

CAF Update

Common Assessment Framework



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Every Child Matters
Change For Children

Issue 3

Spring 2010

Introduction

Welcome to the Spring 2010 edition of the Common Assessment Framework Newsletter. In this issue we are including some statistical information on the CAFs we have received so far, to give a picture of what is happening on the Island. There is also a feature on a new member of staff at Youth Connexions, who is offering intensive support to teenage parents.

You will also find dates for CAF training days, CAF panels and other locality network events, as well as a press release from Ed Balls which highlights the introduction of eCAF, and a message from the Strategic Director of Children's Services, Colin Peak.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter – please pass it on to any other colleagues who may find it interesting.

Support for teenage parents

Cally Wareham at Youth Connexions has recently been appointed to support teenage parents on the Island. This is a brief introduction to Cally, and her role...

I am a Youth Connexions Personal Advisor who supports teenage parents on the Isle of Wight who are under 18. This support includes advice on benefits, housing, sexual health, education, employment and training. I have been working with pregnant teenagers to ensure that all their needs are met through working closely with midwives, health visitors, housing support officers, Children's Centres and other agencies. I have completed CAFs for teenage parents, supported other professionals to complete CAFs and attended CAF panels. I want to encourage teenage parents into Children's Centres so that they can engage in a positive activity and then eventually encourage them back in to employment, education and training. I am also working with teenagers who are already parents who need extra support and discussing with them employment, education and training options that are available to them on the Island.

Useful resources to support practitioners.

Contact Katy.Edmunds@iow.gov.uk for an electronic copy of Lo Down.

Lo down is a referral checklist for professionals working with young people. The information within it will help when dealing with the issues relating to teenage pregnancy, sexual health and contraceptive advice. The referral flowchart will guide you through the options available to a young person seeking advice. Choices are important and the list can be accessed in any order. There is a description of options, list of services and contacts, together with helpful information.



National eCAF

As many colleagues will know, National eCAF is being introduced in pilot areas now, with a view to it being rolled out across the country in the near future. This press release from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Balls, highlights the importance of this development.

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES THE COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):

Many children and young people in England need support from a range of services because they have additional needs. The Common Assessment Framework (CAF), which came about as part of the Every Child Matters reforms, plays a crucial part in delivering this for them. The CAF is designed to help practitioners to assess the additional needs of children and young people when they emerge, and to work together to meet them. CAF is used only with the consent of children and young people, or their parents and carers as appropriate. Since its introduction in 2006 thousands of practitioners have been trained in the CAF and are now using it successfully in their day to day work.

CAF information is currently recorded using a paper-format or on local systems. A new system to electronically enable the CAF, called National eCAF, will be made available from 22 March 2010 to a small group of 'Early Adopter' organisations who have applied to take part in this scheme. They comprise four local authorities - Birmingham, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Walsall, and two voluntary organisations - Barnardo's and Kids. Information will be held on National eCAF, as with the CAF, only with the explicit consent of the child or young person, or their parents or carers as appropriate.

The security of National eCAF is of paramount importance. Only authorised, trained practitioners with enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks will be able to use National eCAF; they will also need a token and a password to access the system.

We have worked closely with professionals and partner organisations on the development of national eCAF to date, and we will continue to do so as we develop the system further, and in the light of the experience of Early Adopter organisations.

For more information, please visit www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/ecaf

Locality co-ordinators;

Simon Homes West and Central Wight	simon.homes@iow.gov.uk	Tel: 07976009103
Dave Piggott North East Wight	David.piggott@iow.gov.uk	Tel: 07970335916
Terri Baker South Wight	terri.baker@iow.gov.uk	Tel: 07795656134
Amy Lockwood CAF Business Coordinator	Amy.lockwood@iow.gov.uk	Tel: 01983 823490

All co-ordinators are based at:

