

MEETING

BARNET CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD

DATE AND TIME

WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 2022

AT 4.30 PM

VENUE

VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE

TO: MEMBERS OF BARNET CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD (Quorum 3)

Chair: Chris Munday

Pauline Coakley Webb

Tony Vourou

B Thomas

L Robinson

C McCarthy

R Morris

S Curran

M Miah

E Burton-Lee

J Baines-Holmes

G Bradley

N Marlow

J Matthewson

J Kelly

T Howarth

C Spybey

E Waters

M Serrao

C Posen

L Longworth

E Rosen

S Sands

Substitute Members

S Olusanya

J Osbourne

D Bezalel

N Taylor

C Collier

V Wicks

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions or comments must be submitted by 10AM on the third working day before the date of the committee meeting. Therefore, the deadline for this meeting is Friday 4 November 2022 at 10AM. Requests must be submitted to Allan Siao Ming Witherick, Governance Officer

You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.

Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance

Governance Service contact: Allan Siao Ming Witherick, Governance Officer

Media Relations Contact: Tristan Garrick 020 8359 2454 Tristan.Garrick@Barnet.gov.uk

ASSURANCE GROUP

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Welcome	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	5 - 8
3.	Absence of Members	
4.	My Say Matters	
5.	Young People's Perception Survey - Focus Groups Feedback	9 - 26
6.	Education Strategies Schools and Settings Improvement Strategy and SEND and Inclusion Strategy plus an update on the Special Educational Places Plan.	
7.	NCL Start Well Programme for Children and Young People	
8.	Life Chances Strategy	27 - 34
	Reference items	
9.	List of abbreviations	35 - 38
10.	Forward Work Programme	39 - 44
11.	Any Other Business	

FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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Barnet Children's Partnership Board

Minutes of the meeting held 4.30 pm on 13 July 2022 ^{AGENDA ITEM 2} Virtual meeting - Online

Board Members present:

Ben Thomas	Assistant Director Education, Strategy and Partnerships
Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb	Chair of Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee
Lee Robinson	Commissioning Strategy & Policy Advisor
Collette McCarthy	Assistant Director Commissioning
Jess Baines-Holmes	Director of Integrated Commissioning
Tal Berman Howarth	Chair, Barnet Parent Carers Forum
Emma Waters	Public Health Consultant
Sarah Sands	Garden Suburb Infants
Debbie Bezalel	Inclusion Barnet

Others in attendance:

Sharon Smith	Public Health Strategist
Liz Shaw	Children's Services
Allan Siao Ming Witherick	Governance Officer

1. Welcome

The Strategic Lead gave apologies on behalf of the normal Chair of the board, the Executive Director Children's Service and welcomed the Members of the Board, observers and the youth ambassadors who were present, to the virtual meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 08 February 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

3. Absence of Members

Apologies were received from Chris Munday, Joanna Yong, Matin Miah, Susan Curran, Adam Driscoll, Caroline Collier, Anindita Sarkar, Judi Dumont-Barter, Kester Holmes, Emma Burton-Lee, Jayne Abbott, Daniel Morgan, Graig Bradley.

Clarification was requested as to whether the meeting was quorate. The Governance Officer confirmed that the quorum had been met. Quorum required the Chair or deputy, one representative of the North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group, one representative of schools, one member representing the voluntary sector and one from London Borough of Barnet. There was no requirement for an elected Member to be present.

4. Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassador elections and Youth Assembly update

Officers reported that there had been great engagement in the run up to the UKYP (UK Youth Parliament) elections. Despite the added challenges of COVID and the recovery from COVID it had been the biggest turn out, with a variety of schools, young people who were home schooled and those who live locally but educated outside the Borough being involved. The new youth members would be taking part in UKYP and BYC (British Youth Council) residential events to help prepare them. The Youth Ambassadors would then hopefully attend future meetings.

ACTION:

Youth Ambassadors to be supported to attend future meetings.

5. My Say Matters

The Officer presented “My Say Matters” with the support of the youth ambassadors. They had launched the strategy and were now working on the momentum to keep things moving. This had included a major launch project, meeting the Mayor and a script writing session for their involvement with Council. Other parts would be placed on the website: <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/mysaymatters>

Members of the Board welcomed young people to the Board meeting. The young people would have the opportunity to influence other areas such as Health and Wellbeing and advocate for other young people. It was noted that My Say Matters was a multi-agency project within family services but that they were keen to ensure that it touched all areas of the Council and with other providers to help provide a joined up approach.

The Youth Ambassadors raised a number of areas of concern including:

- 1) Their concerns about knife crime and mental health in the local area. They felt that this was an increasing issue which needed to be tackled. This included discussions in lower schools and age appropriate support in to be provided in schools.
- 2) The question of how the Board could support them with their potential campaigns.

The Board responded:

- That they could send things out to schools from September and raise it with the Directors meeting of Head Teachers.
- A Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board was being formed and the involvement of young people would be essential in creating its charter.
- Other partners highlighted how they were working with projects such as Art Against Knives (<https://www.artagainstknives.com/>), and StreetDoctors (<https://streetdoctors.org/>) as well as Resilient Schools which took a whole school approach to supporting mental health and emotional resilience including training mental health first aiders.

Other opportunities would also be explored and that they would look to put out an Instagram post after the meeting about some of the points raised.

The Board discussed that there were a large number of facilities and opportunities available to schools and it relied on individual schools taking up the offers. This

varied and it was noted that it might be useful to collate a menu of the different programmes so that it could be looked at holistically by schools.

ACTION:

- 1. Assistant Director Commissioning to look at how the Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board engages with young people.**
- 2. Practice Standards Manager to put out Instagram post after meeting.**

6. Sustainability

The Officers presented the report. Members queried what sort of items were envisaged for the "Library of things" and the example of drills, lawnmowers were given as a way to help reduce consumption and costs.

