

Safeguarding OPG

Team Oasis

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Service Development Manager Early Help

Team Oasis

Team Oasis was established in October 2013 as part of the early help offer in Bury. The main principle of Team Oasis is to prevent children, young people and their families from needing more specialist intervention and to support and empower families in accessing universal provision. Families are supported by Team Oasis through a “Team around the Family” plan.

The Team consists of:

Team Manager

Assistant Team Manager

4 X Early Help Social Workers

2 (FTE) X Child and Family Workers

2 (FTE) X Child and Family Workers (CWD StepDown)

2 X Early Help Consultants

2.6 X Early Help Youth Offending Practitioners

1 X Admin Support

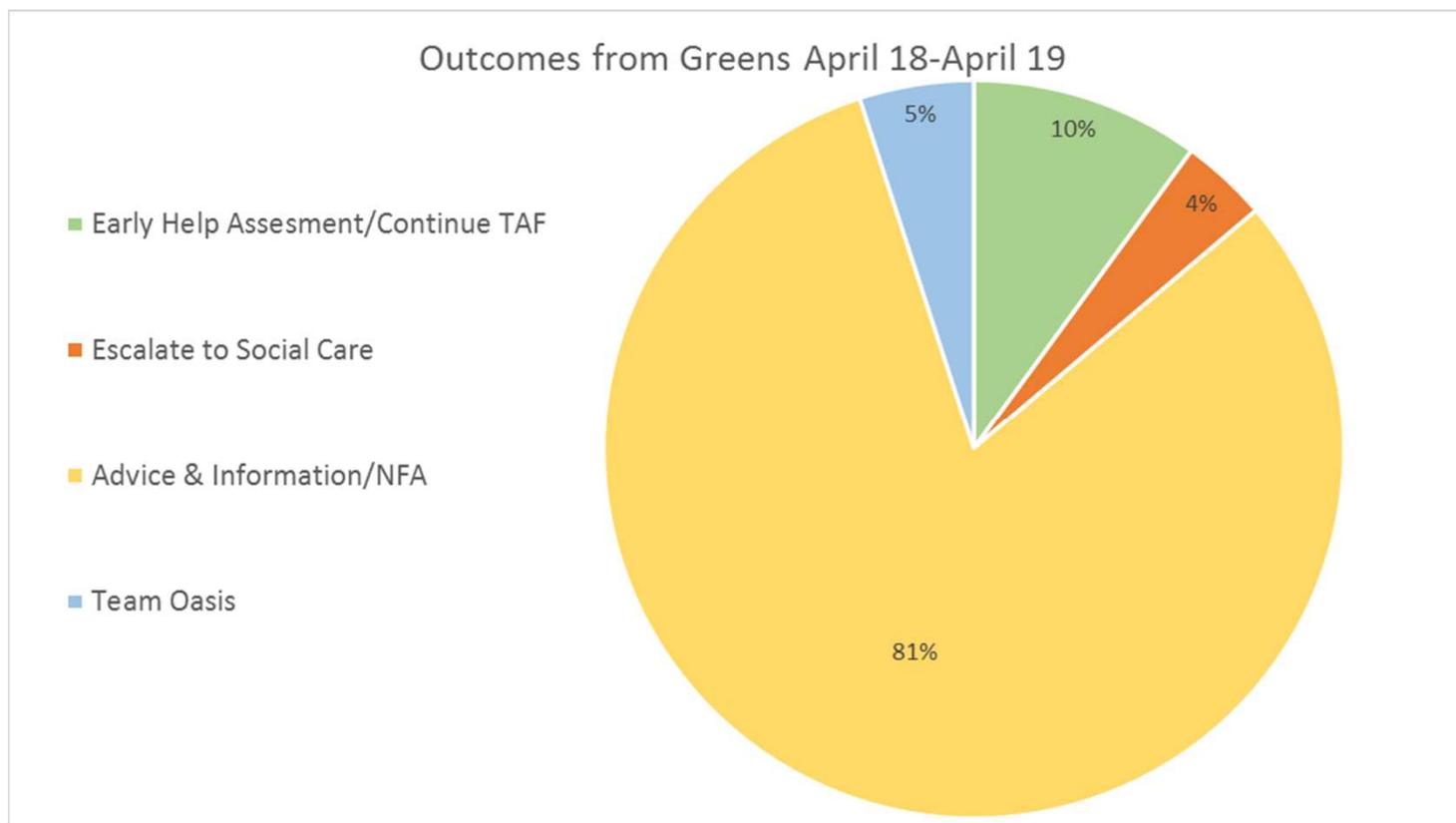
The team is based at Redvales Children Centre in Bury.

