



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Revisiting Safeguarding Why?

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Background

The Chief Social Worker (CSW) for Adults committed to producing practice guidance for LA safeguarding teams to address:

- anecdotal evidence of variation in practice across LAs
- anecdotal evidence of variation in quality and skill of social work response

This also meets the CSW's aims to:

- promote good quality safeguarding
- embed person-centred, strengths-based practice approaches
- ensure social work is skilled and held accountable
- support the leadership and development of Principal Social Workers, including fulfilling their statutory responsibilities
- Give a structure to build assurance frameworks for future CQC



Aims of the guidance

- Set out the roles and responsibilities within LAs to safeguard adults and statutory duties undertaken by social workers. This includes those that carry out the statutory function in the Care Act 2014, and those with delegated responsibilities for S42 decisions.
- Ensure LA statutory responses are informed by a consistent approach, aligned to the Care Act 2014
- Set out expectations and good practice for person-centred, strengths-based safeguarding, emphasising the importance of co-production
- Set out expectations and good practice for working across agencies, emphasising importance of partnership and collaboration for quality safeguarding
- Signpost to existing resources, evidence and best practice, supporting with case studies of lived experience



What does the variation in practice look like?

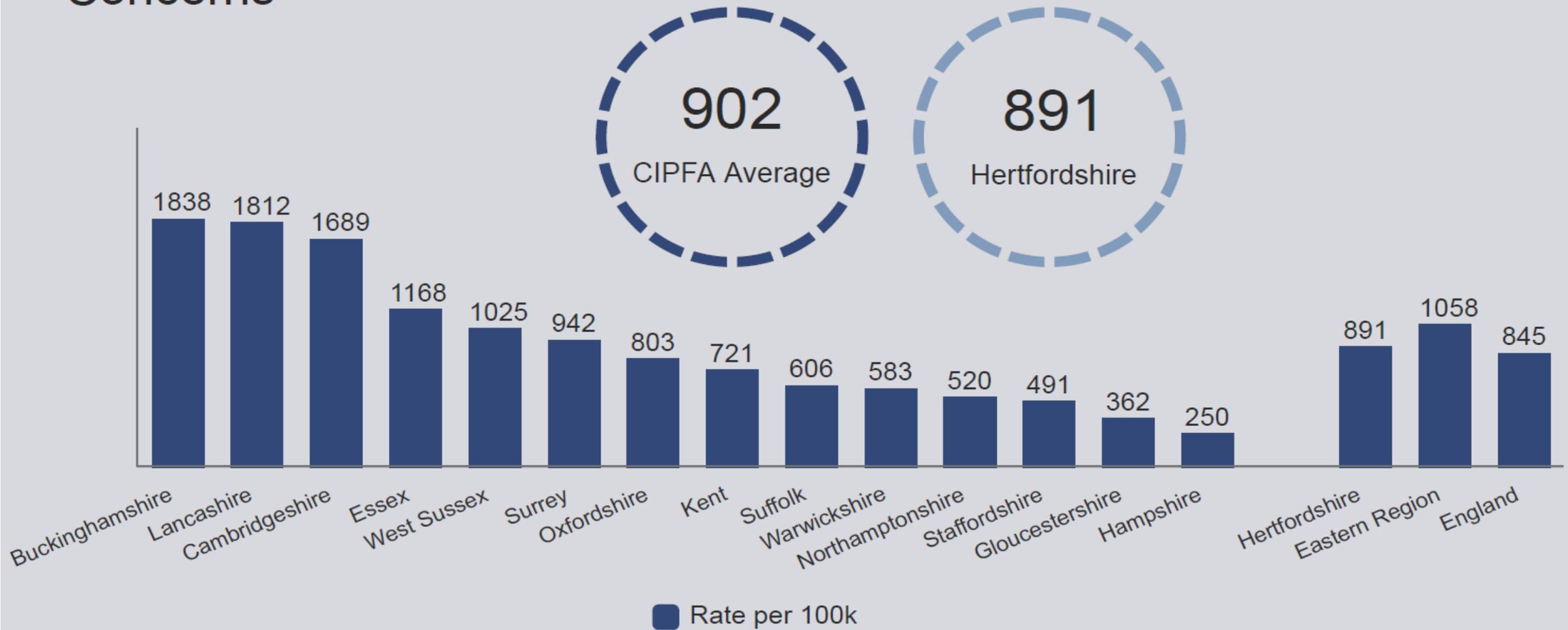
Mixed application

- Evidence that Care Act Statutory Safeguarding and practice is applied differently across LA's
- Local arrangements lead to different applications
- Risk of post code lottery of experience
- Inconsistent and confusing for people who use services and providers

