

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

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CHILDREN ACT 2004

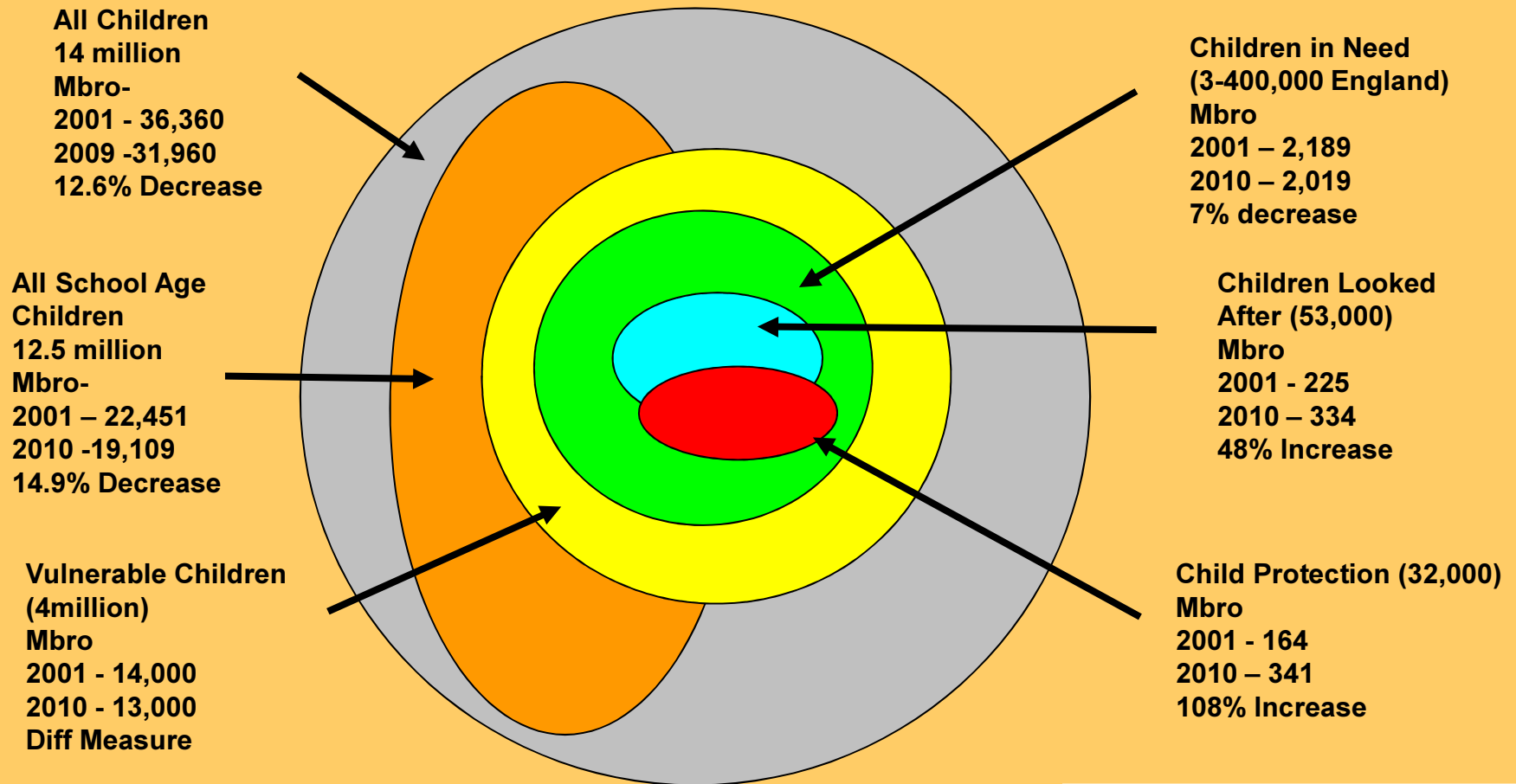
- Creation of Children's Trusts under the Duty to Co-operate
- The setting up of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)
- The duty on all agencies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Roles and responsibilities of Senior Managers and Councillors

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

- Stay Safe
- Be Healthy
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Well-being