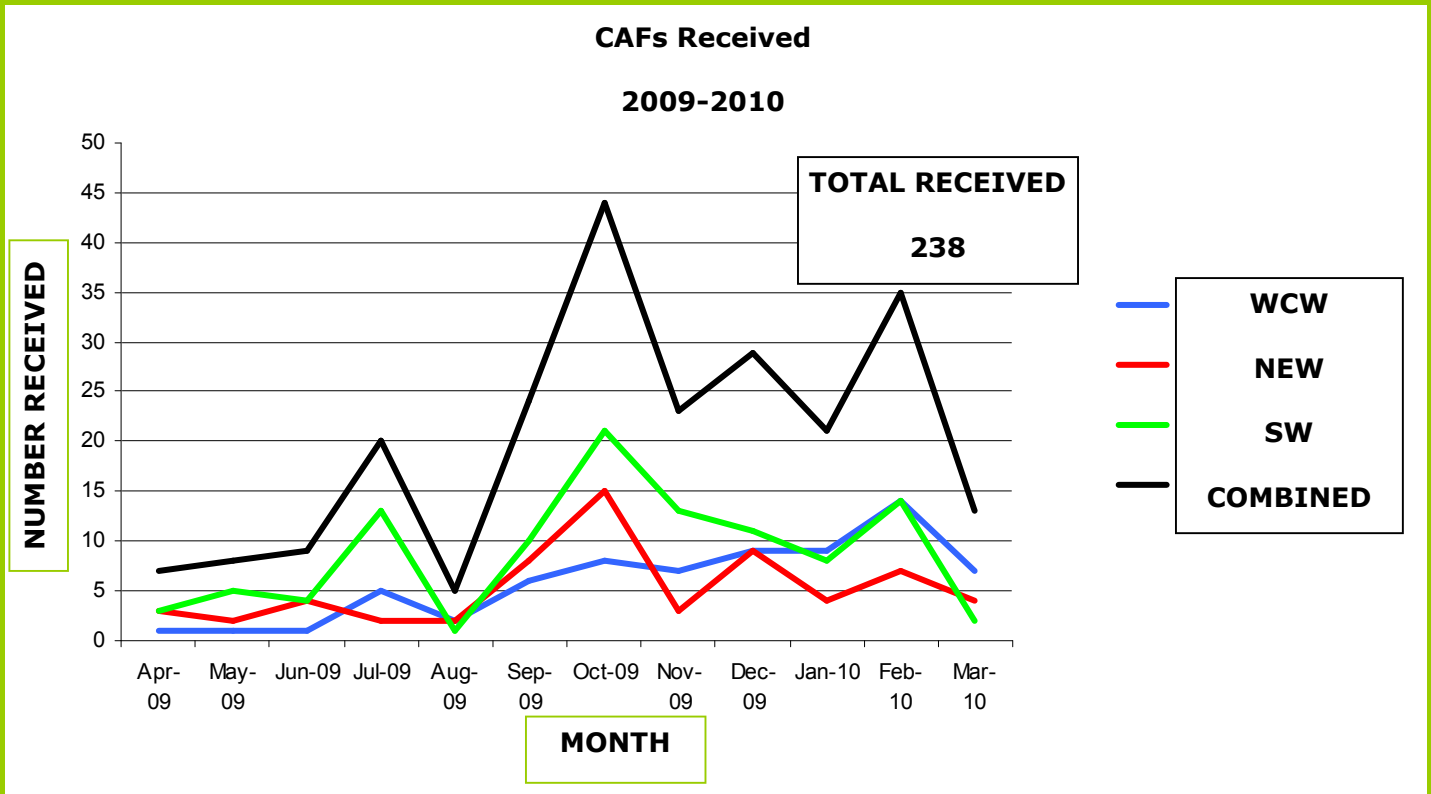
Youth Connexions, 29 High Street, Newport PO30 1SS, Tel 823490