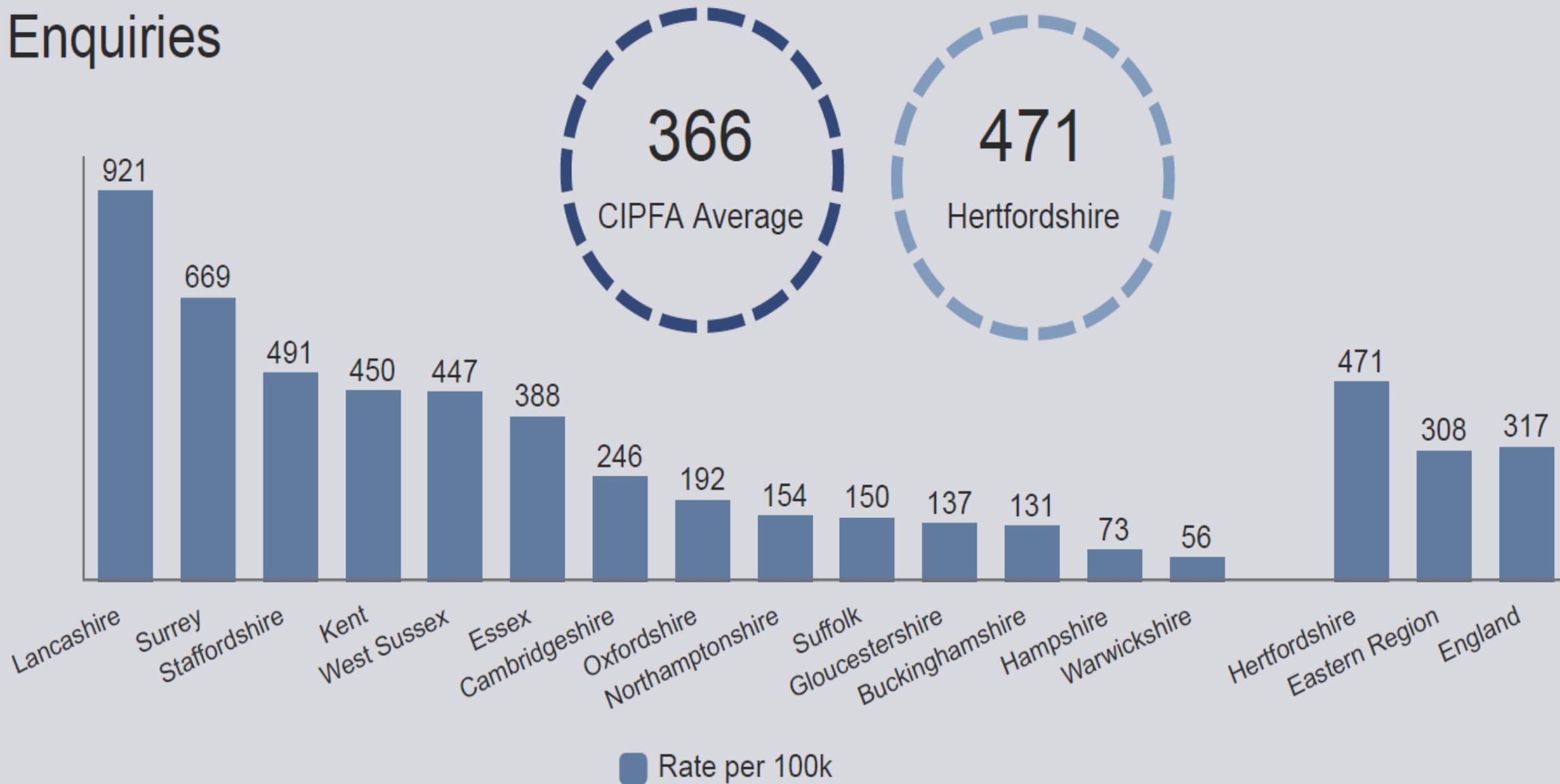


Activity breakdown per CIPFA comparator authorities

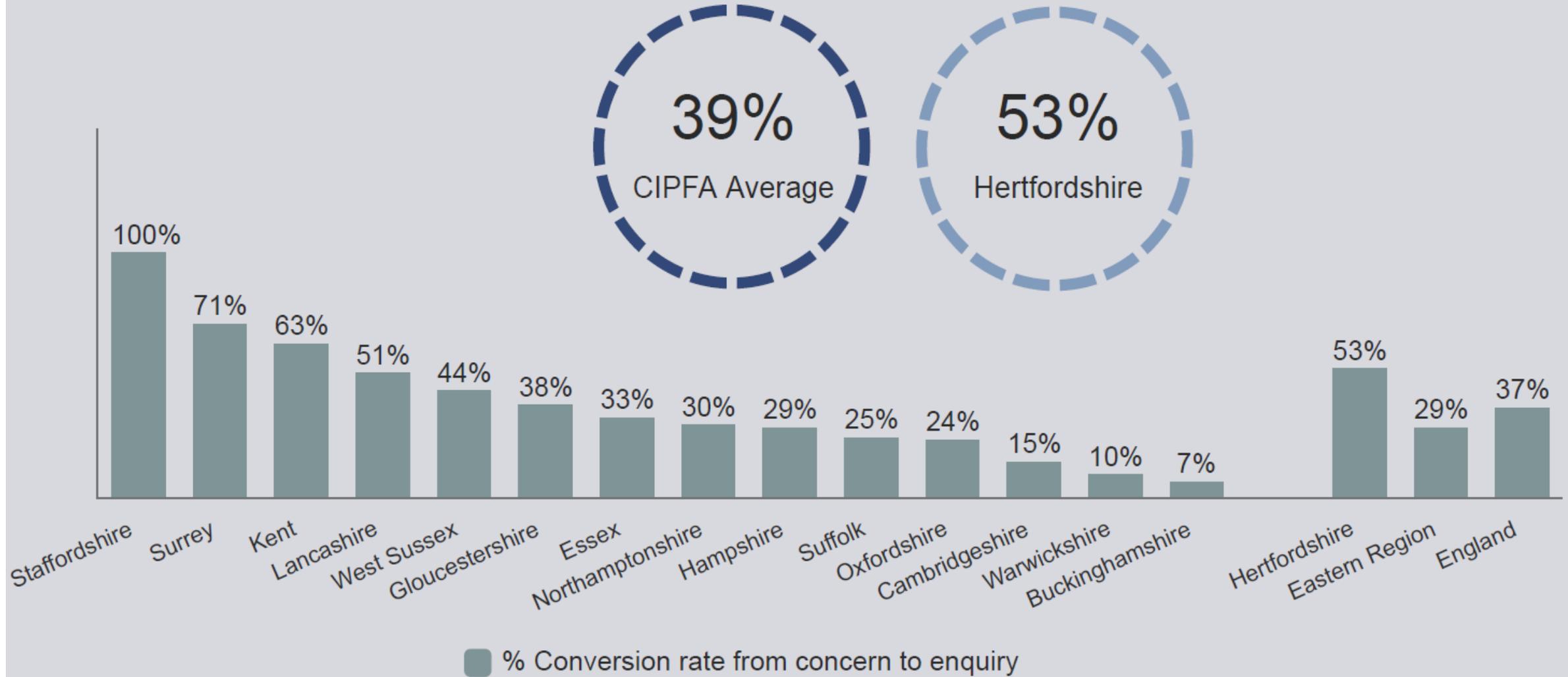
Concerns



Enquiries



Conversion rates



Remit of the guidance

Goals of the guidance:

- Roles and responsibilities in a LA adult safeguarding team
- Key practice principles and duties under the Care Act 2014
- Summary of the types of abuse, signposting to further resources
- What constitutes a S42 referral, and what process is then followed
- Interplay with other system partners / agencies
- Good practice examples

Will include references to:

- Particular challenges relating to transition from children's to adult services
- Particular challenges brought on by or worsened by Covid-19
- Importance of trauma-informed approaches
- Mental capacity, best interest decision making, safe and appropriate advocacy
- Interplay with wider policy and work underway

Not in remit:

- A detailed focus on a single type of abuse
- System-wide guidance
- Changes to statutory guidance or new statutory guidance
- LPS / DoLS
- Child safeguarding (except in context of transition)