Questions were asked about how the information was being sent out to schools and the suggestion of the Directors briefing was made.

Members of the Board queried whether the plan was for one central location and noted that the proposals could involve a lot of electrical items which would potentially need to be PAT (Portable Appliance Tested) before and after being loaned. Officers responded that the aim was to pilot one location and that they would be looking at how the centres could be embedded within neighbourhoods.

ACTIONS

- 1. Information on the scheme to be circulated to Directors briefings for schools and to the Participation Officer for young people.**
- 2. Report on engagement to come to a future meeting.**

7. Young People's Perception Survey - ORS

A representative from ORS who had been commissioned to undertake the Young People's Perception Survey gave an overview of the results.

A Member of the Board queried why the analysis had been conducted at the larger parliamentary constituency level. The consultant responded that the snapshot sample size used was too low to allow meaningful results at ward level.

Another Board Member noted that demographic data on referrals was available. This had highlighted potential questions around mental health stigma and reporting in some cultural and ethnic groups. This was contrasted against middle class white males feeling disenfranchised. Sessions had recently been held to look at transition and how different groups could be targeted.

It was noted that some of the results were at odds with other data, such as on mental health. The Young People's Perception Survey was just one set of data and did need to be triangulated with other data and information. It was reported that focus groups were being undertaken on the back of these results to verify and understand them.

ACTIONS

- 1. Feedback from Focus Groups run as a result of the Young People's Perception Survey 2021/22 to be given at a future meeting.**

8. Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers

The Officer presented an update on the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers locally. Most were presenting themselves at police stations within the Borough and the average age was 16 with few age disputes. The individuals would be supported through their asylum claims. From July 2020 there had been a large influx, including those who had presented as adults claiming that they were young people. This was mainly in the age 16/17 range and had resulted in more age assessments being required.

The assessments and outcomes could take some time and individuals were being supported through the process. Some had to wait 12-18 months to have their substantive interview for their asylum claim which created significant anxiety, uncertainty and pressure. There was work to provide support including through a virtual school. Placing a child where an age assessment had not been resolved presented a potential safeguarding issue. Separately there were concerns around health, vaccination status and other areas requiring support.

It was agreed that more needed to be done to ensure that different partners were properly engaged and to raise awareness. Other local authorities were suffering the same pressures and the need to work together was highlighted.

Resolved that the update be noted.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Board were invited to send suggestions for inclusion in the Work Programme at any time to the Chair.

The Forward Work Programme was noted.

10. List of abbreviations

The list of abbreviations was noted.

11. Any Other Business

There was none.

The meeting finished at 6.03 pm

“
MY SAY
MATTERS
”



HAVE YOUR SAY
ON IMPROVING
SERVICES FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE

Young Peoples Survey Insight Workshops Summary



BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

AGENDA ITEM 5

Introduction and context

This presentation reports on the main findings from a recent series of young people workshops that was commissioned to help gain a greater understanding of the key findings from the young people’s survey (YPS) 2021-2022.

- Barnet Young Persons Survey is a face-to-face quota survey of young people aged 11-18. It measures reputation, service and local area perceptions, as well as a range of demographic and usage indicators. 500 Barnet young people were interviewed between 10th November 2021 – 20th March 2022. Confidence intervals for a sample of 500 is +/-4.3% at the 95% confidence interval.
- On the whole, the results of the most recent YPS show a positive direction of travel on most perception measures – a trend which is also evident in the most recent LGA national polling and the council’s Adults Residents Perception Survey.
- However, in terms of the demographic analysis, and in particular equalities, there are some clear themes emerging across questions, where young people are less likely to agree/ less satisfied if they:
 - live in a deprived area
 - live in the constituency of Hendon (in particular with regard safe guarding, crime, and community safety)
 - are White (BAME YP tend to be on average more satisfied)
 - are older (11- 13 year olds tend to be on average more satisfied)
 - have a disability

To investigate and unpack the YPS results in more detail, Family Services Commissioning Strategy and Policy team commissioned the Consultation and Engagement Team to conduct a series of young people’s workshops to gain further insight on what is driving the results from the most recent YPS.



Approach and methodology

The Strategy and Engagement Team worked with the Family Services Commissioning Strategy and Policy team to develop the engagement method and discussion guide. Youth Board members were also consulted on in terms of the method.

- The YPS workshops focused on unpacking key topics from the YPS results including young peoples experiences of living in Barnet, including their satisfaction with the local area, if they felt Barnet is a Family Friendly borough, understanding and exploring: their top three concerns; feeling safe in the borough; their top personal safety concerns and their health and well being.
- The workshops were designed to ensure that the views of young people could be understood by different locations and by different protected characteristics. The recruitment method ensured that the workshops could be segmented by the following demographics:
 - o different areas of Barnet in terms of constituency and wards,
 - o different protected characteristics, in particular: young people with a disability, young people of BAME origin, and young people of white origin
 - o age categories 11-13, 14- 15 and 16-17.
- Six workshops were delivered in July with 63 young people participating. Sessions held at LBB Colindale office x 2 (one with our SEND youth forum), Finchley Church End Library, Chipping Barnet Library, Unitas and Barnet Carers Centre
- A presentation and discussion guide was developed. Delivery was adapted at each workshop for various reasons including group dynamics, duration and to incorporate learnings.
- The workshops were widely promoted on Engage Barnet, Family Services mailing lists and other communication channels e.g. social media platforms. There was a particular focus on reaching seldom heard young people.

