

# DRAFT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN 2013-16

## INTRODUCTION

### Our Vision

**‘All children and young people in Barnet should achieve the best possible outcomes, to enable them to become successful adults, especially our most vulnerable children. They should be supported by high quality, integrated and inclusive services that identify additional support needs early, are accessible, responsive and affordable for the individual child and their family.’**

Compared with the rest of the country and statistical neighbours, Barnet’s children do well at school, have good health, benefit from low crime rates and access to high quality open spaces. The Children’s Partnership has the highest expectations for children in Barnet and we are committed to help them have happy and successful lives on their journey through childhood.

To achieve our vision will be challenging, especially given the increasingly tough environment in which children and young people live, trying to find work, accommodation and support. However, we remain committed to close partnership working between organisations, with a focus on early intervention and prevention, targeting resources to narrow the gap in achievement between those most at risk of not achieving their potential and those with greater advantages, and keeping children and young people safe.

### About this plan

This plan explains what the organisations represented on Barnet’s Children’s Trust will do to support children, young people and their families to lead happy and successful lives. It is structured around the journey of the child and our cross-cutting priorities:

- Early Years
- Primary
- Secondary
- Preparation for Adulthood
- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Targeting Resources to Narrow the Gap
- Keeping Children and Young People Safe

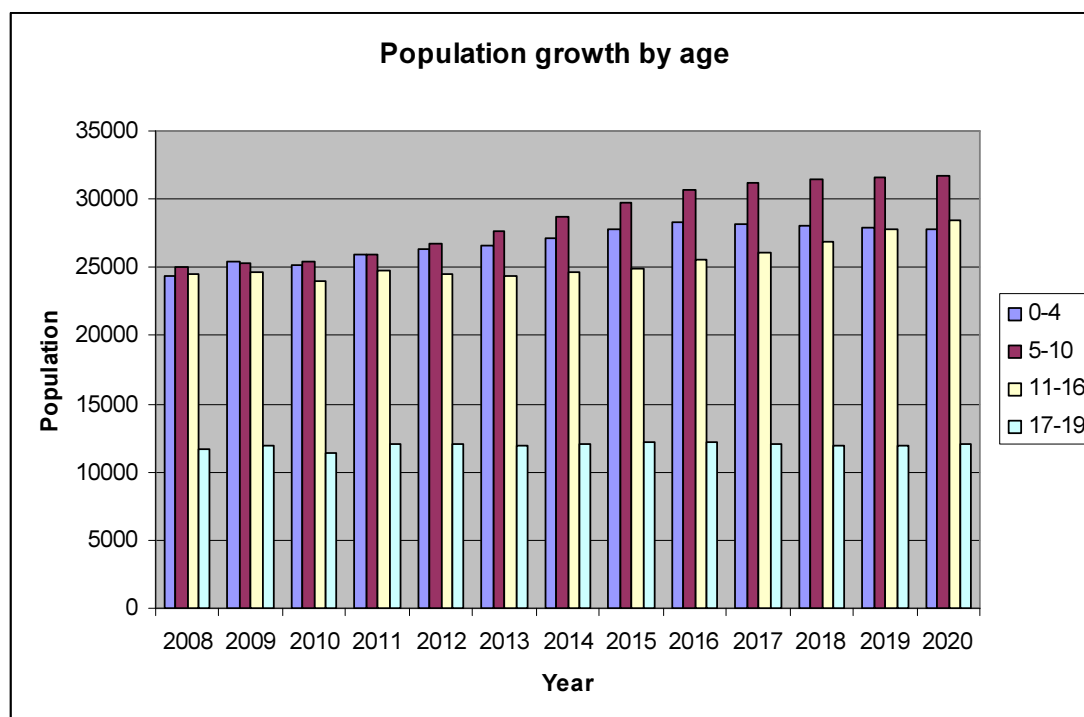
We have worked hard to make sure that this partnership plan truly reflects the breadth of work with children and young people in Barnet as well as being responsive to the wishes and needs of families themselves. Children and young people were engaged in the process through focus groups held by the Barnet Youth Board, and an online survey distributed via schools and youth networks.

