

**Meeting**

**Children, EDUCATION & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

**Date and time**

**Monday 20TH MARCH, 2023**

**At 7.00 PM**

**Venue**

**Hendon TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ**

**To: Members of Children, EDUCATION & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE (quorum 3)**

Chair: Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb  
Vice Chair: Councillor Tony Vourou

David Longstaff	Liron Woodcock-Velleman	Matthew Perlberg
Giulia Monasterio	Emma Whysall	Mark Shooter
Zahra Beg	Joshua Conway	Lucy Wakeley

**Substitute Members**

Richard Barnes	Anne Clarke	Jennifer Grocock
Laithe Jajeh	Kath McGuirk	Alex Prager

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 Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 10AM. Requests must be submitted to Pakeezah Rahman [Pakeezah.Rahman@Barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Pakeezah.Rahman@Barnet.gov.uk)

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

**Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance**

Governance Service contact: Pakeezah Rahman [Pakeezah.Rahman@Barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Pakeezah.Rahman@Barnet.gov.uk)

Media Relations Contact: Tristan Garrick 020 8359 2454 [Tristan.Garrick@Barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Tristan.Garrick@Barnet.gov.uk)

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# Decisions of the Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee

17 November 2022

Members Present:-

AGENDA ITEM 1

Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb (Chair)

Councillor Tony Vourou (Vice-Chair)

Councillor David Longstaff

Councillor Giulia Monasterio

Councillor Zahra Beg

Councillor Linda Lusingu

Councillor Joshua Conway

Councillor Matthew Perlberg

Councillor Mark Shooter

Councillor Lucy Wakeley

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Liron Velleman

## 1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee held on 20 October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

## 2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Councillor Liron Velleman who was substituted for by Councillor Anne Clarke.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

None.

## 4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

## 5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

None.

## 6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

## 7. BARNET YOUTH PARLIAMENT AND YOUTH AMBASSADOR SCHEME 2022

Practice and Learning Manager, Liz Shaw, supporting youth participation in Barnet, introduced the Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassador members who attended the meeting.

Isaac Reuben, a member of Youth Parliament, highlighted issues such as the impact of the cost of living on health and accommodating diversity in schools whilst emphasising the safety of students who identify as LGBTQ and other identities. The availability of gender neutral toilets in schools and training for teachers on minority groups including the use of different pronouns, were some of the priorities highlighted.

Cllr Anne Clarke joined the meeting at 7.10pm

Isaac also talked about campaigning for younger people to be able to register to vote in Barnet, increasing youth participation.

Ania Shah, Chair of the Youth Ambassador Board, focused on supporting students with mental health in schools. Ania Shah highlighted the importance of face to face meetings with teachers and stress levels arising as a result of exams. Another priority was educational school trips being extended to all students and not just a particular groups of students.

Liz Shaw added that the issues raised have also been addressed at the Barnet Children Partnership Board, with Headteachers and other key stakeholders to drum up support.

Members enquired how they could help support the work of young people. It was noted that involvement in the 'My Say Matters' scheme would be very useful in promoting Youth Ambassador and Youth Assembly to reach out to and engage young people.

In addition, school visits from Councillors would prove very effective in helping to raise awareness on the functions of local government and how some of that work tied in with the role of the Councillor.

In response to Member's questions, Ania said that educational trips in relation to apprenticeships and suitable prospective jobs would really help those students who did not wish to go to university.

On the issue of safety, Members enquired about the types of problems faced by young people who identified as LGBTQ. Isaac explained amongst other things, the challenges with school trips and not being allowed to stay in rooms with students of a different gender. Therefore, appropriate consultation was needed with those who had been affected. Ania added that education in schools was needed to allow such issues to be dealt with appropriately, especially as many students were unaware of what to do and needed the courage to speak up.

The Chair recommended and received agreement from the young people about suggesting that Heads of Schools positively encourage Councillors to visit schools and speak about the Role of the Councillor.

Members recommended that role play interviews to meet with potential employers and discuss job opportunities for particular year groups be reintroduced by schools.

The Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning (BELS), Neil Marlow, suggested being the contact for Members who intended to carry out visits to schools.

The Committee thanked the young people for sharing their issues and priorities.

**RESOLVED that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee note and provide comments on the Barnet Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassador Scheme 2022.**

**8. SECURE CHILDREN'S HOME FOR LONDON AND PAN-LONDON COMMISSIONING VEHICLE**

The Executive Director of Children and Family Services, Chris Munday, presented the report about the development of a new secure children's home provision in partnership with other London local authorities primarily due to the lack of such a unit in London. Committee approval was needed for Barnet to join the partnership with an annual contribution of £20,000.

It was noted that once the provision was opened, an alternative model of fees would be sought over the five year period with a break clause in between that time.

Members highlighted the importance of the London Borough of Barnet having permanent representation at board level and enquired about the allocation of resources given the contribution of other Boroughs with a limited number of places.

It was noted that the Executive Director would continue to lead on operational details of the project to include that Barnet has formal representation on the partnership board. In response to Members questions on current provision, it was noted that specialist provision was available across the country where needed and allocated based on the child's needs.

In some cases, bespoke placements were needed especially for children who needed to be contained physically and emotionally due to trauma triggering a stress reaction, possibly being a danger to themselves and to others.

Each local authority participating in the programme would contribute an equal sum annually to the unit which would cover a wide range of infrastructure costs as well as insurance and audit costs.

Members commended the Executive Director for all the effort and work put into the development of the pan London vehicle.

**RESOLVED that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee:**

- 1. Agrees in principle for the London Borough of Barnet to become a member of a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee, provisionally to be known as the Pan London Vehicle, to:**
  - a. develop and then oversee the running of London's secure children's home provision for a five-year period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2028, with a breakpoint after three years once the refreshed business case has been developed as well as the service pricing structure, commissioning approach, operating model, practice model and the SCH's location is confirmed. Once the provision has launched, membership will be at a fixed annual cost of £20K (subject to inflation adjustment), unless an alternative model for funding the PLV, that does not require annual subscription, is agreed by members during the development phase and**





The Director of Social Care, Family Services, Brigitte Jordaan, presented the foster carer arrangements of 2021-2022. With up to date information received, the service could do a detailed assessment of the child's circumstances to ensure they were properly cared for, safeguarded properly and placed with suitable foster carers.

It was noted that the number of compliments exceeding the number of complaints received was valuable information for service delivery. The decrease of formal stage one complaints were dealt with at lower management to resolve problems before they were escalated.

Brigitte Jordaan talked about the Letter from the National Adviser who had visited Barnet to review the experience of care leavers. Considerable time had been spent with carers in relation to the local offer. The feedback received was very encouraging especially in relation to Woodhouse Road which was noticeably a comfortable environment and considered as a safe space for young people. The few recommendations resulting from the visit, were already in place and underway.

It was noted that the Barnet's Housing Protocol would be adopted as a best place example for other local authorities.

Members commended Officers on the compliments and the reduction of complaints.

Tina McElligott highlighted the draft Early Help Strategy which required Committee approval for public consultation.

The strategy has been built on earlier work to deliver place-based services for young people, the model is built on the participation in shaping local delivery in partnership with parents, local communities, schools and GP's.

It was noted that insights about services had been supported through the children's participation and family involvement strategy 'My Say Matters; including feedback from the parent champion network who have undertaken 'mystery shopping' exercises and shared feedback about how services could be improved. There will be focus groups arranged face to face and virtually to engage a wide spectrum of views on the development of the new Early Help Strategy.

**RESOLVED that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee:**

- 1. Note and provide comments on the ChAT performance report summarised in this report and Appendix 1.**
- 2. Note and provide comments on the MASH Annual Report to the Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership Quality Assurance Group.**
- 3. Note and provide comments on the Private Fostering Annual Report to the Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership Quality Assurance Group**
- 4. Approve the Annual Complaints Report**
- 5. Note the letter from the National Care Leaver Advisor and request that the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel to oversee the development and monitoring of actions to be taken.**
- 6. Approve the Early Help strategy for public consultation. The strategy will be brought back to committee for approval in January 2023.**

**10. EDUCATION STRATEGIES**

Neil Marlow informed the Committee of the updates made to the education strategies including the Schools and Settings Improvement Strategy, which contained provisional achievement data. The complete data and any priorities arising from that such as mental health, would be reported to the next Committee.

Some of the issues discussed at the last Barnet Children's Partnership Board including mental health and examination stress have been added to the strategy as part of school improvement. Close monitoring support has been provided to schools especially to those that were flagged up through Ofsted inspections.

The Director of SEND and Inclusion, Karen Flanagan, provided an outline of the updates made to the SEND and Inclusion Strategy and the SEND Special Educational Places Plan. The local SEND area inspection produced positive outcomes, highlighting the achievements of the service as a result of working in a family friendly way whilst maintaining co-production.

Although considerable work has been put into therapy with partners to improve the local offer, challenges have been mitigated by use of additional funding from the high needs budget.

Wider achievements included the opening of Pavilion school and more Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) being issued on time in comparison to other Boroughs.

It was noted that the rates of annual review, which was an issue nationally, required further improvement. Complaints and tribunals were being reviewed to ensure that disputes were being resolved at an earlier stage.

In relation to the SEND Sufficiency plan, the expansion of the existing provision at Oakleigh had taken place as well as the opening of the new secondary Additional Resources Provision (ARP) for SEND to ensure sufficient places of special provision.

Member challenged the performance data in relation to Maths and English. It was noted that Barnet schools remained above the national average in all subjects except in Early Years. The last full set of data was taken from 2019 which may have been impacted as a result of Covid.

Members enquired about the options available to help new starters in relation to communications and those not being able to 'catch up' as a result of being socially distant. It was noted that a vast number of programmes have been commissioned including within Early Years as part of the renaissance project. School practitioners were well aware of the issues and further training was provided by the Council where needed.

In response to Members, it was noted that a lot of work was being put towards developing closer relationships with families to be able to identify issues at an early stage before appeals were made so as to lower the numbers of tribunals.

**RESOLVED that the Committee:**

- 1. Approve the updated School and Settings Improvement Strategy 2022-2024**
- 2. Note the update reports on the SEND and Inclusion Strategy and Special Educational Places Plan**

## 11. CHILD CARE SUFFICIENCY - ANNUAL REPORT

The Early Years and Primary Service Manager, Andy Whiting, presented key points from the report emphasising that there were no immediate concerns with regards to childcare sufficiency.

Some places required closer monitoring to identify what was currently in place and whether there were opportunities to increase capacity within settings.

It was noted that factors such as the implications of the cost of living, staffing and change in demographics had to be taken into consideration. The Early Years' service used a comprehensive action plan which was reviewed regularly to ensure that sufficient support was in place.

Additional support provision in speech and language has managed to narrow the gap in Early Years resulting in less delays.

Electronic mapping systems were being implemented in nurseries and schools to allow user friendly and live documents.

The Chair asked about language barriers and how the service dealt with those new to the service in terms of the services on offer. The Officer said that it was about educating partners and working closely with health partners and schools to be able to signpost messages appropriately.

**RESOLVED that the Committee notes the Barnet Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 attached to this report as Appendix A.**

## 12. BUSINESS PLANNING

The Head of Finance, Sharon Palma, informed the Committee of the gap in the Council's medium term financial strategy which stood at £10.4 million. Further proposals would be shared following the autumn statement account.

It was noted that that any revenue savings proposals or identified service pressures be delegated to the Executive Director of Children's and Family Services in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.

The Chair reassured the Committee that all decisions taken were in the best interest of the children and young people and that vigorous discussions would be held with the lead officer before recommendations were put forth to the Policy & Resources Committee.

**RESOLVED that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee:**

**1. Agree that any such revenue savings proposals, income generation options and identified service pressures go forward as recommendations directly to the Policy and Resources Committee on 13th December 2022 and be subject to public consultation and an updated equality impact assessment at a later stage.**

**2. Agree that any such revenue savings proposals, income generation options and identified service pressures are delegated to the Executive Director in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.**

**13. CFS BUDGET MONITORING (FORECAST FINANCIAL OUTTURN AT MONTH 6 - SEPTEMBER 2022)**

Chris Munday highlighted the small overspend of 0.3% which had been forecasted at month 6, taking into account all reserves.

The budget continued to be monitored closely to maintain budget savings targets.

**RESOLVED that the Committee notes:**

- 1. The current forecast financial outturn for 2022/23;**
- 2. The projected use of reserves**

**14. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**


Members requested that future agendas be shorter to enable proper consideration of the reports.

The Committee noted the work programme.

**15. ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (IF ANY)**

None.

The meeting finished at 9.05pm

	<p><b>Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</b></p> <p><b>20 March 2023</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p>Educational Standards in Barnet 2021/2022</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Chair of the Committee, Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix A: Summary of Educational Standards in Barnet, 2021/22</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Chris Munday, Executive Director, Children and Family Services Chair of Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) Board <a href="mailto:chris.munday@Barnet.gov.uk">chris.munday@Barnet.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 0208 359 7099</p> <p>Neil Marlow, Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning, Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) <a href="mailto:neil.marlow@Barnet.gov.uk">neil.marlow@Barnet.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 0208 359 7725</p>
<p><b>Summary</b></p>	
<p>Barnet is well known for the quality of its schools and the diversity of its educational offer. The quality of Barnet’s schools is a significant contributory factor to making the borough a popular and desirable place to live and supports our strategic drive to be the most family friendly borough in London. This report provides information on validated results for 2021/22 assessments and national examinations, set out in Appendix A.</p>	

<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<p><b>1. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee note the validated results for school performance in Barnet for the academic year 2021/22 as set out in Appendix A: Summary of Educational Standards in Barnet, 2021/22</b></p>

## 1 WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Appendix A provides validated results for the 2021/22 academic year for Barnet's state-maintained schools (including Academies and Free Schools) and comparisons with statistical neighbours, the national average, and the London average (where available). It provides information on the attainment (i.e. the standards reached) and the progress of pupils across all key stages. The appendix will be made available to schools and will be published on the Barnet Council website.
- 1.2 For some years, Barnet has been among the top performing local authority areas in the country in relation to the achievement of children and young people and the quality of our schools. Barnet Council's aspiration is to be among the top 10% of local authorities in relation to the quality of provision in its schools.
- 1.3 In November 2020 the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee considered and approved a report entitled Education Strategy 2021–2024, which set out an education strategy for the Borough for the period 2021 to 2024. The Education Strategy sets out the shared ambition of the strategic partnership between the council, schools and BELS to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people in Barnet.
- 1.4 Results for the national examinations and assessments that took place across the early years, primary and secondary phases in summer 2022 have now been published. Barnet's secondary schools continue to perform very well and there have been improvements across early years and primary schools; with Barnet performing in the top quartile of local authorities for most indicators and in the top ten per cent on most measures at KS4.
- 1.5 Appendix A provides an analysis of school performance issues in Barnet based on the validated assessment and examination results. This data refers to pupils being educated in Barnet schools and colleges; not all of these pupils will be Barnet residents. **Headline results from this analysis include:**

### Good and outstanding schools

- At the end of January 2023, the percentage of Good and Outstanding schools in Barnet was 98%, above National, Inner London and Outer London averages. The percentage of primary and secondary schools in Barnet rated Good or Outstanding is in the top 10% of the country. 100% of Secondary schools, Special schools, PRUs and Nursery schools are rated Good or better by Ofsted. All schools with Additional Resourced Provision for pupils with special educational needs are rated good or outstanding.

### Attendance

- Primary attendance as at the end of the Spring term 2022 was 94.4% and is above the national average. Barnet's ranking increased to rank 12<sup>th</sup> (out of 152 LAs) and is in the top 20% of LAs. Secondary attendance is now 93.4%, ranked 10<sup>th</sup> nationally, and thus also in the top 10% of LAs.

## Early years

- The percentage of children who achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the Early Years Foundation Stage was in line with the national average but below the London and statistical neighbour average, with Barnet's national ranking dropping from 33<sup>rd</sup> in 2019 to 83<sup>rd</sup> in 2022.

## Primary

- Year 1 Phonics – attainment dropped and is above the national average but below the London and statistical neighbour average and is below the top 25% of LAs (ranked 48<sup>th</sup>).
- In Key Stage 1 attainment at the expected standard is above the national average in all subjects but tends to be below the London average. Attainment tends to be within the top 20-30% of LAs, and there has generally been a drop in ranking across all subjects / thresholds between 2019 and 2022.
- At Key Stage 2, Barnet is 13<sup>th</sup> in the country for the number of pupils reaching the expected standards in Reading, Writing and Maths combined. Maths results were particularly strong (6<sup>th</sup> best LA in the country). Attainment of the expected standard across Reading, Maths and 'Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling' (GPS) was in the top 10% of LAs nationally. Attainment in Writing continues to improve with attainment of the expected standard at ranked 16<sup>th</sup>, having improved from 100<sup>th</sup> in 2016.
- The average scaled score at KS2 in Barnet is in the top 10% of LAs nationally in all subjects, and ranks Barnet 2<sup>nd</sup> best LA for Reading, 4<sup>th</sup> best in GPS and 6<sup>th</sup> best in Maths.
- Progress of pupils between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in all subjects is significantly better than the national average. Barnet is in the top 10% of LAs in the country for Maths and Reading progress. It ranks 26<sup>th</sup> for progress in Writing, a consistent increase from 44<sup>th</sup> in 2019.
- Attainment in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined by disadvantaged KS2 pupils is now in the top 10% of LAs, with Barnet ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the country. In 2016 the percentage of disadvantaged pupils reaching the expected standard in Reading Writing and Mathematics was 46%. In 2022, this has increased to 55%. The gap between disadvantaged pupils in Barnet and Other Pupils nationally is smaller than national, London and statistical neighbours and the progress made by disadvantaged pupils in Barnet between KS1 and KS2 exceeds national and statistical neighbour averages.
- Barnet is performing better than the national and statistical neighbour averages in Reading Writing and Maths combined in nearly all the ethnic pupil categories for the proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard. Barnet's Black pupils attain in line with Black pupils nationally (ranked 60<sup>th</sup>).
- Attainment in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined by KS2 pupils on SEN Support is in the top 20% of LAs nationally (16<sup>th</sup>), and for children and young people with an EHCP (21<sup>st</sup>).
- Progress at KS2 for EHCP and SEN Support pupils is in the top 10% of LAs for Reading and Maths, and in the top 20% for Writing.

## Secondary

- Barnet's Progress 8 in 2022 ranked Barnet the 7<sup>th</sup> best Local Authority in the country (out of 152 LAs) in 2022. These results gauge the progress made by students during their time at secondary school.
- The average 'Attainment 8' score in Barnet in 2022 is 58.1 points, compared to the national average of 48.9 points, ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country.
- Barnet was in the top 10% nationally in both Progress 8 (7<sup>th</sup>) and Attainment 8 (9<sup>th</sup>) for disadvantaged pupils.
- At KS4 Barnet ranked in the top 20% of LAs for both Attainment and Progress 8 for pupils at SEN Support, and in the top 10% for pupils with an EHCP.
- The Attainment 8 score was close to, or in the top 10% nationally for all groups except Black pupils, Other and Chinese pupils. (ranked 61<sup>st</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup>).
- The Progress 8 scores were in or close to the top 10% for all groups except Black pupils, Other and Chinese pupils (ranked 92<sup>nd</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup>).
- The 2022 results for Looked After Children have not yet been published.
- End of Key Stage 5 'A Level' attainment is in the top 5-10% nationally on all key measures, except in the vocational qualification groups of technical qualifications or applied general qualifications. Results in respect of vocational qualifications (Applied General and Technical) are included in the Appendix in the section relating to Key Stage 5.

- 1.6 The report identifies a number of areas for development, which reflect the key priorities in the Education Strategy approved by the Children, Education, and Safeguarding Committee in November 2020. The following areas have been identified as priorities for 2020-23 by the School Standards and Settings Partnership Board:

### Early Years

As Barnet's attainment has dropped in 2022, and as the new Early Years profile is still in the process of being embedded into schools and settings, Early Years remains a priority.

### Phonics

Our phonics ranking fell between 2021 and 2022 to 40<sup>th</sup> and therefore is back as a priority for this year.

### Key Stage 1 Achievement

This is remaining a priority (even though 2023 is the final year for KS1 SATs) as we do need to be assured that practice at KS1 is of a good or better quality.

### KS2 Writing

Although there are still inconsistencies nationally with teacher assessment of writing, we still need to maintain a focus on this subject in order to continue to raise relative attainment.



### Progress and Progression Pathways of low attaining pupils across all key stages

It remains a priority for us to ensure that sufficient quality and learning opportunities (e.g. vocational qualifications) exist for children and young people to succeed across a range of skills and abilities, particularly those with SEND. This is particularly a concern with the recent changes to the vocational routes and the uncertainty about the continuation of BTECs and the recent commencement of T Levels. We will continue to support schools to try and ensure the options available for students are as wide ranging as possible.

### Achievement of Disadvantaged Pupils, pupils with SEND and other Vulnerable Groups (including Children in Need)

Although Barnet's Disadvantaged pupils perform better than national Disadvantaged pupils, there are still significant gaps in achievement between those pupils who are Disadvantaged and those who are not.

### Looked After Children (LAC)

There is not yet any national data available on the attainment of LAC pupils. Provisional results indicate that there has been a decrease overall in the attainment of LAC children in Barnet. The overall achievement of LAC remains a priority. It needs to be recognised that when we report on Looked After Children we are including all children looked after by Barnet, wherever they may be receiving their education.

### Pupils' Mental Health

Following the pandemic, which is backed up by a recent survey of secondary pupils, the mental health of all pupils still needs to be a priority, including support for pupils with managing test and exam stress.

### Recruitment

Recruiting and retaining good quality teachers, school leaders and support staff is a challenge for schools across Barnet. Supporting recruitment of staff and giving the necessary support to staff at all levels remains a priority for us.

### Safeguarding

We continue to support schools in ensuring that their safeguarding arrangements are effective.

### Curriculum

To support all schools in the effective planning and delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum which is ambitious and designed to give all pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils and including pupils with SEND, the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. This is a priority to reflect the changes introduced in the 2019 Ofsted inspection framework.

- 1.7 Each of these priorities has an Action Plan associated with it, outlining the steps we are taking to address these areas for development. Progress against these priorities will be monitored by the Schools and Settings Partnership Board.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The report informs the committee of progress in implementing the School and Settings Improvement Strategy 2021-2024. National assessments and examinations are used to report on and monitor schools' performance. Data available in the public domain provides an opportunity for benchmarking Barnet's performance, celebrating successes and identifying areas for improvement to ensure Barnet's schools remain popular and successful.

## **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 None.

## **4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Data will be shared with schools. Appendix A will be published on the Barnet website and available for parents and residents. The analysis will be used to continue to raise standards across Barnet schools, maximising the impact of Barnet's school improvement approach.
- 4.2 Barnet Council's strategy for continuing to deliver high standards in Barnet schools is set out in the Education Strategy 2021-2024, which was approved by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee in November 2020. Barnet Education and Learning Service will continue to work with schools to address the priorities included in the School and Settings Improvement Strategy 2022/23

## **5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The quality of the education offer in Barnet is at the heart of Barnet's continuing success as a place where people want to live, work and study. It plays a crucial part in making Barnet a popular and desirable place with many families attracted to the area by the good reputation of Barnet's schools.
- 5.1.2 Excellent educational outcomes and ensuring children and young people are equipped to meet the needs of employers are key to delivering Barnet Council's strategic objectives set out in its Corporate Plan. 'The Barnet Plan 2021 to 2025' is based on four core priorities, one being "Creating a Family Friendly Barnet - enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best."
- 5.1.3 The London Borough of Barnet's Education Strategy 2021-2024 sets out that good leadership and governance is a key driver to the achievement of the improvement of schools and educational outcomes.

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

- 5.2.1 The work to drive the delivery of Barnet Council's contribution to the Education Strategy is delivered from within existing resources paid to Barnet Education and Learning Service Ltd.

## **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 Article 7 - Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships of Barnet Council's constitution states that the committee has responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools, education and safeguarding.
- 5.3.2 Section 13A of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on local authorities to secure efficient primary, secondary and further education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area. Section 13A requires local authorities to ensure that their functions are exercised with a view of promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and training and promoting fulfilment of learning potential for children and young people in its area. Section 14 requires local authorities to secure sufficient schools and sufficient is defined by reference to number, character and equipment to provide appropriate education based on age, ability and aptitude, as well as ensuring diversity of provision. These duties are overarching duties and apply regardless of whether schools are maintained by the local authority or independent of local authority support.
- 5.3.3 In relation to academies, local authorities should raise any concerns directly with the DfE Regional Director.

## **5.4 Insight**

None

## **5.5 Social Value**

- 5.5.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders

## **5.6 Risk Management**

- 5.6.1 The Risk Register for the education service includes a risk that inadequate monitoring of, and support for, schools may result in failure to take rapid and decisive action in relation to poorly performing schools, including using statutory intervention powers with regard to maintained schools and considering alternative

structural and operational solutions (non-Academies) leading to poor delivery of education outcomes. To control against this risk, the School and Settings Improvement Strategy 2021 to 2024 includes a 'Monitoring, support, challenge and intervention strategy'. A Schools Review Group of officers from Barnet Education and Learning Services and wider Barnet Council staff monitors individual schools and agrees appropriate actions/interventions. Alternative solutions are considered for all schools that are judged by OfSTED to Require Improvement or are felt to be at risk of such a judgement. Clear systems and procedures are in place to monitor the progress of all 'Schools Causing Concern'.

## **5.7 Equalities and Diversity**

5.7.1 Barnet Council has a duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.7.2 The protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation.

5.7.3 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. School improvement monitoring, supporting and challenging arrangements ensure that the quality of education in Barnet is maintained and improved. Outcomes for all groups of children and young people are monitored including children with special educational needs and disabilities and disadvantaged children (those in receipt of free school meals and children looked after). Barnet's Children and Young People Plan, the Education Strategy 2021-2024 and the School and Settings Improvement Strategy 2021 to 2024 all have a strong focus on improving outcomes for disadvantaged groups of children and young people.

## **5.8 Corporate Parenting Principles**

- 5.8.1 The School and Settings Improvement Strategy 2021-24 includes details of progress in respect of the achievement of looked after children and includes this as a priority for the future.

## **5.9 Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.9.1 A summary of the key changes from the previous School and Settings Improvement Strategy was discussed and agreed at the Schools Review Group, consisting of BELS and wider Barnet council officers, in October 2022 and the School and Settings Standards Partnership Board (consisting of BELS and wider Barnet Council officers and headteachers) in November 2022.

## **5.10 Environmental Impact**

- 5.10.1 None

## **6 Background Papers**

- 6.1 Key education strategies, including the Schools and Settings Education Strategy 2021 to 2024 were considered and approved by the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee at its meeting on 30th November 2020. These have been published on Barnet Council's website and can be seen here: <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-support-information>
- 6.2 In November 2022 the update to the School and Settings Improvement Strategy for Barnet for the period 2022 to 2024 was reported to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee. The Report was an update of the Strategies that were approved by the Committee in November 2020 as part of the Education Strategy for Barnet Council for the period 2021 to 2024.
- 6.3 Reports on education standards are reported annually to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee. The last one was reported to the committee in January 2022 and can be found here: [Agenda for Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee on Wednesday 19th January, 2022, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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**Appendix A:**

**Summary of Educational Standards in Barnet, 2021-22**

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## 1. Background

Barnet is well known for the excellent quality of its schools and the diversity of its educational offer. These are at the heart of Barnet’s vision to be Family Friendly and its continuing success as a desirable place where people want to live, work and study. Excellent educational outcomes and ensuring children and young people are resilient and equipped to meet the needs of employers are vital to Barnet’s future success.

Our strategic vision for education in Barnet is:

*Resilient schools – resilient communities: We want Barnet to be the most successful place for high quality education where excellent school standards result in all children achieving their best, being safe and happy and able to progress to become successful adults.*

In order to achieve this, our mission is to ensure:

- Every child attends a **good or outstanding school**, as judged by Ofsted.
- The attainment and progress of children in Barnet schools is **within the top 10%** nationally.
- There is accelerating progress of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils in order to diminish the difference between them and their peers.

Based on Barnet’s strategic vision, indicators have been colour-coded based on Barnet’s achievement compared to other Local Authorities (LAs) nationally using the following system<sup>1</sup>:

LA rank percentile	LA ranking
Top 10%	<16
Top 20%	16-30
Top 25%	31-38
50% - 25%	39-76
Bottom 50%	76+

## 2. Summary of strengths and areas for development

### 2.1. Strengths, indicated by pupil attainment data

- At key stage 1, Barnet’s FSM pupils generally perform well compared to other FSM pupils nationally: the national ranking for Barnet’s FSM pupils in all subjects / thresholds is higher than for Barnet’s non-FSM pupils.
- Key stage 2 attainment: In 2022, attainment of the expected standard across RWM (combined), Reading, Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) was in the top 10% of LAs nationally. Barnet’s national ranking dropped the most in RWM combined (EXS+) from 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, but attainment remains very strong. Writing attainment was just outside the top 10% of LAs (ranked 16<sup>th</sup>) and in line with London average.
- Key stage 2 average scaled score: the average scaled score of pupils in Barnet is in the top 10% of LAs nationally in all subjects, and the national ranking for this increased in Reading and GPS (to ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>), while remaining fairly stable in Maths (ranked 5<sup>th</sup> to ranked 6<sup>th</sup>).
- KS2 Writing progress: Although Writing progress in 2022 was less than the London average (+0.8 compared to +0.9 in London), Barnet significantly closed the gap in progress from the 2019 year, increasing its ranking from 44<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>.
- KS2 disadvantaged pupils: Barnet’s disadvantaged pupils outperform London’s disadvantaged pupils in all subjects except for Writing (EXS+). Relative to other LAs, Barnet’s disadvantaged pupils outperform Barnet’s non-disadvantaged pupils in all subjects except for Reading Maths EXS+.
- SEN pupil performance at KS2 and KS4: At KS2, SEN pupils in Barnet attain very well, ranked 16<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> for RWM (EXS+ and GDS respectively). Progress is particularly strong for Reading and Maths (15<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>), and within the top 10% of LAs nationally. Progress in Writing is within the top 20% of LAs for SEN pupils (ranked

<sup>1</sup> NB: We have used rank percentile (i.e. where Barnet’s rank is as a proportion of total 152 LAs) which is different to the percentile of Barnet’s outcome measure



29th). Attainment and progress for non-SEND and EHCP pupils is in the top 10% of LAs for all key measures. Attainment and progress for SEN Support pupils at KS4 is in the top 20% of pupils for all key measures, and in the top 10% for the proportion of SEN Support pupil's attainment at 5+ in English and Maths.

- KS4 performance: Performance in all of the headline KS4 measures is within the top 5-10% for both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils.
- Academic attainment at KS5: This remains in the top 5-10% for all headline measures.
- Educational readiness for adulthood: Attainment by the age of 19 for both FSM and non-FSM pupils is very high, with an above average proportion of pupils holding a level 2 qualification and English and Maths, and a Level 3 qualification.

### Other particular strengths

- Percentage of Good and Outstanding schools above National and London averages
- Significant improvement in Primary attendance since 2016
- Positive and productive relationship with schools
- Robust procedures for monitoring, challenging and supporting schools (see School and Settings Improvement Strategy)
- Processes and structures are dynamic in order to meet the diverse needs of schools
- We generally know our schools well, particularly LA maintained schools and identify vulnerable schools.
- Strong track record of supporting Schools Causing Concern to make the necessary improvements
- High expectations and aspirations for schools in Barnet
- Thriving and popular school improvement traded service (BPSI)
- Continued delivery of a governor training programme
- Knowledge, skills and successful experience of School Improvement Team – credibility and track record of success
- Links, contacts and involvement with key organisations e.g. Ofsted, DfE, Teaching Schools, Diocesan Boards, Academy Trusts
- Strong communication and teamwork between members of the school improvement team and between teams, both within and outside of BELS

## 2.2. Areas for Development – Schools and Settings Standards Partnership Board Priorities

Based on available provisional education performance data, the following areas have been identified as a priority for improvement by the Schools and Settings Standards Partnership Board:

### 2.2.1. Early Years

As Barnet's attainment has dropped in 2022, and as the new Early Years profile is still in the process of being embedded into schools and settings, Early Years remains a priority.

### 2.2.2. Phonics

Our phonics ranking fell between 2021 and 2022 to 40th and therefore is back as a priority for this year.

### 2.2.3. Key Stage 1 Achievement

This is remaining a priority (even though 2023 is the final year for KS1 SATs) as we do need to be assured that practice at KS1 is of a good or better quality.

### 2.2.4. KS2 Writing

Writing is still likely to be a priority looking at provisional outcomes. Although there are still inconsistencies nationally with teacher assessment of writing, we still need to maintain a focus on this subject in order to continue to raise relative attainment.

### 2.2.5. Progress and Progression Pathways of low attaining pupils across all key stages

It remains a priority for us to ensure that sufficient quality and learning opportunities (e.g. vocational qualifications) exist for children and young people to succeed across a range of skills and abilities, particularly those with SEND. This is particularly a concern with the recent changes to the vocational routes and the uncertainty about the continuation of BTECs and the recent commencement of T Levels. We will continue to support schools to try and ensure the options available for students are as wide ranging as possible.

### 2.2.6. Achievement of Disadvantaged Pupils, pupils with SEND and other Vulnerable Groups (including Children in Need)

Although Barnet's Disadvantaged pupils perform better than national Disadvantaged pupils, there are still significant gaps in achievement between those pupils who are Disadvantaged and those who are not.

We are still awaiting more detailed information on pupils with SEND and Children in Need. This remains an important priority.

### 2.2.7. Looked After Children

There is not yet any national data available on the attainment of LAC pupils. Provisional results indicate that there has been a decrease overall in the attainment of LAC children in Barnet. The overall achievement of LAC remains a priority.

### 2.2.8. Pupils' Mental Health

Following the pandemic, which is backed up by a recent survey of secondary pupils, the mental health of all pupils still needs to be a priority, including support for pupils with managing test and exam stress.

### 2.2.9. Recruitment

Recruiting and retaining good quality teachers, school leaders and support staff is a challenge for schools across Barnet. Supporting recruitment of staff and giving the necessary support to staff at all levels remains a priority for us.

### 2.2.10. Safeguarding

We continue to support schools in ensuring that their safeguarding arrangements are effective.

### 2.2.11. Curriculum

To support all schools in the effective planning and delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum which is ambitious and designed to give all pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils and including pupils with SEND, the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. This is a priority to reflect the changes introduced in the 2019 Ofsted inspection framework.

The factors that both research and Ofsted inspection evidence indicate contribute most strongly to an effective education where pupils achieve highly are:

- The school's curriculum is rooted in the solid consensus of the school's leaders about the knowledge and skills that pupils need in order to take advantage of opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. In this way, it can powerfully address social disadvantage.
- It is clear what end points the curriculum is building towards and what pupils need to know and be able to do to reach those end points.
- The school's curriculum is planned and sequenced so that new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught before and towards its clearly defined end points.
- The curriculum reflects the school's local context by addressing typical gaps in pupils' knowledge and skills.
- The curriculum remains as broad as possible for as long as possible. Pupils are able to study a strong academic core of subjects, such as those offered by the EBacc.

- There is high academic/vocational/technical ambition for all pupils, and the school does not offer disadvantaged pupils or pupils with SEND a reduced curriculum.

### 3. Quality of Schools

A summary of the current position for primary and secondary schools (January 2023) is provided below and shows that the proportion of schools that are Good or Outstanding is above the national average, and either above or in line with the London averages.

#### 3.1. Good or outstanding schools

All Barnet special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. All four Nursery Schools in Barnet are rated Outstanding by Ofsted. The proportion of all Barnet schools that are currently good or outstanding is 98%. The percentage of primary and secondary schools in Barnet rated Good or Outstanding is in the top 10% of the country.

<b>% of schools achieving a good or better Ofsted rating: overall effectiveness, as at January 2023</b>						
	Nursery	PRU	Special	Primary	Secondary	Grand Total
Barnet	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%	98%
London	99%	98%	96%	96%	91%	95%
National	97%	86%	90%	90%	80%	88%
Barnet rank	1	1	1	13	1	5

### 4. School Attendance

This data reports on absence of pupils of compulsory school age in state-funded primary and secondary schools during the first two terms of the school year 2021-22; it is therefore not a full academic year.

#### 4.1. Absence: Primary

2022 absence figures below are from the two-term attendance SFR published by the DfE (Autumn Term 2021 and Spring Term 2022) and based on this Barnet has increased to rank 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be important to monitor primary attendance post the pandemic and assess the need for revisiting and attendance interventions.

<b>Total absence from Primary Schools - authorised and unauthorised (autumn and spring terms only)</b>						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	3.9	3.9	3.7	-	2.8	5.6
Outer London	4.0	4.1	3.8	-	3.2	5.7
England	4.0	4.2	3.9	-	3.3	6.2
Barnet rank	55	20	27	-	19	12

#### 4.2. Absence: Secondary

Overall absence in secondary schools is ranked in the top 10% of local authorities (LAs) nationally.

<b>Total absence from Secondary Schools - authorised and unauthorised (autumn and spring terms only)</b>						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	4.6	4.5	4.3	-	3.6	6.6
Outer London	4.8	4.9	4.7	-	4.1	7.1
England	5.2	5.4	5.2	-	4.6	8.6
Barnet rank	18	8	8	-	7	10

## 5. Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children’s ‘school readiness’ and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

Children achieving a good level of development are those achieving at least the expected level within the following areas of learning: communication and language; physical development; personal, social and emotional development; literacy; and mathematics.

Foundation stage profile results were not reported nationally in 2020 and 2021, due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2022 results were therefore the first set of results since 2019.

### 5.1. EYFSP: Good Level of Development (%)

Attainment of a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage is in line with the national average (65%). Barnet has seen a greater drop in attainment (-9.4 pp) compared with (-6 for Barnet’s statistical neighbours). Barnet’s national ranking has therefore dropped to sit within the lowest 50% of LAs nationally.

Percentage of children achieving good level of development in FSP						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	73.3	74	74.3	-	-	64.9
Outer London	73.2	73.8	74.5	-	-	67.9
Statistical Neighbours	72.95	73.69	74.04	-	-	68.05
England	70.7	71.5	71.8	-	-	65.2
Barnet rank	39	35	33	-	-	83

### 5.2. EYFSP: Good Level of Development (%) - FSM Pupils (Non-FSM in brackets)

Attainment of a good level of development for FSM pupils in 2022 is above England’s FSM pupil’s attainment (49%) but remains below Outer London and Barnet’s statistical neighbours (55% and 54%). There remains a large gap between Barnet’s FSM pupils and the national attainment for non-FSM pupils at EYFSP (52% vs 69%, a gap of -17 pp). This gap is wider than it was in 2019 (-11pp).

Barnet’s national rank for FSM pupils, however, is significantly above the national rank for non-FSM pupils (ranked 40<sup>th</sup> compared to ranked 104<sup>th</sup>).

Percentage of children achieving good level of development in EYFSP - by FSM status							
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	FSM	62	63	63	-	-	52
Outer London	FSM	63	63	63	-	-	55
Statistical Neighbours	FSM	61	61	60	-	-	54
England	FSM	56	57	57	-	-	49
Barnet rank	FSM	20	27	22	-	-	40
Barnet	Not FSM	75	76	76	-	-	67
Outer London	Not FSM	75	75	76	-	-	70
Statistical Neighbours	Not FSM	75	75	76	-	-	70
England	Not FSM	73	74	74	-	-	69
Barnet rank	Not FSM	-	-	-	-	-	104

## 6. Year 1 Phonics

The Phonics screening check is a statutory assessment for all pupils in year 1 (typically aged 6) to check whether they have reached the expected standard in phonic decoding. All state-funded schools with a year 1 cohort must administer the check. Those pupils who did not meet the standard in year 1 or who were not tested, must be re-checked at the end of year 2 (typically aged 7).

### 6.1. Phonics: Year 1 Phonics (% Working at)

Barnet’s attainment in Phonics is above the national average, but slightly below the Outer London and statistical neighbours average in 2022. Barnet’s attainment since the pandemic has dropped from the top 10% of LAs (in 2019) to rank 40.

% of pupils achieving expected level in Phonics decoding - all pupils										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	72	76	80	81	85	86	86	-	-	77
Outer London	72	77	79	83	84	85	84	-	-	78
Statistical Neighbours	71	76.9	78.4	82.4	83.5	85.4	84.2	-	-	79.2
England	69	74	77	81	81	82	82	-	-	75
Barnet rank	-	-	-	-	10	9	4	-	-	40

### 6.2. Phonics: Year 1 Phonics (% Working at) - FSM Pupils

Similar to the pattern for all pupils, Barnet’s attainment in Phonics for FSM pupils is above the National average, but below the Outer London and Statistical Neighbour Averages in 2022. Barnet’s rank has also dropped from the top 10% of LAs (ranked 15<sup>th</sup>) in 2019 to ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in 2022.

% of pupils achieving expected level in Phonics decoding - FSM										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	61	66	68	72	76	79	76	-	-	64
Outer London	61	66	69	73	74	75	75	-	-	68
Statistical Neighbours	57.3	64.7	67.3	70.3	71.8	74.7	72.7	-	-	66.4
England	56	61	65	69	68	70	70	-	-	62
Barnet rank	-	-	-	-	12	7	15	-	-	49

## 7. Key Stage 1

Children are assessed at the end of KS1. They are judged as to whether they have reached the expected standard (EXS) in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science and the higher standard (greater depth, GDS) in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

### 7.1. KS1: Attainment – All Pupils

Attainment at the expected standard is above the national average in all subjects, but is generally 1-2pp below the London average (with the exception of Science, where Barnet performs above the London average).

Barnet’s national ranking is in the top 20% of LAs for writing (EXS+<sup>2</sup>) and Writing (GDS), Maths (GDS) and Science (EXS+). The relative lowest attainment in Barnet in 2022 was in Reading (ranked 51<sup>st</sup>). No subject / threshold attainment outcome was in the lowest 50% of LAs.

Key Stage 1 Results								
		Reading EXS+	Reading GDS	Writing EXS+	Writing GDS	Maths EXS+	Maths GDS	Science EXS+
Barnet	2019	79	27	74	16	80	24	85
London	2019	77	28	73	18	79	25	83
National	2019	75	25	69	15	76	22	82
Barnet rank	2019	11	37	10	42	6	33	24
Barnet	2022	68	20	61	10	70	18	80
London	2022	70	22	63	12	71	20	78
National	2022	67	18	58	8	68	15	77
Barnet rank	2022	51	39	30	29	36	30	23

### 7.2. KS1: Attainment – FSM Pupils (Expected Standard) – Non-FSM Pupils in Brackets

Compared to other LAs, the ranking for the attainment of Barnet’s FSM pupils is better than the attainment of Barnet’s non-FSM pupils. The national ranking for Barnet’s FSM pupils in all subjects / thresholds is higher than for Barnet’s non-FSM pupils.

Barnet’s FSM pupils perform in the top 10% of LAs in Science (EXS+) and in the top 20% of LAs for Reading (EXS+), Writing (EXS+, GDS), Maths (EXS+, GDS). Reading GDS is the only subject where Barnet’s national ranking for FSM pupils falls outside the top 20% of LAs (ranked 38).

There remains a gap<sup>3</sup> in attainment between FSM pupils and non-FSM pupils, however. Barnet’s FSM pupils perform below their national, non-FSM pupils in all subjects. This gap is narrowest in Writing (GDS, -5pp), and is largest in Maths (EXS+, -18pp) and Reading (EXS+, -17pp).

<sup>2</sup> EXS+ means attainment the expected standard or greater depth

<sup>3</sup> The FSM gap shown in the table relates to the gap between Barnet’s FSM performance compared to the national ‘other’ / non FSM group; and the national FSM performance compared to the national ‘other’ / non FSM group

Key Stage 1 Results: 2022								
	Pupil group	Reading EXS+	Reading GDS	Writing EXS+	Writing GDS	Maths EXS+	Maths GDS	Science EXS+
Barnet	FSM	55	9	47	5	55	8	69
London	FSM	59	12	50	6	59	10	68
National	FSM	51	8	41	3	52	7	63
Barnet rank	FSM	30	38	24	16	32	30	12
Barnet	Not FSM	72	23	64	11	73	20	83
London	Not FSM	74	25	67	14	75	23	81
National	Not FSM	72	21	63	10	73	18	82
Barnet rank	Not FSM	69	39	54	37	65	35	44
Barnet	FSM gap	-17	-12	-16	-5	-18	-10	-13
National	FSM gap	-21	-13	-22	-7	-21	-11	-19

## 8. Key Stage 2

Key stage 2 assessments are reported as pupils judged to have reached the expected standard if they have scored a scaled score of 100 or above. A pupil’s scaled score is based on their raw score. The raw score is the total number of marks a pupil scores in a test, based on the number of questions they answered correctly.<sup>4</sup>

The ‘progress’ scores aim to capture the progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 1 to the end of primary school. Any amount of progress a pupil makes contributes towards a school’s progress score. Progress scores are calculated for each of reading, writing and mathematics. They are not combined. They are a type of value-added measure, which means that pupils’ results are compared to the actual achievements of other pupils nationally with similar prior attainment.

### 8.1. KS2: Attainment of the expected standard – All Pupils

In 2022, attainment of the expected standard across RWM (combined), Reading, Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) was in the top 10% of LAs nationally. Barnet’s national ranking dropped the most in RWM from 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, but attainment remains very strong.

Writing attainment was just outside the top 10% of LAs (ranked 16<sup>th</sup>) and in line with London average. There has been national recognition that due to the implementation of the new Interim Teacher Assessment frameworks, used for the first time in 2016, there is variability both in how schools interpreted the demands of the interim framework, and the way in which different LAs approached moderation.

Key stage 2 results: attaining the expected standard or above (EXS+)							
		RWM EXS+	Reading EXS+	GPS EXS+	Maths EXS+	Writing EXS+	Science EXS+
Barnet	2019	73	80	85	86	82	87
London	2019	71	78	84	83	82	86
National	2019	65	74	79	79	79	83
Barnet rank	2019	8	7	10	5	21	9
Barnet	2022	67	81	81	81	75	84
London	2022	66	79	79	78	75	82
National	2022	59	75	73	72	70	79
Barnet rank	2022	13	8	9	6	16	9

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-2#what-is-a-scaled-score>

### 8.2. KS2: Attainment of the high standard – All Pupils

Attainment of the high standard in Reading, maths and GPS was in the top 10% of LAs nationally and above the national and London averages. Attainment of the high standard in RWM combined was in the top 20%. Writing was just below the top 20% (ranked 38<sup>th</sup> nationally) with Barnet’s % GDS above the national average but below the London average.

Key stage 2 results: attaining the high standard or greater depth (GDS)						
		RWM GDS	Reading GDS	GPS GDS	Maths GDS	Writing GDS
Barnet	2019	15	35	47	37	22
London	2019	14	31	45	34	24
National	2019	11	27	36	27	20
Barnet rank	2019	11	6	12	8	47
Barnet	2022	10	37	40	33	15
London	2022	11	33	38	30	17
National	2022	7	28	28	23	13
Barnet rank	2022	23	6	10	7	38

### 8.3. KS2: Average Scaled Score (SS)

The average scaled score is calculated as the mean scaled score of all pupils awarded a scaled score. Pupils who did not take the test or took the test but did not receive a scaled score are excluded.

The ‘expected’ standard is equal to a scaled score of 100. The average scaled score of pupils in Barnet is in the top 10% of LAs nationally in all subjects, and the national ranking for this increased in Reading and GPS (to ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>), while remaining fairly stable in Maths (ranked 5<sup>th</sup> to ranked 6<sup>th</sup>).

Key stage 2 results: average scaled score				
		Reading SS	GPS SS	Maths SS
Barnet	2019	106	109	107
London	2019	105	108	106
National	2019	104	106	105
Barnet rank	2019	6	6	5
Barnet	2022	107	108	106
London	2022	106	107	105
National	2022	105	105	104
Barnet rank	2022	2	4	6

### 8.4. KS2: Average Progress Score

Progress scores are presented as positive or negative numbers either side of zero. A score of zero means that pupils in a school (or group) made the same progress as those with similar prior attainment nationally; a positive score means that they made more progress than those with similar prior attainment; a negative score means they made less progress than pupils with similar starting points nationally.

The average progress made by all pupils across Barnet was above the national and London averages in maths and reading (top 10% of LAs), and above the national average in Writing (top 20% of LAs). Although Writing progress in 2022 was less than the London average (+0.8 compared to +0.9 in London), Barnet significantly closed the gap in progress from the 2019 year, increasing its ranking from 44<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>.



Key stage 2 results: average progress score				
		Reading Progress	Writing Progress	Maths Progress
Barnet	2019	1.80	0.62	2.00
London	2019	0.85	0.77	1.20
National	2019	0.03	0.03	0.03
Barnet rank	2019	5	44	4
Barnet	2022	1.47	0.78	1.89
London	2022	0.75	0.89	1.16
National	2022	0.04	0.05	0.04
Barnet rank	2022	6	26	7

### 8.5. KS2: Attainment of the Expected Standard – Disadvantaged Pupils<sup>5</sup>

The attainment (EXS+) of disadvantaged pupils (those eligible for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years and/or children looked after) is in the top 10% of LAs for all subjects. The target is for Barnet to be within the top 10% of local authorities nationally (i.e. 15<sup>th</sup> or above) for Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined. Barnet is ranked 10<sup>th</sup>, well within the top 10% of Local Authorities in the country.

Barnet’s disadvantaged pupils outperform London’s disadvantaged pupils in all subjects except for Writing (EXS+). Relative to other LAs, Barnet’s disadvantaged pupils outperform Barnet’s non-disadvantaged pupils in all subjects except for Reading Maths EXS+.

Key stage 2 results: attaining the expected standard or above (EXS+), by Disadvantaged							
		RWM EXS+	Reading EXS+	GPS EXS+	Maths EXS+	Writing EXS+	Science EXS+
Barnet	Disadvantaged	55	73	70	69	64	74
London	Disadvantaged	53	70	68	66	64	73
National	Disadvantaged	43	63	59	56	55	66
Barnet rank	Disadvantaged	10	10	11	10	15	12
Barnet	Not disadvantaged	73	85	85	86	79	88
London	Not disadvantaged	72	83	84	84	80	87
National	Not disadvantaged	66	80	79	78	76	85
Barnet rank	Not disadvantaged	18	12	13	7	31	14

Barnet	Disadvantaged gap	-11	-7	-9	-9	-12	-11
National	Disadvantaged gap	-23	-17	-20	-22	-21	-19

### 8.6. KS2: Progress scores for Disadvantaged pupils<sup>6</sup>

Barnet is in the top 10% of local authorities for the progress both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils make in both Reading and Maths. In Writing, the progress of disadvantaged pupils is in the top 20% of LAs, whereas the progress of non-disadvantaged pupils is just below the top 20% (ranked 36<sup>th</sup>).

<sup>5</sup> The disadvantaged gap shown in the table relates to the gap between Barnet’s disadvantaged performance compared to the national non-disadvantaged group; and the national disadvantaged performance compared to the national non-disadvantaged

<sup>6</sup> The disadvantaged gap shown in the table relates to the gap between Barnet’s disadvantaged performance compared to the national non-disadvantaged group; and the national disadvantaged performance compared to the national non-disadvantaged

Key stage 2 results: average progress score, by disadvantaged				
		Reading Progress	Writing Progress	Maths Progress
Barnet	Disadvantaged	0.77	0.24	0.72
London	Disadvantaged	0.02	0.28	-0.13
National	Disadvantaged	-0.83	-0.76	-1.15
Barnet rank	Disadvantaged	8	22	8
Barnet	Not disadvantaged	1.77	1.02	2.40
London	Not disadvantaged	1.11	1.20	1.81
National	Not disadvantaged	0.41	0.39	0.54
Barnet rank	Not disadvantaged	6	36	6
Barnet	Disadvantaged gap	0.37	-0.15	0.18
National	Disadvantaged gap	-1.24	-1.15	-1.69

### 8.7. KS2: Attainment of the Expected Standard – by Ethnicity

The table below shows the percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard, and the high standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined, by ethnicity; alongside the average progress score for each subject.

White pupils in Barnet generally perform highest across the board, when compared to the performance of the same ethnic group in other LAs (i.e. the national ranking is generally highest). Asian pupils tend to perform the highest and have the highest rates of progress between key stages.

The proportion of Black pupils who attain the expected standard or above in RWM is in line with the national average (ranked 60<sup>th</sup>). The proportion of Any Other Ethnic Group pupils attaining EXS+ or GDS standard in RWM is ranked 46<sup>th</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> nationally.

Black and Any other Ethnic Group pupils make less progress than other Black / Any other ethnic group pupils do nationally (ranked 88<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup>).

Key Stage 2 Attainment and Progress, by Ethnic group						
		RWM EXS+	RWM GDS	Reading Progress	Writing Progress	Maths Progress
Any other ethnic group	Barnet	60	7	1.49	0.99	2.85
	National	57	7	0.90	1.22	2.18
	Barnet rank	46	64	51	96	55
Asian	Barnet	76	21	1.53	1.50	3.65
	National	67	10	0.93	1.07	2.17
	Barnet rank	20	8	37	64	25
Black	Barnet	60	9	1.13	0.55	0.30
	National	60	7	0.46	0.57	0.05
	Barnet rank	60	34	44	88	64
Mixed	Barnet	71	11	1.46	0.85	1.04
	National	61	9	0.42	0.32	-0.04
	Barnet rank	9	29	13	45	17
Unclassified	Barnet	59	5	1.42	0.35	2.08
	National	48	6	-0.10	-0.27	-0.31
	Barnet rank	19	62	25	48	15
White	Barnet	68	8	1.52	0.60	1.71
	National	58	7	-0.18	-0.19	-0.33
	Barnet rank	11	31	7	29	10

### 8.8. KS2: Attainment of the expected standard – SEN (Special Educational Needs) in Reading, Writing and Mathematics

SEN pupils are categorised as 'SEN with an Education, Health and Care Plan' (EHCP) or 'SEN Support'.

Overall, SEN pupils in Barnet attain very well, ranked 16<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> for RWM (EXS+ and GDS respectively). Progress is particularly strong for Reading and Maths (15<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>), and within the top 10% of LAs nationally. Progress in Writing is within the top 20% of LAs for SEN pupils (ranked 29<sup>th</sup>).

Despite SEN pupils making less progress than their non-SEN counterparts, the progress of SEN pupils overall, and for EHCP and SEN Support pupils individually, is above the progress that the same groups make nationally in every KS2 subject.

Key Stage 2 Attainment and Progress, by SEND						
		RWM EXS+	RWM GDS	Reading Progress	Writing Progress	Maths Progress
All SEN	Barnet	26	2	-0.42	-1.09	0.05
	National	18	1	-1.88	-2.10	-1.54
	Barnet rank	16	5	15	29	13
EHC plan	Barnet	10	0	-3.03	-2.67	-1.89
	National	7	0	-4.49	-4.11	-3.88
	Barnet rank	21	55	27	32	18
No SEN	Barnet	76	12	1.88	1.20	2.30
	National	69	9	0.51	0.58	0.43
	Barnet rank	17	24	6	33	7
SEN support	Barnet	31	2	0.42	-0.57	0.67
	National	21	1	-1.17	-1.55	-0.91
	Barnet rank	16	12	11	28	12
SEN unclassified	Barnet	57	7	3.43	0.89	3.59
	National	24	2	-2.58	-3.31	-3.95
	Barnet rank	4	15	11	22	8

## 9. Key Stage 4

A new secondary school accountability system was implemented for English and Maths in 2017 with the movement away from A\* to C grades to a numbered 9-4 standard with 4 being a higher standard than the previous C grade. 4 is regarded as a “pass”, with 5 a “good pass.” In 2018 this was rolled out to the vast majority of other GCSE subjects. The 2019 headline accountability measures for schools are: Attainment 8, Progress 8, attainment in English and Maths (9-5), and English Baccalaureate (EBacc) achievement (including English and Maths 9-5) and EBacc Average Point Score (APS).

### 9.1. KS4: Average Attainment 8 Score

Barnet’s Attainment 8 ranking has remained in the top 3 LAs nationally between 2021 and 2022.

Key stage 4: Attainment 8				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	57.1	60.1	60.8	58.1
London	49.7	53.2	54.1	52.7
National	46.8	50.2	50.9	48.9
Barnet rank	2	2	3	3

### 9.2. KS4: Average Progress 8 Score

The average Progress 8 score has dropped slightly from 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2019 to 7<sup>th</sup> in 2022, but KS4 progress 8 remains significantly above the progress made by pupils across England and within London.

Key stage 4: Progress 8				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	0.57	-	-	0.49
London	0.22	-	-	0.23
National	-0.03	-	-	-0.03
Barnet rank	2	-	-	7

### 9.3. KS4: 4-9 in English and Maths

The proportion of pupils who attained a 4 or above in English and Maths is in the top 5% of LAs nationally (ranked 7<sup>th</sup>). This is a slight decrease from 2021, but attainment remains above the London and national average.

Key stage 4: English and maths 9-4				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	78.8	83.1	84	80.5
London	68.7	75	75.6	74.3
National	64.9	71.2	72.2	69
Barnet rank	3	4	4	7

### 9.4. KS4: 5-9 in English and Maths

The proportion of pupils who attained a 4 or above in English and Maths is in the top 5% of LAs nationally (ranked 4<sup>th</sup>). This is a slight decrease from 2021, but attainment remains above the London and national average.

Key stage 4: English and Maths 9-5				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	62.7	67.9	69.8	66.8
London	49	55.4	57.1	57.5
National	43.4	49.9	51.9	50
Barnet rank	2	2	2	4

### 9.5. KS4: Attainment 8, by disadvantaged status<sup>7</sup>

Disadvantaged pupils in Barnet have significantly higher attainment than disadvantaged pupils in London and National. The gap between Barnet’s disadvantaged pupils and national non-disadvantaged pupils widened in 2022 to -6.7pp, but this gap remains significantly smaller than the national gap (-15.2pp) and the London gap (-8.4pp). London and national attainment saw the attainment gap widen slightly between 2021 and 2022.

Key stage 4: Attainment 8, by disadvantaged					
		2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	Disadvantaged	46.4	50.0	50.4	46.2
London	Disadvantaged	42.6	46.5	46.7	44.5
National	Disadvantaged	36.8	40.2	40.3	37.7
Barnet rank	Disadvantaged	5	4	4	9
Barnet	Disadvantaged all other	60.8	63.3	64.6	62.2
London	Disadvantaged all other	53.6	56.5	57.8	56.6
National	Disadvantaged all other	50.4	53.7	54.7	52.9
Barnet rank	Disadvantaged all other	2	2	2	4
Barnet	Disadvantaged gap	-4.0	-3.7	-4.3	-6.7
National	Disadvantaged gap	-13.6	-13.5	-14.4	-15.2

<sup>7</sup> The disadvantaged gap shown in the table relates to the gap between Barnet’s disadvantaged performance compared to the national non-disadvantaged group; and the national disadvantaged performance compared to the national non-disadvantaged

### 9.6. KS4: Progress 8, by disadvantaged status<sup>8</sup>

Disadvantaged pupils in Barnet make less progress than their non-disadvantaged counterparts in Barnet, but they do make more progress than all pupils nationally. Barnet performs in the top 10% for progress for both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils.

Barnet’s gap in progress between Barnet’s disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils nationally (-0.08) is smaller than that for London (-0.3) and national (-0.7).

Key stage 4: Progress 8, by disadvantaged					
		2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	Disadvantaged	0.23	-	-	0.07
London	Disadvantaged	-0.07	-	-	-0.15
National	Disadvantaged	-0.45	-	-	-0.55
Barnet rank	Disadvantaged	4	-	-	7
Barnet	Disadvantaged all other	0.70	-	-	0.64
London	Disadvantaged all other	0.39	-	-	0.42
National	Disadvantaged all other	0.13	-	-	0.15
Barnet rank	Disadvantaged all other	3	-	-	6
Barnet	Disadvantaged gap	0.10	-	-	-0.08
National	Disadvantaged gap	-0.58	-	-	-0.70

### 9.7. KS4: Performance by Ethnicity

At secondary level in the headline measures, Asian, White and Mixed ethnic group pupils achieve very highly, generally in the top 10% of LAs nationally.

Black and Chinese pupils perform relatively less well compared to the same groups in other LAs: Black pupils perform between rank 52<sup>nd</sup> and rank 61<sup>st</sup> for attainment but are ranked 92<sup>nd</sup> for progress 8; Chinese pupils’ attainment is slightly better (ranked 43<sup>rd</sup>, 51<sup>st</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup>) but progress is ranked 110<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> The disadvantaged gap shown in the table relates to the gap between Barnet’s disadvantaged performance compared to the national non-disadvantaged group; and the national disadvantaged performance compared to the national non-disadvantaged

Key stage 4: Performance by ethnic group, 2021-22					
		Attainment 8	5-9 E&M	4-9 E&M	Progress 8
Asian	Barnet	72.3	87.1	92.6	0.90
	National	55	62.1	77.8	0.54
	Barnet rank	3	3	8	17
Black	Barnet	49.7	51.9	70.6	0.18
	National	48.9	49.8	69.4	0.18
	Barnet rank	61	52	57	92
Chinese	Barnet	70.2	87.1	96.8	0.69
	National	66.8	81.6	90.1	0.99
	Barnet rank	43	51	48	110
Mixed	Barnet	57.9	65.2	81.0	0.32
	National	49.5	50	68.7	-0.04
	Barnet rank	7	7	9	13
Other	Barnet	52.6	59.1	71.9	0.64
	National	51	54	70.9	0.54
	Barnet rank	47	35	61	55
Unclassified	Barnet	53.1	62.7	75.5	0.18
	National	43	42.5	59.8	-0.39
	Barnet rank	19	11	19	35
White	Barnet	57.1	66.1	81.0	0.46
	National	47.9	48	67.7	-0.14
	Barnet rank	6	6	7	8

### 9.8. KS4: Performance by SEN

Performance in the headline KS4 measures by each SEN cohort (SEN Support, EHCP, No SEN needs) is strong for all groups.

Attainment and progress for non-SEND and EHCP pupils is in the top 10% of LAs for all key measures. Attainment and progress for SEN Support pupils is in the top 20% of pupils for all key measures, and in the top 10% for the proportion of SEN Support pupil’s attainment a 5+ in English and Maths.

Key stage 4: Performance by SEN category, 2021-22					
		Attainment 8	5-9 E&M	4-9 E&M	Progress 8
No SEN	Barnet	61.9	73	86.7	0.63
	National	52.6	56	76.1	0.10
	Barnet rank	4	6	6	7
SEN State EHC	Barnet	21.6	14.7	23.7	-0.84
	National	14.3	7	13.5	-1.33
	Barnet rank	6	8	6	9
SEN Supp	Barnet	41.2	35.3	50.7	-0.14
	National	34.9	22.5	39.2	-0.47
	Barnet rank	16	12	21	18

## 10. Looked after Children

Educational achievement data for Looked After Children in the 2022 academic year is due to be published in May 2023.

## 11. Post-16 engagement

16-17 year olds are required to remain in education and training in England following raising the participation age legislation in 2013. Barnet has a significantly lower proportion of its CYP not in education employment of training compared to its statistical neighbours and the national average. Barnet is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> (in the top 10% nationally).

<b>16-17 year olds that are Not in Education, Employment or Training</b>					
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Barnet</b>	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.8
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.4
<b>England</b>	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.6
<b>Barnet rank</b>	-	-	-	-	6

## 12. Key Stage 5

A new 16-18 school and college accountability system was implemented in 2016, which included new headline accountability measures and changes to the methodology for calculating 16-18 results.

The 2016 recommendations from Professor Alison Wolf’s Review of Vocational Education took effect for the first time in 16-18 performance tables in 2016 and also in the calculation of the data underpinning the relevant DfE statistical release. This means that the measures only include vocational qualifications that are on the approved list of applied general or technical level qualifications: -

- Applied general qualifications: level 3 (advanced) qualifications that provide broad study of a vocational subject area e.g. a level 3 certificate/diploma in business or applied science.
- Tech level qualifications: level 3 qualifications for students wishing to specialise in a technical occupation or occupational group e.g. a level 3 diploma in construction or bricklaying.

### 12.1. KS5: 3+ A grades at GCE/Applied GCE A Level and Double Awards

The proportion of Barnet pupils who attained 3 or more A grades at A level places Barnet within the top 10% of LAs nationally, and above the national and statistical neighbour averages.

<b>3+ A grades at GCE/Applied GCE A Level and Double Awards</b>					
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Barnet</b>	19.6	18.1	30.9	37	30.7
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	15.2	13.6	24.7	31.5	24.0
<b>England</b>	12.5	12.3	22.5	28.9	22.7
<b>Barnet rank</b>	6	7	-	-	8

### 12.2. KS5: Percentage of students achieving grades AAB or better

The proportion of Barnet pupils who attained grades AAB or higher at A level places Barnet within the top 10% of LAs nationally, and above the national and statistical neighbour averages.

<b>Percentage of students achieving grades AAB or better at GCE A level, Applied GCE A level and Double Award A level</b>					
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Barnet</b>	30.9	27.3	43.6	51.4	44.2
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	23.2	20.7	35.9	44.1	34.8
<b>England</b>	20.5	20.3	33.5	41.4	34.1
<b>Barnet rank</b>	6	8	-	-	9

### 12.3. KS5: Percentage of students achieving grades AAB or better, two in facilitating subjects

The proportion of Barnet pupils who attained grades AAB or higher (with at least 2 in facilitating subjects) at A level places Barnet within the top 5% of LAs nationally, and above the national and statistical neighbour averages.



Percentage of students achieving grades AAB or better at A level, of which at least two are in facilitating subjects					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnet	24.5	23.2	33.1	38.3	32.7
Statistical Neighbours	19.5	17.8	28.4	33.8	26.2
England	15.9	15.8	24.2	28.6	23
Barnet rank	6	7	-	-	7

**12.4. KS5: Average Point Score per Entry**

The average point score per entry across A levels is in the top 105% of LAs for pupils in Barnet. The average point score across the vocational qualification groups of technical qualifications or applied general qualifications is in the lowest 50% of LAs. This can largely be explained by the strong focus of nearly all Barnet secondary schools on the teaching of academic subjects at A level and the resultant strong pressure for pupils to take A level courses. In addition to this, the high quality of Barnet schools leads to a greater percentage of students following a Post 16 A Level pathway, as the schools are able to support them effectively. This in turn means there is a disproportionately low proportion of higher-attaining pupils studying for technical and general qualifications. Nonetheless, this has been agreed as a priority area by Barnet’s Schools and Settings Standards Partnership Board (SSSPB) and is being reviewed on a regular basis. This greater focus has included a dedicated member of staff appointed into the Post 16 team, an audit of non-academic post 16 options and the continuation of a post 16 vocational and technical qualification prospectus which highlights alternatives to A level options across the borough.

	Best 3 A levels		A Levels		Tech Level		Applied General Studies	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Barnet	44.8	42.0	44.4	41.7	30.0	27.8	30.7	28.7
Statistical Neighbours	42.6	39.4	42.0	38.9	32.1	30.4	32.7	31.2
England	41.4	39.0	41.6	38.8	31.8	30.6	32.8	31.9
Barnet rank	-	9	-	8	-	125	-	137

**12.5. KS5: Attainment by Age 19**

The data providing information on the attainment of 19-year olds in 2022 has not been released by the DfE yet. The scheduled date for the release of this data is April 2023.

In 2021, a higher proportion of Barnet’s 19 years old have achieved a level 2 qualification in English and Maths compared to the national and statistical neighbour average. A higher proportion have also achieved a level 3 qualification. This places Barnet in the top 5% of LAs nationally (ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively).

Achievement of a Level 2 qualification with English and Maths by the age of 19				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Barnet	78.5	77.4	79.8	80.7
Statistical Neighbours	72.77	74.12	73.64	75.97
England	68.5	68.8	68.4	70.4
Barnet rank	-	-	-	5

Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Barnet	73.6	71.6	74.2	76.6
Statistical Neighbours	66.18	66.08	66.86	69.47
England	57.4	57.1	57.7	59.8
Barnet rank	-	-	-	4

12.1. KS5: Attainment by Age 19, by FSM status

By the age of 19, a higher proportion of both FSM and non-FSM CYP have achieved a level 2+ qualification in English and Maths, and a Level 3 qualification, compared to the national and statistical neighbour average.

Attainment for non-FSM pupils is in the top 5% of LAs nationally, while attainment of FSM pupils is in the top 10-20% of LAs nationally (ranked 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>).

Barnet has a smaller attainment gap compared to the statistical neighbour and national gap for L2 with English and Maths (-23pp compared to -24pp and -27pp respectively). For the proportion of pupils who achieve a level 3 qualification, the gap in Barnet is wider than the statistical neighbour and national averages (-27pp compared to -23pp and -25pp respectively).

	Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 with English and Maths eligible for		Attainment of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 - FSM Pupils	
	FSM	Not FSM	FSM	Not FSM
Barnet	60.9	83.6	53.1	80.1
Statistical Neighbours	54.8	78.6	48.6	72.0
England	46.8	73.9	38.2	63.0
Barnet rank	15	4	19	1



London Borough of Barnet

# Carers and Young Carers Strategy

2023 - 2028

YOUR LIFE,  
YOUR CARE,  
YOUR CHOICE.

<b>Directorate</b>	Communities, Adults and Health Family Services
<b>Approvers</b>	Adults and Safeguarding Committee, Children Education and Safeguarding Committee
<b>Approval Date</b>	
<b>Review Date</b>	

## Foreword

Foreword to be added prior to publication.



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# 1. Introduction

A Carer is a person over the age of five who provides unpaid care and support to a parent, partner, child, relative, friend, or neighbour who is unable to manage on their own because of a disability or impairment, poor health, frailty, or use of drugs or alcohol. This includes:

- Adult carers: an adult aged eighteen and over who is caring for another adult such as a spouse, parent, partner, friend, neighbour, relative or adult child.
- Parent Carers: A parent or guardian who provides care to their child (of any age) to a degree greater than would be normally expected in a parenting role.
- Carers of multiple people: Those who care for more than one person and include different generations.
- Young Carers: A person under eighteen who provides or intends to provide care for another person (of any age, except where that care is provided for payment, pursuant to a contract or as voluntary work).
- Young Adult Carers: An adult aged between 18 and 25 who is caring for another adult or child.

The framework for how we intend to support carers of all ages in our borough is outlined in this strategy, which is a declaration of our commitment to carers and young carers in Barnet.

Supporting carers and young carers has been defined as a priority for the council and the NHS, and supporting unpaid carers is one of the objectives included in the council's manifesto. This strategy supports the Barnet Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Barnet's Children and Young People's Plan and Child and Family Early Help Strategy, and the Adult Social Care Reform priorities for unpaid carers. It has been developed with the direct involvement of over three hundred Barnet Carers through the co-production and engagement work led by our commissioned provider, Barnet Carers Centre, and in partnership with colleagues across the Council, Health, and the voluntary sector.

This strategy will help the council to carry out its duties to support carers in their caring role. This includes helping to prevent young carers from carrying out inappropriate caring and ensuring that carers of all ages can achieve the outcomes that they desire. Enabling carers helps to support and promote the independence of people with care and support needs. This means considering the needs of carers at various times in their caring role, such as providing support early on, support to maintain care, and support at the end of a caring role or, when moving from Family Services to Adult Social Care. By working closely across the Council and with the wider community we aim to achieve the outcomes defined within this strategy.

The next step is to translate this strategy into action so that it makes a real and lasting difference to the lives of carers of all ages.

## Scope of this strategy

This strategy will:

- set out to carers how we will support them in carrying out their caring role.
- set out to young carers how we will support them and help to prevent them from carrying out caring activities that aren't appropriate for them as young people, sometimes called inappropriate caring.
- set in motion a governance structure and action plan for all organisations to work together to support carers and young carers within Barnet.

## 2. Context

The caring relationship can be rewarding but it can also be challenging with some carers experiencing stress, social isolation, financial hardship, ill health, and minimal time for themselves. Building resilience in carers relies on having informal and local support and knowing where to access help when needed.

The Care Act 2014 put into place a consolidated legal framework for carers and means that carers are recognised in law in the same way as those that they care for. The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced a 'whole family' approach to assessment and support. Local authorities must offer an assessment where it appears that a child is involved in providing care<sup>1</sup>. This legislation is aligned with similar provision in the Care Act 2014<sup>2</sup> requiring local authorities to consider the needs of young carers if, during the assessment of an adult with care needs, or of an adult carer, it appears that a child is providing, or intends to provide, care. Both the Care Act and the Children and Families Act were designed to complement each other and promote a "whole family approach" and joined up working where needed, which avoids the need for multiple assessments. The legislation stresses the importance, of considering the outcomes that everyone may be seeking.

In Barnet, young carers assessments are undertaken via an Early Help Assessment. Assessments must consider whether the care being provided by a child is excessive or inappropriate; and how the child's caring responsibilities affects their wellbeing, education, and development. A local authority should consider how supporting the adult with needs for care and support can prevent the young carer from undertaking excessive or inappropriate care and support responsibilities.

This strategy builds on the previous Barnet Carers Strategy Action Plan and supports achieving the outcomes set within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 – 2025, the Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2027 and the Child and Family Early Help Strategy 2023-2027. In addition to local documents, this strategy has been shaped by the Adult Social Care Reform White Paper, which identifies unpaid carers as a priority area, the National Carers Action Plan (2018-2020), NHS Long Term Plan (2019), and takes into account key legislation, as outlined above.

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<sup>1</sup> Children Act 1989: section 17ZA 1(a) [inserted by section 96 Children and Families Act 2014]

<sup>2</sup> Care Act 2014: section 63(1).



## Carers in Barnet

The 2021 Census advises that Barnet has 28,808 Carers, which makes up 7.9% of total Barnet population.<sup>3</sup> This is a reduction from the 2011 census, which reported 32,256 Carers (9% of total population in 2011).

Further information around carer population is collected from our commissioner provider, Barnet Carers Centre, who report 3,703 Adults Carers, and 787 Young Carers known to them.

Although the Census provides useful information, it is widely acknowledged, both nationally and locally, that it is likely to underreport the number of carers, as many carers view their caring responsibilities as part of another role, such as that of a parent, partner, child, relative or friend. It is clear we need to identify and support carers earlier before there is a risk of carer breakdown, or carers are no longer able to care.

The Covid 19 pandemic has adversely impacted many carers and young carers in our communities. The Council recognizes the importance of working closely with its partners and the community and voluntary sector in responding to the needs of carers and young carers to ensure that we are appropriately supporting carers and young carers in our communities to maintain their health and wellbeing and achieve the outcomes that they desire.

Recognising the demographic changes in Barnet, we acknowledge the need to ensure that support and services are accessible to, and appropriate for, the diverse group of people who are carers. Some of the key demographic considerations that inform our action plan are as follows:

- We have an aging Carer population that presents with a myriad of physical health needs.
- The Covid 19 pandemic and the subsequent economic crisis has adversely impacted many carers and young carers in our communities, and there is a greater need around moderate to severe mental health challenges.
- Carers have long had concerns about their own mental health and the mental health of the people they care for. In a recent survey 46% of carers cited their mental health in their top two concerns for 2023. Almost 80% of those responding to the survey placed the mental health of the person they care for in their top two concerns for 2023.
- According to the latest census findings, proportionately more of Barnet's residents are now children and young people or older adults compared to 2011. The numbers of older adults in Barnet will continue to increase, putting increasing demand on adult social care and creating more caring roles.
- Barnet has the highest recorded prevalence of dementia across North Central London and as of 2020 has the largest population of all London boroughs.
- There has been a 9.3% decrease over the past 10 years of residents identifying as white although this group still represents over half of Barnet's population followed by those identifying as Asian representing 19.3% of Barnet's population. The ethnic group showing the highest level of growth over the last 10 years has been those who identify as Other Ethnic Groups now representing 9.8% of the population.
- Over a third of Barnet's population self-reported as Christian with those reporting as having no religion being the next most common consisting of 20.2% of Barnet's

<sup>3</sup> [Unpaid care, England, and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk)

population. Overall, 14.5% of Barnet’s population self-reported as Jewish, however the Jewish population in Barnet represents 39% of London’s Jewish population.

- The latest census finding has reported that Barnet has a growing number of migrants settling in the borough and staying for the longer term.

## 3. We listen

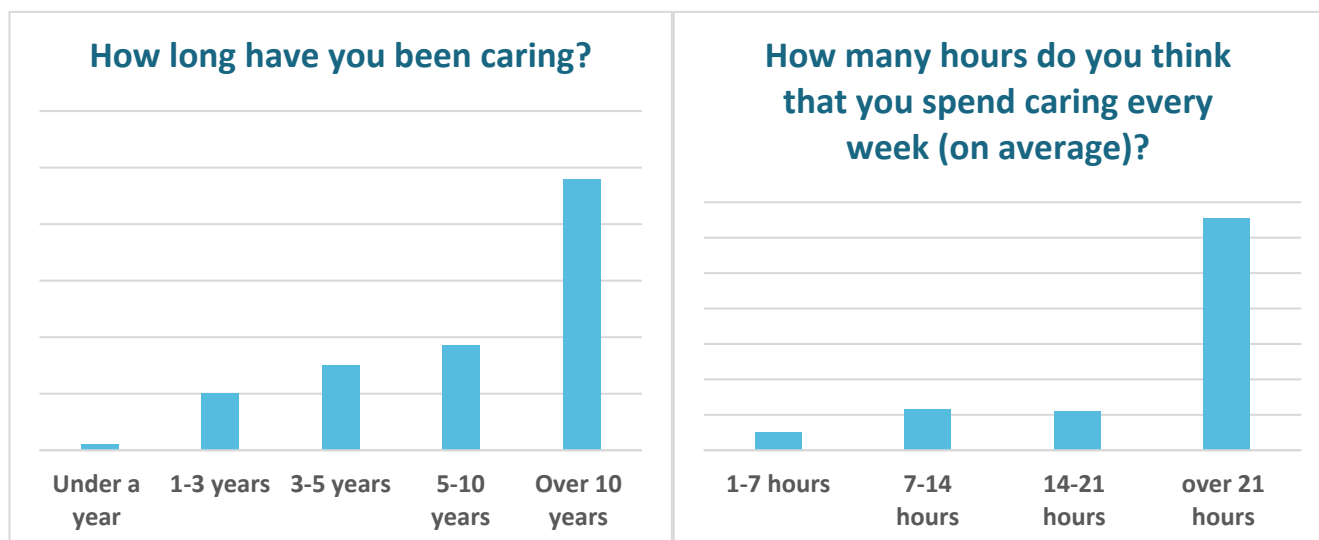
Barnet Council, and its key partners across health and social care, are committed to empowering carers to share their views and to work in partnership in the shaping and delivery of services.

This strategy, the priorities and the outcomes identified have been codesigned with young and adult carers across the borough. Over three hundred carers have been engaged via a combination of focus groups and online surveys. Six focus group discussions were delivered by Barnet Carers Centre and took place in person and remotely. An online survey was sent to all Adult Carers known to the Barnet Carers Centre; and promoted via the council’s engagement and consultation website, Engage Barnet.