Referral Pathway

- Up to October 17, referrals came to Team Oasis through the Early Help Panel following a referral into Bury's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- From November 2017 a three month pilot commenced between Team Oasis and MASH whereby any Green rag rated contacts were sent directly to Team Oasis for screening with a greater emphasis on provision of early help support to these families.
- In May 2018, it was agreed that the above process would continue as an embedded work stream. Cases suitable for Team Oasis were identified during this process.
- From April 19, the Green contacts moved back under MASH's management. This decision was made due to internal processes in place causing an increase in re referral figures and capacity concerns within Team Oasis.

Green Contacts Outcomes

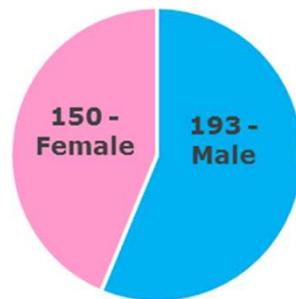
- 5,660 Green Contacts were managed by Team Oasis between April 2018 and April 2019.



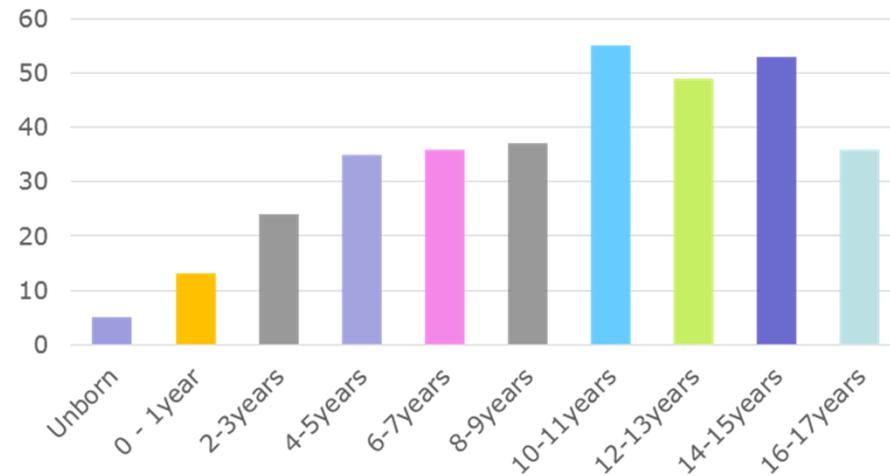
Team Oasis Referrals

Between 2018/2019 there were 343 new referrals made to Team Oasis for support.

Gender of children referred



Age of children at point of referral



Early Help Assessments

From September 18, practice around the completion of early help assessments changed within Team Oasis; from this time each new case has an assessment completed at the start of our involvement to inform the support plan.

Previously when Team Oasis became involved we would build on the assessment/plan that was already in place (completed by partner agencies) to consider further support needs and the assessment would be done at the end of our involvement to inform the future functioning and planning for the family.