This plan outlines the Children’s Partnership’s priorities for the period 2013-16. An annual action plan will sit beneath this plan and will detail how services are delivering the plan against their targets. In addition, the plan will sit alongside the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Safer Communities Strategy. Several sub-strategies support the Children and Young People Plan, detailing work in specific areas, these are:

- The Education Strategy
- The Inclusion Strategy
- The Early Years Strategy
- Child Anti-Poverty Strategy

**Understanding Barnet's Children and Young People (Most of this data is taken from the current Profile of Children and Young People, and will be updated before the end of 2012)**

Children and young people make up around a quarter of Barnet's total population and, in numerical terms, Barnet has the second largest population of children and young people in London, with, in 2011, 87,641 children age 0 - 19.



Barnet's younger population is more diverse than Barnet's population overall; while the majority are White there are high proportions of children in many minority ethnic groups. Children in Barnet are coming from an increasingly diverse range of ethnic groups.

Overall Barnet is a relatively affluent borough with pockets of deprivation. Barnet has 210 super output areas, of these 30 lower super output areas (LSOA) fall within the 30% most deprived areas nationally which are predominantly located in the west of the borough.

Some groups of children and young people in Barnet are more vulnerable than others: The DfE estimated that around 7% of children have a disability as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). In Barnet, this would equate to around 4,400 – 6,100 children and young people between the ages of 0 and 19. The council is also responsible for maintaining a list of children in the area who are at risk of continuing significant harm, and for whom there is a child protection plan. At 31 March 2011 there were 211 children subject to a child protection plan in Barnet.

### **Performance management and governance**

Barnet's Children's Trust brings together all services for children and young people in the borough, to focus on improving outcomes for all children and young people. Key members of the trust are:

- Barnet Council
- North Central London NHS, GPs, and health providers
- Barnet Borough Police
- CommUnity Barnet, representing the voluntary sector

Primary, Secondary and Special Schools in Barnet  
Barnet and Southgate College  
Focus Groups of Children and Young people, representing specific issues

Representatives from all these organisations make up the Barnet Children's Trust Board. Barnet has chosen to retain a Children's Trust Board and to continue to publish a Children and Young People Plan, in order to support partnership working in Barnet, although they are no longer statutory requirements. Each organisation has agreed to be responsible for implementing the Children and Young People's Plan.

### Indicators to measure success

The following key indicators will be tracked by the Children's Trust Board, against statistical neighbours and the England and London averages.

Priority	Key Indicator
Early Years	
Primary	
Secondary	
Preparation for Adulthood	
Early Intervention and Prevention	
Narrowing the Gap	
Safeguarding	

## WAYS OF WORKING

Barnet Children's Trust Board and the Children's Partnership is committed to working in the following ways to achieve the strategic outcomes in this plan:

- **Working in partnership**  
We will work together to make sure that activity and resources are joined up and target those who most need them. We will collaborate with other service providers as required to meet the diverse needs of children and young people.
- **Involving children and young people in our work**  
We will consistently engage actively with children, young people and their families in developing and implementing solutions to meet their needs.
- **Keep safeguarding at the forefront of all we do**  
We will constantly keep the safeguarding of children in our thinking and working practices. We have a duty of care to all our residents, especially the vulnerable, to keep them safe
- **Delivering better services with less money**  
We will seek to ensure the best value for money so that children and young people get the maximum benefit

## EARLY YEARS

**Every child in Barnet has a great start in life, with the security and safety to grow in a nurturing environment.**

The number of children aged between 0 and 5 years old in Barnet is growing every year and it is expected that by 2016 there will be 28,300 children in this age group. This represents an increase of 8% over the period of this plan. This presents the Children's Partnership with a significant challenge, especially as resources diminish.

