Family Services

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1. Introduction

This report provides highlight data on Family Services that cross cut with Community Safety . The report seeks to share information, highlight risk issues, good practice developments and promote shared knowledge, engagement and strategic ownership across the partnership in prevention approaches and the management children's safety in their communities.

2 Barnet Family Services Child Data – September 2017

The Family Service data provides a snapshot of child information and the volume of children and young people accessing targeted and statutory interventions. To note numbers invariably fluctuate over the summer and school term breaks and can also peak following national or local safeguarding incidents. Family Services data is monitored for significant change and measured against statistical neighbours, London and national averages; the data is submitted to the Department for Education routinely.

- 91,600 children and young people living in Barnet (accounting for 23% of population); increasing to 31% for the 0-25 population (122,100)

- 1210 contacts to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) down from 1458 in June

- 720 Common Assessment Framework (CAF's) open in Early Help down from 871 in June

- Outcome measures of CAFs indicate a 90% success rate

- 326 contacts from MASH passed to Children's Social Care (CSC) for statutory assessment up from 277 in June

- 532 Children subject to Children in Need Plans up from 360 in June

- 158 Children subject to Child Protection Plans up from 143 in June (this figure remains significantly lower than 2015-2016 numbers when the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans was consistently over 250)

- Barnet has a lower percentage of children subject to repeat/subsequent Child Protection Plans (14.6%) than statistical neighbours (17.6%)

- 338 Children are in Care down from 347 in June

- 204 Care Leavers down from 313 in June

3. Youth Offending Service - October 2017

There are currently 86 Young People open to Youth Offending Team which is a reduction from 92 reported in June. Over the Q2 reporting period 7 young people have been remanded to custody.

The Youth Offending Cohort is mostly **male (88.4%),** with young people aged between 15-17 being most prevalent at 81.3%. Just over half of the Youth Offending cohort are from **BAME** backgrounds **(54.7%)** which remains disproportionate to overall Barnet population of children in this age group.

Over half of all young people within the Youth Justice cohort are believed to be gang-involved, which is reflected in the largest types of offences committed which includes the supply of drugs, violent related offences (GBH/ABH) and robbery.

In line with the national picture of Youth Offending, the cohort of young people subject to statutory Orders is smaller, but there is a recognition of an increased level of risk and vulnerability making for increased complexity. Additional support to the statutory multi-agency partnership has facilitated creation of forensic psychologist and educational psychologist roles which allow for stronger needs assessments and focused interventions.

43% of the Youth Justice cohort are assessed as requiring an intensive level of supervision (a minimum of twice weekly)

Young People engaged in Education, Training & Employment (ETE) rate is above the national average of 41% at **60%-70%** and would be higher if alternative education provision in place for many young people was included in the national YOT data set

There is an over-representation of Looked After Children (LAC) open to the service, and both LAC and Gang Involved young people are also over-represented in the **Not** in Education, Employment or Training **(NEET)** who are largely **aged 16+**

Barnet's First Time Entrants (FTE) rate is 293 per 100,000 which is **lower than** both the London (408) and **National** (321) averages. The crime prevention and diversion activities delivered by the Targeted Youth Support Service assist in keeping FTE numbers low.

Recent National Standards Audit **highlighted good practice** in the **quality of assessments**, **court reports** and the **service delivery** to the court. Barnet's re-offending rates are lower in than the London average and the custody rate is half that of the national average which is demonstrative of the positive work undertaken with young people engaged in Statutory interventions.

The service aims to improve areas of practice, particularly in relation to risk management. The Service Manager has developed Risk Management Panels to ensure a stronger line of sight to high risk young people held within the service and to promote a stronger multi-agency focus in risk and case management

4. **Vulnerable Adolescents Sexual Exploitation and Missing (SEAM) Measurement Tool**

Child sexual exploitation, like most child protection concerns is rarely a solitary issue, similar to traditional inter-familial safeguarding; concerns are often multi-faceted and interrelated. Complexities and factors that increase vulnerability and risk for a young person experiencing CSE include: experiences of domestic violence, trafficking, anti-social behaviour or involvement with gangs, and going missing.

