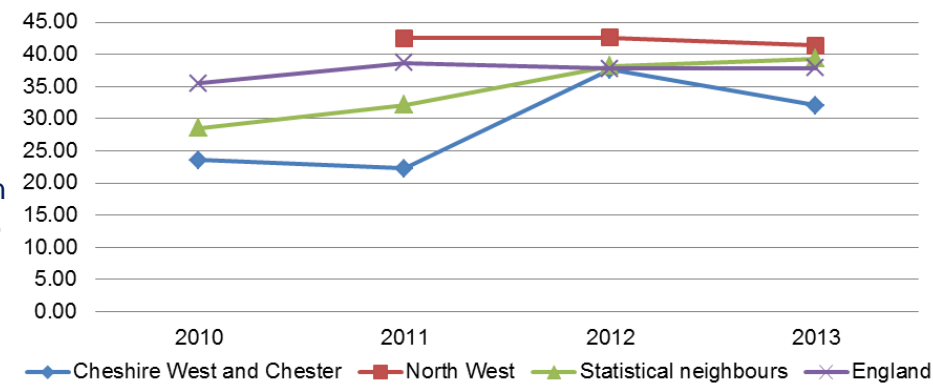




Cheshire West and Chester has a lower rate of children with a Child Protection Plan (32.10 per 10,000 children) compared to England (37.90 per 10,000) and statistical neighbours (39.36) (at 31 March 2013). A total of 227 children became the subject of a child protection plans during 2012-2013. Trends from 2012 to 2014 have shown a decline in numbers from 266 in September 2012 to 180 in June 2013, after which the average per month has remained between 166 and 182.

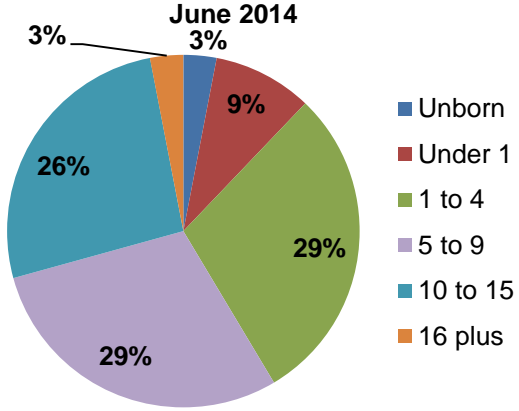
As of June 2014, there were 201 cases held; 14 cases held by the Children with Disabilities team, 62 by Chester Family Support and Children in Need, 72 by Ellesmere Port Family Support and Children in Need and 53 by Northwich and Winsford Family Support and Children in Need.

Children who are the subject of a child protection plan (rate per 10,000)



Source: Department for Education

Child protection by age range at 30 June 2014

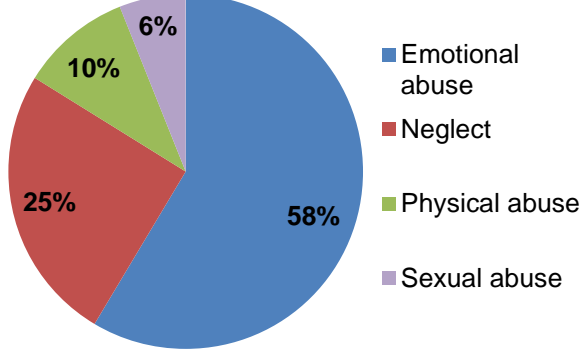


Analysis of 2012/13 cases shows that over half of all child protection plans were for children aged under five. 71% of child protection plans for physical abuse were for children under five, 56% of plans for neglect were for children under five and 50% of plans for emotional abuse were for children under five.

Emotional abuse and neglect are the most prevalent reasons for children and young people to be made the subject of a child protection plan in Cheshire West and Chester and nationally.

33.5% of children were subject to the plan for more than six months but less than one year, 25.5% for one year but less than two years, 21.2% for three months or less, 17% for more than three months or up to six months, and 2.8% for two years and over. 262 children ceased to be the subject of a child protection plan during 2012-13, a rate of 39.7 per 10,000 children. This is lower than the England rate of 45.7 per 10,000 children.

Child protection by category of abuse at 30 June 2014



Evidence of what works

- Smarter plans, timely intervention and robust monitoring over the length of child protection plan.
- Good multi-agency engagement within conferences and core groups.
- Having a multi-agency front door (ESAT) as a single point of contact has resulted in a reduction of people's problems escalating to crisis point.

Recommended actions

- Monitor and evaluate commissioned services.
- Audit of Children In Need cases to ensure escalation to Child Protection is appropriate and timely.

Rationale: Children considered to be in need of services are discussed at a multi-agency Child Protection Conference. If the child is considered to be at continuing risk of significant harm he or she will be subject to a Child Protection Plan. Inter-agency interventions will be put in place to safeguard the child.