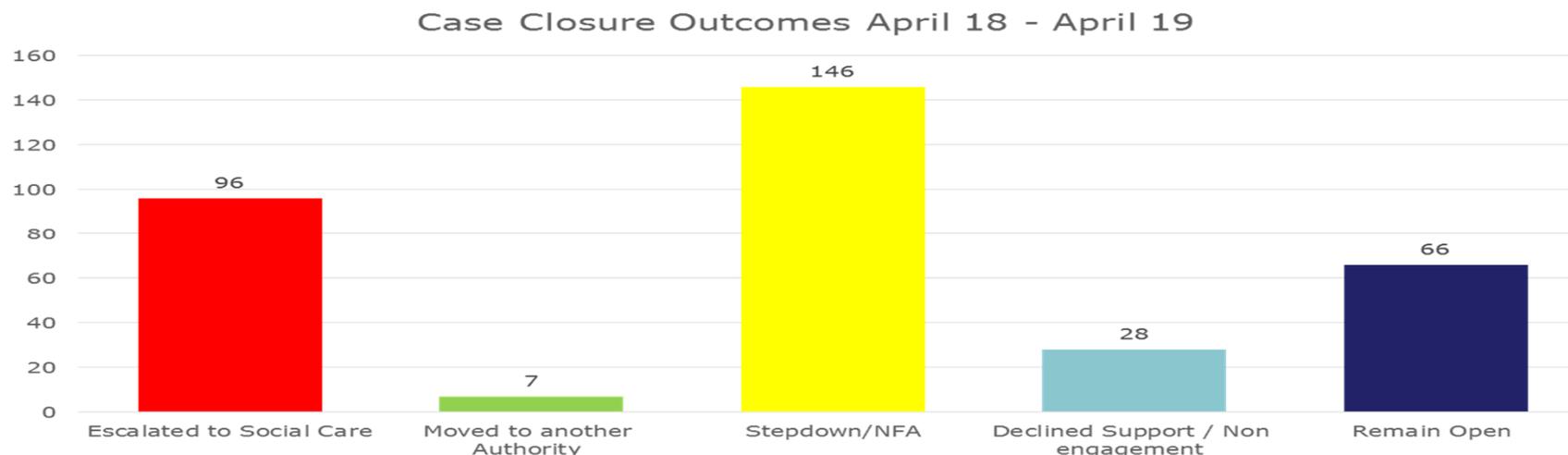
In the 6 months following September 2018, Team Oasis has completed 160 Early Help Assessments

In 78% of cases these assessments were completed within 20 working days.

The team is working towards 100% of the Early Help Assessment being completed in 20 working days which should be possible as they are initial assessment to inform the initial plan. Further needs identified will be captured in the Team around the Family plan through regular review and more in-depth understanding through ongoing assessment with the family.

Performance

The graph below shows the outcomes of these cases at closure to Team Oasis.



