

Consultative Committee
with Parents
12 May 2009.

ITEM 5
(TABLED)

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

**PARENTS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
PRESENTATION**

Andy Jeffries
Service Manager
Children's Practice Teams

May 2009

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

**PARENTS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
PRESENTATION**

Request from committee for
"information on Out of Authority placements and what
was being done to prevent the rise in the number of
children needing this level of support.
In particular, to request a presentation, if possible, on
the work of early intervention to prevent the extreme
stage of children being taken into care"

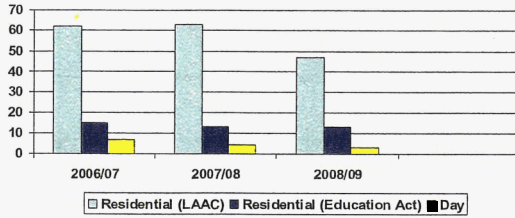
EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Out of Authority placements =
placement of young person in a residential school
outwith City of Edinburgh.

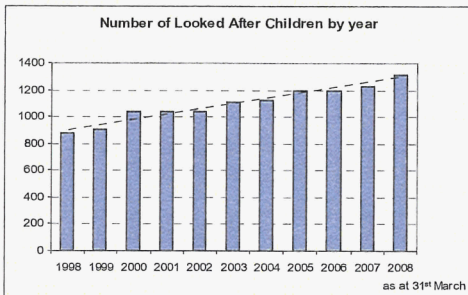
- Departmental embargo on placements since mid-2008.
- Significant financial cost of out of authority placements.
- Issues re transition for young people in returning to Edinburgh.

Figures for last 3 years:

Number of Children in Out of Authority Placements

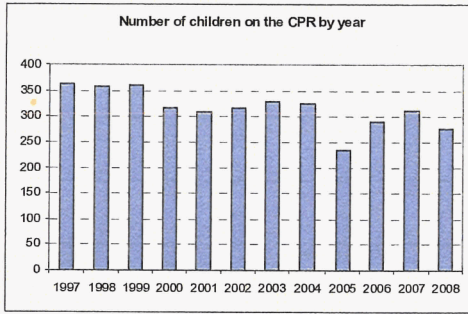


Additional context – Looked After Children and Child Protection



Looked After Children

	Number		% of total	
	2000	2008	2000	2008
At home	485	453	46	35
Away from home	560	838	54	65
	1,045	1,291		



Intervention to prevent accommodation of children:

Early intervention teams – former Working Together service.
Integrated with children's practice teams since Dec 2008

remit

Early Intervention Teams:

will provide a service to children, young people and their families regardless of age, who require support to remain in their homes, schools and communities, and those whom without these services, would be at risk of requiring statutory intervention.

They will work to home addresses and be linked to Neighbourhood areas.

Key Areas of Service

Priority areas of work

Referrals from Social Care Direct requiring further assessment and intervention such as JLOs (ie referrals from police), communication from other professionals and families themselves;

Referrals from Reporter to Children's Hearings which will be done in line with timescales;

Those children and young people who are at risk of becoming accommodated and/or excluded from school;

Children and young people Looked After at home;

Participation in Pupil Support Groups to offer work with appropriate referrals to SCD, particularly in relation to children at risk of exclusion.

Additional areas of work

Group work where it fits in with these target groups;
Maintain links with primary and secondary schools to assist in the early identification and support of children and young people experiencing social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and possible risk of exclusion;
Supporting kinship care placements where appropriate.
Involvement, where appropriate, with children involved in Anti-social Behaviour processes
Referrals for families with no recourse to public funds

Some other preventive services:

Family group meetings

Dedicated team based within City of Edinburgh Council
Approach intended to identify and build on individual and family strengths and capacity as well as to address risks in child's world
Preventive measure which can draw on resources within a family network to prevent accommodation
Flow of referrals, average 100 per year last 3 years

Aims:

- To support families and children in plans guided by them
- To develop the strengths within the family as well as addressing apparent risks to children
- To focus on future action rather than blame for the past
- To focus on the child's views, experience and needs
- To build co-operation between key family members and professionals
- To complement (or divert from) statutory processes as appropriate for each child

Meetings held at neutral venue
Co-ordinated by member of FGM team
Referrer explains briefly any safety or legal parameters to what the family can decide
Private family time – opportunity to debate concerns
Planning – agreements and disagreements are summarised, plan but forward, summarised by co-ordinator and supported by professionals involved.
Follow up meeting if required.

Intensive Community Support Service (ICSS)

Alternatives to secure care, residential schools, and other accommodation of young people aged 11 to 17 – approx 30 young people at any one time.

Set to expand. Currently operates to department's criteria for accommodation

Direct service provided from within CEC plus some external organisations

Intensive service operating 24/7 – includes:

Crisis, Assessment and Supervision Service - including crisis accommodation and outreach

Intensive Support Service – individual and group care programmes for yp at risk of being accommodated, and for those accommodated to be returned safely to their families or carers. Includes evening and weekend if necessary.

Evening and Weekend Care Service –

Nitezone, operates from 6 VT

Individual Support and Supervision Service –

offers one-to-one support in evenings

Substance Misuse Service –

provides substance misuse intervention on individual or group basis

Additional supports eg Saturday Family Cafe
