



Learning from CMR'S

2023 -2024

Case Management Review Learning 2023 -2024

Case Management Reviews (CMRs) are a statutory function of the SBNI which are undertaken by the Case Management Review Panel (CMRP).

The CMRP is required by statute to meet at least four times per year and is independently chaired. It includes senior representatives of the following SBNI member agencies; EA, the five HSCTs, PBNI, PHA, PSNI, SPPG and YJA.

The panel's role is to consider notifications from member agencies in respect of serious incidents involving children and young people and to identify cases which require further consideration because there may be:

- positive outcomes for children and young people and/or
- where things have not gone well and there is likely to be significant learning.

The purpose of this process is to enable the child protection system to be strengthened thereby further protecting children and young people in Northern Ireland. The CMRP interrogates the information provided to it by the notifying agency and seeks information from others, before making a recommendation to the SBNI Board as to whether or not it is appropriate to commission a CMR. This recommendation is then considered by the Board which makes a decision whether or not a CMR should be undertaken. Thirty-nine (39) CMRs have been commissioned since the SBNI's inception.

CMR Notifications received during 2023-2024

During 2023-2024, 11 CMR notifications in respect of 11 children were received by the SBNI¹. Of these notifications 1 CMR was commissioned in respect of 1 female child.

The notifications received, related to 11 children of whom 6 were male and 5 were female. The age range of these children who were notified to the SBNI were as follows:

¹ Not all 11 proceeded to the SBNI Board for decision in this reporting period 2023-2024.

- 0 – 11 Months - 4 children (3 male & 1 female)
- 1 Year – 5 Years - 0 children
- 6 – 11 Years - 0 children
- 12 – 17 Years - 7 children (3 male & 4 female).

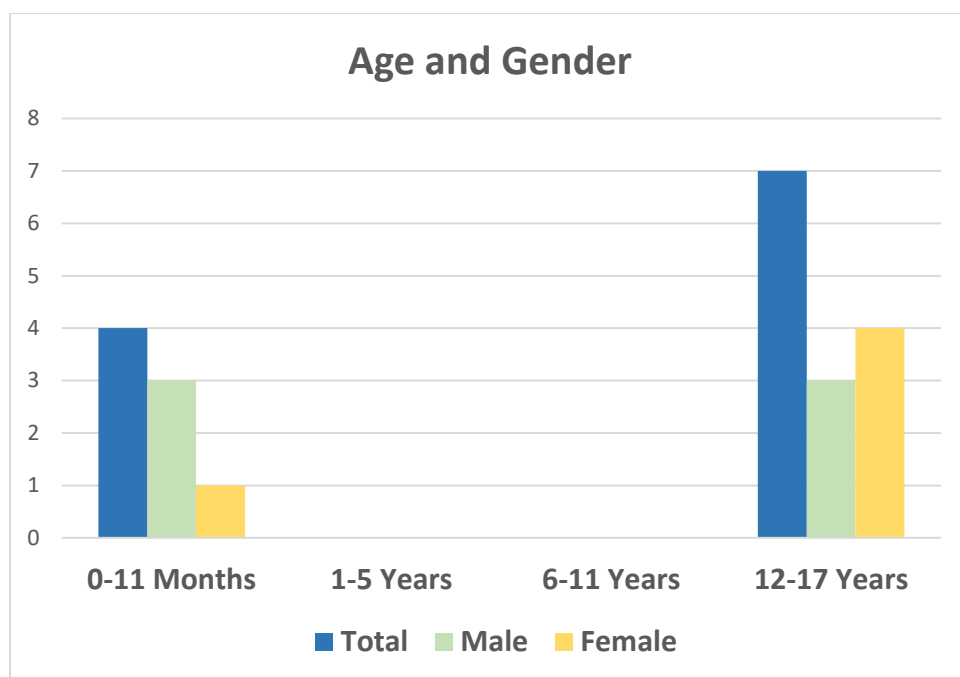


Figure 1 Age range of children subject to CMR Notification

A total of 12 notifications were presented to and considered by the Board in 2023-2024. Of these, 6 were received in the latter part of the previous business year (2022-2023).

Of the 12 notifications considered by the Board in year, the Board concluded that one met the criteria to proceed to a CMR.

CMRs Completed since 2012

At 31 March 2024, the total number of CMRs completed was 37, with 2 CMRs underway.