### **We will**

#### **1. Engage families early to ensure children have happy lives at home**

By engaging with families early we have the opportunity to help set habits for life and ensure that children are ready for school by the age of 5. Families have the greatest influence over the youngest children and Barnet Children's Partnership takes a whole-family approach to improving outcomes for children and young people.

We will do this by:

- Developing early years settings to enable specialist services, such as parenting classes, relevant to the needs of the whole community to be delivered, helping to prepare children for school
- Supporting parents to access the correct benefits and employment opportunities.

#### **2. Provide high quality health services for mothers and young children.**

A growing body of evidence shows that good health for mothers and young children makes the biggest difference to life chances. This includes birth weight, development at age 2 and the mother's early relationship with the child. In order to give children the best possible start in life, the health of mother and child should be regularly monitored and maintained.

We will do this by:

- Increasing the number of health visitors to ensure families have access to health visitors who support and promote breastfeeding and immunisations
- Extending the Family Nurse Partnership Pilot to support more young mothers and their children.
- Enabling all women, and particularly those with complex needs such as mental health problems, to plan their pregnancies and to prepare for pregnancy in a way that maximises the health outcomes both for the child and mother.

#### **3. Ensure children in need of support are identified early and appropriately supported in their early years**

Strengthening preventative work is a major focus of Barnet's Children's Partnership. By working with families in children's early years, support can be provided to reduce the impact of disadvantage later on. This includes safeguarding work, working with children with disabilities and support for parents.

We will do this by:

- Identifying and supporting vulnerable families through early years development checks across education, health and social care
- Continuing to facilitate and develop the childcare market, ensuring that there is sufficient quality childcare provision to meet the needs of working parents and support child development

**Our measures for success by 2016**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Measure</b>

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## PRIMARY

**Childhood in Barnet is safe and fun, with lots of opportunities to grow and develop through education, leisure and play.**

There are currently over 28,000 children living in Barnet who are between the age of 5 and 11, and 25,700 children being educated in Barnet's primary schools. Children of this age group achieve well over all, with at least two thirds achieving at expected academic levels by the time they leave primary school. To have the best life chances, children at primary level should be enjoying and progressing at school, be safe in their environments and be making healthy lifestyle choices.

### **We will**

#### **1. Provide exciting and supportive learning experiences in welcoming schools.**

The vast majority of Barnet's primary schools are rated good or outstanding and standards are above the national average and that of statistical neighbours. A good range of choice is available to parents, and schools generally cater well for a spectrum of abilities and needs. Schools will be increasingly scrutinised under the new Ofsted framework and it is possible that a greater number will require improvement. This, alongside the ever increasing demand for primary school places is a challenge for the partnership.

We will do this by:

- Ensuring the provision of sufficient school places for Barnet's children and young people
- Ensuring that schools provide appropriate and differentiated curriculum, tailored to the needs of individual children to support their progress

#### **2. Work with schools and families to join up education, health and safety services**

Primary Schools are a key conduit for the delivery of services from the Children's Partnership to children, families and communities in Barnet. Teachers in Barnet schools have the greatest amount of professional contact with Barnet's children and as such, are able to identify issues early and make contact with partners to enable the correct level of support to be put in place. Services should be joined up and easy to access, with service users at their heart.

We will do this by:

- Joining up services to work with and through schools as community hubs, including interaction with the police and integration of the CAF for all agencies
- Ensuring that children with additional and complex needs receive integrated health and education support, including in mainstream education settings

#### **3. Encourage healthy lifestyles and choices to combat obesity in children and young people.**

In 2009/10, 12.7% of Barnet Reception children surveyed were found to be overweight and a further 10.6% of Reception children were found to be obese. 15.1% of Year 6 children surveyed were found to be overweight and a further 17.5% of Year 6 children were found to be obese. This is greater than the national average of 14.6%.