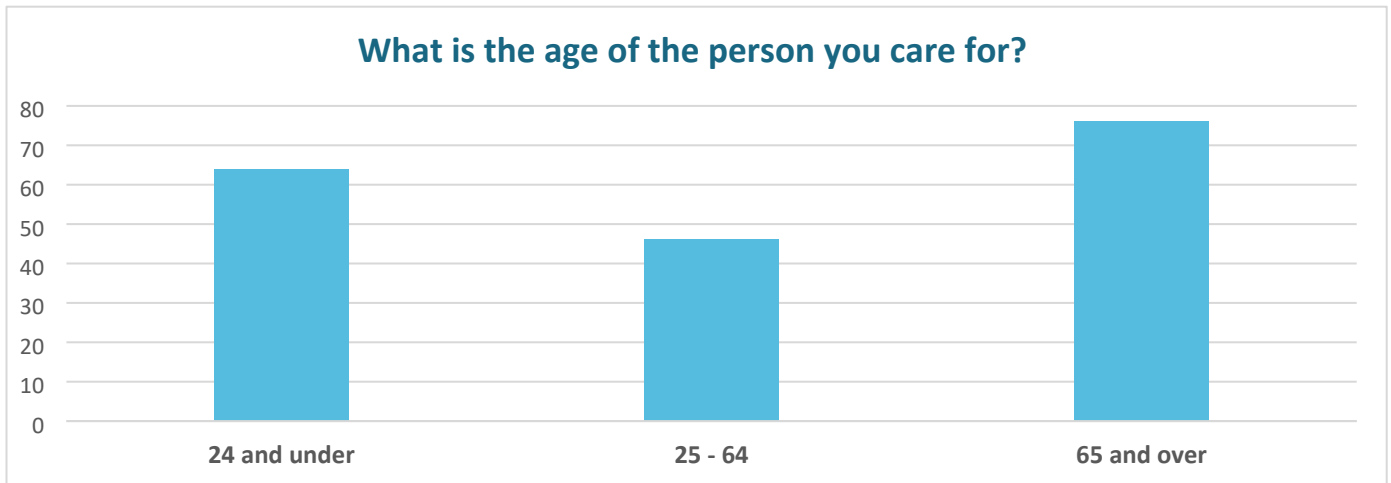
Furthermore, this strategy incorporates feedback collected from carers via the Survey of Adult Carers, conducted biannually by local authorities across the country, and makes important considerations of the hardships recorded as faced by carers during the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Some key findings from the engagement activity and feedback collated are as follows:

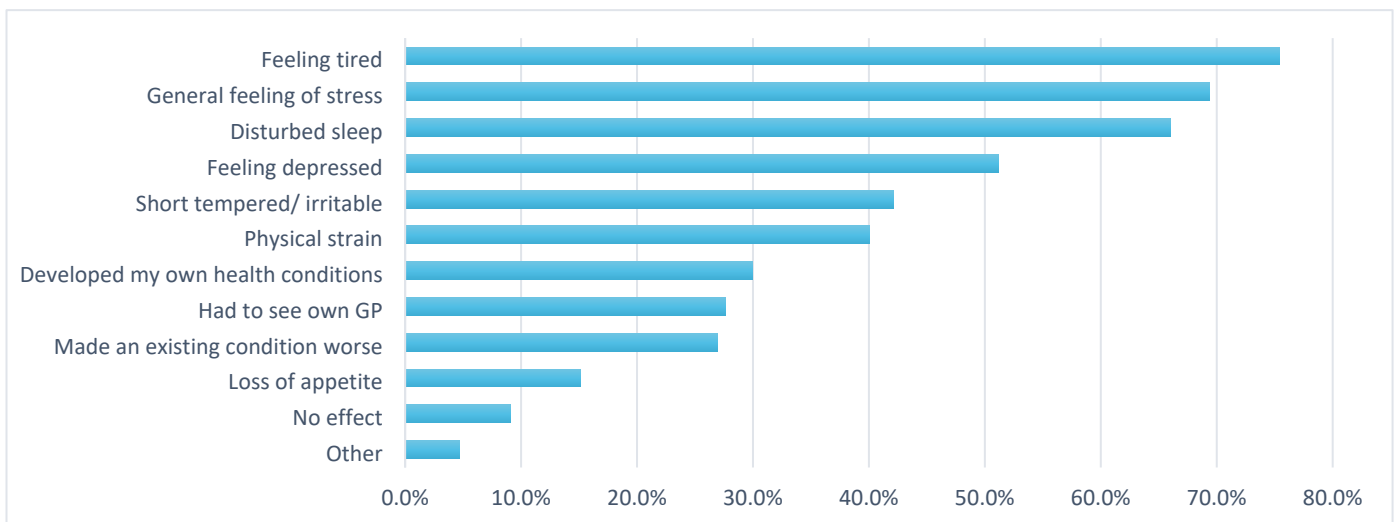
1. **A majority of respondents to the survey specific to this strategy have been caring for over 10 years and spend over 21 hours on average in a week in their caring role (Carers Strategy Survey)**



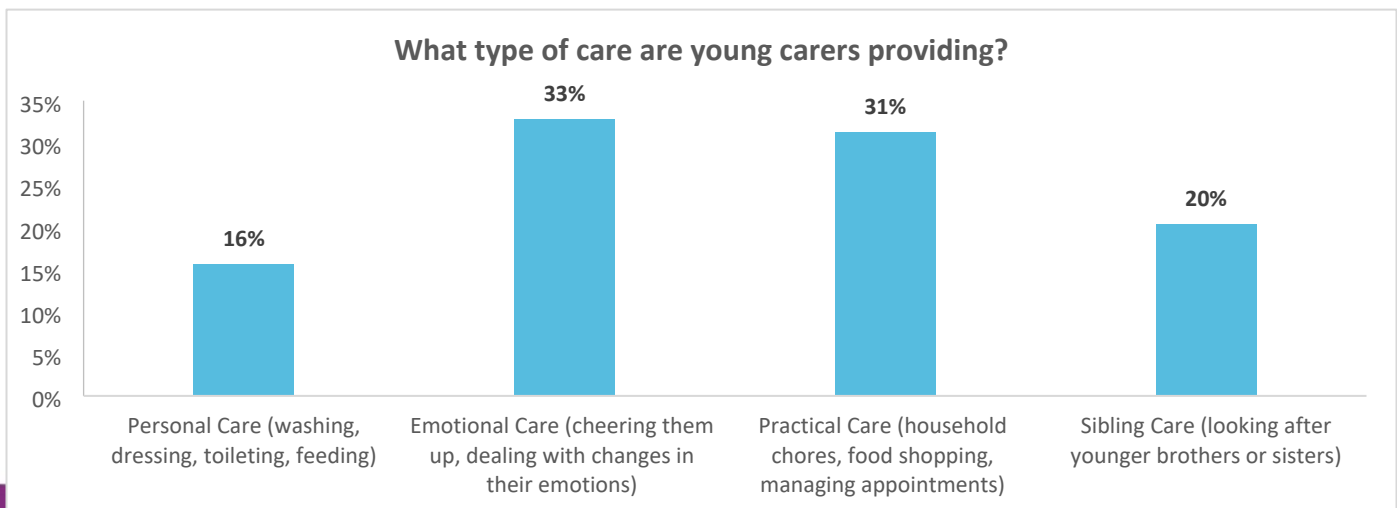
**2. Parent carers have emerged as a prominent carers group through recent engagement and co-production discussions (Carers Strategy Survey and Focus Groups)**



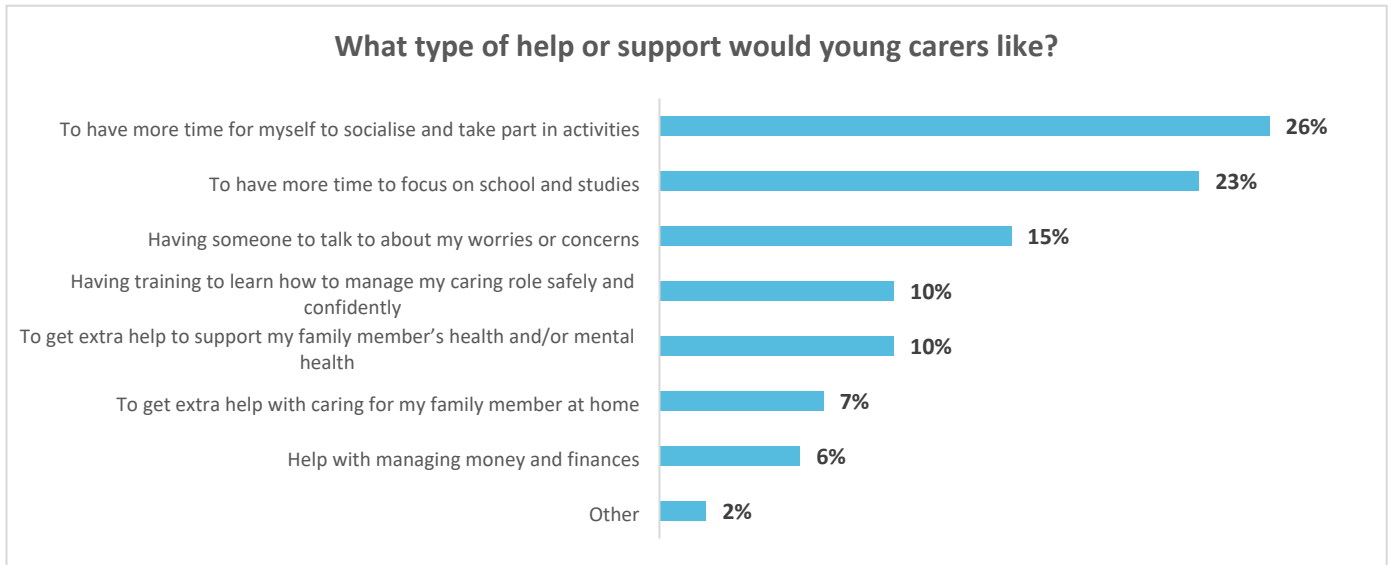
**3. Over two thirds of carers reported that caring caused them general feelings of stress (Survey of Adult Carers, conducted biannually by local authorities)**



**4. Young carers are providing care for a wide range of things (Carers Strategy Young Carers Survey)**



**5. Young carers need support with a range of things including time to themselves and time to focus on school (Carers Strategy Young Carers Survey)**



**Engagement & Co-production**



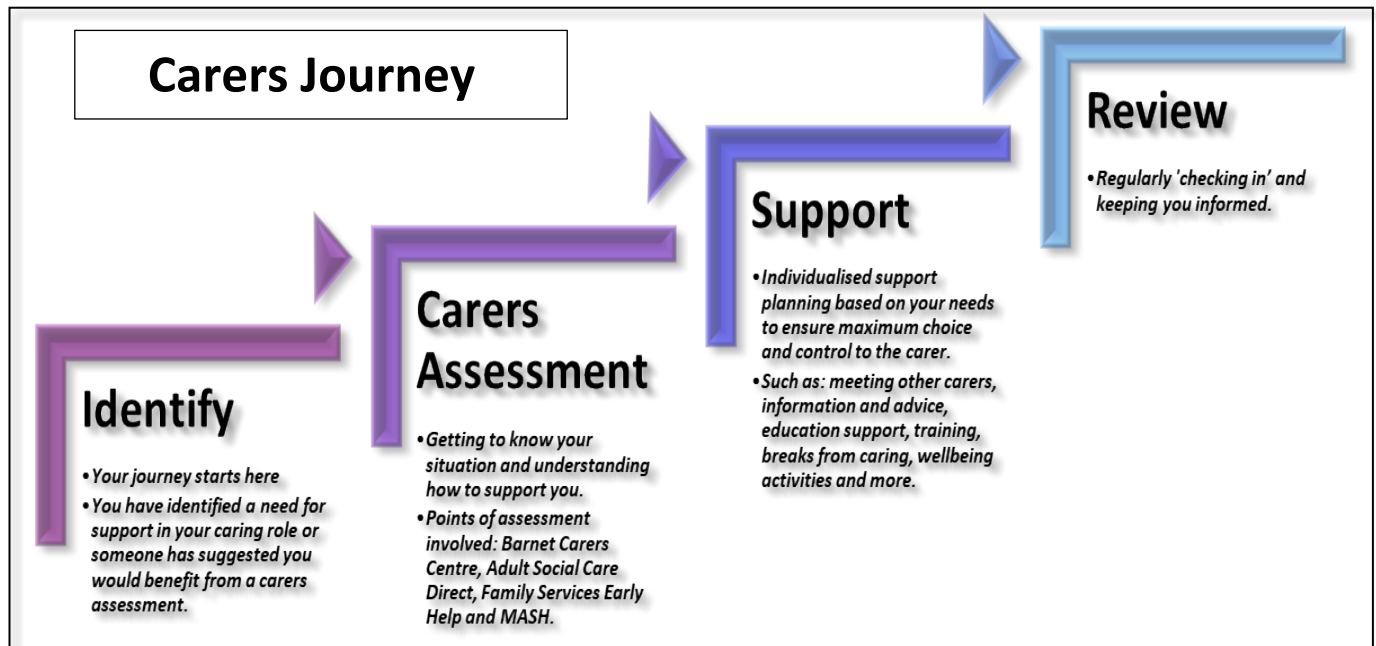
The engagement and co-production activity has been helpful in collecting a varied range of feedback and recommendations directly from carers. Some of the feedback refers to existing or planned services that may need to be reviewed in order to bring improvements, whereas some feedback highlights the importance of effective communication to address a lack of awareness around existing support offer, and some feedback is helpful in identifying gaps in our services that we intend to address through this strategy and its associated action plan.

During the engagement and co-production activity, carers advised us that:

- They feel there is a lack of awareness of the role Carers play in supporting the cared for person, by the Health and Social Care system and the wider community.
- They are only identified when they have reached crisis, which means it is too late for preventative support.
- They need more support with transport costs and entitlements such as free bus passes and access to discounted goods, products, and services to enable them to continue supporting themselves and the cared for person.

- They value a choice of activities that enable them to have regular breaks from their caring responsibilities to support balancing their caring roles with their own personal lives and interests.
- They would benefit from training sessions about the disabilities / conditions of the cared for person and the various Health and Social Care pathways that can be used to access support.
- They have struggled during the pandemic - often not being informed when there is a change to the care and support of the cared for person (e.g., plan for the reopening of day opportunities).
- They need regular respite, and they do not know what respite is available and how to access it.
- There is an issue around “inconsistent care” with different paid carers turning up to carry out care, which can be distressing for the cared-for person.
- Young Carers often take on huge amounts of responsibility and need support to balance competing responsibilities and demands. Priorities for young people included pursuing their education and to have time dedicated to their mental health and wellbeing support as well as time for themselves and socialising.
- Timely, accessible, and appropriate support is required to enable sustained improvement in mental health and wellbeing. Many of the young carers we spoke to mentioned difficulties around accessing effective mental health and wellbeing support, specifically citing waiting times or accessibility.
- Young carers raised concerns around the demands of their education, and a sense that not all teaching staff were aware of how their caring responsibilities impact the abilities of young carers to participate and achieve in the same ways as their fellow pupils.
- Young Carers spoke of a need for increased understanding on the part of teaching and pastoral staff around their attainment and school performance relative to their caring responsibilities.
- Some young carers were concerned about finances and young carers were not always aware of the financial support available.

# 4. Existing Offer and Services



Family Services, Adult Social Care and Health are committed to working together to ensure that carers and young carers are identified, offered assessments, and supported based on a whole family approach, whichever service they are identified through. This is in order to ensure that carers and young carers receive the support that they need in their caring role.

We actively promote carers using local resources and support networks in the community. For those needing more targeted support, we support them to access statutory support services where this is needed.

Carers Assessments are currently completed by a social care professional employed by the local authority, or by an appropriately trained professional working for Barnet Carers Centre. Associated care and support planning, where decisions are required around access to social care funding, are handed over to the local authority.

GPs are actively encouraged to identify carers when they access primary care services and record this on their care record. GPs are able to signpost to carer support and make onward referrals as needed, as well as making reasonable adjustments to ensure that carers are able to support their cared for in accessing the healthcare services that they need.

Support that is available to carers within the borough includes:

- Information and advice
- Respite vouchers (for use in residential or nursing homes)
- Training – including modules on practical support like safe Moving and Handling, supporting those living with dementia, or a mental health diagnosis.
- Service Provision to address the needs identified in the Assessment – delivered by a provider arranged by the local authority or funded via a Direct payment (these are cash

payments, which can be used to purchase support, which you have been assessed as needing to support you in your caring role)

- Peer support and carer forums
- Counselling for carers
- Mental Health support (through Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Mental Health Trust) Working with key partners to provide whole family support where needed (e.g., health and Family Services)

Support offered through the commissioned lead provider, Barnet Carers Centre, includes: -

- Activities
- Information and advice
- Engagement with, and support within, schools
- Leisure pass scheme
- Wellbeing support
- Counselling for carers
- Carer specific training
- Referrals to local agencies and services
- Mentoring
- Educational support to young carers

In addition to the above, other statutory and voluntary sector organisations working across the borough also offer support to carers both formally and informally.

## 5. Delivering Change

The implementation of this strategy will be planned in consideration of good practice principles, to ensure the associated action plan is accessible, co-produced, timely and tailored to deliver meaningful outcomes to carers of all ages.

An important strand of our action plan will be addressing challenges relating to under-representation or disproportionality, following further interrogation of demographic data - notably census data that has recently become available.

To deliver the action plan we will work across the council and its partners from social care, health, education, housing, and the voluntary and community sector. We will also develop relationships across the wider council and community, including employment and business sectors as part of this approach, and will continue to put Carers at the heart of this process through their direct involvement in the Carers Partnership Board =, which will be set up as a priority action arising from this strategy. The Board will be multi-disciplinary, multi-organisation and include representation from carers of all ages in Barnet.

### Priorities

We have coproduced the following four priorities to guide our action planning:

1. Proactive identification of carers and young carers.
2. Individualised support so that carers and young carers can get the support they need and are entitled to.
3. Involving carers to shape future services and support offer.
4. Raising the profile of carers and young carers.

## Outcomes

The outcomes we will achieve through this strategy include:

1. Carers and young carers are identified at the start of their caring journey, and this enables them to access the support they need.
2. Carers are supported to fulfil their education, training, and employment potential, and have their own time for positive and recreational activities.
3. Young Carers are prevented from having to undertake inappropriate caring and provided with the support they need to learn, develop, thrive, and enjoy a positive childhood.
4. Carers are fully aware of resources available to them to help them in their caring role.
5. Carers are supported to access, financial information, and advice and as a result feel financially secure and not financially disadvantaged due to their caring role.
6. Carers see an improvement in their mental health and wellbeing.
7. Young carers feel supported in schools to enable a positive school experience.
8. The way we work across the system is informed by insight from carers' lived experience and valuable contribution.
9. Carers can actively participate in the care and support planning of the person they care for and are able to advocate for themselves and their loved ones when needed.

## Review

We have captured feedback from carers about changes to services that they feel are needed and included them directly in this strategy. We recognise that some of these changes may have already been made, or are planned, which indicates that we need to review communication, awareness, and accessibility. Whereas other changes reflect gaps in our local system that we will aim to address. This will all be taken into account in the development of the action plan to implement the strategy.



The dedicated action plan will be implemented to deliver on the priorities and outcomes outlined in this strategy over a two-year period. Oversight will be via a multi-disciplinary, multi-organisation Carers Partnership Board. There will be workstreams established, as needed, that will report into the Board. Progress towards the Action Plan will be monitored by the Board and reported to the Barnet Borough Partnership Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board and other boards/committees as requested.


Through the two-year Action Plan, the Board will identify interventions and expect to evidence:

- An increase in the number of new carers who are identified at an early stage in their caring role, with a notable improvement in identifying under-represented groups.
- Carers report a positive experience of working in partnership with Health and Social Care for their benefit and the benefit of the cared for person.
- An increase in the number of Carers who report they are aware of and are able to access appropriate information, advice, and guidance in relation to their caring role via the national and local Carers surveys.

## 6. Further reading

Adult Social Care Reform White Paper	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/people-at-the-heart-of-care-adult-social-care-reform-white-paper">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/people-at-the-heart-of-care-adult-social-care-reform-white-paper</a>
Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) information	<a href="#">Joint Strategic Needs Assessment   Barnet Open Data</a>
Census 2021 Barnet information	<a href="#">Census Maps - Census 2021 data interactive, ONS</a>
Barnet Council Labour Party Manifesto	<a href="#">Manifesto - Barnet Labour Party - Barnet Labour Party</a>
Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England, 2021-22	<a href="#">Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England, 2021-22 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>



	<p><b>Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</b></p> <p><b>20 March 2023</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2023-2027</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Chair of the Committee - Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix 1: Draft Children and Young People Plan 2023-2027</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Chris Munday, Executive Director, Children’s and Family Services <a href="mailto:Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk">Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk</a> Ben Thomas, Assistant Director, Family Services <a href="mailto:Ben.thomas@barnet.gov.uk">Ben.thomas@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

### Summary

The draft Children and Young People’s Plan 2023 – 2027 sets out the ambition, direction, priorities and objectives of partners in Barnet to support children and young people in the coming years. It outlines the priorities, needs and aspirations of our local population with the intention of making Barnet an even more family-friendly place to live. Children and young people have been central to the development of this draft from the outset and a broad range of partners as well as parent carers have been engaged in its development. The draft has been approved by the Children’s Partnership Board, which has representatives from the key partners across Barnet. This report seeks approval to go out for public consultation on the draft and delegated authority to publish the final plan following consultation.

### Recommendations

1. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee consider and comment on the draft Children and Young People Plan 2023-27 including the vision and key outcomes.

**2. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee give approval for public consultation of the draft Children and Young People Plan 2023-27.**

**3. That following public consultation delegated authority is given to the Executive Director, Children's and Family Services, in consultation with the Committee Chair, to give final approval to publish the Children and Young People Plan 2023-27.**

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 Barnet's Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) is a four-year plan setting out priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people in the borough. The plan has been co-produced through consultation and engagement that has included children, young people, young carers, children with SEND, children in care, parent carers and key agencies that support them.
- 1.2 The partnership remains committed to our vision to make the borough the best place to live for families in London in line with our concept of Family Friendly Barnet. This Plan builds on that vision where outcomes and priorities focus on how partners can support children, young people and families to be resilient thereby strengthening communities.
- 1.3 The plan's aim is for children and young people in Barnet to have the best start in life and the right support, when they need it, to live their lives successfully into adulthood.
- 1.4 Since the development of the Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2019-2023 there have been significant changes impacting the lives of young people in the borough. These include national policy changes affecting the delivery of essential services as well as raising standards in social care. There have also been changes in the way that health and police are structured, as well as a pandemic and a cost of living crisis. The Plan has therefore been developed in response to these changing needs.
- 1.5 The Plan has been driven by input from children and young people from the very beginning as part of a co-production approach. Following the Youth Perception Survey, which involved interviews with 500 young people across Barnet, there was a series of focus groups in summer 2022 with specific groups of young people such as children with a disability, young carers and those in the more deprived wards in Barnet.
- 1.6 Sessions were then held with Barnet Youth Board and Youth Assembly and Barnet On Point in September 2022 to gain initial ideas and views from young people. Meetings with Barnet Young Carers took place in December 2022

gathering their opinions and views. There have then been further meetings with Youth Board at various points in the process to get their feedback on drafts as the plan has developed.

1.7 As well as children and young people, there has been a range of engagement across Barnet at various stages of the plan's development, which has included parent carers, professionals and volunteers who support children and young people.

1.8 The plan sets out four key themes resulting from our conversations with children, young people and parent carers as well, as our own data and research. There are priorities under each of these themes set out in the plan. The plan has also been aligned with priorities set out in other current strategies.

1.9 The four themes in the plan are:

- Safe & Secure - ensuring that the most vulnerable are protected, safe and supported to make the best choices and to build trusted relationships.
- Family & Belonging – supporting all our children, including those in care and care experienced young people, to live their lives successfully, to develop a sense of identity, improve wellbeing and to have fun and play.
- Health & Wellbeing - supporting our children and young people to adopt healthy lifestyles to prevent avoidable illness and improve their social, physical and mental wellbeing, including through integrated health and social care.
- Education & Learning – supporting children and young people to reach their educational and academic potential, by closing attainment gaps and reducing exclusion.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The committee is asked to provide comments and feedback on the draft plan ahead of it being sent for public consultation. Delegated authority is being sought so that the final designed version of the plan can be published at the end of the consultation period.

## **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

3.1 The Council does not have a legal requirement to have a children and young people's plan, however the Council has a significant number of statutory duties in relation to these individuals and having a key strategic plan will enable it to plan how it will meet these duties.

## **4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

4.1 If the Committee approves the draft for public consultation, this will be carried out as described in paragraph 5.9.

- 4.2 The plan will be designed and children and young people will be involved in the design process so that they have a say in the look and feel of the final design of the plan. Delegated authority is being sought so that at the end of the consultation the final designed plan can be approved and published.
- 4.3 Implementation of the Plan will be monitored through regular reports presented to the Children's Partnership Board. This will enable review and scrutiny and highlight progress against objectives.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 Creating a place where children excel and enjoy living, enabling opportunities for young people to achieve their best is a key aim of the Barnet Family Friendly vision for the borough.
- 5.1.2 Family Friendly is one of the priorities set out in the new Barnet Plan 2023-26. It sets out the aspiration of 'resilient children thriving in resilient families living in resilient communities' and the Barnet Plan reflects many of the priorities and aspirations set out in this draft Children and Young People's Plan.

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

- 5.2.1 The Children and Young People's Plan sets out what all partners will do to improve outcomes for children and young people in Barnet. It has been developed in consultation with children, young people, parent carers and those who support them.
- 5.2.2 Council budgets already support key partnerships in Barnet to achieve the desired outcomes in the Children and Young People's Plan. Key partnerships include Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership Board and Health and Wellbeing Board which is supported by a wide variety of council budgets.
- 5.2.3 Any financial implications of the Children and Young People's Plan will be contained within existing budgets.

### **5.3 Social Value**

- 5.3.1 In taking forward the Children and Young People's Plan due regard will be paid to the Social Value Act. The Social Value Act will be a useful tool in ensuring that our activities are embedded in prevention and early intervention. We will seek to look for added value that our partners can bring to deliver desired outcomes.
- 5.3.2 The Plan is designed to proactively include young people in making decisions and providing their views about council activities that promote their safety and wellbeing.

### **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.4.1 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under various legislation including the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004 and education duties in relation to the diversity and quality of education in the Borough and support for children who are not in school and those who have special educational needs and disabilities. The duties are wide ranging and include specific and general duties, including a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, if this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings.

5.4.2 Under the Council's Constitution Article 7 (Committees, Forums and Partnerships) the terms of reference of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee includes the 'responsibility for all matters relating to children, care experienced (up to the age of 25), schools and education.'

## **5.5 Insight**

The development of the Children and Young People Plan has drawn on insight from official data sources to support identification of key areas of need across the borough along with a range of other findings and consultations including a regular young people survey capturing their views and opinions.

## **5.6 Risk Management**

The nature of services provided to children and young people provides a certain element of risk. Poor information can affect response or affect decision making that could lead to poor outcomes. Good quality data reduce this likelihood and increase the chances of children developing into successful adults and achieving and succeeding. The plan aims to reduce risk and help to drive forward improvements towards good outcomes.

## **5.7 Equalities and Diversity**

5.7.1 The Council has a duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act to have due regard to the need to:

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability;

- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation.

5.7.2 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.

5.7.3 The Plan takes account of the diverse population in Barnet. Information on children and young people relating to gender, disability and ethnicity is set out in the plan and includes the needs of these different groups. In developing the plan, there has been engagement with a wide range of children and young people across Barnet.

## **5.8 Corporate Parenting Principles**

5.8.1 The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

1. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
2. to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
3. to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
4. to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
5. to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
6. for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and;
7. to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

5.8.2 During the summer 2021, a survey by Bright Spots in partnership with Coram Voice and the Rees Centre was commissioned. The survey was set up to discover what matters to children in care and care leavers. The aim is to improve care experience for young people and give young children a voice on their own well-being. The findings from this survey were looked at alongside the Youth Perception Survey when developing this plan.

5.8.3 Priorities from the Corporate Parenting Strategy have been incorporated into the draft Children and Young People's Plan and there has been engagement with Barnet On Point in developing the plan.

## **5.9 Consultation and Engagement**



- 5.9.1 Consultation and engagement with children and young people is central to the [Corporate Plan](#) that provides support and improves outcomes. It is important that the work is child-centred and that we know, understand and capture their lived experience which leads to service improvement.
- 5.9.2 Consultation has taken place with children, young people, young carers and those that support them including services and external partners. Their feedback has been critical in the development of the draft Plan.
- 5.9.3 If the draft Plan is approved by this committee, formal public consultation will commence before the final Plan is agreed.
- 5.9.4 The consultation and engagement process will run for eight weeks and will consist of an online consultation - published on Engage Barnet which will include a link to the full strategy and a consultation document which summarise the strategy and key questions. Residents will be able to give their views via an online questionnaire. Alternative formats will also be made available on request.
- 5.9.5 This draft strategy document will have final approval for sign off via the chief officer and chair of the CES Committee to ensure it reflects the feedback from consultation and meets corporate design guidance.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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# Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2027

November 2022

Author	Lee Robinson/Ben Thomas
Directorate/Director	Ben Thomas/Chris Munday
Responsible Committee	Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee
EqlA Date	
Review Date	



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## Appendices

DRAFT



## 1. Young People's Statement – (To be added)

## 2. Foreword – (To be added)

## 3. Introduction

The Children and Young People's Plan 2023 – 2027 sets out our ambition, direction and goals in supporting children and young people in the coming years. It outlines the priorities, needs and aspirations of our local population with the intention of making Barnet an even more family-friendly place to live. We have developed this plan with children and young people who have been at the heart of its development from the start. Opinions and views have been taken from a range of young people forums including Barnet Youth Board, Barnet Youth Assembly, Barnet On Point and Barnet Young Carers, as well as parents, professionals and volunteers who support them.

Families are struggling with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that starkly exposed deep existing inequalities in society and the interconnections between them such as race, gender and disability, but it also showed what is possible when communities come together to provide support. We want to create a future that is family-friendly, where a collaborative partnership and community can work together to improve health and wellbeing, reduce poverty and tackle inequalities so that all children and young people achieve great outcomes.



This plan covers a wide range of organisations that are committed to making children’s lives better. Our Children and Young People’s Partnership board brings together representatives from different agencies across the borough who work with children, young people and their families. These include

- the North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) and its providers and commissioners (NHS)
- the Barnet Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector
- the London Borough of Barnet
- the Metropolitan Police
- Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS)
- Barnet Schools and settings
- Barnet Parent Carer Forum

Important issues that affect children, young people and their families are discussed by the Board and solutions sought. As a partnership we act to drive forward change that will deliver better outcomes for children, young people and their families in Barnet.

We have achieved a lot through the previous Children and Young People’s Plan 2019-2023 and our regular Youth Perception Survey (YPS) results have reflected these improvements. However, it is clear that there are still specific areas to address and that there are still specific groups of young people that do not feel as positively about Barnet. Our focus remains to ensure that all children and young people across Barnet feel positive whether they are disabled children, young carers, looked after children, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children or children of families moving into Barnet.

There have been many changes to the children’s landscape since 2019 - both challenging and complex. Earlier this year an Independent Review of Children’s Social Care found the current system often weakens rather than strengthens a child’s support networks, depriving them of long-term loving relationships. The recent publication of [Josh MacAlister’s review](#) of social services discovered they are overly focused on “investigating” families struggling to care for their children rather than providing support to help them through their difficulties. The report identified a series of recommendations to improve the system which we will be taking forward.

At the end of March 2022, the government published its long-awaited [SEND review](#). It was commissioned to improve an inconsistent, bureaucratic, and complicated system which often means delays in children accessing the right support for their needs. The SEND Review green paper sets out the proposals for the future of the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision



(AP) systems. It highlights the need for a system that offers children and young people the opportunity to thrive, with access to the right support, in the right place, and at the right time, so they can fulfil their potential and lead happy, healthy and productive adult lives.

We as a partnership have worked with children and young people to develop this latest version of our Plan. It sets out our ambition for the coming few years and provides a strategic partnership framework with a commitment to work in a joined-up approach to achieve our key outcomes.

## 4. Vision

Our vision is for children and young people in Barnet to have the best start in life and the right support, when they need it, to live their lives successfully into adulthood. We want Barnet to be the best place in London to raise a child and for all children to thrive, be healthy and achieve their potential – socially, emotionally, and academically. Our aim is to make Barnet the most Family Friendly borough, where children, young people and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to. We know that family has a huge impact on children's lives, wellbeing and chances of success.

We will achieve this by delivering universal services that are accessible, offer support to enable families to thrive and build on their strengths and resilience, recognising these as important protective factors. We have excellent schools achieving some of the best results in the country and our aim is for every school in Barnet to be good or outstanding. Tackling the gap by fighting inequalities will be a key driver in all that we do. We will also deliver high quality targeted and specialist services for our most vulnerable children and young people working together with our partners and strengthening our commitment to work together to secure the delivery of efficient, high quality and best value services.

Key to all of this is our focus on resilience - we want children, young people and their families to have the ability to bounce back from stress and hardship. To take on new challenges, which lead to better outcomes. Our aspiration for a Family Friendly borough is:

“Resilient children thriving in resilient families living in resilient communities”



To help us deliver the family-friendly vision, we want the children, young people and families that live here and use our services to tell us how well we are doing, what we need to do differently and help us make the changes that children and young people want to see.

[‘My Say Matters’](#) is what we have called our Child Participation and Family Involvement Strategy. It sets out the way we are going to work to involve children and young people so they can tell us what they think, help us make decisions, design and shape our services. We want to include children and young people of different ages, and up to 25 years, and parents for younger children, from different backgrounds and experiences so we can make sure that we get lots of different views and ideas. We want to include children and young people with SEND so that their views are central to what we do.

Co-production will continue to be central to our work and we will build on the strengths of the Parent Carer Forum and the Parent Champions in co-producing services for children and young people with SEND.

### **Family Friendly Index**

To assess whether we are delivering on our vision for a family friendly borough, we have developed a family friendly index, which sets out a range of aspirations for children and young people. These will be looked at annually to see if progress is being made against our vision for a family friendly borough. The aspirations are:

1. Children and young people feel that Barnet is a family friendly place to live
2. There is a strong social care service that builds resilience
3. Children and young people are involved in decision making
4. There are low figures of crime involving children and young people
5. All schools are good or outstanding and children get good educational outcomes
6. There are good outcomes for children with SEND
7. Health outcomes for children and young people are good
8. There are low rates of children and young people living in temporary accommodation or unsuitable housing
9. Families are able to access the benefits and financial assistance that they need

### **What is different about this plan**





We want all children and young people but especially those who are most vulnerable, to have access to a good education and to lead safe, happy and healthy lives. They have told us what's important to them and we have listened. Achieving the desired outcomes is not straightforward but as partners we have chosen to adopt four key drivers that underpin delivery of the Plan based on feedback.

- **Great Partnerships: Participation & co-production** - Means that children, young people, parents and carers can discuss and co-decide on all matters that affect them, like family, school, community matters, local government policies & legal policies. It means that their voices are being heard.  
*"Seeing young people not only as beneficiaries but also as partners" (YP age 18)*  
*"Children and young people as equal and valued stakeholders in all processes" (YP age 15)*
- **Inclusion** – We want to ensure that whatever benefits and opportunities there are in Barnet must be afforded to all. We want to make sure those with a perceived difference overcome barriers to participate in the community in accessing many things that others take for granted. This can include those with a disability as well as families migrating to Barnet.  
*"Access to a good school and education" (YP age 12)*  
*"Quality and inclusive and accessible education, that students with any additional needs are supported to learn and not held back due to needing additional support" (YP age 13)*
- **Great outcomes: Tackling the gap and fighting inequalities** –We aim to ensure that all residents have an equal opportunity to access quality services, at the right time and based on their needs. We are bringing together services to discuss and jointly challenge each other to address inequality, including health inequalities and drive forward better outcomes.  
*"Seeking help and understanding what's wrong and when to get help" (YP age 11)*  
*"Having people to talk to about your wellbeing and adults/ friends/ family that you can trust" (YP age 15)*
- **Children and young people having fun** - play is an essential right of childhood which stimulates brain development. For all young people it's the fun part that balances the stressful times. It's where important social skills are gained and healthy social development is learned through expression. It is our aim for Barnet to be place to live and enjoy being a part of, where there are opportunities to participate in sport, leisure and arts and cultural activities, as well as gain employment and build careers.  
*"Having access to outdoor space where young people feel safe" (YP age 11)*



## 5. About Barnet

### **\*\*INFOGRAPHIC CAPTURING DATA BELOW TO FOLLOW\*\***

#### **General**

- 28% of the borough is green with over 200 parks and greenspaces
- 14 libraries and a digital library service centres
- 5 leisure centres
- 1,075 charities
- 149 private, voluntary and independent (PVI) early years establishments in Barnet and 148 registered childminders (January 2022)
- 4 nursery schools
- 90 primary schools
- 3 all through schools
- 25 secondary schools
- 6 special schools
- 2 pupil referral units/hospital schools
- 36 independent schools
- 47 Colleges
- 3 Early Help hubs that include a range of children centres

#### **Our population**



- Almost 390,000 according to the 2021 census. Around 25%, nearly 97,000 is under the age of 19 which has increased by almost 7% since the 2011 census and is expected to continue to grow into the next decade.
- Life expectancy at birth (2017-2019) Boys 82.9: 80.9: 79.8, Girls 86.0: 84.7: 83.4 (Barnet: London: England). Higher than England average. ([JSNA](#))
- The BME population in Barnet is 40.3%, and 182 languages other than English are spoken as a first language in our primary schools.
- We have an employment rate of 76.8.4%, higher than the London average, and the average salary is £37.7k, with Jobseekers Allowance claimants lower than the London average of 8%, at 7.1% of the population.
- Barnet has been home to four asylum seeker contingency hotels since 2020, housing 999 people, with the population as of 13 May 2022 standing at 888 people. Of these, 104 are aged under 18, with one hotel accommodating 32 children under five years old.
- The borough has also welcomed British Overseas Nationals from Hong Kong and more recently refugees from Ukraine via the Homes for Ukraine scheme, with 132 visas issued in Barnet as at April 2022.

### **The children and young people we work with**

- At the time of writing, we have 1788 open Early Help Assessments, 365 children on Child in Need Plans and 238 children on Child Protection Plans. There are 323 children looked after, of which 20% are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASCs), and 320 care leavers, of which 40% are former UASC.
- The percentage of children at secondary school in receipt of free school meals is in line with the national average of 13.1%, in nursery and primary the percentage of Barnet children is higher at 16.7% against 14.5% nationally.
- There are fewer children in out of work households, 9.3%, than the national average of 14%, and there are fewer children in low-income families in Barnet at 13.5% against the national average of 16.8%.
- 52% of children and young people in Barnet are from black and minority ethnic groups, compared with 30% across England, and 52% of primary and 38.2% of secondary school pupils speak English as an additional language.
- In 2020/21, 12.6% of under 16s in Barnet were living in relative low-income families (London 16.6%, England 18.5%). For the same period, 10.3% of under 16s in Barnet were living in absolute low-income families (London 13.8%, England 15.1%).

### **Our children's health**

- An estimated quarter (24.5%) of Barnet's children have visibly decayed teeth by age five (Oral health - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)))



- In 2021/22, 10.7% of Barnet Reception children were overweight and a further 9% were living with obesity. In Barnet Year 6 children, 15.3% were overweight and a further 20.4% were living with obesity (NCMP 2021/22)
- In 2020, 2.61% of Barnet school pupils were identified as having social, emotional and mental health needs, marginally higher than the overall rate for London (2.4%) and lower than for England (2.7%) (JSNA)
- The rate of child inpatient admissions for mental health conditions in Barnet in 2020/21 was 68.7 per 100,000, which is lower than England as a whole, but higher than the regional average (JSNA)
- Only 20% of young people in Barnet eat the recommended 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables each day (Barnet Young People Survey 2022).
- The proportion of 15 years olds in Barnet who are regular smokers is 2.6% (5.4% nationally) (Local Health - Small Area Public Health Data - Data - OHID (phe.org.uk))

### Our schooling

- Barnet has 130 schools serving 62,282 pupils (May 2022)
- Over 97% of Barnet pupils are at schools which were graded good or better at their last Ofsted inspection.
- 18.8% of the Barnet school population are entitled to Free School Meals (January 2022)
- 10.6% of school pupils in Barnet are identified as requiring SEN Support compared to 12.6% in England and 11.7% in London
- There were 3.6% of children and young people with Education, Care and Health Plans (EHCPs), in Barnet compared to 4% in England and 4.1% in London
- Ethnic breakdown of the school population is as follows (groups higher than 1%):
  - White British 28.8%
  - Any Other White Background 21.5%
  - Any Other Ethnic Group 10.5%
  - African 8.4%
  - Indian 5.6%
  - Any Other Asian Background 4.8%
  - Any Other Mixed Background 4.0%
  - Pakistani 1.8%
  - OHID)White and Asian 1.8%
  - White and Black African 1.7%



- White and Black Caribbean 1.6%
- Caribbean 1.4% Chinese 1.3%
- Any Other Black Background 1.1%
- White Irish 1.0%

## 6. Developments and progress since 2019

The past four years have seen significant progress and achievements in the support provided to children and young people in Barnet. Educational development and achievement have improved consistently in recent years in the borough. Over 97% of Barnet schools are good or outstanding and Barnet is now in the top 10% for many measures of achievement in schools and the top 5% for many of the measures.

Our Social Care, Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and Youth Justice Services have been subject to inspection by Ofsted and HM Probation Inspection, and judged to be making good progress with areas of improvement identified. Figures for our looked after children remain low when compared to the rest of London and we continue to put in place measures that divert children and young people away from entering the care system where possible. However, once in the care system we work to ensure they are well supported to have the best outcomes.

Concerns around crime, violence and exploitation are subject to a vigorous and joined up approach with partners working to ensure the most vulnerable are protected. In March 2022, the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy was launched. This strategy sets out our vision to see Barnet become a borough where everyone is free of domestic abuse and women and girls are safe from violence.

A multi-agency coordinated response has been developed to tackle increasing levels of mental and emotional well-being concerns for children and young people. The Barnet Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Board has been established, which focuses on strengthening support to children and young people experiencing problems.

Health and wellbeing of children and young people continue to be strengthened through preventative and resilience building programmes. Collaborative approaches enable whole system support for healthy diets, physical activity, sexual health, and emotional wellbeing -



creating health promoting environments and communities and empowering young people to make healthier choices now and into adulthood.

Our progress in achieving our vision of a family friendly borough is monitored and rated through a range of data and intelligence relating to changes over recent years that includes views of children and young people as well as social care, health, education, housing and crime data.

**\*\*INFOGRAPHIC CAPTURING DATA BELOW TO FOLLOW\*\***

1. Children and young people feel that Barnet is a family friendly place to live (DESIGN - NO TREND)

2016	2017	2019/20	2021/22
81%	84%	84%	89%

Source: YPS Survey

2. There is a strong social care service that builds resilience (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

Rate of Children in Need per 10000 children aged 0-17		2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
	Barnet	207.8	214.3	203.3	208.9	237.9
	London	350.7	336.7	338.9	346.6	-
	England	334.2	323.7	321.2	334.3	-

Rate of Child Protection Plan per 10000 children aged 0-17		2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
	Barnet	17.3	16.4	16.6	22.6	30.7
	London	36.7	35	36.3	37.5	-
	England	43.7	42.8	41.4	42.1	-



Rate of Children Looked After per 10000 children		2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
	Barnet	34.7	31.9	33.6	34.7	32.8
	London	50	49	47	42	-
	England	65	67	67	70	-

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Numbers at Year End 2018 to Present		2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
	Barnet	60	63	72	68	52
	Outer London average	58	56	40	47	-

3. Children and young people are involved in decision making (DESIGN - NO TREND)

2016	2017	2019/20	2021/22
46%	57%	60%	70%

Source: YPS Survey

4. There are low figures of crime involving children and young people

Concerns about crime

2016	2017	2019/20	2021/22
40%	53%	56%	41%

Source: YPS Survey



Serious incidents pertaining to violence involving young people

2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/22	2022/23
32	29	20	24

5. All schools are good or outstanding and children get good educational outcomes

Percentage of outstanding schools (data set to follow) (DESIGN - NO TREND)

Barnet	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement
	31%	65%	4%
	40	84	6

Progress 8 measures (data set to follow) (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

Barnet	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	0.57	0.57	-	-	0.49
Average score	+0.10	0.0	-	-	-0.08

\*Due to COVID-19, trend reports skip academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21

Reading, Writing and Maths average progress score (data set Key stage 2) (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

Barnet	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reading (London average)	1.76 (0.90)	1.8 (1.0)	-	-	1.47 (0.8)
Writing (London average)	0.56 (0.90)	0.62 (0.9)	-	-	0.78 (1.0)
Maths (London average)	1.83 (1.5)	2.0 (1.4)	-	-	1.9 (1.2)

\*Due to COVID-19, trend reports skip academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21





6. There are good outcomes for children with SEND

Pupils with SEND outcomes (data set to follow) (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

Barnet	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reading (London average)	0.72 (-0.4)	0.74 (-0.30)	-	-	-0.41 (-1.10)
Writing (London average)	-0.68 (-1.0)	-1.12 (-0.9)	-	-	-1.09 (-0.8)
Maths (London average)	0.35 (-0.1)	0.6 (-0.2)	-	-	0.06 (-0.6)

\*Due to COVID-19, trend reports skip academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21

7. Health outcomes for children and young people are good (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

Infant mortality rate (Crude rate per 1,000)		2016-18	2017-2019	2018/2020
	Barnet	2.2	2.7	2.8
	London	3.9	3.9	3.9
	England	3.3	3.4	3.4

Year 6: Prevalence of Obesity		2018	2019	2020	2021
	Barnet	19.3%	20.6%	-	19.9%
	London	20.2%	21.0%	-	23.4%
	England	23.2%	23.7%	-	25.8%

\*Due to COVID-19, trend reports skip 2020

Population vaccination coverage:		2018	2019	2020	2021
	Barnet	81.9%	83.4%	82.5%	80.2%



<b>MMR for one dose (2 years old)</b>	London	<b>90.3%</b>	<b>90.6%</b>	<b>90.3%</b>	<b>89.2%</b>
	England	<b>83.0%</b>	<b>83.6%</b>	<b>82.4%</b>	<b>79.9%</b>

<b>School pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs: % of school pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs</b> <small>* Only relates to children with SEND</small>		<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
	Barnet	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
	London	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
	England	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

8. There are low rates of children and young people living in temporary accommodation (TA) (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

Number of families in TA at the end of a calendar year (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
1454	1325	1099	1062

Number of children (under 18s) in TA at the end of a calendar year (DESIGN - GRAPHS/TRENDS)

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
2346	2565	2308	2272

9. Families are able to access the benefits and financial assistance that they need



Barnet's Active, Creative and Engaging (BACE) holiday activities with food programme – (NO TREND)

<b>YBF HAF 2022</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>No. of Programmes</b>	35	47	32	114
<b>No. of Unique CYP</b>	1373	2871	2035	6279
<b>Total No. of Participants</b>	5253*	13098*	4587	22938

\*based on average

## 7. What young people have said

Children and young people provided us with feedback on the issues that are important to them. We are committed to listening and acting in their best interests. Regular surveys gave responses on what is important to young people. This data has been used alongside a range of engagement sessions with children and young people to drive improvements and develop this revised Children and Young People's Plan.

[The Young People's Resident Survey \(YPS\)](#) is a bi-annual face-to-face survey of Barnet young residents aged 11-18, undertaken by an independent research company. The survey has been undertaken since 2016 which gives indications of trends in young people's views over time. 500 Barnet young people were interviewed between November and March 2022.

The majority of young people feel Barnet (89%) is a family friendly place to live

*"It is a safe place which feels secure, it is somewhere that she knows a lot of people and hasn't had a bad experience living in Barnet"*  
 (14-15, female, white British, Jewish, Mill Hill Young People Focus Group)



*“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 Young People Focus Group)*

Children and young people with a disability are less likely to say they are happy with their local area as a place to live (77%) and say they are satisfied with local services.

*“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 SEND youth forum member, Young People Focus Group)*

*“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, SEND youth forum member, Young People Focus Group)*

Those who have a disability are more likely to want the council to focus resources on supporting those with long-term health problems or disabilities and those with emotional and mental health problems. Their top priorities are

- Protecting children and young people from harm (52%)
- Supporting those with long-term health problems or disabilities (50%)
- Supporting those with emotional and mental health problems (43%)

Overall young people have said knife crime (51%) remains among their top personal safety concern, but the percentage putting it in their top three concerns is significantly lower than in 2019. Similarly, the level of concern over gangs (35%) is also significantly lower than in the last survey while people taking drugs has also fallen (34%)

*“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 freedom” (16-17, female, White British, Woodhouse)*

*“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” (YP aged 14-15, Black Female, Young People Focus Group)*

*“.. 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” (SEND youth forum member)*



Young people's top priority remains protecting people from crime and antisocial behaviour (41%) followed by protecting young people from harm (38%) as well as supporting people with mental health problems (29%).

*"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" Young People Focus Group)*

*"You should have people to talk to keep you socially active to not feel too isolated, especially during school transitions." (YP, aged 15 Youth Assembly)*

*"Bullying and name callings affects young people immensely." (YP aged 14, BOP)*

They want access to play opportunities, outside spaces and outdoor learning. They want to be able to safely travel around independently to activities and school using accessible footpaths, cycle-paths and public transport.

*"Having access to outdoor space where young people feel safe and school playgrounds not affected by poor air quality if near busy roads." (YP aged 11, Youth Assembly)*

*"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." (YP aged 11-13, Young People Focus Groups)*

*"Have space/ opportunities for families can be together with other families." (YP, aged 13 Youth Assembly)*

Our young people have told us that it is really important that the place they live is inclusive in all senses, where all young people are treated fairly regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, identity or disability. They want to have equality of opportunity and outcome.

*"LGBTQ+ children and young people support for them both within their families as well as community and school." (YP, aged 17 Youth Assembly)*

*"Equal education across areas and demographics, you shouldn't be held back due to going to a school in a more deprived area which may lack resources." (YP aged 15 Youth Assembly)*



## 8. What we are doing

There are a wide range of strategies, plans and partnerships that enable us to do our work and they are all inextricably linked and critical to the delivery of our shared vision and objectives set out in this Plan. This Children and Young People Plan will routinely interface with other key plans and strategies affecting children and young people. These include

- Barnet Child Participation & Family Involvement Strategy 2022 – 2025
- The Barnet Plan tba
- Community Participation Strategy tba
- [SEND and Disabilities Strategy 2021 - 2024](#)
- Education Strategy 2021 - 2024
- Children & Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 -
- Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021 - 2023
- Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy 2022 – 2025
- Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy 2020 - 2022
- Youth Justice Plan 2022 – 2024
- 0-19 Early Help Strategy 2023 – 2026
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2016 – 2026
- Barnet Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25

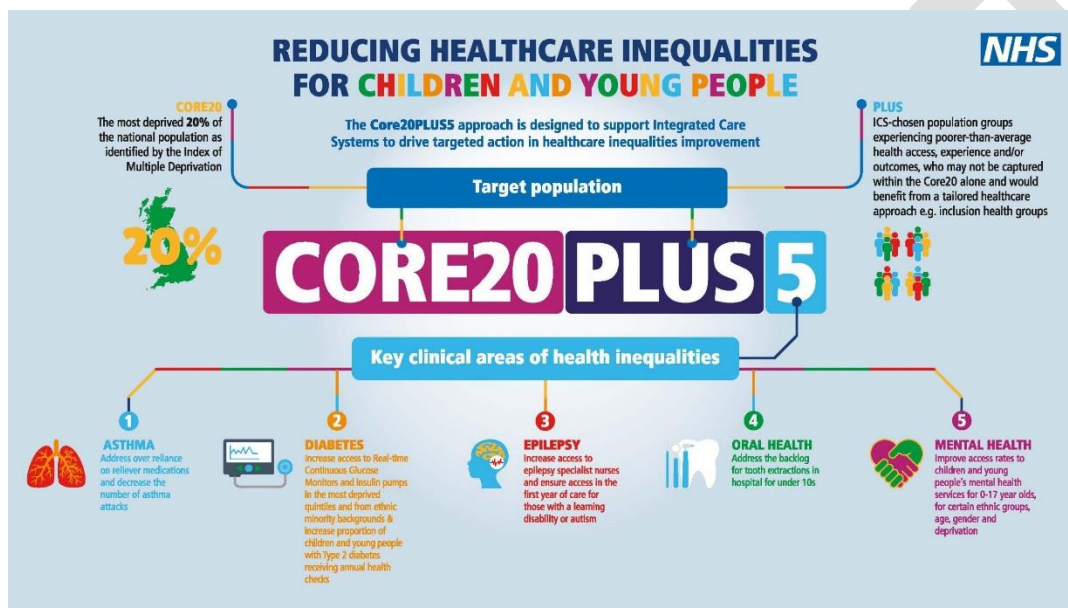
Reducing healthcare inequalities for children and young people is also an integral part of our approach as a partnership. The NHS England Core20PLUS5 approach (shown in the diagram below) is designed to support an integrated care system to drive action in health inequalities improvement.

It is a national approach which focuses on the following populations for children and young people:

- The nationally identified - ‘Core20’, which is the most deprived 20% of the national population as identified by the national [Index of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\)](#) and the “5” which is the five key clinical areas identified as areas of health inequalities (asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, oral health, and mental health).



- The area specific - 'Plus', which are population groups identified within NCL as experiencing poorer-than-average health access, experience and/or outcomes, who may not be captured within Core20 alone and would benefit from a tailored healthcare approach. As of February 2023, work is ongoing across North Central London (NCL) to identify which population groups will be included within the Plus populations for NCL.



The Partnership has a wide scope of activity and to deliver the outcomes identified, we will work together from now until the next plan by organising ourselves around four key themes resulting from our conversations with children, young people and parent carers as well as our own data and research. The themes are **Family and Belonging, Safe and Secure, Health and Wellbeing** and **Education and Skills**.



**Family & Belonging** - *supporting all our children, including those in care and care experienced young people, to live their lives successfully, to develop a sense of identity, improve wellbeing and to have fun and play*

*“Family is when we can be with people who we love and feel safe” (Female,16)*

*“It encourages people to be together and be part of a community that is welcoming” (Female,13)*

Objective	Priority	Service/Partner strategy
Support our children in care and care experienced young people to live their lives successfully	Develop mentor support to ensure that it meets the needs of care experienced young people	Barnet Corporate Parenting Strategy
	Recruit more Barnet based foster carers, so that care experienced young people can stay close to their school and other relationships, where that is in their best interest	
	Support for care experienced young people to have a smooth transition from childhood to adulthood whilst ensuring your health and wellbeing are considered in their wishes on how and where they want to live.	
	VCFSE groups support the capacity building to VCFSE groups that work with CIC	Barnet VCFSE strategy

Support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to achieve well, be confident individuals, live fulfilling lives	Ensure that all children and young people with SEND have their needs identified as soon as possible and receive the right support at the earliest opportunity	Barnet SEND Strategy
	Ensure that children and young people with SEND receive high quality, integrated and inclusive services through effective and timely decision making across partner agencies	
	Ensure services are delivered locally and as inclusive and close to home as possible so that children and young people with SEND can benefit from community integration and support from services in Barnet	
	Upskill providers within the VCFSE to ensure that services are more inclusive	Barnet VCFSE strategy





Provide support to young carers in carrying out their roles	Proactive identification of carers and young carers	Barnet Carers & Young Carers Strategy Young Carers
	Individualised support so that carers and young carers can maintain their own health and wellbeing	
	Recognising carers and young carers as key partners in care and support and recognising the important role they play	
	Ensuring respite care is provided to young carers to enable breaks when they need it	
	Ensure that the wider VCFSE work in partnership with Barnet Carers where possible to provide the best support pathways for young carers.	Barnet VCFSE strategy

Provide support that encourages and builds resilience	Meeting childcare sufficiency and providing families quality-assured childcare options	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Provide an inclusive service delivery that supports children with special educational needs or a disability	Barnet SEND strategy
	Ensure all children are supported to access free early years education offer	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Provide foster carers with therapeutic training to meet the emotional needs of children in their care	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy
	Our partners in the Police will make engagement with children and young people central in their use of powers in order to build trust	Barnet Metropolitan Police Strategy
	Ensure early help is provided as early in the life of a problem as possible to reduce problems and enable children & families to only tell their stories once.	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Work with partners and local communities, including hotels who are accommodating refugee families to offer support, advice and guidance	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Young Barnet Foundation continues to take the lead in helping to develop the VCFSE sector in creating safer, stronger and more connected communities for our young people to thrive	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy



Children and young people develop a positive sense of identity	Care experienced young adults to be supported accessing their files and understanding their care journey	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy
	All care experienced children and young people to have access to life story work and later life letters	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy
	Celebrate the diversity of young people in the borough and help them to develop their creativity through involvement in the forthcoming Culture Strategy.	Barnet Growth and Development Strategy
	Develop one of the first accessible and inclusive playgrounds for all ages in the UK.,	Barnet Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
	Support young people to have a stronger sense of self-worth and self-confidence through knowledge and understanding of gender, sexuality and healthy relationships	Barnet Public Health Strategy
	The VCFSE sector will work together to build a strong sense of community and belonging for all our children and young people through local participation/community activity.	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy

Enable environments to allow children to have fun, play and explore the world	Continue a high quality distinctive local programme to upgrade the borough's park playgrounds and ensure the inclusion of all schools and parks	Barnet Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
	Explore further funding for the development of local parks and open spaces	Barnet Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
	Develop a play strategy for children and young people in Barnet	Barnet Play Strategy
	All children and young people have access to our range of children centres and positive activities during term times and holiday periods	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Actively encourage young people's involvement in the development of public art and creative placemaking projects across the borough exploring play and discovery	Barnet Growth and Development Strategy
	Increasing the variety of play spaces for children and young people, by providing more informal play opportunities in our town centres (e.g. playful interventions, furniture, performance spaces and public art opportunities, safer social spaces to meet, etc.) through a programme of public realm improvement works.	



	Developing individual town centre play strategies, through a series of Town Centre Public Realm Design Framework documents, to support coordinated delivery of play and youth infrastructure in public spaces across our town centres.	
	Supporting independent mobility of children and young people across the borough by improving wayfinding and access to walking and cycling routes in our town centres.	
	The VCFSE sector will work together to ensure that spaces occupied by children and young people – home, School and community are safe and nurturing.	Barnet VCFSE sector

**Safe & Secure** - *ensuring that the most vulnerable are protected, safe and supported to make the best choices and to build trusted relationships*

*“This is very important to me because it can be scary not to be protected from harm as a young person” (Female, 13)*

*“A safe place to me is somewhere I don’t feel afraid about being there.” (Female, 16)*

Objective	Priority	Service/Partner strategy
Ensuring children have the space and opportunity to build trusted relationships	Engaging and inducting a young person representative as a member of the Youth Justice Management Board	Barnet Youth Justice Plan
	Embedding opportunities for care experienced young people to feedback into everyday activities	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy
	Care experienced children and young people to know their social worker and be supported with regular contact and visits	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy



	Strengthening links between home, school and community to ensure that adequate opportunities to build trusted relationships with their peers and trusted adults within schools and the wider community	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy
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Ensure the most vulnerable are protected	Violence against women and girls is eliminated	Barnet Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy
	Prevent children and young people from being exploited and exposed or drawn into violence and crime	Barnet Youth Justice Plan
	Ensure the needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are met through a partnership approach	Barnet Family Services Strategy
	We will support Police to work with partners to reduce the criminal victimisation of those who are most disadvantaged	Barnet Metropolitan Police
	Work together with the Youth Justice Board to make plans to address disproportionality of different groups of young people in the justice system	Barnet Youth Justice Plan
	Ensure that our town centres are welcoming and safe for young people	Barnet Growth and Development Strategy
	Through a home, school, community approach, work with partners to create safer, stronger, more connected communities for our CYP to thrive	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy

Children and young people are safe and helped to make good choices	Work effectively together to ensure children feel safe, are safe and supported at home, in school and in the communities in which they live	Barnet Family Services Strategy
	Continue reducing the number of First Time Entrants, young people who reoffend and young people who are handed down custodial sentences	Barnet Youth Justice Plan
	Police will work proactively with communities to reduce violence by building trust	Barnet Metropolitan Police Strategy
	Regular reviews with children and young people with their network to support them in making good decisions and learning from their decisions	Barnet Family Services Strategy
	Working with the Police design out crime and Community Safety officers to deliver public space and safety improvements in our town centres	Growth and Development Strategy



	VCFSE to work proactively with CYP, families and Partners to create a safer, stronger, more connected communities where CYP are supported to make better choices.	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy
Ensure that there is sufficient placement choice that provides safe and secure homes for our children in care	To lead the development of a secure children's home provision in London	Barnet Placements Sufficiency Strategy
	Work in partnership to deliver the Pan London Pathfinder supported accommodation provision for young people as a positive alternative to custody	Barnet Youth Justice Plan
	Refresh Barnet's Placement Sufficiency Strategy in line with the needs of Barnet Children and develop local placement provision in accordance with needs, best practice and new regulation standards	Barnet Placements Sufficiency Strategy
	Development of solo provision to meet the needs of the most vulnerable young people who are new into care	Barnet Corporate Parent Strategy
	Ongoing recruitment of foster carers and supported lodgings hosts to meet the diverse needs of looked after children and young people	
	Care experienced young adults to be supported in accessing the right accommodation to meet their needs	
	VCFSE to signpost community members towards fostering recruitment	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy

**Health & Wellbeing** - *supporting our children and young people to adopt healthy lifestyles to prevent avoidable illness and improve their social, physical and mental wellbeing, including through integrated health and social care*

*“Being a young carer can be mentally draining at times, need encouragement to have a healthy lifestyle” (Female, 13)*

*“Important taking care of yourself and mental health (Male, age 11)*



Objective	Priority	Service/Partner strategy
Improve children's life chances by supporting their health and wellbeing from very early age and through to their transition into adulthood.	Implementation of the Barnet Food Plan to ensure good quality, healthy and sustainable food for all Barnet families with a strong emphasis on tackling cost of living crisis	Barnet Food Plan Strategy
	Conduct air quality audits and implement measures on all schools with high air pollution (as identified by TfL).	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Promote oral health by building on the findings of the oral health needs assessment and developing a collaborative action plan.	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Provide information and education to boys and girls about periods, period poverty and hygiene to help address period stigma	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Continue to support sexual health education and healthy relationships among young people	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Continue to implement whole setting health promoting approaches to achieve and maintain healthy weight	Public Health Strategy
	Ensure that we continue to grow opportunities within the community/VCFSE for CYP to feel that they belong to a safe, strong, connected community	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy

Promote good mental and emotional health across all ages and different communities and work together to prevent severe	Barnet Integrated Clinical Services (BICS) to provide a range of interventions to support children and young people's mental health & wellbeing	Barnet Mental Health Strategy
	Ensure that a universal approach including supporting the Resilient Schools Programme, is delivered to all schools to raise awareness of mental health and reduce stigma.	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Work with partners to improve access to mental health support for CYP	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Work with partners to promote parity of access to mental and physical health services for children, young people with mental illnesses or SEND	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Develop and implement a refreshed Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy



mental illness, substance misuse and suicide	VCFSE to work to ensure that we continue to grow our community offer for early mental health support, (EIP) backed up with increased wellbeing activities	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy
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Improve choices for physical activities locally for all ages and abilities, and ensure residents know how to access it	Provide information for access to a range of activity programmes including free swimming, junior park run, after school clubs	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Deliver the Fit & Active Barnet (FAB) Framework to focus on wider engagement for physical activity	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Maximise the use of facilities and identify opportunities for co-location and community hubs, widening access to ensure that facilities and open spaces are better used by the communities they serve	Barnet Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Provide integrated care by joining up services across health and social care	Commitment to develop a child development centre where children with disabilities and their families can access assessment and a range of services from the same location.	Barnet Integrated Health Strategy
	Continued development of our existing programme of work based around integration of GP networks with paediatricians enabling closer contact for children and young people.	Barnet Integrated Health Strategy
	Embed collaborative work between borough partners to identify and proactively support children to manage asthma in the school environment	Barnet Integrated Health Strategy

**Education & Skills** - *supporting children and young people to reach their educational and academic potential, by closing attainment gaps and reducing exclusion*

*“Schools should be teaching us more about adult life and how to do things when we leave school” (Female 13)*



*“I think education and learning is very important in preparing you for the outside world” (Female, 13)*

Objective	Priority	Service/Partner strategy
Improve the educational progress and outcomes for all children and young people	Support children to reach their educational and academic potential	Barnet Education Strategy
	Support schools to improve attendance and reduce exclusion	Barnet Education Strategy
	Support children to have their best start in life and be ready for learning	Barnet Education Strategy
	Ensure that robust planning and support is in place to enable all young people to return to education and training following the disruption of COVID 19	Barnet Education Strategy
	Work collaboratively to embed preparing for adulthood outcomes from an early age	Barnet Education Strategy
	Support CYP to access opportunities within their communities (VCFSE) that will complement their educational and emotional development.	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy
	Grow partnerships between education and the VCFSE to address needs within schools	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy

Diminish the differences in attainment and progress between the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils and their peers	Proactively enabling families with young children to access children centres and the free early education entitlement	Barnet Early Help Strategy
	Working across the partnership to address the impact of the pandemic on the development of our youngest children and support the transition into school	Barnet Education Strategy
	Listen, communicate and make decisions with our children in care and care experienced young people and ensure educational provision is strong	Barnet Education Strategy
	Continue to support schools, settings, children and young people in recovery from the impact of the pandemic on learning and mental health/well-being	Barnet Education Strategy
	Minimise the number of young people who are NEET, by developing the employability skills and resilience	Barnet Education Strategy
	Barnet YJMB will develop a tracker to measure progress against actions to reduce exclusion of Black boys from education	Barnet Youth Justice Plan





	Ensure that we continue to seek to hear the voices of the seldom heard to improve their engagement with the services that need to support them	Barnet VCFSE Sector Strategy
Ensure the provision of high-quality local placements and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities	Improve outcomes for CYP with special educational needs and disability	Barnet SEND Strategy
	Develop greater confidence, skills and competencies in mainstream schools to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND	Barnet SEND Strategy
	Develop skills, knowledge and understanding across the workforce and local area to create supporting environments that promote community integration and independence	Barnet SEND Strategy
Ensure there are sufficient high-quality school places to meet the needs of Barnet children including progress into Higher Education, Apprenticeships or Employment.	Supply of school places are available to satisfy demand	Barnet Education Strategy
	Ensure the provision of high-quality local placements and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged from 3 to 25	Barnet SEND strategy
	Increase the number of young people who are engaged in learning and work post 16 and increase supported internship opportunities	Barnet Education Strategy
	Develop further opportunities in education, employment and training for care experienced young people	Barnet Education Strategy
	Increase the opportunities for disadvantaged young people to progress to suitable education, training and employment, including care leavers and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.	Barnet SEND strategy
	Minimise the long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the attainment, achievement and psychological wellbeing of children and young people with SEND	Barnet SEND strategy
	Work with wider partners to ensure that there are pathways to employment for YP with SEND	Barnet VCFSE sector strategy
		Focus on meeting the needs of vulnerable pupils, including those with SEND, children looked after, children in need and children eligible for free school meals.



Ensure that every school and setting is good or outstanding	Good relationships with schools and settings enabling rigorous monitoring, challenge and support for all schools and settings and the targeted support for schools and settings causing concern.	Barnet School Improvement Strategy
	Strengthen high levels of attainment and progress in all phases	Barnet School Improvement Strategy

## 9. Monitoring and governance

The monitoring of this Plan will be by the Children and Young People’s Partnership Board. Regular reports on progress will be presented to the Board for scrutiny, including an annual review of the Family Friendly index. The Partnership will ensure that agreed priorities against objectives are reflected in partnership work to make certain the impact of the Plan is felt by children, young people and their families. Our efforts to implement this plan will be a key priority for the coming years.

## Appendices

There has been a range of engagement across Barnet at different stages of development that helped shaped this plan. This included conducting a series of face-to-face consultations with children and young people as well as input taken from a range of surveys capturing their views and talking with partners. From this, we have agreed new principles and priorities through and around which we will work to deliver our agreed outcomes.

### Young people engagement

- Barnet Youth board
- Youth Parliament



- Barnet Youth Assembly
- Barnet Youth Ambassadors
- Barnet Inclusive Next Generation (BING) – SEND Youth voice forum
- Barnet On Point (BOP) – Children in Care youth voice forum
- Barnet Young Carers Group

#### Young People's views

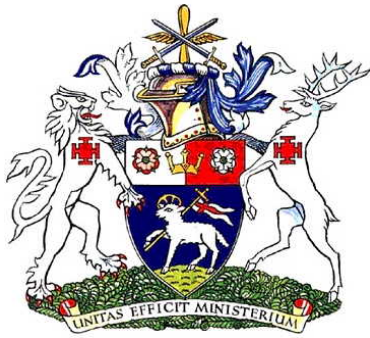
- Young People's Survey
- Young People's Focus Groups
- Children in Care Survey - Your Life, Your Care Barnet
- Care Leavers Survey - Your Life Beyond Care Barnet

#### Services and Partner engagement

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Public Health</li> <li>• Barnet Education and Learning Service</li> <li>• Post 16/NEET</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Food Security</li> <li>• Green Spaces &amp; Leisure</li> <li>• Growth &amp; Development</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Barnet Parent Carers Forum</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB)</li> <li>• Metropolitan Police Barnet</li> <li>• Voluntary Sector</li> <li>• SEND &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Business, employment, skills &amp; training</li> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting</li> <li>• Early Years/Resilience/Troubled Families</li> <li>• Members</li> <li>• Community Safety</li> </ul> |
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## Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

<b>Title</b>	<b>Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership update</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chair of the Committee - Cllr Pauline Coakley-Webb
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix A – Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership 2021/22 Annual Report Appendix B – Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership independent scrutiny report
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Chris Munday, Executive Director, Children’s Services <a href="mailto:Chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk">Chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk</a>

### Summary

In September 2019 the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) was established, replacing Barnet Safeguarding Children Board with new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in line with the government guidance ‘*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.*’

The BSCP is a statutory partnership between the local authority, North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) and Metropolitan Police (North West Borough Command Unit) in order to safeguard children and young people in Barnet and to promote their welfare. It also works with wider health providers, education and the voluntary, community and faith sector.

The BSCP is required to publish an annual report about how the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements have been delivered. This report is attached at **Appendix A**.

It is also required to plan for independent scrutiny and in November 2022 a team of scrutineers conducted a virtual visit. They confirmed the Partnership is meeting its statutory requirements and have made recommendations for improvement in the coming year. The independent scrutiny report is attached as **Appendix B**.

## Officers Recommendations

**That the Committee notes and considers the reports and provide any comments on the Annual Report**

### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 In line with government guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*, local Safeguarding Children Partnerships must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of their work to promote safeguarding and the welfare of children and young people. The Committee is asked to note and comment on the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Annual Report. The Annual Report is a statutory requirement of the partnership and is attached as Appendix A
- 1.2 Safeguarding Children Partnerships must also make arrangements for independent scrutiny in order to review multi-agency working and what the Partnership has achieved. Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership chose to commission independent scrutiny from a multi-agency team of Red Quadrant consultants and this review was the third annual review that they have undertaken. The review team visited Barnet in November 2022. This is their third independent scrutiny visit. The report is attached for information as Appendix B

### 2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

#### **BSCP Annual Report**

- 2.1 The annual report sets out what BSCP has achieved over the period September 2021-September 2022 and how the Partnership has worked to deliver the locally agreed six strategic priorities:
  - Strengthening leadership and partnership
  - Tailoring our work to local specific issues
  - Driving continuous improvement to safeguarding practice
  - Responding to serious safeguarding cases effectively
  - Creating a strong feedback loop with children, families & practitioners
  - Measuring & evidencing the impact of our work
- 2.2 It also sets out the impact that the Partnership has made in continually improving the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the borough and provides an overview of progress made against the Partnership's shared safeguarding themes of neglect, domestic abuse, suicide and self-harm and learning from serious youth violence. The Annual Report includes contributions from all partners. Our independent scrutineers noted that the Annual Report reflected guidance published by the institute [\*What Works for Childrens Social Care\*](#)

#### **Independent scrutiny visit**

- 2.3 The independent scrutiny visit took place week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 by a team of three independent scrutineers with professional backgrounds in children’s services, police and health. They reviewed a range of documents and interviewed more than 40 representatives from across the Partnership. The interviews were undertaken with a cross section of staff including frontline practitioners.
- 2.4 The scrutineers concluded that *“Our confident judgement is that the Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership continue to comply with Working Together, 2018. There are robust partnership arrangements to ensure that children in Barnet are safeguarded and their welfare promoted. There continues to be a culture of openness, respectful challenge, and a willingness to learn, which has positively impacted children and families in Barnet. Hearing and acting upon the voice of children and young people is a significant strength in Barnet, which has been further reinforced by the innovative participation of children, young people, and their families.”*
- 2.5 The scrutineers provided some recommendations for how Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership can continue to improve in the coming year. These included consideration of developing a cross Partnership approach to tackling ongoing recruitment and retention challenges and how we respond as a Partnership. These recommendations are being incorporated into the BSCP Business Plan for 2023/24.

### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The annual report needs to be developed and published in line with statutory requirements for local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 4.1 N/A

### **5. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 5.1 As a multi-agency report by the three statutory partners, the annual report will also be taken to police and health governance bodies. It has been approved by the BSCP Leadership Forum in January 2023.
- 5.2 The independent scrutiny report and its recommendations are being incorporated into the BSCP Business Plan.

### **6. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

#### **6.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 6.1.1 The Barnet Corporate Plan sets a clear priority for ensuring the effective safeguarding of the borough’s vulnerable children. The work of BSCP is aligned to the Children and Young People’s Plan and supports key objectives within it.

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

- 6.2.1 Partners including the London Borough of Barnet, police and health contribute to the annual budget for Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership and the contributions are set out in the published arrangements (see [online](#))
- 6.2.2 Financial commitments set out in the annual report and proposed by the independent scrutineers will be accounted for within current budgets.
- 6.2.3 The Council continue to support the partnership financially at a greater level than our statutory partners with police funding remaining too low. This continues to be raised with the Police and MOPAC.

### **6.3 Social Value**

- 6.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits.
- 6.3.2 Protecting children from abuse and neglect has clear social value and is at the core of BSCP's purpose and activities. Working in partnership with other local agencies improves responses to safeguarding concerns and delivers better outcomes for children and young people in Barnet.

### **6.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 6.4.1 Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership operates in line with the Children Act 2004, which requires the safeguarding partners, namely the local authority, integrated care board and chief officer of police to make local arrangements for the safeguarding partners and any relevant agencies to work together in exercising their functions, so far as those functions are exercised for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in their area. This must include working together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area.
- 6.4.2 The annual report and arrangements for independent scrutiny are in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the statutory guidance which sets out the requirements for local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- 6.4.3 The Council's Constitution, Article 7 sets out the terms of reference for the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee which includes responsibility for all matters relating to schools, education and safeguarding, and to receive an annual report from the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

### **6.5 Risk Management**

- 6.5.1 BSCP works within a risk management approach aligned to the Council's Risk Management Framework.

### **6.6 Equalities and Diversity**

- 6.6.1 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.

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.

6.6.2 BSCP works to keep equality at the core of its business and continually considers how Barnet's diverse populations may face different safeguarding challenges and require different forms of support.

## **6.7 Corporate Parenting**

6.7.1 In line with the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the council. The outcomes and priorities in the refreshed Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024, reflect the council's commitment to the Corporate Parenting duty to ensure the most vulnerable are protected and the needs of children are considered in everything that the council does.

6.7.2 BSCP monitors and receives assurance on Barnet's corporate parenting role and reviews reports and performance data on various safeguarding themes which relate to looked-after children.

## **6.8 Consultation and Engagement**

6.8.1 BSCP works with a wide range of local partners to set priorities and deliver activities, including health, police, education and voluntary sector partners. Further consultation and engagement will be driven by the My Say Matters participation strategy.

## **6.9 Environmental Impact**

None

6.9.1

## **7 INSIGHT**

7.1 BSCP has a multi-agency performance dashboard which helps set priorities and spot emerging trends, and its thematic deep dives draw on research and local and national data.

## **9 Background Papers**

9.1 None

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Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership

# Annual Report 2021-2022



Barnet  
Safeguarding  
Children Partnership

# Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership

**Annual Report** - September 2021-September 2022

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**Introduction:** Welcome to the 2021 -22 Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Annual Report. We hope our Annual Report provides you with an update upon key milestones and progress against our Business Plan, but also a sharp focus upon how we are embedding and developing learning from safeguarding reviews both nationally and locally into our multi-agency practice. As ever, we remain steadfast across the Partnership in our vision to create a Family Friendly Barnet where children, young people and families thrive and achieve. BSCP continues to bring together statutory partners from the Local Authority, Health and Police. This is alongside a wider spectrum of organisations in Barnet who work with children and young people including education, Probation and our local voluntary community and faith sector (VCFS). We shall refer to all throughout this report as ‘Partners’ and ‘the Partnership’. A key step-change this year for our Health partners has been the formation of the new North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB). Following the passage into statute of the Health and Care Bill in April 2022 Clinical Commissioning Groups were disbanded with statutory safeguarding responsibilities transferring into the newly established North Central London Integrated Care System (NCL ICS) on 01 July 2022. More of these arrangements can be found within our [Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements](#) document. We also welcomed Solutions 4 Health as new delivery service provision for the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme in Barnet. We welcome NCL ICB and Solutions 4 Health to the Partnership.

Our 2022/23 Business Plan sets 6 key priorities for the Partnership to work towards. They are not listed in order of any priority:

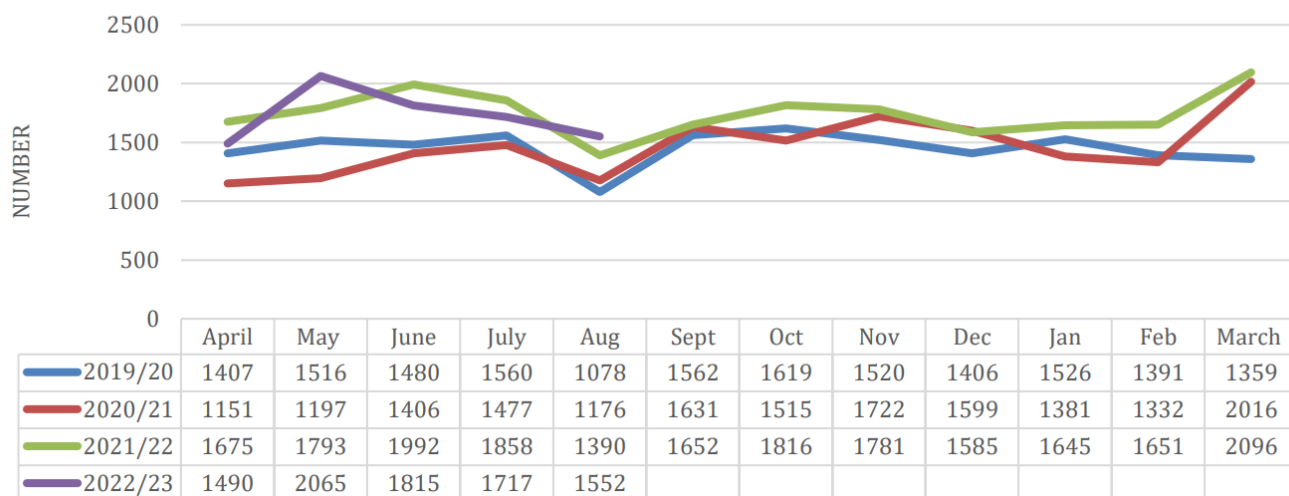
1. Strengthening leadership and partnership
2. Tailoring our work to local themes
3. Driving continuous safeguarding practice improvement
4. Responding to serious child safeguarding cases effectively
5. Creating a strong feedback loop with children, families and practitioners
6. Measuring and evidencing the impact of our work

The BSCP Leadership Forum monitors the ongoing implementation of the Business Plan and this report outlines evidence and impact as a result of embedding in practice our continual learning. Furthermore, this year we have laid down 4 cross-cutting shared safeguarding themes of: **neglect, domestic abuse, suicide & self-harm and learning from serious youth violence**. These shared themes represent stubborn and ‘knotty’ challenges within the national and local safeguarding system and present an opportunity for the Partnership to respond in a coordinated and multi-systemic fashion.

We believe our partnership structure and governance arrangements allow us to collaborate effectively to safeguard children.