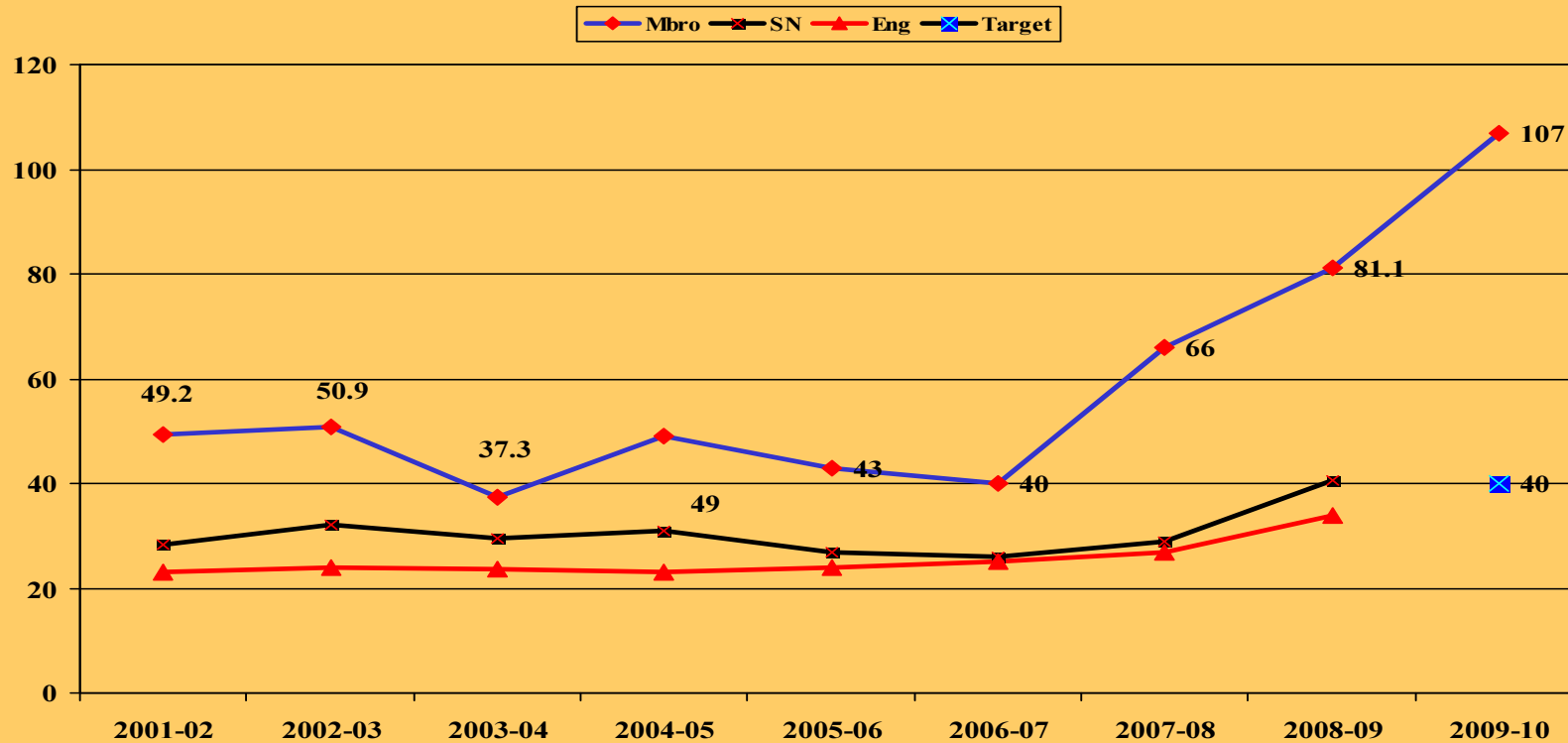
CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE MODEL

AS AT 31 MARCH 2010



PROTECTION PLAN COMPARISON 2002-2010

Children who are subject to a child protection plan or were on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 under 18 Population



CHILDREN WITH A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN IN MIDDLESBROUGH

The number of young people with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) per 10,000 under 18 year olds has continued to rise in recent years, remaining above the national average since 2001. The rate of increase has also risen during 2008/09 and into 2009/10 with numbers reaching 341 by March 2010. This equates to 107 per 10,000 compared with 97 in 2008/09 when the average for England was 31.

CHILD PROTECTION

- As at 31 March 2010 of the 31,760 children/young people under the age of 18 in Middlesbrough, there were **341** who were subject to a child protection plan.
- The 341 children/young people with a child protection plan equates to **157** households or families.
- Of the under 18 population there are **107** per 10,000 with a protection plan. This is above both statistical and national figures.
- The majority of children/young people are under 4 years old.
- The gender breakdown is nearly equal.
- The majority of children with a protection plan are from **East Middlesbrough** and the **Town Centre**.