We will do this by:

- Ensuring that the leisure strategy exploits opportunities for high quality PE provision in schools to establish active lifestyles and providing schools with resources on keeping healthy and promoting health outcomes

- Implementing a call to action around the School Nurse Development Programme to ensure health support is available in schools, including through school nurses

**Our measures for success by 2016**

Action	Measure

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## SECONDARY

### **Children and young people feel supported to achieve and engage, while developing their identities and resilience.**

There are 24,550 children between the ages of 11 and 16 in Barnet, and around 21,800 children educated in Barnet secondary schools. The January school census 2011 recorded that 143 different languages apart from English were spoken by pupils in Barnet schools. By the time young people in Barnet reach the Secondary stage of their journey, they have a wide range of experiences and are forging their own individual identities.

#### **We will**

#### **1. Offer opportunities for engagement and support, recognising the needs of the individual and supporting them to achieve.**

In the survey of children and young people in Barnet 90% of respondents were taking part in activities outside of school, within the borough. A wide range of activities are on offer across the borough, and children and young people are keen to ensure that the equality, targeting, and longevity of these opportunities continues, in the current economic climate. Work with the voluntary sector will be key to overcoming these issues in order to support young people in Barnet.

We will do this by:

- Training young people as Youth Commissioners to help ensure the needs and voices of individuals inform service development and best harness the contribution of the voluntary sector.
- Further strengthening youth representation on youth boards, supporting young people to become active citizens

#### **2. Work in partnership with schools to address the root causes of exclusion and poor attendance.**

The vast majority of children and young people who were permanently or temporarily excluded from school over the last year were between 11 and 16 years old. This has a major impact on the young person's learning as well as contributing to issues of isolation, criminal activity and health.

We will do this by:

- Further developing the Family Focus programme to address underlying issues and support young people into education
- Providing appropriate behaviour training and support through schools and ensuring that schools have the proper resources for this work

#### **3. Build peer support networks among professionals to enable healthy mutual support and challenge that improves outcomes for young people**

Professionals working with young people aged 11 to 16 have numerous and diverse networks in which to share best practice, resources and challenge one another. This has helped to improve practice across the borough and raise awareness of the range of services available to young people, helping to join up services and drive improvement for children and young people in Barnet.

We will do this by:

- Strengthening multi-agency support networks that help keep young people safe Utilising partnerships of secondary head teachers and other alliances to support schools in forming peer-to-peer networks within and outside the borough



**Our measures for success by 2016**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Measure</b>

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## PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD

### **Young people are ambitious for their futures and contribute positively to society.**

There are around 12,000 young people between the ages of 17 and 19 in Barnet, and a growing number of young people who are continuing to receive services between the ages of 19 and 25. It is important for both individual young people and their families and communities that they are able to feel ambitious about their futures and begin to prepare for independence, particularly economic independence. Some young people will require more support in achieving independence than others, and as such, services for this age group should be targeted as well as universal.

#### **1. Enable young people to foster ambitious and realistic aspirations.**

Young people need to be supported to have confidence in their abilities and realistic goals so that they can be ambitious about their futures and achieve these ambitions. Job Centre Plus reports a general lack of understanding and awareness of the jobs market and that some young people are ill-prepared for the world of work.

We will do this by:

- Ensuring that the pupil premium funding is deployed appropriately by schools to enable the young people who are most in need to thrive and achieve academically/their potential
- Providing relevant advice in schools to enable young people to make well-informed choices about their futures, properly signposting young people to partnership services to help them achieve their ambitions.

#### **2. Ensure services are integrated to support young people as they transition to adulthood**

For children and young people who are in care or have special educational needs, it is possible that they will transition to Adult Social Care in their journey to adulthood. This should be a seamless and positive transition, with support in place to help them to achieve their potential.