The chart below sets out the numbers of contacts to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) from April 2019 – Aug 2022 which shows an increase in contacts to MASH post pandemic. This increase continues to be raised with key statutory partners. Data is being shared with all Partners and challenge and development is being put into the system. There continues to be consideration of the impact of the pandemic raising professional’s anxiety and concern for children/young people who have been affected, and who we are now seeing struggling returning to school, being in a structured environment once more and the mental health of these children and young people. However, there needs to be moderation to ensure that referring agencies signpost effectively to universal and universal plus support directly. This remains under monitoring at the MASH Steering Group and we hope the recruitment of an Early Help worker into the MASH will assist in this area and reduce the number of contacts. **Simultaneously, the increased pressure upon the MASH has been mirrored by an increase in the number of local Early Help Assessments with 2045 completed over the 6 month period January – July 2022, which is up from the 1984 assessments in the 6 months prior to that.** Overall, pressures on the multi-agency safeguarding system around Early Help and the ‘front door’ of MASH are stark, increasing and they appear to be a ‘new normal’.

## MASH Contacts



The number of Section 47 enquiries (child protection investigations) remains, to a degree, stable with the period April – September 2022 showing 412 Section 47 enquiries. The 6 months prior to this shows 461 Section 47 enquiries. As a comparator, London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA) data shows that across London rates of Section 47 investigations are also stable. For us locally, 64% of Section 47 enquiries over April – September 2022 did not result in an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC), but of the 36% that progressed to ICPC, 92% resulted in a Child Protection Plan indicating that thresholds are being applied appropriately. There has however been an increase in children subject to a child protection plan under the category of neglect from 86 as of October 2021 to 125 as of October 2022 which indicates a greater identification of this, at times, complex safeguarding issue.

The number of children looked after continues to remain stable with some slight reductions in the period April '22 – Oct '22 with 323 children, down from 330 the 6 months prior. Though the number of new children looked after increased from 67 to 76. 14% of children coming into care over the period April '22 – Oct '22 were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. There has been a decrease in the number of Care Leavers at 322 young people (as of Oct '22) because a number have past their 25th birthday. The LIIA data shows that the rate of children coming into care is lower in Barnet than across most other London boroughs which aligns with the lower amounts of child protection activity in the system. Across London, the rates of children in care have remained stable.

The number of children in care who are accessing their annual dental check is slowly recovering. 59% of children are recorded to have had their annual dental check however there is a target group of adolescents who have been resistant to attend these appointments and are the focus of our work with the Looked After Children Health Team to improve this position. We are also working to ensure that foster carers and key workers inform us promptly about these visits so that the records can be kept up to date.

Within the field of education the investment in additional resources to ensure care leavers are in education, employment or training has had an impact on the outcomes for this cohort of young people, up from 73% to 86% for 17-18 year olds and 59% to 81% for 19-21 year olds.

A key milestone this year was the launch of our Child Participation and Family Involvement strategy: [“My Say Matters”](#) which aims to set out how we plan to involve children, young people and their families to participate in service design and provision in a planned and meaningful way. We look forward to expanding this work further into safeguarding ensuring that services are responding appropriately to contemporary safeguarding issues.

For Police partners pressures remain acute. The Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) referrals desk continues to experience high demand. Officers sited here are single point of contact for all requests for police to join safeguarding

strategy meetings regardless of the nature of the safeguarding matter. CAIT sanctioned detections evidence a continuing upward trend (circa 3% Dec 21 to circa 8% Aug 22). **Children missing from care and their homes can be some of the most at risk and vulnerable children in need of support and Police Partners have placed a concerted focus on tackling these often complex issues.** Police Partners have overseen an uplift to the missing persons team by doubling their staffing to enable improved cover and an improved response including one Detective Inspector to focus on missing persons - this decision making was influenced and supported by feedback from the Partnership. Episodes of children missing during 2021-22 has been the lowest year since 2018 with 717 recorded episodes (it is important to note that these are episodes, and not individual children). Of the 717 episodes, 514 episodes were from children missing from care, and 203 were missing from home (or, in other words, not looked after children). The decreasing trend of missing is brought about by a decreasing number of children missing from care. There was a significant shift during February and March 2022, which reported for the first time, a higher prevalence of children reported as missing from home compared to those in foster residential care. The Philomena Protocol introduced by the Police came into effect from December 2020, this set out new expectations for placement staff, and foster carers to make 'reasonable attempts' to locate the young person before they are treated as missing. This is complemented by a weekly rhythm of multi-agency meetings between police and social care partners which supports this function and the implementation of trigger plans. **We believe this Partnership approach is making a positive impact upon improved outcomes for children.**

**Pressures within the localised health care system continue. A key focus of the strategy underpinning the transformation from NCL CCG to NCL ICB has been to ensure that its statutory safeguarding functions emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic pressures, and the widely documented disproportionate impact as a consequence on our most vulnerable residents, are continued.** This year has seen new legislation coming into place in relation to Liberty Protection Safeguards and Domestic Abuse which, as we move forward, will impact on how we deliver and seek assurances about safeguarding practices and policies for vulnerable children and will inform NCL ICB's Safeguarding Strategy Workplan. The Covid-19 pandemic has seen an acceleration of system focused practice. The priority for the strategy workstream has therefore been to consolidate, further develop and co-produce with health partners and other key stakeholders actions required to deliver the workplan. The delivery on the workplan over the reporting period has been constrained by a number of vacancies and staff changes in the NCL CCG and latterly the NCL ICB Safeguarding team throughout the year. However, over the period April 2021-March 2022 there has continued to be good progress in the quality assurance of Child Protection Medical Examinations in order to minimise both variation in the standards of assessment of children and in resources available across NCL. Prior to April 2022 an NCL wide review of Community Paediatrics commenced which included a work stream focussing on Child Protection medical provision. **This work has been progressed by the Partnership this year, encompassed by a review of our protocol responding to bruising in mobile and non-mobile infants.**

BSCP continues to place a focus upon digital systems improvement, as we often learn from safeguarding reviews that these are areas of required strengthening. **For Partners at the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust (RFLNHSFT)** to ensure early identification, risk assessment and onward referral for safeguarding cases improvements to electronic patient records, ensure that information shared between agencies is accurate and complete, improving information sharing between frontline staff and the safeguarding team and onwards to external partners. Enhancements to the system can now be made quickly, enabling them to respond to recommendations from local and national reviews such as incorporating risk assessments for fathers into the maternity assessments. RFLNHSFT have been able to expand the team to include two maternity safeguarding advisors who work closely with the vulnerable women's team and community midwives to identify and safeguard mothers and babies at risk. The Child Protection Information System (CP-IS) has been embedded into electronic patient records which means that there is immediate notification for all children attending who are subject to a child protection plan, or who are a child in care, and staff no longer have to access a separate system to see the CP-IS information. Frontline staff can now notify the safeguarding team about any vulnerable child, young person, or adult through the electronic patient records. This enables staff to quickly communicate concerns and the team to respond in a timely manner. The team have been able to take the recommendations from rapid reviews and case reviews and incorporate them swiftly into the care pathways built into electronic patient records, such as ensuring that midwives discuss safer sleeping programmes with both mothers and fathers at key episodes of care. **Feedback to RFLNHSFT from both mothers and fathers indicates that they are responding positively to the education provided. Fathers are reporting that they understand their babies a bit better when they understand why they cry.** Two newly appointed maternity safeguarding advisors have much greater oversight of all the vulnerable women and provide a point of contact for RFLT staff and partner agencies. This has improved the safety planning for many families.

We have seen hugely important national safeguarding reviews published this year. Firstly, the [national child safeguarding practice review panel published its review](#) into the tragic murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson. Whilst the review was clear that they were murdered by those whom were in a position to care for them, it also shone a light on key practice episodes that still remain as challenges across the national child protection system. BSCP has considered this review in detail and how lessons and learnings can be taken to strengthen our own approaches. At the local level we have concluded one Child Safeguarding Practice Review. The review into how Child L came into harm stretched across boundaries including reflections upon practice by our colleagues at Brent SCP. Together a comprehensive review has been published which explores key practice themes. Child L is now safe and well in the care of the local authority and a number of recommendations from the review, such as reviewing and strengthening our multi-agency response to bruising in children has been taken forward as previously outlined within this introduction. This Annual Report documents Rapid Reviews that have been convened, that did not lead to a wider, more thorough local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR); yet we have taken forward learning from those safeguarding reviews at pace across our Partnership.

Finally, we want to thank all those colleagues that are working across the Partnership in a variety of roles, to support children, young people and families every day. The past 2 years have presented challenges we never imagined we would face and yet in spite of that we still have a passionate and committed workforce that are doing their best to secure outstanding outcomes for them every single day. Significant challenges lay ahead in the field of multi agency safeguarding work and we are immensely grateful for all that you, our workforce, do across the borough on a daily basis.



Tony Bellis, Acting Detective Superintendent, Met Police, NW BCU



David Pennington  
Director of Safeguarding Chief Nursing Directorate, NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board



John Hooton, Chief Executive, London Borough of Barnet.

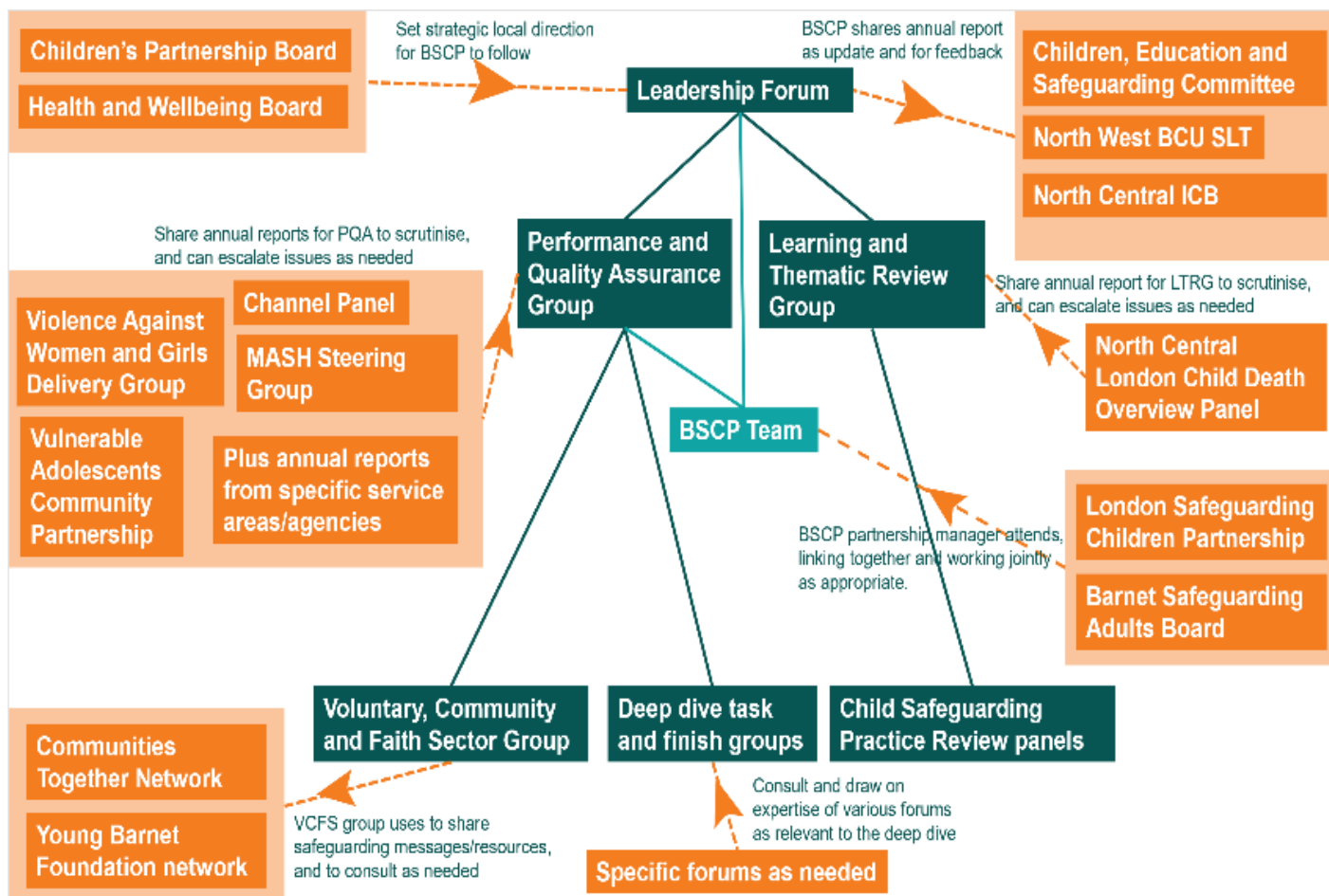


**About BSCP: Leadership Forum:** BSCP is overseen by a small Leadership Forum with membership from the three statutory partners of Local Authority, Health and Police with a rotating Chair. The Chair serves as the single point of contact for the BSCP over the length of a term, which is one year. A primary Term of Reference for the Leadership Forum is to oversee the delivery of the BSCP business plan, agree the funding for the Partnership each year by the Leadership Forum and receive quarterly updates from the Performance and Quality Assurance Panel (PQA) and Learning & Thematic Review Group (LTRG) to address stubborn or pertinent issues within the system as well as scrutinising and actioning system-wide reports such as Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

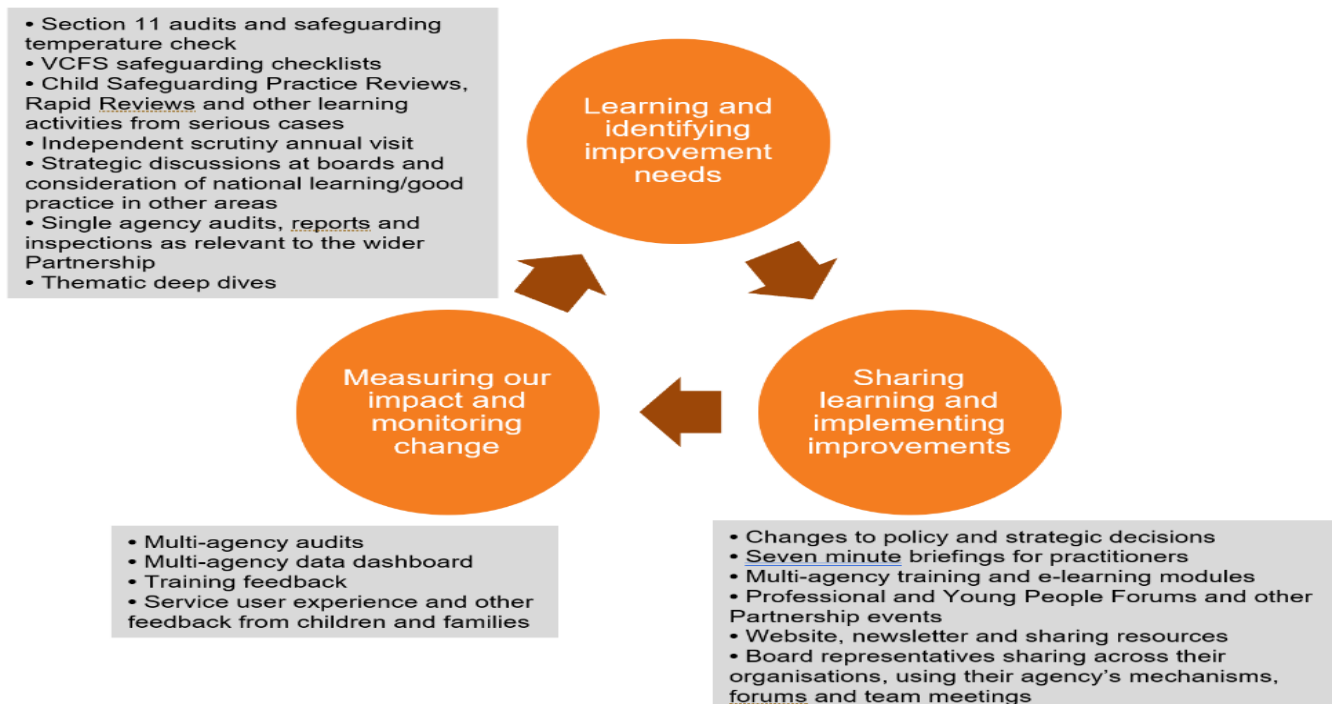
**Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup:** The PQA is chaired on a rotating basis by the 3 senior safeguarding leads of health, social care and police partners. It holds representatives from many partner organisations within those 3 statutory strands of the Partnership. It has a crucial scrutiny and assurance function, reviewing multi-agency performance data and a range of annual reports including from the MASH, LADO, Vulnerable Adolescents Community Partnership Education and other upon request. PQA takes an active role in monitoring and advising many of the BSCP activities, including development and scrutiny of the multi-agency data dashboard, multi-agency audits, the workforce development training programme, scrutiny of service level reports including MASH, private fostering and LADO, Section 11 audits, Professional and Young People Forums and thematic deep dives. This forum also includes regular reports from the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector subgroup

**Learning and Thematic Review Group:** The Learning and Thematic Review Group is chaired independently by Bridget Griffin, a hugely experienced multi-agency safeguarding professional, and has a membership from across the council, police, health, community safety, public health and a legal adviser. It undertakes Rapid Reviews, oversees local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other bespoke learning activities and monitors the implementation of recommendations. It also reviews national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other relevant learning and good practice to implement in Barnet.

**Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Sub-group:** Our VCFS subgroup aims to bring the voice and knowledge of VCFS organisations to the Partnership, as well as to improve safeguarding practice across the sector and increase engagement with Partnership activities and training.



**Section 1: Learning & Development:** A key focus for the Partnership this year has been upon ensuring that the learning which we obtain from both national and local safeguarding reviews is embedded in and developed into practice. The safeguarding reviews we undertake within BSCP are all driven forward by our Learning & Improvement model as demonstrated below:



Over the past 18 months BSCP has coordinated and published Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) and submitted to the national panel Rapid Reviews leading to the identification of important learning which means that we are well placed to improve the local multi-agency system. **We have received positive feedback from the national panel upon the quality and concise identification of learning within them.** The grid below provides an overview of the cases we have reviewed, and critical learning and practice themes identified within them:

Case	Critical learning and practice themes identified
<b>CSPR Family H</b> (published Autumn 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting electively home educated children</li> <li>• bereavement support</li> <li>• child sexual abuse</li> </ul>
<b>CSPR Family J</b> (published Autumn 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting electively home educated children</li> <li>• supporting staff to effectively identify and respond to 'help seeking behaviour'</li> <li>• responding appropriately to physical chastisement</li> <li>• cultural competency</li> <li>• professional curiosity &amp; challenging 'fixed thinking'</li> <li>• Achieving Best Evidence interviewing and quality</li> <li>• DSLs in schools supported to follow KCSIE guidance upon identifying and referring cases of neglect and abuse</li> </ul>
<b>CSPR Child L</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Bruising protocol in mobile and non/mobile children.</li> <li>• Role and responsibilities of Leaving Care Personal Advisers reviewed and ascertained to others.</li> <li>• Information sharing across GP network</li> <li>• Probation and Leaving Care arrangements reviewed.</li> <li>• Health information systems expanded so that all relevant information can be captured.</li> </ul>

<b>Rapid Review Child L-MB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing between NHS hospital trusts</li> <li>• Consideration of assessing risk and vulnerability as a result of abuse and trauma through intersectional lens of race, culture and identity.</li> <li>• How to ensure holistic checks (i.e. address checks) are undertaken where CiN status is present and consent not explicit.</li> </ul>
<b>Rapid Review Child AD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of involving fathers/ male care givers – linked to Myth of Invisible Men report</li> </ul>
<b>Rapid Review Child KD and Child HF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neglect and working with parents where engagement is sporadic or reluctant</li> <li>• Covid19 and ability for parents to avoid engagement with services.</li> <li>• Housing provider to review roles and responsibilities and strengthen safeguarding approaches where access to properties are not given</li> <li>• Support for EHE children , and consideration of siblings needs.</li> <li>• Special Guardianship Orders</li> <li>• Improving awareness for health visitors of Special Guardians</li> </ul>
<b>Rapid Review Child VP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer of timely information between health services</li> <li>• Quality of information provided by community perinatal mental health services</li> <li>• Support for parents/children whom have significant family member in custody.</li> </ul>
<b>Rapid Review Child XY (now commissioned as a CSPR to be published 2023)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural competency and intersectionality considered within assessments through engagement with public services by residents where, culturally, it is not as frequent as would be expected.</li> <li>• Retention of and no evidence of safeguarding information sharing by private providers (i.e therapists)</li> </ul>

Our Learning & Improvement model has tracked and developed learning from these local reviews and provided challenge to partners upon how effectively they are embedding this learning in practice. **Multi-agency peer to peer challenge workshops have been hosted every 6-8 weeks inviting key Partners to update upon progress and the following provides insight into how we are continually improving the local system.** Some reviews hold repeat learning themes which have informed the dissemination:

**CSPRs Family H & Family J:** Two separate local CSPRs featured safeguarding concerns upon child sexual abuse and Elective Home Education. Key multi-agency practice themes, which could have been stronger, were identified to be **cultural competence** in practice and raising awareness of the law in regards to **physical chastisement**. The Partnership **developed and published two practice statements** which can be found [here](#), for developing Cultural Competency and [here](#), for raising awareness around the understanding of responding to physical chastisement of children.

**Evidence of impact:** A series of BSCP delivered webinars were delivered, achieving attendance by over 80 colleagues form across the partnership, seeking to raise awareness of the key practice and learning themes identified in these CSPRs. These drove traffic to the BSCP website to obtain the practice statements, with feedback from education colleagues including an example below from a local Headteacher: *“Throughout Covid, the responsibilities of Headteachers has been huge and quite lonely and isolating, so to be able to come to together for the professional discourse and updates [on practice] like this has been a life saver for me.”*

**CSPR Child L** Following the assessment of non-accidental bruising being inflicted upon an infant known to multi agency services, a local CSPR was commissioned. Key learning and practice themes identified from this review featured: supporting vulnerable care leavers across boundaries, applying consistency to assessing children where bruising is suspected as non-accidental, understanding the use of Powers of Police Protection and ensuring confidence in information sharing and the pathways used to do that by the GP network.

**Evidence of impact:** A comprehensive **review of the Partnership’s Bruising protocol and information sharing pathways is being led by Health partners, involving other multi- agency partners and is to be completed late 2022.** BSCP has delivered webinars to the GP network upon information sharing, attended by over 50 GPs. Further, **learning webinars**

**delivered by Police Partners upon raising knowledge of Powers of Police Protection were attended by over 60 colleagues from across the Partnership. Learning transfer and improved knowledge was evidenced in feedback secured.** The learning webinars are found on our BSCP learning repository [here](#) . Closer strategic relationship has been aligned between Probation and Leaving Care and regular meetings established to review effectiveness of service delivery. A Multi Agency upon Neglect will bring the Partnership together in November 2022 to review further cases and identify how practice where neglect featured could have been strengthened.

**Rapid Review for Child L-MB:** Following the sad instance of a **presumed sudden and unexpected death of an infant (SUDI)**, the Partnership reviewed the quality and timeliness of the transfer of information from one hospital trust to another given that the infant was assessed as a Child in Need.

**Evidence of impact:** Working with North Middlesex University Hospital Trust all safer discharge plans have been reviewed to place focus upon safer sleeping. A new named midwife is in place and an audit of information sharing has been undertaken. There has been a focus upon developing for staff a deeper consideration of cultural and racial intersectionality. Dedicated webinars were delivered over May and June 2022 with **a focus upon cultural competency and intersectionality**. Nearly 80 multi agency professionals attended one of 3 sessions with feedback from attendees evidencing improved knowledge and confidence.

**Rapid Review for Child HF & KD:** Following concerns that two children were living in neglectful circumstances that featured poor housing conditions, worsened by hoarding behaviours of the adult carer, the Partnership reviewed the practice in this case as there was multi agency safeguarding involvement. Key learning from this Rapid Review focussed upon **the importance of housing association (HA) partners ensuring that any child protection concerns are managed appropriately and referred to the MASH** wherever necessary. This was particularly important given this review covered exploration of provision provided over the first and second national lockdowns because of Covid19. Additional learning focussed upon the quality of engagement with Special Guardians whereby consent with services is voluntary. This learning was pertinent in light of one of the children being subject to a Special Guardianship Order. Features of elective home education was also prominent as a learning area.

**Evidence of impact:** The HA in this case undertook a corporate learning review resulting in: corporate learning across 4 housing regions with mandatory training on early interventions, a daily check in session for teams to feature safeguarding and learning about when to discharge duties / gas safety compliance and no -access policies revised and reviewed / campaign to be launched raising awareness upon disguised compliance by parents and promoting professional curiosity / children's safeguarding policy modified with delivery of lunch and learn sessions. **BSCP has provided further bespoke support to the HA in order for their staff to access the workforce development programme.** This case also prompted the review of our Special Guardianship Policy, placing clear focus upon expectations of engagement with service support and provision provided by the Carer Support Team by our Special Guardians.

Since the Partnership has reviewed this case, Special Guardianship Orders have been granted in other cases with feedback secured that effective coordination of working between teams was clear and evident in these cases, with the voice of children and adults involved clear on the Child in Need plans. Solutions 4 Health held training for all staff on special guardianship orders and private fostering in September 2022.

**This Rapid Review also featured the instance of a child being electively home educated (EHE).** EHE has been an increasing safeguarding concern for BSCP and those within the national safeguarding arena. The office of the Childrens Commissioner has made it clear that [concerns are held that the numbers of children nationally not attending school consistently has increased](#), possibly as a consequence of the Covid19 pandemic. At BSCP we have been robust in ensuring that children who are home educated are supported and that we are identifying and taking appropriate action where we identify children who are not attending school. Our EHE team, supported by Partners in Barnet Education and Learning Services (BELS) has continued to grow providing support to the local EHE community, raising awareness and supporting children back to school. **This has been underpinned by policy review at a the local level and the creation of a dedicated EHE website.** Raising awareness , particularly in the eyes of Health Partners such as GPs below, has been a central tenant of this work and evidence is beginning to emerge of increased understanding of EHE and improved outcomes: *"From attending the events last year I was aware of home education team in Barnet. We had a young person who had significant mental health needs following a disclosure of sexual abuse by her sibling. I was informed that her two older siblings (oldest sibling was alleged perpetrator) were home educated. I shared names of the sibling group with home education team and raised concerns with named nurse for safeguarding – the home education team were not aware of these young people."* - Local GP .

**To support the sharing of information across Partners quarterly meetings with social care have been established to review current and new EHE cases** and a systems database is in development. The EHE team report a levelling off of known children whom are being home educated. Through the pandemic and soon after number rose to just over 400. However as of September 2022 numbers have reduced to just over 350 children , with 19 children supported back to school in this month alone. **We view this as positive impact.** Whilst we recognise parental rights to home educate children, it is clear that for the [most vulnerable children being in school supports them to achieve more positive outcomes](#)

**Rapid Review for Child AD:** The Partnership came together to review practice **following an infant sustaining serious presumed non-accidental head injuries.** A key learning theme centred upon how health services involve male care givers within assessments and interventions. The learning from this review looped back to the national child safeguarding practice review panel's review titled '[The Myth of Invisible Men](#)' which shone a light upon a disproportionate number of serious case reviews involving harm perpetrated by male care givers under the age of 1.

**Evidence of impact:** The RFLNHSFT have concentrated learning for staff around supporting mothers and fathers to understand the triggers for abusive head injury and the principles of safer sleeping under the [ICON programme.](#) They have linked with a Father Inclusion Lead from another borough to provide training to midwives about the importance of including male care givers within care and advice around pregnancy and the new born. They have also worked with cross Partnership colleagues delivering the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls strategy in order to coordinate training for health staff about the new Domestic abuse Act. Furthermore, they have worked with the WAVE Trust who screened their award winning documentary Resilience which promotes trauma informed care and the science of adverse childhood experiences at staff conferences.

**Rapid Review for Child VP:** Learning themes identified within this Rapid Review centred upon the transfer of timely information between health services, the quality of information provided by community perinatal mental health services and promoting support for parents/children whom have a loved one in custody.

**Evidence of impact:** Brent CLCH have finalised a Serious Incident Review and key learning is to be shared with the Partnership in December 2022. Learning from this will be disseminated.

**Our community Health Partners Solutions 4 Health have reviewed their policies with regards to accepting families upon transfer to Barnet with a guaranteed community health visit within 10 days.** Prior to S4H going live within the authority, families that were transferred into Barnet were discussed with the duty health visitor (HV). The duty HV would then place families on the waiting list for allocation to a health visitor. This allocation time was open ended, resulting in vulnerable families sometimes being left on the waiting list for over four weeks. This highlighted a risk for S4H which was the driving force behind the implementation of the new policy. A verbal /written handover of families is undertaken via the duty HV. Families are subsequently placed on a waiting list and the HV team lead is then imminently informed of the transfer-in. The families are then allocated to a health visitor and a home visit is conducted within 7 days regardless of the family's level of need. The level of need is assessed in accordance with **the pan London continuum of need threshold guidance.** Utilising both the S4H transfer-in policy and guidance provides a comprehensive assessment resulting in optimal outcomes for families. The Partnership also supported neighbouring Health colleagues in Brent to review the quality of service provision afforded to mothers with mental health difficulties – an internal case review was triggered and at the time of writing we look forward to receiving the learning for consideration.

**National Reviews:** Beyond BSCPs local safeguarding reviews, we have ensured that we have brought learning from national reviews into our Partnership. [The publication in May 2022 of the national safeguarding reviews into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson](#) sought to place an understanding upon how their tragic deaths could have been prevented. Whilst being clear that they were murdered by those responsible for their care, the review serves as an important reminder of the need for effective and robust multi agency staffing practice. Key recommendations from the review led to our Partnership appraising itself of the recommendations with a focus upon:

- A review of our Section 47 processes including the quality of strategy discussions, multiagency contributions and decision making; this includes a review of the use of child protection medicals. 10% of all S47 enquiries over the past 12 months were sampled (103 S47 enquiries). Police and social care managers have delivered workshops for colleagues across the Partnership upon effective Section. 47 enquiries.
- A review of referrals made by friends/family to the MASH to ensure these referrals have been responded to

appropriately.

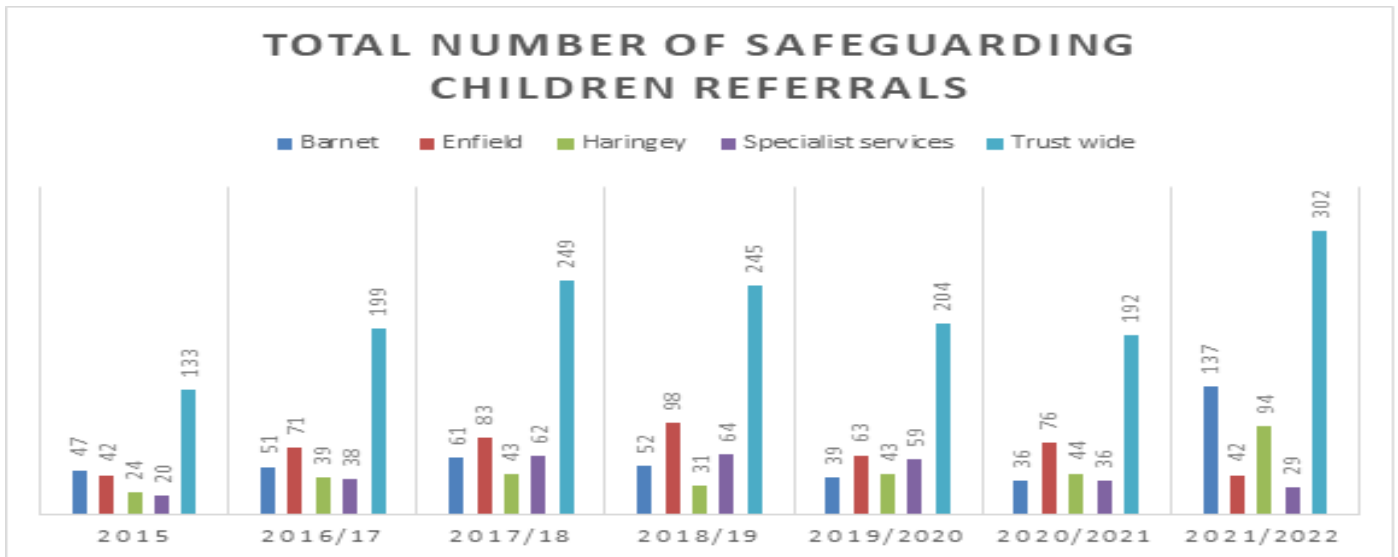
- To support practitioners learning across agencies a series of BSCP delivered webinars secured attendance by over 140 colleagues from across the Partnership where learning from the national review was shared. **Attendees outlined an improved understanding of the complexities of the safeguarding system and an acknowledgement of how learning themes can improve their own practice.**
- A comprehensive review of our Unborn Protocol – a multi-agency response to ensuring that appropriate support measures are in place for vulnerable pregnant mothers pre and post birth.

**Data:** The PQA subgroup have ensured that stubborn and ‘knotty’ issues within the local system have had the appropriate levels of scrutiny in order to overcome them. Our comprehensive multi-agency data dashboard provides the platform for this. **A good example of how data can be used to provide scrutiny can be seen by the Partnership exploring the areas below:**

- Police offence notification data expanding to include ethnicity of children resulting in scrutiny of disproportionality.
- Uses of Powers of Police Protection tracked through the dashboard leading to auditing by Police to ensure that they are being used appropriately and proportionately.
- Private Fostering arrangements – there remains concern that numbers of known private fostering arrangements have not returned to pre-pandemic areas and this is an area of future focus for the Partnership that is to be scrutinised.
- Cross referencing episodes of children missing with police and social care data
- Using data to scrutinise multi-agency attendance at initial child protection conferences and reviews

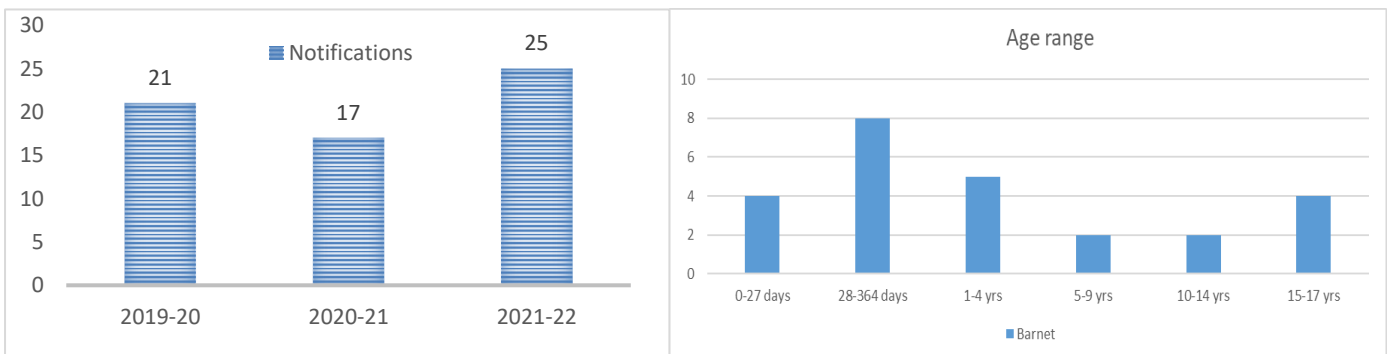
Using data to support safeguarding improvement is demonstrated by a number of our Partners. For our Partners at the **RFLNHSFT they** have an integrated safeguarding committee (ISC) which meets quarterly and is chaired by the Chief Nurse. The membership is made up of senior staff from each hospital including the directors of nursing. The aim of the committee is to monitor safeguarding activity across the Trust. All safeguarding activity is monitored each quarter. Key performance indicators are comprehensive and are: Referral data for the unborn, children and adults broken down by type to allow analysis of themes and trends / referral data and activity relating to people with learning disabilities / risk and governance related to safeguarding including serious case reviews, serious adult reviews, serious incidents, domestic homicide reviews, learning disabilities mortality review, complaints, allegations of abuse against staff and attendance at child protection case conferences / audits including section 11 Childrens Act / safeguarding supervision compliance / safeguarding training compliance / domestic abuse referral data / preparation for and outcome of external inspection and review / quarterly prevent training figures to NHSE and Home office / quarterly Deprivation of Liberty applications to the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

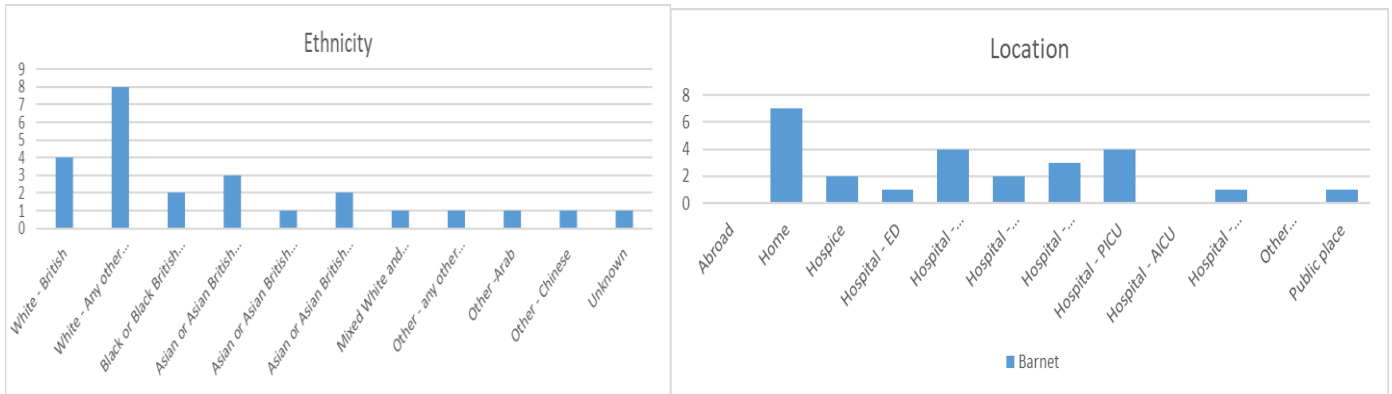
**For colleagues at BEH-MHT** pressures upon the local system in supporting and responding to emotional and mental health difficulties for children persist. Barnet has seen an increase in safeguarding referrals due to dedicated work undertaken for the division by the Lead nurse for CAMHS and safeguarding – this is shown in the graph below. They remain committed to strengthening their responses by: focusing on recruitment and retention of staff / improving attendance at case conferences / responding adequately to safeguarding concerns and feedback received from complaints / developing new 18-25 Transition service to better safeguard CYP transitioning from CAMHS to AMHS.



**Child Death Overview Panel:** This year there has been a strengthened alignment between BSCP and the formal Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) processes, owned by NCL ICB. Any child death is tragic, and any learning assumed by the CDOP is important share across the wider BSCP to reduce the risk of child death instances occurring. The NCL Child Death Review partners held 4 panel meetings in 2021/22, reviewing over 60 cases. Each child death is presented by the clinical leads and scrutinised by the panel for learning purposes. Learning from cases can take the form of individual case actions or wider NCL learning that is currently disseminated via the panel members. From April 2022, the NCL Clinical Lead Nurse will be a panel member for the various learning subgroups of each of the 5 Partnerships, creating a direct link with the panel work. NCL ICB have also recruited an Independent Chair who joined in April 2022. This will ensure independent scrutiny and challenge of the anonymised cases and service provision to identify learning. **In 2021/22, the central team received 103 eCDOP notifications, with 25 of these notifications for Barnet children.** The electronic system (eCDOP) allows for the prompt notification of a child and is used by all agencies across NCL. The central team reviews each notification and determines with the practitioners (if not already identified) the need for a Joint Agency Response (JAR) meetings. The team have coordinated 21 JAR meetings in the reporting period, 8 of which were for children resident in Barnet. Each provider Trust continues to develop and embed their internal child death process with the assistance of the central lead. The NCL Lead Nurse attends various Trust meetings such as Peri-Natal Mortality meetings, along with the Child Death Review Meetings to review all information relating to the child death.

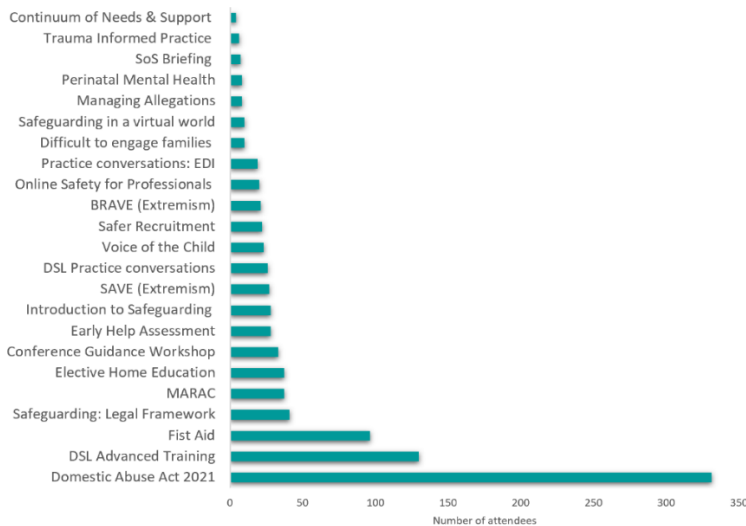
A mapping of the current bereavement offer, including a visit to Noah’s Ark Hospice was undertaken. The exercise demonstrated the need for further work to ensure a seamless package of support is offered to all families, regardless of the cause of death. The team coordinated a pilot training session on “*when a child dies: supporting parents and families*” to support front line workers who are identified as key workers. The training session in March 2022 was positively evaluated with a plan to develop a rolling programme of training for all agencies. The charts below outline Barnet specific data upon the children reviewed over the periods below:



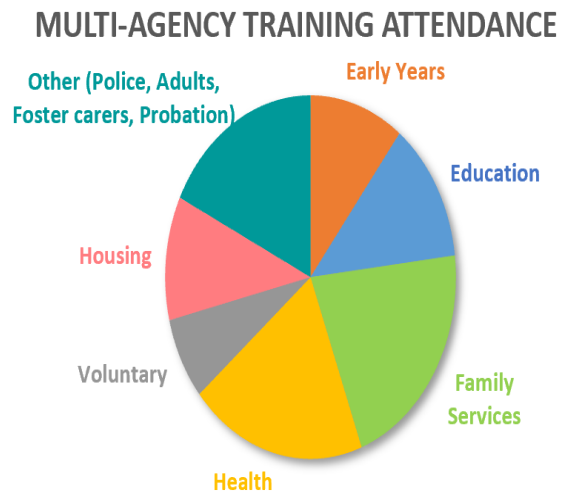


**Multi-agency workforce development:** The multi-agency safeguarding training offer remains robust and is continually adapting to meet the changing needs of local safeguarding issues, with most training offered online. Feedback received from participants highlight satisfaction with the quality of course content and the delivery skills of trainers. Areas of improvement are to continue to work closely with multi-agency partners such as health and police to co-produce more learning workshops. There is a strong preference for face-to-face delivery for certain courses because it creates greater participation engagement and for other courses these are best attended when virtual. **Figure 1 below shows a list of courses with combined total attendance.** The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 was the prevalent training event: commissioned to give an overview of the new Domestic Abuse Bill. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) course remains well attended and an increase in First Aid training is due to the large number of volunteers who form part of the BACE school holiday programme. **Figure 2, below, shows a breakdown in attendance and shows that the highest number of participants are professionals from Education, Family Services, and Early Years.** In comparison to 2020/21 there is an increase in the attendance rates of professionals from Housing and Health, which is largely due to the increase in Domestic Violence training.

**Figure 1:**



**Figure 2:**



In addition to the programme above, BSCP has delivered a series of well attended learning webinars on themes from recent rapid reviews and learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. A total of 12 webinars were held and these are now available on demand as recorded sessions on the [learning repository](#). These were in response to two CSPRs and featured Elective Home Education workshops delivered to Health services, Housing & Benefits, Family Services, Police and Emergency services to raise awareness of electively home educated children in our community and to strengthen safeguarding arrangements for children who are educated at home.

We are pleased that a number of our Partners have factored in learning from the work of the Partnership this year into their own learning programmes. **Partners at NHS Central London Community Healthcare (CLCH) have included:** delivering a webinar in response to the deaths of Arthur Labinjo Hughes and Star Hobson. They have also delivered a



webinar on safe sleeping (March 2022), led the Safeguarding 'Time to Shine' working group to support the development of a CLCH School Nursing model and health needs assessment, delivered the CLCH Safeguarding Conference Oct 22 (600 attendees) which was well received and delivered routine enquiry avenues for Barnet walk in centre teams and the complex care teams upon safeguarding issues such as domestic abuse.

**Single agency learning & improvement:** Moving away from our multi-agency safeguarding reviews, each Partner has undertaken their own single agency learning and improvement through a number of varying methods. **Between 17 and 21 January 2022, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Barnet** to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. They reported that children with SEND in Barnet enjoy their time in education and outside of school and that they like to live in Barnet and are well supported. Twenty two strengths and seven areas for improvement were identified in [the Report from Ofsted and the CQC](#).

*"Vulnerable children and young people with SEND in Barnet have easy access to support for their health and well-being. There are designated nurses on site at PRUs, the youth offending service and in specialist settings. Children looked after with SEND benefit from timely assessment and support."*

The Partnership's Youth Justice Service welcomed inspectors in 2022. [The inspection report published by HMIP](#) inspectors found that the partnership working with this cohort of young people was a strength:

*"A strong partnership safeguarding offer was in place for children who may be eligible for an out-of-court disposal. The management board has visible strategic and operational links with other boards, partnerships and services. This is reflected by a strong offer of support for vulnerable adolescents and children at risk of exploitation."*

For our Partners in education, the team at **Barnet Education & Learning Services (BELS) have supported a number of schools within Barnet to secure positive feedback from Ofsted upon safeguarding within their inspection visits.** The impact of this support is clearly evidenced within recent Ofsted judgments upon a number of educational settings including:

*"Leaders promote a strong culture of safeguarding. Staff are well trained to recognise the signs that might indicate a concern about a pupil's safety or well-being. Staff know the procedures they need to follow if they are worried about a pupil. Safeguarding leaders are knowledgeable about risks in the local area."*

*"Leaders have established a strong culture of safeguarding across the school community. They engage with parents and carers and raise their awareness of safeguarding risks. They educate pupils on how to keep themselves safe, including online. Leaders encourage pupils to report any inappropriate language or behaviour. Pupils feel empowered to do so."*

**For Health Partners, Solutions 4 Health, a CQC inspection was undertaken at the end of April 2022 with no safeguarding concerns identified.**

**Commitment to empowering children is further evidenced by Partners at Barnet, Enfield Haringey Mental Health Trust (BEHMHT).** Groups of 16 – 18 year old's form focus groups to think specifically about transitions out of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and where relevant, how these are navigated to other local and statutory services. This is the first of a number of approached planned which will bring together children, their parents and carers together to develop their co-production strategy. Following this, the young people will be invited to attend a monthly panel and join their Experts by Experience group.

## Section 2: Shared safeguarding themes:

**Domestic abuse:** [Domestic abuse is a factor in over 40% of the serious safeguarding incidents reviewed by the national child safeguarding practice review panel \(2020\)](#) and risk posed by domestic abuse features prominently in serious case review analyses. In summary, it remains a stubborn and pertinent issue within the child protection systems affecting children and leading to negative outcomes for them. The [2022 – 2025 Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls strategy](#) was launched in early 2022. It sets out our vision for Barnet to be a borough where everyone can live free of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. Our approach retains a clear focus on women and girls' experiences, whilst also recognising that anyone including men and boys can be victims and survivors. **Barnet's rate of DA incidents is 12.5 per 1000 population (12 months up to the end of August 2022) and Barnet holds the 3rd lowest rate of all 32 London boroughs.** There were 737 Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury offences recorded by the police in Barnet in the 12 months up to the end of August 2022 (a increase of **2.1%** compared to the previous year).

MARAC	Q3 21/22	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23
Number of MARAC referrals	127	132	87	123
Number of children in the household	96	71	51	64
Number of families with children	55	66	38	48
Number of repeat MARAC referrals	27	20	9	22
Percentage of repeat MARAC referrals	21%	17%	10%	18%

**In respect of children the graph above, the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) show a small, but notable decline, in the number of children brought to MARAC.** There were 469 referrals to the Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (DA-MARAC) in the 12-month period October 2021/22, which is a 4% decrease from the previous year. Of these, 44% were adults caring for children(n=207) with a combined total of 282 children in the household. The repeat rate for Barnet DA MARAC in the reporting period is 14% which is lower than the 20.0% rate reported in the previous year and is 19% lower than the national repeat referral rate of 33%

### Evidence of impact under the DA & VAWG strategy include:

- The final session of a 4-month accredited Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) training, funded by London Borough of Barnet has been delivered to 23 learners from Youth Support Services in the Voluntary Sector, Early Help, Children's Social Care, Adult MASH, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, Barnet Homes, Change, Grow, Live (substance misuse and alcohol services) and specialist Domestic Abuse service providers.
- Assessments are now underway for the Level 3 Certificate in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Intervention.
- A total of 69 multi-agency practitioners and managers attended DA & VAWG Training over the reporting period. Courses included Domestic Abuse Awareness Level 1 and Domestic Abuse Recognising and Responding Level 2, understanding coercive control and economic abuse, MARAC – Identifying high risk victims and preventing repeat victimisation. 40 professionals attended a presentation delivered by Galop on LGBT+ Domestic Abuse experiences with the aim of raising awareness on LGBT+ and experiences of domestic abuse, the support available and barriers. Barnet Council has commissioned services for both men and women, plus LGBT+ victims.
- The London Borough of Barnet White Ribbon Steering Group met in June to commence development of a 3-year Action Plan which will support employees and create lasting change through development across four key areas of work; Strategic Leadership, Changing Culture, Raising Awareness and Engaging with Men and Boys. A Domestic Abuse Policy is currently being developed for staff and Barnet will continue working with White Ribbon to promote accountability for White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions.
- Further and alongside White Ribbon accreditation, Barnet Council is a signatory to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), Women's Night Safety Charter, against which £108,000 of funding for dedicated training and resources is available to enable signatories to meet the Charter's seven pledges.
- Public Health and the VAWG Delivery Team have started conversations about the challenges and opportunities

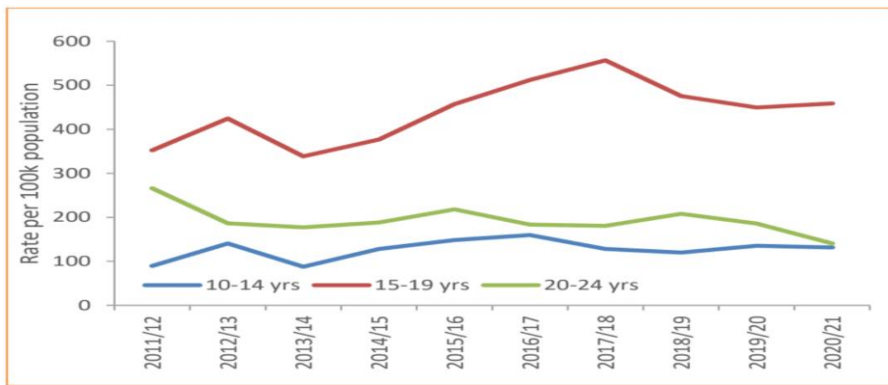
for VAWG prevention in Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in schools. Public Health will present to the VAWG Delivery Group to promote understanding across the partnership and strengthen the ways in which organisations can work together.

- The VAWG Delivery Team have met with Middlesex University staff to develop a student project over the next academic year. A representative will join the VAWG Delivery Group to work towards the prevention aims of the Strategy. A partnership event to share learning from the project will be held at the conclusion of this strand of work.
- A further 3 years of funding for Reducing Parental Conflict has been allocated by the Department of Work & Pensions. Barnet 0-19 Early Help Services are recruiting a dedicated officer to assist with the 3-year delivery.
- To meet the aim of increasing awareness and access to domestic abuse victims from under-represented groups. The toolkits for commissioned domestic abuse services are being reviewed as a priority in Year 1 to ensure that impact is captured, and underrepresented groups are identified to enable the partnership to work towards increased reach and access.
- The Against Violence & Abuse delivery of Children Overcoming Domestic Abuse (AVA CODA) groups is a recovery programme for mothers and children that has been adapted by the 0-19 Early Help Service to meet the needs of Muslim women living in the borough.
- A Survivor Forum is currently in scoping phase with the aim of having this and improved access to mental health support for victim/survivors and perpetrators progressed within year 1 delivery as a priority.

**For colleagues at the RFLNHSFT** they have contributed to several reviews where babies and infants have died or been harmed. Consequently, they have concentrated learning for staff around supporting mothers and father to understand the triggers for abusive head injury and the principles of safer sleeping. The Trust has linked with a Father Inclusion Lead from another borough to provide training to our midwives about the importance of including the father the care and advice around pregnancy and the new born. They have worked with Barnet Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls strategic team to coordinate training for health staff about the new Domestic Abuse Act. Colleagues have further worked with the WAVE Trust who screened their award-winning documentary Resilience which promotes trauma informed care and the science of adverse childhood experiences.

**Suicide & Self-harm:** Barnet's suicide Prevention Strategy 2021-25 was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2021. The partnership delivering the strategy is multi-agency and multi-disciplinary reflecting the complexity of suicidal behaviour. **The strategy recognises the negative impact of the pandemic and increased cost of living on mental wellbeing, and the already evident increase in multiple risk factors for suicide and self-harm for young people such as bereavement, social isolation and loneliness, domestic violence and unemployment.** The most recent data available for deaths by suicide is for the three-year period covering (2018-20) for people of ages 10 years and over. The 3-year average age-standardised rate for the 2018-20 period is 5.8 deaths per 100,000 persons per year in Barnet. This is set in context with London at 8.0 and England at 10.4. Suicide rates have been going down in Barnet since 2015 with Barnet rate the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in London.

Self-harm is a crucial indicator of risk and should always be taken seriously, even when the physical harm is minor. While many people who engage in self-harming behaviour do not wish to die, there is research to suggest that individuals who self-harm are at an increased risk of attempting or losing their life to suicide. **Self-harm is one of the top five causes of acute health admissions locally.** Those who self-harm have a 1 in 6 chance of repeat attendance at A&E within the year. The figure below highlights the requirement to remain focused and vigilant in improving awareness and access to support for children.



- There is a gradual upward trend in self-harm incidents in those aged 10-14, although this is not statistically significant.
- 15-19 year olds have the highest number of admissions.
- There is a gradual downward trend in self-harm incidents in those aged 20-24, but this is not statistically significant.

Source: Hospital Episode Statistics

#### Evidence of impact: Our strategic response is in its relative infancy, but we believe impact is beginning to be made.

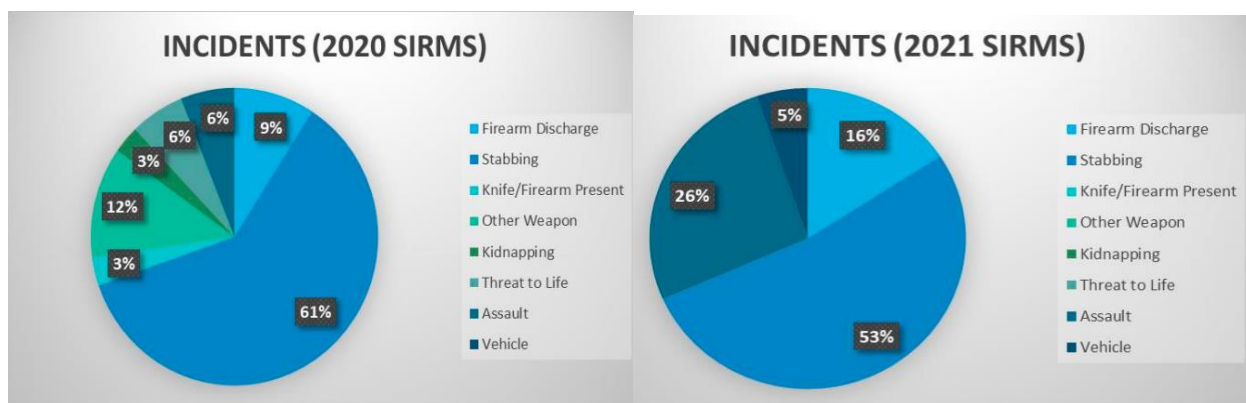
Through our Resilient Schools Programme and Barnet Education and Learning Services (BELS) and Barnet Integrated Clinical Team (BICS) a significant amount of work with schools in raising awareness of suicide and self-harm and mechanisms for signposting to relevant services has taken place. We made sure that all schools are aware of the stepped care pathway of mental health support and understand how to refer to the range of services that are already in place to support children and young people, for example, including a fuller description of BICS, to detail about Raphael House and Terapia services for care-leavers and ongoing communications campaigns to about the service offer for school-age children and their parents and carers. All schools in Barnet have been offered training for Youth Mental Health First Aid and over 100 schools have taken up the offer. In addition, all Secondary schools are offered Papyrus Suicide Prevention training and regular communications are sent out with links to training via the school circular. A Peer Champions Scheme for 16-year-olds has been piloted across two schools and procurement of the service underway for implementation in September 2022 across more schools. We note that over the period of the core awareness campaign between November 2021–January 2022, there were no suspected suicides reported within Barnet. A separate evaluation report is currently being completed to describe in more detail what is known about the impact of the campaign. A further focus for the strategy will be to continue to work with BICS Youth Participation Officer and future Peer champions to ensure that the voice of the child informs suicide prevention planning.

**Learning from serious youth violence:** Since 2018, the London Borough of Barnet response to tackling child exploitation and serious youth violence has been underpinned by a multi-agency strategy. In 2020 the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy was revised to reflect the merging trend of criminal exploitation that can have a devastating impact on the lives of children. During 2020 to 2022, there were significant challenges to the delivery of services including the availability of staff to work in the community and young people affected by virtual schooling, peer isolation and mental health worries through the Covid pandemic. Nonetheless our Partnership approach brings together key partners from social care, police, probation, community safety, housing, education and health with a rigorous approach to data capture informing service provision and development. Primary themes across our strategic response are: Reducing access to weapons/ Strengthening Governance /Safeguarding & Educating children/Working with communities and neighborhoods/Supporting victims/Positive diversion from violence. **In their inspection of Youth Justice Services in 2022**, inspectors found that the sharing of learning from incidents of youth violence was strong: *“The local authority actively encourages the YOS to get involved in critical reflection activities for serious incidents. A serious incident response protocol is in place, which provides ‘live time’ learning opportunities. Broader learning for the YOS is communicated effectively via practice development training packages, and more informally at team meetings. Plans are in place for the board to review recent inspection activity by Ofsted and HM Inspectorate of Probation from the last seven months.”*

**Serious Incident Response Meetings (SIRMs)** are coordinated in response to incidents of serious youth and adult violence that occur in the Borough and are critical to identifying and developing learning. SIRMs will take place for all incidents of serious violence involving; a weapon or firearm discharge, kidnapping or serious assault, with the incident being potentially linked to gangs or exploitation violence where the victim or suspect is aged under 19 years (25 years for young people who are care experienced), or if there is a child in the victim or suspects household. SIRM meetings provide an immediate risk assessment of: ▪ The risk management of potential incidents of reprisal due to the incident, ▪ The risk to immediate families/siblings and friends of both the victim and suspect, ▪ Safety and discharge planning if the victim is in hospital due to the injury, ▪ Community response actions. **Despite the perception of increased serious youth violence**

there has been a trend in which the amount of SIRM has been decreasing, year on year. There have been a total of 90 incidents over the last 3 and a half years: 32 incidents in 2019 , 29 incidents in 2020 and 20 incidents in 2021.

Incidents of serious youth violence are reasonably spread out across the borough, with the highest concentration of them occurring in the NW9 (Colindale) area. To help support this emerging localised need, Barnet was successful in its bid to the Violence Reduction Unit to look at local capacity building. Knife crime serious youth violence incidents are the most recorded incident recorded in the borough, accounting for 50-60% of all serious youth violence incidents. 2021 reported an increase of firearm discharges. In the pre-pandemic reporting period 2019/20, there were more incidents where victims were threatened with assault or with a weapon, this does not continue into 2021/22 data. Analysis of the frequency of SIRMS does not indicate seasonal trends, including school holiday periods. Incidents are more likely to occur in residential areas as opposed to open spaces such as parks or during community events or gatherings. The majority of SIRM in 2021 were held in relation to the young people who were not known to Children’s Services or Youth Justice Services. A number of victims of violence were also a victim of a robbery. There is a small cohort of young people who have either been suspected or subject to serious youth violence who are known the Children’s Services. A review of these young people’s records indicates: - They have been involved in escalating tensions with individuals or other groups / there is familial legacy (older sibling) where there has been concerns about extra -familial harm / they have been involved in a SIRM previously. Daily grip meetings were introduced in 2021 with the Police which enables shared understanding of rising tensions, incidents and community events which require targeted resources.



The SIRM Protocol was updated in 2021 in response to community leaders and local councillors raising the need for a wider community impact and collective trauma response. A secondary aspect to SIRM was introduced in July 2021 to draw on the views of community organisations and schools that were near incidents of serious youth violence. **These meetings have ensured: clearer immediate communication with school and community groups to acknowledge the incident and clearer information as to who may be directly or indirectly affected by the incident, a stronger communications network and improvements to the accessibility of information, reporting and communications of positive activities and support services.**

**Evidence of impact: The Home Office funded 4-year Trusted Relationships Project finished in March 2022 and demonstrated tangible impact.** The funding followed a Home Office commissioned review by the Early Intervention Foundation which found that a trusted relationship with an adult is an essential part of programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable children, and that the lack of trusted relationships was consistently cited in reviews of failures around child sexual abuse and exploitation. The review found that trusted relationships can help children avoid risky situations, overcome adverse circumstances in their lives, and enable the disclosure of abuse. The Barnet Trusted Relationships project delivered a school-based prevention programme (Growing Against Knives) and a community-based creative spaces programme (Art Against Knives/MAC-UK) that targeted 10 – 17- year-olds at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation. Through the project and partnership approach, opportunities for young people to build positive life skills and protective factors against grooming and other harms through the development of trusted relationships with professionals were developed. The project delivered its intended outcome to positively engage socially isolated young people in services that will improve their quality of life in areas such as education, employment and housing TR - Preventative Education Delivery (Growing Against Violence)

The sessions delivered included ‘Weapons, Choices and Consequences’ ‘Myths & Realities, Gangs, Choices and

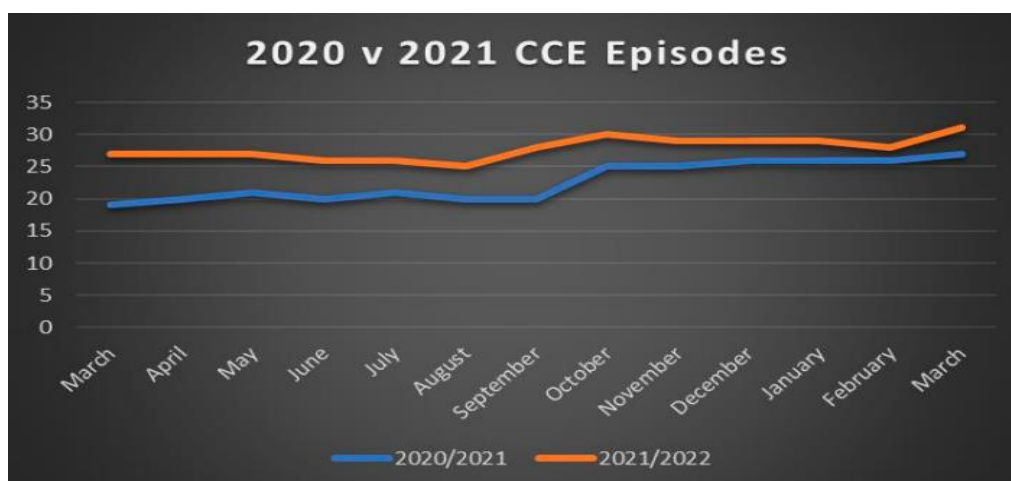
consequences' 'Social Media' session along with 'It's Not just boys, Girls gangs and consequences' which provided a positive focus for the students steering them towards healthier choices and to dispel the myths and realities of gang membership and activities. Below is a table of the number of schools in which sessions were delivered and how many pupils were in receipt of them.

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Schools 35	Schools 34	Schools 19	Schools 19
Sessions 404	Sessions 104	Sessions 56	Sessions 105
Students 6270	Students 3000	Students 1650	Students 3150

The Project was evaluated by The Home Office as a feasibility study and the final report is awaited. In addition, an internal evaluation was undertaken against key outcomes to be delivered through the project. **The demonstrated impact included:**

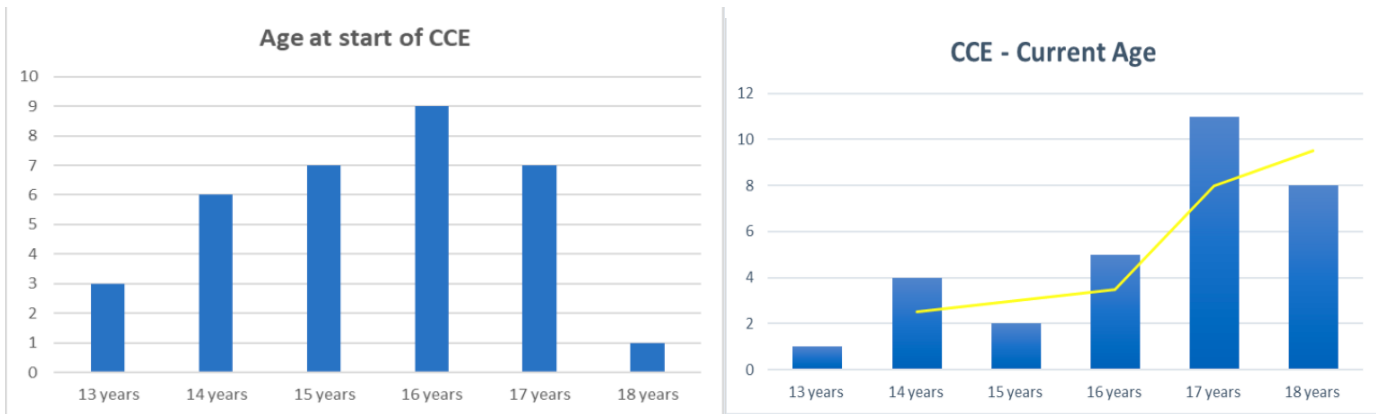
- Development of the 0-19 Early Help CEAM template, co-produced using a young person engagement tool which is now in use across Family Services.
- Supported and developed a good practice model of how VCS/grassroots organization can work with statutory organisations and highlighted the importance of integrated working around young people
- Supporting the voice of the child and their perspective of who they have a trusted relationship with, and the need for this to be considered in planning.
- The importance of place-based services that reach young people where they live and go to school
- Reshaping and challenging the partners of the Vulnerable Adolescents Risk Panel to adopt more child focused and psychologically informed discussions around risk.

**In respect of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)** during 2021-22 a total of 31 young people open to Children Social Care were identified to be at risk of CCE. Due to the complexity of need and the need for longer term intervention, all but 6 of this cohort were from previous years. There was an increase noted in 2021-22 when compared to previous years, although this is impacted by the lower than usual reporting during the pandemic. In 2020-21, 27 young people were identified to be at risk of criminal exploitation. During the year 4 young people had CCE episodes closed due to decreasing risk and 13 young people had open CCE episodes (numbers are cumulative). The figure below charts the 2020-21 and 2021-22 numbers.



The increase in CCE risk being identified is an impact of increasing awareness through the multi-agency work that sits under the Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy 2020-22 which saw the development of multi-agency protocols and practices to support young people at risk of CCE. **Police Partners are crucial to this renewed drive with the Operation Aegis (Continuous Police Improvement team) visit to NW BCU in 2022 and the 87A referral process for child exploitation cases reviewed, refined and improved.**

The charts below show that there are less 13-15 year old's at risk of CCE. The higher volume of 17 and 18 year olds reflect the movement of 16 and 17 year old's over time and the long-term nature of intervention which is only made possible through building trusted relationships.



The Vulnerable Adolescents team are delivering a number of monthly multi-agency best practice briefings, webinars and reflective workshops to help formulate ideas to develop and strengthen awareness, assessment, engagement and intervention for practitioners working with young people and young adults who are at risk of serious violence, exploitation and who are regularly missing. The workshops will also cover VAWG, SEN and Race inequality as relative to this cohort of vulnerable young people/adults. Sessions will also focus upon exploitation, grooming and PREVENT. The annual report on Vulnerable Adolescents will be scheduled for presentation at the BSCP PQA in October.

**Neglect:** Too often analysis of national serious case reviews finds that not listening to children and young people was a crucial omission in providing support where neglect was prominent in the harm they experienced. [The national child safeguarding practice review panel identifies](#) that, nationally, neglect was the primary form of serious harm to children in 7% of serious safeguarding incidents. However, it was an underlying feature of 35% of fatal incidents and 34% of non-fatal incidents. For example, neglect was recognised as a feature in 40% of all deaths related to (but not directly caused by) maltreatment, including 45% of all Sudden & Unexpected Death in Infant cases. The national panel's thematic analyses of rapid reviews involving non-accidental injury and suicide identified neglect as a key aspect of harm or early childhood experiences.

During their June 2021 inspection Ofsted highlighted two areas of social work practice that would benefit from being strengthened: 1). Case recording, including the recording of supervision, visits and direct work with children, and the rationale for decision-making on placements; and 2) the completion and quality of 'All About Me' plans.

**Evidence of impact: Within Family Services** for all children and young people in care, the 'All about me' assessment and plan is an essential piece of direct work and planning that social workers complete with the child and young person which ensures their voices are heard. When a child is subject to court proceedings this document is presented to the court in legal statements and care plans. To ensure that we do not have a system that requires unnecessary duplication for social workers it has been agreed that the child's file will note where the care plan is recorded and the 'All about me' plans will have a link embedded to the legal documents. Audits show that the majority of plans are good.

Family Services have commissioned independent external providers from Listen Up Research and Bright Spots to help us understand the experiences of children and young people in care and what we need to do to enhance the voices of lesser heard children and families, particularly from racially minoritised backgrounds. **Both providers highlighted in their reports that children and young people have good access to a variety of positive activities and co-production opportunities with numerous approaches being used to collect feedback from children and families.** It was recognised that the identification of protected characteristics, including ethnicity, and recording of interventions with children and young people both in data collection and practice recordings needs improvement to give us a clearer picture of how we respond to specific needs and shape services accordingly. Listen Up identified that while there were 'robust' training opportunities, plans (e.g., My Say Matters) and initiatives such as Racial Disparities Summary and Disproportionality Action Plan being implemented by the Youth Offending Service that the tools and approaches that practitioner's use to incorporate the voices of children and young people from minoritised and marginalised backgrounds could be more widely explored and shared.

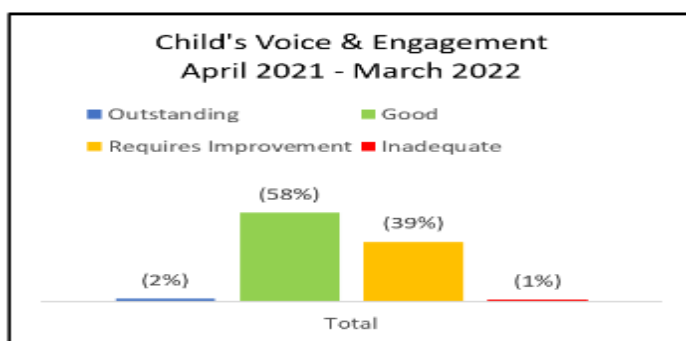
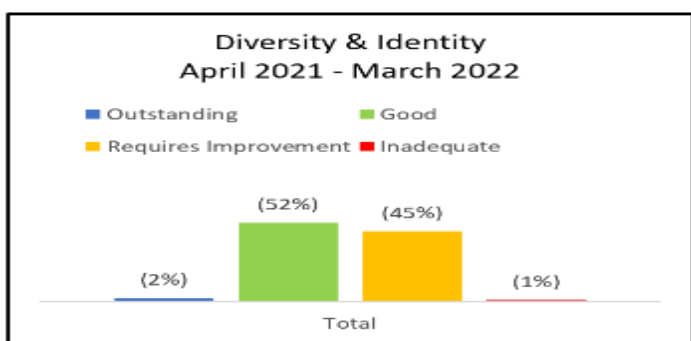
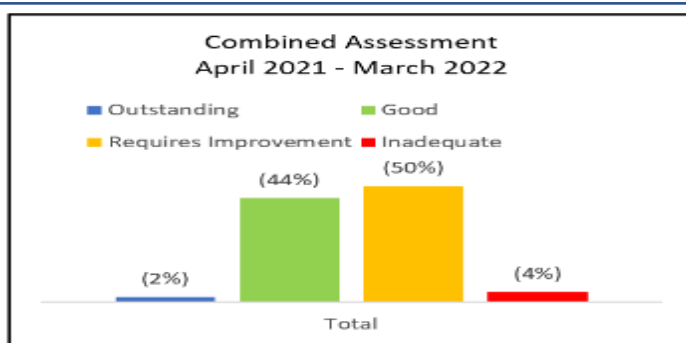
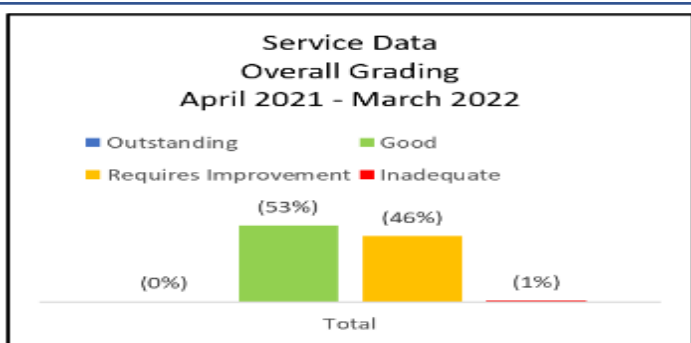
Listen Up recommendations included strengthening cultural competence through training and reflective spaces was also

identified as a workforce need, alongside standardising and centralising how feedback is captured, collated, analysed and shared across the organisation so that it becomes meaningful and results in change that children and their families will notice. The Bright Spots survey and reporting was robust, and an action plan has been developed in response by Corporate Parenting. A positive highlight for the workforce was that children and young people report strong and trusting relationships with their social workers and 86% - 87% of young people feel included in the decision making in their lives.

In further response to the recommendations from Ofsted, Family Services have consistently audited case files to identify examples of good practice and highlight where improvement is needed. Team managers and auditors have worked alongside practitioners to ensure that information from the audits inform practice, and the case files effectively represent the excellent practice that teams are producing. Across the year 75% of audits were rated as 'good', some with outstanding features, and the small number of requires improvement audits indicated that supervision recordings and management oversight needed to show more of the reflective discussions that take place and rationale for decision. The most recent quarterly report shows ongoing improvements and evidence that the audit actions are being used in supervision to reflect on practice.

A critical area in identifying and tackling neglect is embedding a systemic approach. **The Signs of Safety 2-day practitioner course has been well attended and successfully adapted to the online environment with feedback from participants indicating good likelihood of training transfer in areas of critical thinking, analysis, assessment, direct work and the voice of the child as set out in the table below.** This is critical in outlining the impact we believe our approaches are making in embedding learning in practice when we approach assessing and responding to neglect affecting children. SoS multi-Agency training remains on offer and SoS Booster sessions have been popular and successful in focusing practice on the use of questions to promote family change, using SoS ideas in assessment and safety planning using co-production and anti-oppressive techniques. Audit activity shows a strong footprint of SoS thinking in case files which evidences the model as a useful practice tool: *"It will help me with court work, to say what the risk is and what it looks like."* , *"Scaling the risk will help the family see. Plans are holistic and task centered"*, *"I liked the strength-based questions. Mapping is useful to see the columns"*

**Evidence of impact:** The wider Partnership workforce has also benefited from exposure to systemic workshops such as SoS which when delivered supports a whole system approach. **Case file audits show how the SoS practice model is embedding in practice through knowledge transfer and evidence of this can be seen in the way that signs of safety and systemic language is used in case notes and supervision records.** Practitioners know their children and families well and audit outcomes for child's voice and engagement has been strengthened. Triangulating the impact of learning activity with audit outcomes suggests a correlation in the improved audit domains of assessment, planning and identity and diversity which is demonstrated in the figures below. This suggest that learning activity in response to these domains are having a positive impact as outlined in the figure below:





**Conclusion:** At the time of writing, we were pleased to receive positive feedback following the visit of independent scrutineers in November 2022. Tasked with scrutinizing the effectiveness of our multi agency safeguarding arrangements, it was outlined that:

*“Our confident judgement is that the Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership continue to comply with Working Together, 2018. There are robust partnership arrangements to ensure that children in Barnet are safeguarded and their welfare promoted. The last year has consolidated and strengthened the Partnership arrangements, even though there have been significant [structural] changes within one of the partner agencies (NCL ICB), with clear evidence that key partners have further stepped up to their responsibilities in the Partnership and are involved and committed. There continues to be a culture of openness, respectful challenge, and a willingness to learn, which has positively impacted children and families in Barnet. Hearing and acting upon the voice of children and young people is a significant strength in Barnet, which has been further reinforced by the innovative participation of children, young people, and their families.”*

Going forward into 2023 and 2024 we do not remain complacent as there is much to do. We are now seeing the impact of the pandemic on children’s lives in health, education and social care arenas, and as we begin to see the inequality of the cost-of-living crisis for vulnerable households, acute pressures remain upon the local safeguarding system. We also await the government’s responses to the children’s social care review and other important national policy developments and we will, as a Partnership, continue to take pro-active action and robust responses in order to keep children and young people safe from harm.

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**Independent Review of Barnet Safeguarding  
Children Partnership  
November 2022**

**Authors: Nicky Pace, Russell Wate, Nicola Brownjohn - RedQuadrant**

## Context

The Children and Social Work Act (2017) and Working Together (2018)<sup>1</sup> dissolved the requirement for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB). They required the three key statutory partners - the Police, Health, and the Local Authority - to set up Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASAs) in their area.

The three statutory partners for Barnet comprise the London Borough of Barnet, the North Central London Integrated Care Board, and the North-West Basic Command Unit of the Metropolitan Police. Together they form the Barnet Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP). The local Partnership came into effect in September 2019.

To provide independence and external oversight of the BSCP arrangements, the Partnership plan sets out the requirement for an annual review undertaken by independent scrutineers. RedQuadrant was commissioned to provide this annual review for three years from 2020. This report covers the third year of that arrangement.

## Scope of the Review

The role of the independent scrutineers is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. The scrutiny must be objective, act as a constructive critical friend and promote reflection to drive continuous improvement.

The role of the independent scrutineers is to consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families, and practitioners and how effectively the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership. It also covers the extent to which the lead representative from each of the three safeguarding partners plays an active role and the extent to which they have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements.

The scrutineers are required to evaluate against the requirements for safeguarding arrangements set out in Working Together 2018 and associated guidance.

RedQuadrant provides three independent scrutineers with experience within children's services, police, and health, all of whom have specifically worked in multi-agency safeguarding partnership settings.

The first two scrutiny visit in 2020 and 2021 provided the scrutineers with the opportunity to evaluate the new arrangements, understand the demographics of the Borough, the

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strengths and challenges, and make suggestions for improvement. The last report focused on key developments for the BSCP since the previous review, including the Business plan and learning from completed CSPRs.

The agreed scope for the visit in 2022 was to provide scrutiny of the BSCP learning and improvement model with a focus upon:

- Identification of learning from Rapid Reviews/CSPRs at a local and national level; key practice themes, single agency and multi-agency responses and quality of decision making. Learning from the National Review recommendations, including Arthur Labinjo -Hughes and Star Hobson, were explored too.
- Embedding of the identified learning, evidencing impact and improvements upon the local system and frontline practice.
- Scrutiny of the effectiveness of wider learning and development practices, including the workforce development programme, multi-agency, single-agency audits, learning reviews and BSCP-led learning webinars.

Review the four safeguarding themes identified by the BSCP and evidence how learning and improvement are progressing and being embedded:

- Domestic abuse
- Neglect
- Teenage suicide and self-harm
- Learning from serious youth violence.