CHILD PROTECTION

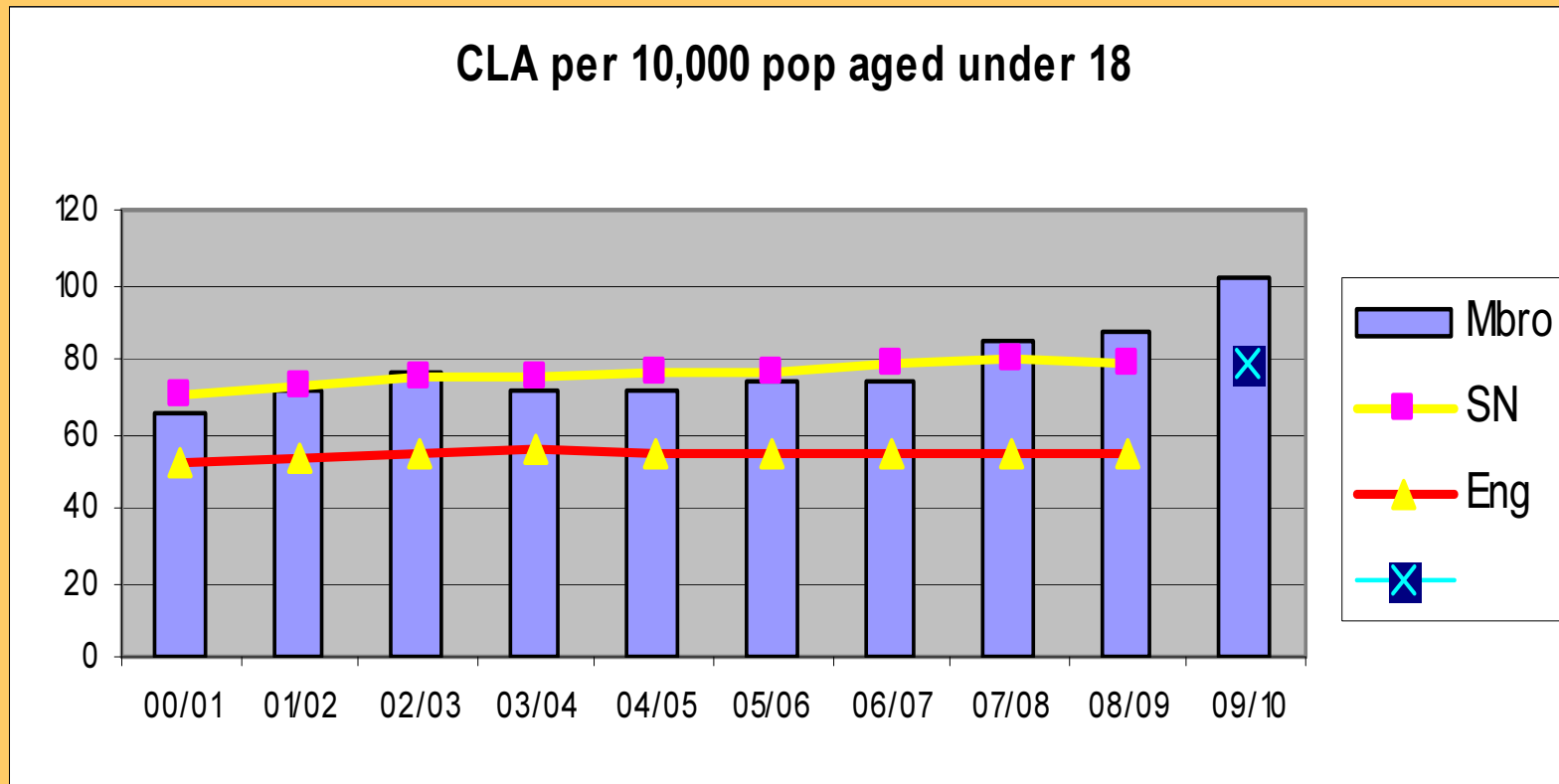
- **Pallister** ward had the most children with a protection plan (14.7%).
- East Middlesbrough and the Town Centre area show a significantly high prevalence of Child Protection compared to the West and South areas of the town.
- The majority of the children/young people are subject to a protection plan under the category of neglect.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