We will do this by:

- Developing a robust multi-agency programme for young people leaving care to ensure they are well supported into adulthood
- Strengthening joint planning to enable young people high levels of disability and complex needs to lead lives that are as independent and fulfilling as possible

#### **3. Offer relevant and tailored learning and employment opportunities.**

Approximately 350 young people between the age of 16 and 19 in Barnet are considered to be Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET). Several young people who responded to our survey expressed concerns about the lack of employment and training opportunities available to them, at the right level for their skills. We know that having the right skills and early experiences of training and employment can help to foster economic independence for the rest of a young person's life and this is a key priority for Barnet.

We will do this by:

- Developing the employment market and educational institutions to provide an employability guarantee for young people, including sufficient provision of places for learners with choice in the curriculum.

- Tracking and monitoring the participation of all young people aged between 16 and 18, in their locality to support the retention of learners at 16, 17 and 18 or signposting to alternative provision.

**Our measures for success by 2016**

Action	Measure

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## EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

### **Intervening early improves outcomes for children, young people and families, enabling them to thrive**

We recognise that children live in families and as a result the partnership takes a whole family approach to early intervention and prevention. We are committed to joining up support in all our work to give children and young people the best life chances. Early identification, targeting and planning of interventions, working in partnership and sharing information at the appropriate level are at the heart of our early intervention and prevention work.

#### **1. Take a whole family approach to improving outcomes for children and young people**

By supporting communication, emotional, physical and social development children should be ready for school by the age of 5, starting with confidence and readiness to learn. The partnership is committed to promoting good physical and mental health for children and their parents, including addressing risk factors early on. By helping parents to maximise their skills we aim to give their children the best start, including supporting families affected by domestic abuse.

We will do this by:

- Working with families to help manage the impact of welfare reforms including on housing
- Improving the identification and understanding of neglect in families

#### **2. Strengthen early identification and intervene early to improve life chances for those living in the most difficult situations.**

Children and young people who have chaotic lives at home need early support to help minimise the impact of these difficulties on their development and later lives. Identifying and addressing needs at an early stage can help to prevent the difficulties that they can experience from arising. It aims to ensure that children and young people receive the right support at the right time, so that problems are addressed well before reaching 'crisis point'.

We will do this by:

- Ensuring safe and effective interventions at the earliest opportunity by developing a Multi-Agency Support Hub approach
- Supporting children, young people and families most at risk of poor outcomes with targeted youth and play activities

#### **3. Reduce the involvement of children and young people in crime and anti-social behaviour and protect those who become victims of crime**

Crime rates in Barnet are relatively low amongst children and young people, and we are committed to reducing them further, particularly through partnership working with the police and youth justice system as well as targeting the root cause of criminal and anti-social behaviour.

We will do this by:

- Working with young offenders and those at risk of involvement in crime and gang activity to manage their circumstances and peer pressure, reducing the likelihood of re-offending
- Ensuring effective inter agency co-ordination against all forms of violence

### **Our measures for success by 2016**

Action	Measure

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## TARGETTING RESOURCES TO NARROW GAP

### **Targeted, personalised support for those most at risk of not achieving their potential, helping to reduce inequalities.**

Narrowing the gap means improving the rate of progress and outcomes for children who are at risk of underachievement. They are those children and young people whose educational achievement may be affected by factors relating to their ethnicity, gender or their social, cognitive and linguistic development.

Inequalities in outcomes must be reduced by targeting personalised support packages for those children and young people who are most at risk of not achieving their potential. We are already successfully narrowing the attainment gap for our less well achieving children at the early years stage. Research shows that high quality early years provision and support can make a positive contribution to how children fare in later life, and we will work towards embedding this approach throughout the child's journey.

#### **1. Ensure that children and young people at risk of underachievement, and their families, recognise the role of learning in improving life chances**

A significant body of research now points towards the importance of the home learning environment, from an early age and throughout the child's journey, to the life chances of children and young people. It will be important to work in partnership to ensure that children's lives outside their education, support their participation, learning and ongoing development.