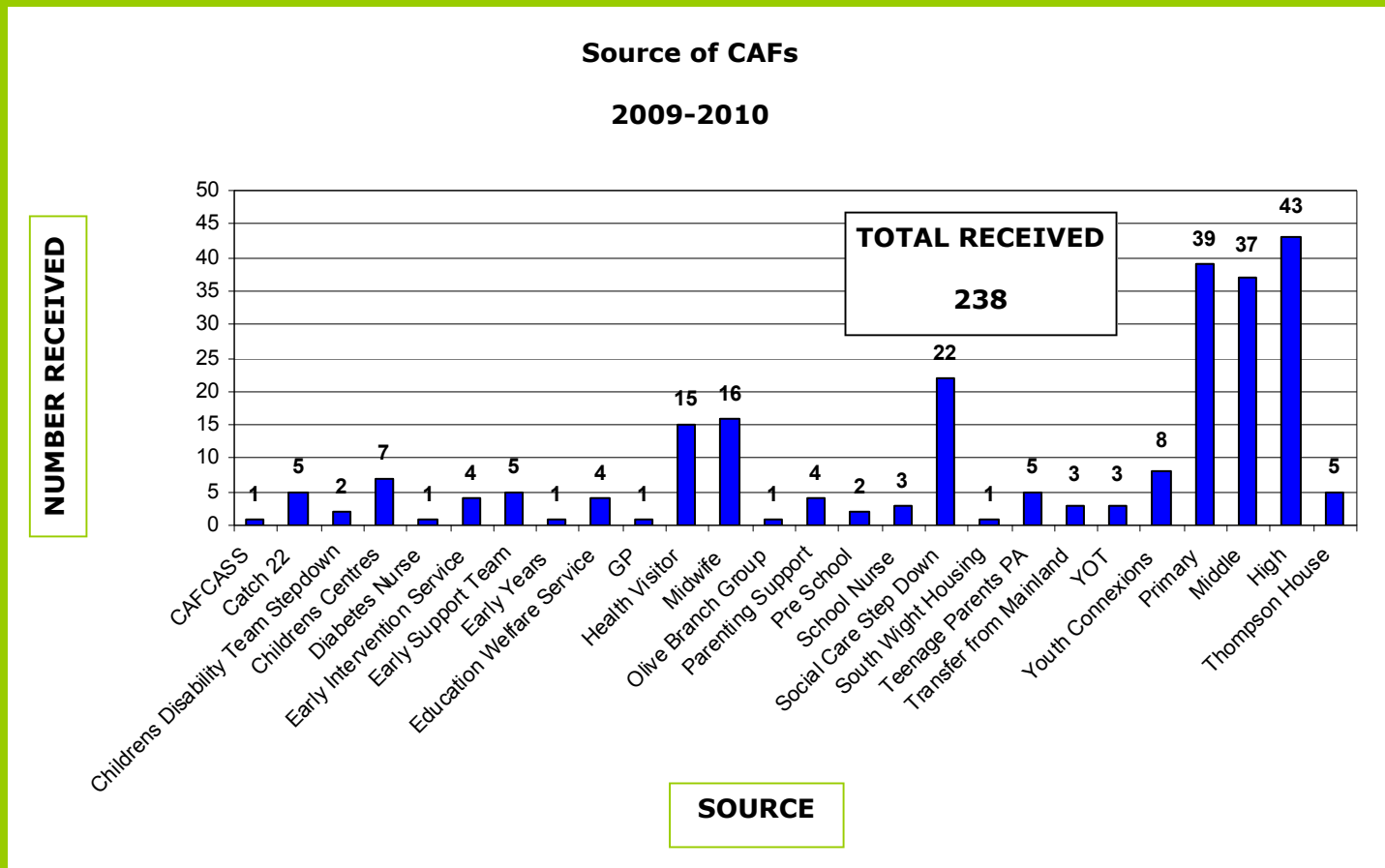
**"I am today
announcing
progress in the
implementation
of the National
electronic
Common
Assessment
Framework
system
(National eCAF)."**

CAF Statistics

We thought readers would be interested in finding out more about where CAFs are coming from on the Island. Below you will find some graphs which show the numbers received and where they have come from. We will be producing more of this kind of information in the future, particularly to help identify areas of need.