Profile of participants: 63 young people of which 29% with disability, 25% young carers and ~ 45% from Hendon constituency

	Selection	Total	LBB's SEND youth forum				Young carers	
			Hendon	Finchley	Chipping	Unitas		
Age	11-13yrs	23	-	6	7	5	2	3
	14-15yrs	23	-	4	2	6	2	9
	16-17yrs	8	-	1	1	1	2	3
	18-25yrs	3	-	-	-	-	3	-
Gender	male	25	3	6	3	8	4	9
	female	33	2	4	7	4	5	3
	blank/other	5	-	1	-	-	-	4
Ethnicity	Asian	9	1	1	1	3	2	1
	Black	10	1	2	-	1	1	5
	Mixed	8	-	2	4	-	2	-
	Other	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
	White	26	3	4	4	4	4	7
Disability	Yes	18	5	-	2	-	3	8
	No	44	-	11	8	12	5	8
Constituency	Hendon	24	1	11	-	-	9	3
	Finchley & Golders Green	13	1	-	10	-	-	2
	Chipping Barnet	17	-	-	-	12	-	5

The YPS showed over nine in ten young people are satisfied with the local area as a place to live (94%). Those from Chipping Barnet are more likely to be satisfied while those who are disabled are less likely to be satisfied.

Living in Barnet: insights on why majority of young people are happy with their local area as a place to live

- Acknowledgement that Barnet is a relatively good place to live with low crime rates, good transport links, recreational facilities and reputable schools.
- Although the boroughs diversity is viewed as a positive, some voiced that different communities don't tend to mix with each other.
- Regeneration projects (e.g. in Brent Cross) were mentioned as a potential reason why more people are happier with their local area. However a young person feared she would be displaced and others voiced concerns about new builds replacing local businesses/shops.
- Awareness of a 'wealth divide' in the borough and that some areas are better than others. This may be a reason behind why those living in Chipping Barnet are more likely to be happy with their local area.
- A sense that those who have a disability are less likely to be happy with their local area because services are not always accessible and there is a lack of understanding around disabilities.

Living in Barnet: young people's reflections on Barnet as a place to live

'It is a safe place which feels secure, it is somewhere that she knows a lot of people and she hasn't had a bad experience living in Barnet'

14-15, female, white British, Jewish, Mill Hill

"very nice locals, great facilities, good schools, good transport links, great opportunities. Affordable housing, low crime rate."

14-15, male, Asian/Asian British, Hindu, High Barnet

"very good but a lot of issues to tackle"

14-15, female, Black African, Christian, Friern Barnet

'Barnet is one of the best boroughs compared to others. It's less dodgy than other areas.'

LBB's SEND youth forum member, male, white, studies in East Barnet

'you see a diverse group of people, but everyone's doing their own thing- diverse but not integrated'

11-13, male, mixed white-Asian, Christian, North Finchley

'People being happier doesn't mean there aren't problems, it might just mean that other factors have a greater influence on how they feel'

Young carer, 14-15, male, black African, Christian, Chipping Barnet

Living in Barnet: reflections on why those with a disability are less happy with their local areas as a place to live.

'People can be rude to him because of his autism which sometimes prevents him from speaking – he now wears a badge so that people in public know about his disability but that hasn't helped much.'

Young carer, 16-17, male, white & black Caribbean, autistic, Mill Hill

'CAMHs not taking referrals seriously – she has used the service and hasn't felt that they cared'

Young carer, 11-13, female, white British, autistic, Totteridge & Whetstone

'Thinks it is normalised not to care about people with mental disorders'

Young carer, 14-15, male, black African, Christian, Chipping Barnet

'Barnet is inaccessible for wheelchairs and people are not that accommodating – has faced issues getting on and off the bus. ..People don't take young people seriously so young carers feel doubly ignored'

Young carer

'Getting a house is hard, especially when explaining invisible diagnoses as part of a housing assessment. Also hard to find schools for children with disabilities or with facilities'

Young carer, 14-15, other, black Caribbean, Friern Barnet

'Mum doesn't get as much in disabled grants for disabled siblings since moving to Barnet from another LA, family has received less support in Barnet'

16-17, female, white other, no religion, Golders Green

YPS showed that 86% of young people are satisfied with secondary education and 87% are satisfied with primary education.

Council Services: insights on levels of satisfaction with Council services

Schools

- Recognition that Barnet schools have a good reputation and grateful for the work teachers do, especially during Covid-19
- Primary school perceived to be safe with a strong sense of community and quality food options
- Older teens put a great value on schools being authentic and respecting them. Several were unhappy with how schools deal with mental health, disability, racism and homophobia. This could be a key driver behind those aged 14+ being less likely to be satisfied with school.

‘Primary school felt more like a community- closeness and easy to speak with teachers about concerns. Secondary schools feels like there’s a lot of stigma- and it’s a less supportive environment.’

16-17, female, White British, Woodhouse

‘Barnet schools seem to have a greater focus on developing the whole person and good people rather than just academic achievements.’

LBB’s SEND youth forum member, male, white, studies in East Barnet

‘schools are not actually inclusive and haven’t felt respected as a ‘trans kid’... At school other pupils chant my ‘deadname’ and the school doesn’t take pride seriously or educate on it’

14-15, black British/any other mixed, mental health, Finchley Central

The YPS showed that 61% of young people are satisfied with services and support for children and young people.



Council Services: insights on levels of satisfaction with Council services

Services for children and young people

- A sense that there's enough for children and older adults, but not much for teenagers to do. This may be a reason why those aged 11-13 are more satisfied with services and support available.
- Hendon constituency participants talked more about activities for young people in their local area and Uitas was referenced several times.
- Some participants engage in activities but not via the Council e.g. horse riding.