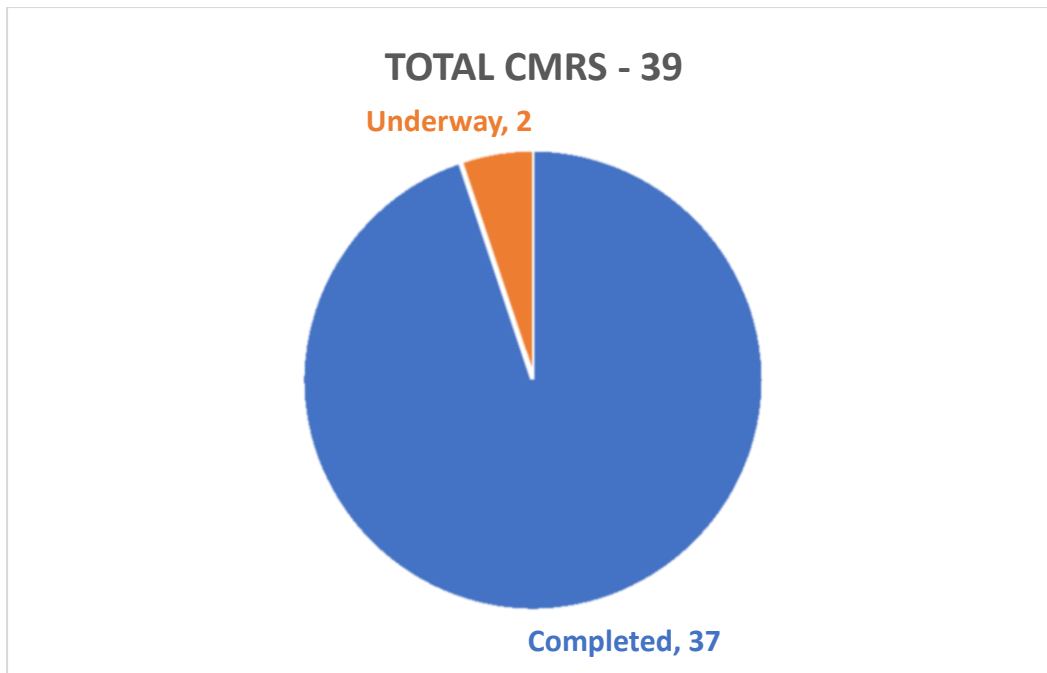


Figure 2 Total number of CMRs completed since 2012

Completed Case Management Reviews

During 2023-2024 two completed CMRs were presented to and approved by the Board. These reviews considered the harm experienced by 3 children (1 male and 2 female).

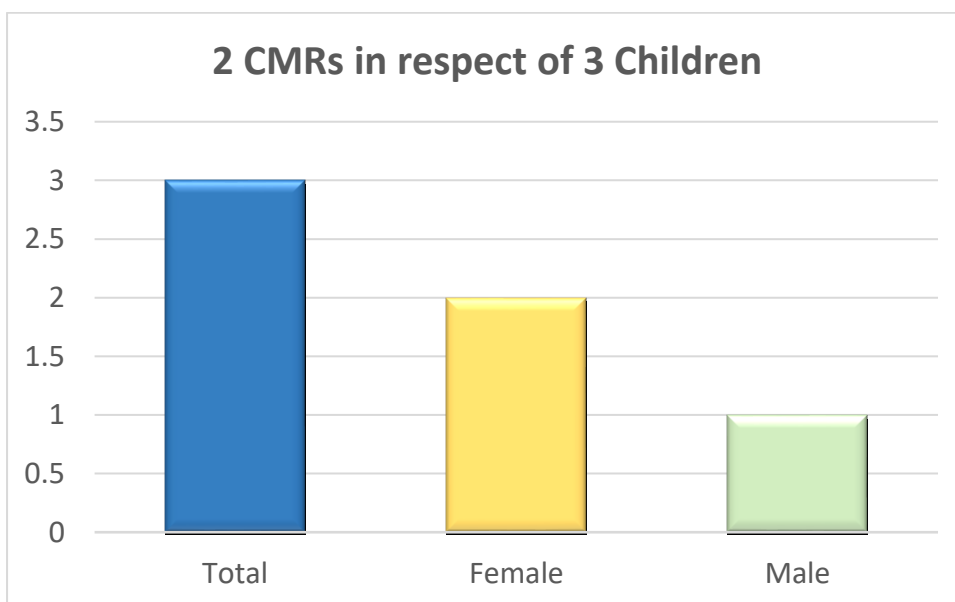


Figure 3 Gender of children involved in completed Reviews

The age range of these children were as follows:

- 0 – 11 months – 1 child (1 male)
- 1 – 5 years – 2 children (2 female)
- 6 – 10 years – 0
- 11 – 17 years – 0.