The review focused on the above areas and evidences how the partnership works together to improve outcomes for children and their families in Barnet and how this has impacted safeguarding children.

### **Process/methodology of review**

The team of independent scrutineers reviewed a comprehensive list of documents and policies from the Partnership and met with a range of partners and practitioners, individually and in focus groups, to ascertain views on the impact of learning and how this had influenced frontline delivery. A questionnaire was also run ahead of and alongside the review. Still, unfortunately, there was poor take up with only thirteen responses across the partnership, though some feedback from this will be included in the review. It has been helpful to undertake this review over the three years, as we can capture and evidence progress from year to year. A manager expressed that it was a good opportunity to reflect on what they had planned and achieved over the period.

Our key findings from this process are summarised below.

We would particularly like to thank the BSCP Business Unit for the organisation of the review, supplying the documents requested and setting up the meetings with key individuals. We would also like to thank all the staff who have taken part for their thoughtful

and frank evaluation of the current Partnership and how effectively agencies work together, ideas and suggestions for improvements.

We would particularly like to recognise Tony Lewis, the BSCP Business Manager, who has made a significant impact on the Partnership arrangements of the BSCP in the last year.

### Progress on actions from the last review

- Consider the sustainability of the BSCP budget, including contingency for LSCPRs: **No change to budget or contribution from agencies**
- Establish mechanisms through the Partnership arrangements to ensure that the Borough Commander and Chief Operating Officer for the CCG are kept informed of and held to account for safeguarding children in Barnet: **Representation reviewed by the BSCP. The NCL ICB Director of Quality now represents health. Police representation remains at Detective Superintendent level.**
- Consideration should be given to establishing an effective, proportionate model of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews: **Agreement to recruit a BSCP Safeguarding Practice Review Officer to conduct CSPRs 'in house', although there have been two unsuccessful rounds of recruitment, with the advert back out again in December 2022.**
- Deliver the consolidated action plan for learning, which has been developed to help evidence outcomes and impact: **LTRG has tracked and led peer-to-peer challenge sessions throughout the year leading to identifiable improvements to practice.**
- Adoption of shared safeguarding themes: **Four themes identified as priority areas for the BSCP - Neglect / Domestic abuse / Suicide & self-harm / learning from youth violence**
- CDOP administration to be reviewed: **NCL ICB now oversees CDOP arrangements.**

### Leadership and partnership

The BSCP continues to evidence outstanding Partnership working with 'a culture of open and honest sharing at the heart of Barnet.' The Leadership Forum provides effective and robust leadership of the Partnership. There is evidence that key partners have stepped up to their responsibilities in the Partnership and are involved and committed and this has been further enhanced and evidenced during the last year. A strong culture of respectful challenge is evident between partners across the Partnership in meeting minutes. This is further shown by the shared chairing of the PQA group this year, which has enabled a broader perspective and different focus to the group.

Currently, all agencies are struggling with recruiting and retaining staff who specialise in working with children. This will continue to be a challenge for the partnership, to ensure sufficient experienced and appropriately trained staff to undertake the complex and often challenging work to safeguard children.

### Children's services

The Council and Children's Services leadership has remained stable, enabling experienced and committed senior leaders to continue to promote and develop services for children and families in Barnet. The DCS is the lead for London on developing specialist residential provision for children with complex and challenging behaviour across London due to a national shortage. This reflects the key leading role that Barnet plays, both pan London and nationally, in developing services for children, including their work on EHE.

The future design of services for children following the Josh MacAlister review and the National Panel report will impact service provision for all agencies, especially if the recommendation of joint multi-agency child protection teams is accepted.

The most significant change for Barnet council is the political one, with a change of party controlling the Council. In terms of impact, this has not made a significant change, as promoting the welfare of children and protecting vulnerable groups are still a priority for the new administration.

MASH was seen as open and constructive, with staff available to consult on cases and approachable to challenge. Partners knew the escalation and resolution processes, but from the feedback, it appears that the relationships between partners were such that most concerns were resolved informally. An area for consideration for the partnership was where there was information about a family that did not meet the threshold, where would these issues be recorded? The BSCP is raising awareness amongst partner agencies about sharing information, but not all information meets the criteria for a referral to children's services, e.g., housing association and GPs.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is currently undertaking a national review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings. The Review considers the experiences of children in three specialist independent residential settings in the Doncaster area operated by the Hesley Group. This review is considering allegations of widespread abuse. In response, the National Panel required all DCSs to undertake quality and safety reviews for all children with complex needs and disabilities currently living within residential specialist schools registered as children's homes to ensure they are in safe, quality placements. Barent has completed the review in timescale and is taking forward the learning and any necessary action arising from this review.

Meeting with frontline staff highlighted committed staff, who were unaware of what the BSCP 'did' - which was also reflected in the questionnaire- were aware of the learning from local and national reviews. Most had undertaken multi-agency training, and this was valued,

though time to undertake training was an issue for one manager. Communication was a concern as many had email fatigue and would not necessarily read a newsletter; most felt the best way to communicate was through service days and team meetings. There were also comments about encouraging staff to return to office working as many felt this was a better way to work.

Most felt positive about working in partnership and felt the recent joint practice forum on s47/strategy meetings with police had been excellent and had given them insight into other partners' constraints. Concerns were expressed that due to staffing difficulties, it was difficult to identify a Health Visitor (HV) for a family and attendance at case conferences and core groups by HV and school nurses was poor. However, it was reported that this was an improving position. Areas for improvement identified by the focus group were working with the Council's housing department and probation.

### **Police**

The Met Police, at a strategic level, have demonstrated good consistent leadership and engagement with all the partnership business. Attendance at all strategic meetings has been at the right level and consistent throughout the year.

This consistent strategic leadership has led to good partnership relationships, allowing any issues that arise to be smoothly resolved by these leaders with their partners. However, this is not so evident at the frontline practitioner level, for example, their inconsistent attendance and involvement with strategy discussions. At the police practitioner focus group, they agreed with this observation, although accepting the Met Police resource issues, they felt that Barnet Children and families could improve their processes for requesting strategy discussions by focusing the requests through one source rather than multiple avenues for requests. It is suggested there is further discussion on how to progress a single point of contact for both agencies, as similar concerns are expressed in Children's services.

The police frontline attendance at webinars and other learning events is also sporadic, albeit at a recent strategy discussions/section 47 joint practice forum, the attendance was excellent and feedback in relation to the achieved outcomes was excellent. At the police focus group, attendees knew some of the BSCP priorities. They had attended the Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson webinar, which they had found useful for improving their practice. They also found the BSCP newsletters helpful in improving practice. The positive feedback from this group was a step change from previous scrutiny visits.

There are accepted and noticeable gaps in relation to the Met police involvement in the vulnerable adolescent and serious youth violence priority for the partnership. There are gaps in attendance at meetings and with interventions for those young people at a risk level of medium or emerging as possibly being involved in serious youth violence or subject to child criminal exploitation.



This, though, is not the case for the Met police domestic abuse priority and involvement is deemed by partners leading on this work as extremely good.

The Met contribution of £5k to the BSCP budget has been commented on in previous scrutiny visits and is an ongoing action from the leadership forum. The figure is set by MOPAC and is not likely to change. The local Borough policing command could assist in other ways; for example, in another BCU, they provide a data analyst to the partnership. In another, contributions are made for specific pieces of work. The BCU should consider supplementing the budget contribution by other means 'in kind' in this way.

## Health

The North Central London (NCL) Integrated Care Board (ICB) formally took over from the CCGs on 1st July 2022. The safeguarding structures are in place with the Designated professionals working as a team whilst also covering individual boroughs. This means that there is sharing of learning and resources across the five boroughs.

There is a clear delegation of the ICB Safeguarding leadership from the Executive Chief Nurse to the interim Director of Quality, who represents the ICB on all safeguarding partnerships. There is currently recruitment underway for a Director for Safeguarding.

The ICB is committed to being an equal partner for Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership alongside the Metropolitan Police and Local Authority.

The NCL ICS System Quality Group (NCL SQG) is a strategic forum established at which partners from across health, social care, public health and wider within the ICS can collaborate around common priorities, share insight and intelligence, identify opportunities for improvement, develop system responses to enable ongoing improvement in the quality of care and services across the ICS. Membership of the NCL System Quality Group comprises of multiple partners across health and social care, including regulatory bodies, Health Education England, Public Health and Patient Safety Collaboratives. There is also a weekly call between the ICB Chief Nurse and Chief Nurses from the providers to ensure a clear picture of any risks to the system.

Within the hospital, there are staffing challenges as there are nationally in the NHS. In recognition of this, the safeguarding team are taking a supportive approach working alongside teams, particularly in departments such as A&E, where staff are frequently changed. This allows for the competence-based development of staff.

There is a new 0-19 health provider. At the health focus group, it was noted that relationships are being developed between the health providers to ensure no communication gaps.

The ICB has a dedicated Designated Nurse for Looked After Children (LAC) to oversee the health aspects of care for this cohort of children. Previously, this role was attached to that of the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children. This change is positive as the postholder

also covers Islington. This enables shared learning across the two boroughs to identify best practice, such as the need for an additional nurse to cover care experience.

The LAC health nursing team follow Barnet children to wherever they are in placements. This is good practice as it supports the broader partnership to keep their sight on any changes for the children. The team reviews health assessments while ensuring that the children receive support and advice regarding mental and sexual health. The team are strengthening how they support the children with their mental health needs by working closely with mental health services to gain timely advice.

The LAC team works closely with the Children’s Social Care Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) to review the children's physical and mental health needs at an early stage. This supports registration for GPs and access to dental care.

The ICB is reviewing the arrangements for Child Protection Medical Examinations (CPMEs) across NCL.

It is evident from the health agencies that there are clear routes for escalation within the BSCP and that relationships are strong. There is good engagement of health professionals with the training offered by the BSCP, which is highly valued. The webinars have been well used to improve practice within health services.

There is a perception by GPs that they are not receiving feedback following their referrals to MASH. It would be of benefit to consider, in audits, the impact of referrals on the practice of those raising concerns about children. CSC audits might show that there is a response to referrers, but this could be checked that this has been recorded and noted by other agencies.

### **Engagement of schools and other relevant agencies**

**Education:** Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS), chaired by the Council’s DCS, continue to provide schools with excellent resources, including safeguarding audits. Current arrangements work well, and schools appreciate the support offered and feel engaged. Though schools are not formally represented on the BSCP, clear mechanisms are in place to ensure their voices are heard. The Business manager regularly attends the DSLs meeting and has been able to target specific learning from the Partnership at these events. Schools have also attended training and webinars, and many received the BSCP newsletter, which they find informative.

Schools interviewed as part of this review were positive about their relationships with the Council citing positive experiences of using MASH and being able to have professional conversations, and no concerns were raised about threshold decisions. They expressed some concerns about the staffing pressures for school nursing. Safer schools officers, when attached to schools, were highly valued, but many schools reported the limited capacity of Police and no officer connected to their school – this was also reported last year.

Of note is the work undertaken on Elective Home Education (EHE), a theme in two previous LCSPRs. A successful bid for government funding enabled additional resources, which supported a project raising awareness of Elective Home Education and strengthening safeguarding arrangements for children educated at home and how they can seek help if they need it. The BSCP were also a key contributor to the national panel's thematic on Elective Home Education. This has reduced the number of children in EHE, which has 'kicked' the national trend. The learning from this project will be of great benefit to other Local Authorities nationally.

**Other Boards:** Since the last review, there have been some positive developments with other Barnet partnership boards, with work undertaken with the Barnet Adults Safeguarding Board looking at children transitioning to adulthood.

**VCFS Sector:** To support the voluntary sector organisations (of which there are over two hundred in Barnet), the BSCP has rolled out the VCFS (Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector) safeguarding checklist, which was co-produced with the VCFS, designed for self-evaluation purposes. The BSCP partnership manager has provided further support by championing this work and providing challenge workshops, which has benefited the voluntary organisations involved. We highlighted last year that few faith groups are represented on the VCFS sub-group, and work has been done to encourage greater membership and participation. The voluntary sector makes good use of safeguarding training.

The learning arising from a Rapid Review and the subsequent work undertaken with Notting Hill Genesis Housing Association is worth mentioning. As a result of the learning from this case, they have undertaken significant training for all their staff who have direct contact with children and their families and highlighted the role that they can play in safeguarding children. The impact of this work is broader than just Barnet, as the housing association covers other London Boroughs and the new policies and procedures put in place because the learning from this case has also been shared across other areas in which they work.

**Business unit:** The Business manager has added considerable energy and focus to the BSCP over the last year, introducing innovative ways of learning, involving, and engaging with frontline staff across the partnership. He has developed greater links with other Partnerships Boards and safeguarding arrangements across Barnet. He is also involved with other Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships across London through the London Councils' group, which has enhanced the working of the BSCP.

We note that the issue previously identified concerning the administration of the Child Death Panel (CDP) has been resolved.

### **Learning and Thematic Review Group**

The Learning and Thematic Review Group (LTRG) is chaired independently by Bridget Griffin, a hugely experienced multi-agency safeguarding professional. The LTRG has wide-ranging

membership, including the three statutory partners and representatives from Barnet Council, police, some health professionals, community safety, public health, and a legal adviser. The LTRG meets bi-monthly, the meetings are well attended, and all the meetings for 2022 always had the three statutory partners in attendance. The meeting minutes demonstrate good challenge, support, and a desire by attendees to extract as much learning as possible that will be relevant to those agencies and professionals working in Barnet.

The LRTG undertakes Rapid Reviews, oversees local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other bespoke learning activities, for example, webinars for frontline practitioners, and monitors the implementation and impact of recommendations. It also reviews national Child Safeguarding Practice Review reports and other relevant, both London and national learning and good practice to implement in Barnet.

*Working Together, 2018, states: 'Locally, safeguarding partners must make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area. They must commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken.'*

To deal with the requirements of this section of Working Together, Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership established the LTRG, and there is clear evidence that BSCP fulfils their statutory obligations. Responding to serious child safeguarding cases is one of the Partnership's priorities.

After a review of the minutes for the last 12 months and following a meeting with the chair of the LTRG, the following are the wide-ranging examples where the LTRG have demonstrated and can evidence their drive to learn and try to improve professional practice continually.

- National CSPR Panel report 'Myth of Invisible Men'.
- Five webinars took place in the autumn/winter of 2021/22 with at least 150 attendees. There have been 300 attendees since the last scrutiny.
- Bruising in non-mobile babies protocol.
- Excellent links and exchange with the Child Death Overview Panel.
- Reducing parental conflict.
- National Child Mortality Database Review of Teenage suicide
- Physical chastisement and cultural competency statement and learning webinars
- JTAI completed in Solihull following the death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes
- Centre of Expertise for Child Sexual Abuse
- Child Q
- The Ockendon review of maternity deaths
- Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson's National panel report- extensive thematic audits now in place, plus webinars for frontline practitioners
- Josh MacAlister Care review

- Multi-Agency audit on neglect
- Section 11 and peer-to-peer review
- National Child Mortality Database review of new- born health to child mortality
- Local Family Court Judge issue with improving court witnesses who are not social workers
- Further autumn/winter webinars
- Suicide prevention and Molly Russell inquest learning, though it would be helpful to consider further the relevance of the learning from this case concerning the influence of social media. Through the co-production work with CYP, the BSCP is in a good place to take this forward.

As well as these and other agenda items, the learning from Rapid reviews and CSPRs take place within this meeting. The consolidated action plan for the LTRG is much improved on the action plan template seen at the point of the last scrutiny visit in 2021. The column headings are particularly useful for focusing activity on improving both professional practice and learning to help safeguard children: *How will this action be done, and how will we measure and know it's made a difference? Overall impact of this work you expect to see on children and young people.*

An area that evidences a real positive impact is the work being carried out in relation to Elective Home Education.

A challenge for the Partnership is to ensure that the BSCP can maintain this excellent level of activity in the future.

### **Barnet Rapid Reviews/CSPR process**

The SIN-RR-CSPR (Serious Incident Notification /Rapid Review and Child Safeguarding Practice review) paper was extremely well received and has tightened up practice in relation to, the SIN notifications to the National Panel. This initiative in Barnet was already agreed upon and had commenced before the National Panel in September 2022 highlighted it was good practice. It might be worthwhile considering what other SIs concerning safeguarding are also being completed within Barnet, for example, within the Health Trusts, as this will give the partners maximum visibility of serious notifications for children.

The close liaison between the Joint Agency Response from within the CDOP process and the partnership is an excellent demonstration of joint information sharing.

Five rapid reviews have taken place within the 12 months since the last scrutiny visit, and each of the rapid reviews, particularly the last two, are of a very high standard. It is easy for the reader to understand the information, the learning themes, and what needs to happen. Only one of the five rapid reviews led to a CSPR being commenced. There has been considerable learning by the Partnership generated by all of the cases and about processes for decision making; how decisions are made to notify, cases that progress to Rapid Review and whether these meet the criteria for progression to a CSPR, which has resulted in

changes to the process in the BSCP. A Rapid Review can provide considerable timely and proportionate learning and could be written up as a CSPR. The LTRG has developed learning from these cases, including a well-considered action plan and an excellent 7-minute briefing.

Although the work in relation to two previous CSPRs had taken place during the last scrutiny period, they were published within this period, and the activity to implement them, embed learning, and make an impact also took place. The action by the partnership to understand and safeguard those children that are electively home-educated is excellent and producing positive dividends for those children.

The Child L CSPR will shortly be published, following another meeting to discuss it at the Leadership Forum. This CSPR commenced following the incident in April 2021. Even if published this calendar year, this will be 21 months from commencement. The statutory guidance for CSPRs states that they should be published within six months. Even accepting that another local authority is involved in the governance of this CSPR, there was nothing to prevent this review from being published within the time period. From analysis of the panel, LTRG and LF minutes, the review report was continually being re-checked and changes being made. None of these seemed to make any change of any significance to the learning. This is the comment made by RedQuadrant about this review in the last scrutiny report '*A third CSPR, Child L, is almost completed and will conclude early in 2022.*' The LTRG should put in place at the commencement of a CSPR a project plan that the strategic partners agree upon to complete the CSPR in as close to six months as possible, as required by the statutory guidance.

The recruitment of a safeguarding practice review officer post has proven difficult, and there was extensive challenge at the LTRG meeting that discussed the proposal. Most of the discussion related to the salary proposed against the job description. The BSCP should continue to pursue the recruitment to the post of Safeguarding Practice Review Officer to add capacity and support to the Business unit to undertake practice reviews.

### **Training/development and engagement**

The BSCP continues to provide a robust multi-agency training offer. The provision of this training is responsive to need and has been reviewed with the purpose of rationalising, as several courses were under subscribed and not providing value for money. The training offered is flexible, varied, relevant and informed by learning. People responding to the questionnaire had attended a number of training opportunities and indicated that this had impacted positively on their work.

Barnet has a large and growing diverse community; there is greater partner recognition of disproportionality through focused work, the need for greater cultural competency and assessing risk and vulnerability because of abuse and trauma through an intersectional lens of race, culture, and identity. A good example of responding to this need was the

commissioning of training on adultification before the Child Q case became nationally recognised. This course was opened for multi-agency attendance and is planned to be repeated.

The Partnership has proven itself as creative and flexible in hearing from families and children. Barnet council has promoted a 'Family friendly Barnet' with a resilience-based approach. There is a solid and impressive culture of the importance of hearing the voice of the child within Children's Services, evidenced in 'All about me'.

At the last review, Barnet's Child Participation and Family Involvement Strategy was newly launched - My Say Matters - giving children and young people a platform to share their views, wishes, and feelings. Evidence of the outcome of this model was shown in a staff conference in children's services just before the review, where children were involved in presenting, and their experiences were shared with frontline staff. Children have also opened a recent Cabinet meeting with elected members, evidencing the importance placed on the voice of service users.

#### **Four themes**

Following our last visit, we challenged the BSCP to consider key priorities for children and families in Barnet. The four areas identified as priority themes for the partnership are Domestic Violence, Serious youth Violence, self-harm /suicide, and neglect. The business plan for 2022-23 sets out how the themes were considered. This highlights the use of single and multi-agency audits, deep dives into the themes, links to the rapid reviews, CSPRs and CDOP, with contributions from all partners.

##### **1. Domestic Violence**

There is clear evidence of joint work with the BSCP, Community Safety Partnership and the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) delivery team and their response to tackling domestic abuse. Links into Children's services were good, with the Director of Children's Social Care chairing the VAWG Board.

The 2022 – 2025 Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls strategy was launched in early 2022. It sets out the vision for Barnet to be a borough where everyone can live free of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. This approach retains a clear focus on women's and girls' experiences whilst also recognising that anyone, including men and boys, can be a victim and survivor.

Some of the most notable impacts under the DA & VAWG strategy include An accredited Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) training delivered to 23 learners from a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies. Following the training, a Domestic Abuse Champion Network was set up with the newly trained IDVAs, and the first meeting was held in September 2022. The aim is to maintain the inter-agency relationships built during the training and support the group as they implement the training into their role. The

terms of reference of this network will include sharing the multi-agency knowledge and expertise between Champions within the network and onwards into their area of work. It will also include support on a rota basis to the DA One Stop Shop. Feedback from practitioners who undertook the training and have experienced the Champions network suggests that the aim has been achieved and that they value and use the mixed expertise of the group.

Sixty-nine multi-agency practitioners and managers attended DA & VAWG Training over the reporting period. In Barnet, they support and are actively involved locally and accredited with the White Ribbon scheme. The response to the questionnaire, 'How confident are you working with children and families who have experienced domestic abuse', on a score from 1-10, the average response was 8.

Public Health and the VAWG Delivery Team have started conversations about the challenges and opportunities for VAWG prevention in schools. The Department of Work & Pensions has allocated a further three years of funding for Reducing Parental Conflict. Barnet 0-19 Early Help Services are recruiting a dedicated officer to assist with the 3-year delivery and rollout.

The Rise Perpetrator Programme is commissioned by Family Services to reduce re-offending and repeat victimisation. The service successfully bid for a further 3-year contract starting in January 2023. The programme uses proven evidence-based models for behaviour change. The service helps perpetrators to take positive and tangible steps to prevent re-offending and works with partners to aid recovery.

Operation Encompass is in operation within Barnet, and although a greater number of schools have signed up since the last scrutiny visit, there are more still to do so. The timeliness of notifications is an issue but currently improving. As well as encouraging/engaging all schools to sign up for this, consideration should be given as to which other frontline practitioners would benefit from the notifications, for example, midwifery, health visiting, nurseries, and pre-schools.

The view from health agencies is that there is a good partnership in relation to domestic abuse. The launch of the VAWG strategy was well articulated throughout the conversations, and there was a definite sense of how Barnet is empowering women and girls whilst also being responsive to male victims of domestic abuse. Health providers value the multi-agency training. In the health focus group, there were examples of how health staff have taken back learning from the training sessions to their organisations. This has led to reviews of the Domestic Abuse Pathways within the organisations.

The multi-agency work includes adults and children and support for victims and perpetrators. It was good to hear, from health services, the link to the National Panel report about "The Myth of Invisible Men".

In the hospital, there is a good use of the Independent Domestic Violence advocates (IDVAs) and their role is well understood by staff and supportive for those using the services.



Most GP surgeries are signed up to the IRIS programme, which has been transformational in how Primary Care staff can identify domestic abuse. This has led to an increase in referrals to both MARAC and MASH. Through being able to ask patients about potential domestic abuse, GPs have been able to identify long-term abuse not previously disclosed.

It is unclear whether the IRIS model will be used as a long-term resource for Primary Care as it will need continued funding. As part of multi-agency audits into domestic abuse, it might be helpful to consider the impact of resources used by agencies specific to domestic abuse, such as IDVAs or IRIS, on the outcomes for children and families affected. This will enable the BSCP to consider, with other partnerships, what resources are the best practice to support services in addressing domestic abuse and how these should be funded.

## **2. Neglect**

The Pre-birth protocol has been strengthened and linked to the work on neglect. This has been held on the PQA agenda and will be able to be tested once the protocol has been fully implemented.

There has been immense learning from national reviews across the Partnership. This was evidenced as a golden thread through the conversations held with frontline staff who were aware of and able to articulate the learning. Practitioners were able to talk about how the national reviews have informed the development of policies in Barnet. In Children's services, a great deal of work has been undertaken to ensure that none of the critical issues raised is evident in practice in Barnet, i.e., audit of referrals from family and anonymous referrals, ensuring they are given an appropriate response. The impact of the webinars about the national reviews and training on signs of safety has empowered health professionals to focus on their role in identifying and responding to neglect. Therefore, this is a crucial time for the BSCP to agree on the resources for agencies to support frontline workers in undertaking this work with families.

A multi-agency audit for neglect is planned. This is viewed as positive as it will be undertaken in a true multi-agency fashion, led jointly by children's services, health, police, and the key workers involved with the families. There is recognition of the key factors, such as including Elected Home Education within the planned audit, which will help establish how professionals working in this area recognise and respond effectively to signs of neglect.

It has been noted that an increasing number of children are coming to the attention of paediatricians for Child Protection Medicals who have been subject to neglect. Some of these cases have been due to a lack of parental supervision, but a revision of the bruising protocol will enable further exploration of the impact of bruising on the non-mobile child.

The bruising protocol revision has been drafted. The health partners led this process, but there was engagement with partners and the London Board editorial group. The protocol should be viewed alongside the National Panel guidance that has recently been released if this has not already been done.

In the documentation, although neglect is highlighted, there is a tendency for it to be linked to domestic abuse and subsumed by that theme.

The use of the Graded Care Protocol and its promotion for use by agencies, including early help, is helpful in identifying and assessing neglect. There are now more children subject to Child protection plans for neglect than last year, highlighting partners' ability to identify and respond to neglect. On a scale from 1-10, the staff who responded to the questionnaire scored an average of 7 indicating their confidence in working with neglect in families.

The BSCP recognise that there is more to do in relation to assessing the impact of work on neglect. A suggestion would be to use the multi-agency audit findings to formulate a definitive action plan for addressing neglect issues, e.g., including the underlying factors arising from the cost-of-living crisis. This may include the development of a Neglect strategy and practice guidance which could contain areas such as neglect in affluent families, adolescence, and medical neglect (failure by parent /carer to respond to a child's health needs).

### 3. Serious Youth violence

The BSCP response to tackling child exploitation and serious youth violence is detailed in the Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy 2020-2022. This is a multi-agency strategy, and the partnership approach brings together key partners from social care, police, probation, community safety, housing, education, and health with a rigorous approach to data capture, informing service provision and development. There is evidence of an extremely close relationship between the BSCP and Barnet's Community Safety Partnership. This works well to ensure each other's work to tackle serious youth violence complements and prevents duplication.

HMIP inspected the Partnership's Youth Justice Service in 2022. The Inspection *report* found that the partnership working with this cohort of young people was a strength:

*"A strong partnership safeguarding offer was in place for children who may be eligible for an out-of-court disposal. The management board has visible strategic and operational links with other boards, partnerships, and services. This is reflected by a strong offer of support for vulnerable adolescents and children at risk of exploitation."*

*"The local authority actively encourages the YOS to get involved in critical reflection activities for serious incidents. A serious incident response protocol is in place, which provides 'live time' learning opportunities. Broader learning for the YOS is communicated effectively via practice development training packages, and more informally at team meetings."*

The Serious Incident Response Meetings (SIRMs) are coordinated in response to incidents of serious youth and adult violence in the Borough and are critical to identifying and developing learning. SIRMs take place for all incidents of serious violence. The SIRMs

provide an immediate risk assessment. A secondary aspect of SIRMs has been to draw on the views of community organisations and schools close to violent incidents.

The Home Office funded Trusted Relationships Project finished in March 2022 and demonstrated a tangible impact. The project delivered its intended outcome to positively engage socially isolated young people in services that will improve their quality of life in areas such as education, employment, and housing.

Police Partners are crucial to this renewed drive with the Operation Aegis (Continuous Police Improvement team) visit to NW BCU in 2022 and the 87A referral process for child exploitation cases reviewed, refined, and improved. There is a gap concerning continuous and consistent engagement by the police with the activity to tackle Serious Youth Violence, for example, attendance at some meetings.

The ICB and Health Providers are engaged with the SYV strategic group, supporting the joint work to address this issue.

The LAC health team is working to identify early signs of criminal exploitation and recognise the vulnerability of looked-after children. The LAC health team meet the children whether they are placed within Barnet or outside. This means they can develop a relationship with the children and highlight any concerns to the social work team.

Health services are committed to complying with the Serious Violence duty to notify the police of hospital presentations of children and young people involved in serious youth violence. There is data collected for PQA about assault injuries, which has led to further work with Barnet Hospital to strengthen the partnership understanding of the data.

Those working within health settings have developed their understanding of the impact of SYV on children and young people. This has led to a commitment to ensure that the young people exposed to SYV are treated respectfully, with the recognition that they are children. The services have also strengthened their approach to seeing all children exposed to SYV as victims. This has enabled clinical staff to challenge police officers if they do not treat the children seen in hospital with the same degree of respect.

The Vulnerable Adolescents team in Barnet are delivering a number of monthly multi-agency best practice briefings, webinars, and reflective workshops to help formulate ideas to develop and strengthen awareness, assessment, engagement, and intervention for practitioners working with young people and young adults who are at risk of serious violence, exploitation and who are regularly missing. The workshops will also cover VAWG, SEN and Race inequality relative to this cohort of vulnerable young people/adults. Sessions will also focus on exploitation, grooming and PREVENT.

The questionnaire asked staff how confident they were working with children and young people involved in serious youth violence, the average response was 6 in a score of 1-10 , with a range of one person answering 10 , another 2.

The Child Exploitation and Missing Tool (CEAM) has been well-established and embedded. It provides an operational contextual multi-agency framework to support the understanding of the lived experience for a young person. CEAMs were set up as an initial Strategy Meeting process undertaken on any young person with concerns around child exploitation or repeated missing episodes.

A Pre-Mace, Vulnerable Adolescents Risk Panel (VARP) seeks to provide an overview of the most at-risk young people to criminal and sexual exploitation, support the lead professional, and provide oversight of planning implemented by the professional network who are working with the young person. The threshold of cases that have been presented to VARP from CEAM meetings has been flexible to include not just the highest-scoring young people but also where there is contextual information and links identified to suggest the likelihood of harm through exploitation. This has meant that around 15 young people are reviewed every month by VARP. Due to the volume of young people presented to VARP and the complexity of contextual factors they experience, it was recognised by services that formulating a robust plan of intervention for risk reduction and engagement could be improved. Therefore, Barnet proposes following the model that some other Local Authorities have introduced and piloted, 'Contextual Safeguarding Conferences' in parity with traditional Child Protection Case Conferences.

In Barnet, VARP would cease and instead be replaced by a Contextual Safeguarding Conference. The outcomes of the conference would be the same as a Child Protection Conference, resulting in a core group being formed to support and drive a plan focused on reducing risk and providing support to the young person and parents/carers. It is suggested that the conference adopt a collaborative approach between professionals, young people, their families, and community representatives.

The CEAM would continue to operate; the process would change slightly from its current standalone status. The CEAM would still function as a strategy discussion for existing and new cases where the contextual risk or the likelihood of significant extra familial harm was identified or suspected. The proposed Contextual Safeguarding conference system is an excellent initiative and would suggest that it is fully endorsed and supported by the BSCP.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSC Act 2022) includes a requirement for the Safer Communities Partnership to complete a strategic needs assessment to understand how violence affects the community and develop a multi-agency approach to reducing violence. The Serious Violence duty will come into effect in 2023. The 'duty holders' or responsible authorities will include Police, Fire and Rescue authorities, Youth Justice and Probation Services, Integrated Care Boards (formerly Clinical Commissioning Groups) and Local Authorities. The current refresh of the vulnerable adolescent strategy needs to consider this duty and work with the Barnet community safety partnership board to ensure that there is no duplication with the work of the BSCP to their priority work to

tackle Serious Youth Violence. The refresh focuses on Early Help and endeavours to ensure it is co-produced partly by Barnet's young people and their families.

#### **4. Self-harm /suicide**

The BSCP has focused on self-harm and suicide due to a critical incident involving a potential cluster of deaths. It was found that there was no cluster of suicides. However, the learning achieved was taken forward and has led to a different way of working to prevent suicides, particularly in how schools are supported. Since then, there have not been any suicides reported of under 18-year-olds. This has enabled the BSCP to monitor how the changed approach is being embedded.

The work undertaken is informed by the research into child suicides recognising the need to promote whole-school approaches to supporting children's mental health, including how pupils can help themselves. A response plan has been developed to ensure that there are clear roles and responsibilities for those involved in any future critical incidents.

There is now a Resilient School Programme that schools can sign up for and receive a kite mark to show that they promote good mental health. The programme involves using an audit tool to assess the extent to which a whole school approach to mental health exists. This is followed by a visit to the school to give feedback. Where there are 6th forms, year 13 pupils are offered mental first aider training, and there are well-being leads for each year to promote increased mental health awareness across the school community. There has been extensive training and co-production of the programme with children and young people. The training for peer mentors has been undertaken in response to the feedback from children and young people following the critical incident when they asked how they could help themselves. This has culminated in peer mentors who are 'well-being Warriors'.

The programme links to the Healthy Schools programme in encouraging whole-school approaches to respond to bullying and other external support services.

There has been wider work achieved whilst the Resilient Schools Programme is being implemented. Papyrus has been commissioned to provide suicide prevention training for all schools, and there is a mental health worker for all schools. This training has been greatly appreciated and well received by schools.

It is evident that considerable learning has been achieved, which has strengthened multi-agency and cross-partnership working, e.g., links between the suicide prevention strategy action plan and the CDOP. The PQA has received data reports about suicide and self-harm. The data has stimulated conversations about this theme and helped to embed the links between the Suicide Prevention Partnership, CDOP and BSCP.

It was reported by the health sector that there had been a reduction in the number of children attending A&E due to self-harm. This is seen as being due to the improved access to support for children and young people through CAMHS. The pandemic led to CAMHS hubs

being opened to enable families to access them. These hubs have continued and are valued by the system. There has also been a change to the CAMHS pathway, which allows for a six-month leeway for children and young people to return to the service following the end of their treatment without the need for re-referral.

Schools have been worried about online issues. To address this, Barnet has delivered a ‘Bus stop’ campaign, brought in external support from Papyrus and Kooth, and commissioned research on gaming and online identities. This led to the co-production with children and young people of a film about the impact of mental health. It is planned that this will lead to resource packs used within RSE lessons and for SEND children. Schools also spoke about the support available through Barnet Integrated Clinical Service (BICs service) at an earlier intervention level, which was responsive and timely in helping children and young people. There is significant support through the Mental Health practitioners in schools, in terms of responsive and effective support for their pupils

The LTRG has considered and implemented the learning from the NCMD findings in relation to teenage suicide, as well as considering the findings from the inquest into the death of Molly Russell.

### **Conclusion**

Our confident judgement is that the Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership continue to comply with Working Together, 2018. There are robust partnership arrangements to ensure that children in Barnet are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.

The last year has consolidated and strengthened the Partnership arrangements, even though there have been significant changes within one of the partner agencies, with clear evidence that key partners have further stepped up to their responsibilities in the Partnership and are involved and committed. There continues to be a culture of openness, respectful challenge, and a willingness to learn, which has positively impacted children and families in Barnet. Hearing and acting upon the voice of children and young people is a significant strength in Barnet, which has been further reinforced by the innovative participation of children, young people, and their families.

The draft BSCP Annual report for 2021/22 was seen by the scrutineers and has a far greater focus on impact and outcomes, with a clear, visual way of presenting the learning from RR and CSPPRs.


### **Suggestions for future improvements**

Various improvements and suggestions are made in the body of this report. Our key recommendations for future improvements are:

- Met Police to consider how they can use BCU funds to contribute further to the BSCP budget. The provision of data by the BCU is currently hampered by them having to use corporate resources for this.
- Ensure there is consultation with the BSCP on the provision and delivery of CPMEs, to ensure all agencies can influence developments and ensure alignment with any plans for the establishment of Child Protection Hubs.
- i) BSCP to continue to strengthen its model of delivering effective Rapid Reviews and CSPRs, reflecting upon recently published guidance by the child safeguarding practice review panel, feedback from the national panel after each review, continual learning and improvement of the process and through added scrutiny within its LTRG group.
  - ii) The BSCP to develop a process that ensures that CSPRs are concluded in a timely manner to meet Working Together 2018 timescales.
  - iii) The BSCP to persevere with the recruitment of Safeguarding Practice Review Officer to support the work of the business unit and support writing of practice reviews.
- Use the multi-agency audit findings to formulate a definitive action plan for addressing neglect issues, e.g., including the underlying factors arising from the cost-of-living crisis.
- Develop a partnership approach to address the recruitment and retention of a skilled workforce for working with children, across all agencies.

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	<b>Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</b>  <b>20 March 2023</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Annual Report on School Funding in Barnet 2023-24</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chair of the Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	<p>Chris Munday Executive Director, Children's and Family Services <a href="mailto:Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk">Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 0208 359 7099</p> <p>Neil Marlow Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning, Barnet Education and Learning Service <a href="mailto:neil.marlow@Barnet.gov.uk">neil.marlow@Barnet.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 0208 359 7725</p> <p>Sharon Palma, Head of Finance, Children's and Family Services <a href="mailto:Sharon.palma@barnet.gov.uk">Sharon.palma@barnet.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 0208 359 2756</p>
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>The annual report on school funding arrangements was agreed at the Schools Forum meeting on 12 January 2023.</p>	
<p>The report describes the key features of Barnet's Schools Budget for 2023-24 and sets out the council's approach to financing schools through formula funding in the Authority Proforma</p>	

Tool submission (which sets out the local funding formula for Barnet primary and secondary schools and thus indicates the level of funding under the formula for each school). This includes a Minimum Funding Guarantee of +0.50%, which means that every primary and secondary school will receive an increase in funding per pupil of at least this percentage in 2023-24 (through the pupil-led element of the schools funding formula).

The council mirrors the National Funding Formula for schools alongside 78 of 150 English Local Authorities.

The report also provides an update on the funding of maintained nursery schools in Barnet and the allocation of the High Needs Block for Special Educational Needs in 2023/24.

## **Officer Recommendations**

**That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee:**

- 1. Note the approved formula funding to be used in the Authority Proforma Tool (which specifies the authority's funding formula for schools) as set out and agreed at the Schools Forum on 12 January 2023**
- 2. Note the approved final Authority Proforma Tool for submission to the Department for Education (DfE).**
- 3. Note the recommendation of the proposed use of Direct Schools Grant (DSG) reserves of £0.75m for funding for new arrivals and £1.0m for therapies for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).**
- 4. Note that the Early Years funding allocation is estimated using pupil data taken from the Early Years and Schools census in January 2022. The final allocation will be updated in July 2023 based on the January 2023 census numbers and as set out and agreed at Schools Forum on 12 January 2023**
  - The hourly rate received by Barnet for 3- and 4-year-olds has increased from £6.24 to £6.41.**
  - The proposal to increase the passthrough basic hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds by £0.42 to from £5.45 to £5.87**
  - The proposal that the deprivation rate based on IDACI is increased by £0.01 from £0.29 to £0.30 per hour, therefore passing on the increase from the government directly to providers.**
  - The DfE funding rate for 2-year-olds has been increased by £0.63 and the proposal to pass this increase on to providers, thus increasing the rate from £6.29 an hour in 2022-23 to £6.92 an hour in 2023-24.**
  - From April 2023, funding for Maintained Nursery Schools is included within the Early Years Block. Each part-time equivalent is funded at £3.80 per hour and the proposal to pass this funding onto our Maintained Nursery Schools in full.**

**5. Note that the Provisional High Needs funding allocation as set out and agreed at Schools Forum on 12 January 2023 has been calculated as follows:**

- **£65.334m - Actual High Needs National Funding Formula allocation**
- **£4.509m - based on a £5,200.81 per pupil Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) weighted base rate \* 867 (pupils in special schools/special academies based on the October 2022 census)**
- **£0.756m - Import/export adjustment for net 75 imported pupils**
- **£0.306m – Additional High Needs Funding for Special Free School**
- **£0.918m – hospital education and teachers’ pay and pension**

## **1. Why this report is needed**

- 1.1 This report advises the committee of the agreed funding blocks for Schools, High Needs and Early Years for 2023-24.

## **2. Reasons for decision**

- 2.1 To duly inform the committee of the decisions undertaken through Delegated Powers in relation to schools funding in Barnet.

## **3. Alternative options considered and not recommended**

- 3.1 N/A

## **4. Post decision implementation**

- 4.1 N/A

## **5. Implications of decision**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The quality of the education offer in Barnet is at the heart of Barnet's continuing success as a place where people want to live, work and study. It plays a crucial part in making Barnet a popular and desirable place with many families attracted to the area by the good reputation of Barnet's schools.

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

- 5.2.1 Funding will be distributed to Barnet maintained schools in accordance with the arrangements set out in the report to Schools Forum on 12 January 2023.
- 5.2.2 The proposed use of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserves as set out in the report to the Schools Forum on 12 January 2023 and agreed by the Schools Forum will cost a maximum of £1.75 million and will not impact on the funding to schools and settings available through the DSG allocations to the council for 2023-24.
- 5.2.3 As the DSG is a ring-fenced grant specific for funding schools and education, and the council does not have a negative reserve on its balance sheet for the DSG, there is not expected to be any adverse impact on the council's budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) arising from this decision.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 The Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee: Has responsibility for all matters relating to children, care experienced (up to the age of 25), schools and education.

5.3.2 Chief Officers have delegated authority to make decisions in accordance with the powers delegated under Article 9 of the Constitution and under the Schemes of Delegation.

The Executive Director for Children Services has delegated authority:

- To determine each school's budget share through the development and implementation of a local Fair Funding Formula, in consultation with schools and Schools Forum

- To submit plans/bids for funding to the DfE or other Government Directorates as required, following appropriate consultation.

#### 5.4 **Insights**

N/A

#### 5.5 **Social Value**

5.5.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders

#### 5.6 **Risk Management**

5.6.1 The annual submission of school funding information to the Department for Education is governed by a strict timetable to ensure that schools are allocated budgets in good time for each new financial year.

#### 5.7 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.7.1 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.7.2 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.

#### 5.8 **Corporate Parenting**

5.8.1 The APT submission does not impact on the funding of the Virtual School; nor does it

affect High Needs funding, which is a significant factor for looked after children, as a significant number are supported through funding from the High Needs Block.

## 5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 The Schools Forum meeting was held on the 12 January 2023. The Schools Forum has agreed to continue to use the National Funding Formula with protection through the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2023-24.

## 5.10 Environmental Impact

5.10.1 There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact, or at least it is neutral.


## 6. Background papers

6.1 [Agenda for Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee on Wednesday 19th January, 2022, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

6.2 [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Schools Forum, 12/01/2023 16:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

6.3 [Decision - Annual Report on School Funding in Barnet 2023-24 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Children, Education &amp; Safeguarding Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>20 March 2023</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Family Services Quarterly Update</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Chair of the Committee, Councillor Coakley Webb</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Barnet Joint Care Leaver Housing Protocol Appendix 2 – Barnet Joint Housing CSC Protocol for Homeless 16 &amp; 17 year olds</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Chris Munday, Executive Director for Children’s Services <a href="mailto:Chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk">Chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk</a> 020 8359 7099</p>

## Summary

This report gives an update on the Barnet Care Leaver Housing Protocol that outlines how Barnet Homes, Family Services, Revenues and Benefits and other key agencies each play a full role in providing the resources and support to care leavers to support a successful transition to independent living.

This protocol sets out Children’s Social Care and Housing Options joint procedure for responding to 16/17 year old homelessness. It covers what will happen from the point young people present asking for help to longer term support arrangements.

## Officers Recommendations

1. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note and provide comments on the Barnet Housing Protocol for Care leavers and the Barnet Joint Housing and Children’s Social Care Protocol for Homeless 16 & 17 Year Old’s as summarised in this report and Appendix 1 & 2.

### 1. Why this report is needed

- 1.1 As part of the ongoing service development and partnership working Family Services has work with Barnet Homes to review the Care Leaver Housing protocol and the Homeless 16 & 17 year old protocol to ensure it is representative of developments within the service areas and any changes in legislation.
- 1.2 In relation to the Care leaver protocol, it was important for the protocol to reflect the changes and progress made for care experienced young people's housing options and improvements made to simplify and support them through the application process as they become adults.
  - 1.2.1 Care experienced young people should expect the same level of care and support that others would expect from a reasonable parent. Barnet Council is responsible for their care and should make sure that they are provided with the opportunities they need. It is important to remember that there is no one appropriate pathway for young people to move to independent living. Leaving care too early presents looked after young people with significant challenges which will impact on their life chances. Care experienced young people, like all young people, will make mistakes and require support to learn from their experiences. Young people leaving care may need longer to achieve some of their goals than their peers who have not been in care.
  - 1.2.2 Good housing underpins success in other areas of life. Secure, safe and stable accommodation is an essential building block for success and achievement in education, training and employment, and has a direct impact on emotional health and wellbeing. It is therefore essential that a multi-agency approach is adopted when securing accommodation for care leavers; agencies must work together to meet their statutory duties and corporate parenting responsibilities, in order to provide a safe and supportive pathway to independent living.
  - 1.2.3 Care experienced young people need to be well prepared to live independently and their housing needs must be addressed before they leave care via pathway planning and joint assessment. We are therefore proud to publish this protocol and will ensure that Barnet Homes, Family Services, Revenues and Benefits and other key agencies each play a full role in providing the resources and support to care leavers.
  - 1.2.4 This protocol will also ensure that every effort is made to avoid using the homeless route which is inappropriate when assessing and meeting the housing needs of care experienced young people.
  - 1.2.5 This joint housing protocol for care experienced young people is an agreement between Barnet Homes (and their agents providing the homeless/housing advice services), Family Services and Revenues and Benefits.
- 1.3 When a 16- or 17-year-old is seeking support because they are homeless or threatened with homelessness, housing services and children social care will pro-actively work with young people and their families to identify and resolve the issues which have led to the homelessness crisis.
  - 1.3.1 Barnet Family Services will always strive to find ways to help young people remain living with their families by ensuring they have access to early help services that focus on rebuilding their relationships with their parents/carers or exploring other members of the family who might be able to offer the security of a stable home into adulthood.
  - 1.3.2 The joint housing protocol for homeless 16 & 17 year olds sets out Early Help,



Children's Social Care and Housing Options joint procedure for responding to 16/17 year old homelessness. It covers what will happen from the earliest point of need to the point young people present asking for help and longer term support arrangements.

- 1.3.3 All young people placed in emergency accommodation under s20 Children Act 1989, and those at risk of imminent homelessness who remain living at home or with a safe family member/friend, will have a full assessment of their needs. All assessments are undertaken jointly with the Housing Options team who will assess what duties are owed to the young person under Part VII, Housing Act 1996. The joint assessment will identify the needs of the young person and how best to respond to these needs.

## **2. Reasons for recommendations**

- 2.1 N/A

## **3. Implications of decision**

### **3.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 3.1.1 Family Friendly is a key driver of our corporate planning with the vision of "Creating a Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best".

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

- 3.2.1 There are no resource implications.

### **3.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 3.3.1 Legislative Framework specifically relating to the Care Leaver Housing Protocol

The *Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000* and *The Homelessness Act (2002)* require local authority Family Services and Housing departments to work together to ensure the accommodation needs of care leavers are met.

*Volume 3 of The Children Act (1989) - The Planning Transition to Adulthood guidance (2010)* states that research and practice shows that young people who have been looked after will have the best chance of success as adults if those providing transitional care and other support take the following principles into account in talking to the young person and when making any decision:

- Is this good enough for my own child?
- Providing a second chance if things don't go as expected.
- Is this tailored to their individual needs, particularly if they are more vulnerable than other young people?

*The Housing Act 1996 as amended* states that a YP who is threatened with homelessness, has a priority need for housing if they are a person:

- under 21 who was (but is no longer) looked after by the Local Authority between the ages of 16 and 18.
- A person 21 or over who is vulnerable as a result of being looked after.

The *Homelessness Reduction Act (2017)* places a new duty on Local Authorities to help prevent the homelessness of all families and single people, regardless of priority need, who are eligible for assistance and threatened with homelessness.

3.3.2 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under various legislation including the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004. They have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, if this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings. Under the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities must consider how the child or young person can be supported to facilitate their development and to help them achieve the "best possible educational and other outcomes".

3.3.3 Local authorities have specific duties to care leavers under the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The corporate parenting duties and powers under the 1989 Act include:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and,
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living

3.3.4 The Council's Constitution, Article 7 notes that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee has 'Responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools and education.'

### 3.4 **Insight**

3.4.1 Family Services uses a comprehensive suite of performance information to support decision making, including local and regional datasets, audit and financial analysis. This together with insight developed through research and performance information from Barnet Homes has informed the housing offer for care experienced young people and homeless young people.

### 3.5 **Social Value**

3.5.1 All commissioning activity includes social value as a standard monitoring item.

### 3.6 **Risk Management**

3.6.1 Specific risk management is being carried out for Children and Young People's Plan. Any Family Services risks are recorded on the Family Services Risk Register and monitored each quarter by the Senior Leadership Team with escalations to CMT if necessary.

### 3.7 **Equalities and Diversity**

3.7.1 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

3.7.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

3.7.3 Equalities and diversity considerations are a key element of social work practice. It is imperative that help and protection services for children and young are sensitive and responsive to age, disability, race and ethnicity, faith or belief, sex, gender reassignment, language, maternity / parental status and sexual orientation. We continue to closely monitor this, as report appendixes notes, in our performance data.

### 3.8 **Corporate Parenting**

3.8.1 In July 2016, the Government published their Care Leavers' strategy Keep on Caring which outlined that the "... [the government] will introduce a set of corporate parenting principles that will require all departments within a local authority to recognise their role as corporate parents, encouraging them to look at the services and support that they provide through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do to support their own children.'

3.8.2 The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and

well-being, of those children and young people;

- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and;
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

### **3.9 Consultation and Engagement**

3.9.1 Engaging and hearing the voice of young people is central to the service development within Barnet Family Service and is governed by the My Say Matters Strategy.

3.9.2 In revising the Care Leaver Housing Protocol, young people from the Care leaver forums were consulted. There was regular engagement with BOP (Children in Care Council) and the Strengths and Resilience Group at Onwards and Upwards.

### **3.10 Environmental Impact**

3.10.1 N/A

## **4. Background papers**

None



## **Barnet Care Leaver's Housing Protocol 2023 - 2026**



<b>POLICY NAME</b>	Care Leaver Housing Protocol		
<b>Document Description</b>	This protocol outlines how Barnet Homes, Family Services, Revenues and Benefits and other key agencies each play a full role in providing the resources and support to care leavers to support a successful transition to independent living.		
<b>Document Author</b> 1) Team and 2) Officer and contact details	1) Family Services, Corporate Parenting & Housing Option, Barnet Homes, 2) Julie Harpin 020 83592668 & Nkechi Ihesiene 020 8359 4591		
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# 1. Introduction

## Our Corporate Parenting Pledge

In 2016, Barnet's Full Council heard and agreed [Corporate Parenting Pledge](#) for Children in Care & Care Leavers.

Our Corporate Vision and Corporate Parenting Pledge for Children in Care & Care Leavers agreed by full Council in 2022 takes most seriously its corporate parenting role in championing the needs of children in care and care leavers. One such element of this is ensuring that the borough has sufficient high-quality placements, accommodation and support to meet the needs of all our children in care and leaving care, hearing their voice, safeguarding them from harm, supporting them to achieve positive outcomes and enabling them to achieve their aspirations and make a positive contribution.

### From the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021 – 2023 Pledge:

We will support you to become independent and prepare for adulthood through continuing to deliver:

- For 15/17-year olds through our stepladder programme, that includes financial management. And for all of you, supporting you to develop independent living skills as part of the support you receive in your alternative home.
- A home with support that is based on what you need, not your age, and that prepares you for independence:
- Together with you, we plan for where you will live when you get older, preparing for independence (we call it pathways). Where it is the right choice for you, you can remain with your foster family post 18 as part of a "staying put" arrangements.
- We are currently piloting our in-house Moving Forward offer; this is where you live together with other young people in a home, were staff offer you support on developing your independent living skills.
- Barnet Supported Living Service helps those of you with learning disabilities to live as independently as possible in their own home.

## Care leaver housing protocol

Moving forward from Local Authority care is a particularly important and sometimes challenging transition. Young people can become adults in one area of their lives, but not in others. For many young adults, their transition to adulthood can be extended and delayed until they are emotionally and financially ready, and they have the qualifications they need and aspire to. Securing suitable accommodation for care leavers is therefore much more than just finding them somewhere to stay.

Care leavers should expect the same level of care and support that others would expect from a reasonable parent. Barnet Council is responsible for their care and should make sure that they are provided with the opportunities they need. It is important to remember that there is no one appropriate pathway for young people to move to independent living. Leaving care too early presents looked after young people with significant challenges which will impact on their life chances. Care leavers, like all young people, will make mistakes and require support to learn from their experiences. Young people leaving care may need longer to achieve some of their goals than their peers who have not been in care.





Research has identified that the following support helps care leavers to make a positive transition to independent living (Stein, 2010)<sup>1</sup>:

- Housing and Children's Services need to identify problems with accommodation early on, have clear contingency arrangements – including sufficient emergency accommodation to prevent homelessness – and specialist accommodation for young people with higher support needs.
- Care leavers want and benefit from support services matched to their needs, including leaving care services, out-of-hours support, mentoring and positive family and kinship contact.
- Care leavers also need practical support with moving and setting up in accommodation.

Good housing underpins success in other areas of life. Secure, safe and stable accommodation is an essential building block for success and achievement in education, training and employment, and has a direct impact on emotional health and wellbeing. It is therefore essential that a multi-agency approach is adopted when securing accommodation for care leavers; agencies must work together to meet their statutory duties and corporate parenting responsibilities, in order to provide a safe and supportive pathway to independent living.

Care leavers need to be well prepared to live independently and their housing needs must be addressed before they leave care via pathway planning and joint assessment. We are therefore proud to publish this protocol and will ensure that Barnet Homes, Family Services, Revenues and Benefits and other key agencies each play a full role in providing the resources and support to care leavers.

This protocol will also ensure that every effort is made to avoid using the homeless route which is inappropriate when assessing and meeting the housing needs of care leavers.

**Cath Shaw**  
Deputy Chief Executive

**Chris Munday**  
Executive Director – Children and Young People

**Tim Mulvenna**  
CEO – The Barnet Group

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<sup>1</sup> Stein M (with data annexe by Morris M) (2010)  
C4EO Knowledge Review 3: Increasing the number of care leavers in 'settled, safe accommodation' (September 2010).

## 2. Purpose of the Care Leaver Housing Protocol

This joint Protocol is an agreement between Barnet Homes (and their agents providing the homeless/housing advice services), Family Services and Revenues and Benefits to:

- Set out our commitment to developing services (our local offer) to care leavers;
- Establish the roles and responsibilities towards care leavers and define the roles of the statutory agencies within the legislative framework.
- Develop a "corporate parenting" approach towards care leavers, providing a shared commitment from Family Services, Barnet Homes and Revenues and Benefits to ensure our young people achieve the best outcomes possible;
- Identify how the Family Services, Barnet Homes and Revenues and Benefits can, by working together, meet the needs of care leavers, effectively discharge our duties in line with government guidance and benchmarked good practice, ensuring that there are no gaps in services and that resources are effectively used; and
- Ensure all officers using this protocol are mindful of the roles and responsibilities of organisations working with young people and the need for multi-agency working to secure positive outcomes.

## 3. Who does this policy apply to?

'The local authority is the corporate parent of Children in Care and therefore has a legal and moral duty to provide the kind of support that any good parent would provide to their own children'.

This is a legal responsibility which extends to all departments within the council.

All local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure all eligible and relevant care leavers are placed in suitable accommodation when leaving care. This protocol applies to this cohort of young people.

The definitions are:

### **Eligible child**

A child aged 16 and 17 who have been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who are still looked after.

### **Relevant child**

A child aged 16 and 17 who have been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who have left care. This also includes young people who were detained (e.g., in a youth offending institution or hospital) when they turned 16 but immediately before that were looked after.

## Former relevant child

A young person (YP) over 18 who was previously 'eligible' or 'relevant'. Local authorities support this group at least until age 21, or some duties until age 25.

## Legislative Framework

The *Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000* and *The Homelessness Act (2002)* require local authority Family Services and Housing departments to work together to ensure the accommodation needs of care leavers are met.

*Volume 3 of The Children Act (1989) - The Planning Transition to Adulthood guidance (2010)* states on page 4 that research and practice shows that YP who have been looked after will have the best chance of success as adults if those providing transitional care and other support take the following principles into account in talking to the young person and when making any decision:

- Is this good enough for my own child?
- Providing a second chance if things don't go as expected.
- Is this tailored to their individual needs, particularly if they are more vulnerable than other young people?

*The Housing Act 1996 as amended* states that a YP who is threatened with homelessness, has a priority need for housing if they are a person:

- under 21 who was (but is no longer) looked after by the Local Authority between the ages of 16 and 18.
- A person 21 or over who is vulnerable as a result of being looked after.

The *Children and Social Work Act (2017)* sets out corporate parenting principles for the council as a whole to be the best parent it can be to children in its care. Local authorities are required to publish their local offer to care leavers. Significantly, the legislation requires local authorities to appoint personal advisers to provide support to care leavers up to the age of 25, except where the young person no longer wants a personal adviser. Such support should be based on the needs of the YP as per their statutory Pathway Plan.

The *Homelessness Reduction Act (2017)* places a new duty on Local Authorities to help prevent the homelessness of all families and single people, regardless of priority need, who are eligible for assistance and threatened with homelessness.

Local Authorities are required to assess an applicant's case and develop a personalised plan to identify appropriate actions to prevent or relieve the applicant's homelessness. In performing these duties, the Secretary of State considers that housing authorities should adopt a positive and collaborative approach toward applicants, taking account of their particular needs and making all reasonable efforts to engage their cooperation.

The full government guidance can be found [here](#).

## Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

Under the Children Act 1989, asylum applicants below the age of 18 who arrive in the UK without close adult family members, either accompanying them or already in the UK who they can join, may be provided a service by the local authority social

services departments, regardless of immigration status. This may be under s.17 of the Children Act 1989, and therefore the young person may or may not be looked or former relevant child after as a result.

- Unaccompanied young people that are former relevant children

When an unaccompanied asylum seeker that is an eligible or relevant child reaches of 18, the local authority has the power to assist them as a Former Relevant Child to the extent that her/his welfare requires it, and this includes the power to provide accommodation. In some cases, the local authority will be obligated to provide assistance to ensure the Former Relevant Child's welfare is not compromised.

In assessing the need for accommodation, the Local Authority cannot take account any accommodation that could be provided by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) as the UKBA are not required to provide accommodation if the asylum seeker (or failed asylum seeker) is entitled to accommodation under another statutory regime.

- Unaccompanied young people who are not former relevant children

If the asylum seeker reaches the age of 18, and is not a Former Relevant Child when s/he turns 18, any duty to accommodate will fall to the UKBA, unless s/he is in need of care and attention and is 'destitution plus', when social services would have a duty to accommodate under section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948.

Asylum seekers are not eligible for homelessness assistance from the Local Authority under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 unless granted some form of leave to remain that makes them eligible (e.g. humanitarian protection). If their asylum claim is accepted, they are granted refugee status and become eligible for homelessness assistance from the local authority.

### Children from the European Economic Area

The UK residence rights and immigration requirements for European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and their family members have significantly changed following the UK's departure from the European Union (EU). From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, new immigration and eligibility rules apply.

EEA nationals and their family members who did not apply to the EU Settlement Scheme before the end of the grace period (30 June 2021) will now be unlawfully present in the UK and at risk of losing access to benefits, employment, and other entitlements, although may be able to make a late application if they can show that they have a reasonable excuse for missing the deadline. People with pending EU Settlement Scheme applications should be able to retain their entitlements whilst they are waiting for a decision.

### Children who resided in the UK before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

The Withdrawal Agreement protects the rights of EEA citizens and their family members who were lawfully residing, or frontier working, in the UK before 11pm on 31 December 2020, including access to social housing and homelessness assistance. They will need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) before the deadline of 30 June 2021 to continue residing in the UK.

Those granted settled status under the EUSS will have the same access to social housing and homelessness assistance as comparable British citizens. They should be eligible provided they can demonstrate habitual residence in the Common Travel Area, under provisions in Regulation 3(c) and Regulation 5(1)(c) of the Eligibility Regulations.

Those granted pre-settled status will be eligible if they meet the eligibility rules under Regulation 4 and Regulation 6 of the Eligibility Regulations:

- Regulations 4(1) and 6(1) which prescribe the classes of persons from abroad who are to be treated as ineligible for an allocation of housing accommodation or for homelessness assistance, respectively; and
- Regulations 4(2) and 6(2) which prescribe the classes of people from abroad not subject to immigration control who are to be treated as eligible for an allocation of social housing and homelessness assistance.

#### Children moving to the UK from 1 January 2021

Newly arriving EEA citizens, moving to the UK from 1 January 2021, will have the same access to social housing and homelessness assistance as non-EEA migrants, unless they are a family member joining an EEA citizen who was residing in the UK by 31 December 2020.

All non-British nationals (excluding Irish citizens) who arrive in the UK from 1 January 2021 will be able to apply for an immigration status under the new points-based immigration system. They will require leave to enter or remain in the UK and will generally have no recourse to public funds, as is currently the case now for other third country nationals. This means they will not be eligible for an allocation of social housing or homelessness assistance, unless covered by the exemptions in our Eligibility Rules (for example, having a refugee status), or until they are eligible and are granted indefinite leave to remain (typically after 5 years continuous residence in the UK).

## 4. Key strategies, policies and protocols

This protocol should be read in conjunction with the following strategies, policies and protocols which inform our practice and support in relation to care leavers:

- **HOUSING**  
[Barnet Housing Allocations Scheme](#)  
[Local Tenancy Strategy](#)
- **CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**  
Staying Put Policy (currently being revised. Link to be added when complete)  
[Finance Policy for Care Leavers](#)
- **COUNCIL TAX AND BENEFITS**  
[Benefits advice – Barnet Homes](#)  
[Care Leaver Council Tax Reduction policy](#)  
[DHP Guidance](#)

- **ADULT'S SOCIAL CARE**  
[Shared lives scheme](#)

## 5. Key agencies for care leaver's housing

### Children in Care

The children in care team supports children and young people in care, until the age of 18. The children in care social workers are responsible for all aspects of the young person's care, including annual reviews, health, education and future planning.

When a young person is 15 and a half years old, they will be supported by a social worker from children in care, alongside support from Onwards and Upwards. This helps ensure a smooth transition to the leaving care service for the young person.

### Onwards and Upwards

The leaving care service Onwards and Upwards (O&U), supports young people leaving care. Depending on the young person's support needs, this can be up to the age of 25, and thereafter with advice and guidance from the duty service.

The Onwards and Upwards service is located at the Leaving Care hub in North Finchley. This is a safe space for care experienced young people to access onsite support, advice and guidance in a welcoming environment.

The service consists of social workers and personal advisers (PA) who help young to prepare to live independently and offer advice and support as they leave care. Young people transition to this team from the children in care team. PAs get involved in discussions about young people's needs and ensure they have an up to date Pathway Plan, putting in place the support young people are entitled to at the earliest appropriate stage.

### Barnet Homes

Barnet Homes delivers the housing and homeless service on behalf of the Council. Care leavers will be assessed in accordance with the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme and where needed the homeless legislation governed by part 7, Housing Act 1996 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. Care leavers will be offered suitable accommodation that meets their assessed needs. Barnet Homes provides a housing management function to those households in its secure or flexible tenancies and understands the need to work with Family Services to support the needs of care leavers.

### Revenues and Benefits Service

The Revenues and Benefits service collects Council Tax and processes claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support (In some cases Housing Benefit will be claimed from the DWP as part of a claim for Universal Credit). In addition, they process claims for Discretionary Housing Payment and award the Care Leavers Council Tax Discount.

## 6. The protocol

### SECTION 1 – Barnet care leavers with recourse to Public Funds

#### Step 1 – identify young person's needs

Children in Care Social Worker Identify young person's eligibility for local authority housing by age 16.5 years old, in conjunction with staff from Onwards and Upwards.

For young people who become looked after their 16th birthday, this protocol should be followed immediately after coming into care.

#### Step 2 – Settled Accommodation nomination

Young person and allocated worker completes Settled Accommodation nomination with support from Onwards and Upwards nomination form can be found in Appendix 2.

Allocated workers should ensure relevant supporting documents are attached to the nomination, such as proof of ID, signed consent, evidence of community contribution/education and other relevant supporting information.

Risk assessment to clearly indicate risks including areas of risk for the young people to live in and risks to staff working with them.

Nomination form to be sent to the Housing Options Managers at Barnet Homes via [HousingTriageTeams@Barnet.gov.uk](mailto:HousingTriageTeams@Barnet.gov.uk)

Within 5 days of receipt Barnet Homes will allocate the nomination to the Housing Options Officer (HOO) who will register the young person as a care leaver, and assess the young person within 33 days.

The young person's housing assessment can take place in a variety of ways, to ensure young people are not needing to seek housing in an unplanned way. Assessments can take place via:

- Teams Email
- Telephone
- Assessments can take place face-to-face as required

The young person's Personal Advisor should be invited to attend the housing assessment, if the young person would like this.

The resident's requirement of 5 years address history in the borough does not apply to Care Leavers who were looked after by Barnet Council children's social care and supported by a Barnet Council social worker.

After assessment, young people will be placed in a housing band. This is the priority that a young person has under the Council's housing scheme. For Care Leavers living in Barnet this is band 2, unless there are specific urgent, medical or other needs which means the young person should be placed in band 1.

Young people will be shortlisted for available properties when they are available and when Onwards and Upwards agree the young person is ready for their long-term tenancy.

For young people living outside of Barnet, each council has their own criteria for allocating properties and this may not be the same as Barnet Council. Barnet Council's children's social care can provide support to its Care Leavers who wish to apply for housing in another local authority area. However they are unlikely to be eligible for priority care leaver banding outside of Barnet.

Any young person that wishes to return to Barnet for their long-term accommodation will be prioritised as a Care Leaver as outlined in the [Council's Housing Allocation guidance](#).

### Step 3 – Develop plan for when young person turns 18

As part of pathway and independence planning for the young person, the allocated worker should discuss with the young person the options for the young person, assess their housing needs which will form their pathway plan. This process should take place regularly from the age of 15.5 onwards, and include everyone who knows the young person well, and the young person. This is reviewed as part of the Children in Care review process.

The following temporary accommodation options are available to Barnet care leavers, and are based on assessment of need:

- A. Staying Put
- B. Shared Lives
- C. Supported Lodgings
- D. Foyer
- E. Interim Housing options (Settled Accommodation application)
- F. The Moving Forward project – in house interim accommodation with floating support

There may be variations of these options available to young people living in other areas, but the social worker for the young person is responsible for exploring these options and working with the local authority services and agencies to, wherever possible, ensure the young person can 'stay close', if this is their wish. Examples include:

- *The Pan-London Housing Reciprocal agreement*  
This is a voluntary collaboration between local authorities and registered housing providers in London. It increases options for people with social housing tenancy in London and is an opportunity for local authorities to house young people to whom they owe a duty, who are ready for independent living, but cannot remain in Barnet

### Step 4 – Moving into long-term accommodation

#### Nominations

It is important to note suitable settled accommodation will not only be Barnet Homes properties, they could also be:





- Private sector properties: these are properties which are owned by a private landlord.
- Registered Providers (RP): Registered providers' properties include local authority landlords and private registered providers, such as not-for-profit housing associations and for-profit organisations.

Long term temporary accommodation: long term temporary accommodation will be used for as long as it remains suitable to the household's needs.

Barnet Homes can fulfil their duty to house Barnet care leavers through these options, as well as their own properties.

The Nomination team will flag the Care Leaver status to the Voids and Lettings team and other landlords who arrange viewings.

The allocated Onwards and Upwards worker will be informed of any viewing dates and will attend with the young person.

If the allocated Onwards and Upwards worker is unobtainable, the duty team will be advised on 0208 359 6220 or [leavingcare.teamduty@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:leavingcare.teamduty@barnet.gov.uk).

Barnet Council operate a 'one offer' policy, however, it is important to note that the young person may be offered more than one viewing before they are made a long-term housing offer.

For this reason, it is important that the *Settled Accommodation Request Form* is comprehensive and includes details of areas that the young person should not be housed, and that the allocated Onwards and Upwards worker attends the viewing.

When an offer has been made, the Voids and Lettings Team will advise the allocated Onwards and Upwards worker of the offer, as well as the young person. The young person will then be informed of the date for signing the tenancy.

Young people may be offered different kinds of tenancies:

- 5 year flexible – Barnet Homes and some housing association properties
- Long term temporary accommodation agreement
- 12 month assured short hold tenancy – private sector lets. Young people utilising this pathway do not forfeit a subsequent right to access social housing.

To act in the best interests, promote the physical and mental health of care leavers they should not be moved to independent accommodation on a Friday unless in an emergency.

### **Council Tax, Housing Benefit and Universal Credit**

An application for Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support and Universal Credit should be completed if the young person is unemployed or receiving a low income. If the young person lives alone an application should be made for a Single Person Discount which reduces their Council Tax by 25%.

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support and Single Person Discount can be applied for online at [www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax) [www.barnet.gov.uk/benefits-and-grants/housing-benefit/apply-housing-benefit](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/benefits-and-grants/housing-benefit/apply-housing-benefit) or [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit)



Further information can also be found here on other reductions that may be applicable such as student discounts.

Eligible care leavers are exempt from Council Tax up to the age of 25.

It is important for the young person to know whether they can claim Housing Benefit or whether they need to apply for Universal Credit. Under current guidelines a new claim for Housing Benefit can only be made if they fall into one of these categories:

- You live in supported exempt accommodation
- You have been placed in temporary accommodation by Barnet Homes
- You are currently in receipt of the Severe Disability Premium as part of an existing claim for JSA(IB), ESA(IB), Income Support or Housing Benefit, or you have received the Severe Disability Premium in one of these Benefits within the last month.

If the young individual does not fall into one of these categories, they should make an application for Universal Credit via support available from the DWP Care Leaver Work Coach and their allocated PA, via their local job centre, or online using the link above.

Young people will be supported by their leaving care worker to apply for the care leaver council tax exemption.

A requirement of receiving the Care Leavers Council Tax Discount is that any other reductions the young person may be entitled to have been applied for. It is therefore important that the applications detailed in the previous paragraph are made promptly to avoid any delay in awarding the Care Leaver Council Tax Discount

In circumstances out of anyone's control, such as a serious incident or when a young person is at immediate risk, an email will be sent to Housing Duty Seniors (email address included above) and relevant Barnet Homes team as soon as possible.

If a housing needs assessment has not yet been completed, due to the unforeseen nature of the incident, then Onwards and Upwards will liaise with the housing duty seniors to arrange for the young person to be seen as an emergency and arrangements to be made for the young person to be offered suitable temporary accommodation.

As mentioned, following the housing needs assessment the young person will be placed into band 2 and the nominations team will then start to nominate the young person to suitable properties.

### **Temporary Accommodation (TA) for young people with recourse to public funds**

Temporary Accommodation (TA) is usually required when a young person turns 18, and either cannot remain in their current accommodation, such as semi-independent provision, staying put or supported lodgings or have been away and returned to the borough.

In these instances the Section 24 form should have been submitted prior to the young person turning 18 and the allocated Housing Options Officer is to be given as



much prior notice as possible so that they can liaise with Barnet Homes to request a suitable emergency accommodation. which will meet their needs. The Housing Options Officer will open an application for the young person and will send them for banding once requested documents have been returned, The Housing Options Officer will request temporary accommodation for the young person when this is required.,.

Wherever possible, this accommodation will be in Barnet or a neighbouring borough, and the young person will remain there until the long-term accommodation is secured. However, where a young person is placed out of borough, they will be prioritised for a transfer back into the Barnet area if it is safe to do so, and this is in line with the young person's wishes.

The booking of a temporary accommodation is requested through the submission of a request email to [housingdutyseniors@barnethomes.org.uk](mailto:housingdutyseniors@barnethomes.org.uk) The duty manager will sign off the TA request and refer the young person to a housing options officer in the TA team

Consideration will always be given to the suitability of the accommodation for the young person. Bed and Breakfast, including hotels and nightly paid accommodation with shared facilities is not an option for care leavers under 25 and should only be used in exceptional circumstances and if necessary for short periods.

The relevant paperwork will be generated by the Housing Options team who inform the TA team of the need for accommodation that day.

### **Young people in university**

We have high aspirations for all Barnet care leavers, and wherever possible and desired by the young person we support them to progress to Higher Education. We want young people to reach their full potential and enjoy the full university experience.

It is important that care leavers are supported to financially plan for university. For students eligibility for housing benefit and universal credit is restricted to certain groups , and therefore alternative financial arrangements need to be made to pay for housing costs, such as, Student Finance.

#### *a) Young people coming back from university and Settled Accommodation nomination*

For young people who are planning to go to university, a Settled Accommodation nomination will still be made, however, Barnet Homes are able to delay allocation until the young person has returned to Barnet after completing their course.

At the point of nomination, Onwards and Upwards should inform the Nominations Team that the young person will be going to university.

When a young person is in the final year of university, the allocated Onwards and Upwards worker should confirm the housing plan with the young person as part of their Pathway Plan meeting in their final year of University. Once a plan has been confirmed, if the young person is ready and wants to return to Barnet and have a long-term housing offer, the Nominations team should be informed.

Young people going to University are generally advised not to request their long-term housing offer, unless there is a specific reason that meets their needs, to ensure they can make full use of and enjoy the University experience.

*b) Going to university when you have your own home*

For young people who go to university and have already been offered and live in their long-term home, the allocated Onwards and Upwards worker should support the young person to select an appropriate university and course, which they can manage alongside their long-term tenancy. Young people should be supported to fully understand the responsibilities they will have as a student with their own tenancy, such as through attending open days and liaising with student finance.

Once a young person has been accepted onto a course the allocated Onwards and Upwards worker should be supported to apply for student finance within the deadlines outlined. This will avoid delays in payment, and resulting financial difficulties for the young person.

Financial support that care leavers can access whilst at university are outlined in the care leaver finance policy.

For young people who wish to attend a university outside of London, and have an existing tenancy with Barnet Homes, they can seek agreement from Barnet Homes to surrender their tenancy for the duration of their course. Upon completing their course, and returning to Barnet, Barnet Homes will source accommodation accordingly. The young person's personal adviser should ensure housing have sufficient notice of the young person's intended completion date.

Young people who do not wish to surrender their tenancy when going to university, will need to ensure that they can manage travelling to their place of study from their home.

### **Young People at risk of/involved in Gangs, Offending and Exploitation**

Young people who are engaged in offending or who are gang-involved may be at risk of harm to others and still present with a high level of vulnerability to serious youth violence and exploitation.

The Youth Offending Team or probation must always be consulted when a young person is open to their service and is in need of accommodation. This includes young people at risk of homelessness on release from a custodial setting (see below). The highest priority is always to ensure a young person will be safe, and risk of harm to others is minimised by making adequate checks to ensure that gang-involved young people are not placed in the vicinity of rival or other high-profile gang affected areas, or that other very vulnerable young people are not sharing the same placement/accommodation.

The same principal applies to young people who are at a high risk of going missing and are vulnerable to child sexual and other forms of exploitation.

Young people on a custodial sentence



For young people being released from custody who have not accessed their long-term tenancy – The PA should liaise with the prison and probation to ascertain the release date and notify the temporary accommodation team.

When the court requires an address in advance, The Onwards and Upwards service will meet the rent cost until the young person is able to make an application for Housing benefit.

If, in circumstances where a young person receives a custodial sentence for more than 6 months, and they are advised, due to the length of their sentence, to return their property, they will retain an entitlement to priority social housing as part of their resettlement to the community.

Where a secure or flexible council tenant is imprisoned for a period of more than 6 months and would therefore either accumulate rent arrears or possibly lose their tenancy, they can voluntarily give up their tenancy.

Upon release, they would be made a direct allocation of a secure tenancy that meets their needs. The size of accommodation would be the same as their previous tenancy, or a size that meets their needs under the terms of this Allocations Scheme, whichever is smaller. This will not apply to tenants who have been imprisoned in relation to a crime that would enable the Council to seek repossession of their accommodation - where this applies the Council will normally take repossession action.

### **Young people in Armed Forces**

Where a secure council tenant is enlisted within the armed forces for a period of more than 12 months and would therefore either accumulate rent arrears or possibly lose their tenancy, they can voluntarily give up their tenancy.

Upon release, and up until the age of 25, they would be made a direct allocation of a secure tenancy that meets their needs. The size of accommodation would be the same as their previous tenancy, or a size that meets their needs under the terms of this Allocations Scheme, whichever is smaller. This will not apply to tenants who have been imprisoned in relation to a crime that would enable the Council to seek repossession of their accommodation- where this applies the Council will normally take repossession action.

### **Appeals**

If the young person does not want to accept the property offered they must let the viewing officer know immediately stating their reasons why. The property will be held available whilst the appeal is considered where this is not likely to lead to an unreasonable delay in letting the property. The appeal will be dealt with within 48 hours with a decision being issued explaining the options available to the young person in accordance with the Housing Allocation Scheme and homeless legislation if relevant.

## **Step 5 – When young people are living in their own accommodation**

It is important that every effort is made to ensure that a tenancy does not break down as research shows that there is a higher risk of this happening in the first months of living independently.

## Young people in Temporary Accommodation

For TA, the Temporary Accommodation team advise Income Collection Team of all new tenancy sign ups with rent accounts being flagged that the occupier is a care leaver. This will enable any issues around rent arrears or anti-social behaviour to be flagged to Onwards and Upwards. During the sign-up process for the property the young person will be explained their obligations and the need to behave as a good tenant to their neighbours.

## Young people in long-term tenancies

The Tenancy Review and Project Officer will be advised of all care leavers signing Barnet Homes flexible tenancies. Rent accounts will be flagged showing that tenant is a care leaver. This will enable any issues around rent arrears or anti-social behaviour to be flagged to Onwards and Upwards.

If Barnet Homes tenancy a new tenant visit will be made by a neighbourhood housing officer within 4 – 8 weeks of tenancy start date.

## Young people at risk of tenancy breakdown

- *Young people in private rented accommodation*

Where a young person is placed in private accommodation, the allocated worker will make themselves known to the landlord with a view to being a point of contact, if the young person agrees to this. The allocated worker will initially monitor the situation, but if there is a risk of breakdown in the tenancy, the landlord will notify the allocated worker immediately with an indication as to how critical the situation is so that they can raise the issue with the Care leaver and consult with the landlord and housing officer as needed.

The allocated worker should contact the young person to ascertain what further support is needed with immediate effect and action this immediately in a severe crisis. The allocated worker will notify the Barnet Homes immediately. A meeting will be scheduled by the allocated worker with the tenancy management team and young person, to agree actions to resolve the situation and ensure that the young person is appropriately supported going forward so that the tenancy can be sustained.

- *Young people in Barnet Homes secure or flexible tenancies*

Barnet Homes provides a housing management function to tenants in their secure or flexible tenancies. This includes responding to disrepair, antisocial behaviour and rental income enquiries. Care leavers will be flagged on the QL housing management database so that any housing staff can identify that the tenant is a care leaver.

A breach of tenancy conditions could lead to formal action being taken to end the tenancy with the service of a notice of seeking possession. Formal action is only proposed after careful consideration and when alternative dispute resolution options have been exhausted. Where a formal notice is being proposed the Neighbourhood Housing Officer, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer or Rental Income Officer will inform the Tenancy Review and Project Officer to enable the case to be taken to the multi-agency housing partnership meeting. The partnership will discuss cases and agree action plans around the young person to try and prevent escalation of any proposed eviction proceedings.

- *Young people in arrears*

Living independently is challenging for all young people due to the high costs of living and relatively low incomes that they can obtain. Rent arrears in any form of tenure are a real risk and it is important that the signs that a care leaver is struggling are identified at an early stage. The Rental Income Team will advise the Onwards and Upwards adviser when arrears reach £500 so that action can be taken to jointly engage with the young person and put in place steps to reduce the debt.