'when you're 13-14 in youth activities, you're made to be in groups with and spend time with little kids who are far younger in age, it doesn't make sense. There needs to be things specific to post-primary, pre-GCSE young people'

11-13, female, mixed white & Asian, no religion, Friern Barnet

"Barnet has various activities, but I think because Barnet has many activities they are not up to par and like not the best."

11-13, female, black African, Christian, Colindale

'We need to engage more with young people to produce fun activities – sports, skating etc. There needs to be more to do, and young people should be consulted when these activities are being produced'

11- 13, male, white other, no religion, East Finchley

Concerns: summary of why Crime, Litter/ dirt in streets and Traffic jams are the top concerns, plus insights from impact of Covid discussion.

- **Crime:** Numerous concerns mentioned including anti-social behaviour, murders, burglary, kidnapping and sexual harassment. Recognition that anyone could be a victim, even in generally perceived safe places such as at school or home. A general sense that not enough is done to tackle crime and that this increases personal safety concerns.
- **Litter/dirt in the streets:** Issues raised include fly tipping, lack of bins in parks, “*dog poo lying around*” and litter close to home e.g. in the corridors and outside social housing block of flats. Hendon constituency participants spoke most about littering being an issue and someone felt that volunteers were being left to clean up the area.
- **Traffic jams:** Barnet roads seem more congested than other areas. Roadwork projects seem to occur at the same time and multiple road closures exacerbates traffic. Environmentally conscious and recognise that reducing car use can reap benefits in the long-term (traffic evaporation) but wary of the trade-off e.g. cyclist safety on narrow roads.
- **Covid-19:** A participant commented that the inclusion of this option makes other issues seem less important. General view that although the virus is no longer a major issue as things have returned to normal, the impact of the pandemic should not be overlooked e.g. mental health & loss of education.

Personal safety concerns: insights on why knife crime, gangs and drugs in parks/streets are the top safety concerns

- **Females:** Expressed concerns about walking at night around the tube station/ on public transport, being ‘catcalled’ and experiencing harassment which makes them feel unsafe. Some recounted instances where this has been the case and that this fear limits their freedom.
- **Knife crime:** Readily recalled and shared stories of stabbings that have happened in their area. A general sense that insufficient measures are in place to prevent knife crime e.g. lack of police presence, park patrols, CCTV, street lighting and security at school
- **Gangs:** Although most agreed that there is gang problem, there were more general concerns with groups congregating and participant reflected that groups are more likely to “*commit crime because of peer pressure*”
- **Drugs in parks/streets:** Drug related litter (e.g. needles) being left in parks causes a safety risk. Drug issues are not restricted to ‘parks and streets’, but spread into other settings such as schools. Concerns about peers perceiving drugs/smoking as “cool” and not taking prevention initiatives seriously e.g. deliberately ‘sniffing permanent markers. Recommended that initiatives focus on telling the the facts to help people make informed decisions.

Personal safety concerns: reflections on why knife crime, gangs and drugs in parks/streets are the top safety concerns

'feels safe travelling to school but doesn't feel safe AT school, she feels as though problems go unnoticed – for example, if a student jumped the fence, she doesn't think they would notice for a while'

14-15, female, white British, Christian, Burnt Oak

'feels that young people commit crimes and cause nuisance during the day whereas adults do it at night. Said people have tried to grab her on the way home from school and have offered her drink and drugs'

Young carer, female

'Gangs are a problem but they are just out to make money...if you ignore them and keep yourself to yourself they won't bother you'

female, 14-15, Black Caribbean, Christian, Colindale

'Scary at night – parents base your freedom on the goings on in the area. Next door app – makes us feel less safe – makes us think of the crime in the area more often and influences our parents into reducing our freedoms'

16-17, female, White British, Woodhouse

'.. Drugs problem is not restricted to 'parks and streets. Drugs are normalised, young people don't seem fazed by it and it spreads. Drug talks in school backfire because they're too over the top'

LBB's SEND youth forum member, female, white, Finchley central

"my biggest concern is how slow the Council responds to anti-social behaviour reports, if they even respond at all, and its even rarer for them to take action"

14-15, male, white British, Underhill

"As we are grown older, we travel to more places on our own and feel unsafe. There is a bit of a risk of going out after night."

14-15, Male, Asian / Asian British - Indian, Hindu, No disability, High Barnet

Mental health: insights on why the council and its partners should prioritise supporting young people with mental health problems

- Recognition of efforts to raise awareness of mental health and some participants in the Hendon constituency workshop felt that the Council *‘cared about people’s worries’*.
- Those who have accessed services experienced issues (e.g. long CAMHs waiting lists) and feel that young people’s mental health aren’t taken seriously enough.
- Emphasised the importance of building trust with young people to make them feel more comfortable about sharing their concerns and accessing support. Males are even less likely to talk to someone to avoid being labelled as “weak”.

‘More work is needed to build trust so that people feel comfortable using the support. They advertise services that are not realistically going to be used. Yes, I know Childline exists but I’d never actually call them’

11-13, female, mixed white & black Caribbean, no religion, Woodhouse

‘young people might say they’re fine, but fine doesn’t always mean they’re ok’

18-25, male, white British, dyspraxia/ anxiety, Christian, Burnt Oak

‘CAMHs need better training, there are also long waiting lists and after receiving care from them for years she was only recently given an ADHD diagnosis’

14-15, black British/any other mixed, mental health, Finchley Central

Council's image: thoughts on why the Council's image has improved

- Greater awareness of or positive interactions with Council services e.g. youth forums and visible evidence of work to improve and local areas e.g. regeneration projects yielded more positive perception of council services. Hendon constituency participants were more likely to say this.
- Majority of participants struggled to articulate a view of the Council due to their limited awareness of and/or interaction with Council services. A young person felt that the council provides services that she doesn't use.
- In all sessions, several young people who interacted with the Council complained about the Council's slow response to reported issues such as housing repairs and anti-social behaviours.