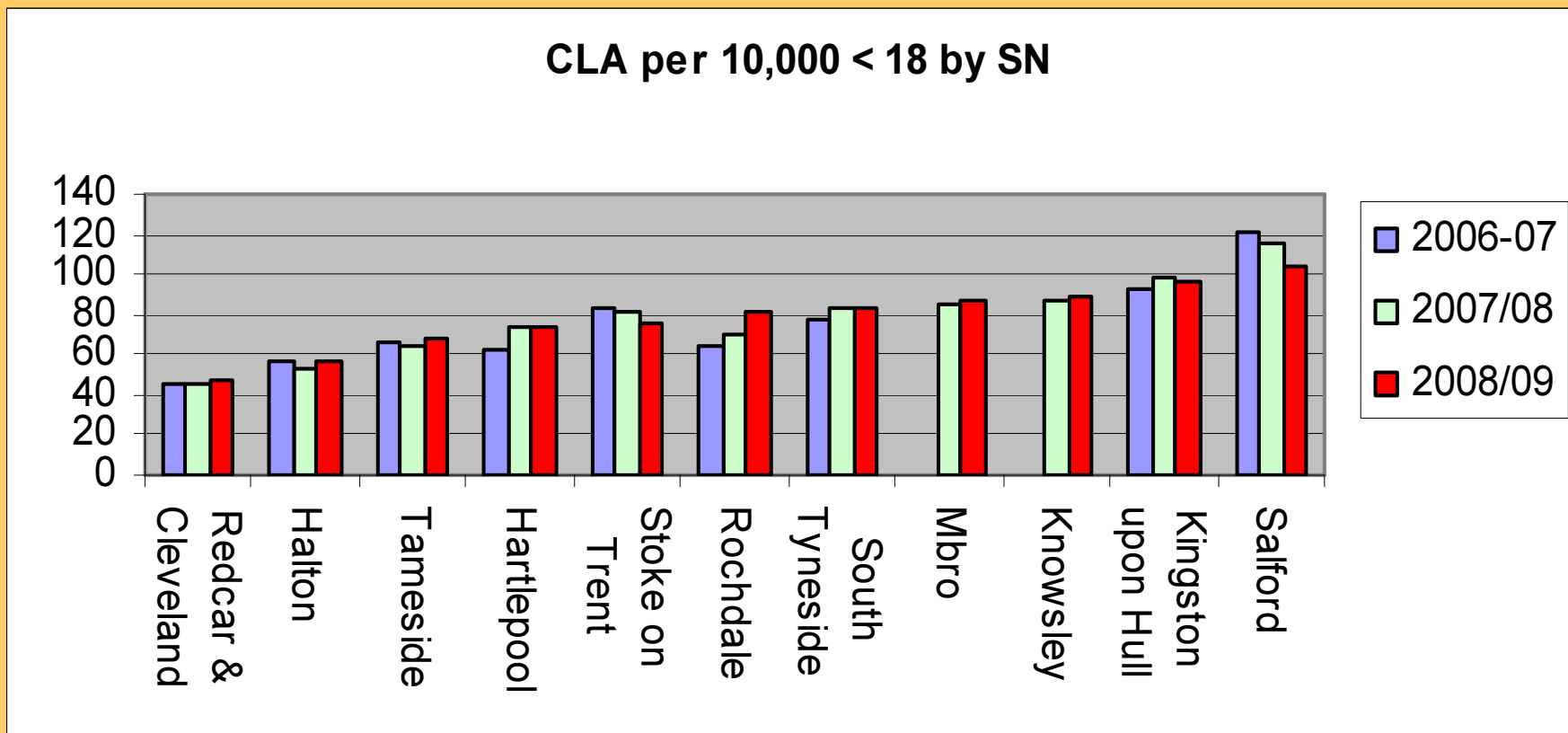
AS AT MARCH 2010

With foster carers	254 (76%)
Placed for adoption	18 (5.4%)
In Middlesbrough Children's Homes	8 (2.4%)
Children's Homes Outside Middlesbrough	18 (5.4%)
Placed home on trial or with extended family members	18 (5.4%)
In specialist residential placements outside of the area	17 (5.1%)
Independent living/lodgings/other	1 (0.3%)

CHILDREN IN CARE PER 10,000 UNDER 18 POP



CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE COMPARED TO SN



CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE IN MIDDLESBROUGH

The number of looked after children per 10,000 under 18 year olds has continued to rise in recent years, remaining above the national average since 2001. The rate of increase has also risen during 2008/09 and into 2009/10. This equates to 102 per 10,000 compared with 87.8 for 2008/09 when the average for England was 55

WHAT ARE OUR CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITIES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