Some young people may have multiple debts and it is important that they are referred to relevant debt advice services to help them manage their finances. Cases that are more complex and are at risk of possession action will be taken by the allocated Leaving Care Personal Advisor or Social Worker to the multi-agency housing partnership meeting to agree joint action plans to try and prevent escalation of eviction proceedings.

- *Young people at imminent risk of homelessness*  
*If the young person already has a tenancy, they will be assisted by the Tenancy Sustainment Team who can work with the young person and their landlord to mediate and try prevent homelessness by sustaining their current tenancy.*

If the tenancy cannot be sustained and the care leaver is at risk of becoming homeless, a planned homeless application will be made to Barnet Homes via the Housing Options Team.

Consideration will be given to the reasons why the care leaver has been evicted and the support that was put in place prior to them losing their home. If such a decision is to be made it can result in any rehousing duty being discharged and will therefore (require the authorisation of a Housing Needs Manager to ensure that such a decision is balanced and references the vulnerabilities and support needs of the young person.

When a young person does lose their property after a period of time has elapsed and the young person is able to evidence a significant change in circumstance and behaviour consideration will be given to a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance offer of long term accommodation. There will be no situation where the Local Authority discharges its corporate parenting responsibilities or housing duty to care leavers by deeming them intentionally homeless.

### **Young people with no recourse to public funds**

Children in Care Social Worker's identify a young person's eligibility for local authority housing by the time they are 16.5 years old, in conjunction with staff from Onwards and Upwards.

If the young has No Recourse to Public Funds, then they will not be eligible until they have gained status through a successful asylum or humanitarian protection claim or if a failure to provide support would result in a breach of their rights as enshrined within The European Convention on Human Rights

If it is agreed the young person is ready to live independently an application can be made directly to Barnet Homes for temporary accommodation – this will usually be a self-contained studio flat which will be paid for by Onwards and Upwards.



The accommodation form should be completed and sent to [EmergencyAccommodationTeam@BarnetHomes.org](mailto:EmergencyAccommodationTeam@BarnetHomes.org) clearly stating the date the accommodation is required and that the rent will be paid by Onwards and Upwards.

Where possible the allocated PA should go to the property with the young person and ensure the utility supply is on and make a note of any damage/repair issues which should be reported immediately to the landlord and Emergency accommodation team.

Barnet Homes and Onwards and Upwards do their best to ensure young people are not moved to new accommodation on a Friday in case there are any issues during the weekend. In addition, the team try to ensure that moves to new accommodation take place early in the day for the same reason.

## 7. Links to support/further information

### Care Leaver Local Offer

Leaving home and setting out on a life path is daunting enough for any young person. For young people who have been in care, there is the extra stress and pressure of feeling that they do not have the family support that their peers who have not been in care often have. We are committed to, and ambitious for, our care leavers and want to ensure that our looked after children and care leavers receive priority in our services. To make sure our care leavers have all the information they need, we created a Barnet Care Leaver's Local Offer. The document is a guide detailing all the services available for our care leavers (aged 16 - 25 years old).

The purpose of the Local Offer is to give care leavers local information about:

- advice and support groups
- financial and welfare support
- accommodation and housing
- employment, learning and career advice
- staying healthy and leisure activities
- participation in society
- useful contacts.

The local offer is published on our children in care website and can be found [here](#).

## 8. Disputes

There may, on occasion, be disagreement between workers in Family Services and officers in Housing Options or Revenues and Benefits on how the protocol is being administered or on how a young person is being advised and supported. If these cannot be resolved by team managers, then they should be escalated to the service manager for housing needs and the Head of Service for Corporate Parenting manager. Lessons learnt will be shared with staff and the Corporate Parenting Officer's Group.





Further information on dispute resolution, can be found on the [Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) website.

## 9. Monitoring and review

Implementation of this protocol will be monitored jointly bi-quarterly by the care leaver stakeholder group and via the Corporate Parenting Officer's Group.

The protocol will be subject to review annually starting from April 2019.

## Appendix 1: Settled Accommodation nomination form

### SETTLED ACCOMMODATION NOMINATION FORM

Name of young person	
DOB	
Current Address and phone number	
Address history for the last 5 years – please indicate placements provided by Children’s services.	
Is the young person a parent?	
Is the young person in education/employment?	
Legal Status	
Background information (including details of periods ‘Looked After’)	
Assessment of the young person’s independent living skills	
Specific information to be taken into account when considering housing needs	
Income	
Leaving Care Worker contact address and telephone number	<i>If unable to contact the worker named above please contact the duty team on 02083596220 or Leavingcare.teamduty@barnet.gov.uk</i>

Signature of Leaving Care Worker:

Signature of Leaving Care Manager:

Date:

## Appendix 2: DHP Application form

Applications for DHP should be submitted to the Council Tax team using the below form:



Application for DHP  
& Council Tax Discre

## Appendix 3: 50 Point Checklist

For young people living in supported and independent living arrangements.

	Please consider:	Yes/No	What needs to happen? By Whom and when?
1.	Are the young person's independent living skills being consolidated?		
2.	Does further work need to be done and what resources are required to achieve independence?		
3.	Is a mentor/advocate engaged with the young person?		
4.	Does the young person have copies of the documents they will need as an adult or do they know where to find them if they need them in the future? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth certificate</li> <li>• NHS Card</li> <li>• Passport</li> <li>• Student card</li> <li>• Provisional Drivers licence</li> <li>• National Insurance Number</li> <li>• Bank Account</li> </ul>		
5.	Does the young person have sufficient identification documentation		
6.	Are the services currently engaged with the young person clearly outlined in their Pathway Plan		
7.	Is the young person providing input to their pathway plan? And how are they kept aware of any changes to the plan?		
8.	Are all stakeholders, including the young person, aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to tasks outlined in the Pathway Plan?		
9.	Has a plan for keeping the young person's significant relationships connected and maintained been developed?		
10.	Does the young person have reliable support networks?		
11.	Does the young person have regular contact with family or significant others?		
12.	What community groups could the young person be linked with to help develop wider social and support networks?		
13.	Are there any ongoing safety needs for the young person?		
14.	Does the young person know how to contact relevant people in an emergency?		
15.	Do they have a list of emergency contacts?		
16.	What are the accommodation arrangements?		
17.	Are all relevant people clear regarding these arrangements?		
18.	What services are involved that may be able to provide ongoing or one-off assistance to the young person?		

	<b>Please consider:</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>What needs to happen? By Whom and when?</b>
19.	Do they currently have stable accommodation? How long is it likely to remain stable?		
20.	Can the young person remain in their current living arrangement when they reach 18? If not, what is the plan?		
21.	Has contact been made Housing regarding available options?		
22.	What are the contingency arrangements should a placement breakdown occur? How will the young person be assisted to enact these arrangements?		
23.	What are the young person's ongoing medical and dental needs and how are they being addressed?		
24.	Is the you person engaged with a therapeutic service to support their ongoing mental health?		
25.	Does the young person have a GP, Dentist, Optician?		
26.	Does the young person need ongoing medication? If yes, do they understand how to manage this, including obtaining repeat prescriptions from a Doctor and going to the chemist to collect these?		
27.	Does the young person have a disability or special educational needs?		
28.	Does the young person need help to read and respond to letters they receive?		
29.	Does the young person understand their sexual health and how to manage this?		
30.	Does the young person have alcohol or drug issues? If yes how are these to be managed?		
31.	What are the young person's plans for the future in terms of education and employment?		
32.	Does the young person have an Education Plan?		
33.	Does the young person have a CV, and do they know how to write a job application?		
34.	Is the young person engaged with Education, Training and Employment support?		
35.	Has the young person been assisted to apply for relevant benefits?		
36.	What are the young person's financial supports?		
37.	Can the young person manage money?		
38.	What is the plan if they run out of money?		
39.	Does the young person know how to pay bills and rent?		
40.	Does the young person know how to budget for grocery and essentials shopping?		
41.	Can the young person cook?		
42.	Can the young person cope with loneliness?		
43.	Does the young person have a network of friends?		
44.	Are their friends a positive influence, if not has risk that their friends pose been considered?		



	<b>Please consider:</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>What needs to happen? By Whom and when?</b>
45.	Is the young person involved in any religious or cultural groups in the community?		
46.	What do you know about these and how can they support the young person to live independently?		
47.	Is there a risk of radicalisation?		
48.	Has the young person been ostracised by their cultural or religious community?		
49.	Is the young person engaged in positive social activities with their peers?		
50.	Is the young person clear about how and when you will stay in contact with them?		



## Appendix 4: Emergency Accommodation Request Form

### Emergency Accommodation Request

Date Accommodation Required	
Name of Young Person and DOB	
Current Address and phone number	
Immigration Status	
Education/Employment Provide postcode of establishment if possible	
Recourse to Public Funds? If no confirmation that O&U will pay rent	
Reason Emergency Accommodation is required	
Support Needs	
Medical Requirements e.g. MH issues/ground floor/requires lift	
Areas of risk /conflict .Inc evidence if available	
Risks to others – professionals/neighbours/members of the public	
Name and signature of Onwards and Upwards Worker	Name:  Signed:
Approved by Team manager	Name:  Signed:



## Appendix 5: DHP Application Form

### Application for Discretionary Housing Payment

Name & Address:

Date of Issue:

Council Tax Account Number:

Email Address and Contact Number:

Housing Benefit Claim Reference:

#### **Discretionary Housing Payment and Council Tax Discretionary Relief**

**Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)** are designed to provide short-term financial support to customers who are already getting Housing Benefit (or an element of housing costs within their Universal Credit) who need extra help with their rent.

**The DHP fund is limited so we will not always be able to help you.**

In order to apply for discretionary housing payments you must:

- Be entitled to Housing Benefit or receive housing costs within your universal credit and
- Have a liability to pay rent and
- Demonstrate that you require further assistance in order to meet your housing costs (please note: we cannot pay a DHP to help with water rates, service charges or for things like heating and lighting)

**Council Tax Discretionary Relief** is intended for customers who are suffering from hardship due to exceptional circumstances who require help to meet their Council Tax liability. **It is only used for short term assistance.**

In order to apply for Council Tax discretionary relief you must:

- Be the person responsible for paying the Council Tax and
- Demonstrate that you need financial help in order to pay your Council Tax

I am applying for (tick one only):

Discretionary housing payment.....

Council Tax discretionary relief.....

Both.....

**Please complete this form and provide all the evidence that has been requested in support of your application.** Without the information there may be a delay in our decision because we may have to write to you.

**Please complete all sections of this form**



**Section 1: Reasons for your application**

Please state why you need additional support with your housing costs (including your Council Tax):

This could be:

- To pay rent arrears (**you must provide evidence of your arrears**).
- To help you for a short period in the past due to your circumstances at that time (**you need to explain why you did not apply at that time**).
- For a short period to help you until your circumstances improve (**you need to explain what changes you are expecting in your circumstances and how long you think you will need help for**).
- To help you to move home e.g. help with removal costs, rent deposit or rent in advance (**only where you are moving from an unaffordable, unsustainable tenancy to an affordable property where you can pay the rent without needing a DHP**)

Please give full details of why you need the additional financial help, and what effects a shortfall in funds to meet your housing costs will have on you and your family

I am applying for additional support because.....

Please say what steps you are taking to improve your circumstances so that a long-term discretionary award is not needed.

**Section 2: About your household**

Please provide your details and those of your partner (if you have one) below:

Full Name	Date of Birth	NINO	Male/Female	Disabled

Please state if you are:

Sole occupier under 35 years old... Sole occupier over 35 years old... A lone parent...

A couple, under retirement age... A couple, over retirement age...

An expectant mother... Date your baby is due \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

How many dependent children do you have living with you (under 18 or 18-20 in full-time education for whom you receive child benefit)\_\_\_\_\_.

Please give their details below (Please use a separate page if you have more than six children):

Full Name	Date of Birth	Male Yes/No	Female Yes/No	Shares a bedroom Yes/No	Disabled Yes/No

Please list all adults in your household (anyone for whom you do not receive child benefit)

Full Name	Date of Birth	Male/Female	Income Please state amount received	Disabled Yes/no

Is anyone who normally lives in your household a member of the UK armed forces: Yes... No...  
Please provide details below:

Full Name	Date of Birth	Male	Female

Is anyone who normally lives in your household is away studying at university Yes... No...  
Please provide details below:

Full Name	Date of Birth	Male/Female	University	Course start date	Course end date



**Section 3: About your accommodation and your housing costs**

**Council Tax**

Do you have arrears of Council Tax? Yes... No... If yes, how much do you owe? £\_\_\_\_\_

Have you tried to make an arrangement to pay these arrears? Yes... No...

If your answer is No, please explain why you have not tried to resolve your situation prior to your application?

**Mortgage**

Do you pay a mortgage? Yes..... No.....

Are you up to date with your mortgage payments? Yes..... No.....

If your answer is no, how much do you owe? £\_\_\_\_\_ (You must provide proof of any arrears)

**Rent**

Do you pay rent for your home? Yes... No... Who do you pay? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you able to afford the rent when you moved in? Yes... No...

If yes, please explain what has changed:

Please state the date you moved to this address: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

If this is within the last 12 months, please explain why you moved to this address

Do you have rent arrears? Yes... No...

If your answer is yes, how much are your arrears? £\_\_\_\_\_. **You must provide proof of these arrears** (this should be a letter from your landlord and/or your latest rent statement showing the arrears), if you do not have any arrears, please explain how you have paid the shortfall in your rent?

Have you asked your landlord if he/she would accept less rent? Yes... No...

If your answer is yes, what was the outcome?

Has your landlord/lady asked you to leave the property? Yes... No...

If your answer is yes, on what date have they asked you to leave? \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_



If you have received a written notice from your landlord asking you to leave your property please provide this.

**Section 3: About your accommodation and your housing costs (continued)**

**Foster carers**

Are you a registered foster carer who needs additional bedrooms? Yes...  No...

Are you currently fostering and have a child or children in your property? Yes...  No...

If your answer is no, please confirm the date of your last placement \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

**Adapted property**

Has your property been adapted for your or your household's disability needs? Yes...  No...

If your answer is yes, please give full details of the adaptations:

**Proof will be needed – this should be a letter from your landlord explaining what adaptations have been made to your home.**

**Alternative accommodation**

If you are a Council or Housing Association tenant, and are living in a property which is too large for your needs, please state if you have applied to transfer to a smaller property? Yes...  No...

If your answer is yes, please give details

If your answer is no, please explain why you have not asked to downsize?

Have you refused any properties that have been offered to you? Yes...  No...

If your answer is yes, please provide full details

If you are a private tenant, have you tried to find cheaper accommodation? Yes....  No....

If your answer is yes, what steps have you taken?

If your answer is no, please say why not?

Are you registered with Barnet Homes Housing Options service? Yes...  No....

If your answer is yes, what have they advised you to do?



If you have registered with Barnet Homes, are you actively bidding on alternative properties?

Yes....  No....

**Section 3: About your accommodation and your housing costs (continued)**

Can you move to a more affordable property? Yes... No....

If your answer is no, please explain why you cannot move

Do you need to live in the Borough of Barnet? Yes... No...

If your answer is yes, please say why?

If you need help with removal expenses, a deposit or rent in advance for a new property, please say why you are moving, how much your moving expenses, deposit and/or rent in advance will be and confirm how much rent you will be charged at your new address.

**Please note:**

**You will need to provide confirmation of the above, such as estimates for removal expenses, and a letter from your prospective landlord confirming the amounts concerned before you commit to your new tenancy.**

**Your request will only be considered if you are moving from an unaffordable, unsustainable tenancy to an affordable property where you can pay the rent without needing a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP).**

**Section 4: About your household income and outgoings - Please note: You MUST supply supporting evidence for any items marked with a \* and your last 2 months bank statements**

INCOME	How much (£)	How often	OUTGOINGS	How much (£)	How often	Office use only
Net wages (For you)			Mortgage / Rent *			
Net wages (For your partner)			Rent arrears*			
Self-employed earnings			Council Tax			
Working Tax Credit			Council Tax arrears*			
Child Tax Credit			Electricity *			
Child Benefit			Gas*			
JSA (Conts)			Arrears of fuel bills*			
JSA (IB)			Water rates			
Income Support			Child minding *			
Pension credit (guarantee)			Food			
Pension credit (savings)			School meals			
State retirement pension			Housekeeping			
Occupational / private pension			Clothing			
Maintenance received (for children)			Laundry			
Maintenance received (for self or partner)			Telephone / internet			
Incapacity Benefit			TV licence / rental			
Employment and Support Allowance			Satellite / Cable TV			
Disability Living Allowance			Travelling expenses *			
Personal Independence Payment			Road tax / car insurance			
Carers Allowance			Oil / petrol / Servicing *			
Housing Benefit			Court fines*			
Universal Credit			Prescriptions			
Contributions from children living at home			Maintenance paid *			
Contributions from any other residents			Credit card *			
Any other income			Loans / hire purchase *			
Vouchers or tokens in lieu of payment			Deductions for social fund *			
			Other deduction from benefit *			
			Catalogue			
			Cigarettes / Alcohol			
			Endowment / Life Assurance *			
			Mortgage Protection *			



			Home insurance *			
			Medical / disability related outgoings (please specify)			
			Any other outgoings			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>TOTAL OUTGOINGS</b>			

**Section 4: About your household income and outgoings (continued)**

Do you run a car? Yes...  No...

If your answer is yes, please explain why you need a car

Please confirm if you have any other debts outstanding? Yes...  No...

If your answer is yes, please provide full details and proof

Have you sought any advice on how to deal with these debts? Yes....  No....

If your answer is yes, please explain what advice was given to you



**Section 5: Declaration**

**Please read this declaration carefully before you sign and date it.**

- I agree that you will use the information I have previously given on benefit applications or Council Tax reduction applications to consider my request for discretionary housing payments/discretionary Council Tax relief. You may share the information I have given with other sources as allowed by the law.
- I declare that the information I have given on this form is correct and complete as far as I know
- I authorise you to check the information I have given with other sections within the Council, the VOA, other Councils or Authorities handling public funds, as long as you do so only to prevent and detect fraud and error.
- I understand that you will share the information you hold to prevent errors and detect fraud by providing information to the Housing Benefit Matching Services and the Audit Commission’s National Fraud Initiative.
- I understand that if I give incorrect or incomplete information or documents, or fail to report any changes that might affect my benefit, I may be prosecuted.
- I know I must tell you immediately of any changes that may affect the amount of benefit I receive and that I cannot rely on any other organisation or person to tell the Council on my behalf.
- I agree to notify the Council immediately of any changes in my circumstances which may affect the amount of discount that I receive; e.g. changes in the amount of any benefits or allowances that I receive, changes to the number of people who live with me, children leaving full-time education or any other matter that is covered in this application
- I also agree that the DWP or Job Centre Plus may provide the Council with information about any benefits that I receive where it is relevant to this claim.
- I fully understand that if I do not notify Barnet Council’s revenues and benefits service of any change to my income or household circumstances at the time of the change, my discretionary relief/discretionary housing payment will be adjusted from the date that the change happened and I will have to repay any discretionary payment that I was not entitled to.
- I accept that you may prosecute any person who gives incorrect, incomplete or misleading information to fraudulently claim benefit.

The information you have given us will be used to manage your benefit claim and will be shared with other central or local government bodies in line with the council’s registration under the Data Protection Act 1998 (For details on how the council will use your information please see our privacy notice: [www.barnet.gov.uk/info/930185/privacy/240/privacy](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/930185/privacy/240/privacy))

Customer’s signature .....

Date.....

**If this form has been filled in by someone other than the person claiming**, please tell us why you are filling in this form for the person claiming and sign the declaration below.

I declare that, as far as possible, I have confirmed with the person claiming that the answers I have written on this form are correct.

Full name ..... Relationship to customer.....  
Signature ..... Date.....



# Family Services

## Agenda Annex

Document control	
<b>Document title</b>	<b>Barnet Joint Housing and Children’s Social Care Protocol for Homeless 16 &amp; 17 Year Old’s</b>
<b>Document description</b>	This protocol sets out Children’s Social Care and Housing Options joint procedure for responding to 16/17 year old homelessness. It covers what will happen from the point young people present asking for help to longer term support arrangements.
<b>Document authors</b>	<b>V4</b> - Karen Popely – Head of Assessment Intervention and Planning Robert White - Housing Needs Manager

Version control	
<b>Document production date</b>	July 2017
<b>Document currency</b>	V4 February 2023

Clearance process	
<b>Quality approver-</b> Name of person and title responsible for the quality and appropriateness of the document – this should be a service manager or above	<b>Date 06/03/2023</b>
<b>Tina McElligott</b>	
<b>Release approver</b>	<b>Date 06/03/2023</b>
Name of person and job title responsible for release of the document – this should be the Head of Service or above <b>Tina McElligott</b> <b>Director Early Help &amp; Children’s Social Care Services</b>	

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# 1. Introduction

Barnet recognises the value that a strong and stable family life provides to young people aged 16/17, particularly in relation to the quality of their relationships, education, financial security, preparation for adulthood and positive health; this is widely supported by research which tells us that children and young people do better when they remain living within their own families.

As such, we will always strive to find ways to help young people remain living with their families by ensuring they have access to early help services that focus on rebuilding their relationships with their parents/carers or exploring other members of the family who might be able to offer the security of a stable home into adulthood. When a 16- or 17-year-old is seeking support because they are homeless or threatened with homelessness housing services and children social care will pro-actively work with young people and their families to identify and resolve the issues which have led to the homelessness crisis.

We recognise that for some young people, this type of stability and security may not be available to them within their own families, and when this is the case, we will assess their needs thoroughly in order to decide the type and level of accommodation and support that will need to be provided to them.

This protocol sets out Early Help, Children's Social Care and Housing Options joint procedure for responding to 16/17 year old homelessness. It covers what will happen from the earliest point of need to the point young people present asking for help and longer term support arrangements.

Our commitment is:

- to ensure that all young people approaching our services for help are treated fairly, with respect and with sensitivity to their age, understanding individual backgrounds or circumstances
- to thoroughly assess a young person's circumstances without prejudice
- to seek to find the best outcome for young people by listening to what they have to say and working in their best interests and in collaboration with them
- to maintain a professional and calm approach towards young people at all times
- to ensure that it is safe for young people to return home
- to ensure that accommodation provided to young people is of a good quality
- to ensure that young people are escorted to their accommodation and helped to settle in and/or introduced to those that will be providing day to day support to them; and
- to listen to young people's views and feedback about their experiences.

# 2. Out of hours/Emergency referrals

Outside of office hours, young people will need to call the Emergency Duty Team on (0208 359 2000), all young people who contact the service and are considered as homeless will be placed in foster care or in a high support placement until the next working day.

### 3. First Point of Contact

When young people present as homeless and ask for help, our first priority is to ensure that they are safe from harm. We will also make sure, where necessary, they have somewhere safe to stay, where there is an appropriate level of early help/support available to help them cope with living away from home, whilst we assess their needs and explore their circumstances fully.

All 16/17-year-olds that are homeless or at risk of homelessness will need to contact the Barnet Homes Housing Options Team on 020 8610 3539 between the hours of 9am – 5pm where they will be assessed by a Housing Needs Officer, trained in family mediation, who will ask questions about what has happened to them and obtain contact information for their parents/carers and any other relatives who might be able to support them.

The Housing Needs Officer will establish if the young person is homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. They will explore with the young person and their family if the difficulties that have led to the young person presenting at Barnet House can be resolved and attempt to enable the young person to remain at home, when it is safe for them to do so.

The Housing Needs Officer will consider:

- the young person's history of involvement with services
- family circumstances and composition
- support networks within and outside of the family
- the young person's particular vulnerabilities (i.e. health, mental health and learning needs) and immediate risks (i.e. gangs, safeguarding)
- the young person's education, training or employment status
- the young person's views; and
- the views of the young person's family, particularly those that hold parental responsibility.

If the Housing Needs Officer establishes that a young person can safely return home and is not in need of a statutory assessment of their needs, they will ask for consent to make a referral to MASH to enable early help options to be explored for the young person and their family, including the need for an Early Help Assessment.

All young people found to be in need of accommodation or at risk of imminent homelessness will be referred to MASH, without the need for consent, to enable the commencement of a single assessment by Children's Social Care and Housing Options.

## 4. Emergency Accommodation

Once a young person has been referred to MASH as homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, the MASH will make a same day allocation to the Social Work Team on duty in Children's Social Care (Duty and Assessment Team). For young people in immediate need of accommodation, the allocated social worker will make an immediate referral to the Placements Service to source emergency accommodation with an appropriate level of support.

The Placements Team holds an approved provider list of supported accommodation options, including out of borough placements. At no time must young people be placed in temporary accommodation in an emergency unless there is also a high-level package of support to wrap around them in place. Some young people, particularly 16-year-olds and those with a higher level of vulnerability may need to be placed in an emergency foster or residential placement to ensure that they are safe and well cared for.

All young people placed in accommodation in accordance with a Children Act assessment will immediately become 'Looked After' pursuant to s20 Children Act 1989, whilst their needs, including their needs for continuing The social worker must immediately commence 'Looked After' processes including referral for a Child in Care medical and make a referral to the Permanency Planning Panel.

Accommodation provided whilst an assessment takes place, ensures that young people are not left in unsuitable living arrangements before the extent of their needs are known. The provision of accommodation during an assessment does not automatically qualify the provision of longer-term housing support for a young person.

### 4.1. Young People at risk of/involved in Gangs, Offending and Exploitation

Young people who are engaged in offending or who are gang-involved may be at risk of harm to others and still present with a high level of vulnerability to serious youth violence and exploitation. The Youth Offending Team must always be consulted when a young person is open to their service and is in need of emergency accommodation. This includes young people at risk of homelessness on release from a custodial setting. The highest priority is always to ensure a young person will be safe and risk of harm to others is minimized by making adequate checks to ensure that gang-involved young people are not placed in the vicinity of rival or other high profile gang affected areas, or that other very vulnerable young people are not sharing the same placement/accommodation. The same principal applies to young people who are at a high risk of going missing and are vulnerable to child sexual and other forms of exploitation.

### 4.2. Young people in custody

Young people who are in custody will require contingency planning for their release on bail into the community and/or following a custodial sentence. Resettlement planning must commence at the start of a

sentence by holding a Family Group Conference which will help identify who in the family the young person can expect to receive support from whilst in custody and where they will live upon their release, whether this is planned or unplanned. If at any point, it becomes apparent that the young person may require accommodation on release, suitable accommodation and support provisions will need to be arranged in good time.

Planning for young people who have served a custodial sentence must commence no later than 4 weeks ahead of their known release date. Accommodation must be identified, and an address confirmed in readiness for resettlement support and any community based support or restrictions to be adequately planned for. Young people who were a child in care or relevant children when they entered custody or have become a relevant child by virtue of having been remanded into local authority care for more than 13 weeks will be entitled to services from Onwards & Upwards as a former relevant care leaver, if they require accommodation on release. They must be allocated to Onwards & Upwards as soon as the 13-week threshold has been met if their release date will occur before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

### 4.3. Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 became law on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, this new law now adds a legal definition of domestic abuse which recognises children as victims in their own right. Some children aged 16 and 17 may become homeless because of domestic abuse, it is important to keep in mind the aforementioned legislation when assessing a young person who maybe homeless. Support should be given to any young person who is identified as a victim of domestic abuse including but not limited to signposting to the support agencies which can be found here; <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/children-and-families/domestic-abuse> and <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-ischild-abuse/types-of-abuse/domestic-abuse/#support>

## 5. Assessment

### 5.1. Section 17, Children Act 1989

All young people placed in emergency accommodation under s20 Children Act 1989, and those at risk of imminent homelessness who remain living at home or with a safe family member/friend, will have a full assessment of their needs undertaken by their allocated social worker. It is in the best interests of young people and their families for a full assessment to be undertaken in order to make timely decisions about what happens next; as such, single assessments will be completed within 45 days, from the point of referral, unless there are very good reasons to extend the length of the assessment. Manager agreement must be sought by the social worker and the reasons for extending the time period recorded by their manager to extend an assessment beyond 45 days.

In accordance with [Barnet's Local Assessment Protocol 2019](#), the assessment will explore the young person's life at home, in school and in the community; it will explore relationships with family and friends to understand what life is like for the young person. It will focus on individual and family strengths as well as any risks that the young person poses to others or may be facing.

A Family Group Conference must be convened to explore alternatives to care arrangements and to mobilise the support family members, family friends and other trusted adults including neighbours,

community groups and churches may be able to offer support to a young person who is living away from home.

All assessments must be undertaken jointly with the Housing Options team who will assess what duties are owed to the young person under Part VII, Housing Act 1996.

The joint assessment will identify the needs of the young person and how best to respond to these needs. (See appendix 1; Factors to be Considered and appendix 2; 50 Point Checklist)

## 5.2. Assessment Outcome

The assessment will determine if the young person is 'in need' as defined by s17 Children Act 1989. All young people who are found to be homeless will almost always be defined as Children in Need in accordance with the Act. The assessment must also determine whether the young person is in need of accommodation and if longer term accommodation and support is to be provided.

Once a young person has been determined to be 'in need' **and** 'in need of accommodation' they will be provided with information about their rights and the local authority's and Housing Options responsibility for them. Young people will be given written information and supported to access an advocate who can provide impartial advice. Young people can receive housing and support services under:

- **Section 17 Children Act 1989** – this will entitle a young person to support provided by the local authority. Any young person who is provided with support services pursuant to s.17 will be afforded a Child in Need Plan until they reach 18 years of age. Housing assistance can be provided under this section in those rare cases where a young person has been assessed as only having a one-off need for support in securing their own accommodation but has no ongoing need for housing support and therefore does not need to be accommodated by the local authority.

If the young person is determined to be 'in need' but *not* in need of accommodation, the Local Authority will support the young person in returning home, if they have been provided with accommodation for the duration of the assessment. They will be subject to a Child in Need Plan and regular reviews to ensure their needs are met and that it remains appropriate and safe for them to remain living in the family.

- **Section 20 Children Act 1989** - this will apply in cases where the young person is determined to be 'in need' **and** 'in need of accommodation'. Any young person provided with accommodation under s20 will automatically become a child in care (CIC) and thereafter will be eligible to receive all the services which the Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide children in care, as set out in the Children Act 1989, including regular CIC reviews to ensure that their needs are continuing to be met. They may also be entitled to a range of services once they cease to be looked after, as a result of the Local Authority's leaving care duties, as set out in the Leaving Care Act 2000 and the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010. Young people who are accommodated under s20 must be transferred to the children in care service, known as Onwards and Upwards in Barnet

- **Part VII Housing Act 1996** – this will apply in cases where a young person is determined to have a stand-alone need for accommodation but does not require any other welfare support beyond this.

Support can also be provided via this route in respect of 16–17-year-olds who, whilst eligible for assessment under s20, make a fully informed decision not to become a child in care. It is important that the social worker is clear that the young person has capacity to reach this decision and has been properly informed and fully advised of the immediate and long-term implications of becoming/not becoming a child in care including in respect of any duties that could arise in future, as a result of the Local Authority's leaving care responsibilities.

The young person would then be assessed for housing support under the homelessness provisions of Part VII of the Housing Act 1996. If eligible, the young person would be entitled to a personal housing plan and duties on the local authority to prevent and relieve their homelessness. This may lead initially to placements in temporary accommodation, followed by longer term options, which last for a minimum of 6 months. The young person will also be placed onto the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme for social housing. All young people who choose Housing Act accommodation will be afforded a Child in Need Plan and an outreach support package.

Signed consent and a record of the discussion regarding s20 and Part VII Housing Act 1996, and clear rationale for decision making should be placed on file.

If the young person is subsequently not owed an accommodation duty by Housing Options and remains homeless, the housing officer will inform the social worker who may need to take further action. Children's services should, given the change in circumstances, ask the young person again if they wish to be accommodated under s.20.

Following assessment, the Early Help Service will offer support to ensure young people are supported with education, career paths, managing finances and life skills.

## 6. Duty to Refer

Family Services are among the public authorities which are required to notify Housing Options Services of a service user that they consider may be homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days. This duty applies to 16- and 17-year-olds and if they approach Family Services they must obtain their consent before a referral can be made. The young person can choose which local authority in England the notification should be sent, and they must agree that their contact details can be shared so that they can be contacted.

The referral does not diminish Family Services responsibilities under this protocol but enables early intervention and joint working with Housing Options to prevent young people from becoming homeless. It is not an alternative to carrying out early help or child in need assessments. Referrals to Barnet Homes Housing Options Service are made via [dutytorefer@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:dutytorefer@barnet.gov.uk).

More guidance on the duty to refer can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-duty-to-refer/a-guide-to-the-duty-to-refererfer>



## 7. Support Packages

All young people placed in emergency accommodation will initially receive a high-level support package to ensure that they have access to the support they need from the accommodation provider, Early Help Service or another provider. This avoids the risk of young people being left in situations where they are not yet ready to manage the complex task of living independently. The support package must include daily visits to the young person until there is sufficient evidence that the young person has developed the skills and knowledge they need to manage independent living, without the need for high levels of support. It is acknowledged that some young people are better prepared for independent living than others and may only require high level packages for a short period. This will be decided on a case by case basis. (See Appendix 2 for checklist)

## 8. Advocacy

Young people should have access to independent advocacy and support to enable them to understand the social care and housing process and make balanced and informed decisions in respect of their housing needs.

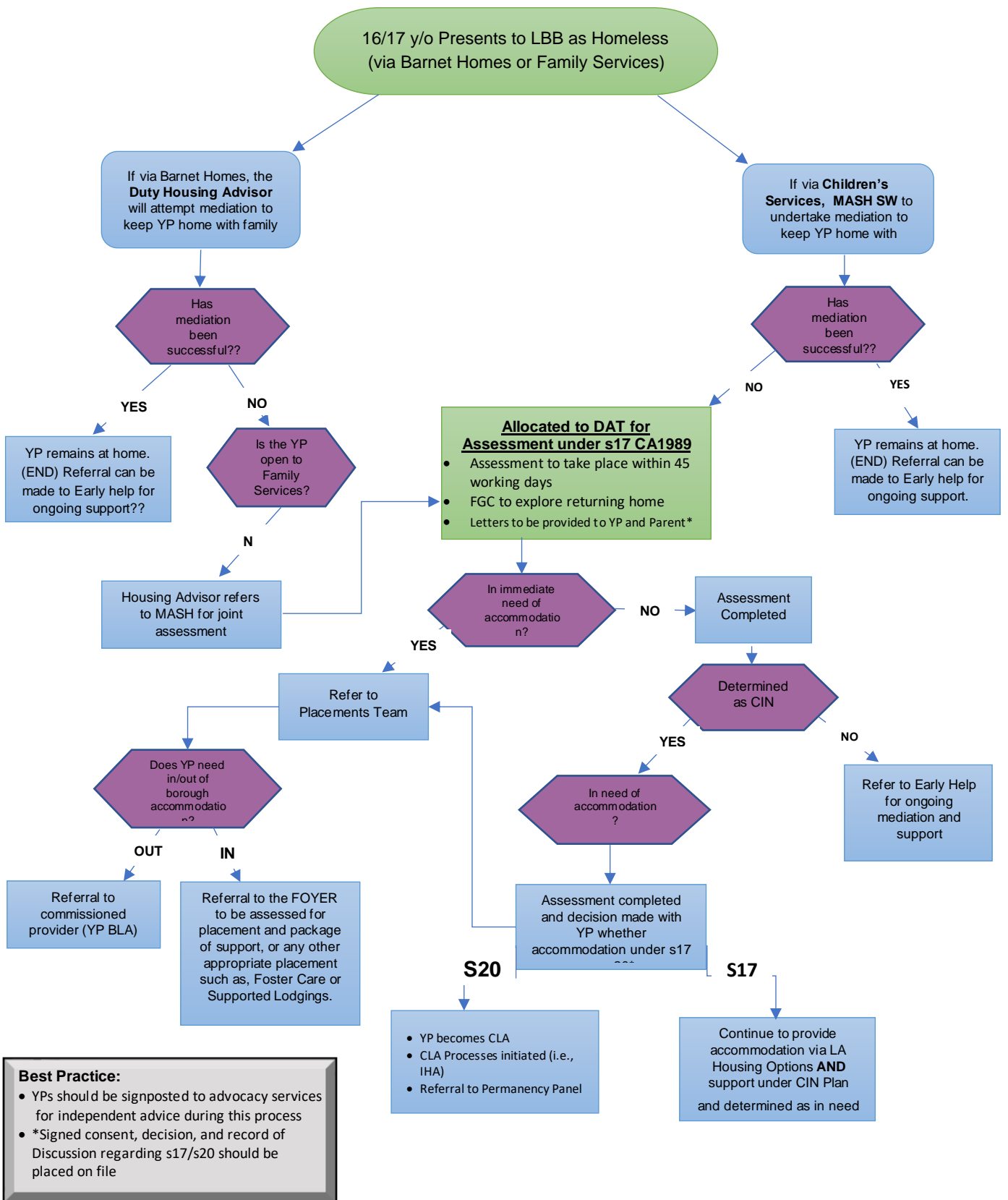
An advocacy advice service is available for young people who need support to attend appointments via Shelter UK. They provide advice and information 365 days a year, as well as emergency support. For further information visit [https://england.shelter.org.uk/get\\_help](https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help) or call [0808 800 4444](tel:08088004444)

Early Help workers will also act as advocates at meetings and provide mediation where they are currently involved with a young person in order to avoid unnecessary layering of professional involvement.

## 9. Dispute Resolution

There may, on occasion, be disagreement between social workers in Family Services and officers in Housing Options on how the protocol is being administered or on how a young person is being advised and supported. If these cannot be resolved by duty managers then they should be escalated to the service manager for housing needs and the MASH manager. Lessons learnt will be shared with staff and the MASH Steering Group.

Further information on dispute resolution, can be found on the [Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) website.



**Best Practice:**

- YPs should be signposted to advocacy services for independent advice during this process
- \*Signed consent, decision, and record of Discussion regarding s17/s20 should be placed on file

## Appendix 1 - Related Guidance

Factors to be considered by children's services when assessing 16/17 year olds who may be homeless children in need.

	<b>Dimensions of Need</b>	<b>Issues to consider in assessing child's future needs.</b>
1.	<b>Accommodation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the child have access to stable accommodation?</li> <li>• How far is this suitable to the full range of the child's needs?</li> <li>• Is there a need for interim accommodation pending completion of assessment?</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Family and Social Relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the child's relationship with their parents and wider family.</li> <li>• What is the capacity of the child's family and social network to provide stable and secure accommodation and meet the child's practical, emotional and social needs</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Emotional and Behavioural Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the child show self-esteem, resilience and confidence?</li> <li>• Assessment of their attachments and the quality of their relationships. Does the child show self-control and appropriate self-awareness?</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Education, Training and Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about the child's education experience and background</li> <li>• Assessment as to whether support may be required to enable the child to access education, training or employment.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Financial Capability and independent living skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the child's financial competence and how they will secure financial support in future</li> <li>• Information about the support the child might need to develop self-management</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Health and Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• and independent living Assessment of child's skills, physical, emotional, and mental health needs.</li> </ul>
7.	<b>Identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the child's needs as a result of their ethnicity, preferred language, cultural background, religion or sexual identity.</li> </ul>

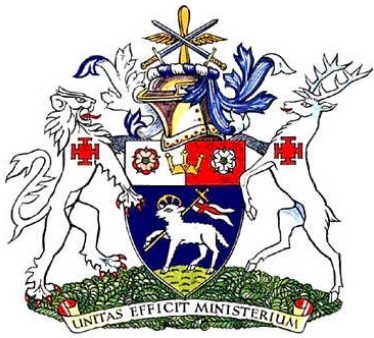
## Appendix 2 - 50 Point Checklist

For young people living in supported and independent living arrangements.

	Please consider:	Yes/No	What needs to happen? By Whom and when?
1.	Are the young person's independent living skills being consolidated?		
2.	Does further work need to be done and what resources are required to achieve independence?		
3.	Is a mentor/advocate engaged with the young person		
4.	Does the young person have copies of the documents they will need as an adult, or do they know where to find them if they need them in the future? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth certificate</li> <li>• NHS Card</li> <li>• Passport</li> <li>• Student card</li> <li>• Provisional Drivers licence</li> <li>• National Insurance Number</li> <li>• Bank Account</li> </ul>		
5.	Does the young person have sufficient identification documentation		
6.	Are the services currently engaged with the young person clearly outlined in their Plan		
7.	Is the young person providing input to the plan? And how are they kept aware of any changes to the plan		
8.	Are all stakeholders, including the young person, aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to tasks outlined in the Plan		
9.	Has a plan for keeping the young person's significant relationships connected and maintained been developed?		
10.	Does the young person have reliable support networks		
11.	Does the young person have regular contact with family or significant others		
12.	What community groups could the young person be linked with to help develop wider social and support networks		
13.	Are there any ongoing safety needs for the young person?		

	<b>Please consider:</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>What needs to happen? By Whom and when?</b>
14.	Does the young person know how to contact relevant people in an emergency?		
15.	Do they have a list of emergency contacts		
16.	What are the accommodation arrangements		
17.	Are all relevant people clear regarding these arrangements		
18.	What services are involved that may be able to provide ongoing or one-off assistance to the young person		
19.	Do they currently have stable accommodation? How long is it likely to remain stable		
20.	Can the young person remain in their current living arrangement when they reach 18? If not, what is the Plan?		
21.	Has contact been made Housing regarding available options		
22.	What are the contingency arrangements should a placement breakdown occur? How will the young person be assisted to enact these arrangements?		
23.	What is the young person's ongoing medical and dental needs and how are they being addressed		
24.	Is the you person engaged with a therapeutic service to support their ongoing mental health		
25.	Does the young person have a GP, Dentist, Optician		
26.	Does the young person need ongoing medication? If yes, do they understand how to manage this, including obtaining repeat prescriptions from a Doctor and going to the chemist to collect these		
27.	Does the young person have a disability or special educational needs		
28.	Does the young person need help to read and respond to letters they receive		
29.	Does the young person understand their sexual health and how to manage this		
30.	Does the young person have alcohol or drug issues? If yes how are these to be managed		
31.	What are the young person's plans for the future in terms of education and employment?		
32.	Does the young person have an Education Plan?		
33.	Does the young person have a CV, and do they know how to write a job application?		
34.	Is the young person engaged with Education, Training and Employment support?		

	<b>Please consider:</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>What needs to happen? By Whom and when?</b>
35.	Has the young person been assisted to apply for relevant benefits		
36.	What are the young person's financial supports		
37.	Can the young person manage money		
38.	What is the plan if they run out of money		
39.	Does the young person know how to pay bills and rent?		
40.	Does the young person know how to budget for grocery and essentials shopping?		
41.	Can the young person cook?		
42.	Can the young person cope with loneliness		
43.	Does the young person have a network of friends		
44.	Are their friends a positive influence, if not has risk that their friends pose been considered		
45.	Is the young person involved in any religious or cultural groups in the community		
46.	What do you know about these and how can they support the young person to live independently		
47.	Is there a risk of radicalisation		
48.	Has the young person been ostracised by their cultural or religious community		
49.	Is the young person engaged in positive social activities with their peers		
50.	Is the young person clear about how and when you will stay in contact with them		



# Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee

AGENDA ITEM 14

**20 March 2023**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Family Services Quarterly Update</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chair of the Committee, Councillor Coakley-Webb
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	<p>Appendix 1 – Children’s Services Analysis Tool (ChAT)</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Ofsted Annual Self Evaluation Exempt (Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended as this relates to information relating to any individual)</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting letter</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Staying Put Policy</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Children and Families Early Help strategy</p>
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Chris Munday, Executive Director for Children’s Services

## Summary

This report gives an update on Family Services progress and asks Members to scrutinise performance data, that can be found in Appendix 1.

## Officers Recommendations

- 1. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note and provide comments on the ChAT performance report summarised in this report and Appendix 1.**

<p><b>2. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note and provide comments on the Ofsted Annual Self Evaluation in Appendix 2 and Annual Engagement Meeting letter in Appendix 3.</b></p>
<p><b>3. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note and provide comments on the Conditions for Success programme, detailed in the report.</b></p>
<p><b>4. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note and provide comments on the updates to the offer for Care Leavers in Barnet, detailed in the report.</b></p>
<p><b>5. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note and provide comments on the Staying Put Policy in Appendix 4.</b></p>
<p><b>6. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note and provide comments on the Government’s response to the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care.</b></p>
<p><b>7. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to approve the Children and Families Early Help Strategy in appendix 5.</b></p>

## **1. Why this report is needed**

- 1.1 Family Services performance update provides members with an overview of the key data items used by the service to measure performance and identify opportunities for strategic development as well as lines of enquiry to ensure standards and statutory obligations are met. A copy of the full performance report is available in appendix 1.
- 1.2 Each year all Local Authorities in England are required to develop a self-evaluation. This is to aid continuous improvement and is considered as part of the Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS) arrangements. Members have previously reviewed self-evaluations as part of their role in scrutinising performance. The self-evaluation in appendix 3 is exempt as it contains information in more detail than the CHaT data report. The self-evaluation is discussed in the annual conversation with Ofsted, and a summary of this discussion is included in appendix 3.
- 1.3 The Conditions for Success programme has launched to ensure Children and Young People in Barnet receive an effective service which meets their needs in a timely way by:
  - a. ensuring that children and young people focussed work is of a good standard.
  - b. creating a workspace and environment where all the supporting infrastructure is in place to allow officers to thrive in their role, with reduced bureaucratic barriers enabling more time to be spent with children and young people face to face.
  - c. ensuring sufficient high quality social workers are directly employed in the borough efficiently and effectively.



- 1.4 Barnet's care leaver local offer was launched in April 2019, as required under the Children and Social Work Act (2017). The local offer sets out our offer for young people who have been looked after by Barnet Council, including the information, services and support available. This offer is being continuously developed and enhanced in line with the emerging needs of this cohort of young people. Ofsted have introduced a new judgment for 2023 to the ILACs framework specifically about the experiences and progress for Care Leavers, and this report provides members with an update on the Council's work with this group of young people.
- 1.5 Since May 2014, fostered young people in England have the right to stay with their foster families when they reach 18, if both parties agree. This can last at least until a young person is 21. 'Staying Put' aims to help young people gradually progress to living independently, as many young people leaving home at 18 may not be ready to live alone. Staying Put gives young people the opportunity to be in education, training and employment without the disruption of having to move into 'independence' during this important period of their life. We have recently updated our Staying Put policy which is included in appendix 4 of this report.
- 1.6 Stable Homes, Built on Love: Implementation Strategy and Consultation is the Government's Children's Social Care Reform consultation in response to the May 2022 Independent Review of Children's Social Care. The deadline for responses to this consultation is May 2023 and will be published in September 2023.
- 1.7 Approval for the Children and Families Early help Strategy to go out for public consultation was given at the November 2022 CES with agreement the strategy would be brought back for approval to the January 2023 CES. As the January CES did not take place the report has been deferred until the March CES.

## **2. Reasons for recommendations**

### **2.1 Family Services Performance Update**

- 2.2 Capacity in the system remains stable, though contacts into the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the first point of referral for the public and professionals about children and young people, remain higher than pre-pandemic and are up from 10417 in the last CES report to 10556 in the most recent CHAT (appendix 1). This is likely to be a seasonal change due to the school summer holidays (appendix 1). This has been mirrored by an increase the number of Early Help Assessments from 1788 to 1874, and referrals down slightly from 1568 to 1495.
- 2.3 We have had a slightly higher volume of assessments completed in this most recent reporting period with 1105 completed, and assessment timeliness data is now 67% due to a range of factors including capacity. Although assessments are taking longer to complete, the cases are not coming back into the system for re-assessment, showing that the capacity challenges are not affecting the outcomes of assessment. When there are re-referrals that require a statutory social care assessment, we monitor whether the quality of the assessment completed in the first instance was good enough and whether it resulted in the family not getting the help they needed at the time.

- 2.4 The volume of children who are subject to Section 47 enquiries has increased, but 91% of Child Protection Conferences arising from Section 47 enquiries have resulted in a Child Protection plan which demonstrates we are taking the correct children to conference. Child in Need figures are beginning to reduce, which is in line with the statistics across England. Boys are still heavily weighted in the older age range as we often have concerns around their involvement in criminal exploitation.
- 2.5 We are closely monitoring caseloads across Family Services, with a weekly report going to senior managers. Many London Authorities have seen some challenges with Social Work staffing as the London Pledge appears to have resulted in fewer staff moving around London. There is an associated pattern of Social Workers now taking jobs outside of London so that they can earn higher than London Pledge rates of pay. We are currently looking at how we can create capacity and ensure our retention rates are maintained , and this forms a key branch of our Conditions of Success Programme.
- 2.6 The CHAT shows 336 children currently in care and 318 care leavers. There has been a decrease in children coming in and exiting care alongside an increase in UASC coming in through the National Transfer System. There has been a steady improvement in the dental checks data as an outcome of our partnership with the Healthy Smiles Pilot Project, where private dentists are being funded by the NHS to undertake dental checks for young people instead of the NHS dental practices. We still have challenges in our recruitment for foster carers and we are doing creative outreach work including meeting with Barnet religious leaders to see how we can engage with local congregations and religious groups.
- 2.7 **Self Evaluation**
- 2.8 In their focussed visit report from August 2021, Ofsted made 2 recommendations and the progress made is considered in the self-assessment (appendix 2), along with progress against actions from the 2019 full inspection and priorities identified during the last self-evaluation. The Self Evaluation is an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and opportunities for further development, and it forms the basis for discussion in our annual engagement meeting with Ofsted as part of the ILACs inspection framework.
- 2.9 **Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting**
- 2.10 Ofsted undertook an Annual Engagement meeting on 18th November 2022. The meeting was held between senior officers of the Council and the link senior Ofsted advisor. The meeting considers a range of information including the self-evaluation and the CHaT. There are also discussions about the impact of national policy changes such as the changes associated with unregulated provision.
- 2.11 Inspectors report on the findings of the AEM and the notes (Appendix 3) and they noted that “Your self-evaluation and performance information were comprehensive and provided good insights into your work across practice and performance, setting out your ambitions across the service.”
- 2.12 **Conditions for Success**
- 2.13 We have created the Conditions for Success programme to facilitate cross-directorate working to ensure our staff have what they need to ensure children and young people

get the best service possible. This has been established following feedback from staff at our annual staff conference, as well as from performance discussions at senior management level within Family Services.

- 2.14 Current workstreams include: a refreshed recruitment campaign for Social Workers, IT and Facilities work to ensure that the office environment has the right infrastructure in place to meet the needs of staff, and a new communications strategy.
- 2.15 We have the following measures of success for this programme:
- a. Timeliness of assessments
  - b. Quality of assessments
  - c. Manageable caseloads
  - d. Decrease in agency numbers
  - e. Increase in permanent workforce
  - f. Increase speed of recruitment
  - g. Staff satisfaction

2.16 **Staying Put Policy**

- 2.17 Staying Put arrangements allow young people who have been in foster care to remain living with their foster carers after they turn 18. These arrangements provide stability and continuity for care leavers and have been shown to significantly improve their outcomes.

By remaining in a stable home environment, care leavers are more likely to continue their education, find employment, and lead fulfilling lives. Staying Put is an accommodation option available to all young people who have been looked after for a total of 13 weeks after they reach the age of 14, and who remain looked after by Barnet Family Services in a foster care arrangement up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Staying Put Policy serves as a comprehensive guide that outlines the different types of Staying Put arrangements available, such as long-term and short-term arrangements. It also provides information on the legal framework that governs Staying Put arrangements, including the role of the local authority and the responsibilities of the carer and care leaver.

2.18 **Children and Families Early Help Strategy**

- 2.19 The public and member consultation took place across November and December 2022 and Early January 2023. In this time, we gathered feedback from:
- Over 90 children and young people through activities completed during the winter BACE programme.
  - Members of the 0-19 strategic board
  - Focus groups for Members, Family Services staff and Parent Champions.

- Shared the draft strategy at the SENDIAS conference and with the Parents Forum
  - Barnet's public via Engage Barnet survey.
- 2.20 Positively, the young people we engaged with unanimously agreed with the outcomes for their specific age groups, and parent champions reported that the document's chronological layout for each age and stage was a useful guide for what they could expect going forward with their children. Utilising the feedback from the consultation we have made amendments, including ensuring that the outcomes and the way these are presented are as inclusive as possible with regard to children and young people with SEND, provide guidance around how parents and carers may go about accessing the support made available by the Children and Family Early Help hubs and making explicit reference to libraries and the support that they offer.
- 2.21 Following the consultation, a final draft was presented to the 0-19 Early Help Partnership Board for any final comments and the document was then submitted for print. A copy of the strategy is attached as appendix 5.
- 2.22 The members of the 0-19 Early Help Partnership board, through the hub advisory groups, are developing an action plan and measures to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy outcomes which will be reported to the quarterly Early Help Partnership Board meetings.
- 2.23 It is requested that CES approve the Child and Family Early Help Strategy, which subject to approval, will be launched at a series of events across the borough through the Child and Family hubs in April 2023
- 2.24 **Independent Review of Children's Social Care**
- 2.25 The 'Stable Homes Build on Love' government report ([Stable Homes Built on Love: Implementation Strategy and Consultation](#)) follows 2022's Independent Review of Children's Social Care, along with the National Panel's report into the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson, and the Competition and Markets Authority report on the care placement market.
- 2.26 The report is structured around 6 pillars of reform:
1. Family Help provides the right support at the right time so that children can thrive with their families.
  2. A decisive multi-agency child protection system
  3. Unlocking the potential of family networks
  4. Putting love, relationships, and a stable home at the heart of being a child in care
  5. A valued, supported and highly skilled social worker for every child who needs one.
  6. A system that continuously learns and improves, and makes better use of evidence and data.

2.27 These six pillars map onto four short term outcomes:

1. Children, young people and families stay together and get the help they need.
2. Children and young people are supported by their family network.
3. Children and young people are safe in and outside of their homes.
4. Children in care and care leavers have stable, loving homes.

2.28 Achieving the four short term outcomes should result in the following longer-term outcomes:

- Good child development.
- Good educational attendance, attainment, training and progress.
- Good physical and mental health.
- Family stability, including housing and financial stability.
- Family functioning, including strong family relationships and support networks.
- Preventing and tackling crime.

### **3. Implications of decision**

#### **3.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

3.1.1 Family Friendly is a key part of the Barnet Plan for 2021-2025 with the vision of “Creating a Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best”.

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

##### **3.2.1 Forecast Financial Outturn at Month 9 (31 December 2022)**

##### **3.2.2 Overview**

3.2.2.1 Detailed below is the forecast financial outturn position for the 2022-23 financial year as at 31st December 2022 for the services which fall within the Children Education and Safeguarding committee (CES).

3.2.2.2 The Council's revenue and capital forecast outturn for the financial year 2022-23 as at month 9 (31 December 2022) was reported to the Policy and Resources (P&R) committee on 22nd February 2023.

3.2.2.3 At month 9, the revenue forecast outturn for the Children, Education and Safeguarding (CES) committee general fund is:

- Overall, £0.881m forecast overspend against the approved budget of £72.753m, with an adverse movement of £0.651m from the previous CES committee (17.11.22) reported position.

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn at Month 9

Children, Education Safeguarding	2022-23 Budget	Month 9 (Forecast outturn before reserves)	Reserves applied	Month 9 Forecast outturn after reserves	Month 9 variance after reserves	Month 6 variance after reserves	Movement
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children Social Care (CSC)	56.608	59.368	(1.644)	57.724	1.117	0.482	0.635
Early Intervention & Prevention	10.340	9.962	0.021	9.983	(0.357)	(0.360)	0.003
Family Services Management	(0.888)	(0.798)	-	(0.798)	0.090	0.106	(0.016)
Education and Skills	6.693	6.724	-	6.724	0.031	0.001	0.030
<b>Total Children Education and Safeguarding (General Fund)</b>	<b>72.753</b>	<b>75.256</b>	<b>(1.623)</b>	<b>73.634</b>	<b>0.881</b>	<b>0.230</b>	<b>0.651</b>

3.2.2.4 The movement in variance is mainly due to Children Social Care (CSC), in particular Corporate Parenting and Disability.

3.2.2.5 In December 2022, there have been two court-directed placements that each are forecast to cost the council £0.500m, £1.000m in total, of which £0.250m is reflected in the variance.

3.2.2.6 Additionally, there has been a growth in the cost of placements, driven by provider sufficiency issues across London, evidenced through work by the Association of Directors of Children's Services with Newton Europe. The growth has seen costs for placements increase 60% in the last 3 years which the service has managed in previous years, however growth in court directed assessments and the length of time it is taking to resolve cases in the legal system have contributed to increases in Section 17 and External Family Assessments of £0.240m and £0.126m respectively.

3.2.2.7 At month 9, the current year capital forecast outturn for CES is an underspend of £2.993m to be re-profiled to future years. Further details are provided in Table 3 below.

### 3.2.3 Reserves

3.2.3.1 The council holds reserves to deal with future pressures where the value or the timing of the pressure is uncertain, or where the funding can only be spent on specific objectives (e.g. grant funding). Reserves are divided into 'earmarked' reserves, where the spending objective is known with some clarity, and 'general' reserves, intended to mitigate the impact of wholly unforeseeable costs. The levels of reserves are set out under Section 25 of the Local Government Act and prudent levels are determined by the Chief Financial Officer. Earmarked reserves are usually held by specific services, while general reserves are held corporately.

3.2.3.2 The use of reserves is not intended to replace savings or income generation opportunities as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Reserves can only be used once and then they are gone. Any use of reserves to replace savings or income generation opportunities is a delaying action, storing up

pressures into future years. This could be part of investing in transformational service delivery and is the ultimate last resort during budget setting when a gap cannot be bridged despite best efforts.

3.2.3.3 Table 2 below provides detail of the anticipated use of or top up of earmarked service reserves within Children Education and Safeguarding.

Table 2: Reserves Forecast at Month 9

Committee	Forecast (drawdown)/ top-up to reserves £m	Commentary
Children Education and Safeguarding	(1.623)	Earmarked drawdowns: Commissioning - SENDIASS £0.015m, Placements £0.212m, Children with Disabilities £0.612m, COVID funding for Children and Young People Wellbeing Service in BICS £0.260m and Children Social Care £0.314m, Practical Support for young people on pathway to employment (BELS Post 16) £0.250m;  top ups: Early Help 0-19 £0.037m.

### 3.2.4 Capital Programme

3.2.4.1 The Capital budget for 2022- 23, reports an underspend to be re-profiled to future years of £2.993m due to project delays relating to, education projects of £0.711m, social care projects of £1.097m and £1.185m on the secure accommodation project.

Table 3: Current Financial Year Forecast Capital Outturn at Month 9

Service Area	2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Forecast	Variance from Approved Budget	Expenditure to date
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Education	11.830	11.120	(0.711)	8.580
Social Care	1.646	0.548	(1.097)	0.190
Secure Accom	2.798	1.614	(1.185)	0.107
<b>Children's Family Services Sub total</b>	<b>16.274</b>	<b>13.282</b>	<b>(2.993)</b>	<b>8.877</b>

## 3.3 Legal and Constitutional References

3.3.1 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under various legislation including the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004. They have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, if this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's

wishes and feelings. Under the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities must consider how the child or young person can be supported to facilitate their development and to help them achieve the “best possible educational and other outcomes”.

3.3.2 Local authorities have specific duties to care leavers under the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The corporate parenting duties and powers under the 1989 Act include:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and,
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living

3.3.3 The Council’s Constitution, Article 7 notes that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee has ‘Responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools and education.’

### 3.4 **Insight**

3.4.1 Family Services uses a comprehensive suite of performance information to support decision making, including local and regional datasets, audit and financial analysis. This information is scrutinised by Senior Leaders in a variety of forums including Placement Board, Performance Board, MTFs Board and in quarterly meetings with the Lead Member for Children and Families, and the Chief Executive.

### 3.5 **Social Value**

3.5.1 All commissioning activity includes social value as a standard monitoring item.

### 3.6 **Risk Management**

3.6.1 Specific risk management is being carried out for Children and Young People’s Plan. Any Family Services risks are recorded on the Family Services Risk Register and monitored each quarter by the Senior Leadership Team with escalations to CMT if necessary.

### 3.7 **Equalities and Diversity**

3.7.1 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

3.7.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

3.7.3 Equalities and diversity considerations are a key element of social work practice. It is imperative that help and protection services for children and young are sensitive and responsive to age, disability, race and ethnicity, faith or belief, sex, gender reassignment, language, maternity / parental status and sexual orientation. We continue to closely monitor this, as report appendixes notes, in our performance data.

### **3.8 Corporate Parenting**

3.8.1 In July 2016, the Government published their Care Leavers' strategy Keep on Caring which outlined that the "... [the government] will introduce a set of corporate parenting principles that will require all departments within a local authority to recognise their role as corporate parents, encouraging them to look at the services and support that they provide through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do to support their own children.'

3.8.2 The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and;
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

### **3.9 Consultation and Engagement**

3.9.1 My Say Matters, the Family Services consultation and participation programme, has been launched and the quarterly updates will report on activity in this programme

### **3.10 Environmental Impact**

3.10.1 N/A

## **4. Background papers**

5.1 [Stable Homes Built on Love: Implementation Strategy and Consultation](#)

Data to Insight is a national project commissioned by the ADCS,  
DfE and Ofsted to help local authorities make better use of data.

# Children's Services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

Based on Ofsted's ILACS Annex A dataset (2020) / Inspection Report

## Barnet

07 January 2023

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Headline figures

**Contacts**

Contacts in the last 6 months 10,556

**Early Help / Common / Targeted Assessments**

Early Help in the last 6 months 1,874

**Referrals**

Referrals in the last 6 months 1,495

**Social Care Assessments**

Total assessments in the last 6 months 1,705

Assessments completed in the last 6 months 1,105

Ongoing assessments 600

**Section 47 enquiries and Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCS)**

Section 47 enquiries in the last 6 months 420

ICPCs that started from an S47 in the last 6 months 169

**Children in Need (CIN)**

Total CIN in the last 6 months 3,012

CIN started in the last 6 months 1,454

CIN ceased in the last 6 months 1,348

Current children in need (snapshot) 1,611

**Child Protection Plans (CPP)**

Total CPP in the last 6 months 389

CPP started in the last 6 months 161

CPP ceased in the last 6 months 103

Current children subject of a child protection plan (snapshot) 286

**Children Looked After (CLA)**

Total CLA in the last 6 months 420

CLA started in the last 6 months 94

CLA ceased in the last 6 months 82

Current children looked after (snapshot) 336

**Care leavers**

Care leavers currently in receipt of leaving care services 318

**Adoptions**

Children adopted, waiting to be adopted, or had an adoption decision reversed in the last 12 months 44

Children adopted in the last 12 months 7

Children waiting to be adopted (snapshot) 30

Children with decision reversed in the last 12 months 2

**Adopters**

Prospective adopters in the last 12 months 0

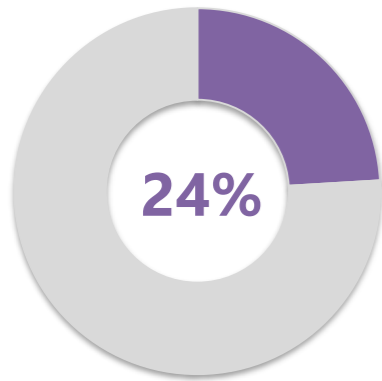
## Contacts in the last 6 months

from 28/07/2022  
to 27/01/2023

10556 contacts

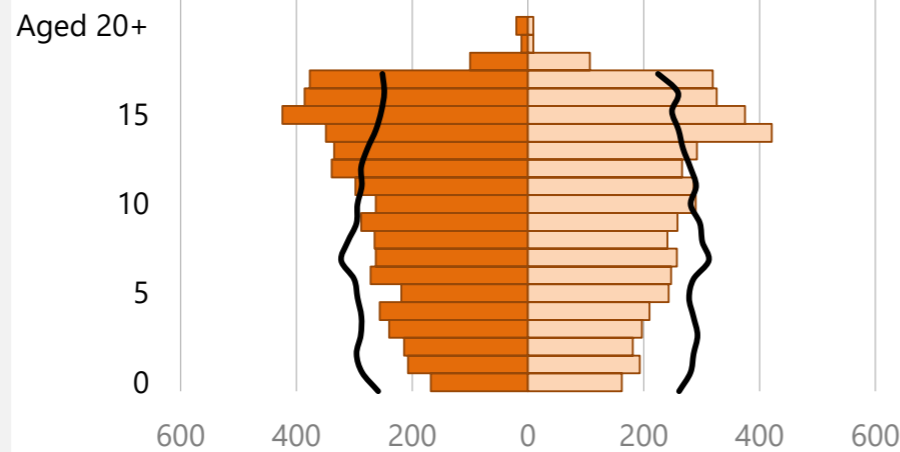
### Children who also appear on the Referrals list

Yes No



### Age and gender

5294 Males (50%)  
4889 Females (46%)  
373 Other (not shown) (4%)  
— 0-17 population estimate



Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

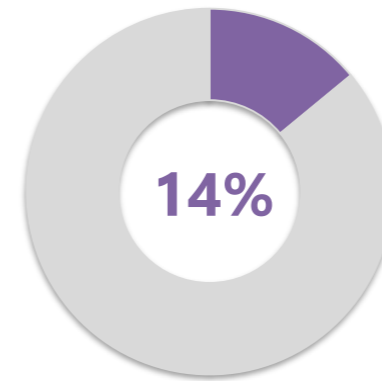
## Early Help in the last 6 months

from 28/07/2022  
to 27/01/2023

1874 Early Help / Common / Targeted Assessments

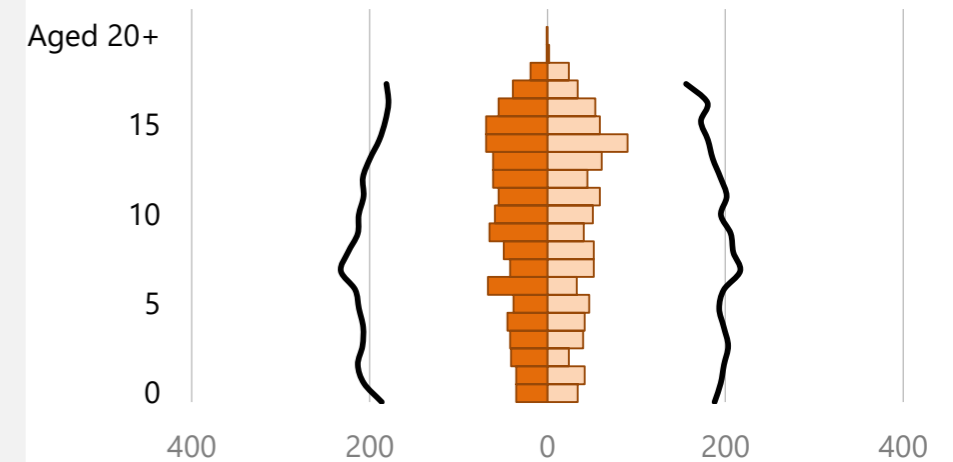
### Early Help cases that also appear on the Referrals list

Yes No



### Age and gender

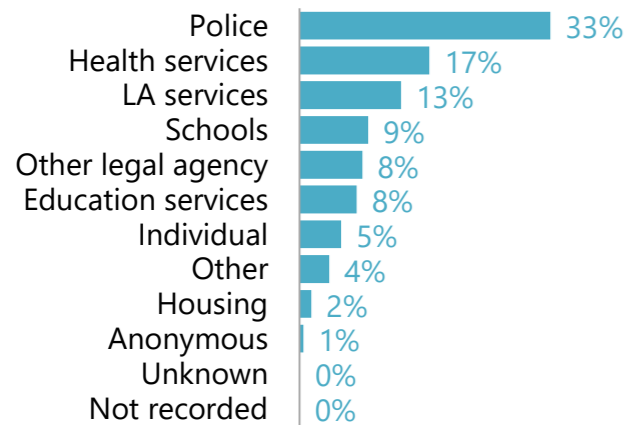
948 Males (51%)  
886 Females (47%)  
40 Other (not shown) (2%)  
— 0-17 population estimate



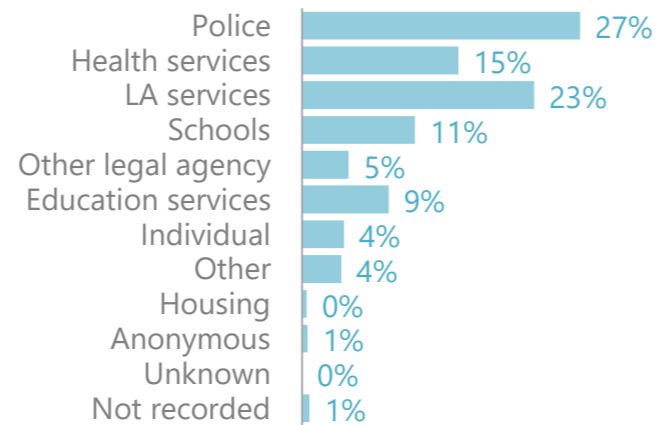
Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

### Source of contacts compared to source of referrals

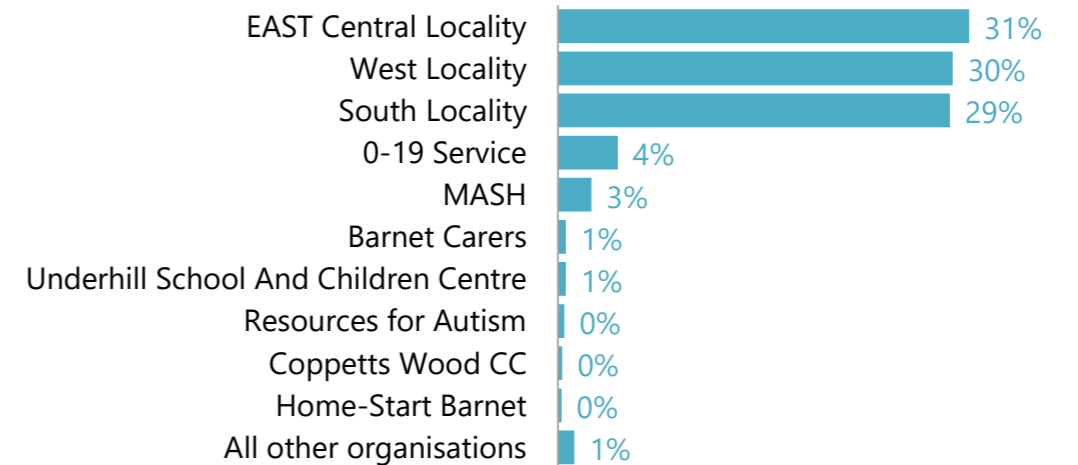
#### Contact source



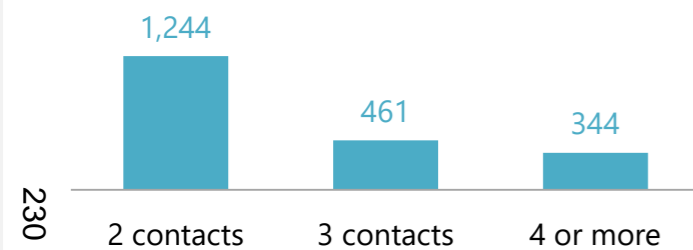
#### Referral source comparison



### Organisation completing assessment



### Children with multiple contacts in period

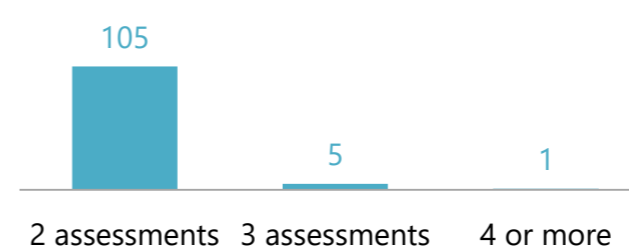


### Ethnic backgrounds

White	29%
Mixed	10%
Asian or Asian British	9%
Black or black British	12%
Other ethnic group	8%
Not stated	31%
Not recorded	1%

See page 22 for comparisons

### Children with multiple records in period



### Ethnic backgrounds

White	33%
Mixed	12%
Asian or Asian British	14%
Black or black British	11%
Other ethnic group	11%
Not stated	18%
Not recorded	0%