'The council does get things done but it takes a long time. He recounted works for a park near his home that his parents had to petition the council to complete along with some neighbours'

11-13, male, White British, Jewish, Edgware

'Council does not care about my family – we are going to be moved out of our council flat because they want to know it down'

14-15, Female, Mixed – White and Asian, Disability (Prefer not to say), Cricklewood

'The council and police don't communicate enough and borough issues are not talked about enough, for example they don't warn people about where might not be safe'

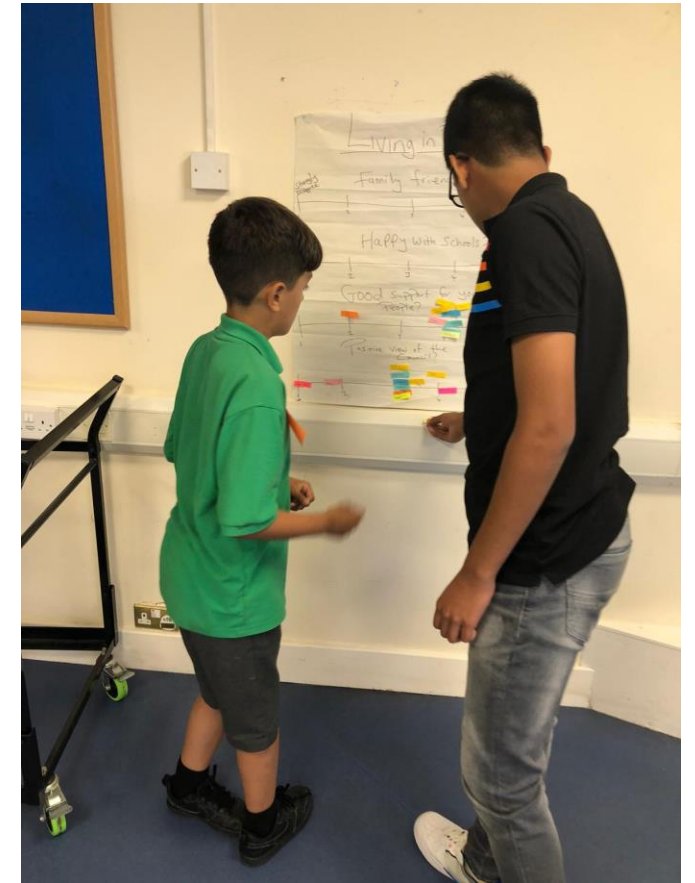
Young carer, 14-15, gender other, black Caribbean, Friern Barnet

Recommendations

- **Adopt a holistic approach to deepen understanding:** as there are manifold perspectives on the reasons behind the YPS results, the findings from this engagement should be contextualised and considered with other insights to drive improvements. Focus areas to include, but not limited to:
 - Supporting schools to effectively deal with sensitive issues such as racism and homophobia.
 - Improving understanding of different types of disabilities and mental health issues to foster greater empathy.
 - Enhancing relationship with Barnet Carers Centre to ensure the views and experiences of young carers inform service improvements.
 - Identifying ways to raise greater awareness of what the Council does to support Barnet residents, especially young people.
- **Share and incorporate findings to improve services:** ensure that findings from this research are presented at relevant meetings or Boards (*e.g SEND Partnership Board*) and incorporated into the development of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Recommendations for future engagement

- **Focus on building relationships:** continue to leverage the ‘My Say Matters’ campaign to engage with a diverse range of young people and build relationships e.g. with young people, parents/carers & partner organisations.
- **Take survey respondents on a journey:** involve future young people perception survey respondents in the process of unpacking the survey results. For example, a few select questions could be ask for reasons for their responses as part of the survey and/or sign-up to focus groups.



Participants' Feedback - 30 out of 32 participants gave a rating of at least 4 out of 5

Rated 3 out of 5

“could have been more confidential at times . Like I didn't feel comfortable but I knew I had something to say. Good points of interest”

Rated 3.5 out of 5

“very productive however can get a bit repetitive as it is a long session. However I don't think this is really avoidable so there are no complaints”

Rated 5 out of 5

“I found this sessions very meaningful and enjoyable as it have us young people opportunities to express our views, perspectives and comment on things around our community. I would really recommend people around me to take part in these kind of activities too!”

Rated 5 out of 5

“I had fund, met new people etc. Also my opinion got heard about what I thought about the borough of Barnet...They [the facilitators] were both very nice and understood”

Rated 4 out of 5

“I really liked the discussions and interactive activities, though I would like more interactive activities”

Rated 5 out of 5

“I feel that a lot of issues weren't brought up and kind of forgotten throughout the session such as SA and disabilities and mental health. Apart from that it was really good”

Rated 5 of out 5

“I think the session was good and more enjoyable than I imagine. I would give it a five out of five I thought it was well put and communicated, way better than anything school could put together. Overall it was really good and I would do something like this again”

Thank you for your time.
Any questions or further reflections?

Barnet Children's Partnership Board Report

Title: Life Chances Action Plan Summary Report

AGENDA ITEM 8

Meeting Date: 9 November 2022

Author: Lee Robinson

Service/ Dept.: Children's Service

Report to be Presented By: Lee Robinson

1. Summary

The report provides information on work to improve the lives of children and young people in Barnet and increase their opportunities to succeed. By improving life chances, there can be a profound effect on poverty and equality enabling better outcomes. Since the last agreed action plan there has been good progress against partners' key priorities and actions taken to support children in Barnet.