Research in Practice (2015) suggest that these factors and vulnerabilities do not operate in a liner fashion. It is especially highlighted that there is a significant relationship between gangs, missing and CSE, and that often young people who are vulnerable to exploitation have many underlying vulnerability factors prior to CSE being identified as a concern.

Assessing and measuring risk

Risk assessments are largely indicative rather than predictive; however, if risk assessments are carried out effectively they can be used to identify a basis of intervention to support and reduce the vulnerability factors that contribute to the identified risk that the young person is experiencing.

In September, Barnet adopted the Sexual Exploitation and Missing (SEAM) Measurement tool, (Project Phoenix 2014) as a multi-agency assessment tool which pulls together information from ten vulnerability areas that could be impacting and affecting the young person. These areas are:

Episodes of missing from home/care	Young person ability to identify abusive /exploitive behaviour	
School/College attendance	Engagement with appropriate services/professionals	**Threshold**
Consumption of controlled substances	Sexual Health	
Parent/carer – Young person relationship	Association with risky peers/adults	The Pan London revised CSE
Accommodation	Social media and internet use indicates risk	

protocol was updated in July 2017 and sets out that young people who are thought be subject to exploitation will be referred to Children's Social Care for Child in Need or Child Protection services so they are provided with robust multi-agency investigations of their circumstances and a plan is put into place to safeguard their welfare.

The **S.A.F.E.G.U.A.R.D** mnemonic can be used to determine threshold to consider triggering a strategy meeting and the SEAM process.

Sexual health & behaviour	Concerns of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and termination; inappropriate sexualised behaviour
Absent	From school or running away – episodes of truancy or periods of being missing from home or care
Familial abuse	Problems at home – familial sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, risk of forced marriage or honour-based violence; domestic violence; substance misuse; parental mental health concerns; parental criminality; experience of homelessness; looked After child
Emotional and physical condition	Thoughts of or attempted, suicide or self-harming; low self-esteem or self-confidence; problems relating to sexual orientation; learning difficulties; poor mental health; unexplained injuries or changes in physical appearance identify
Gangs,	Older age groups and involvement in crime – involvement in crime; direct involvement with gang members or living in a gang-afflicted community; involvement with older individuals or lacking friends from the same age group; contact with other individuals who are sexually exploited
Use of technology, sexual bullying	Evidence of 'sexting', sexualised communication on-line or problematic use of the internet and social networking sites
Alcohol & drug misuse	Concerns regarding alcohol and or substance use
Receipt of unexplained gifts or money	Unexplained finances, including phone credit, clothes and money
Distrust of authority figures	Resistance to communicating with parents, carers, teachers, social services, health, police and others

The SEAM enables professional networks to apply scoring to the overall risk and vulnerability of the young person and will lead to the development of a Plan for intervention to address identified vulnerabilities and risks.

Low	Medium	High	Very High

0 -19	20- 29	30 – 39	40 +
Case will remain managed by CSC team manager and professional network through review strategy meeting processes,		Case will be referred to the Adolescent Vulnerability Panel	Case will be referred to the Adolescent Vulnerability panel, and Assistant Director notified.

Adolescent Vulnerability Panel

All young people scored/assessed to be a high risk than 30 will be referred to the Adolescent Vulnerability Panel (AVP) which takes place monthly and will be chaired by the CSE lead and Detective Inspector of Barnet Met Police with the following functions:

- To provide oversight of all high risk cases, regarding CSE Missing and Harmful
- It will track progress all high risk cases, service deliver and disruption planning regarding identified perpetrators.
- The adolescent vulnerability panel will identify any service gaps, blockages, and also make recommendations to additional resources.
- To look at thematic issues regarding vulnerable adolescents throughout the borough.
- To reflect on collective effectiveness of partnership working and local response to vulnerable adolescents
- Data from the adolescent vulnerability panel will directly feed the MASE which will look at the strategic responses across the partners within the borough.