See page 22 for comparisons

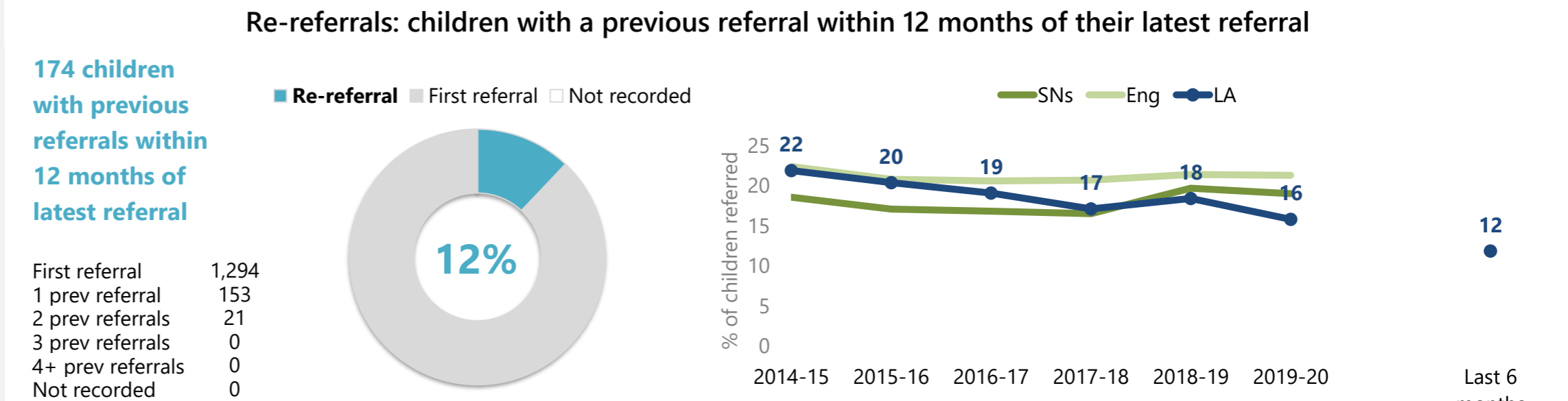
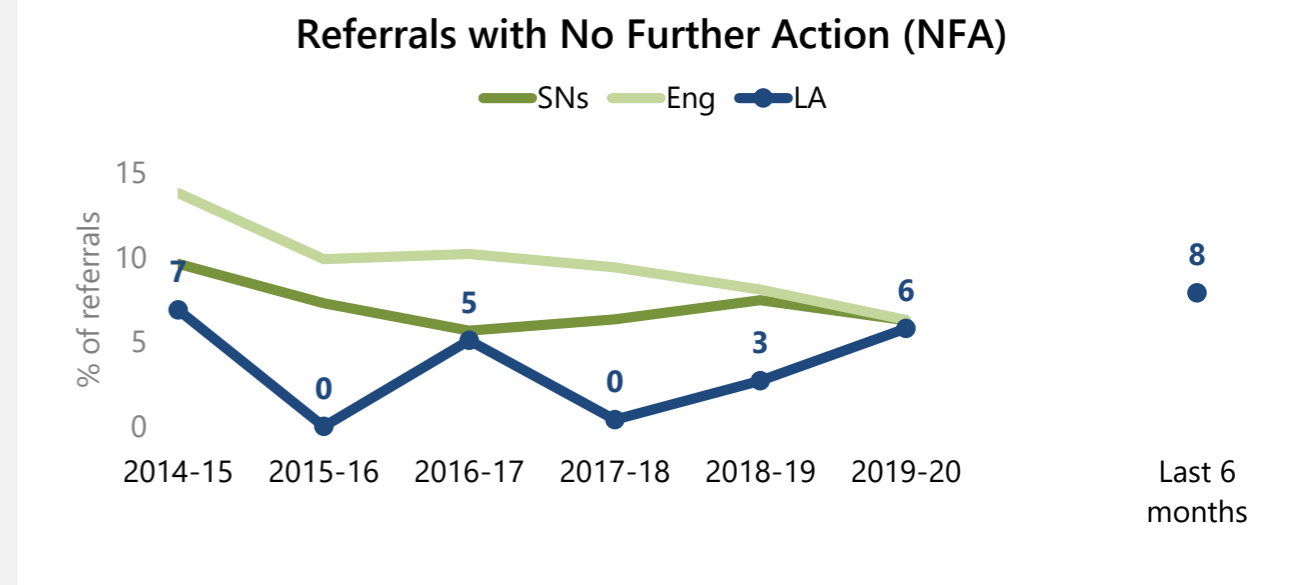
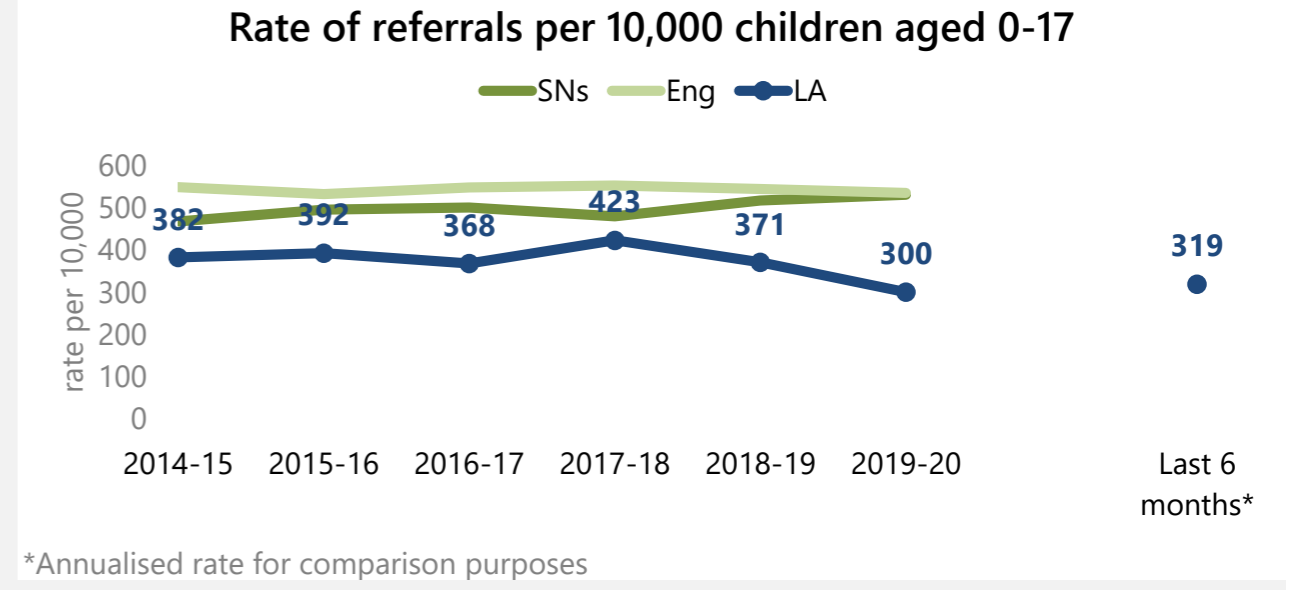
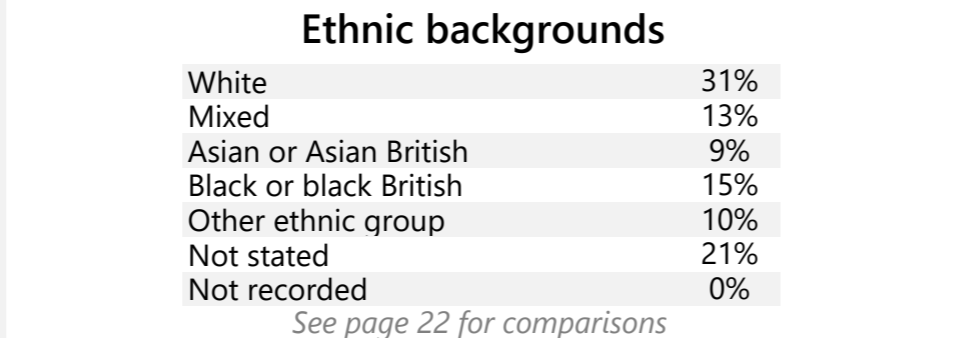
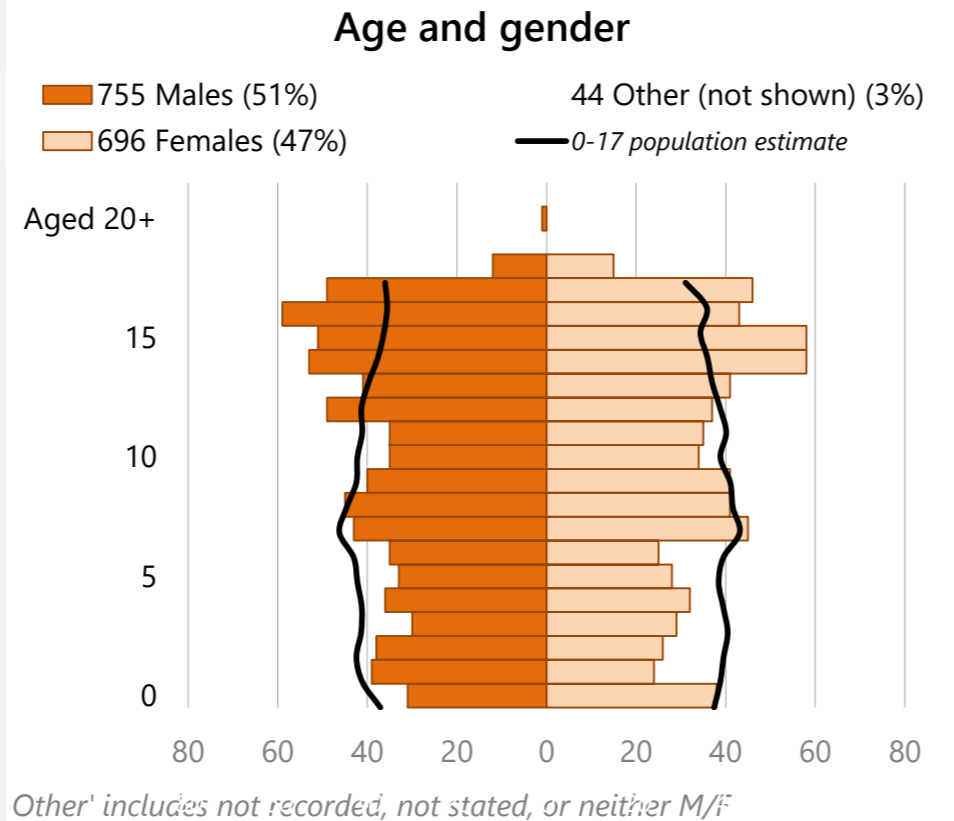
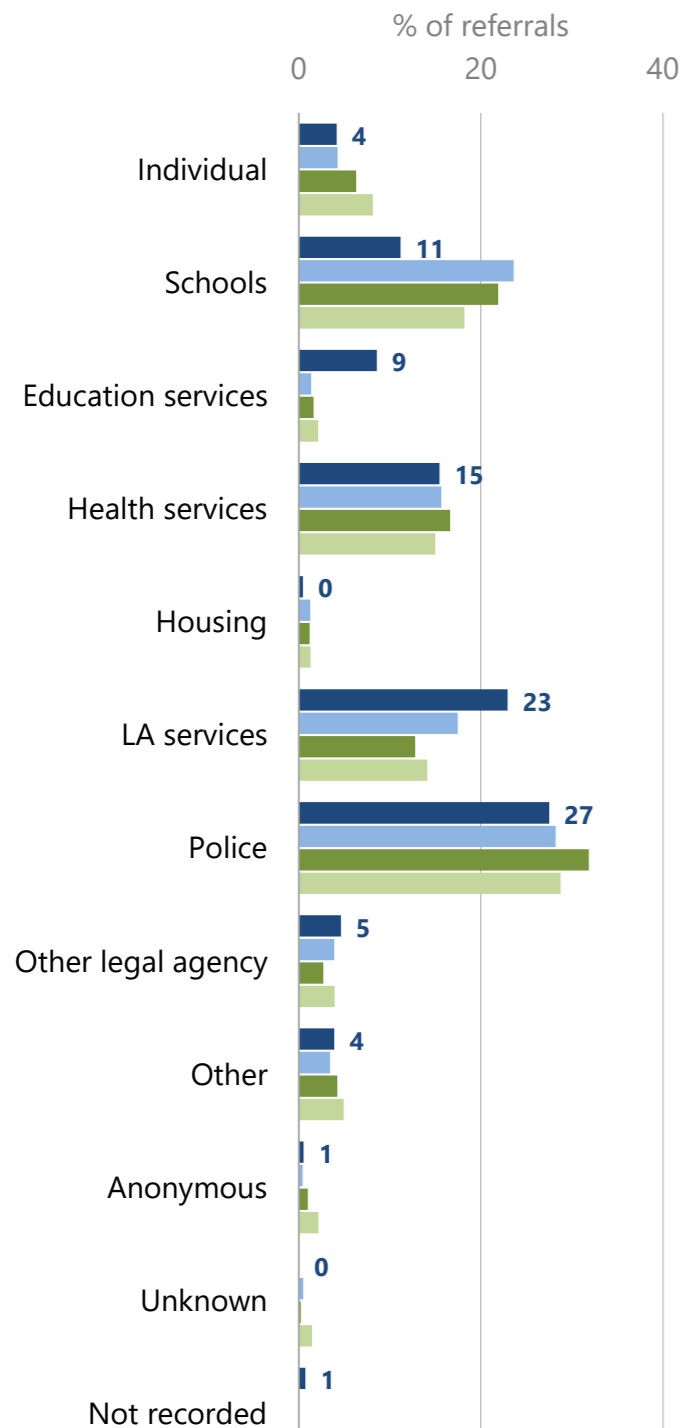
## Referrals in the last 6 months

from 28/07/2022  
to 27/01/2023

### 1495 referrals

#### Source of referral

■ Last 6 months ■ LA 19-20 ■ SNs 19-20 ■ Eng 19-20



# Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

## Assessments in the last 6 months

from 28/07/2022  
to 27/01/2023

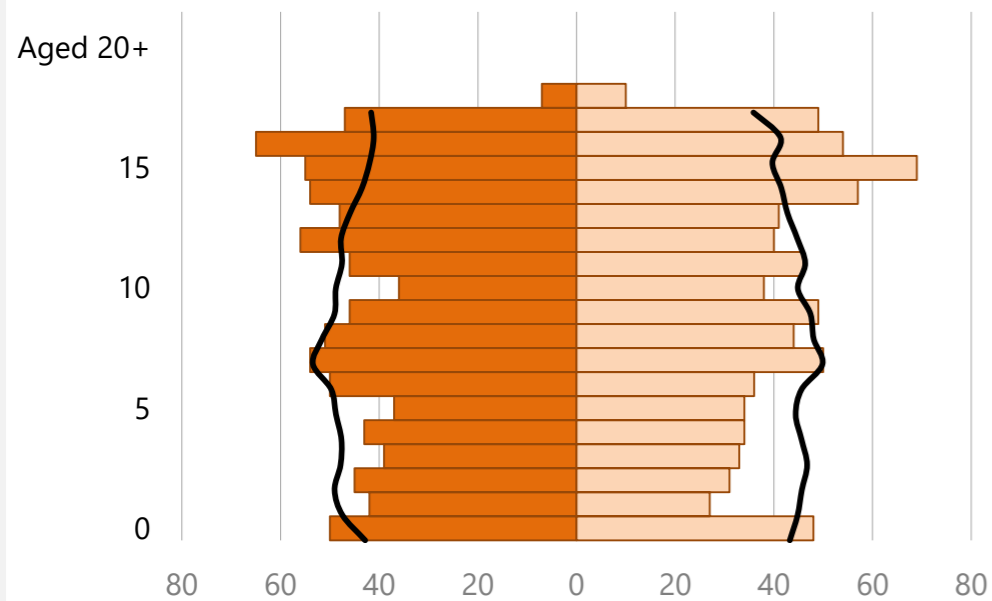
1705 total assessments

600 open assessments

**1105 completed assessments**

### Age and gender of all assessments

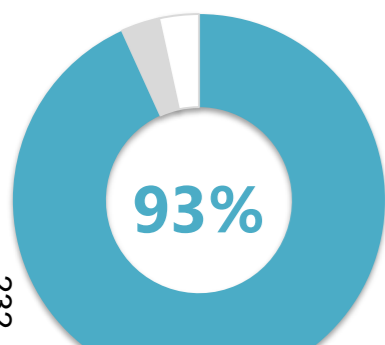
872 Males (51%)  
790 Females (46%)  
43 Other (not shown) (3%)  
— 0-17 population estimate



Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

### Assessments completed where child was seen

Child seen (93%)  
Not seen (7%)  
Unknown (0%)

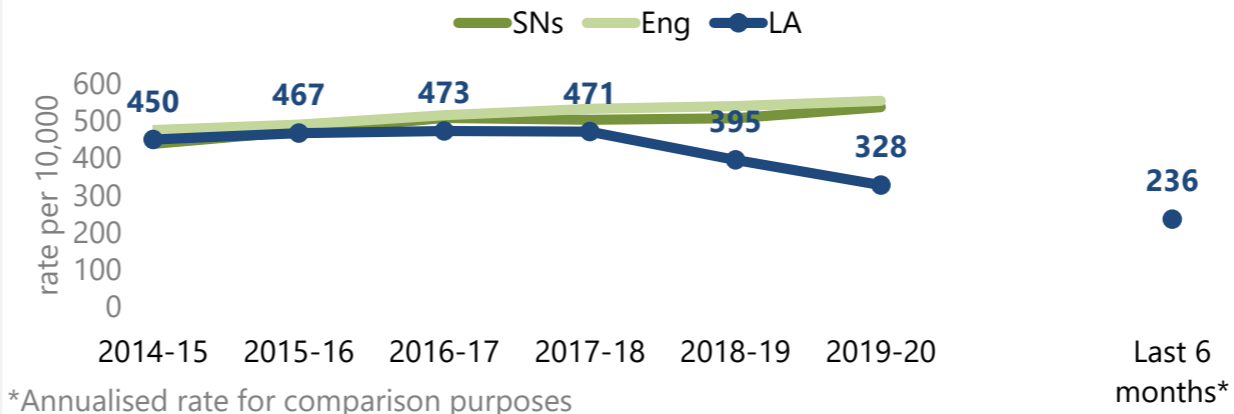


### Ethnic background

White 33%  
Mixed 18%  
Asian or Asian British 10%  
Black or black British 16%  
Other ethnic group 13%  
Not stated 10%  
Not recorded 0%

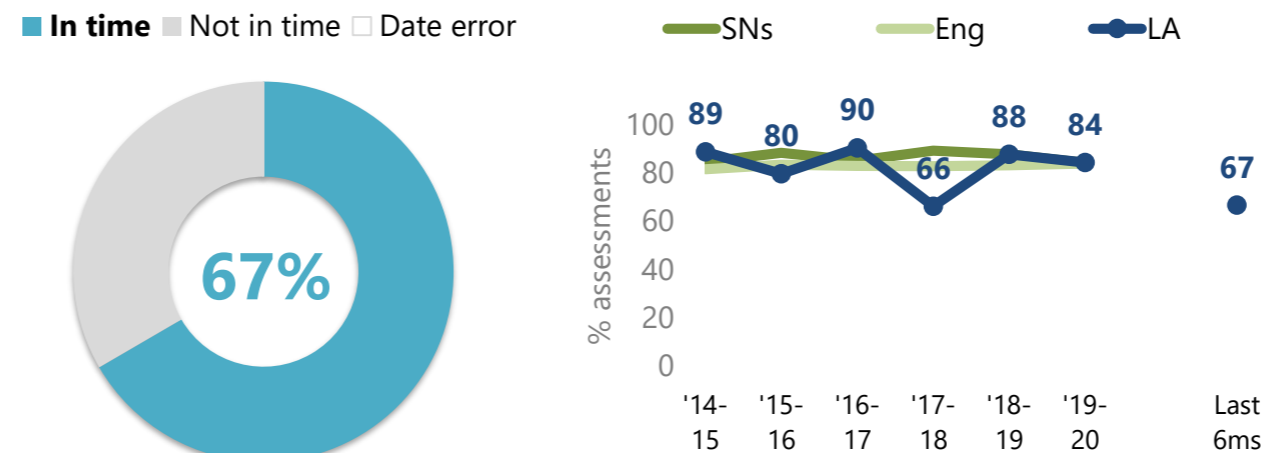
106 assessments (6%)  
for children with a disability

### Rate of completed assessments per 10,000 children aged 0-17



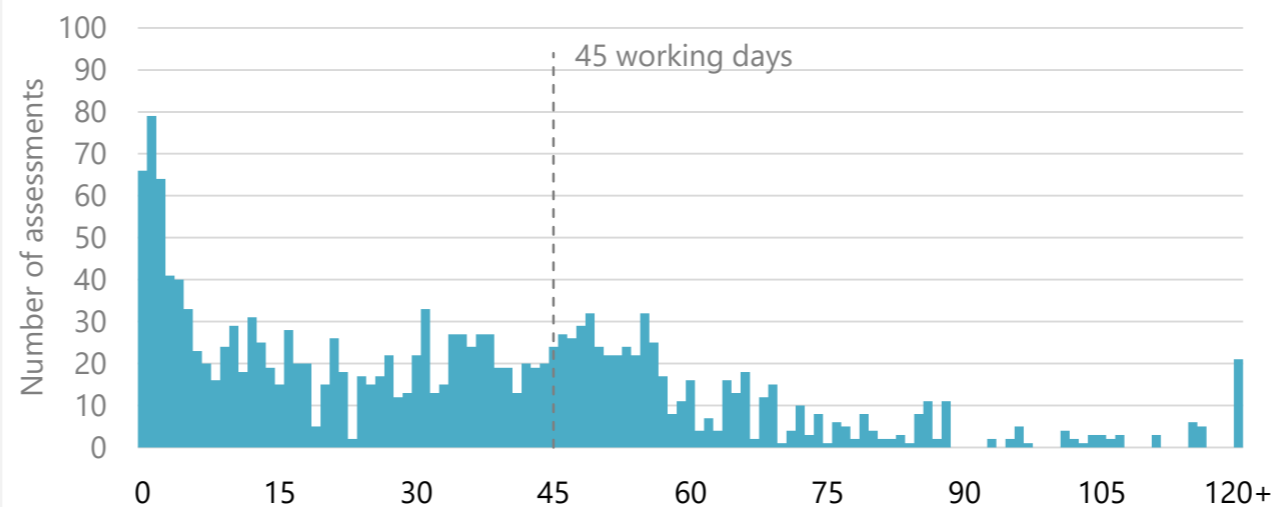
\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

### Assessments completed in 45 working days

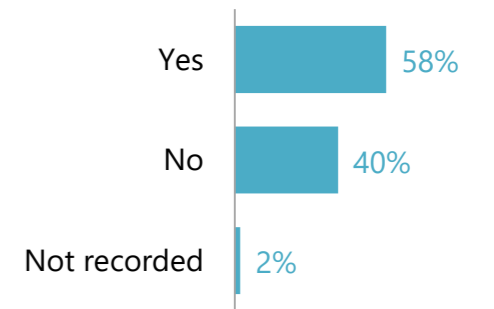


### Durations for all completed and open assessments

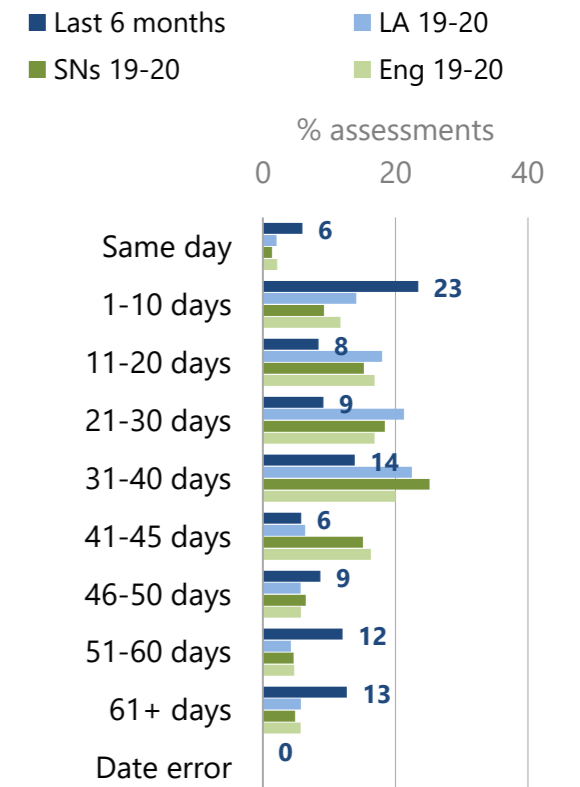
Average duration of completed assessments was 32 working days



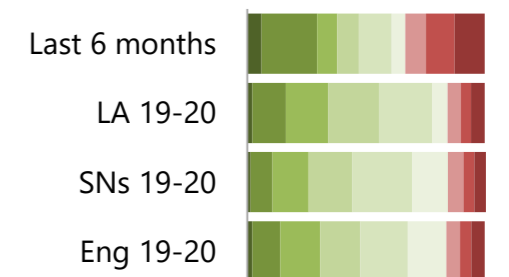
### Child assessed as requiring LA children's social care support



### Comparing timeliness



### Duration categories as above



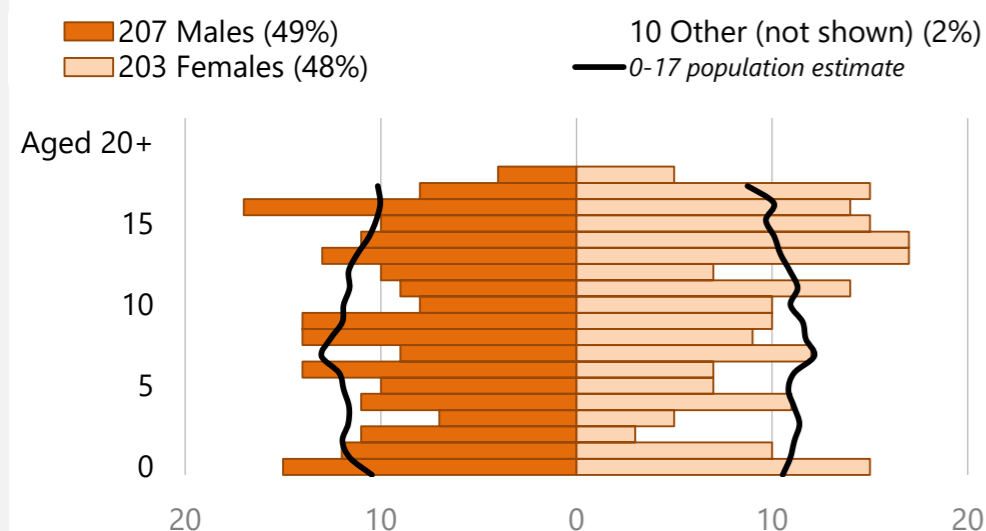


Section 47 enquiries in the last 6 months

from 08/07/2022 to 07/01/2023

420 Section 47 enquiries

Age and gender



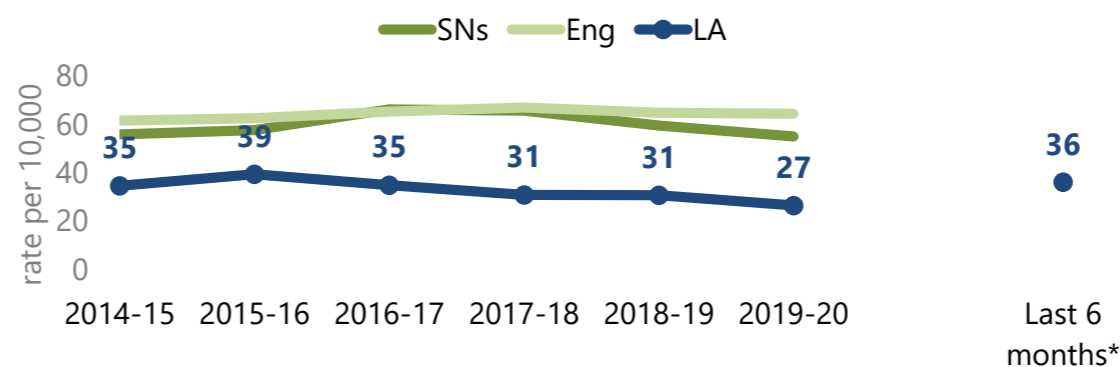
Other includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

169 Initial Child Protection Conferences (from S47 in period)

58% of completed S47s did not require an ICPC

ICPC not required may include S47s for open CPP where ICPC was not required, and may exclude children where an ICPC was required but has not yet occurred

Rate of ICPCs per 10,000 children aged 0-17



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

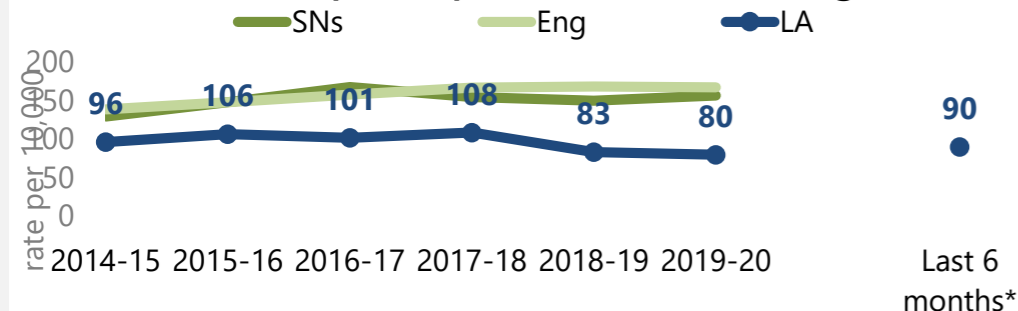
0 child(ren) with a repeat ICPC within 12 months of latest Section 47\*

\*Including where latest S47 did not result in ICPC

91%

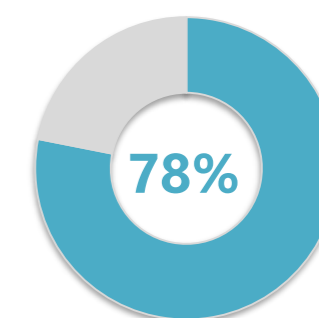
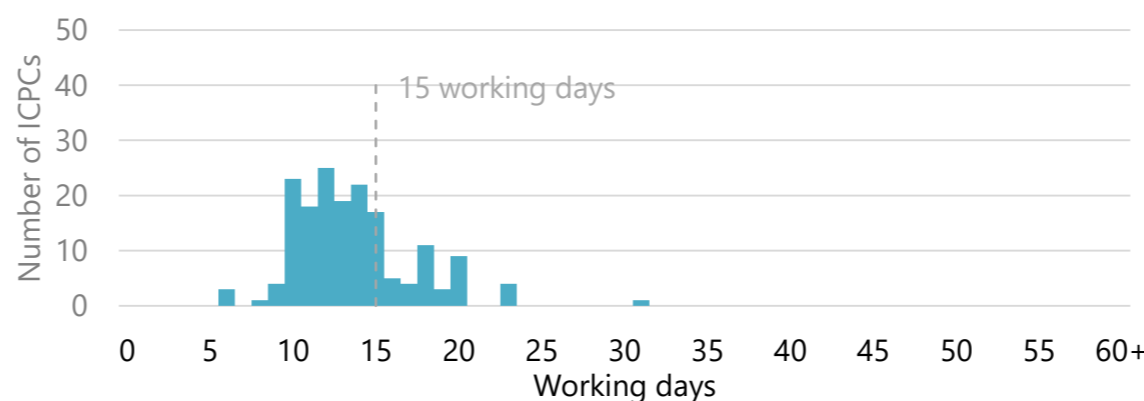
of ICPCs resulted in a child protection plan

Rate of S47 enquiries per 10,000 children aged 0-17



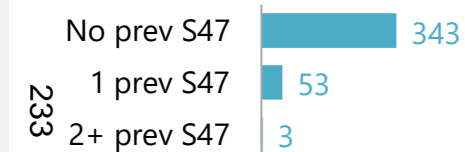
\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

ICPCs occurred within 15 working days of the strategy discussion date



27 S47s (6%) for children with a disability

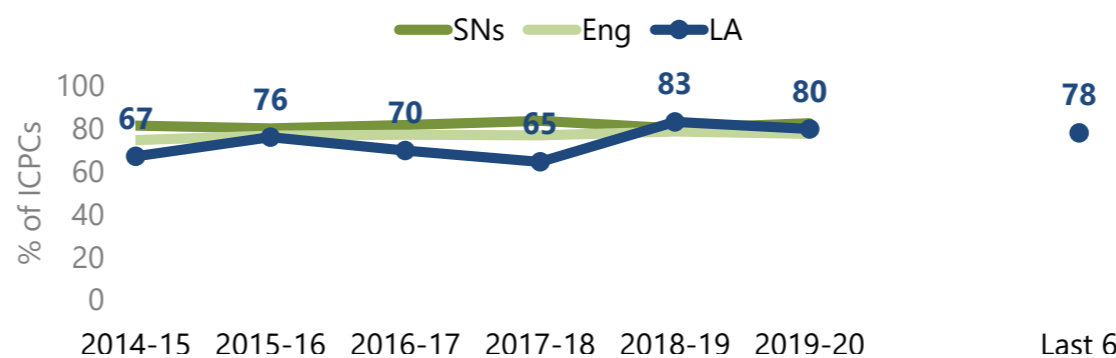
Children with a repeat S47 within 12 months of latest



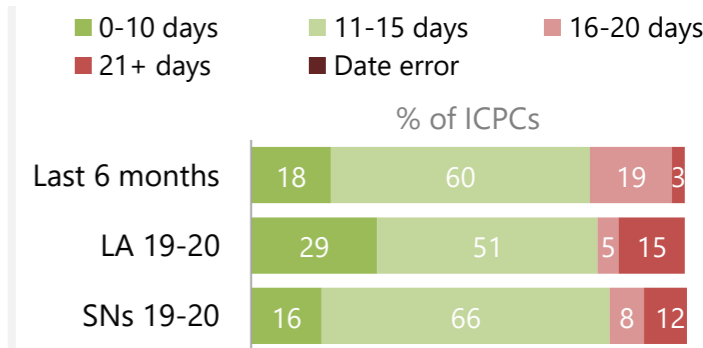
Ethnic background

White	29%
Mixed	22%
Asian or Asian British	8%
Black or black British	19%
Other ethnic group	16%

Trend of ICPC timeliness (within 15 days of S47 start)



Comparing ICPC durations



# Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

## Children in Need (CIN) - total, started, and ceased in the last 6 months

from 08/07/2022  
to 07/01/2023

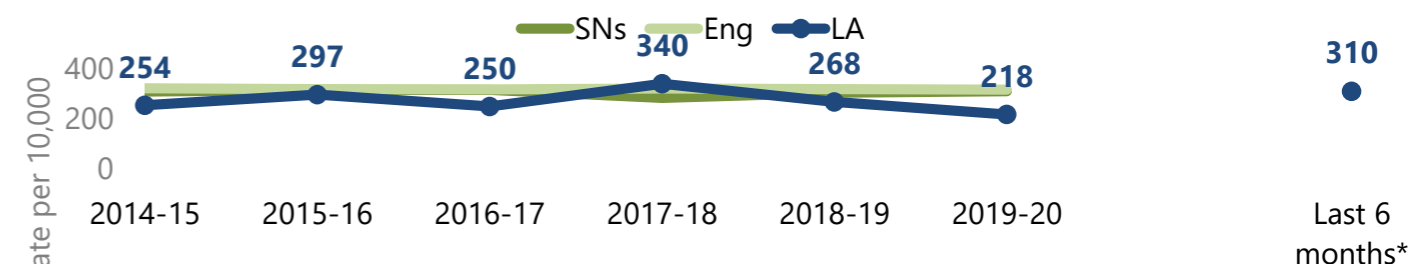
### 3012 total CIN in 6 months\*

#

\*Note: the numbers of children in need reported in ChAT are not directly comparable to published CIN census statistics due to an undercount of referrals and care leavers.

### 1454 CIN started in 6 months

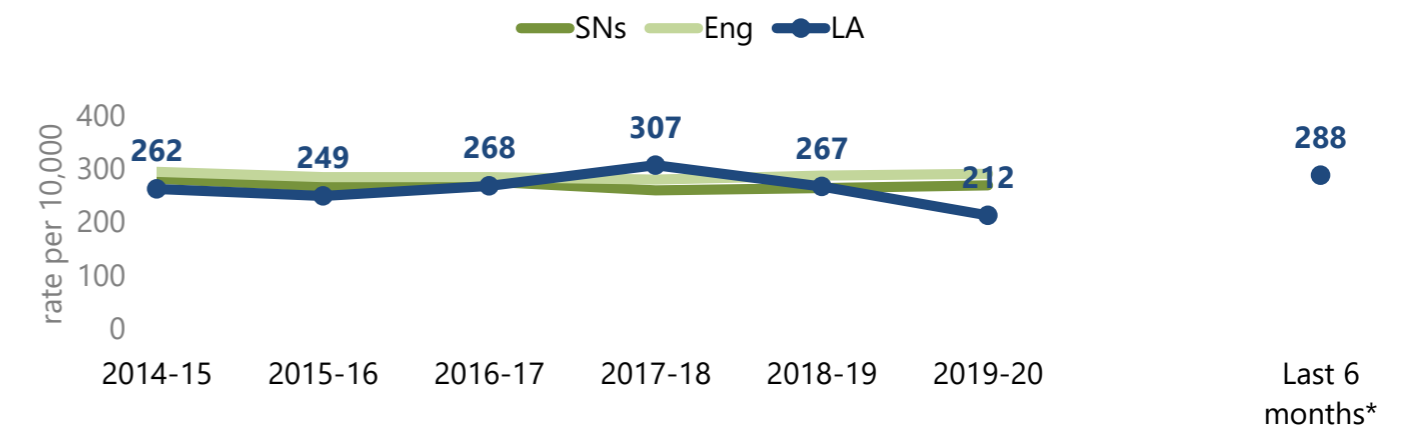
Rate of children who started an episode of need per 10,000 children aged 0-17



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

### 1348 CIN ceased in 6 months

Rate of children who ended an episode of need per 10,000 children aged 0-17



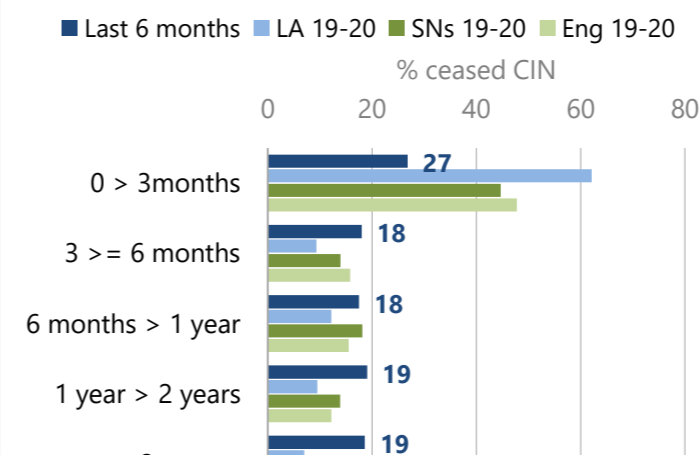
\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

### Cases included in Annex A / ChAT

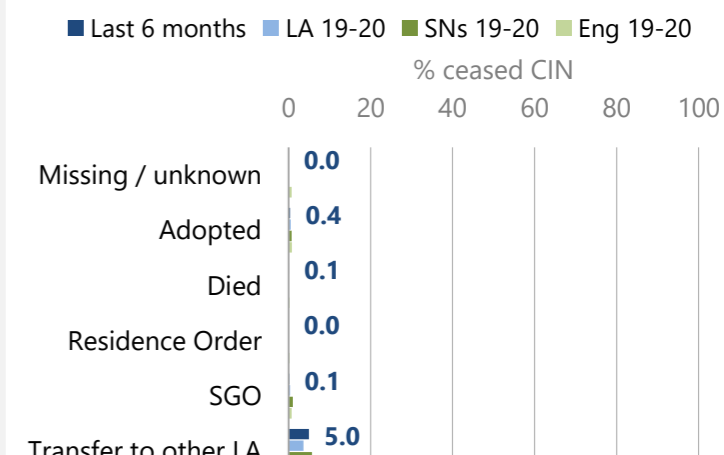
Case status of children on CIN list	Number	Percentage
Looked after child	336	11%
Child protection plan	286	9%
Child in need plan	365	12%
Open assessment	600	20%
Closed episode	1,348	45%
Case status not recorded	77	2%

234

### Comparing CIN ceased durations



### Comparing CIN ceased reasons



Case status not recorded	11	5%
Total (excluding case status unknown)	2,935	97%

2+ years	0
Date error	0
Transfer to other LA	0.4
Transfer to ASC	94
Not in need after...	94

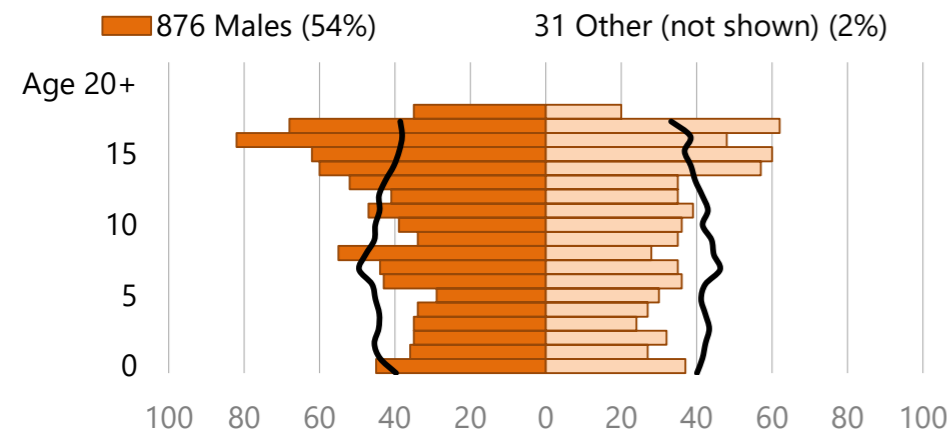
## Children in Need (CIN) with an open episode of need

Snapshot 07/01/2023

### 1611 Children in Need with an open episode of need\*

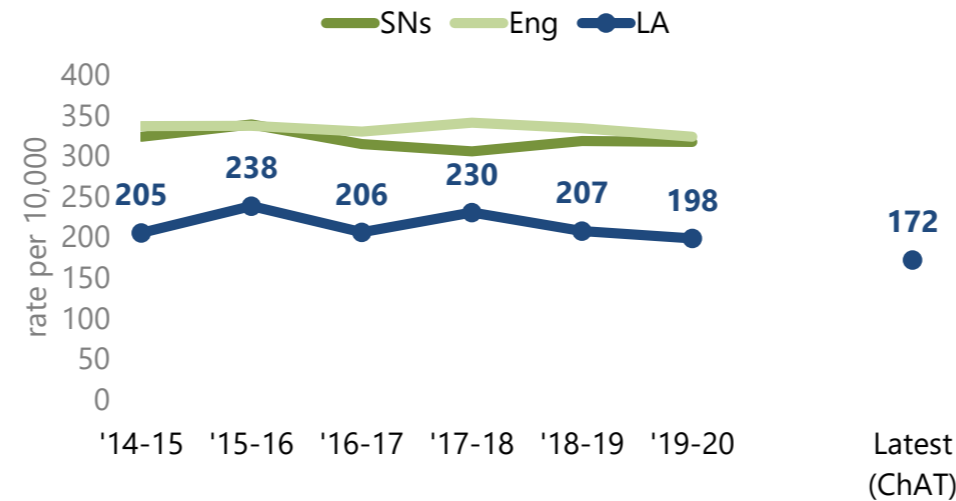
\*Note: Annex A figures in this section are not directly comparable to the published Children in need census statistics (see note on page 8)

#### Age and gender

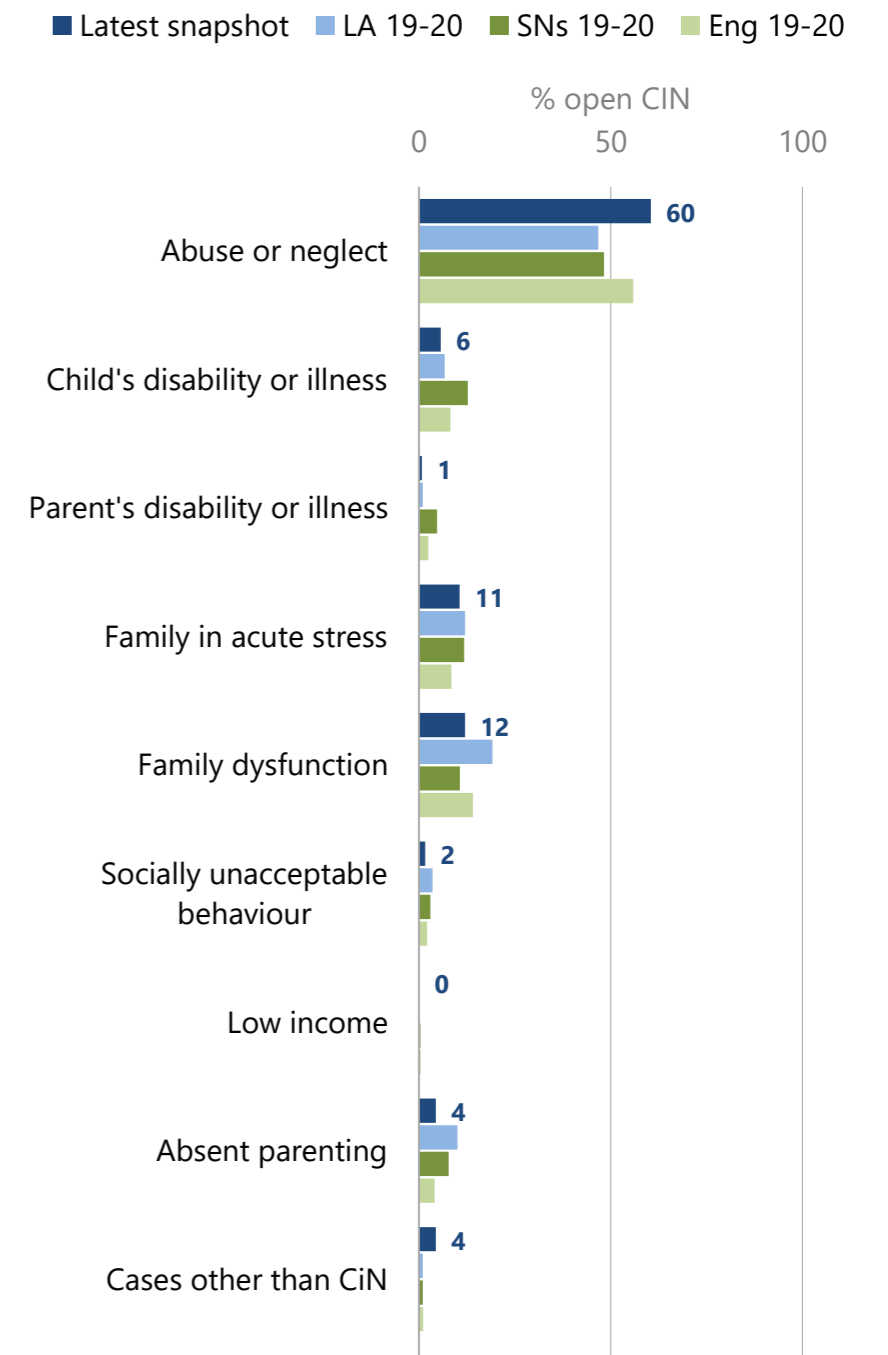


'Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

#### Rate of open CIN per 10,000 children aged 0-17\*

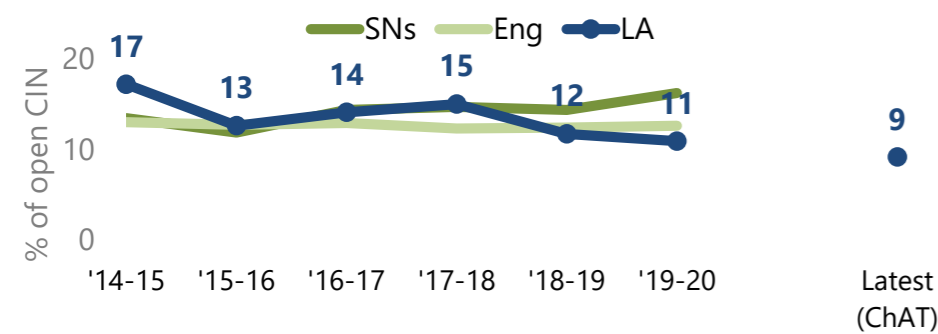


#### Comparing primary need of open CIN

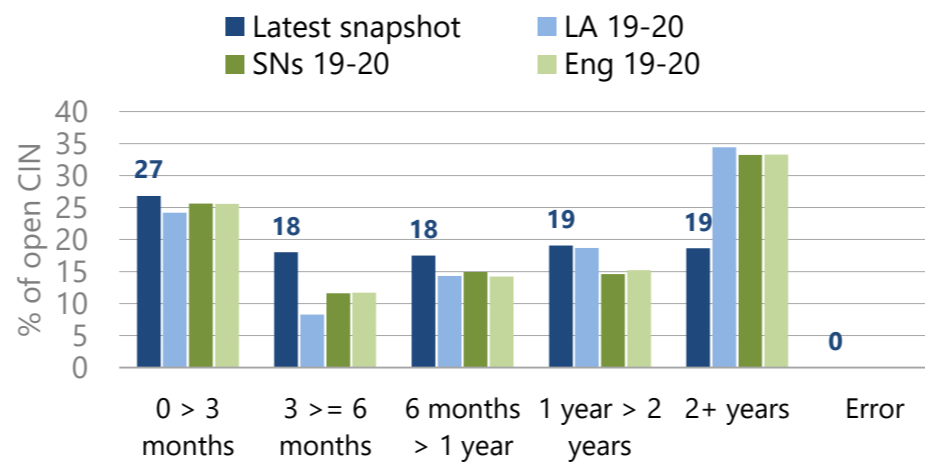


#### 147 children (9%) with a disability

##### CIN with an open episode of need with a disability



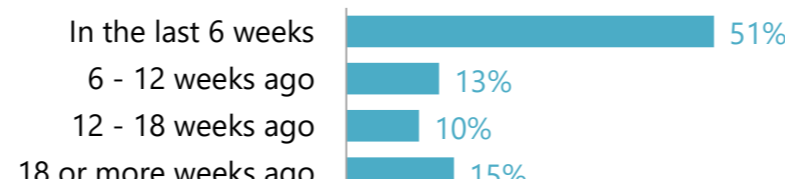
#### Comparing episode duration of open CIN



#### Ethnic background

White	35%
Mixed	20%
Asian or Asian British	9%
Black or black British	15%

#### Time since the child's latest social worker visit



Other ethnic group 14%  
 Not stated 7%  
 Not recorded 0%  
 See page 22 for comparisons

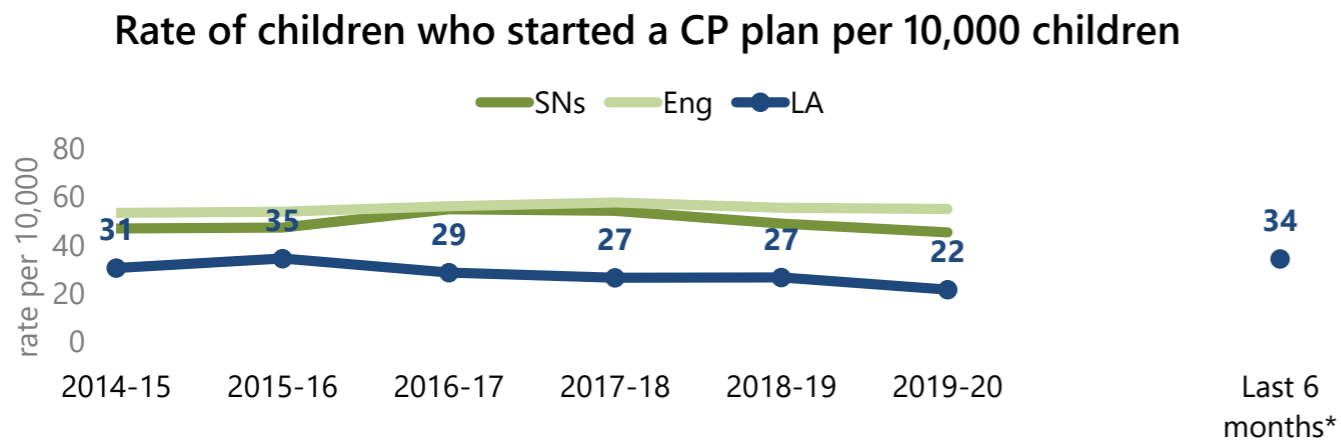
10 or more weeks ago 13%  
 No visit (New CIN <1 month) 6%  
 No visit (CIN 1+ month) 4%  
 Date error 0%

Not Stated / Code error 0

Child Protection Plans (CPP) started and ceased in the last 6 months

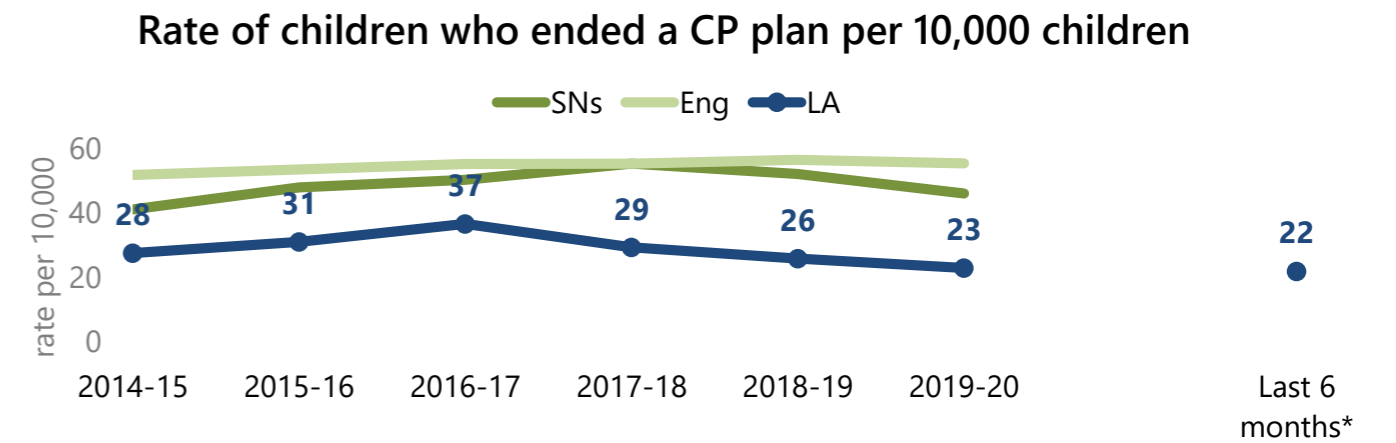
from 08/07/2022  
 to 07/01/2023

161 CPP started in 6 months



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

103 CPP ended in 6 months

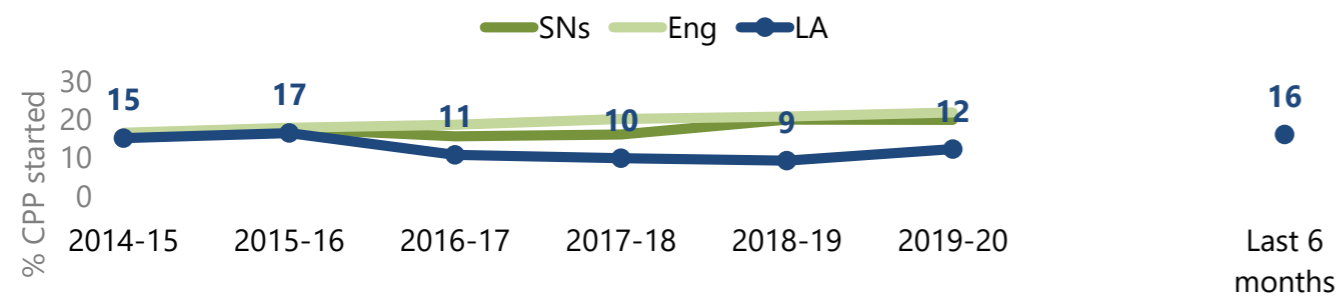


\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

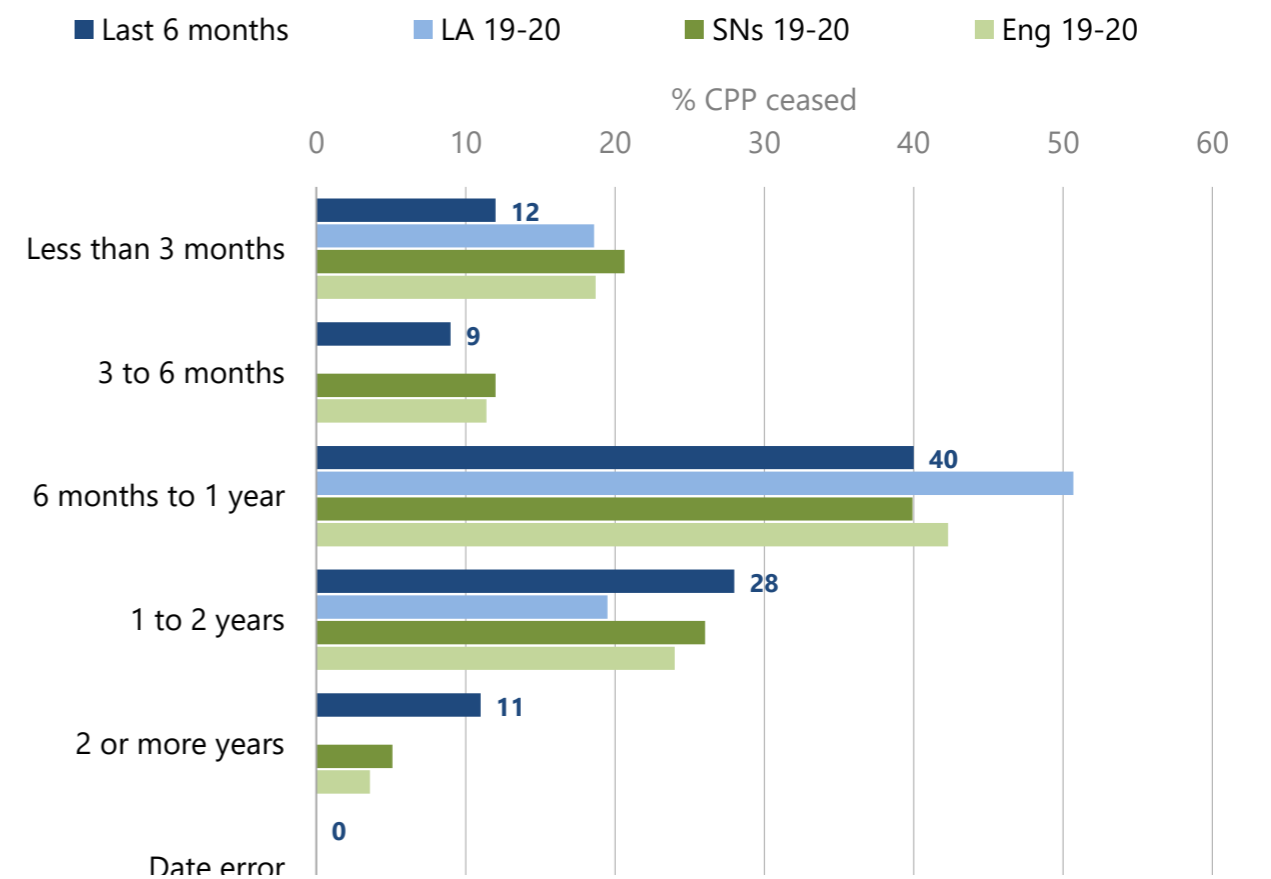
Re-registrations for children who started on a CP plan (ever)



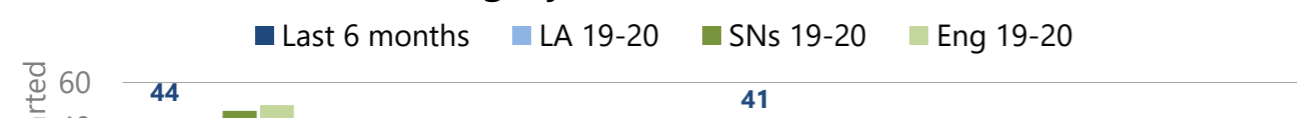
Comparing re-registrations for CPP started

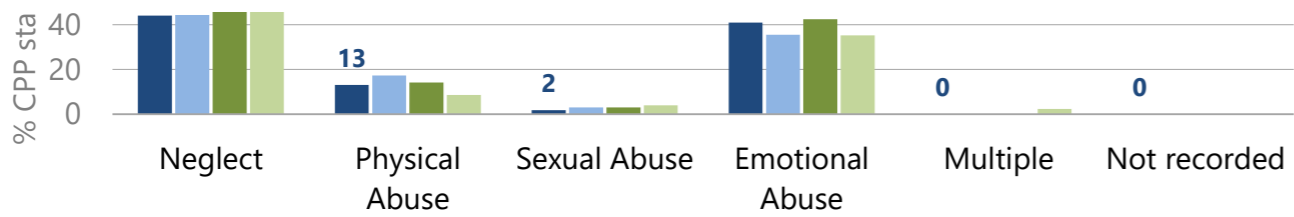


Comparing plan durations for CPP ended



Initial category of abuse for CPP started





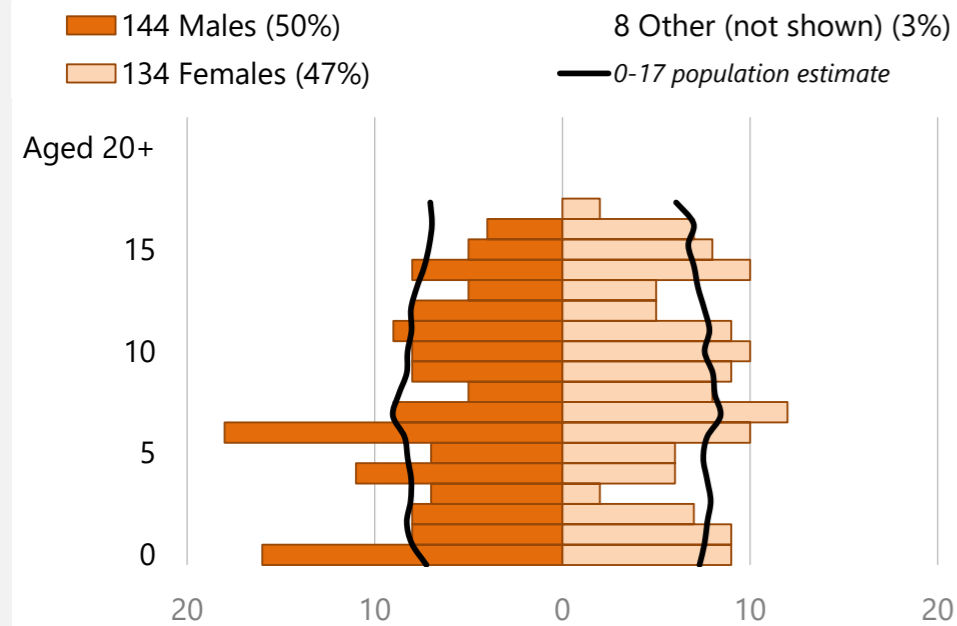
11 of 103 children ended a CP plan after 2 years or more

Child Protection Plans (CPP) currently open

Snapshot 07/01/2023

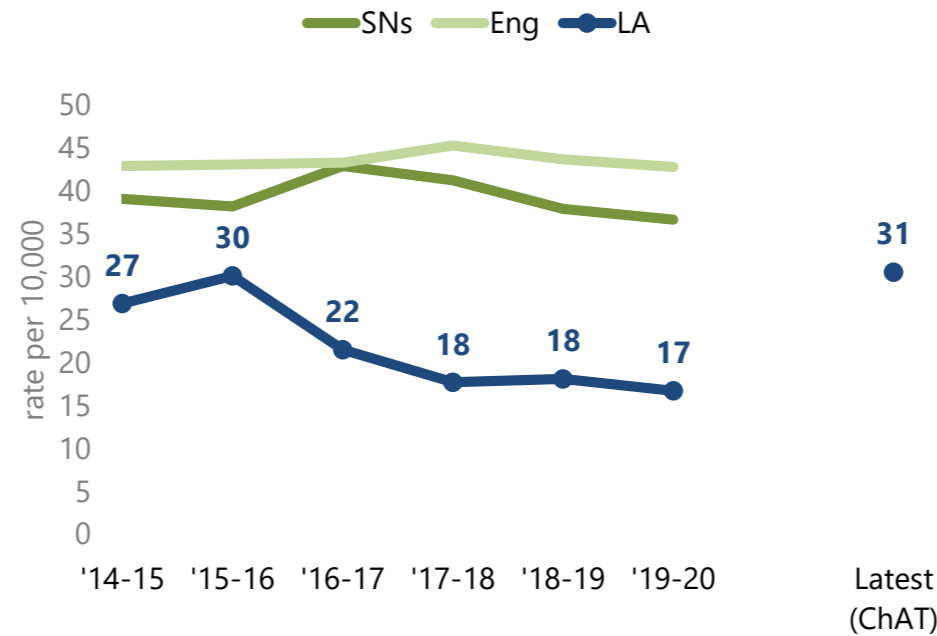
## 286 children currently subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP)

### Age and gender

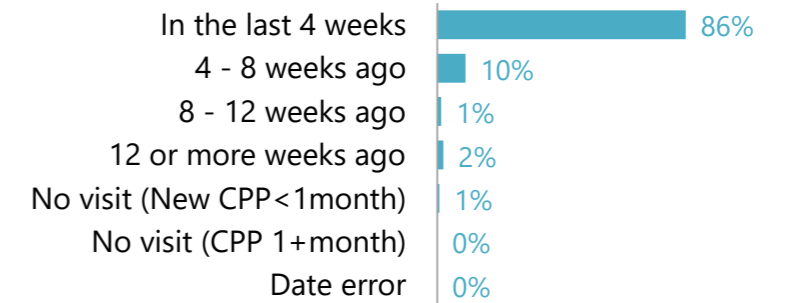


Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

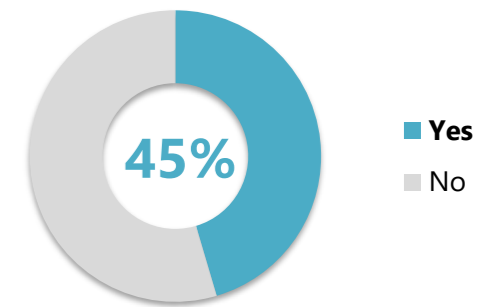
### Rate of CPP per 10,000 children aged 0-17



### Time since the child was last seen



Open CPP **seen alone** at their last social work visit  
(excludes Not recorded or N/A)



### Ethnic background

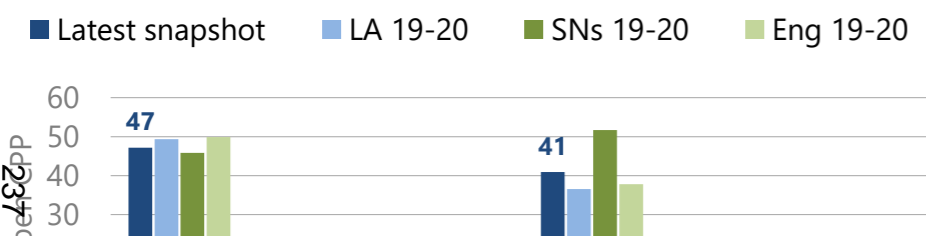
White	32%
Mixed	25%
Asian or Asian British	7%
Black or black British	11%
Other ethnic group	23%
Not stated	2%
Not recorded	0%

See page 20 for comparisons

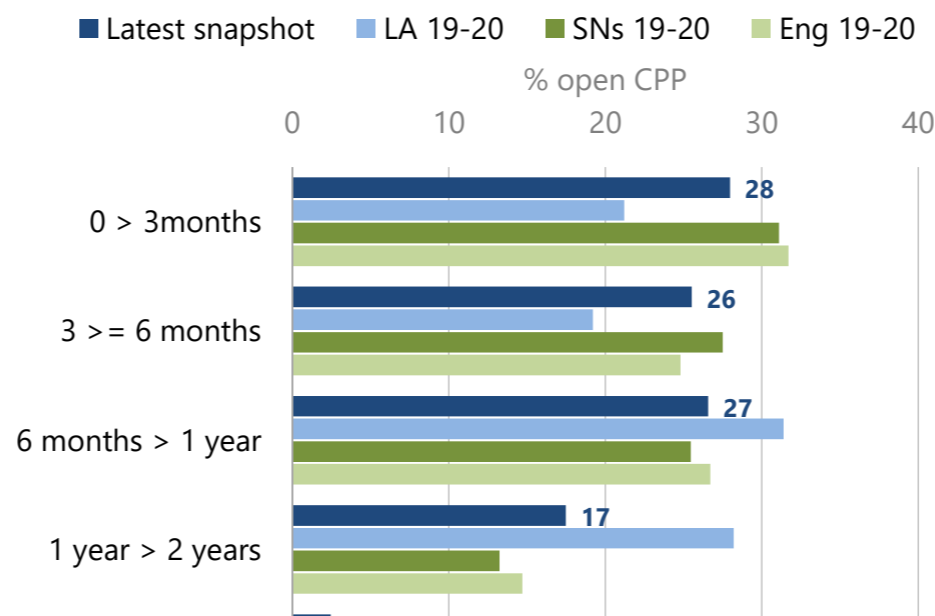
### 22 children (8%) with a disability

11 open CP subject to Emergency Protection Order or Protected Under Police Powers in last 6 months

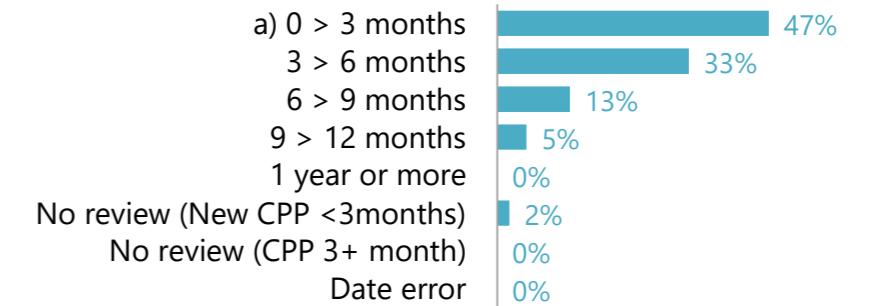
### Latest category of abuse for current CP plans



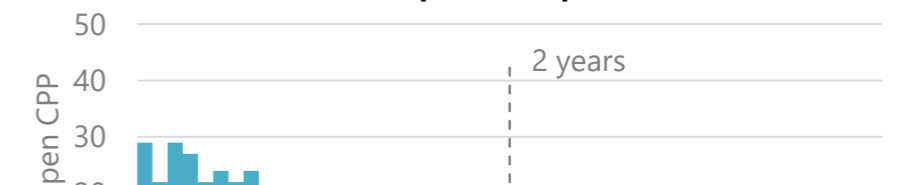
### Comparing duration of open CP plans

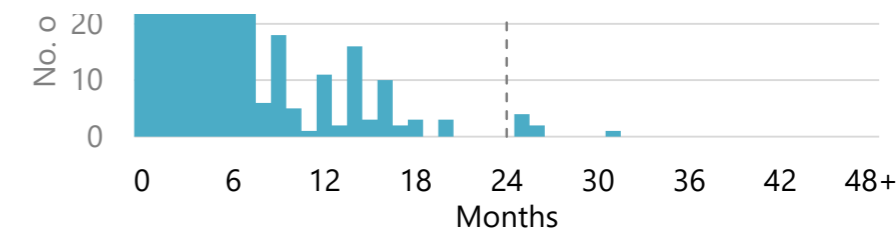
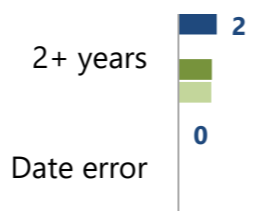
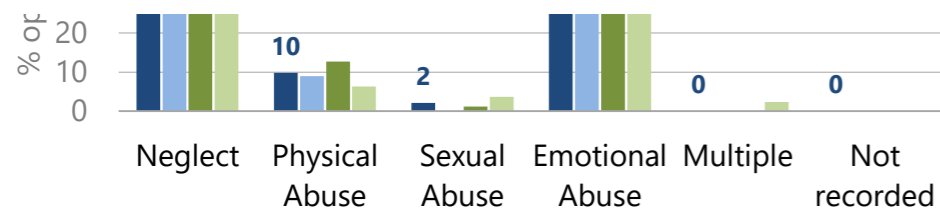


### Time since the child's latest review



### Duration of current open CP plans (in months)





ChAT v6.0 - Data to Insight

# Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

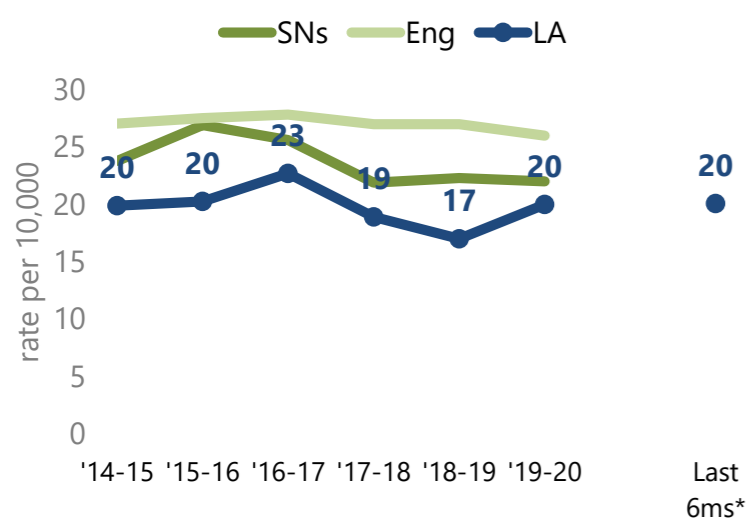
Children Looked After (CLA) started and ceased in the last 6 months

from 08/07/2022 to 07/01/2023

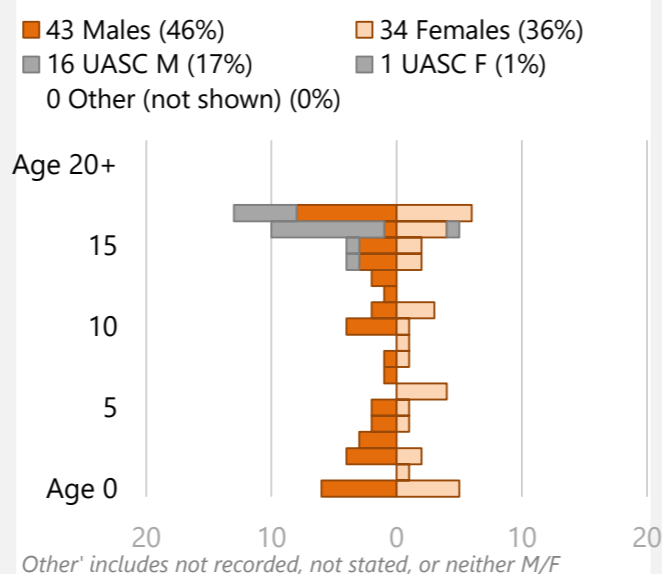
## 94 CLA started in the last 6 months

## 82 CLA ceased in the last 6 months

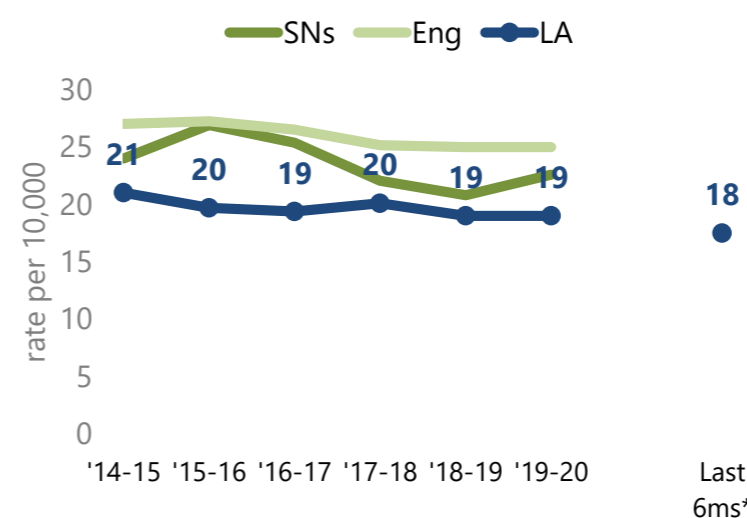
Rate of CLA started per 10,000 children



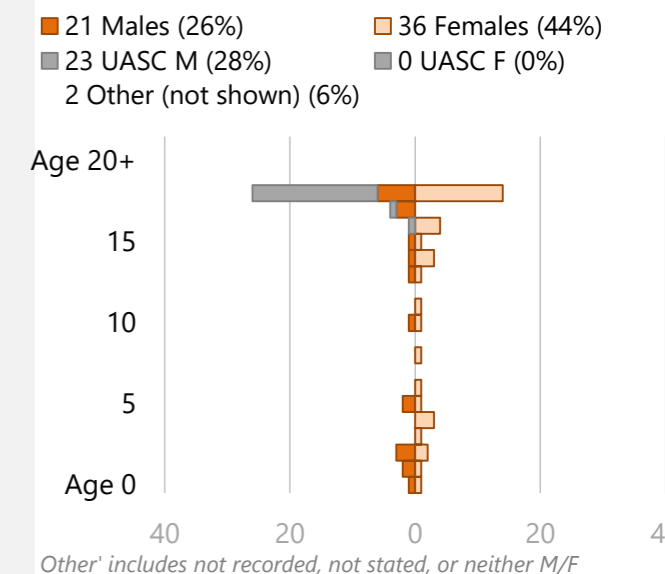
Age and gender



Rate of CLA ceased per 10,000 children



Age and gender



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

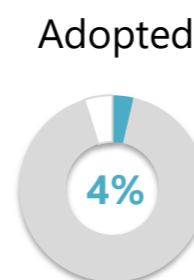
\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

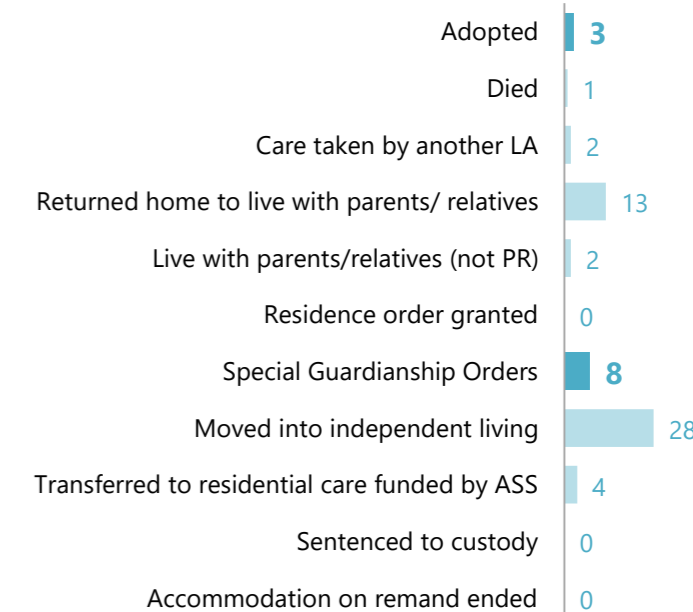
**18%** 17 of the 94 CLA starters were unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)

**10%** 9 of the 94 CLA starters have previously been looked after

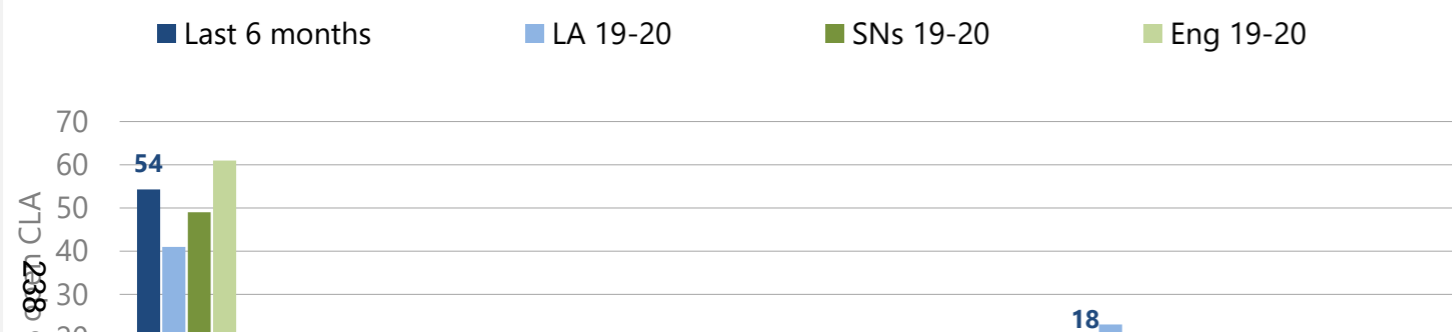
### Reason episode of care ceased



Number of CLA ceased by reason in the period



### Comparing the primary need of CLA starters

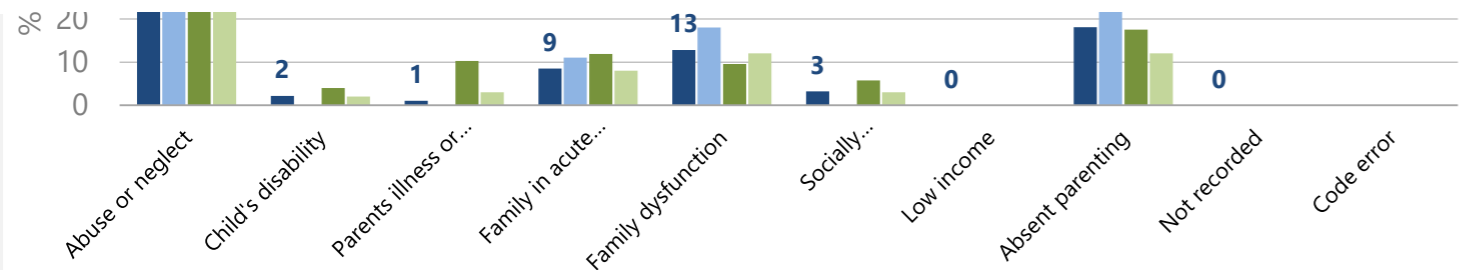


Last 6 months: 4%

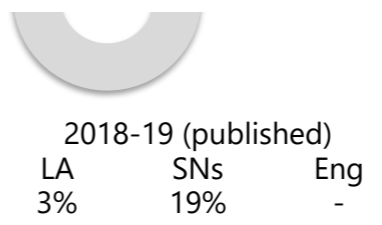
2018-19 (published): LA 7%, SNs 8%, Eng 12%

### Special Guardianship Order





Last 6 months  
10%



Reason	Count
Age assessment determined child was 18+	0
Child moved abroad	0
Any other reason	17
Not recorded / Error	4

ChAT v6.0 - Data to Insight

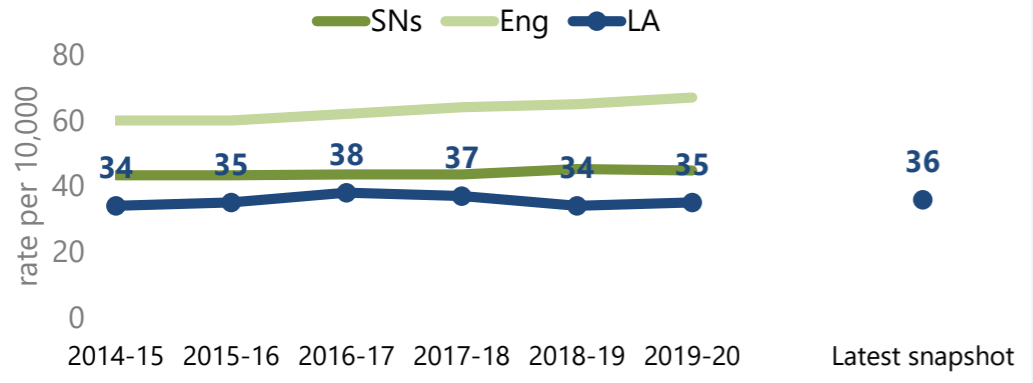
# Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

## Children Looked After (CLA) with an open episode of care

Snapshot 07/01/2023

### 336 Children Looked After (CLA) with an open episode of care

Rate of CLA per 10,000 children (snapshot)



Ethnic background

	All CLA	Not UASC	UASC
White	39%	44%	10%
Mixed	26%	30%	0%
Asian or Asian British	6%	3%	21%
Black or black British	14%	15%	8%
Other ethnic group	15%	6%	60%
Not stated	1%	1%	2%
Not recorded	0%	0%	0%

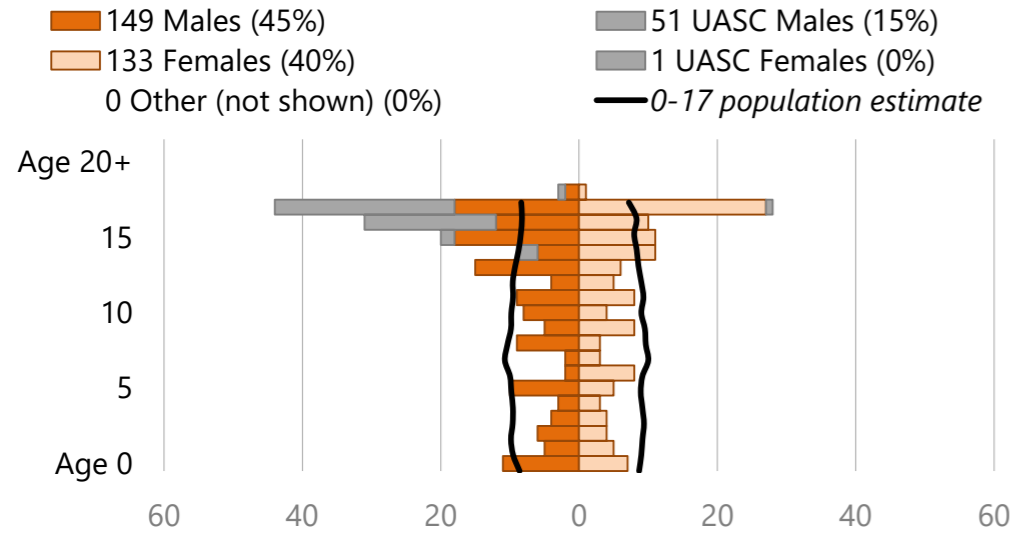
30 children (9%) with a disability

Permanence plan

	Number	%
Return to family	0	0%
Adoption	0	0%
SGO/CAO	0	0%
Supported living	0	0%
L/T residential	0	0%
L/T fostering	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Not recorded	0	0%