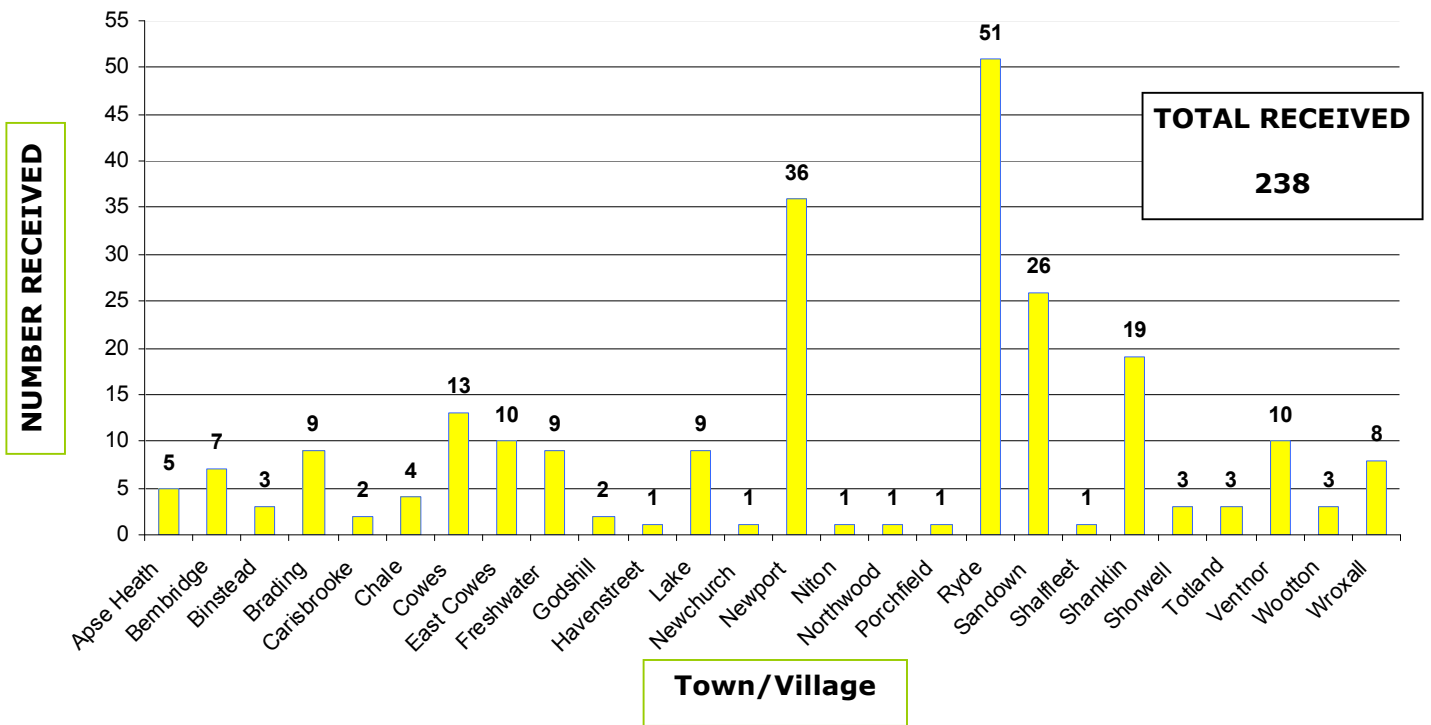


If you would like to receive copies of these graphs please contact Amy.Lockwood@iow.gov.uk



