

	<p>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee 21 September 2015</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Safeguarding Children and Young People in Barnet</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Nicola Francis, Family Services Director</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Safeguarding Children and Young People in Barnet (Appendix 1); Family Services Quality Assurance Annual Report (Appendix 2)</p>
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<p>Summary</p>	
<p>This report provides an update on safeguarding activity across Family Services. It includes an overview of the approach taken across Family Services to safeguarding and the mechanisms in place.</p>	

Recommendations

1. That Committee note the safeguarding activity taking place across Family Services as outlined in this report

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This report gives Members oversight of safeguarding activity across Family Services.
- 1.2 Safeguarding activity is a core element of Family Services and it is in keeping with the Section 19 of the Children Act 2014 that the Lead Member of Children's Services (LMCS) and members of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee should have oversight of Safeguarding activity. A recent guide for Councillors in respect to safeguarding (see background papers, section 6) outlines that good scrutiny will be based on knowledge of the topic, including a clear understanding of safeguarding arrangements and roles across agencies, the principles and practices of safeguarding, and putting the child at the centre of safeguarding, as well as a commitment to demonstrate the potential impact of good scrutiny.
- 1.3 There are three statutory roles: the LMCS, the Director for Children's Services (DCS) and the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The Chair of the LSCB is an independent appointment charged with holding all agencies to account, and the Annual Report of the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board appears on the agenda for this meeting of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee. The LMCS has political responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services. The Director for Children's Services (DCS) post has the professional responsibility for children's services. Together they are responsible for ensuring that the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers, are addressed, and ensuring that there are clear and effective arrangements to protect children and young people from harm. This report, requested by the Commissioning Director for Children and Young People (DCS), helps to fulfil these functions.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 In order to inform Councillors of safeguarding activity that has taken place over the past year, and activity that is being undertaken at present.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Alternative options are not explored in this paper.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 This report informs Councillors of safeguarding activity taking place across the service. Post-decision implementation and future approval is not applicable.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1. The council, working with local, regional and national partners, will strive to ensure that Barnet is a place of opportunity, that people are helped to help themselves and where services are delivered effectively. The points below demonstrate how activity taking place within safeguarding contributes to these corporate priorities.

Barnet is a place of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life; Safeguarding plays a key role in ensuring that children and young people in Barnet are able to enjoy a safe childhood and reach their potential.

Where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure; This report details preventative activity taking place across Family Service, which helps to ensure that children are safeguarded from harm.

Where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer; Effectively safeguarding children and young people and intervening at as early a stage as possible helps to reduce the need for higher tier, more expensive services.

5.1.2 One of the two overarching aims of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-15 is 'Keeping Well', which means that every child in Barnet should be given the best possible start to live a healthy life. Safeguarding contributes to this objective.

5.2 **Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 There are no resource implications arising from the recommendation made in this report..

5.3 **Social Value**

5.3.1 There are no Social Value considerations relevant to the recommendation.

5.4 **Legal and Constitutional References**

5.4.1 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requires local authorities (and other partner agencies) to make arrangements for ensuring that (1) its functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and (2) services provided by other persons pursuant to such arrangements are provided having regard to this need.

5.4.2 As in the Annex A of the Responsibility for Functions, in the Council's Constitution, the Committee has responsibility for ensuring that the Council's safeguarding responsibilities are taking into account.

5.5 **Risk Management**

5.5.1 There are no specific risks attached to this recommendation. This paper forms part of our broader Quality Assurance mechanisms. There is also a risk management system in operation across Family Services to ensure that risks relating to Safeguarding are managed effectively.

5.6 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.6.1 Equalities and diversity considerations are a key element of Family Service's approach to safeguarding; however there are no equality and diversity considerations relevant to the recommendation made.

Barnet's diverse population of children and young people is taken into account in the design and delivery of services to safeguard children. There are more children from all Black and Minority Ethnic groups in the 0– 9 age group, than there are White children in Barnet. Children and young people in the 10 – 19 age groups are predominantly White. The highest proportion of people from BAME groups are found in the 0-4 age group (55.4%). In terms of religious diversity, Jewish and Muslim populations make up over a quarter of the total population of Barnet.

5.7 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.7.1 Consultation and Engagement is not required as part of this report. There is ongoing

consultation and engagement activity across Family Services, which includes a focus on engaging with children and young people to include their views in service design and delivery.

5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 Qualitative and quantitative insight data from across the service is used to inform safeguarding activity and a sample of this data is included in this report.

6 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Safeguarding Children: A practical guide for overview and scrutiny councillors; Local Government Association and Centre for Public Scrutiny, 2015.