Statutory Responsibilities

- **Children Act 1989**
- **Children Act 2004**
- **Crime & Disorder Act 1998**
- **Care Standards Act 2000**

- Housing staff in day to day contact with families
- Housing Authorities are key to the assessment of needs of families
- Environmental Health Officers inspecting conditions in rented accommodation

WHAT ARE OUR CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITIES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

- Sport, Culture and Leisure Services
- Youth Services
- Educational Psychologists
- Attendance Officers
- Adult Services
- Youth Offending Service
- Role as a Corporate Parent

TYPES OF REFERRAL

- History of Domestic Violence - 13 incidents
- Father's alcohol consumption is a problem
- Father has extensive criminal history - 88 offences
- One child has a diagnosis of ADHD
- Attendance at school is poor, poor behaviour, lack of support by parents
- Home conditions were dirty, lack of food
- Both children involved in gang culture
- Father threatens violence on mother from prison
- One child has taken an overdose
- Siblings 9 + 11
- Child admitted to hospital with 28 bruises not including those on shins, result of being beaten with a broom

TYPES OF REFERRAL

- Twins born prematurely at 28 weeks
 - poorly with immature organ development
 - episodes of breathing difficulty
 - vomiting
 - failure to thrive
 - ear problems including perforated eardrums
 - lethargy
 - seizures
 - holes in the heart
- Admitted to hospital with life-threatening bruises, subsequently died.
- Decisions about other child and fabricated induced illness

TYPES OF RESPONSES - Family A

- Mother of 4 arrested and charged with assault and child cruelty
- Psychological assessment of mother
- Children deemed to be at high risk
- Family Network care considered but children concerned and anxious
- Plan for long-term fostering approved by Family Placement Panel
- Care Orders granted by the Court
- Long-term foster placement identified within Middlesbrough for all 4 children - regular contact with mother to be maintained.
- Weekly cost of payment to independent Fostering Agency - just under £4,000.

TYPES OF RESPONSES - Family X

- History of parental drug and alcohol misuse.
- Physical home environment unsafe and lacking basics (e.g. bedding)
- 3 children - cold, hungry, unkempt, unsupervised, health needs not met
- All children subject to Child Protection Plan - neglect
- Intensive intervention - parents struggling to provide safe and nurturing parenting
- Family Network care considered but assessed as inappropriate
- Placement Order and Care Order granted by the court
- Cost for local authority adopters and life-long adoption allowances.

TYPES OF RESPONSES - Child C (age 15)

- Family history of abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse of child C between ages 4-8
- Custody battle, mental ill health of mother, new relationships and new children
- 34 incidents of child going missing from home or placement - risk-taking
- Child C takes overdose and is subsequently accommodated following an attack on her mother
- Specialist assessment - violent, aggressive, very sexually active, predatory, non-compliant, confrontational. Bullied and rejected by peers, engaged in vandalism
- Placement Order and Care Order granted by Court
- Offending behaviour increased in foster care, assault of a police officer
- Arrested for several offences including violence against people and property

TYPES OF RESPONSES - Child C (continued)

- Placed in Secure Unit for young offenders
- Incidents of self-harm - cutting, scalding
- Planning meeting - move to secure therapeutic unit
- 3 weeks later, Court decided to release child C into community
- Difficulty in finding a children's home able to offer placement
- Complex needs - 3 assessments by 3 doctors specialising in paediatrics and mental health - no definitive diagnosis - likely personality disorder
- Children's home offered choice, boundaries and incentives - positive but child difficult to engage on an emotional level - relationships=pain
- Released from custody with intensive support from YOS - breached
- Sentenced to two months custody and placed in specialist residential care on release - cost £4,000 per week

TYPES OF RESPONSES - Family B

- Concerns raised by midwife about 11 week old baby - parents failed to seek medical help
- Baby admitted to hospital and Child Protection referral made
- Baby rushed to Newcastle for treatment - accompanied by parents but they refused to stay and failed to visit when returned to Middlesbrough
- Child Protection Strategy meeting - previous concerns re non-accidental injury - two previous children in family network care
- Baby and 2 year old sibling made subject to Child Protection Plans
- Parents referred to Adult Services and intensive support given by Children's Services
- Worker notes injury to baby and takes parents to doctors - baby admitted to hospital - child protection referral made
- Child Protection Strategy meeting - legal advice sought - Police protection
- Parents' initial consent to children being accommodated later withdrawn
- Children in foster care - daily, supervised contact