The action plan focused on four key priorities and a series of actions to achieve these.

Priority 1: Strengthening families and early years

Priority 2: Developing resilience and improving education

Priority 3: Developing equal opportunities

Priority 4: Targeting support

2. Updates since last BCPB

None.

3. Impact

- Equalities and Diversity

COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis has impacted children and young people in Barnet. Significant concerns remain about how it will affect children in the short term and long term.

- Corporate Parenting

Whilst there is no direct impact on the Council's corporate parenting role of this report, it is acknowledged that the Council's role as corporate parent supports children and young people residing under its care.

4. Consultation and Engagement

Information was sought and provided by service partners.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The Children's Partnership Board is asked to note and comment on the report.

6. Background Papers

None.

Life Chances Action Plan 2020-2024

Summary Highlight Report: Sep/Oct 2022

Priority 1: Strengthening families and early years

- *Universal sessions within Children's Centres and Early Help Hubs are all now face to face. Solutions 4 Health have also positively reintroduced face to face sessions. There are strong links with partners such as BOOST - signposting, referrals, Household Support Fund and exploring new ways of working collaboratively. Supporting the impact of Covid, families with young children are benefiting from having face to face social experiences within Children's Centres. The sessions provide the opportunity for practitioners to support families at the earliest opportunity.*
Issue - Building suitability and space availability - Considering viable community building options as outreach venues
- *The Early Years Team have implemented the early years action plan. The 'live' tool prioritises the uptake of the Free Early Years Education schemes. Since the outset of the pandemic, the uptake for the Free Early Years Education scheme for 2-year-olds has steadily increased. The Summer Term 2022 saw 69% eligible children accessed FEE2. Barnet ranks 7/11 compared to our statistical neighbours. The increased level of promotion has ensured numbers have remained consistent. Children are greatly benefiting from attending early years provision, parents are being supported back into further education/ employment.*
Issues - Ongoing work in relation to raising awareness of all Early Years schemes and ensuring sufficiency across localised areas within Barnet.
- *Solutions4Health who deliver the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) via health visitors have had the contract since April 2022. They continue to deliver the mandated reviews as received on handover. Performance for the mandated reviews is extremely low. LBB are assured that the contacts are taking place especially for NBV but not in a timely way due to capacity of Health Visitors.*
Issues - Challenges include a backlog of health reviews during the transition period (March and April) which are going to be receiving a letter regarding any health concerns and then seen at the next qualifying review. The capacity and vacancy levels in HV remain an operational issue and S4H are actively and innovatively recruiting.

Priority 2: Developing resilience and improving education

- *School and Settings Improvement Strategy has been updated and includes updated information about how we monitor, challenge and support schools in 2022/23. Only two schools (out of 128 schools in Barnet) are not Good or Outstanding. Over 98% now Good or Outstanding (3rd highest LA in the country - out of 152 LAs)*
- *Continuing to work with schools to maximise attendance. Attendance Rate for Autumn '21 and Spring '22 terms was 93.8% which was above National (92.7%) and ranked us 14th best LA in the country (out of 152 LAs). However not back to the Barnet 3-year average of 95.2% or the 2018/19 figure of 96%. Persistent Absence (Autumn and Spring) increased by 8.5% from 8.3% in 2018/19 to 19.2% in 2021/22. However, this is still 4.3% lower than national and ranks our LA 16th best in the country on this measure.
Issue: Covid still having an impact on attendance*
- *Schools have been open fully since September 2021 but we continue to support families and schools. Numbers of children Electively Home Educated rose significantly during Covid but is now reducing i.e. 461 in Feb '22, 378 in Sept '22.
Issue: Still a reluctance by some parents to return their child to a school*
- *The risk of NEET programme is well established and has mentors and specialist workers in 11 schools in Barnet. Young people receive weekly mentoring and are supported to plan for transition into Post 16. The impact of the programme has resulted in a significant reduction of young people who are NEET at 16/17. Current NEET's are below 1%, this is very low. We are currently delivering mentoring support to young people in eleven schools (including sixth form college), from year 10 upwards, enabling the students to sustain their education placements.
Issue: The concern this year is that the provision has been growing. We are prioritising young people at risk of exclusion of school attendance.*
- *Continuing to monitor, challenge and support schools on their SEND provision. Positive SEND Local Area Inspection in January 2022.
Issues: Significant rises in numbers of pupils with SEND.*
- *Currently at 60% with 80 schools signed up with the Resilient Schools programme. More schools have been supported to build resilience and emotional wellbeing across the whole school. Staff have been able to access resources and training to improve their health and wellness and that of the families they support.
Issues: School staff sickness and the knock-on effect of COVID-19 for e.g. burnout.*
- *Active promotion of physical activity campaigns and opportunities to schools and young people for e.g. the TCS London mini marathon, 10 minute shake ups, BACE holidays.*

Encouraged school engagement with the Golden Kilometre (GKM) which provides primary schools with support to offer 20 mins of extra daily physical activity.

Issues: Limited space within the school. Staffing levels to support additional activity can be challenging.

- Engagement of Healthy Schools and Healthy Early Years programmes continues to be strong with Barnet being one of the top Borough for awards current status: Healthy Schools London (HSL): 120 registered; 74 Bronze; 61 Silver; 29 Gold Healthy Early Years London (HEYL) 93 first steps 48 Bronze; 13 Silver; 1 Gold.
Whole school approach to health and wellbeing supports increased opportunity for healthy balance food, physical activity, play and mental health and emotional resilience.
Issue: Schools challenged through competing programmes. HSL and HEYL not always seen as a priority and onerous paperwork prevents some schools and settings applying. GLA framework to be streamlined for implementation 23/24 which will help release administrative burden of scheme on schools.