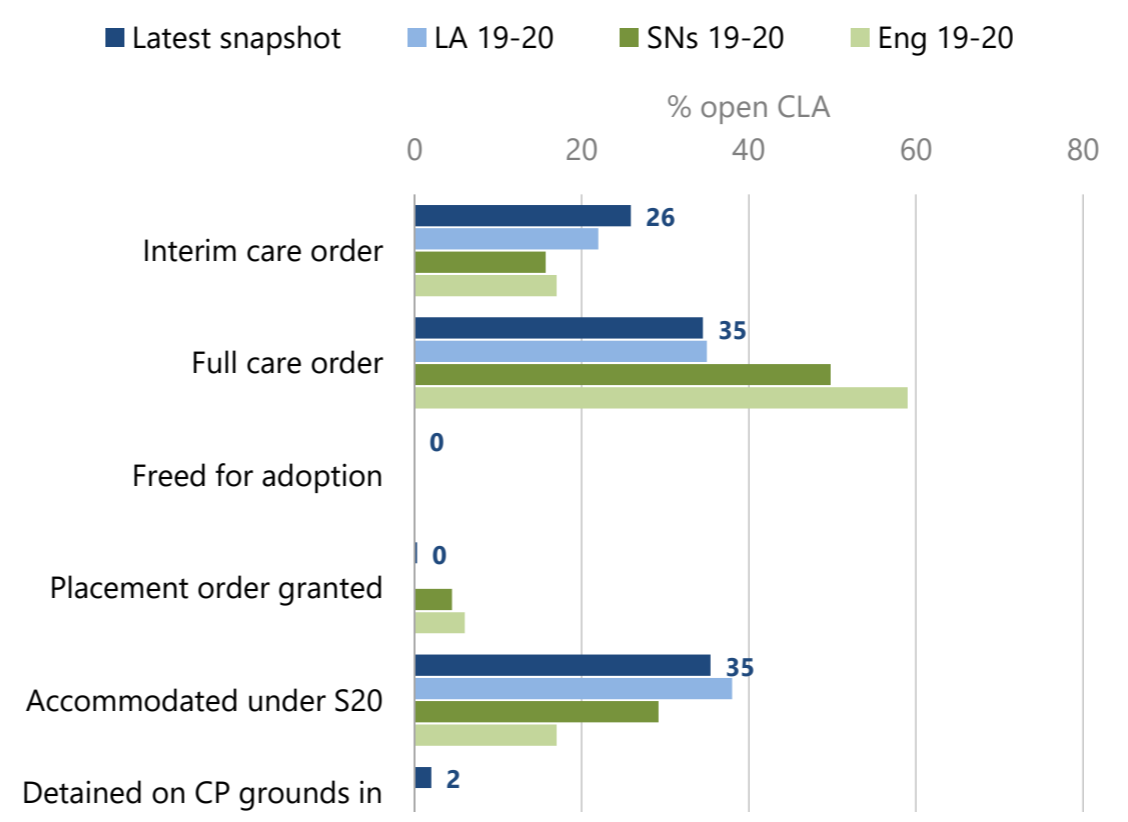
See page 22 for comparisons

Age and gender



Other includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

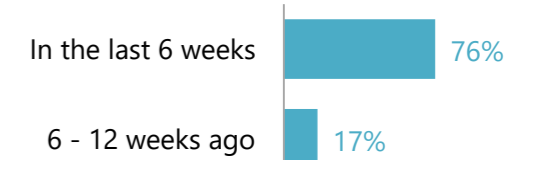
Comparing legal status of open CLA (snapshot)



Time since latest review



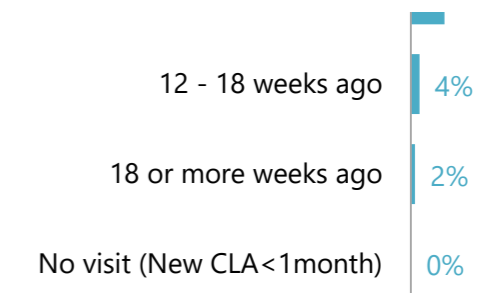
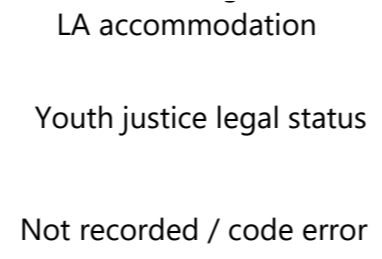
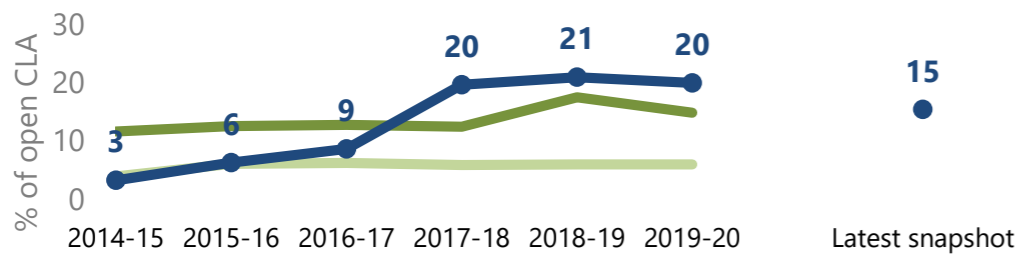
Time since the child was last seen



52 open unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)

UASC as a percentage of CLA (snapshot)

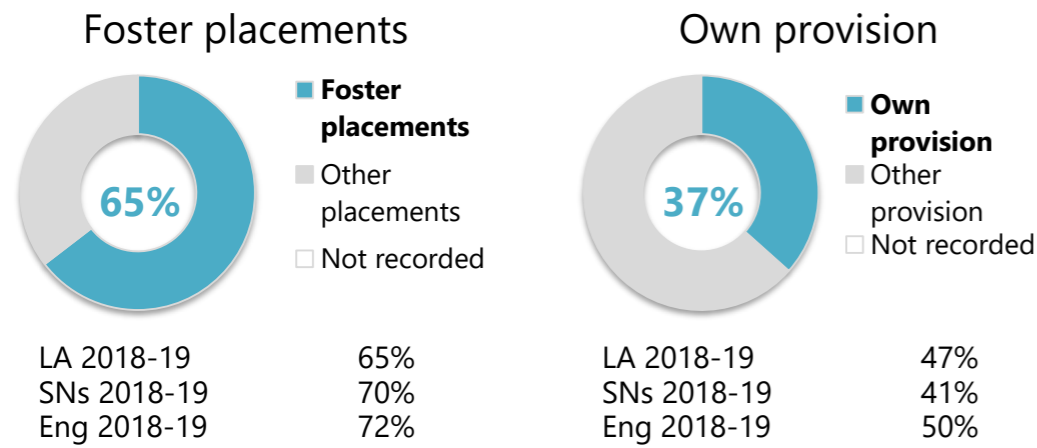




Children Looked After (CLA) placements

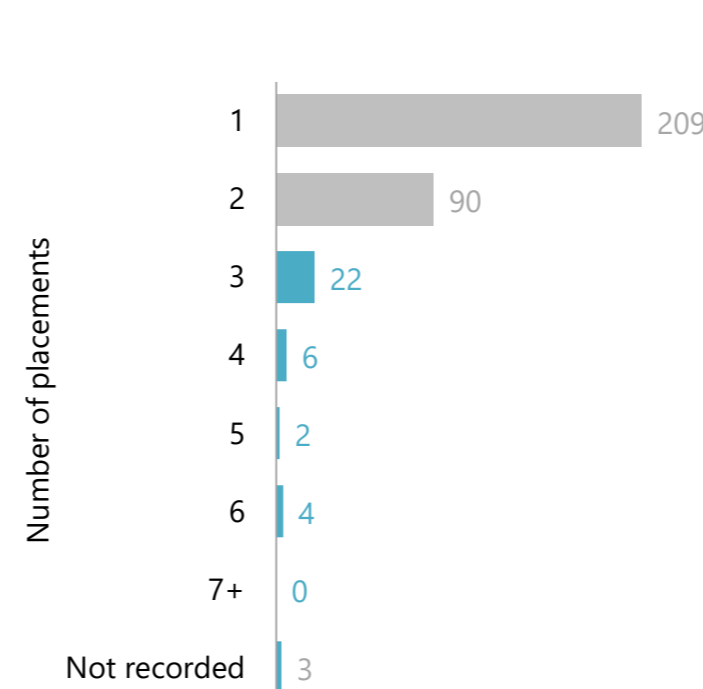
Snapshot 07/01/2023

CLA placements by type and provision

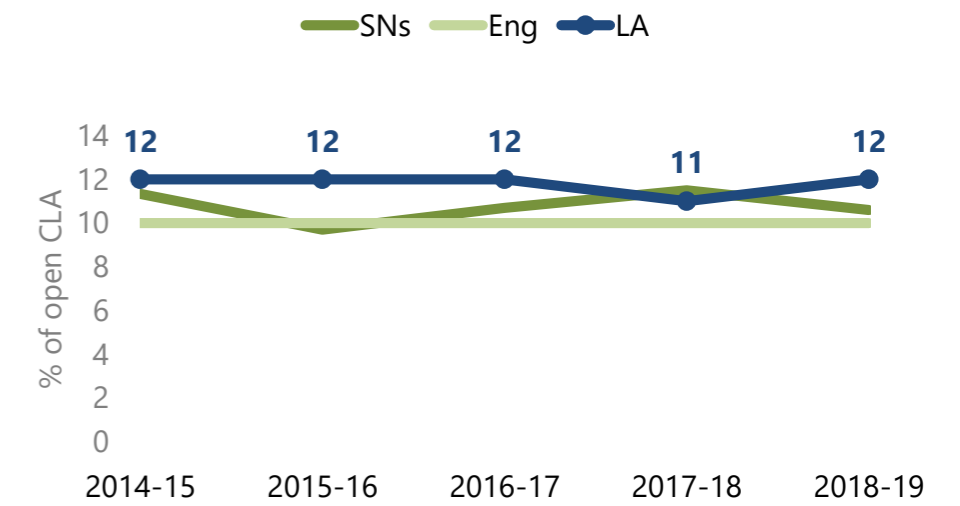


Placement type (open CLA)	Own LA	Private	Other	Total
Foster placement	110	101	6	217
Placed for adoption	0	1	2	3
Placed with parents	0	0	5	5
Independent living	0	0	0	0
Residential employment	0	0	0	0
Residential accommodation	6	49	0	55
Secure Children's Homes	0	0	1	0
Children's Homes	7	35	0	42
Residential Care Home	0	0	0	0
NHS/Health Trust	0	0	1	0
Family Centre	0	8	0	8
Young Offender Institution	0	0	2	2
Residential school	0	2	0	2
Other placements	0	0	0	0
Temporary placement	0	0	0	0
<b>Total placements</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>334</b>

Number of placements in the last 12 months

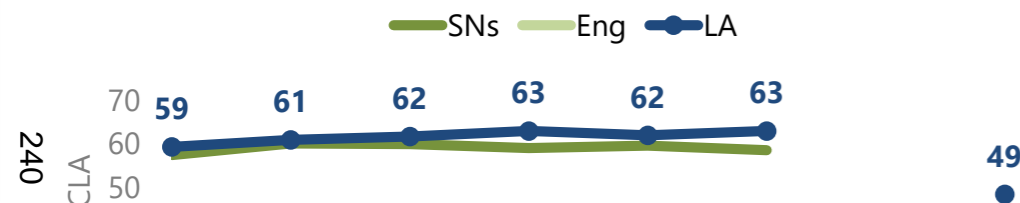


Comparing short term placement stability



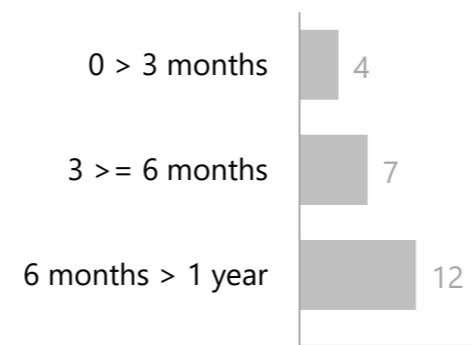
Due to limited data in the Annex A dataset, ChAT does not present short-term stability alongside published statistics

CLA placements out of borough

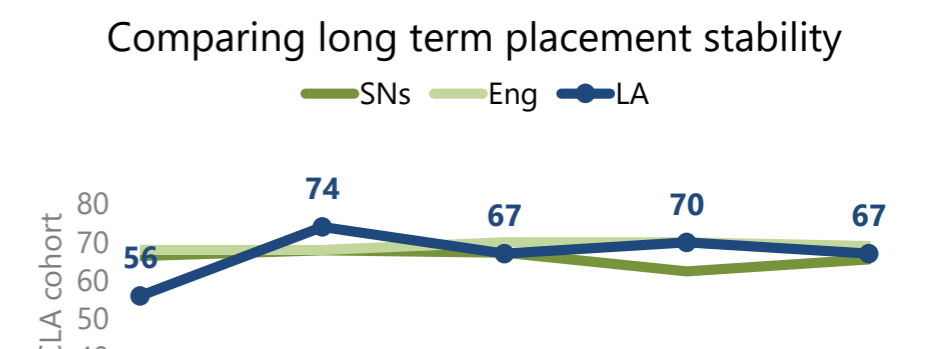


Duration of placements

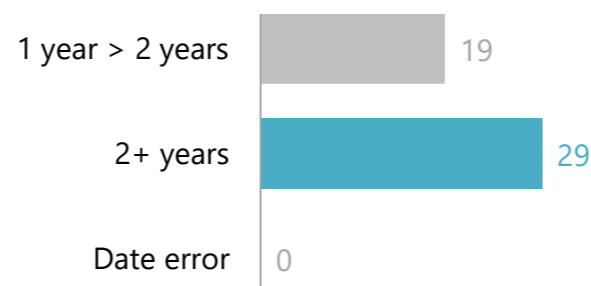
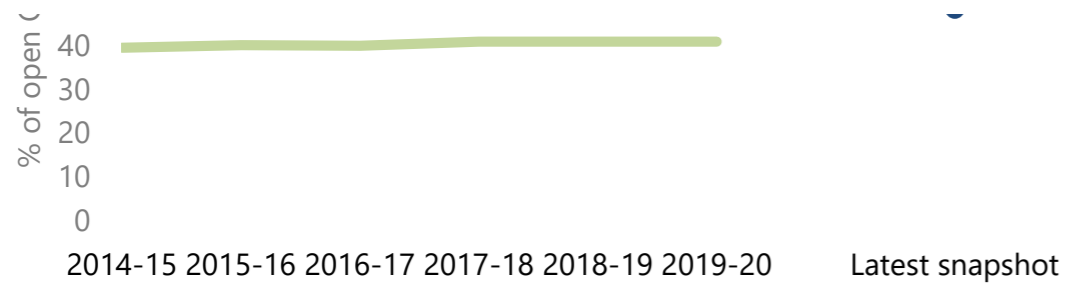
Duration of latest placement for each current CLA aged under 16 who have been looked after for 2½ years or more



Comparing long term placement stability







Children Looked After (CLA) health and missing/absent from placement

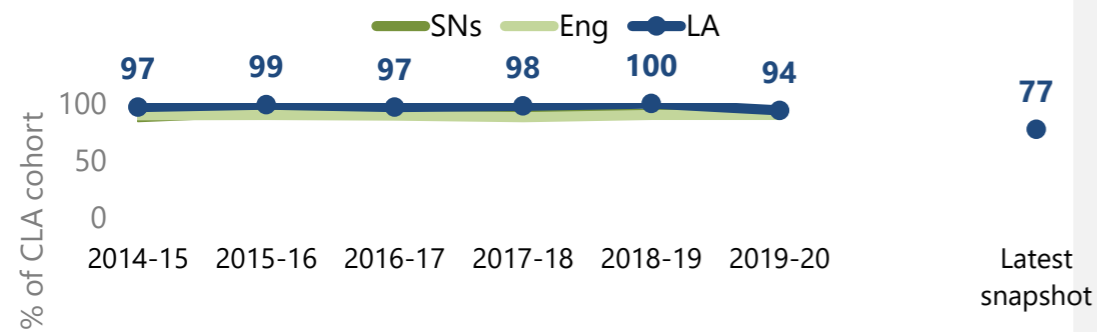
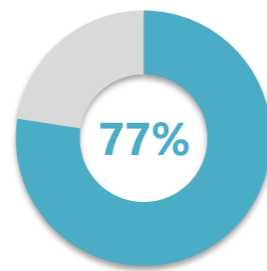
Snapshot 07/01/2023

Health

204 current open CLA looked after for at least 12 months

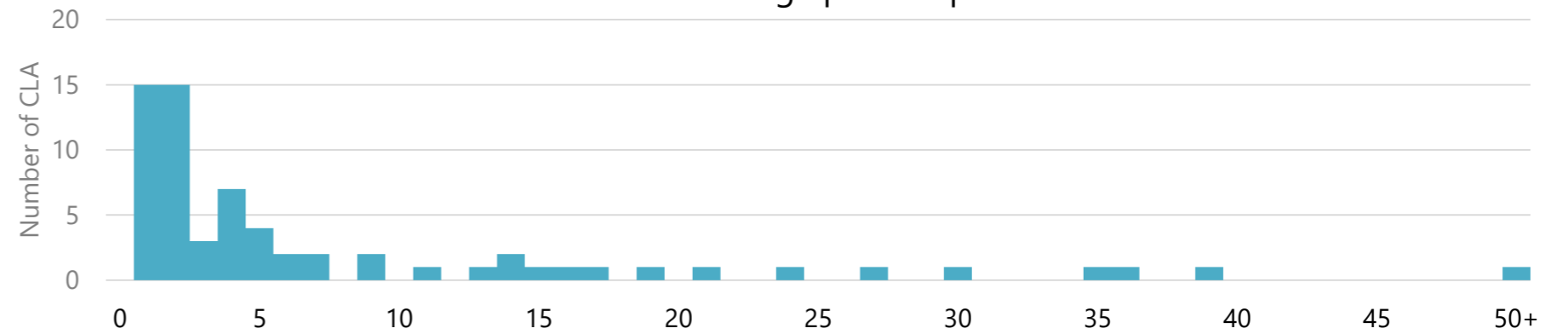
Health assessments

Current open CLA who have been looked after for at least 12 months with an up to date health assessment (in the last 6 months for CLA aged under 5, and in the last 12 months for CLA aged 5-plus)



Missing from placement

Number of missing episodes per CLA



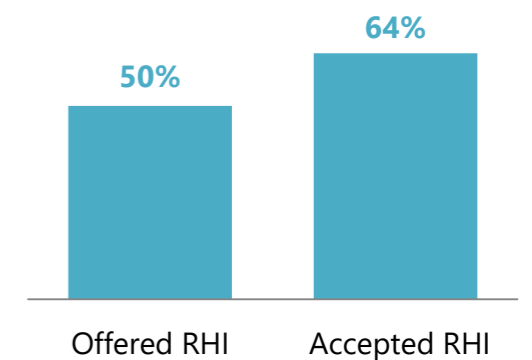
66 of 420 looked after children had a missing incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 19-20	SNs 19-20	Eng 19-20
Number of all CLA with a missing incident	66 of 420	81		
Percentage of all CLA with a missing incident	16%	16%	13%	11%
Total number of missing incidents for all CLA	529	542		
Average number of incidents per CLA who went missing	8.0	6.7	6.4	6.5

Missing incidents - return home interviews

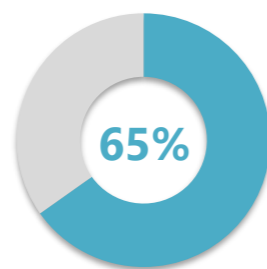
	Latest data	
Missing children offered return interview	33 of 66	50%
Missing children not offered return interview	26 of 66	39%
Missing children return interview offer not recorded	0 of 66	0%
Missing children where return interview was n/a	7 of 66	11%

	Latest data	
Missing children accepted return interview	21 of 33	64%
Missing children not accepted return interview	11 of 33	33%
Missing children return interview acceptance not recorded	1 of 33	3%



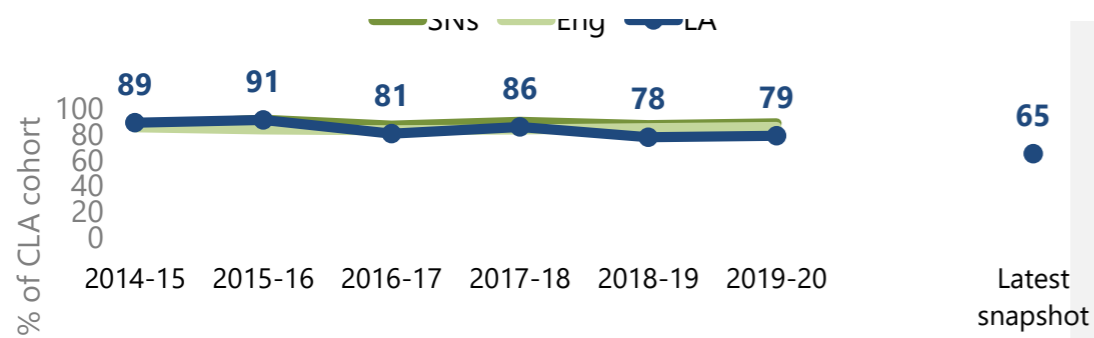
Dental checks

Current open CLA who have been looked after for at least 12 months who have had a dental check in the last 12 months.



SNs Eng LA

Absent from placement



## ABSENT FROM PLACEMENT

16 of 420 looked after children had an absent incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 19-20	SNs 19-20	Eng 19-20
Number of all CLA with an absent incident	16 of 420	51		
Percentage of all CLA with an absent incident	4%	10%	7%	3%
Total number of absent incidents for all CLA	83	240		
Average number of incidents per CLA who were absent	5.2	4.7	4.0	4.0

ChAT v6.0 - Data to Insight

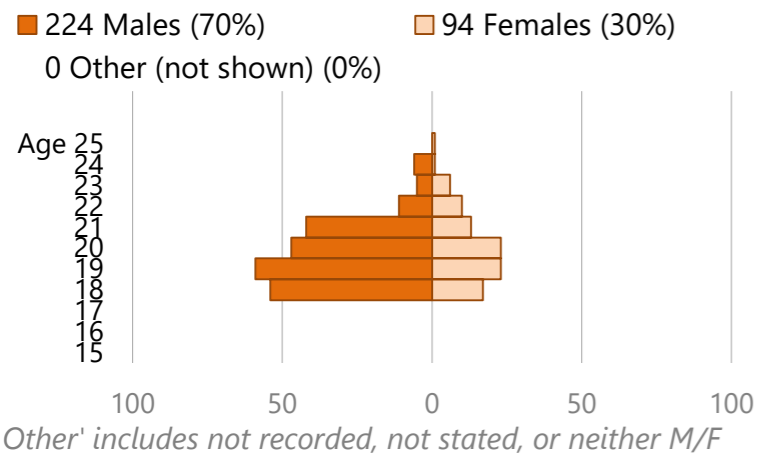
# Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

## Care leavers currently in receipt of leaving care services

Snapshot 07/01/2023

### 318 care leavers

#### Age and gender



#### Ethnic background

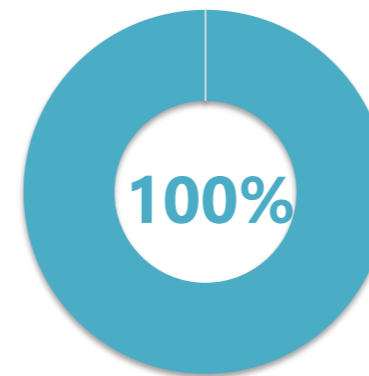
White	29%
Mixed	11%
Asian or Asian British	8%
Black or black British	20%
Other ethnic group	31%
Not stated	1%
Not recorded	0%

See page 22 for comparisons

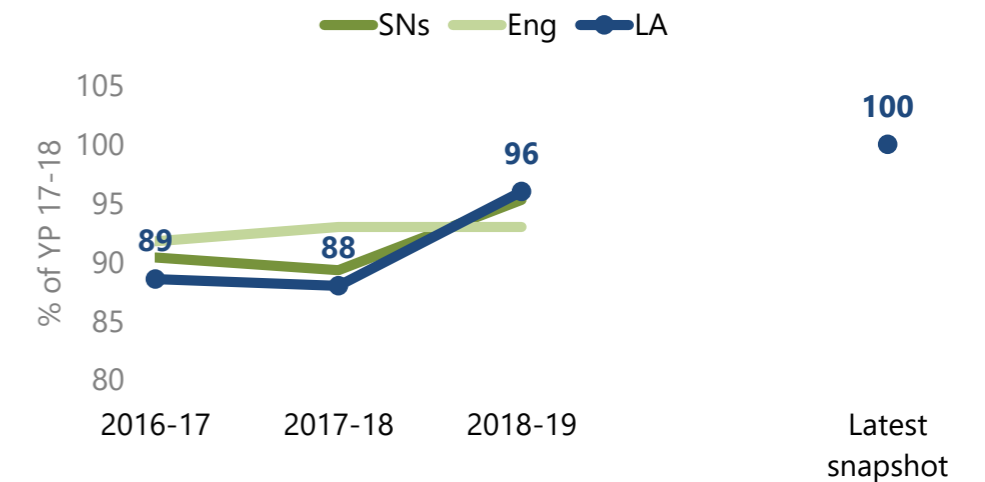
21 (7%) care leavers with a disability

#### LA in touch with 17-18 year olds

ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	0	70	70
LA in touch with YP	-	100%	100%

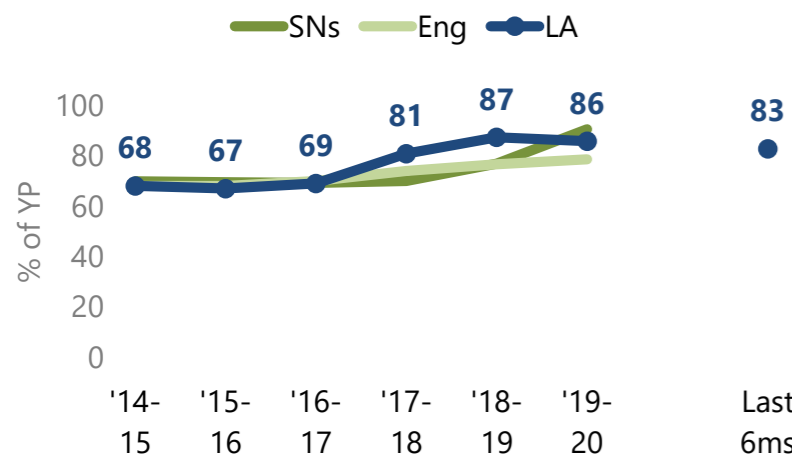


In touch  
Not in touch  
Not recorded



#### Remained in care until aged 18

YP who ceased to be looked after aged 16-plus who were looked after until their 18th birthday



#### Eligibility category

Relevant	0
Former relevant	314
Qualifying	2
Other	1
Not recorded	1

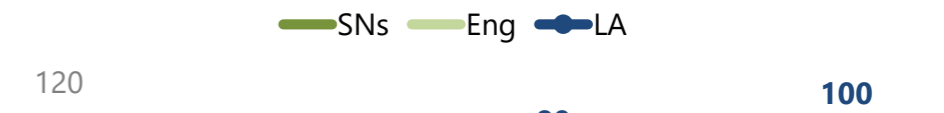
Relevant = YP aged 16-17 no longer looked after and eligible for leaving care services.

Former relevant = YP aged 18-25 eligible for leaving care services.

Qualifying = YP aged 18-25 in receipt of support but not eligible for full leaving care services.

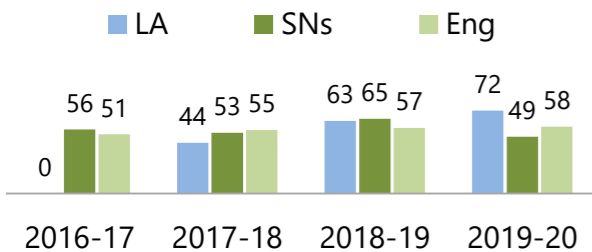
#### LA in touch with 19-21 year olds

ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	82	69	54	205
LA in touch with YP	100%	100%	100%	100%

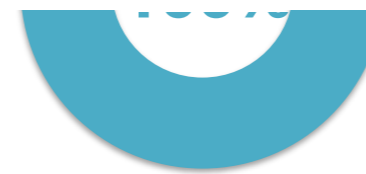
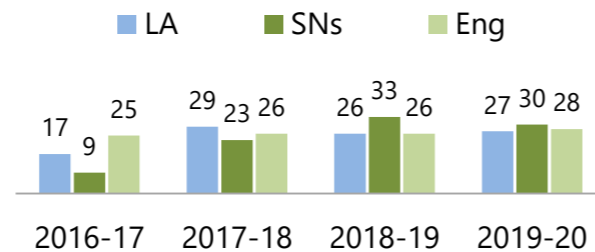


Remain with former foster care

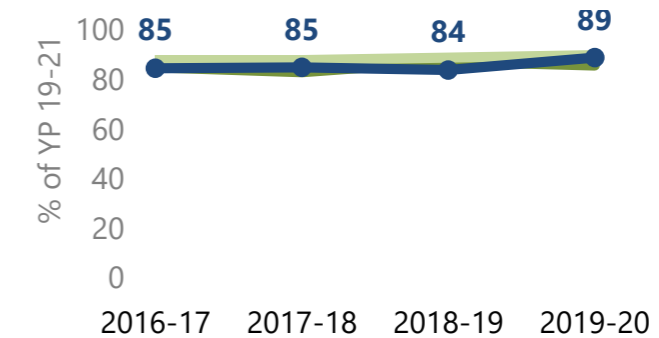
Aged 18



Aged 19-20



**In touch**  
Not in touch  
Not recorded



Latest snapshot

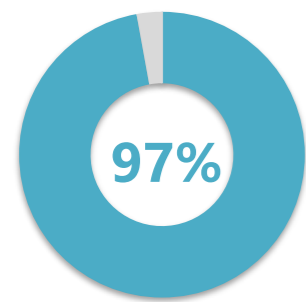
ChAT v6.0 - Data to Insight

Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

Care leavers accommodation suitability and type

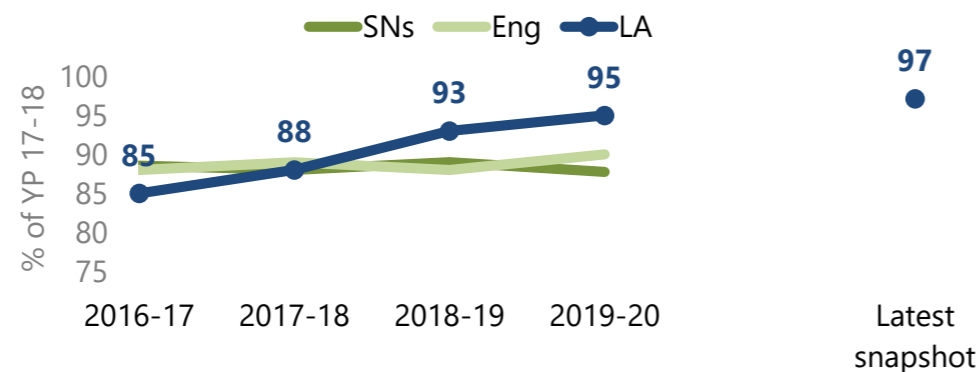
Snapshot 07/01/2023

Accommodation suitability of 17-18 year olds

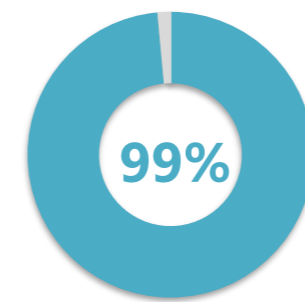


**Suitable accom**  
Not suitable  
No information

ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	0	70	70
In suitable accommodation	-	97%	97%

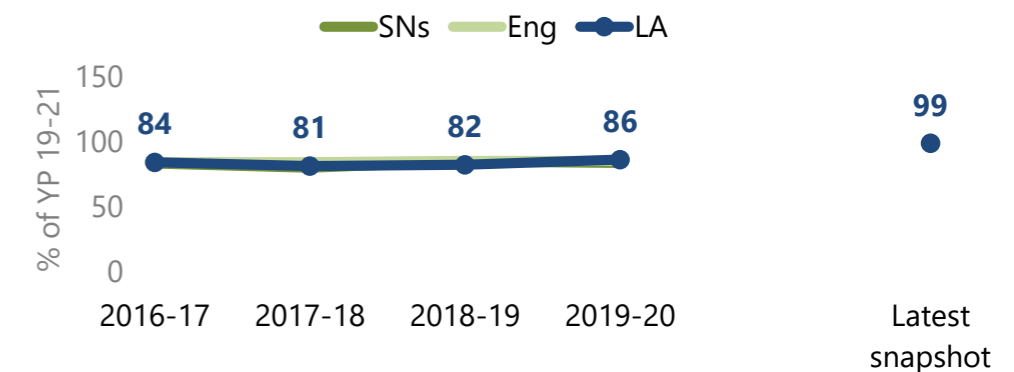


Accommodation suitability of 19-21 year olds

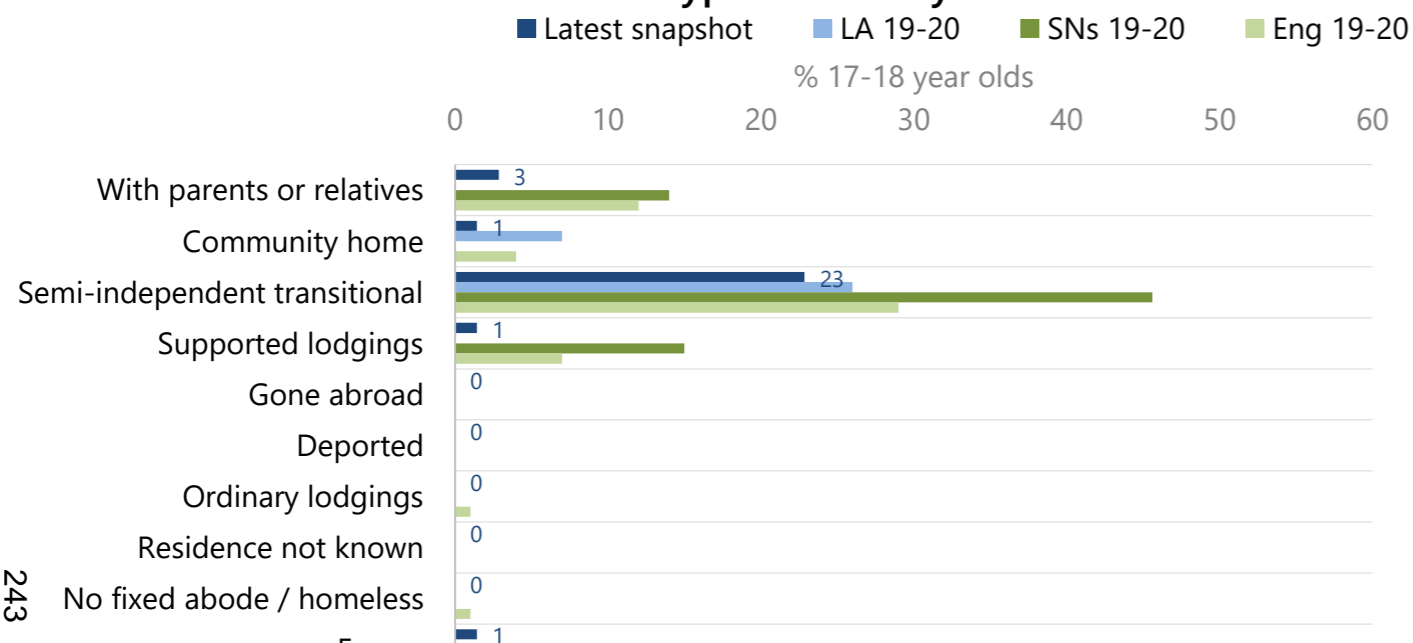


**Suitable accom**  
Not suitable  
No information

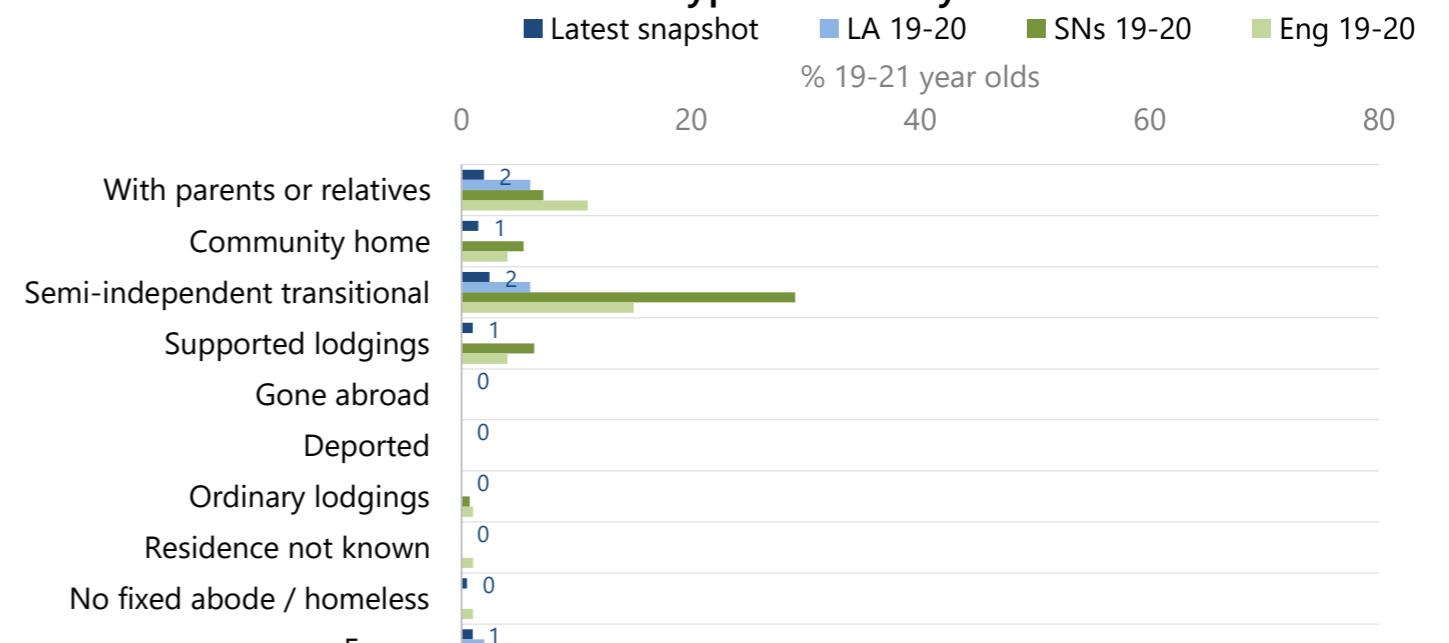
ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	82	69	54	205
In suitable accommodation	99%	99%	98%	99%

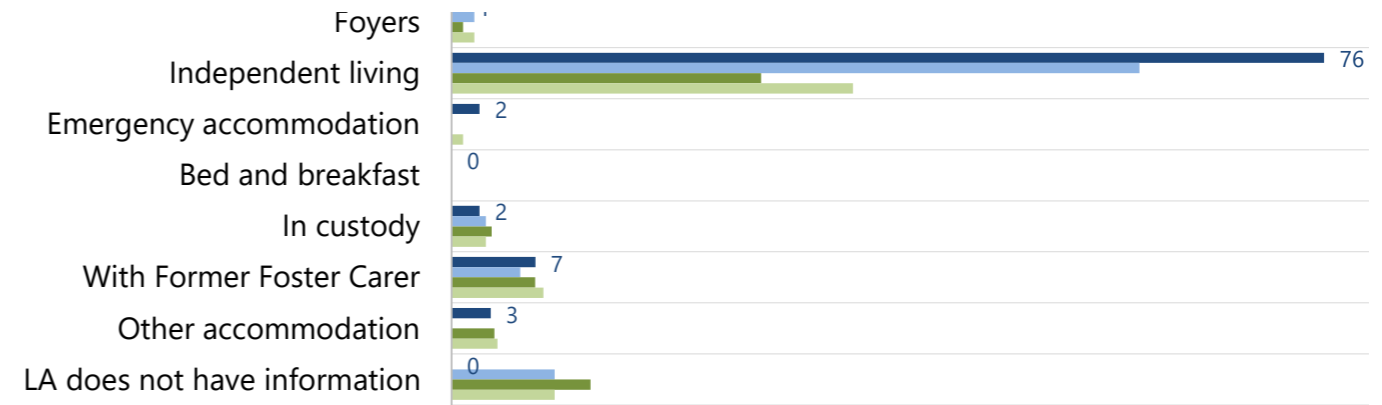
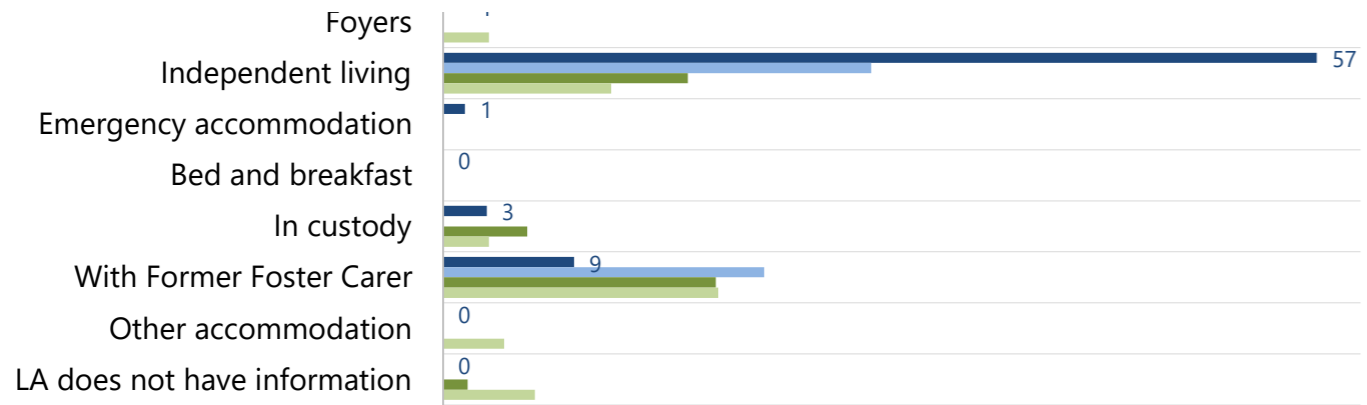


Accommodation types of 17-18 year olds



Accommodation types of 19-21 year olds





ChAT v6.0 - Data to Insight

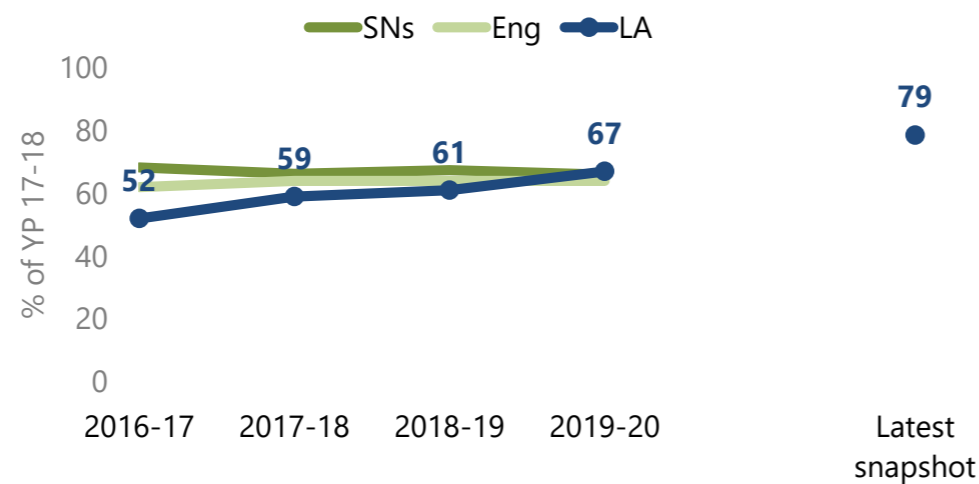
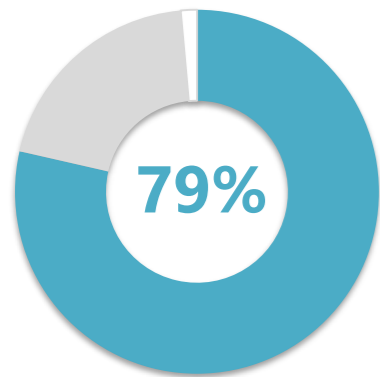
# Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

## Care leavers activity (Education, Employment, or Training)

Snapshot 07/01/2023

### Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 17-18 year olds

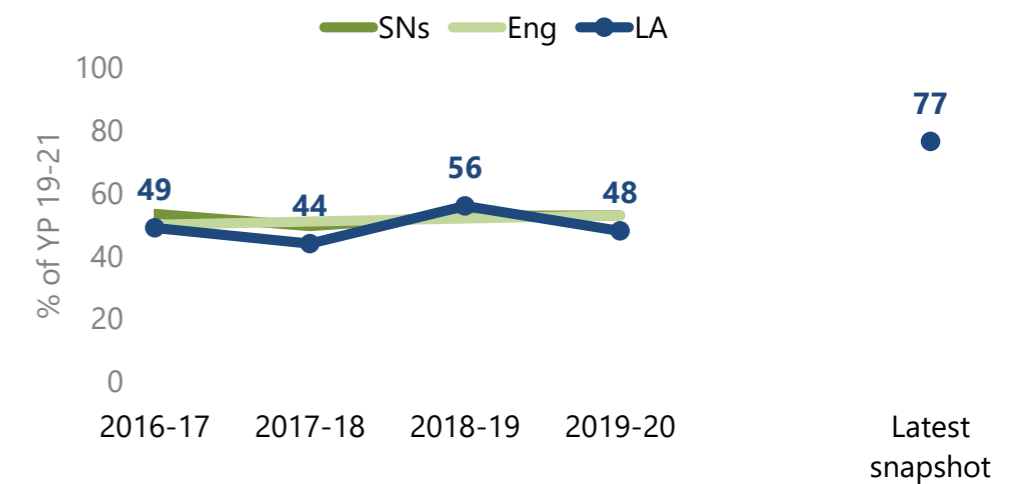
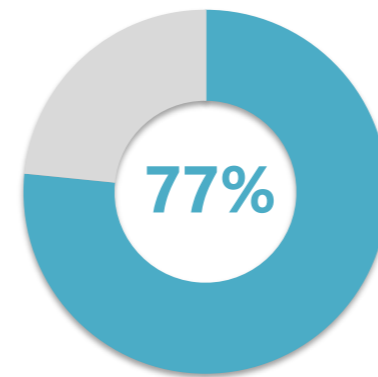
ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	0	70	70
In EET	-	79%	79%



■ YP in EET ■ NEET  
□ No info

### Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 19-21 year olds

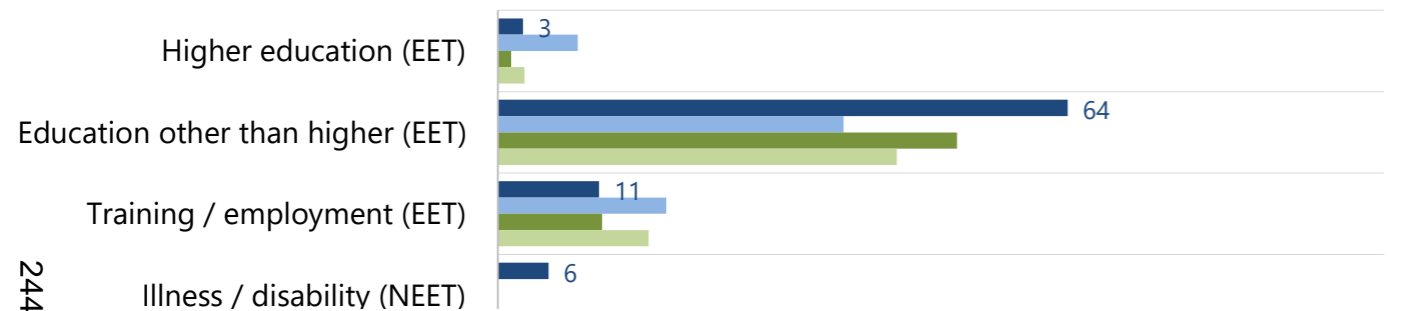
ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	82	69	54	205
In EET	82%	72%	74%	77%



■ YP in EET ■ NEET  
□ No info

### Activity types of 17-18 year olds

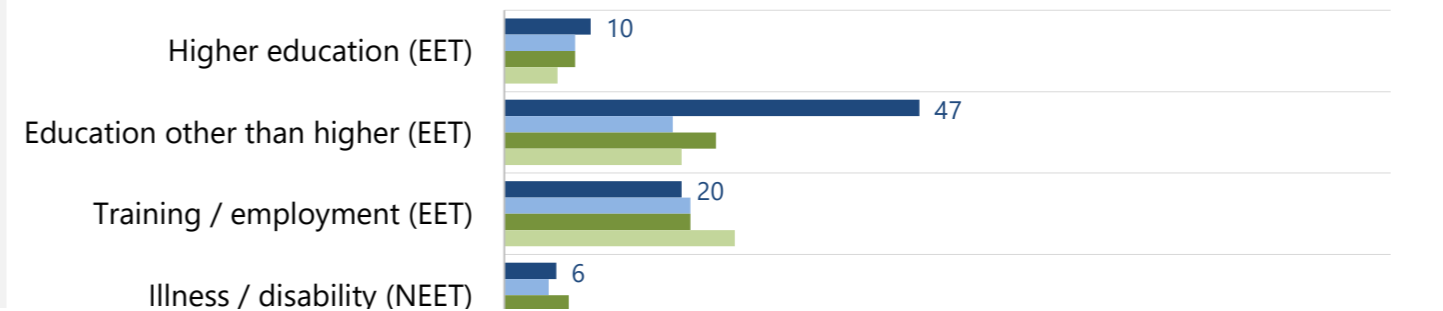
■ Latest snapshot ■ LA 19-20 ■ SNs 19-20 ■ Eng 19-20  
% 17-18 year olds

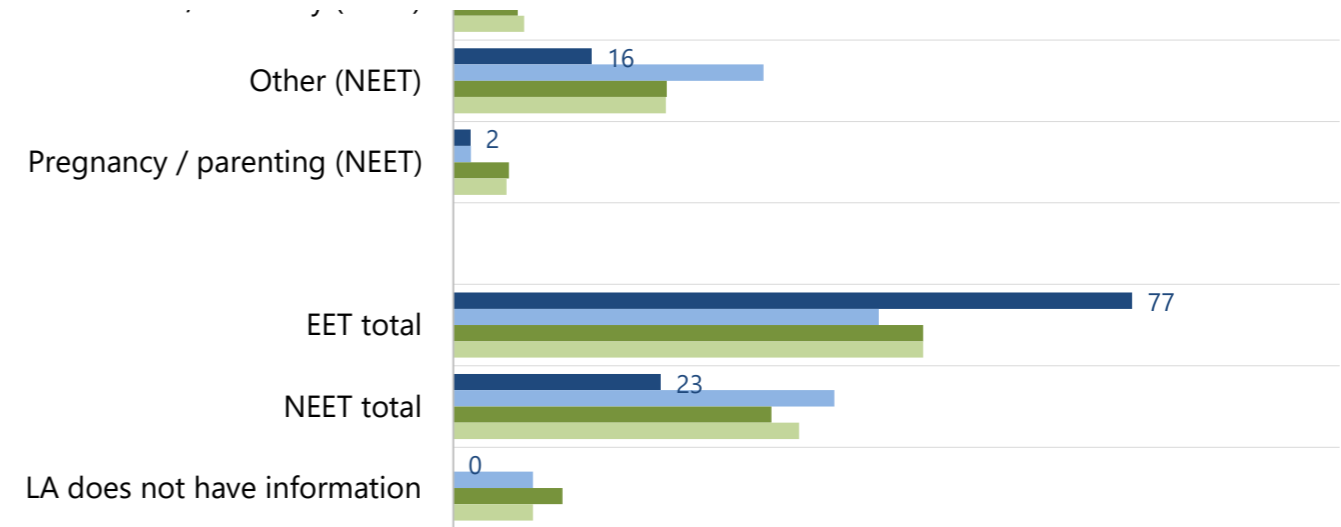
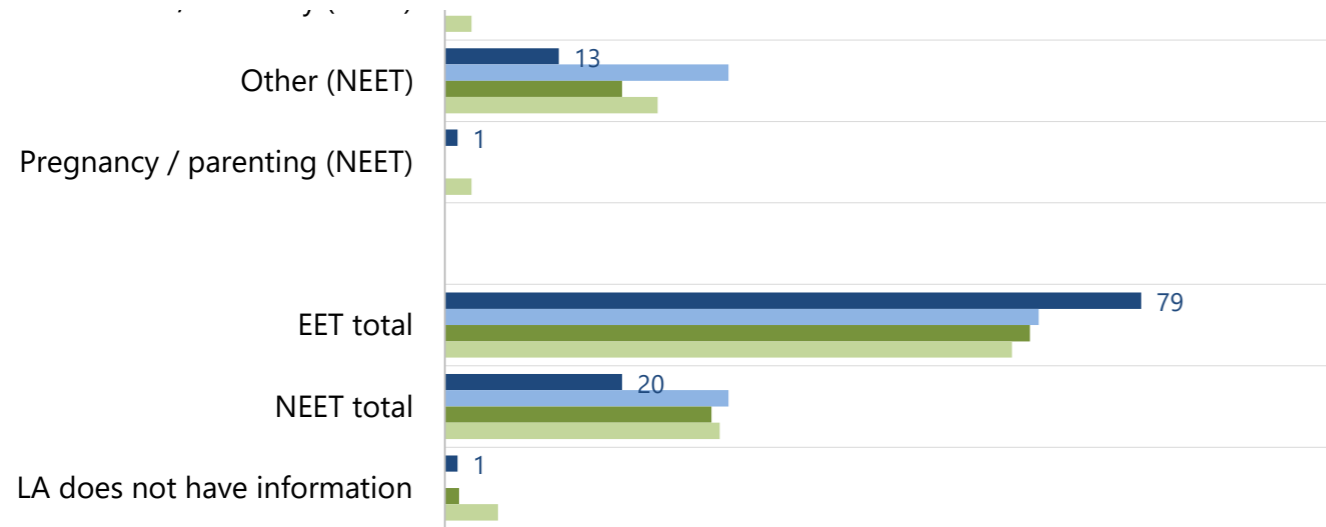


244

### Activity types of 19-21 year olds

■ Latest snapshot ■ LA 19-20 ■ SNs 19-20 ■ Eng 19-20  
% 19-21 year olds





Children adopted, waiting to be adopted, or had an adoption decision reversed in the last 12 months from 08/01/2022 to 07/01/2023

### 44 children

- 7 Child/ren adopted last 12 months
- 30 Child/ren waiting to be adopted
- (5 Child/ren waiting with placement order)
- 2 Child/ren with decision reversed

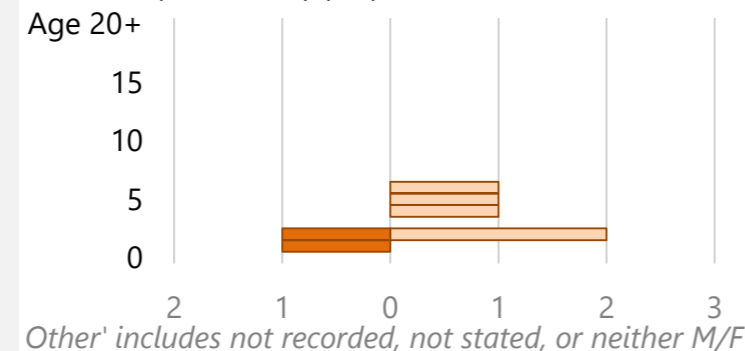
#### Ethnic background

White	55%
Mixed	23%
Asian or Asian British	9%
Black or black British	2%
Other ethnic group	0%
Not stated	0%
Not recorded	0%

See page 22 for comparisons

#### Age and gender

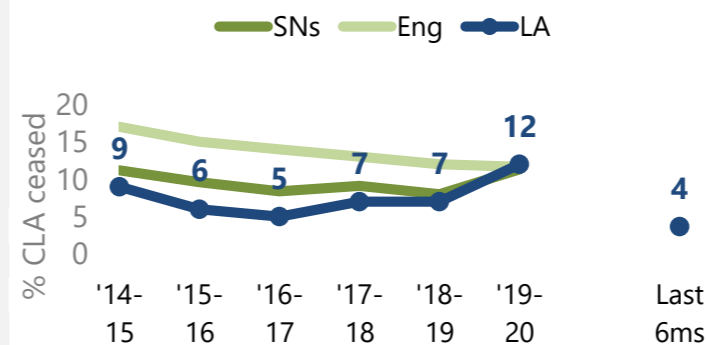
- 2 Males (29%)
- 5 Females (71%)
- 0 Other (not shown) (0%)



1 children (2%) with a disability

Of the 82 children who ceased to be looked after in the last 6 months, 3 was/were adopted (4%)

#### Children ceased who were adopted



#### Children aged 5-plus who were adopted

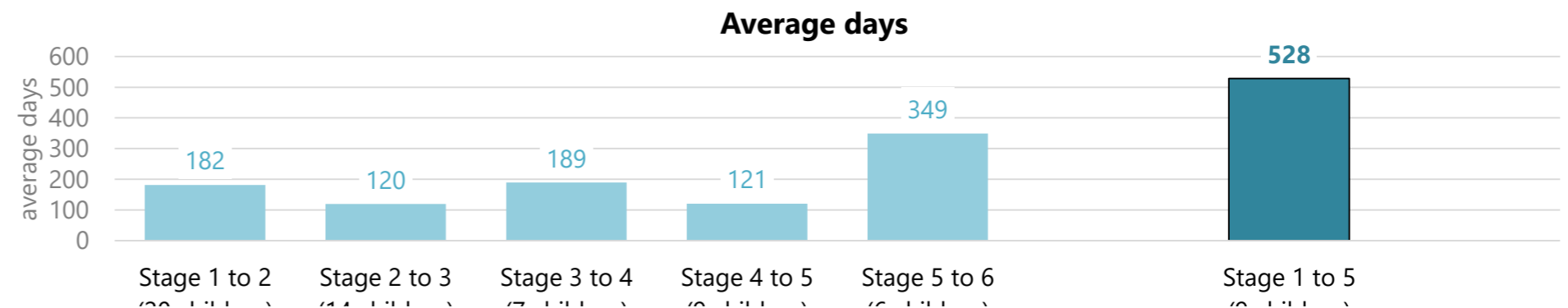
0% 0 of the 68 children aged 5-plus who ceased to be looked after in the last 6 months were adopted

#### Comparing 5-plus adoptions

LA last 6 months	0.0%
LA 2013-16 (3 yr average)	2.0%
SNs 2013-16 (3 yr average)	5.0%
Eng 2013-16 (3 yr average)	5.0%

### Timeliness of each stage of the adoption process

Average duration of each stage (number of days)



**Stage 1** Child entered care

**Stage 2** Decision that child should be placed for adoption

**Stage 3** Placement order granted

(20 children)

(14 children)

(7 children)

(9 children)

(6 children)

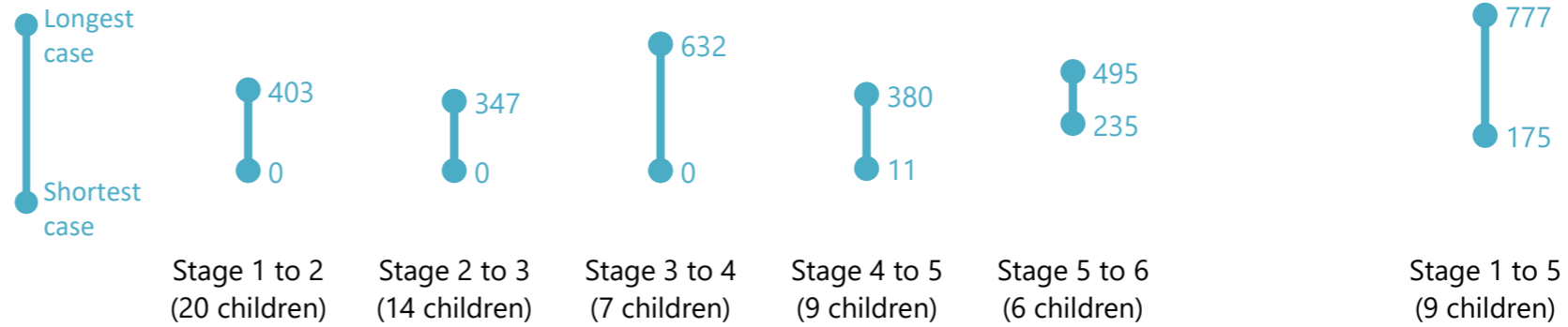
(9 children)

Range in days between shortest and longest cases at each stage

**Stage 4** Matching child and prospective adopters

**Stage 5** Placed for adoption

**Stage 6** Adoption order granted



ChAT v6.0 - Data to Insight

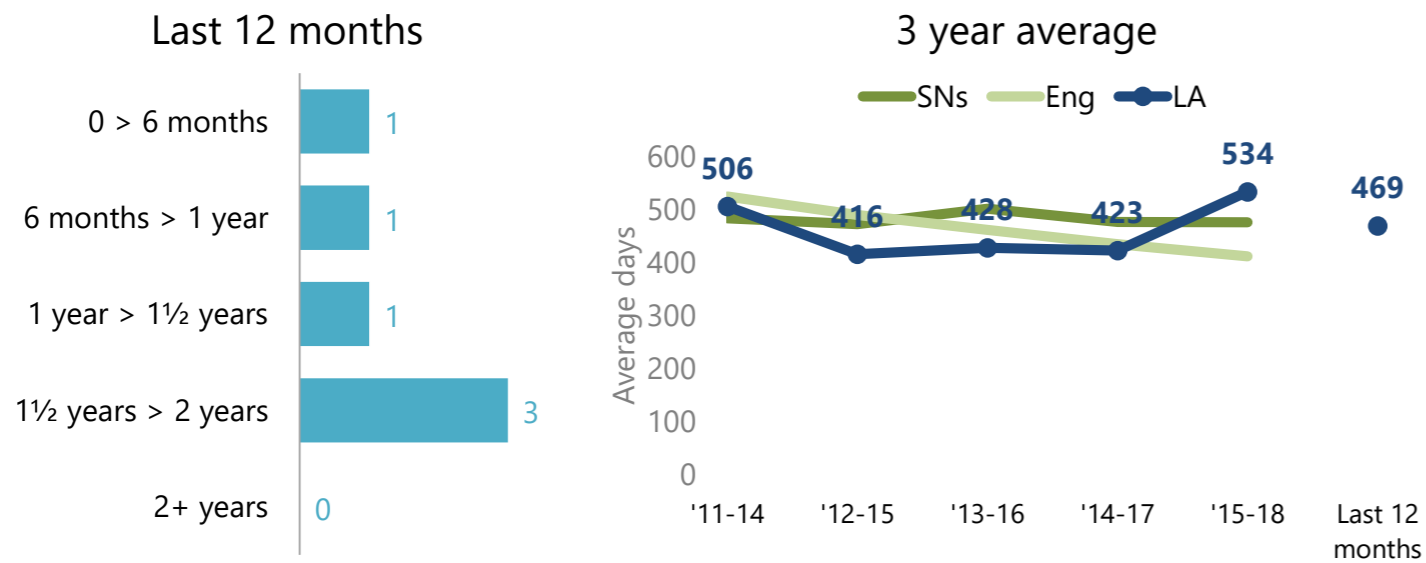
# Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

## Adoption benchmarking

from 08/01/2022  
to 07/01/2023

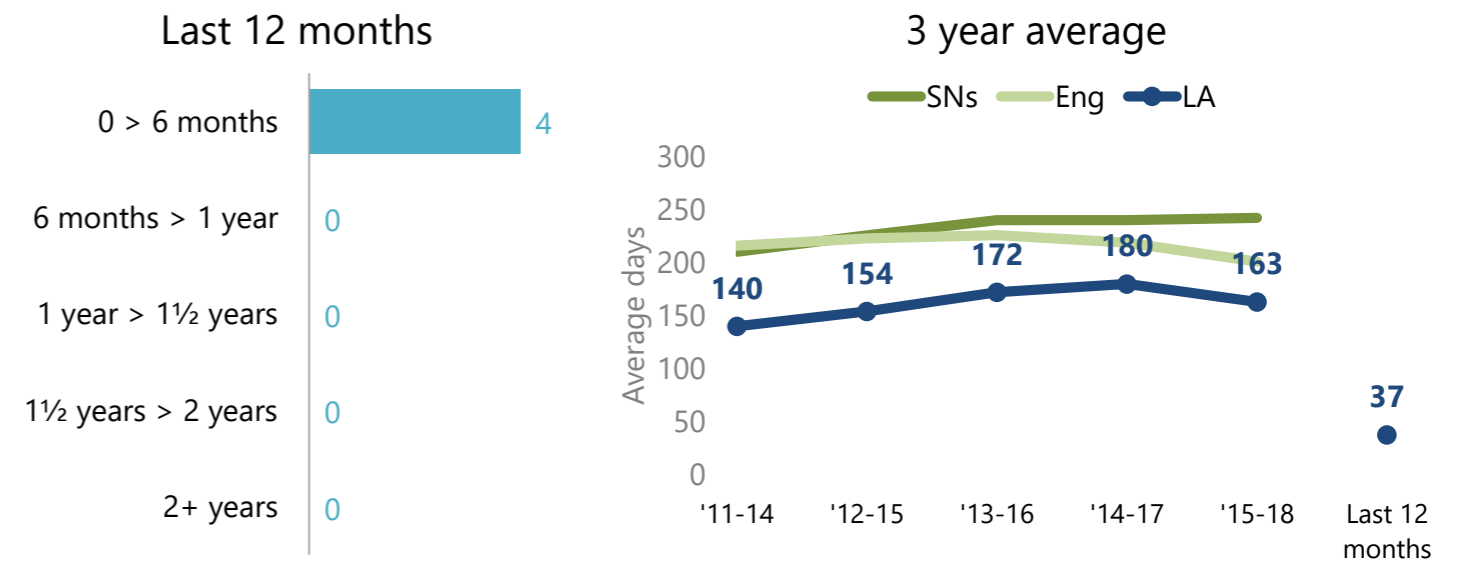
### (A10) Time between entering care and placed with family for adopted children

**469 days** Average number of days between entering care and moving in with adoptive family for adopted children (adjusted for foster carer adoptions)  
**7 children**



### (A2) Time between placement order and deciding on a match

**37 days** The average number of days from the date of the placement order to the date the child was matched to prospective adopters  
**4 children**



### (A3) Time between entering care and placed for adoption

**42%** Children placed who waited less than the threshold between entering care and being placed for adoption (threshold: 14 months for 2013-16)  
**15/36 children**

### (A5) Permanence decision changed away from adoption

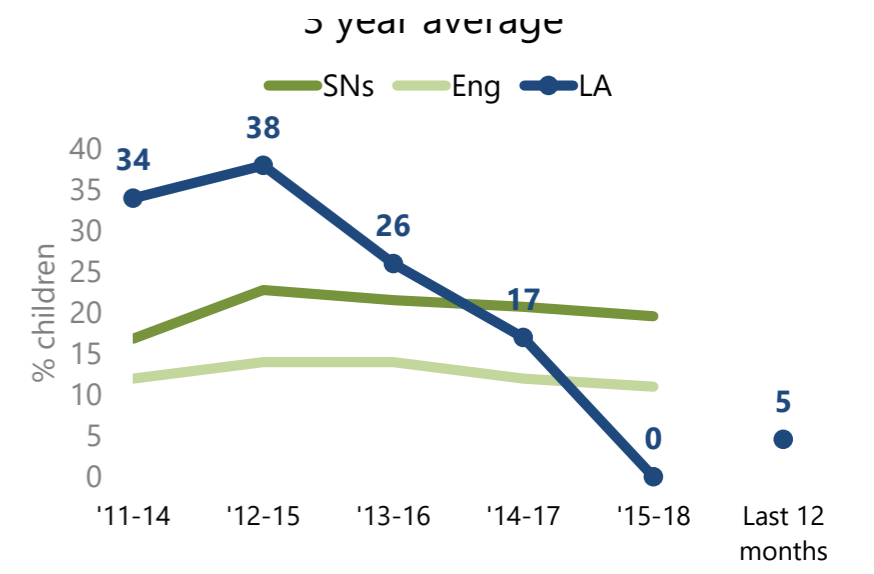
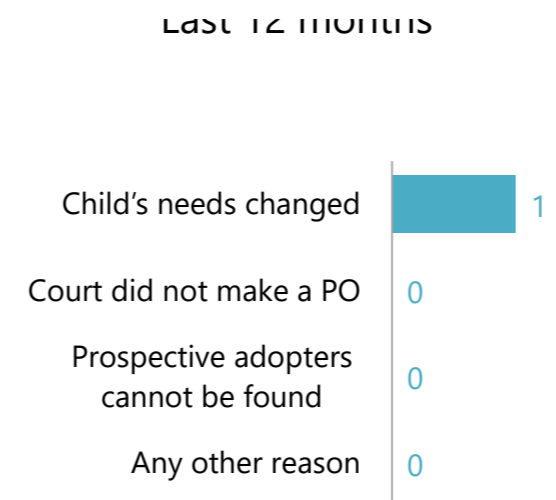
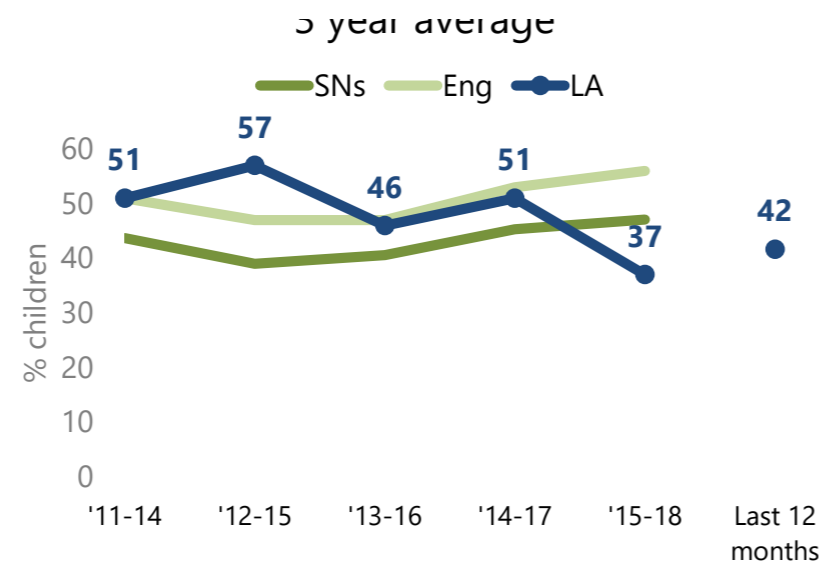
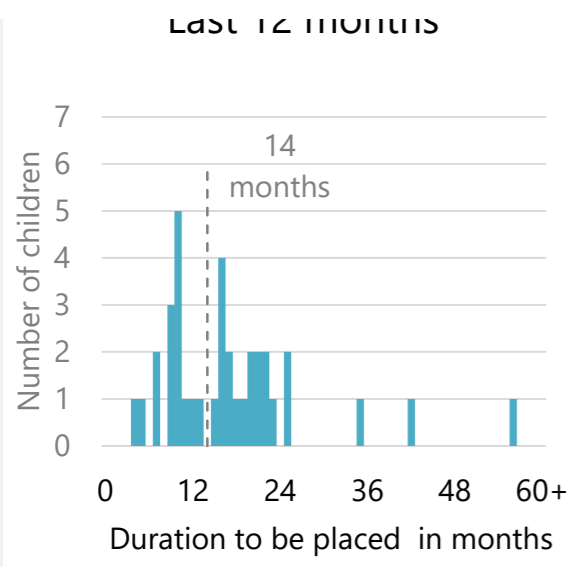
**5%** Children where there was a decision that the child should no longer be placed for adoption  
**2/44 children**

Last 12 months

3 year average

Last 12 months

3 year average

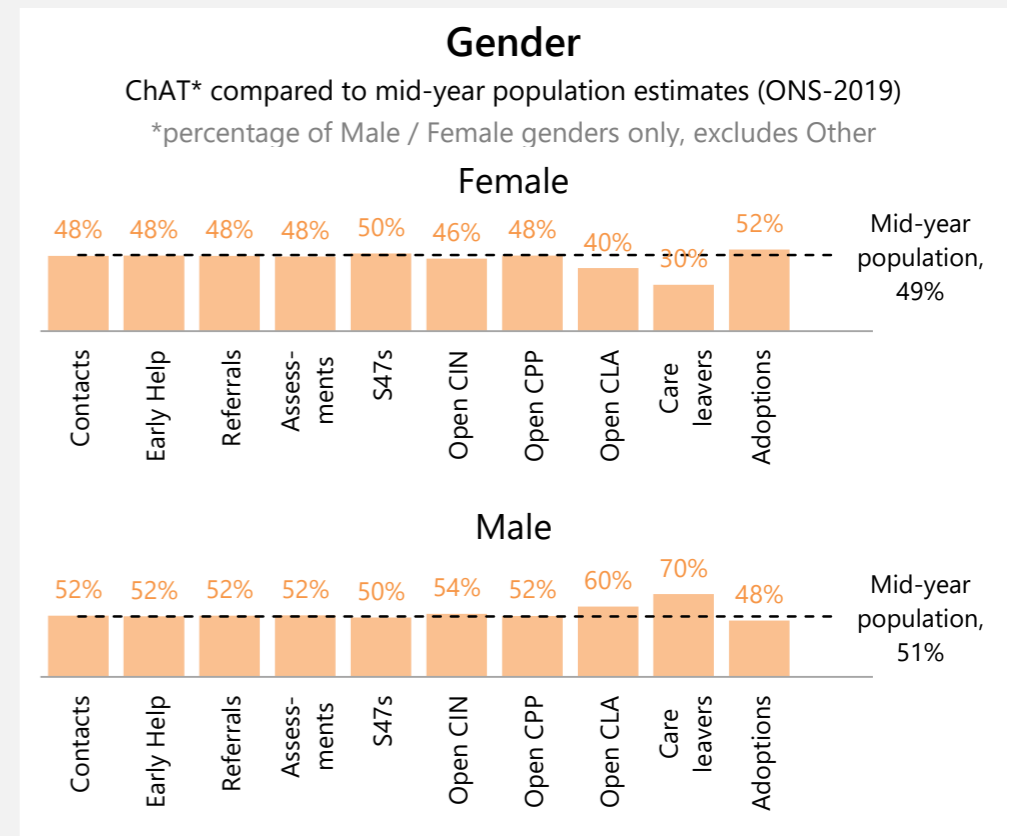
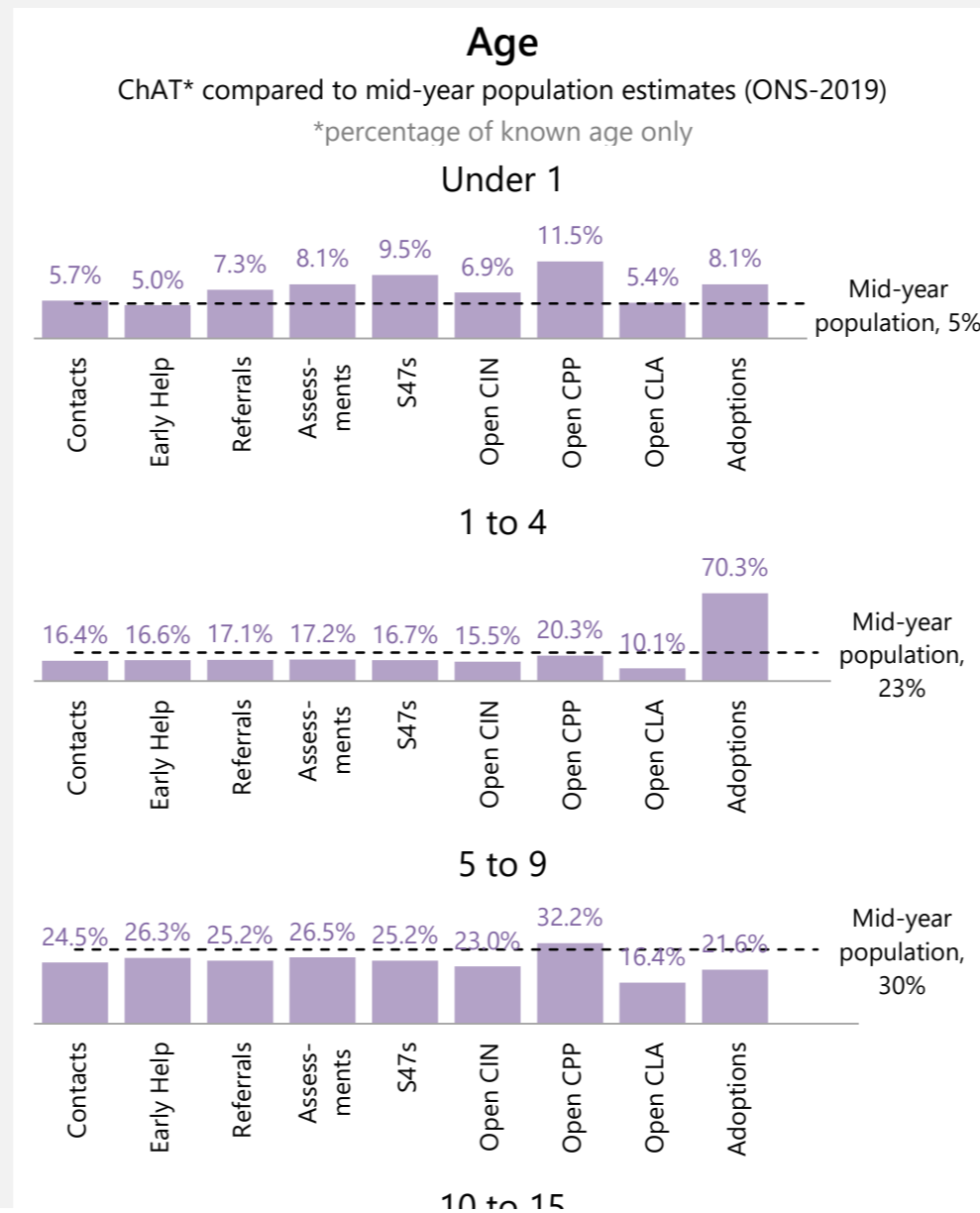
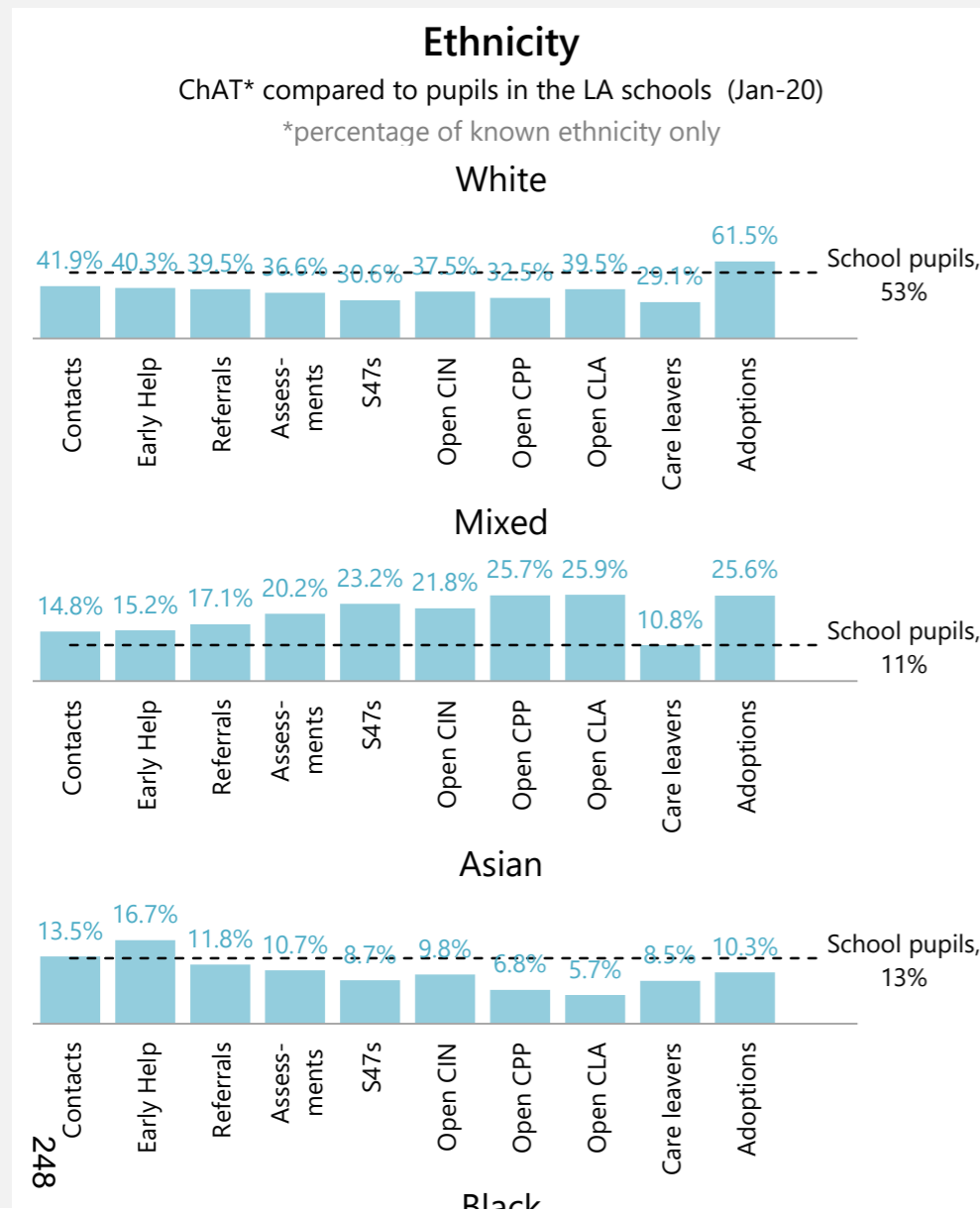


ChAT v6.0 - Data to Insight

**DATA NOW HELD BY THE REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY**

## Demographics of children across all areas of children's social care

Snapshot 07/01/2023

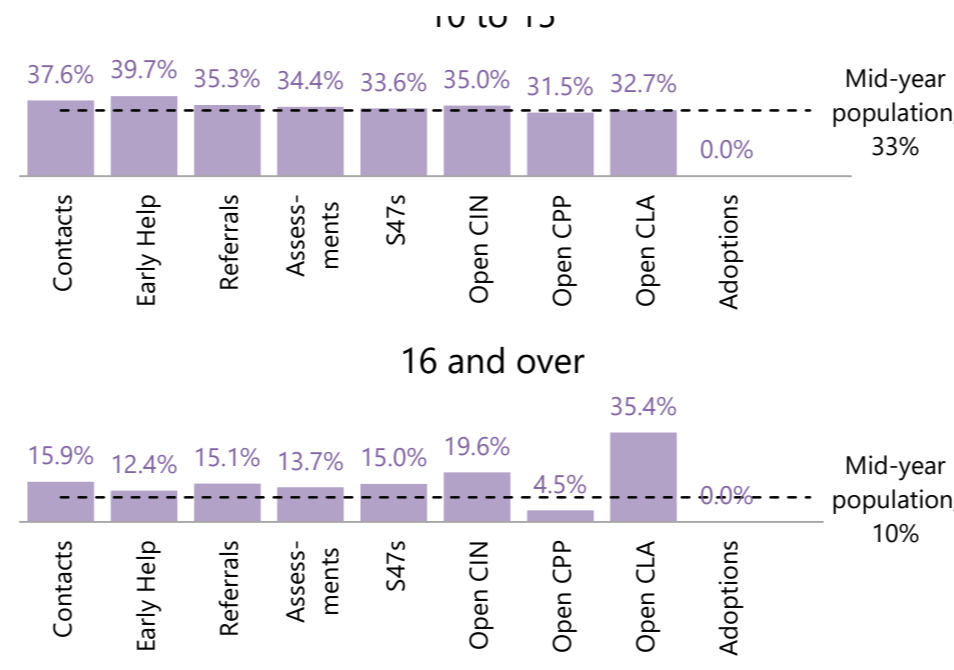
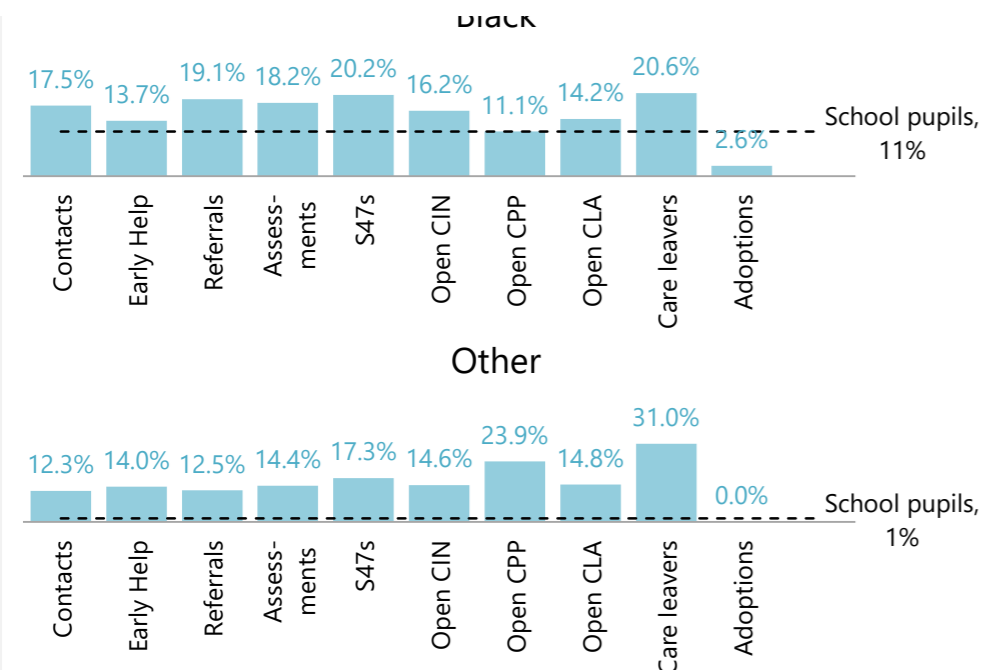


### Comparing CLA demographics

CLA figures compared to published population statistics

	LA Latest snapshot			LA 2020			Eng 2020		
	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference
White	39	53	lower -26%	39	53	lower -26%	74	74	no dif 0%
Mixed	26	11	higher 137%	22	11	higher 104%	10	6	higher 59%





Age	LA Latest snapshot	LA 2020	Eng 2020						
	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference
Under 1	5	5	higher 2%	5	5	lower -4%	5	5	lower -3%
1 to 4	10	23	lower -56%	10	23	lower -56%	14	22	lower -37%
5 to 9	16	30	lower -45%	13	30	lower -56%	18	29	lower -39%
10 to 15	33	33	higher 1%	35	33	higher 7%	39	33	higher 18%
16-plus	35	10	higher 264%	36	10	higher 270%	24	10	higher 139%

Gender	LA Latest snapshot	LA 2020	Eng 2020						
	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference
Male	60	51	higher 16%	59	51	higher 15%	56	51	higher 9%
Female	40	49	lower -17%	41	49	lower -16%	44	49	lower -10%

ChAT v6.0 - Data to Insight

# Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

## Comparisons of headline figures and performance data to published statistics

The table below shows the Local Authority's latest data for each indicator as calculated in ChAT, and the direction of travel since the latest published statistics (where available).