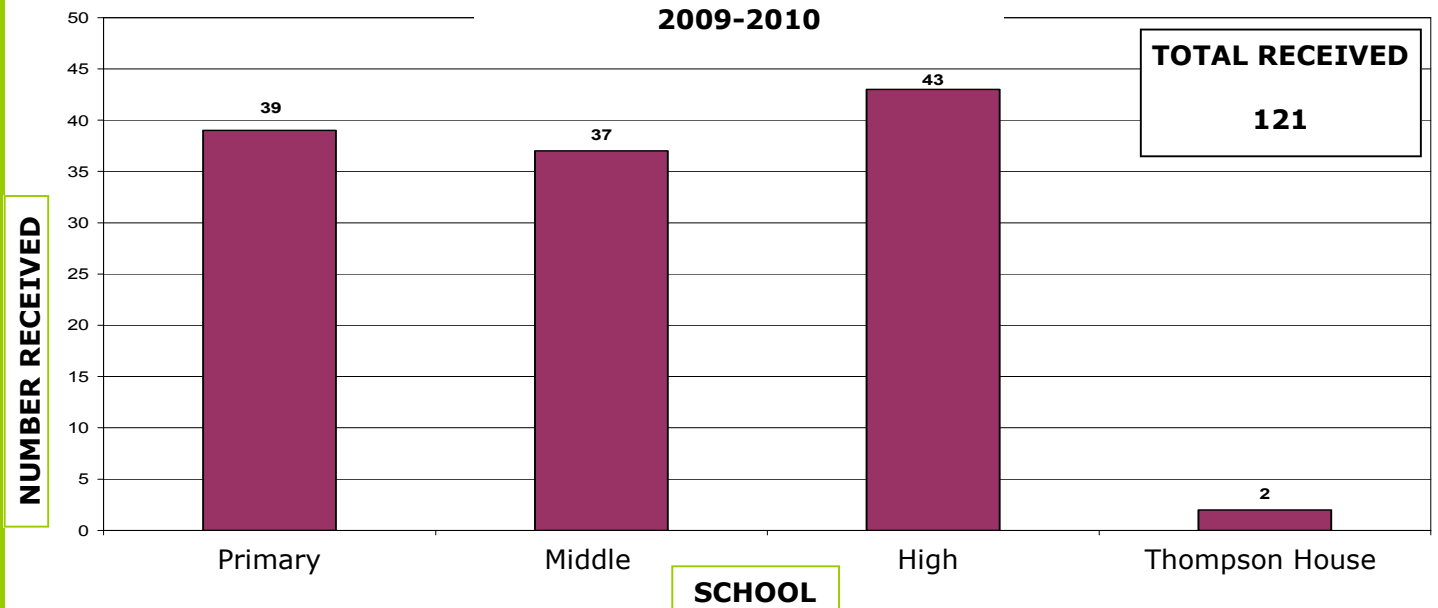
CAFs Received by Town/Village

2009-2010



CAFs Received from Schools

2009-2010



Training Dates

CAF training dates

These are the full days training on CAF, which include a session on Information Sharing.

Places can be booked by contacting Chris Cane in Workforce Development.

chris.cane@iow.gov.uk or call 525790

CAF training dates



South Wight	Landguard Manor, Shanklin	Tuesday 27 April
West and Central Wight	Training Room, Pyle Street, Newport	Wednesday 19 May
North East Wight	Appley Manor, Ryde	Thursday 17 June

CAF panels



North-East Wight	21 April, 12 May, 9 June, 7 July
South Wight	28 April, 19 May, 16 June, 14 July
West and Central Wight	27 April, 26 May, 23 June, 13 July

CAF support groups and locality events



These are informal drop-in sessions for anyone who is thinking about completing a CAF or has any queries about the CAF process. Please call in to the one that is most convenient for you.

West and Central - CAF Support Groups

22 April - Cowes High - 15:00–17:00

27 May - Weston Community School - 15:00-17:00

16 June - Venue TBC - 15:00-17:00

08 July - Weston Community School - 15:00-17:00

South Wight

The next South Wight Locality Networking session is being held on Wednesday 9 June - 9:30 – 12:00 at Sandown Town Hall, Grafton Street, Sandown, this is your opportunity to see and network with others also working within the Locality, all welcome

North East Wight

Locality event planned for Wednesday 5 May – this will be a networking opportunity, as well as an opportunity to map needs and provision in the area. Further details to follow

Colin Peak, Strategic Director Children's Services

The Isle of Wight through our Children's Trust continues to develop and embed the Every Child Matters (ECM) agenda. Our aim is to integrate services and the way we work for children and young people to improve their outcomes. This involves all of us working together across our professional and organisational boundaries so that we may better co-ordinate our expertise and support to meet the needs we identify. Our use of the Common Assessment Framework is central to making this work for children, young people and their families.

We are well on our way. Over 800 of you have now been on the CAF training with 250 common assessments undertaken and packages of support delivered to those children and young people. Colleagues in schools have recognised the benefit of using the CAF to access these packages of additional support. Although implementing the CAF has involved many of us changing the way we plan and deliver our services or in changing where and how we work with others, other Children's Trusts around the country are sharing their experiences with us so that we may learn from them and they from us.

The three Locality Co-ordinators have established three locality CAF panels each with their own support group and associated locality events. We are undertaking an evaluation on the impact of the CAF both in terms of improving outcomes for children, young people and their families but also on how we are improving how we work together in more integrated ways.

I would encourage those of you who have not yet taken up the opportunity of CAF training to do so and for those of you who have but who have not yet undertaken an assessment, our locality co-ordinators are available to offer all the information, advice and support you may need.

Thank you