Priority 3: Delivering equal access to opportunities

- Continued promotion of BACE and access to free school meals. Healthy Start has now become digitalised and promotion of the card version has been well publicised and promoted. Helping to combat food poverty experienced by some families through increasing the uptake in those eligible to free school meals and to access healthy start.
Issue: Await release of take up data for the digitised system for healthy start to identify gaps and target groups.
- Continued roll out and promote programmes for work experience, apprenticeships, training, volunteering, and paid employment including supported opportunities for people with SEND. Established good partnerships with three main supported internships providers; Royal Mencap, Harrington Scheme and Health Education England, who have ringfenced twenty-five places on their programmes for Barnet young people. Thirty-three young people completed the programme in July 2022 and to date twenty have already secured employment, one accepted into university and two into further training.
Examples of employment secured include: - Chef – Royal Free Hospital and Nursing Assistant – Royal Free Hospital.
Issues: Main barriers that exists is to ensure that young people have access to work experience and meaningful job outcomes. We will continue to work with local or regional businesses to source and secure employment opportunities for learners with SEN.

Priority 4: Targeting support

- The food security plan has been reviewed and a needs assessment conducted. The findings were included into the new Food security plan. The draft is currently undergoing

public consultation and has been presented at the Health & Wellbeing Board. The new Plan is covering a wider area than just food security and aims to ensure good quality and sustainable food for all Barnet residents. There is a strong emphasis on tackling cost of living crisis and contribute towards Barnet's sustainability agenda.

Issue: The cost-of-living crisis meant that we had to update the draft plan several times to reflect the changes and add actions to address the emerging challenges. This has caused a delay in the planned timeline

- The Routes into Construction Project was established in 2019, collaborating with the Council's Regeneration team (S106), The project is designed to align with construction partners/ employers' needs and is designed to support young people who are NEET at Post-16. During Phase 2 of the programme from January 2021 to August 2022, we have placed over seventy unemployed young people aged 16 to 24 in jobs or training within construction and allied trades in Barnet.
Issue: Main issues relate to sustainment of employment outcomes. We are looking at systems and ways of working so that we can continue to support young people to sustain employment.
- In line with the Barnet's 'Work, Skills and Productivity Strategy' we encourage young residents into jobs and learning opportunities that have good prospects for progression within the fastest growing sectors of the economy. Work closely with colleagues across the council to analyse trends in employability and skills to identify 'growth' employment areas such as health, care, construction & trades, and the creative industries sectors that forecast the fastest growing numbers of new entry level jobs. We are working with 5 Construction sites to place young people into employment. This work is ongoing.
Issue: Due to problems with the economy, some employers are reluctant to offer apprenticeships/jobs until things improved or stabilise on sites.
- Barnet Homes has a joint protocol with Family Services to ensure that 16- and 17-year-olds at risk of homelessness are supported with joint assessments of their needs. During the pandemic these assessments have been conducted remotely but this has not hindered the provision of assessments and accommodation when needed. In 2021/22 only 2, 16/17-year-olds approached as homeless one due to domestic violence and one being asked to leave the family home. In 2021/22, 214 young people aged 16-24 approached as homeless of which 54 had their homelessness prevented or relieved. 6 young people were assisted via the rough sleeper team. Barnet Homes has not evicted any secure or flexible tenants during the pandemic.
- Further development of targeted work to promote all prevention and Early Help services and expand access routes for our local services to enable more self-referral. The Council website has been updated and made easier to navigate. Early Help and partner agencies are utilising network meetings. Locality Advisory Boards have been re-established - supporting local networks and service awareness. We have 850 open cases within the 0-19 Early Help Hubs. Footfall of CC and registration data is consistently increasing. The BACE programme was well attended with new providers joining us this summer. All positive comments/ compliments are recorded and logged.

Issue: IT & Data sharing presents challenges across the Early Help System and Partnership. Partners recognising that there is a robust Early Help system in place and that not all Universal Plus needs to come via the MASH route - continued briefing of partners is in place.

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Acronym	Long title	Description
AVA		
BACE	Barnet Active, Creative Engaging	The council have worked with the Young Barnet Foundation to provide the Barnet Active, Creative Engaging (BACE) holidaying scheme which is DfE funded for all free school meal children and vulnerable children to access fun activities with a hot meal, activities include learning about healthy eating and exercise.
BCU	Borough Command Unit (Check)	Policing
BEA	Barnet Equalities Allies	
BECC	Borough Emergency Control Centre	
BEHMHT	Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust	
BELS	Barnet Education & Learning Service	Barnet Education & Learning Service (BELS) is a local authority controlled company which is responsible for providing the Council's Education & Skills service to Barnet schools.
BING	Barnet Inclusive Next Generation	Barnet Inclusive Next Generation (formerly Barnet Development Team Youth) is our SEND Youth Voice Forum.
BOOST	Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team	Multiagency team with staff from Jobcentre Plus, Barnet Homes, Councils Benefit Service, Education and Skills Team. We are an employment, benefit advice, skills and wellbeing project helping Barnet residents.
BPSI	Barnet Partnership for School Improvement	BPSI is a school improvement traded service to pool funding for training, consultancy and support.
BSPP	Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership	
BYOD	Bring Your Own Device	Use of personal devices for limited business use.
CAMHS	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services	
CAW	Case Assistant Worker	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panels	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
CEAM	Child exploitation and missing tool	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
CESC	Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee	Barnet Committee
CETR	Care, Education and Treatment Reviews	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy	Planning obligation to raise funds for local infrastructure. Also see S106
CSC		
CWFS	Covid Winter Fund Scheme	
CWP	Children's Wellbeing Practitioners	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
CYP	Children & Young People	
CYPP	Children & Young People's Plan	
DCT	Disabled Children's Team	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
DPR	Delegated Powers Report	Report on a decision made at Officer level.
EHCPs	Education, Health and Care Plans	Used for children with specific needs.
FPC	Financial Performance and Contracts Committee	Barnet Committee