We will do this by:

- Supporting early literacy, family learning and school readiness through health visitors, libraries and early years settings
- Ensuring decisions are made quickly and effectively to support children and young people's learning and development where the local authority is the corporate parent or they are in foster care

#### **2. Continue to support children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing.**

We must ensure that we address health, including mental health, both as a cause and consequence of poverty. We will work to join up resources to support the commissioning of integrated services for children and young people with emotional and mental health difficulties. Poor emotional wellbeing can prevent children and young people from achieving and may mean that they disengage entirely, having a major impact on their educational and personal development.

We will do this by:

- Agreeing and implementing the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy and developing an agreement between Health and the council for CAMHS
- Developing targeted mental health approaches in schools to support more children and young people

#### **3. Enable those with Special Educational Needs, Learning Difficulties and Disabilities and complex needs to achieve their potential**

Over the past five years there has been a general improvement in the attainment of pupils with SEN and those eligible for free school meals (FSM) at both Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. The attainment gap between pupils eligible for FSM and those not eligible is narrower at KS2 than at KS4 and at KS4 the gap is narrowing. Changes to the local authority capacity to support schools may impact on the pace of change.

We will do this by:

- Implementing Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms including the use of personalised plans
- Supporting all schools to be inclusive schools, which are dyslexia-friendly and have a good understanding of Autistic Spectrum Disorder

**Our measures for success by 2016**

Action	Measure

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## KEEPING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE

**Children and young people are safe in their homes, schools and around the borough, with an ability to develop healthy relationships with others.**

The promotion of the safety and welfare of all children in Barnet is a top priority and should be at the heart of all the work of the Barnet Children's Partnership. The partnership must work together to protect children from harm to ensure that children are growing up in circumstances that enable them to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

The Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) is a multi-agency group that exists to ensure that children and young people are safe at home, in school and in the community whilst promoting the safety and welfare of all children in Barnet. It is an independent body with a statutory requirement to oversee the work of the Children's Partnership and seeks to help ensure the well being of all children and young people within the Barnet area.

The Munro Report has had a significant impact on safeguarding in the UK and changes in practice, guidance, structure, process and governance have taken place in light of this. In responding to Munro, to government and council priorities, the Children's Partnership will need to develop its quality assurance to help keep our children and young people safe.

### **1. Address unhealthy relationships based on exploitation and build aspirations for the future.**

A broader awareness and support around bullying and being vulnerable to exploitation is necessary to identify and support vulnerable children and young people and increase their confidence and prospects now and into adulthood. It is estimated that thousands of children in the UK are subject to exploitation, and this dramatically affects their aspirations and plans for the future.

We will do this by:

- Taking a multi-agency approach to domestic violence, from early identification and support to families through to effective enforcement through the criminal justice system
- Raising awareness of sexual exploitation and developing services for young people most at risk

### **2. Educate children and young people on how to stay safe and provide support for those who are victims of crime.**

There is often significant peer pressure affecting children and young people, to enter into activities that may not keep them safe, in particular to use drugs and alcohol. Young people need to be educated on the effects and outcomes of these activities, and to have access to a range of services to get advice, socialise together and keep themselves positively engaged.

We will do this by:

- Working with youth forums to gain a better understanding of the impact of bullying in Barnet and how the partnership could work to combat this.
- Employing skills, expertise and knowledge across the partnership to work with the young people most likely to be affected by drug and alcohol abuse, informing them and signposting to services

### **3. Protect children at risk of harm and support them to achieve their potential**

In cases where children are found to be at risk of significant harm as defined in the Children's Act 1989, the Local Authority has a clear legal duty to take steps to protect them, taking children into Local Authority care or professionals supporting the family to keep the child at home.



We will do this by:

- Strengthening the timeliness and quality of care planning to increase the number of adoptions and ensure earlier permanency decisions are made for children and young people in care
- Implementing the Munro Review model of child protection, to contribute to a new model of social work delivery and quality assurance.

**Our measures for success by 2016**

Action	Measure

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