Membership of the Adolescents Vulnerability Panel

- Head of Service within Barnet Social care.
- Agencies those are committed to attend the MASE:
- Police (Borough Police, Regional Sexual Exploitation Team, Missing Persons)
- Children's Social Care (Children In Need, Corporate Parenting, Safeguarding and Reviewing Unit)
- Education representative from Cambridge Education
- Health (Sexual Health, CLCH, School nursing, Hospital Accident and Emergency, Mental Health, LAC Health Team, CAMHS)

- Youth Offending Team
- Gangs Unit

In addition where necessary and case relevant;
- Housing
- Community Safety
- Adult Mental Health

The SEAM tool will enhance data collection by routinely collating basic demographics and the 9 areas of vulnerability:

- Sexual Health
- Absence Missing
- Familial/Carer relationship
- Emotional physical health
- Gangs/ Adults who poise a risk
- Use of Technology e-safety
- Alcohol and drug use
- Recognition of exploitative behaviour
- Distrust of authority /professional relationships

The data will link and triangulate with gangs, radicalization, missing and child trafficking data once fully developed which can be reported to the Community Safety Partnership
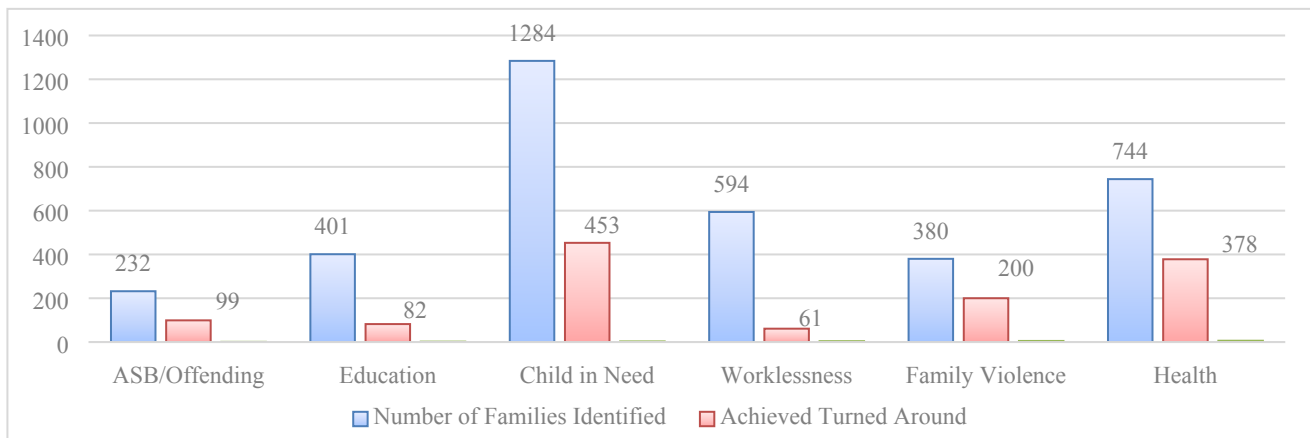
5. Troubled Families Programme

Barnet has agreed to attach, work with and 'turnaround' 2,220 Families by 2020.

At October 2017 **1712** families, representing **77%** of the total cohort, have been attached to the programme as meeting 2 or more of the six headline problems .

- **Crime and ASB** (includes child and adult ASB/offending)
- **Education** (includes children excluded, NEET and headteacher equivalent concerns)
- **Children in Need** (includes early help and children receiving statutory assessments and support)
- **Worklessness** (includes poverty and debt)
- **Family Violence** (includes child on adult and adult on adult violence)
- **Health** (includes child and adult mental health, physical health and substance misuse)

To date **623** Families have achieved 'turnaround'

481 of the families 'turned around' have were identified as having between 2 and 3 problems. Only 5 families with 5 or more problems have acheived turnaround.

Further data analysis is underway to understand the cohort, their problems and what is helping them achieve turnaround.

Forward Plan to refresh of Troubled Families Outcomes Plans with partners and use Service Transformation Grant to develop Partnership Hubs which will support an integrated approach in practice in working with families and in achieving 'turnaround' across multiple problem domains.