Acronym	Long title	Description
HEP	Health Education Partnership	
HEYL	Healthy Early Years London award programme	Healthy Early Years London (HEYL) is an awards scheme funded by the Mayor of London which supports and recognises achievements in child health, wellbeing and development in early years settings.
HOSC	Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	(Pronounced Hosk)
HSL	Healthy Schools London award programme	Taking part in Healthy Schools London (HSL), and working successfully through the tiered awards, will enable schools to directly support the health and wellbeing of their pupils and staff.
ICP	(Borough Based) Integrated Care Partnerships	Health reference to joined up services.
ICS	Integrated Care System	Health reference to joined up services delivered by an ICP.
IRIS	Identification and Referral to Improve Safety	
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference	
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	
MHFA	Mental Health First Aiders	
MHST	Mental Health Support Teams	
MOPAC	Mayors Office for Policing and Crime	
NCIL	Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy	Planning obligation to raise funds for local infrastructure. Also see S106
NEET	Not in Education, Employment and Training	
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds	Asylum/refuge status
P&R	Policy & Resources Committee	Barnet Committee
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit	Specialist educational support unit supporting schools with pupils with additional needs.
PVIs		
RON	Risk of NEET	Educational at risk group.
RRR	Recovery, Reset and Renaissance Project	Recovery, Reset and Renaissance (RRR) Project - part of schools related COVID-19 recovery.
S106	Section 106	Legal agreement for planning obligations in a local area (also see CIL)
SARG	Safeguarding Adolescents at Risk Group	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
SCAN	Service for children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental difficulties	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
SEF	Self-Evaluation	"The Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND inspection and Self-Evaluation (SEF))" Educational reference.
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	Education related.
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Coordinator	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disability	School and educational terms for those with additional support requirements
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Therapy	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
SFSC		
SMI		Health reference
STP	Sustainability and Transformation Plan	Health reference

Acronym	Long title	Description
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Young People	
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Young People	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
VARP	Vulnerable Adolescents at Risk Panel	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
YOT	Youth Offending Team	Used in a health and wellbeing context.

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**London Borough of Barnet
Barnet Children’s Partnership Board
Forward Work Programme
2022 / 2023**

Contact: Allan Siao Ming Witherick (Governance) allan.witherick@barnet.gov.uk

Subject	Decision requested	Report Of	Contributing Officer(s)
9 November 2022			
Business items			
Education Strategies (Schools and Settings Improvement Strategy and SEND and Inclusion Strategy plus an update on the Special Educational Places Plan).	The Board to receive an update report.	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning (Neil Marlow)	
My Say Matters	The Board to receive verbal input from young people.		Practice & Learning Manager (Liz Shaw)
Young People's Perception Survey - Focus Groups Feedback	The Board to receive an update report.	Consultation & research Manager (Rosie Evangelou)	
NCL Start Well Programme for Children and Young People	The Board to receive an update report.		Start Well Programme Director (Anna Stewart)
Life Chances Strategy	The Board to receive an update report.	Assistant Director Education, Strategy and Partnerships (Ben Thomas)	Policy, Strategy and Commissioning Advisor (Lee Robinson)
Reference items			
List of abbreviations	The Board to note the list	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
Forward Work Programme	The Board to note the Programme	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
14 February 2023			
Business items			
My Say Matters	The Board to receive verbal input from young people.		Practice & Learning Manager (Liz Shaw)
Adolescents At Risk strategy		Tina McElligott	

Subject	Decision requested	Report Of	Contributing Officer(s)
Mental Health Review	The Board to receive an update report.	Interim Director of Aligned Commissioning, ICB (Dan Morgan)	
Deep Dive			
Reference items			
List of abbreviations	The Board to note the list	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
Forward Work Programme	The Board to note the Programme	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
27 April 2023			
Business items			
My Say Matters	The Board to receive verbal input from young people.		Practice & Learning Manager (Liz Shaw)
Educational Standards Report	The Board to receive an update report.	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning (Neil Marlow)	
Deep Dive			
Reference items			
List of abbreviations	The Board to note the list	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
Forward Work Programme	The Board to note the Programme	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer

Action Tracker

Meeting	Item	Description	Status
8 February 2022	Barnet Fit & Active Framework	Executive Director Adults and Health to speak to the representatives of the Pupil Referral Unit and how they provide support.	
8 February 2022	Barnet Fit & Active Framework	Executive Director Adults and Health to provide data analysis for use of Leisure Centres by young people to the Assistant Director Education, Strategy and Partnerships.	
8 February 2022	Draft 2022/23 BSCP Business Plan	Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership Manager to liaise with the Commissioning Strategy & Policy Advisor to look at how the Barnet Safeguarding Plan would incorporate the Barnet Children's Partnership Boards plan.	
13 July 2022	My Say Matters	Assistant Director Commissioning to look at how the Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board engages with young people.	
13 July 2022	My Say Matters	Practice Standards Manager to put out Instagram post after meeting.	
13 July 2022	Sustainability	Information on the scheme to be circulated to Directors briefings for schools and to the Participation Officer for young people.	
13 July 2022	Sustainability	Report on engagement to come to a future meeting.	

13 July 2022	Young People's Perception Survey	Feedback from Focus Groups run as a result of the Young People's Perception Survey 2021/22 to be given at a future meeting.	9 November 2022 agenda item.

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