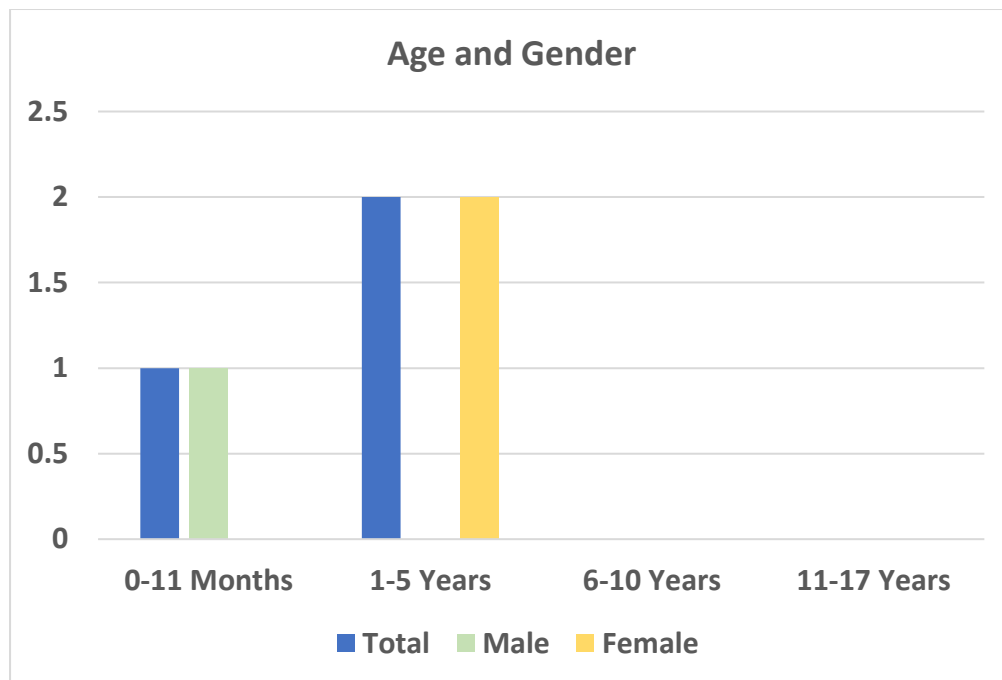


Figure 4 Age range of children involved in completed Reviews

Completion Times for CMRs

The two CMR reviews undertaken within the 2023-2024 reporting period were particularly complex. One case spanned several jurisdictions and three HSCTs as well as involving numerous other agencies.

The average time of completion of the 2 CMRs presented to the Board in 2023-2024 was 12 months.

Summary of learning and improvements arising from these Reviews

CMRs are, by their very nature, intended to generate recommendations for improvement and highlight areas of good practice. All CMRs are followed up by

comprehensive action plans by member agencies to ensure all recommendations are acted upon. The action plans include timescales and are reviewed by the relevant Safeguarding Panel (panel).

There were 17 recommendations associated with the completion of the 2 CMRs in 2023-2024.

- Physical Abuse
- Adult Mental Health interface with Children Services and
- HSCT interface with PSNI

Physical abuse

- The SBNI Policy and Procedures Committee are further developing the SBNI Policies and Procedures Manual in respect of 'The Child Protection Register', Point 8; 'Children/ Young People and Families Who Move', which provides guidance in respect of the transfer of child protection cases, to include pre-birth child protection cases, across the HSCT's and across jurisdictions. This transfer guidance will provide clarity with regard to the roles and responsibilities of all professionals involved with parents, and families, including the parents of unborn children, in terms of information sharing and escalation of concerns in order to promote collaborative working.
- The SPPG and PSNI are working together to review current guidance, procedure and practice in respect of the interface between HSCTs and PSNI, specifically in respect of Domestic Abuse referrals. It is anticipated that any revisions to the current guidance emerging from this exercise will be reflected in an appropriate suite of training events and resources.
- The PSNI have undertaken to audit samples of police officer's communication and interviews with victims of Domestic Abuse.
- The PSNI have undertaken to review the training made available to officers and supervisors in respect of circumstances where it is necessary to escalate concerns in respect of children and young people at risk of significant harm.
- The HSCT's are ensuring the 'Encompass' Information system will be built to ensure necessary domains exist to enable;
 - early identification of adults associated with a child;

- and whether interpreting services for a family are required.
- SPPG are working alongside the 'Signs of Safety' Principal Practitioners cohort to develop a robust and consistent approach to Safety Planning across the Region. Within the context of this work, opportunities will be realised to share learning and practice developments with relevant agencies including the Regional Emergency Social Work Service.
- The SPPG and PSNI are developing improved awareness raising for practitioners working in Child Protection on the Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (PPANI).
- All HSCT's have promoted further awareness raising across their Children's Services Social Work staff teams in respect of the Protocol Between Northern Ireland and Ireland for Handling Inter-jurisdictional Children's Cases.
- All HSCT's have undertaken to raise awareness of 'Guidance on Information Sharing for Child Protection Purposes' (August 2021, reviewed in 2024).

Dissemination of Learning and Key Messages from CMRs

All completed CMR reports, included identified learning and recommendations, and were shared with the organisations involved as well as others who have a role to play in safeguarding and child protection.

In addition, dissemination of learning from CMRs is delivered via regional and local events held regularly across Northern Ireland. This sharing of learning is coordinated and undertaken jointly by the CMRP and the Safeguarding Panels. The events in 2023-2024 were held both in person and via virtual platforms which enabled a wider reach across the multi-agency membership of the SBNI.

During 2023- 2024, six dissemination of learning events were undertaken by the SBNI. These comprised of one regional event for senior managers and cross government departmental colleagues as well as five Safeguarding Panel events.

These events were attended by in excess of 700 professionals including managers and practitioners from across 31 agencies and disciplines.

As in previous years these events were evaluated very highly in the feedback received. The SBNI however, remains keen to continue to explore how it can further disseminate

and embed the learning from the completed reviews and will explore additional means of disseminating learning in the next business year.