

	<p style="text-align: center;">Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 16 January 2019</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p>Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership Board Annual Report 2017-18</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership Board Independent Chair</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A: BSCP Annual Report 2017-18</p>
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Summary

The BSCP Annual Report covers the period of April 2017 to March 2018 and details the key achievements of the partnership during this time.

It also outlines how the partnership has set about making improvements to the Board against the recommendations of the 2017 Ofsted inspection of Family Services and the LSCB. This has led to more robust performance monitoring, scrutiny and challenge to support and improve services for vulnerable children and young people in the borough.

The overview of activity and performance of safeguarding in Barnet highlights where steady progress has been made to improve the offer to children and young people, but also where work is still required, and will inform the strategic priorities of the safeguarding

partnership going forward.

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Committee note the information contained within BSCP Annual Report 2017-18

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Under Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 local authorities are required to establish Local Safeguarding Children Boards for their area. The Statutory objectives and functions of LSCBs were set out are outlined under in Section 14 of the Children Act 2004. The functions of the partnership are outlined below in the legal requirements section of this report. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 repealed this part of the Children Act 2004, however there are transitional arrangements pending introduction of the new partnership arrangements.

The Chair of the BSCP must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The report should be published in relation to the previous year and submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Well-Being board.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 provides guidance on what should be included in the annual report as;

- a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services.
- areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action.
- lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period
- the outcome of assessments on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to child sexual exploitation
- analysis of how the LSCB partners have used their data to promote service improvement for vulnerable children and families, including in respect of sexual abuse.
- data on children missing from care, and how the LSCB is addressing the issue.

The BSCP annual report looks at partners improvement journey against the 2017 Ofsted Inspection. Looking in detail at the work undertaken by the partnership and the outcomes of that work. The report looks at the profile of safeguarding and child protection in Barnet, and highlights areas where the BSCP will need to consider next steps.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The annual report is a statutory requirement of local safeguarding children boards under current arrangements, and is received by the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee under Barnet Council Constitution Article 7.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED NA

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The BSCP Annual Report 2017-18 is on the agenda of the BSCP Executive Group agenda for 24 January 2018, following approval it will be received by the governing body of the CCG. Statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 states that the annual report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner as well as the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 4.2 The annual report will be made publicly available on the BSCP website following approval by the BSCP partners.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The annual report supports the councils commitment to the effective safeguarding of the borough's vulnerable children and adults within the 2015-20 Corporate Plan, and strategic vision.
- 5.1.2 The work of the BSCP is aligned to family services improvement plan, and supports key objectives within it. The annual report outlines how the BSCP have made improvements against Ofsted recommendations of 2017.

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

- 5.2.1 Existing financial commitments are accounted for within current budgets. Barnet Council committed £180,000 for the year 2017-18

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The social value of the report is reflected in the commitment and applications of core principles of safeguarding.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

Under Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 local authorities were required to establish Local Safeguarding Children Boards for their area.

The Statutory objectives and functions of LSCBs were outlined under Section 14 of the Children Act 2004, which are:

- a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and

b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

Whilst this part of the Children Act 2004 has been repealed, the Working Together: transitional guidance – July 2018 confirms the local safeguarding children boards must continue with all their statutory functions until the new safeguarding partner arrangements begin to operate in their local area.

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives under section 14 of the Children Act 2004, are as follows:

- 1(a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - (i) the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 - (ii) training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 - (iii) recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 - (iv) investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
 - (v) safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
 - (vi) cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;
- (b) communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
- (c) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;
- (d) participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
- (e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

5.5 Risk Management

5.4.1 The BSCP works within a risk management approach aligned to the Council's risk management framework.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups.
- Foster good relations between people from different groups.

5.6.1 The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation.

5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day to day business and to keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. The BSCP works to keep equality at the core of its business.

5.7 **Corporate Parenting**

The BSCP monitors and receives assurance on boroughs corporate parenting role, through annual reports on the Independent Review Officer role in ensuring that the local authority fulfils its responsibilities as a corporate parent for the children it looks after, ensuring that they receive a good service that meets their range of needs and are provided with safe and stable care that enables them to flourish and achieve. IROs ensure quality assurance of children and young people’s care plans and are well placed to provide challenge to the professional systems responsible for supporting children and young people in care.

The BSCP regularly reviews information and performance on Looked After Children through its performance dashboard.

5.8 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.8.1 The BSCP works with the Voice of the Child Team to build insight into local needs and views.

5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 The annual report reflects local JNSA information as well as annually reported statistical returns for family services.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 NA