommodation for them.
6. Middlesbrough Council's Children, Families and Learning Department receive a significant number of requests from parents and carers who are often experiencing a period of crisis and believe that they are unable to care for their child(ren) and wish for them to be accommodated and cared for by the Local Authority.
7. The Resolution and Reunification Resource is a partnership project between the Family Resource Team, other Safeguarding Services and Five Rivers that has been developed in response to these requests.
8. The purpose of the Resolution and Reunification Resource is to provide a short-term crisis intervention service for families, utilising an existing residential children's home (Rosecroft), with the aim of preventing children and young people accessing the care system on a long-term basis.
9. Middlesbrough Children and Young People's Plan identifies reducing the number of Looked After Children as a key strategic priority. The Resolution and Reunification Resource has the potential to contribute directly to this priority.
10. Families First are an example of an existing team within Middlesbrough Council that successfully utilise a short-term model of crisis intervention, known as the Option 2 model. The intention is that this model will form the basis of the intervention undertaken by staff within the Family Resource Team and Five Rivers.
11. Five Rivers altered their statement of purpose for Rosecroft in May 2009 to reflect the short-term nature of this project and this was subsequently approved by Ofsted.
12. Referrals for the Resolution and Reunification Resource are currently made by Social Workers to the Family Resource Team and are ratified by a Service Manager via the Service Provision panel. If there is a vacancy and the referral is appropriate, there is a 48-hour planning period prior to admission. Two workers from the Family Resource Team, supported by staff at Rosecroft, will then work intensively with the young person and their parent(s). The aim is that staff from the Family Resource Team will have daily contact with the family during a period of up to six-weeks.
13. The work with the family will involve supporting them in identifying their beliefs, resources and strengths. These will then be used and built upon to formulate realistic goals for all family members that have clear behavioural outcomes. The aim of each intervention is to return the young person home within six weeks.

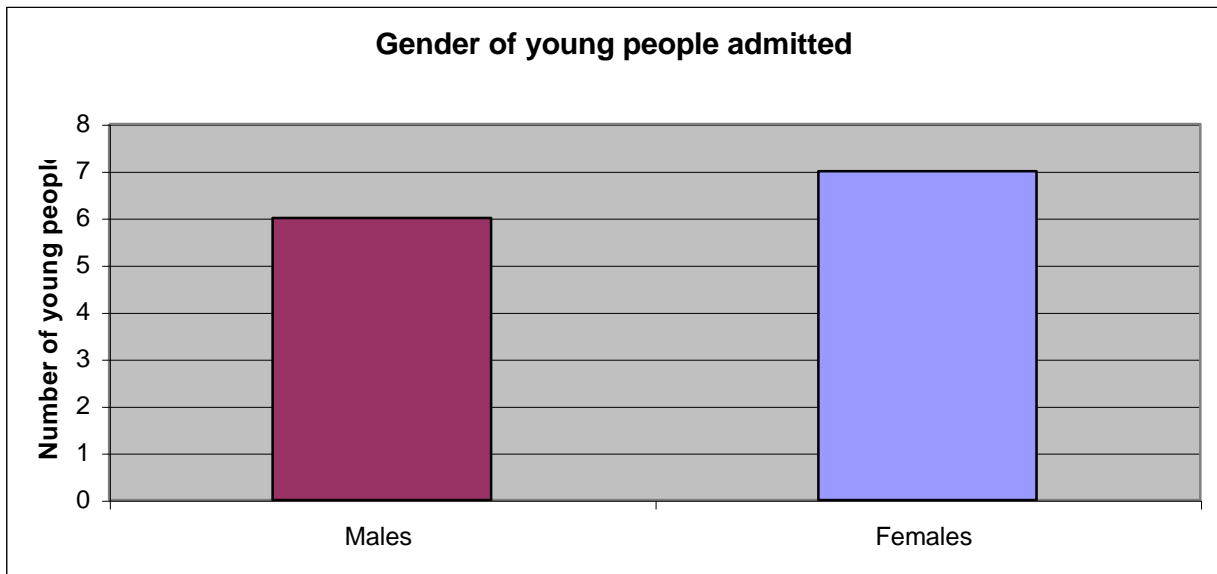
ACTIVITY FROM MAY 2009 TO JANUARY 2010

14. The following graphs details the numbers of referrals and admissions to the Resolution and Reunification Resource between the period May 2009 and January 2010:

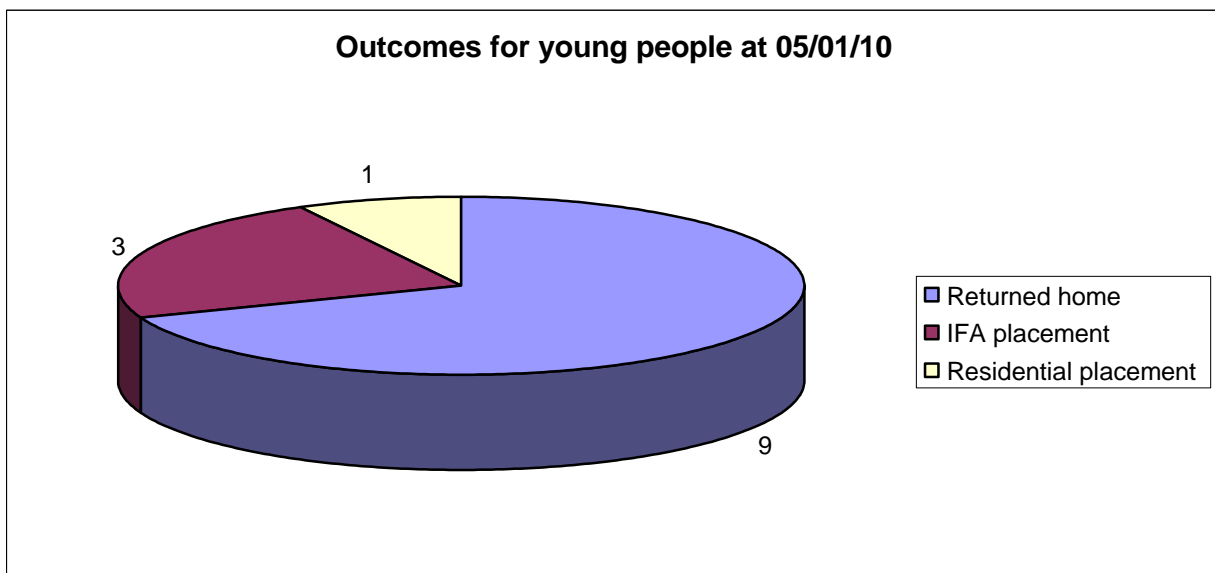


15. The following two graphs detail the age and gender of young people admitted to the Resolution and Reunification Resource between the period May 2009 and January 2010:





16. The following pie chart details the outcomes for young people as at 5th January 2010:



EVALUATION

17. The primary aim of this resource is to prevent young people accessing the care system on a long-term basis. 69 % of families who have received this intensive intervention have made enough behavioural changes in six weeks to enable young people to be returned home successfully.
18. Rosecroft continues to care for young people and support them in achieving the five Every Child Matters outcomes. They are also required to comply with the Children's Homes' Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes 2002. Ofsted has inspected Rosecroft on two occasions since this project was established. The overall rating on both occasions was "good", with three out of six areas receiving an "outstanding" rating. The following areas received an outstanding rating: Enjoying and Achieving, Making a Positive Contribution and Organisational.
19. Positive qualitative feedback has been received from children, parents and young people, as well as social workers.

FUTURE PLANS

20. A strategic board will be established to build on the early successes of this project and ensure its continued development. It is envisaged that children and young people will have the opportunity to participate in this development.
22. Families First will be commissioned to deliver training in the Option 2 crisis intervention model to both Five Rivers and the Family Resource Team.
22. The Option 2 model will be used to develop an evidence-based model of intervention that is specific to the Resolution and Reunification Resource.
23. Evaluation tools will be further developed and will reflect this model of intervention.
24. An economic analysis will be undertaken to quantify the savings that this resource represents in respect of preventing young people entering the care system on a long-term basis.
25. Work will be undertaken to increase the profile of the resource both locally and nationally.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

26. All social care services are delivered within a framework of anti-discriminatory practice and there are no specific issues arising from the information presented within this report.

OPTION APPRAISAL

27. Not applicable to this piece of work.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

28. There are no immediate financial or legal implications in this report. There are no specific ward implications as the Resolution and Reunification Resource provides a service for the whole of Middlesbrough.

RECOMMENDATION

29. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to note the information relating to the Resolution and Reunification Resource.

REASONS

30. This recommendation is supported by the following reason:

It is important that elected members are aware of the resource in order that they can effectively fulfil their responsibilities as Corporate Parents to children looked after.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

31. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- a) Stein, M. (2009) Quality Matters in Children's Services: Messages from Research. Jessica Kingsley: London
- b) Option 2: Helping Families in Crisis. <http://www.option2.org/>
- c) Children Act 1989
- d) Middlesbrough Children and Young People's Plan 2008 - 2011
- e) Children's Home's Regulations 2001
- f) National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes 2002.

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