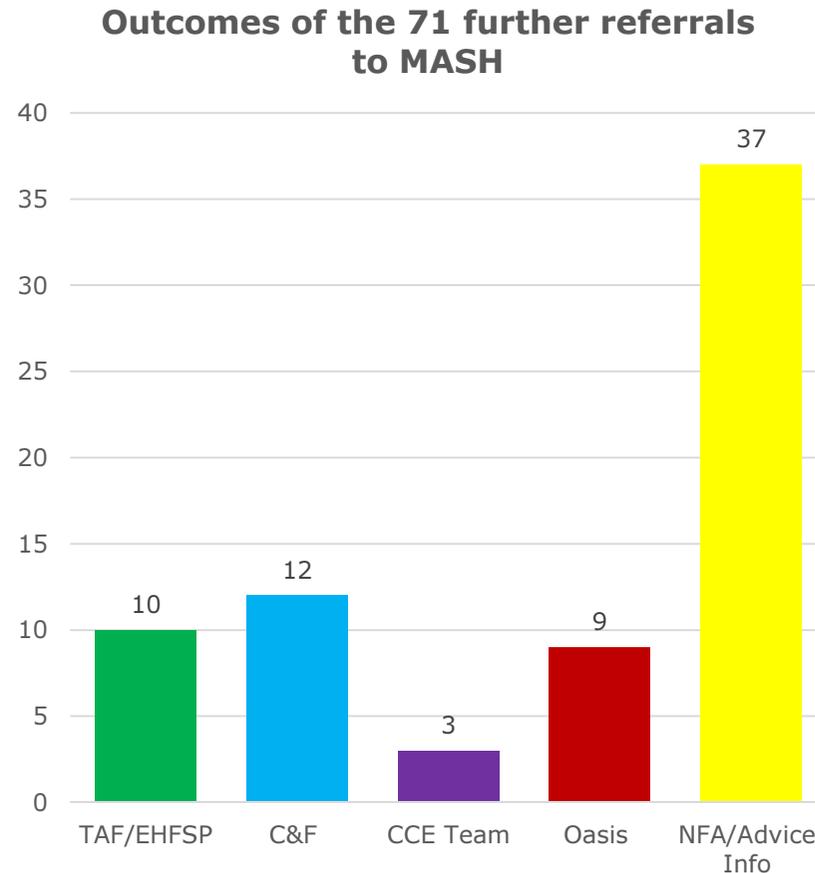
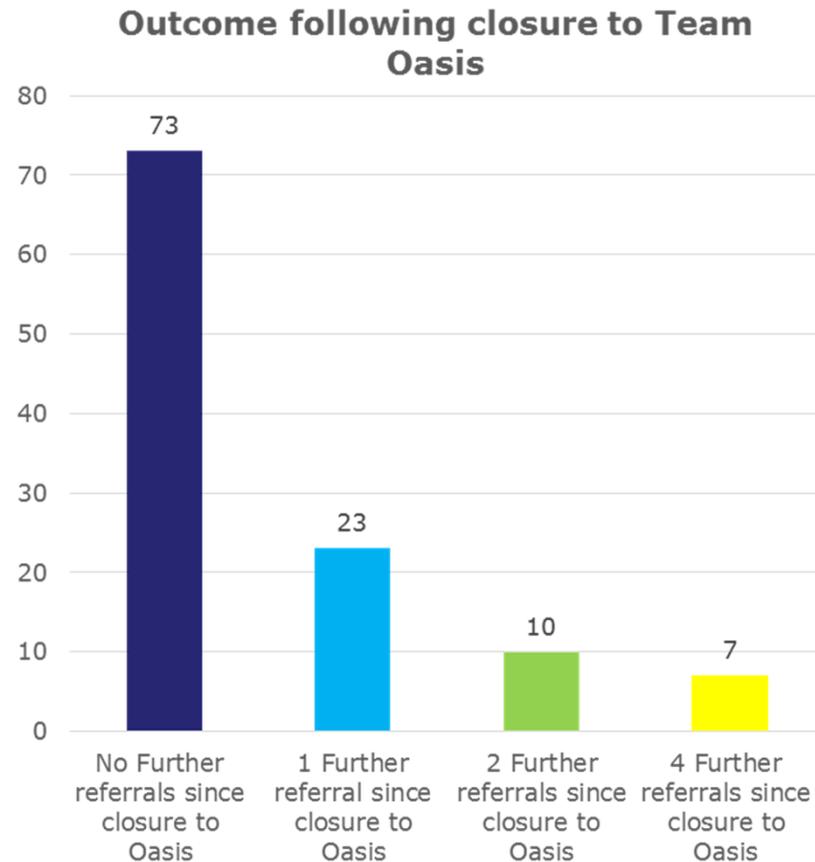
The number of cases which have escalated for a statutory service this year has more than doubled in comparison to 17/18. This is due to a change in practice following an Ofsted focused visit in July 18; it was highlighted that Team Oasis were managing cases that were considered to high on the threshold to be held in early help. 80 of these cases were escalated in the months following Ofsted's visit.

Case holding timescales:

Between October 2013 and April 2019 on average cases have been open to Team Oasis for 28 weeks. Within this period there were some cases that had been open for a significant period due to parental learning difficulties; whilst we did not want to develop dependency, there was a need for ongoing intervention to ensure that these parents were able to continue to meet the day-to-day needs of their children. However following the Ofsted focused visit in July 18, this practice was considered to be allowing drift and delay for children and therefore these cases were closed or escalated for a statutory assessment. From between September 18 and March 19, Team Oasis worked with families for an average of 7 weeks.