Decreasing, low is good

Increasing, high is good

No change, not RAG rated

Lowest 25% quartile, low is good

Highest 25% quartile, high is good

Mid 50% range, not RAG-rated

Indicator	Latest data (ChAT)		Latest published statistics for all local authorities					
	LA	Direction of travel	LA	SNs	Eng	LA compared to mid-50% range of all LAs		Date
Referrals received (annual rate per 10,000 of children)	319	Increase	300	531	535	Lower		2019-20
Referrals to social care that were within 12 months of a previous referral (%)	12	Decrease	16	19	21	Lower		2019-20
Assessments completed (annual rate per 10,000 of children)	236	Decrease	328	537	554	Lower		2019-20
Assessments completed within 45 working days (%)	67	Decrease	84	84	84	In range		2019-20
Children subject to section 47 enquiries (annual rate per 10,000 of children)	90	Increase	80	157	167	Lower		2019-20
Children subject of an initial child protection conference (annual rate per 10,000 of children)	36	Increase	27	55	64	Lower		2019-20
Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 working days of the start of the section 47 enquiry (%)	78	Decrease	80	83	78	In range		2019-20
Children in need (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	172	Decrease	198	317	324	Lower		2019-20
Children who are the subject of a child protection plan (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	31	Increase	17	37	43	Lower		2019-20
Children who became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (%)	16	Increase	12	20	22	Lower		2019-20
Children who ceased to be on a CP plan whose plan lasted 2 years or more (%)	11	-	c	5	4	Higher		2019-20
Children who are looked after (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	36	Increase	35	45	67	Lower		2019-20

Children looked after who had a missing incident in the period (%)	<b>16</b>	Decrease	◀	16	13	11	Higher	○	2019-20
Children looked after who were away without authorisation in the period (%)	<b>4</b>	Decrease	◀	10	7	3	Higher	○	2019-20
Children looked after who had their teeth checked by a dentist in the last 12 months (%)	<b>65</b>	Decrease	◀	79	89	86	Lower	○	2019-20
Children looked after who had their annual health assessment (%)	<b>77</b>	Decrease	◀	94	93	90	In range	○	2019-20
Children who ceased to be looked after in the period who were adopted (%)	<b>4</b>	Decrease	◀	12	11	12	In range	○	2019-20
Children who ceased to be looked after in the period due to a Special Guardianship Order (%)	<b>10</b>	-	↑ ↑	-	-	-	Higher	○	2019-20
Children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday (%)	<b>83</b>	Decrease	◀	86	90	79	In range	○	2019-20
Care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation (%)	<b>99</b>	Increase	▶	86	84	85	In range	○	2019-20
Care leavers aged 19-21 in education, employment, or training (%)	<b>77</b>	Increase	▶	48	53	53	In range	○	2019-20
A1 - Average time between entering care and moving in with family for children who were adopted (days)	<b>469</b>	Decrease	◀	576	577	486	Higher	○	2015-18
A2 - Average time between LA receiving placement order and LA deciding on a match with family (days)	<b>37</b>	Decrease	◀	163	242	201	In range	○	2015-18























































By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Agenda Annex

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Clive House  
70 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9EX

14 December 2022

T 0300 123 1231  
Textphone 0161 618 8524  
[enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Direct T: 03000 130420  
Alt T: 03000 131876  
[Naintara.Khosla@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:Naintara.Khosla@ofsted.gov.uk)  
[correspondencelondon@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:correspondencelondon@ofsted.gov.uk)

Chris Munday  
Executive Director Children's Services  
Barnet Council  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale  
NW9 4EW  
[chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk)

**Attendees:**

Chris Munday - Executive Director Children's Services  
Tina McElligot - Director Early Help & Children's Social Care Services  
Brigitte Jordaan - Director of Children Social Care – Family Services  
Collette McCarthy - Assistant Director Commissioning  
Grace Walker - Head of Strategy, Insight and Commissioning  
Ben Thomas - Assistant Director Education, Strategy and Partnership  
Neil Marlow, Director of Education and Learning for Barnet Education and Learning Service  
Naintara Khosla, HMI Social Care, Ofsted London region  
John Mitchell, Senior HMI Social Care, Ofsted London region  
Gaynor Roberts, Senior HMI, Education Ofsted London region

Dear Chris,

**Social care and education annual engagement meeting held on 2 December 2022**

**Social care**

Thank you for the documents you shared in advance of the Annual Engagement Meeting. We are grateful for the time you have taken to meet with us in person. Your self-evaluation and performance information were comprehensive and provided good insights into your work across practice and performance, setting out your ambitions across the service. The discussion confirmed that as leaders you know your services well, identifying your areas of strength with capacity to also reflect on issues raised in the course of our meeting. You highlighted that although there have been changes in the council's leadership and new members, there is strong support for children's services and understanding of their role as corporate parents. There are budget pressures across agencies; however, Barnet Council is benefitting from a better-than-expected financial settlement from government. Barnet has experienced several inspection visits, including the area SEND inspection and a Youth Offending Service inspection. These inspections have been positive, and the findings reflect the strong offer to children and families in Barnet.

You reported the early help offer in Barnet is meeting children's needs and provides a seamless service delivered with families. The continuum of the early help services allows staff to maintain relationships with families if they step up to statutory social work services. The service offered to children is informed by the parents' champion network and a variety of commissioned parenting programmes. You have sought to strengthen the service with

the opening of a psychologist-led Early Years Parenting Hub (EYPH), a multi-disciplinary, multi-family assessment and parenting intervention service for families with children aged 0-5 which is supporting assessments of children subject to Public Law Outline and providing intensive parenting interventions for families in the early help system where change has not been achieved through broader parenting programmes.

Assessments undertaken in early help are also used in Public Law Outline processes. You were able to confirm that whilst proceedings were taking too long to conclude, there are no difficulties in the availability of initial hearing dates for children who need protection. You have identified some areas for further development including providing early support to families who were in conflict to reduce the impact on children of relationship breakdown; and to focus on the reduction of youth violence, which is a particular issue for London.

There have been increases in the number of contacts and referrals. You were able to explain the high numbers of contacts that children have prior to referral, and this is an area which you are reviewing as a single contact creates multiple data entries. You noted that strong practice in early help was contributing to reducing the length of time for children subject to child protection plans. You considered it would be helpful to review repeat child protection plans, so that any impact on the child was analysed.

You mentioned that a peer review had been undertaken of the LADO service and this was positive. We mentioned the LADO had a role, not only to decide threshold for investigation, but also to provide information and advice to agencies who were unfamiliar with navigating the complex LADO safeguarding landscape.

Caseloads in Barnet are being managed carefully to ensure there is sufficient capacity. At times, they are impacted by agency staff leaving, or tardiness with record closures. You reported caseloads are currently of up to 25 children for social workers in the assessment teams (children in need and child protection) and 12 -14 children for social workers in the children in care service. You reported that you have sufficient social workers and are seeking to ensure you have an attractive employment offer which incorporates 'Barnet Flex'. You emphasised your commitment to maintaining the agreements across London on agency social worker payments rates and you told us that you have continued to recruit and retain permanent social workers through the successful "Grow Your Own" strategy, which includes an effective training offer. Recruiting social workers remains a challenge both locally and nationally however.

There are four Home Office hotels and a plan for a fifth is in development. Barnet is welcoming foreign nationals from Hong Kong and Ukraine. Families can access the early help offer and there is currently no demand for child protection or statutory services from these families, and no noticeable pressure on school places for the families and children in the hotels.

You reflect much pride in your children with disabilities service with effective partnership working, a strong schools offer and increased short breaks provision. The positive outcome of the SEND inspection confirmed the strengths in the Barnet offer for children with SEND.

You have embedded a Specialist Autism team within the service and have created this year an additional Advanced Practitioner and social work post to increase capacity within this team.

There are some pressures in placement sufficiency; however, you told us of your plans to continue to promote the recruitment of foster carers and create new provision for older children. There is one child under the age of 16 years in unregistered accommodation and you agreed to confirm the circumstances of a 16-year-old child who was in an unregistered home. There are plans in place for the registration of homes for 16- and 17-year-olds, as well as the significant focus, led by Barnet, to develop a new 24 bedded welfare secure children's home for London. You described your approach to supporting placement stability, which is improving. You told us that permanency planning is well embedded and reflected in your strong early permanency practice. In relation to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), you are not yet at your 0.1% capacity and have notified the Home Office of your willingness to provide accommodation for more children. The hotels have accommodated some UASC who were children and you have accommodated these young people on referral and completed age assessments.

## **Education**

You told us that school leaders value the support they receive from central services and that they have demonstrated this in their willingness, via Schools Forum, to provide additional de-delegated funding to match that which has been lost from the removal of the school improvement grant.

Currently, almost all schools in the borough are good or better. You provided helpful updates on the two primary schools that require improvement and are confident that these will be good at their next inspection. You are mindful of inspection outcomes; particularly where formerly exempt outstanding schools have been inspected and judged as good. You support schools in managing parental expectations in this respect. The three grammar schools have recently been inspected, two retaining their outstanding status. This has been difficult for leaders in the third grammar school.

You have analysed the provisional 2022 data and have identified areas to focus on, including early years and key stage 1 outcomes. Also, relatively weaker results in writing at key stage 2 had an impact on the proportion of children reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics in 2022. You have looked at this closely and consider that writing assessments, which are carried out by teachers, are accurate. You are rightly proud of the results achieved by pupils at the end of key stage 4, ranking in the top 10 boroughs in England.

Following the COVID lockdowns, you have noticed that vulnerable children have achieved stronger results than in pre-pandemic years and those with high prior attainment did less well. You have a clear rationale for how the pandemic and resulting school closures has contributed to this. You continue to monitor the performance of Black pupils who do less well than others at all ages. High mobility and a large number of children joining schools

who are new to English has also had an impact, including a high number of resettlement families from Hong Kong, asylum seekers and children from Ukraine.

You have also noticed that Black pupils are more likely to be permanently excluded from school than others, and that the number of girls being permanently excluded, although small, has risen. You have plans to explore and address this.

At post-16, you told us about positive relationships between providers, schools and the local authority. Most parents and pupils are seeking an academic route, and Barnet is a net-importer of students in this age group. The proportion of young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) remains low.

In early years, take-up of the two-year-old offer is improving. One challenge here is the transient nature of some of the communities who make up the Barnet population. There are no concerns about sufficiency of places in early years at this time. Any settings that are less than good receive intensive support from your teams.

A few independent schools in Barnet have been found to have ineffective safeguarding procedures, with weak recruitment practice being a recurring theme. You offer support, training and guidance to these schools. You are not aware of any schools operating illegally but are alert to the potential risks.

### **Future visits/meetings with Ofsted**

We anticipate that the next visit from Ofsted to Barnet children's services is likely to be a full ILACS inspection, as your services were judged to be good at the last inspection and we have undertaken a focused visit since then. There appears to be no reason at this time to expect a further focused visit.

You are mindful of the new area SEND framework's requirement for engagement meetings to be held alongside health colleagues. We noted your preference to hold these on the same date as the ILACS and education meetings going forwards.

Many thanks again for your time and we acknowledge your commitment to delivering the effective and ambitious support for children and families in Barnet.

Yours sincerely,

**Naintara Khosla, HMI**  
Social Care, London

**Gaynor Roberts Senior HMI**  
Schools, London



# Barnet 'Staying Put' Policy 2023

## Introduction

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The Staying Put Policy is an essential guideline aimed at providing valuable information to carers, care leavers, social workers, and personal advisers about Staying Put arrangements. This policy is designed to help people understand what Staying Put arrangements are, how to implement them within the borough, and standardise the support and compensations available for those who choose to stay with their foster carers after they turn 18.

Staying Put arrangements allow young people who have been in foster care to remain living with their foster carers after they turn 18. These arrangements provide stability and continuity for care leavers and have been shown to significantly improve their outcomes. By remaining in a stable home environment, care leavers are more likely to continue their education, find employment, and lead fulfilling lives. Staying Put is an accommodation option available to all young people who have been looked after for a total of 13 weeks after they reach the age of 14, and who remain looked after by Barnet Family Services in a foster care arrangement up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Staying Put Policy serves as a comprehensive guide that outlines the different types of Staying Put arrangements available, such as long-term and short-term arrangements. It also provides information on the legal framework that governs Staying Put arrangements, including the role of the local authority and the responsibilities of the carer and care leaver. Moreover, the policy codifies and standardises the support and compensations available to care leavers who choose to stay with their foster carers. This includes financial support, such as the cost of food, utilities, and rent, as well as practical support, such as access to education and training opportunities. It provides tangible areas for dialogue about and formalisation of the arrangement, such as how to initiate a Staying Put arrangement and how to review and monitor its progress. This helps ensure that the arrangement remains effective and beneficial for all parties involved.

The Staying Put Policy is an essential tool that should facilitate and expand Staying Put arrangements, improving care leaver outcomes. We at Barnet Family Services believe that by following this policy, we can provide care leavers with the support and stability they need to achieve their full potential.

### **What is 'Staying Put'?**

The objective of 'Staying Put' is to promote a gradual transition from care to adulthood and independent living. When a young person in care reaches the age of 18 years old, the Care order (S31 Children Act 1989) or the S20 voluntary accommodation into care ceases, and they are no longer regarded as being in 'care'. Turning 18 and entering adulthood overnight can be an intimidating experience for any young person, but it is especially challenging for care leavers who may not feel ready to live independently. The Barnet 'Staying Put' scheme is a vital initiative designed to provide care experienced adults with the stability and support they need to make a smooth transition to adulthood. The Barnet 'Staying Put' scheme is designed to ensure that young people can remain living within the same foster home and prevent a sudden disruption to their living arrangements and support networks. This arrangement also promotes continuity of education and training so that all young people make a gradual and supported transition from care to independence, or to adult services. Specifically, 'Staying Put' gives care experienced young people who are in stable and supportive placements the opportunity to focus on their education, training, and employment

and enable them to transition to independent living in their own time.

**What is the difference between Staying Put and foster care.**

When a young person celebrates their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, the young person is no longer legally looked after, and fostering regulations no longer apply. The young person is no longer a foster child, they become an adult member of the fostering household. The 'placement' becomes a Staying Put 'arrangement' between the foster carer, the young person and Barnet Family Services.

Irrespective of whether the foster carer works for Barnet Family Services or with an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) Barnet Family Services take on the responsibility to supervise and support the staying put carer. Funding for the Staying Put arrangement comes from various sources, including Barnet Family Services, housing benefit and contributions from the young person.

Subject to agreement between the foster family, young person and Barnet Family Services, the young person can stay in their foster home under a 'staying put' arrangement up to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Should this arrangement continue after the young person's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, an assessment of need should be completed and shared with the Head of Service for Corporate Parenting for agreement.

## 1. London Borough of Barnet 'Staying Put' Procedure

### **Pathway Planning and determining that a 'Staying Put' arrangement is appropriate**

Every young person in care must have a care plan, also known as an 'All About Me' plan. When they reach 15 and a half years old, the social worker in partnership with the young person, begins the process of creating a leaving care pathway plan. This process must be completed by the young person's 16th birthday.

The pathway plan should identify the young person's goals, needs, and support requirements for their pathway to independence. It includes specific provisions for addressing the young person's educational needs, which is critical in determining the type and duration of any housing arrangement. The pathway plan must carefully consider the young person's wishes and feelings regarding their accommodation to ensure that the young person's needs are met and that they have a safe and stable living environment. There are different options that may be suitable, such as returning to live with birth family, staying with the current foster carer(s) in a 'Staying Put' arrangement, independent living, or supported lodgings.

The pathway plan should identify the timescale required for the young person to move towards independence. It should serve as the framework for exploring the following:

- Is a 'Staying Put' arrangement likely to benefit the young person when they turn 18?
- Have the young person and their foster carer(s) both agreed on a 'Staying Put' arrangement? (Note: The foster carer should have been consulted first by their supervising social worker before discussing with the young person.)
- Does the young person and their foster carer(s) understand the procedures and requirements for extending a foster care placement into a 'Staying Put' arrangement?
- Does the foster carer(s) understand the changes in funding arrangements associated with a 'Staying Put' arrangement?
- Does the foster carer(s) understand the impact of a 'Staying Put' arrangement on their welfare benefit income and their Income Tax and National Insurance responsibilities and liabilities?
- What is the backup plan for the young person should the 'Staying Put' arrangement not be viable?
- What is the preparation for independence tasks, goals, and targets to be achieved during the last two years of foster care and when the placement becomes a 'Staying Put' arrangement?
- If the young person has a disability and meets the criteria for service from the Adult Service, what is the plan for converting the 'Staying Put' arrangement into a supported living arrangement/shared lives via the personal adviser and transition worker, including consideration of a care act assessment if appropriate?

During the planning process, the foster carer's supervising social worker will discuss with them whether they would be able and willing to offer a 'Staying Put' arrangement and will advise them about the financial implications. The discussion with the foster carer about a 'Staying Put' arrangement should be held separately from and not in the presence of the young person. The decision to enter a 'Staying Put' arrangement will be that of the young person and their foster

carer, facilitated by Barnet Family Services. It cannot be forced and must be a mutual agreement. Should both parties express their wish to enter a ‘Staying Put’ arrangement, and the local authority determines it to be appropriate, the authority must provide advice, assistance, and support to establish a ‘Staying Put’ arrangement’.

If the foster carer agrees to a 'Staying Put' arrangement, a planning meeting should take place with the young person, their social worker, their personal adviser, the foster carer, the foster carers' supervising social worker. It should be held as soon as possible after the 'Staying Put' arrangement becomes a real possibility to allow sufficient time for planning. It is recommended that this meeting take place no later than when the young person is 17 and a half years old. The meeting should establish the viability and likelihood of a ‘Staying Put’ arrangement occurring and identify all tasks required to change the foster placement into a ‘Staying Put’ arrangement. It should also apportion roles and responsibilities and stipulate timescales. The outcome of the meeting should be discussed at the young person’s subsequent statutory review and the decision ratified by the Independent Reviewing Officer.

### **‘Staying Put’ – Living Together Agreement**

The 'Staying Put' Agreement serves as a contract and outlines the expectations of all parties involved in the arrangement, including the 'Staying Put' carer, the young person, and Barnet Family Services.

For IFA carers, once the 'Living Together Agreement' is signed, the provider is contracted to Barnet Council to provide the 'Staying Put' arrangement. This means that IFA fees will no longer apply, and the provider will be allocated a Barnet Council supervising social worker and paid directly by Barnet Family Services. The provider may also continue to foster for their IFA in relation to children in care provided they have the room and space available in their home.

The ‘Living Together Agreement’ should be based on the information set out in the young person’s Pathway Plan and the agreements set out in any ‘Delegated Authority’ framework. Whilst the Living Together Agreement is a formal document setting out everyone’s expectations, most house rules and expectations will be the same as those in place prior to the young person’s 18th birthday.

The Living Together Agreement covers three main areas of responsibilities for each person who signs the agreement;

- House rules and expectations
- Support to be provided to the young person
- Finances and financial contribution

This document should contain all the necessary day-to-day arrangements to ensure that the positive aspects of fostering transfer to the 'Staying Put' arrangement. The 'Living Together Agreement' should be signed after everyone's expectations are discussed and agreed upon, but before the commencement of the arrangement. Each person should receive a signed copy of the agreement to keep, and a copy of the document should be uploaded to the young person's record on LCS. An example of the Living Together Arrangement can be located at the end of this policy.

Once a provisional agreement between all parties has been reached, agreement to fund the 'Staying Put' arrangement is made by the Head of Service – Corporate Parenting who signs off the Living Together Agreement. The Living Together Agreement is Barnet Council's agreement with the young person's former foster carer ('Staying Put' carer), the young person's social worker and the young person. Where there is a need to pay beyond the agreed policy for 'Staying Put', this can only be agreed in exceptional circumstances via application to the Operational Director – Corporate Parenting and Disability.

## **Eligibility**

Staying Put arrangements and packages are available to young people with:

- London Borough of Barnet foster carers both in Borough and out of Borough; or
- Independent Fostering Agencies' (IFA's) carers.

When a young person is placed with IFA carers, their social worker is responsible for initiating discussions about the 'staying put' option at an early stage, from 15 and a half years old and no later than when the young person is 17 and a half years old. The social worker should inform and advice IFA carers about the financial support, physical support, and expectations associated in 'Staying Put' arrangements. If an IFA carer(s) chooses to enter a 'Staying Put' arrangement, they will be expected to follow the same process and guidelines as a Barnet foster carer(s) entering an arrangement. Once the arrangement is finalised, the IFA carer(s) will receive support and supervision from the Fostering Support Service in Barnet Family Services.

## **Duration of the 'Staying Put' Arrangement**

The Staying Put arrangements may continue until the young person reaches 21 but can end sooner if the young person stops living in the household. In consultation with the care experienced adult, their staying put carer, the supervising social worker and the PA, there may be agreement to continue supporting a young person beyond age 21 if it meets their individual needs and up until the young person's celebrates their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. This extension is reviewed on a case by case basis with the network and in agreement with the Head of Service for Corporate Parenting.

## **Young people in 'Staying Put' arrangements who go to university**

In Barnet we are committed to supporting care leavers in pursuing university, apprenticeships or further education. We believe this can be achieved by setting high aspirations for all our children in care, providing encouragement from staff and foster carers, support from the Virtual School, and emphasizing the importance of education for all. We want our young people to believe and know that further education is a realistic option for them, and with proper planning and support – particularly regarding subject choices early in their school careers - it is an achievable goal. We want all our care experienced young people who wish to attend university or further education to not be burdened with financial concerns and continue benefiting from the support of their former foster carers to enable them to fulfil their dreams.

For those young people who choose to attend university or further education, the 'Staying Put' arrangement will be tailored to suit the needs of the young person and their former foster

carer(s). Some foster carers may wish to continue fostering to provide a safe and supportive home environment. If there is sufficient room in the fostering household, this should be encouraged. In cases where the foster carer is approved for only one placement and that young person is going to university, supervising social worker should discuss options for short-term fostering to ensure that the young person staying put has a room to return to during holidays.

If the young person remains living in the home under a Staying Put arrangement, the Staying Put fee will be paid. If a young person leaves a 'Staying Put' arrangement to attend full-time education and reside in campus accommodation or accommodation local to their university, the 'Staying Put' fee will be paid while they are at university until the end of June of the first year of study. After their first year of study, the 'Staying Put' fee and allowance minus certain elements will be paid only while the young person is residing in the household. If they continue to reside away from the home, this payment will only include the times they have returned to the home such as non-term time / vacation. This should be clearly stated in the young person's Pathway Plan before they commence their university course. Any return to the home should be discussed and agreed with the Personal Advisor.

For a young person who remains living in a staying put arrangement from year 2 of their university study, and who receives the full maintenance element of student finance either through a loan or a grant, must use a proportion of this to fund the rent element of the staying put arrangement - 25% is deemed a reasonable contribution.

For more information about financial support for care leavers in Higher Education, please refer to section 3.3.

## **2. Financial Arrangements**

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When a young person and foster carer agree to a Staying put arrangement, there will be changes to the financial arrangements. This change will take effect from the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, as, under the law, they are no longer regarded as being in care. As a result, the young person may claim means-tested benefits if they are eligible. The benefits claimed will allow the care experienced young person to continue to access funds for clothing, savings and recreational expenses.

The 'Staying Put' allowance paid to the carer or provider is for accommodation, heating, electricity, food, and other associated costs. The 'Staying Put' carers are not required to provide the young person with a personal allowance. The expectation is that young people will claim any entitled benefits.

Young people and foster carers may need advice and support regarding benefits and tax issues related to 'Staying Put' arrangements. The Department for Education, alongside HM Revenue and Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions, has produced [guidance](#) on the tax and benefits aspects of 'Staying Put' arrangements.

Generally, a young person will become eligible to claim means tested benefits once they reach 18 years old provided they have no immigration needs preventing them from accessing state benefits. They should be supported by their social worker and personal advisor to apply for these benefits.

## **Council Tax, Council Tax Support and Non-Dependent Deductions**

Where a young person is living within a staying put arrangement with adults who are not in receipt of Council Tax benefit and pay full council tax, the young person will not have any impact upon their council tax liabilities.

## **Income Tax and National Insurance Issues for 'Staying Put' Arrangements**

A 'Staying Put' carer is entitled to Qualifying Care Relief if:

- They receive payment from the local authority for providing a 'Staying Put' arrangement for a care leaver; and
- The care leaver is aged 18, 19 or 20, or is in further education, higher education, or vocational training; and
- The care leaver has a Pathway Plan.

For advice regarding this please refer to the [HMRC Help sheet HS236](#), which provides information on "Qualifying care relief."

## **Respite**

Should a staying put carer require respite, and the young person is not able to remain in the home without support, the staying put carer's payment during this period will be paused and a payment will be made to the respite carer.

## **Young people with disabilities**

If a young person has a disability that meets the criteria for a service from Adult Social Care Services, the placement should be converted to a Shared Lives/Adult Placement arrangement by the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Planning for this conversion should begin as part of pathway planning before the child's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. If the placement remains a 'Staying Put' arrangement, there must be clarity between the 'Staying Put' payment for standard living costs and any community care and/or direct payment based on adult social care assessed needs.

## **3. 'Staying Put' carers**

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### **Support for staying put carers**

Although Fostering regulations no longer apply to 'Staying Put' arrangements, essential standards and support will continue. These include but are not limited to:

- DBS checks of all adult household members every 3 years;
- Staying put carer supervision provided by supervising social worker;
- Attendance at training, forums, and support groups; and
- Review of the arrangement via the living together review according to guidelines.

All 'Staying Put' providers will be allocated a social worker from the Fostering Support



Team.

In situations where 'looked after children' are placed in the household or may be placed in the future, and the 'Staying Put' carer remains registered as a foster carer, the existing supervising social worker will normally continue to oversee and support the overall arrangement (Fostering and 'Staying Put').

### **Children living in a household where there is a 'Staying Put' Arrangement**

When a young person in a 'Staying Put' arrangement turns 18 and there are also children in care living in the same household or placement, all relevant fostering legislation and regulations continue to apply to the children in care. However, once the young person turns 18, they no longer count as part of the maximum limit of three children per household under fostering regulations.

The major change is that the young person who is 'Staying Put' is now considered an adult member of the household, and as such, a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check must be conducted on them. If any potential risk is identified during the DBS check, a risk assessment must be carried out. To ensure that DBS checks are completed before the young person's 18th birthday, planning should begin at the age 17 and a half years.

When a staying put arrangement has been confirmed through the completion of the Living Together Agreement, and there are looked after children remaining in the home, the foster carer(s) will be invited to return to panel due to a change in their circumstances. The review will include any issues arising from the DBS check and associated 'risk assessment', as well as how any looked after children living in the household will be safeguarded.

The fostering panel will need to consider the impact of the 'Staying Put' arrangement on the foster carers' terms of approval, including the number of children approved for and whether this number includes the 'Staying Put' young person. The proposed 'Staying Put' arrangement should be presented to the panel at least four months prior to the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, allowing time for any panel or Agency Decision Maker (ADM) advice to be implemented.

### **Minimum Standards and Practical Requirements**

'Staying Put' providers should ensure that they inform their mortgage provider and their buildings and contents insurance provider that they will continue to be supporting a former foster child as a young adult under a 'Staying Put' arrangement. Failure to inform the above may result in a breach of mortgage or tenancy requirements and may void insurance cover due to a 'failure to disclose material facts.'

'Staying Put' providers who transport young people must meet the same level of standards and care as when transporting a foster child. This includes having comprehensive business insurance, a valid MOT, a valid Road Vehicle License, and a road worthy vehicle.

## Staying Put Fee Structure should this be at the end

The transitional staying put fee is **£380/week**  
 The staying put fee **£280/week**  
**The entitlement is based on a young person's age**

Age	Start date	End date	Staying Put entitlement
18	1 <sup>st</sup> September after young person's 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday	31 <sup>st</sup> August after young person's 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday	Transitional Staying Put fee: £380/week
19 – 21  (25 in Exceptional cases)	1st September after young person's 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday	Young person's 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday  (25 <sup>th</sup> birthday in exceptional circumstances)	Staying Put Fee: £280/week

### Young person's contribution:

In the first year of staying put, young people do not need to make any contributions to household costs.

Young people are expected to contribute to the household costs from the 1<sup>st</sup> September after their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday; the point at which staying put carers will be paid the staying put fee.

The amount young people pay will be agreed between the young person and recorded in the Staying Put Agreement.

25% of the young person's income is deemed to be a reasonable contribution.

For young people in full-time higher education education, their contribution is also expected to be 25% of their maintenance loan or grant.

## “Staying Put” – Living Together Agreement (Young People Aged 18 remaining in ‘Staying Put’ Arrangements)

This Living Together Agreement provides a framework that sets out the house rules and expectations of young people and their carers where young people remain living with their former foster carer(s) after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and under a ‘Staying Put’ arrangement.

The Living Together Agreement should be based on the information set out in the young person’s Placement Plan and the agreements set out in any ‘Delegated Authority’ framework. Whilst the Living Together Agreement is a formal document setting out everyone’s expectations the majority of house rules and expectations will be the same as those in place prior to the young person’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; so most of the requirements will remain broadly the same. However, reaching the age of 18 and adulthood is a good opportunity to revisit all of this and see what needs to change.

It should be reviewed every 6 months at the time of reviewing the Pathway Plan.

To ensure that everyone knows what is expected of them this should be completed prior to the young person’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and be signed and linked to the young person’s Pathway Plan. It should be discussed and completed at the latest at the young person’s last statutory review meeting as a looked after child.

The Living Together Agreement covers four main areas:

- Responsibilities of each person who signs the agreement;
- House rules and expectations;
- Support to be provided to the young person.
- Financial arrangements ( should we also include a section below on the form about financial matters?)

The information in this document should cover all of the day-to-day arrangements that are needed to ensure that the positive aspects of fostering transfer to the ‘Staying Put’ arrangement.

Please sign the Living Together Agreement after discussing and agreeing everyone’s expectations.

Signed copies of this document should be given to each person to keep and a copy placed in the young person’s file.

### **1. Responsibilities of the Young Person:**

- I will work to develop my independence skills.
- I will behave in a reasonable way, showing respect for my carer(s), their property, neighbours, other children/young people in the placement and the local community.
- I will try not to behave in a manner that causes upset and/or harm to others.
- I will keep to our agreed house rules as set out in this Living Together Agreement.
- I will pay my rent each week out of my earnings and/or my housing benefit (and if I am entitled to Housing Benefit, I will make a claim so that I am able to pay my rent).
- I will let my personal adviser / social worker and my ‘Staying Put’ Provider know in advance if I want to end the ‘Staying Put’ arrangement.
- I will do my best to maintain my room, furnishings, and fittings in good order (and I will be responsible for replacing any items that are damaged and/or stolen).
- I will contact my personal adviser/social worker if I would like to change this Living Together

Agreement, or raise concerns, or make a complaint

- I agree to a DBS check if my ex foster carer is continuing to foster.

## **2. Responsibilities of the 'Staying Put' Provider/s:**

The 'Staying Put' Provider will -

- Provide a single fully furnished room for the young person.
- Ensure that the accommodation is of a good standard and allow annual household health and safety checks to be carried out.
- Provide heating, hot water, lighting, food, house key, support and WiFi connection
- If the young person ceases to reside at the accommodation, inform his/her personal adviser/social worker and the fostering supervising social worker. Also inform the housing benefit department to prevent overpayment of benefits.
- At all times respect the confidentiality of personal information relating to the young person – within the agreed limits.
- Inform the young person's personal adviser/social worker as soon as possible of any significant incidents and if the arrangement is likely to be disrupted or end prematurely.
- Provide at least 28 days' notice to end the 'Staying Put' arrangement – unless exceptional circumstances justify a shorter period.
- Ensure there is adequate insurance in place to cover any damaged or stolen items.
- Ensure that relevant staff /agencies are made aware if the young person is absent or missing.
- Ensure (in conjunction with Children's Services staff) that an appropriate 'Safe Care Plan' is in place to manage the impact of this 'Staying Put' arrangement on any children in the household.
- Provide support (as detailed below in the "House Rules" and "Support" Sections) to prepare the young person for independent living and adulthood.

## **3. Responsibilities of the Fostering / Leaving Care Team**

- Inform the 'Staying Put' Provider(s) of any likely risks and advise on risk management and safe care.
- If necessary, carry out a DBS check for the young person and other household members prior to them reaching the age of 18.
- Advise and assist the young person with a housing benefit claim.
- Advise and assist the young person with any other benefit claims and financial matters in order to maximize income.
- Advise and assist the young person with any applications for moving on to other accommodation.
- Advise on appropriate house rules.
- Visit at regular intervals until the end of this 'Staying Put' arrangement to provide support.
- Review this arrangement as part of the young person's Pathway Plan review.
- Review this Living Together Agreement at least every six months.

Name of Young Person: .....

Date: .....

Name of 'Staying Put' Provider: .....

Address: ..... Postcode: .....

Young Person's date of birth: .....

Next of Kin: .....

Primary Language: .....

Young person's mobile number: .....

Carers' mobile/telephone number(s): .....

Supervising Social Worker: .....

Contact details: .....

Personal Adviser: .....

Contact details: .....

Team Manager/Duty name and contact details: .....

Emergency Duty number (Out of Hours) BCC: .....

Missing Persons Police number: ..... **101** .....

GP details: .....

**4. House Rules:**

The points and headings set out below are not intended to be a definitive list; they provide a broad set of topics that should be discussed, clarified and expectations set out, it will be important to add other topics relevant to the individual 'Staying Put' household.

Each household will have different rules and expectations, and some of these will depend on who else lives in the household, for example where younger foster children are living in the house it may not be felt appropriate to have a boyfriend or girlfriend stay over.

Suggested topics for discussion:

Issues regarding privacy, for example when it is acceptable to enter the young person's bedroom, which parts of the house are private, shared etc.

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Time that the young person is expected to return in the evening, and the arrangements if the young person is going to be late, or wants to stay out overnight etc.
Arrangements for ascertaining the young person's whereabouts if they do not return on time.
Arrangements for reporting the young person missing. If they cannot be located, how long would you continue to try to contact them before reporting them missing?

Arrangements for the young person having visitors and/or for relatives, friends or boyfriends/girlfriends to stay overnight - what is deemed acceptable?
Arrangements if the young person smokes. The rules on consuming alcohol.

The rules and arrangements regarding the young person having a mobile phone contract, credit arrangements, catalogue cards etc.
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Any specific arrangements (for example to safeguard the welfare of any children in the household).
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**5. Support:**

Arrangements for helping with the development of life skills -
Cooking and food preparation.
Laundry, ironing household chores.
Budgeting and money management.

Arrangements for dealing with administrative tasks and officialdom.
Renewing housing benefit claims.

Returning official forms (e.g. Electoral Roll).

Arrangements for helping with health needs.  
*(Include any plans to change GP, Optician and/or Dentist.*

Setting up and attending appointments.

Any specific health needs.

Arrangements for education, training or employment activities:

Support with college work/assignments

Attending 6<sup>th</sup> form, college or university open days etc.

Arrangements for support with maintaining contact with family and friends -

Support with maintaining contact with family and extended family members

Support in maintaining appropriate friendships

Arrangements for hobbies, leisure interests and sports activities -

Support with maintaining activities

Support with identifying and trying new activities

What are the appropriate behaviour codes and the safer caring arrangements?

Is the young person registered on a local authority housing list?

What is the proposed move-on plan from 'Staying Put'?

Other issues.

**Living Together Agreement Signatures:**

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
(Young Person)

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
(‘Staying Put’ Provider)

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
(Social Worker/Personal Adviser)

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
(Supervising Social Worker)

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# Barnet Family Services Child And Family

Early Help Strategy 2023 - 2027



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# Our Mission Statement

**Our multiagency partnership believes that every child has the right to a healthy, happy childhood. We are committed to ensuring all children living in Barnet have equal opportunities to learn, play, participate and thrive.**

It is our mission to create an Early Help system of support that is designed with and for children, young people and families in our borough; a system that understands and responds to local needs and builds on the strengths of our local schools, communities and services.

We will do this using our resilience-based approaches and by working effectively together to improve outcomes for all children in Barnet.



# What is Early Help?



Early Help is not a single service but a network of services and professionals who can work separately and together to provide support when children, young people and their families need it.

Our services aim to ensure that help is provided as early in the life of a problem as possible, so problems do not get worse.

Agencies providing early help services, include Children's Centres, GP's, midwives, school nurses, health visitors, housing providers, Barnet Family Services, sexual health, drug and alcohol services, nurseries, childminders, speech and language therapists, Barnet Education & Learning Service, schools and colleges, police, mental health services, adult services and voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise providers.



**Providing Early Help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early Help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at a point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Early Help can also prevent further problems arising, for example, if it is provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care.**



WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN,  
HM GOVERNMENT, 2018



# 1. Introduction

Welcome to Barnet's 0-19 Early Help Strategy 2023 -2027. It has been developed by the multi-agency partnership working in the borough in collaboration with children, families, local communities and Barnet's political leaders.

Our strategy sets out our shared vision, values and ambition for every child, from pre-birth to adulthood and beyond, to be healthy, happy and to thrive.

Using our shared knowledge and experience and informed by research and evidence about child development and what works in early intervention, we have produced this strategy to provide a framework for delivery of Early Help Services in the borough.

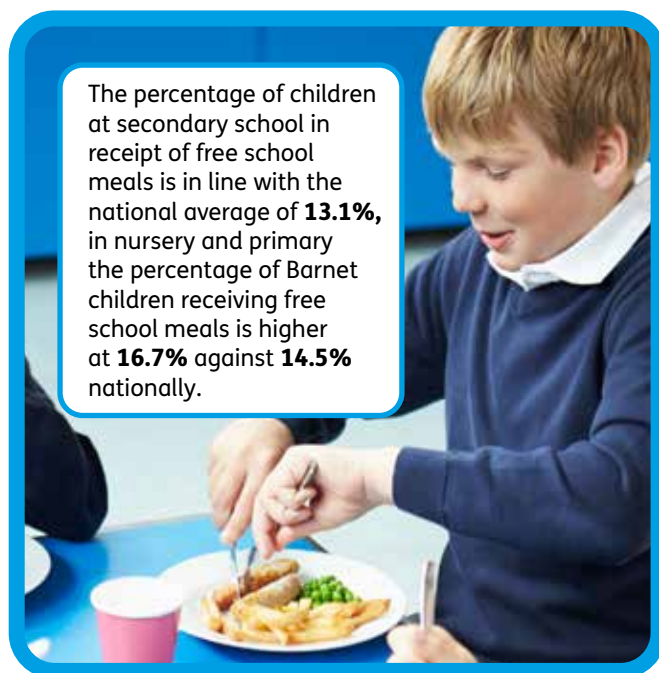
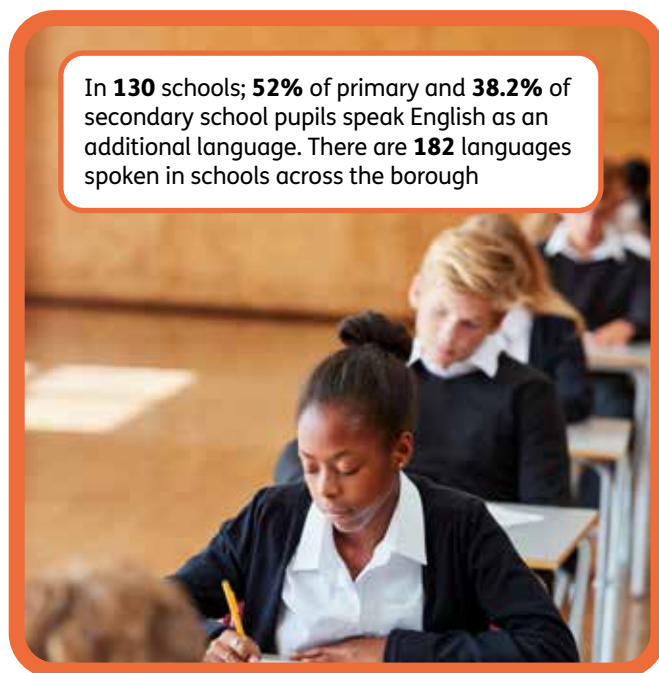
We have agreed on some basic principles that underpin the way in which we work, these are:

- All children and families have strengths that we can help them build upon
- Every child can reach their potential when agencies work well together
- Our services should, where possible, be close to where children live and go to school
- Professionals should know the communities they are supporting well
- Children, young people and families should have a say in how we deliver services
- There is 'no wrong door' to getting help
- Families should get the right help, first time
- Children and families should not have to tell 'their story' to multiple professionals, multiple times
- We will improve children's life chances by supporting their health and wellbeing and that of their families

**Our strategy sets out our shared vision, values and ambition for every child, from pre-birth to adulthood and beyond, to be healthy, happy and to thrive.**



## 2. Local Context





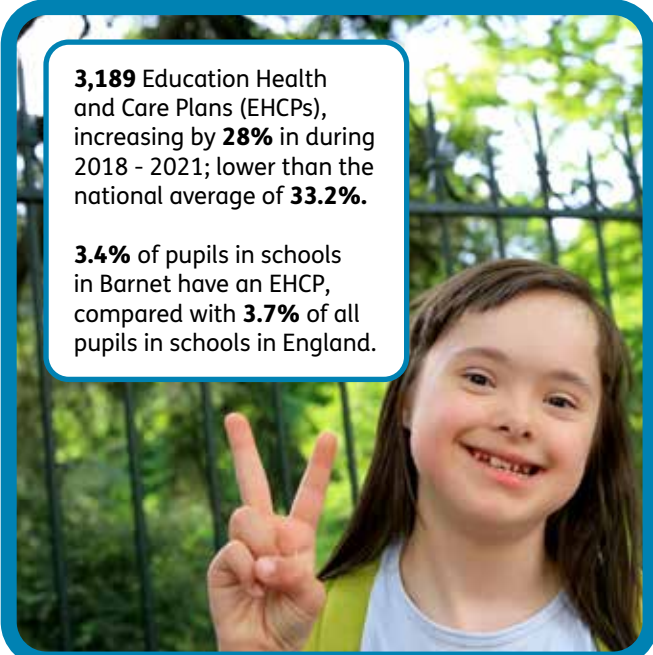
**Families should get the right help, first time**

**20%** of children in Barnet are obese, which is slightly higher than the national average of **18.2%**. Levels of excess weight in children in reception and Year 6 has remained around **19%** and **34%** respectively, which is slightly lower than both London and England.



**3,189** Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), increasing by **28%** in during 2018 - 2021; lower than the national average of **33.2%**.

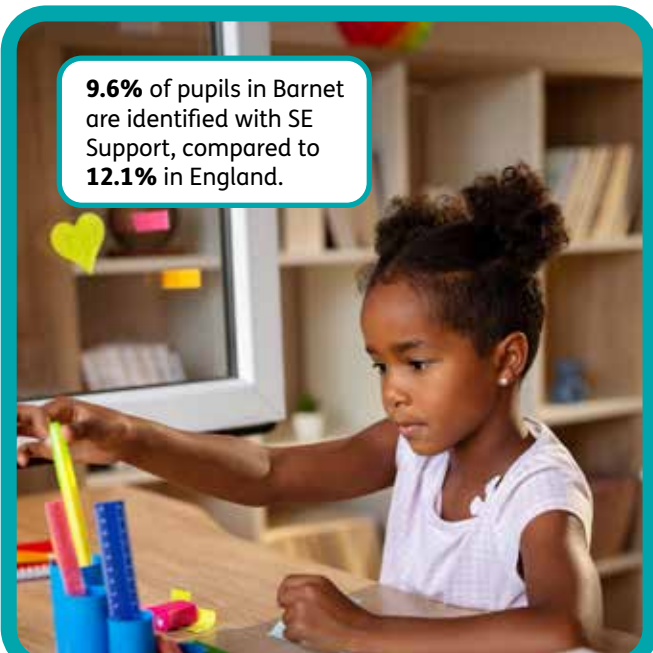
**3.4%** of pupils in schools in Barnet have an EHCP, compared with **3.7%** of all pupils in schools in England.



The borough has lower levels of deprivation than most other London Boroughs, although a fifth of young people aged 10-19 years live in the most deprived parts of the Borough.



**9.6%** of pupils in Barnet are identified with SE Support, compared to **12.1%** in England.



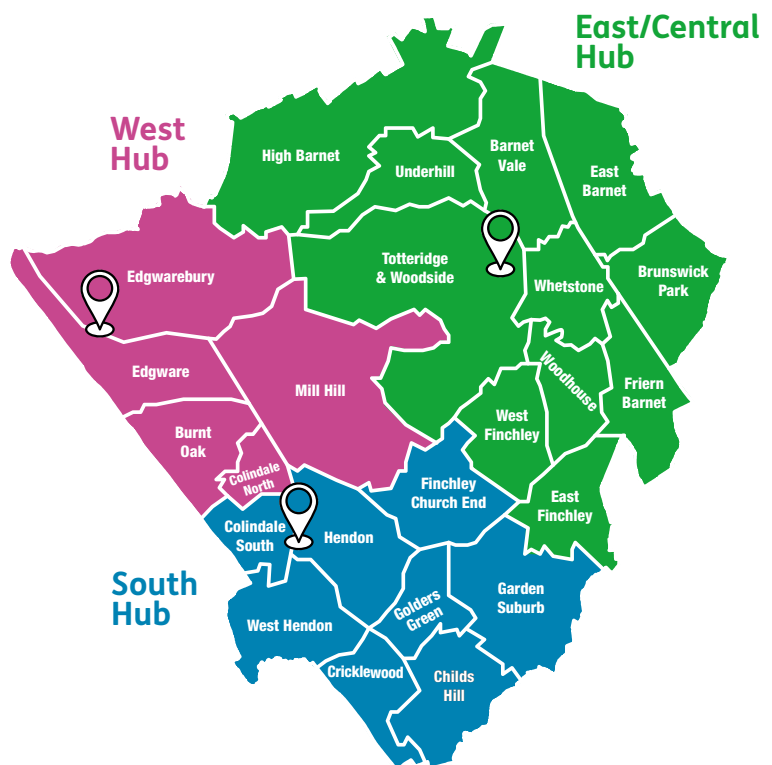
# 3. Child and Family Early Help Hubs

Barnet has three Child and Family Early Help Hubs and a number of satellite buildings where we offer a range of preventative and early help support for children and families. You can walk in, call, and speak with GPs and schools for advice on how to access the support services offered.

This includes midwifery, health visiting, breast feeding, parenting support, positive activities, mental health support, welfare advice, groupwork programmes, welfare advice and a range of other services. Our hubs are linked to local schools, GP's and other community-based services. Contact details for the 0-19 Early Help Hubs can be found on the last page.

Barnet also has 14 libraries offering a wide range of early help support for children and families.

This includes access to physical and digital resources for learning and leisure, information and signposting to other services and a comprehensive programme of creative and educational activities and events. Library buildings provide public spaces to spend family time and quiet space to study.



**Barnet also has 14 libraries offering a wide range of early help support for children and families.**



# 4. Early Help Vision

Barnet's Early Help Vision is based on our aim for the borough to have resilient children, resilient families and a resilient children's workforce. We believe through our approach:

## Children, Young People and Families will be:

- Supported to make changes for themselves.
- Able to get the right services first time and at the right time.
- Supported to thrive from pre-birth, throughout their childhood and into adulthood



## Supported by Skilled professionals that:

- Are accessible, responsive and care about what they do.
- Are innovative and creative in their approaches to practice
- Are well-trained, supported and advocate for equality.
- Work together to get it right

## Enabled and equipped by:

- Clear governance that involves children and families, putting them at the heart of how we plan, deliver and monitor the effectiveness of service
- A clear resilience-based practice framework which includes tools such as Signs of Safety and systemic practice as approaches that build on families' strengths.



# 5. Pre-Birth and Early Years (0-5 Years)



## Our priorities

In Barnet we are committed to ensuring every child gets the best start in life, from pregnancy through to the time they start school and grow into adulthood. Through the universal midwifery service, healthy child programme and children centre offer we aim to reach every baby, child and family and provide help and support to improve their life chances. To achieve our vision, we are committed to building on current delivery in the following ways:

To have Early Help services accessible to all families	Ensuring that working in partnership with parents and carers is at the centre of everything we do	Deliver a wide range of parenting programmes and support	Children are accessing quality early years provision
Ensure information, services and opportunities are provided at the right time	Through supporting home learning and child/adult attachment	Providing an inclusive service delivery that supports children with special educational needs or a disability	To deliver Family Support which respects, values and thinks about the need of the whole family
Further develop the links between education, health and early help	Meeting childcare sufficiency and providing families quality-assured childcare options	All children are supported to access free early years education offer	Supporting children to be ready to start school
Perinatal health and wellbeing support provided to all expectant parents	Improving vaccination up-take rates	Offering families advice to achieve financial stability	To ensure delivery of appropriate services based on local demography and needs analysis

Every child living in Barnet has access to a range of services aimed at supporting good outcomes in their early years, these are universal so are at the centre of our Early Help offer for all children aged 0-5. Additional services wrap around our core offer, this is targeted or specialist support which is available to children and families that need more help to reach their potential.



Our partnership will work together to ensure every child achieves these outcomes.

# Outcomes

- Explore the World
  - Be Social
  - Be Nurtured
- Be Helped to Thrive
- Be Confident
- Be Healthy
  - Be Safe
  - Be Happy

# Primary (5-11 years)

## Our priorities

We are committed to ensuring that the primary years are a stage at which all children are able to thrive, discover their talents, develop healthy friendships and achieve. Through this strategy we will work together to deliver the below priorities:



Early identification and support of special educational needs and disabilities

Children have the tools to build resilience, friendships and trusted relationships

Supporting emotional wellbeing and good mental health

Offering families advice to achieve financial stability

Providing opportunities for play, positive activities and social development

Providing inclusive services that supports all children's needs including special educational needs and disabilities

Further developed links between education, health and primary-age support services

All primary-aged pupils to have access to a quality school placement and supported to be ready for secondary school

Promoting healthy family relationships

Promoting healthy lifestyles and addressing health inequalities

All children are safeguarded by all partners regardless of educational setting

Healthy Weight Management and preventing childhood obesity

Every primary-aged child living in Barnet has access to a range of services that aim to support good outcomes through their primary years and to ensure that they have all that they need to thrive at their secondary stage. These services are universal and are in the centre of our offer for primary-aged children. Additional services wrap around this core offer. These are targeted or specialist forms of support which are available to children and families that need more help to reach their potential.



Our partnership will work together to ensure every child achieves these outcomes.

# Outcomes

- Explore the world and develop a strong sense of self
- Be Engaged with learning
- Be safe and helped to make good choices
  - Be Social
  - Be Nurtured
- Be Helped to Thrive
  - Be Confident
  - Be Healthy
  - Be Happy

# Secondary (11-16 years)

## Our priorities

In Barnet, we are committed to providing support that recognises and responds to the complex task of adolescence. We want to ensure that all children are supported to positively transition from primary to secondary education and are equipped with the skills they need to develop and maintain healthy, positive friendships and relationships and interests. We want to ensure young people in Barnet have access safe spaces where they can build resilience, build a positive sense of identity and have opportunities to participate and engage in preparation for further education, training and employment. Through this strategy we will work together to ensure children aged 11 – 16 years:



Early identification and safeguarding young people from exploitation	To recognise and develop Healthy Relationships	Support young people as they mature into adulthood	Young people are safeguarded from harm
Encouraged to be aspirational and achieve	Making sure services are accessible and available to all children including SEN disabilities	We will address structural racism and inequalities	Reduce exclusions and criminalisation of racially minoritized children
For young people to have safe spaces to express themselves freely and engage in positive activities	We will listen and involve you in decisions about our services	Supporting emotional wellbeing and good mental health	Young people have the tools to build resilience, friendships and trusted relationships
Young people are able to make safe and healthy choices with the support of trusted adults	Young people are helped to problem solve safely	Tackling period poverty	Offering families advice to achieve financial stability

All secondary-aged children and young people in Barnet have access to core services that aim to support good outcomes between 11-16, so that they have all they need to thrive in their adolescence and onwards. These are at the centre of our offer for secondary-aged young people, whilst wrap-around additional services are there to support young people and families who may need additional support to reach their potential.



Our partnership will work together to ensure every child achieves these outcomes.

## Outcomes

- Have the resilience to build good mental health and a positive sense of identity
- Be social and have relationships
- Explore the world and challenge skills and abilities
- Reach their educational and academic potential
- Be safe and helped to make good choices
- Be Healthy
- Be Nurtured
- Be Confident
- Be Happy

# Post-16 Support (16-25)

## Our priorities

In Barnet, we are committed to providing support to adolescents to enable them to prepare for adulthood and ensure that they are supported to successfully transition into adulthood. Through this strategy we will work together to ensure young people aged 16+ years.



Early-identification and safeguarding of vulnerable adolescents	Preventing child-exploitation and understanding lived & contextual experiences	Fully-supported young people at all points of transition	Adolescents that are safe secure at home, at school and out within the community
Information, services and opportunities are provided at the right time	Equal opportunities for Barnet's young people to achieve	Providing an inclusive service delivery that supports adolescents with special educational needs or a disability	Co-production and engagement with young people
Further develop the links between education, police, health and adult social care	Adolescents with an understanding of healthy and safe relationships	All adolescents in Barnet have the tools and resilience to build and maintain positive mental health	Reducing rates of disproportionate school exclusions
Adolescents with the resource and understanding to make healthy choices around their physical health and wellbeing	Addressing health inequalities	Areas of unmet need are addressed through tailored services	Offering advice to achieve financial stability



All adolescents in Barnet have access to central, core support that aims to provide them with the tools and resilience needed to ensure good outcomes into their adulthoods and beyond. Additional, wrap-around support is available to those young people who may need targeted, specialist services to enable them to reach their potential.



Our partnership will work together to ensure every child achieves these outcomes.

# Outcomes

- Have the resilience to maintain good mental health and a positive sense of identity
- Encouraged and supported to access training and employment and/or explore further / higher education
- Be social and have good relationships
- Explore the world and challenge skills and abilities
- Be safe and able to make good choices
- Be Healthy
- Be Nurtured
- Be Confident
- Be Happy

# 6. Values, principles & the way we work

**We believe that children and young people are best supported by people they know and trust and that supporting and nurturing relationships are essential to health and wellbeing.**

We know that most Early Help is provided by families, friends, neighbours, and communities, and this is central to our strategy as we are committed to recognising the value of these informal support networks and supporting them to and our local community-based professionals (both paid and volunteers) to continue providing support.

We will work with local communities and extended support systems together with local partners, including health services, police, voluntary sector, educational settings, housing, and Local Authority services to provide early support to children and their families that build resilience, prevents difficulties from escalating and leads to better outcomes and positive changes that are sustained.

This can only be achieved if all partners work together with families and their networks towards goals that are developed in partnership with children, young people and their families.



## Our Principles for working with families:

- Children are at the centre of all we do
- Listening to children and families and valuing their input
- Building on strengths as well as identifying the difficulties.
- Identifying the right support on the first time
- Open and honest communication

It is important, that the moment a need for help and support is recognised, a professional has a conversation with the child/family and their support network about that need or concern to explore what it looks like and how it affects the child's life, as well as what the important people in the child's life are doing to help keep them happy and safe. When there is a need for the multi-agency partnership to work together to meet a need, a professional will work in agreement and partnership with the family to complete an Early Help Assessment.

Early Help Assessments help us listen to families and guide our work with them. During an assessment we will gather, share and make sense of information with families so that we can make decisions together. We use tools, like the one below, to capture the thoughts, worries and aspirations of children and families and work in an open and honest way to find solutions together.

**HOUSE OF WORRIES**

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**HOUSE OF DREAMS**

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**HOUSE OF GOOD THINGS**

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When we identify that a family needs support from more than one agency we will start a Team Around the Family (TAF) process. This is where all the people who care about or are working with a child form a team that works together to help support them. One professional will take the lead and ensure that services are co-ordinated and working effectively towards the change that is needed for the child and family.

The lead professional can be any professional working with the family and who is part of the Team Around the Family, they will act as a single point of contact for the child and their family throughout the period of assessment and support. They will work closely with the child and family to ensure everyone is clear on how, when and where support will be provided<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>Barnet's Early Help System is committed to ensuring the secure protection of the personal information of the children, young people and families we work with. We have strong processes in place, upheld by compulsory GDPR training for all of our staff to ensure that we remain GDPR compliant, and that children and families in Barnet are kept safe.



# 7. How we will work

**We will work together across the Early Help Partnership to ensure information is shared that enables us to understand the needs of our child population.**

We will use this information to develop integrated and coordinated services. For children's needs to be well understood and for the right help to be provided at the right time, it is our expectation that all agencies working with children exercise and model positive and proactive curiosity about what life is like for children and young people living in and going to school in the borough.

We are committed to ensuring our services and practice are anti-racist and inclusive. We recognise that not all children have the same opportunities, so we expect that all professionals working with children in Barnet provide challenge to systems and practices that do not promote equity and equality for all children in the borough.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of every professional and we take this responsibility seriously, we will work to ensure children at risk of harm are promptly identified and their circumstances improved.

We believe that delivering services close to where children live and go to school is the best way to meet local need. We will ensure our 0-19 Child & Family Help Hubs and our satellite buildings such as schools and health centres are accessible to local families and responsive to local needs.

Our integrated approach aims to support early identification of need and risk and will enable services to develop whole system early intervention approaches that prevent the need for escalation to statutory intervention and/or social or educational exclusion and poor health outcomes.

We will work in partnership with local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VSFSE) providers and leaders to ensure when we are planning to make changes or decisions to our services to ensure local voices influence the design and delivery approaches. We want our services to be free of stigma and accessible to established and new communities living in the borough, by ensuring barriers caused by language, immigration and social economic status are removed so everyone feels valued and welcome.

To do this, our practitioners will engage with local community groups and faith leaders developing mutual understanding and trust, be culturally competent and deliver inclusive services and we will develop a one stop shop approach in each of our localities so families can receive advice and be signposted to the right help quickly without waiting for a referral



We want children and young people to be actively engaged in services that promote their emotional wellbeing, pro-social behaviour, social and educational inclusion, and we want them to be safe at home, in school and in the community.

We will ensure our children's workforce has access to training and support that enables practitioners to swiftly identify the signs that a child or young person might need our help, we will promote our resilience-based practice approaches to ensure we are all working with children and young people in ways that build on their strengths, involve them in assessments, planning and decision making and keeps them safe.

We will support our workforce to be resilient. We will ensure information about our services is available in schools, GP surgeries, community settings and on digital platforms so everyone knows what we are doing, where we are doing it and how to access our services.

We will encourage participation and co-production with children, young people and families, so they can share their feedback, tell us what we are doing well and what we need to do better. We will work openly and transparently and be accountable for the services we deliver.

## Further Reading

### **Supporting Families: early help system guide**

– Outlines a national vision and descriptors for a mature early help system that is shared by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Department for Education.

**Early years high impact area 2: Supporting maternal and family mental health** – Public Health England guidance updated in 2021 detailing the significance of familial and maternal mental health on the wellbeing of children and young people and providing direction and instruction on the roles of health visitors and the healthy child programme in encouraging and supporting improved mental health and wellbeing.

**School-aged years high impact area 1: Supporting resilience and wellbeing** – Public Health England guidance updated in 2021 establishing the resilience and wellbeing of children and young people as a 'significant public health priority'.

**No child left behind: A public health informed approach to improving outcomes for vulnerable children** – Reports for local government and their partners to inform their co-ordinated approaches to reduce vulnerability and adversity in childhood.

**Growing up in the Covid-19 pandemic: An evidence review of the impact of pandemic life on physical development in the early years** – An Early Intervention Foundation review of emerging international and UK evidence on seven key factors associated with children's early physical health and development, and the extent to which the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic (such as lockdowns and social distancing) have impacted on these factors and affected children's early physical development, including children from low-income and UK ethnic minority families.

# Appendix 1.

## Local Strategies for Children's Services

### **Barnet's Children & Young People Plan 2019 – 2023**

The plan captures the priorities, needs and aspirations of the local population and sets out how, together, we can make Barnet an enjoyable place for children and families to live

### **Barnet's Education strategy 2021 – 2024**

'Barnet is well known for the excellent quality of its schools and settings and the diversity of its educational offer. These are at the heart of Barnet's continuing success as a desirable place where people want to live, work and study'.

### **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 – 2025**

'The Barnet Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out our vision for improving the health and wellbeing of the people who live, study and work in Barnet'.

### **Barnet Life Chances Strategy 2020 – 2024**

'We will work to improve young lives and increase their opportunities to succeed. The strategy is underpinned by our family friendly vision that is focused on making Barnet the most family friendly borough in London and a better place for all families to live'

### **Barnet Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy 2022 – 2025**

'Safeguarding children and young people from the psychological and physical harm caused by sexual and criminal exploitation and involvement in gangs and serious youth violence remains a core priority for the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP)'

### **Barnet SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2021 – 2024**

builds on the recent achievements and progress already made and includes a focus on minimising the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and young people with SEND and their families

### **Barnet Infant Feeding Strategy 2021 – 2025**

sets out the direction to support agencies and the public, Borough wide, to protect, promote, support and normalise breastfeeding.

### **Barnet's Youth Justice Plan 2022 – 2024**

This plan sets out the ambition for Youth Offending Services in Barnet, the YOS service structure, governance arrangements, resources and partnership arrangements.

### **SEND Self-Evaluation January 2022**

Barnet's multiagency early help partnership has 'embraced the SEND reforms that came into effect in 2015 and there is an established partnership across the local area to plan, review and implement measures to deliver the child-centred and family-centred services envisaged in the Children and Families Act 2014 and statutory guidance.'

### **Corporate Priorities 2021 – 2025**

'We are committed to strengthening families and early years as the early years are critical to longer term outcomes and life chances. We need to ensure that all groups can access opportunities in order to improve life chances for all and so we will target support to those that are most disadvantaged'

# Appendix 2.

## Governance

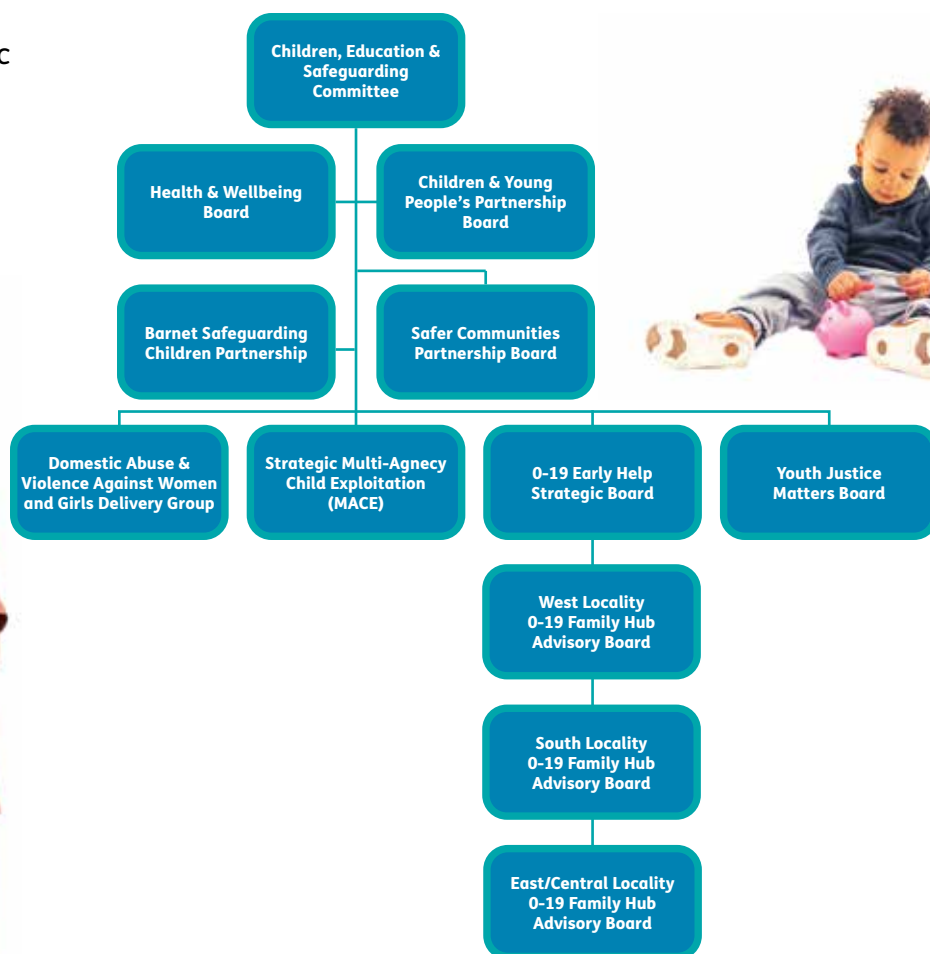
**This strategy will be monitored by the multiagency partnership of the 0-19 Early Help Strategic Board which meets quarterly.**

The Family Hub Advisory Boards in each locality is comprised of local partner agencies and parent representatives, the Advisory Boards report to the 0-19 Early Help Strategic Board.

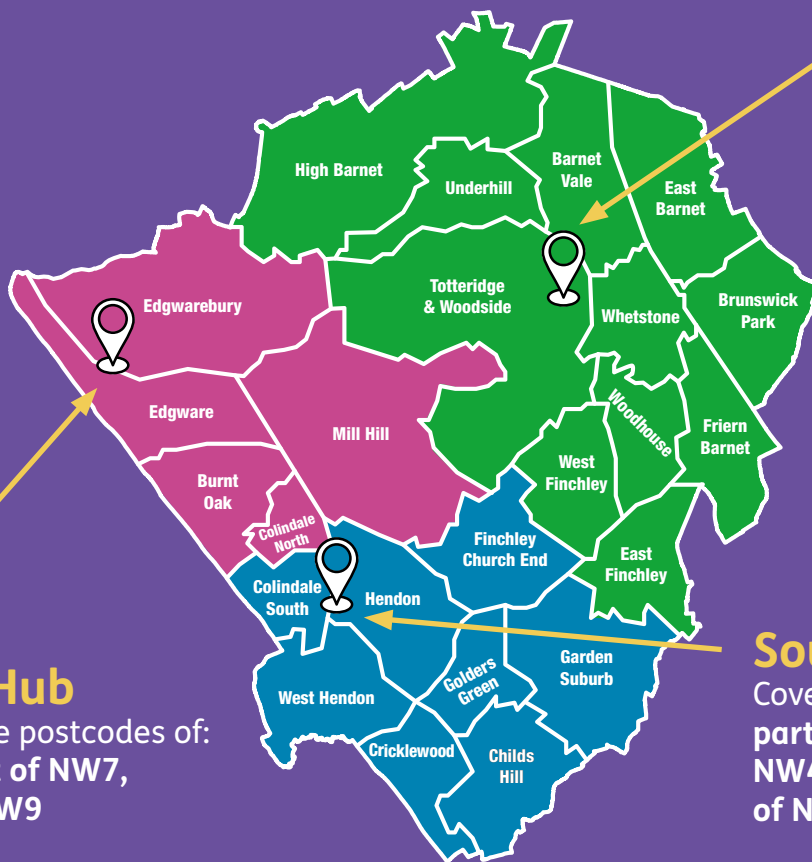
As early help services includes prevention of crime and violence, there is some cross-over into Youth Justice, Community Safety and Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls.

The Chair of the 0-19 Strategic Board will produce an annual report on activity of the 0-19 Early Help Strategic Board and progress against the 0-19 Child and Family Early Help Strategy, this report is shared with the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership, Performance Quality and Assurance (PQA) group and the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee.

**The governance arrangements are set out below.**



# Early Help Hub Locations and Contact Details



## East/Central Hub

Covers the postcodes of: N2, parts of N3, parts of N10, N11, N12 parts of N14, EN4 and EN5.

### Main Hub office:

Newstead Children's Centre,  
1 Fallows Close  
(off Tarling Road),  
Finchley, N2 8LG

Telephone: 020 8359 3460

## West Hub

Covers the postcodes of: HA8, part of NW7, part of NW9

### Main Hub office:

Barnet and Southgate College -  
Colindale, 7 Bristol Avenue  
(formerly Lanacre Avenue)  
London NW9 4BR

Telephone 020 8359 3510

## South Hub

Covers the postcodes of: part of NW2, NW3, part of NW4, part of NW11, part of NW9, part of N3

### Main Hub office:

Parkfield Children's Centre,  
44 Park Road, Hendon,  
NW4 3PS

Telephone: 020 8359 3590

A full list of all of the libraries in Barnet and their contact details can be found here



**Children, Education & Safeguarding  
Committee  
Work Programme  
2022 - 2023**

Contact: Pakeezah Rahman 020 8359 6452 [pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk)

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Chief/Lead Officer(s)
<b>Tuesday 07 June 2022 [deadline for cleared reports Wednesday 25 May]</b>		
Home Office & Clearsprings Vist and Update on Barnet's Asylum Seeker Contingency Hotels	Committee to note the report and take the opportunity to question guest representatives from the Home Office and Clearsprings Ready Homes.	Executive Director of Resources Deputy Head of Strategy and Engagement
CES Priorities of the New Administration	That Committee agrees for the Executive Director, Children and Families to develop a programme of work which embeds the aspirations of the new Administration and brings back to the next CES committee for agreement.	Executive Director Children's & Family Services
SEND Local Area Inspection – Inspection findings and action plan	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning
DfE SEND Review (Green Paper)	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning
Schools White Paper	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Chief/Lead Officer(s)
Family Services Quarterly Update	Committee to note the report.  Each meeting will also have an update on data and performance.	Executive Director Children's & Family Services
Connected (Friend and family) Care Policy	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Director of Children Social Care
Special Guardianship Support policy	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Director of Children Social Care
National Referral Mechanism (NRM) report	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Director of Children Social Care
Children's Social Care placements including Residential homes, Independent Fostering Agency, 16+ accommodation and accommodation with support, Semi Independent and Supported Lodging	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Assistant Director, Commissioning
<b>Thursday 20 October 2022 [deadline for cleared reports 11 October]</b>		
Family Services Quarterly Update including Corporate Parenting	Committee to note the report.  Each meeting will also have an update on data and performance.	Executive Director for Children's Services
Youth Perception Survey results and Family Friendly update	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Assistant Director, Education, Strategy & Partnership
Post-16 Education and Skills Strategy update	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Chief/Lead Officer(s)
Planning for new school places: Update and School Places Plan 2023-2027	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning
Local Authority School Governor Nominations: Update	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning
Fees and Charges	Committee to approve proposed fees and charges and to consider recommendations set out in the report.	Assistant Director, Education, Strategy & Partnership
<b>Thursday 17 November 2022 [deadline for cleared reports Tuesday 08 November]</b>		
Voice of the Child: Introduce the newly elected Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassadors	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Director of Children Social Care
Draft Cabinet Paper: Secure Children’s Home for London and Pan-London Commissioning Vehicle	Committee to approve partnership with Pan-London Vehicle (PLV) for Commissioning	Assistant Director, Education, Strategy & Partnership
Family Services Quarterly Update	The Committee to note the report.  Each meeting will also have an update on data and performance.	Executive Director for Children’s Services
Business Planning	To agree the committee’s business planning proposals for the medium term financial strategy period of 2021-25 and recommend the proposals to Policy and Resources Committee.	Assistant Director, Education, Strategy & Partnership

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Chief/Lead Officer(s)
CFS Budget Monitoring Forecast Financial Outturn at Month 6 - September 2022	Committee to note the report.	Executive Director Children's & Family Services
Child Care Sufficiency – Annual Report	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Director of Children Social Care
0-19 Early Help Strategy	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report	Director of Children Social Care
Education Strategies Update (including updates on School and Settings Improvement Strategy 2021-24, SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2021-24 and Special Educational Places Plan)	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning
<b>20 March 2023 [deadline for cleared reports 09 March]</b>		
Children & Young People's Plan	Committee to note the report.	Assistant Director, Education, Strategy & Partnership
Family Services Quarterly Update -Early Help Strategy -Forecast Financial Outturn at Month 10 - January 2023 -CFS Budget Monitoring	Committee to note the report.  Each meeting will also have an update on data and performance.	Executive Director for Children's Services
Carers and Young Carers Strategy	Committee to note the report.	Assistant Director, Commissioning
Care Leaver Local Offer & Staying put policy	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Director of Children Social Care

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Overview of decision</b>	<b>Chief/Lead Officer(s)</b>
Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership report, including Independent Scrutiny report	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Assistant Director, Education, Strategy & Partnership
Educational Standards in Barnet 2021-22	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning
School Funding	Committee to note the recommendations.	Executive Director Children's & Family Services
Contracts' Updates and Decisions	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Assistant Director, Commissioning
Young Homelessness and Housing Protocol	Committee to determine as per recommendations set out in the report.	Director of Children Social Care