Performance

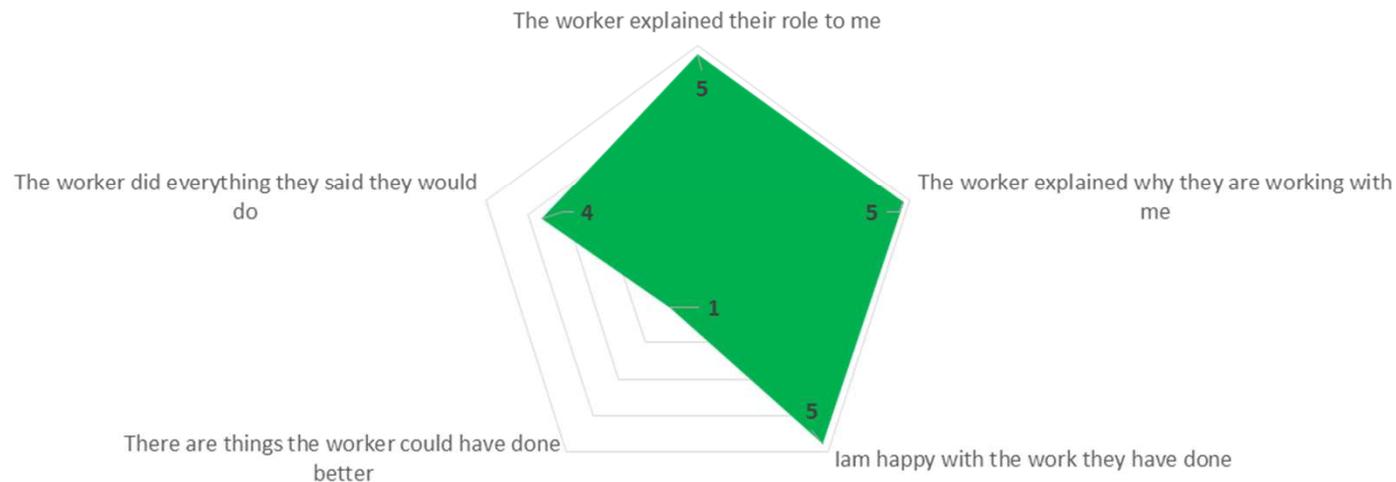
Further tracking of closed cases has revealed that for 65% of those closed they had not been referred back into MASH. Out of the 71 referrals referred back in, in 56 cases either no further action or a further early help response was recommended; there were 15 cases that recommended a statutory response.



Feedback

From September 2018 Team Oasis started to collect feedback from children and families on exit to our team. The below chart shows the average scores from all of the feedback received. However in completing this exercise it is noticeable that feedback regarding improved outcomes for children and families is not clear therefore further work is currently being done to amend the form to capture this information going forward.

Average results from customer feedback



Oasis CWD Stepdown

- In May 2017, Team Oasis began to manage cases which were stepped down from the Children with Disability team following a statutory assessment; these children had a financial package of support but didn't require ongoing social work involvement.
- In order to manage these cases Team Oasis employed 2 dedicated CWD Child and Family workers that work directly with children, young people, families and partner agencies managing the support plans.
- By April 2019, 168 children have been stepped down for management by the CWD Child and Family Workers; at the end March 19 there are 130 children open.

Early Help Transformation...

- A three month Consultation commenced in February 19; the proposal was for Team Oasis along with some other early help services to be disestablished and re-established into three locality teams working in place across the authority supporting families in place.
- The Consultation ended on the 27th May 2019; we are currently analysing and reviewing the feedback before a confirmed structure will be agreed .
- Locality Teams will be integrated and aligned with wider services who provide early help such as community health/GP's/healthy young minds/housing/police/voluntary partners.
- Schools will have named Early Help Social Workers and be supported by a Team Around the School model

Principles of the new approach:

- Key worker for families
- Single Assessment
- Conversations replace referrals between professionals
- Professionals sharing information and working together
- Families are no longer passed around the system
- There are no cracks for families to fall between