



MEETING

BARNET CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

DATE AND TIME

THURSDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2012

AT 2.00 PM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, NW4 4BG

Children's Trust Board Priorities

Ensuring the Safety of all Barnet's Children

Narrowing the Gap for Children at Risk of Not Achieving their Potential

Preventing Ill Health and Unhealthy Lifestyles

Contact: Andrew Nathan 020 8359 7029

CHILDREN'S SERVICE DIRECTORATE

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Welcome	
2.	<p>Presentation by Homeless Young People</p> <p>2.00-2.30pm approx</p> <p>This item is not open to the general public due to the likelihood of sensitive information being disclosed relating to individual(s).</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>2.30pm-2.35pm approx</p>	1 - 4
4.	<p>Children and Young People Plan 2013-2016</p> <p>2.35pm-2.55pm approx</p>	5 - 6
5.	<p>Children's Trust Board- future governance and work planning arrangements</p> <p>2.55pm-3.05pm approx.</p>	7 - 10
6.	<p>Choice and achievement: A new Inclusion Strategy for Barnet</p> <p>3.05pm-3.20pm approx</p>	11 - 20
7.	<p>Barnet Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2011-2012</p> <p>3.20pm-3.35pm</p>	21 - 74
8.	<p>Community Budgets and update on Troubled Families</p> <p>3.35pm-3.40pm approx.</p> <p>There will be a verbal report on this item by the Deputy Director of Children's Service.</p>	
9.	<p>Home learning environment research project: preliminary report</p> <p>3.40pm-3.50pm approx</p>	75 - 86
10.	Any Other Business	
11.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2012, 2 – 4pm in Hendon Town Hall</p>	

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CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

AGENDA ITEM 3

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 May 2012 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM 2, HENDON TOWN HALL

Board Members:

Councillor Andrew Harper (Chairman)	Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families
Councillor Helena Hart	Cabinet Member for Public Health
Robert McCulloch Graham	Director of Children's Service, LBB
Mark Strugnell	Deputy Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police
Dadia Conti	Children's Service Manager, Community Barnet
Jay Mercer	Deputy Director of Children's Service, LBB
Clare Stephens	NHS Clinical Commissioning Group lead
Judith Barlow	NHS Central London Community Healthcare- Barnet
David Byrne	Principal, Barnet and Southgate College
Jack Newton	Head Teacher, Grasvenor Infant School
Angela Trigg	Principal, London Academy
Tim Beach	Chair of Barnet Safeguarding Children Board Barnet/LBB

In attendance:

Flo Armstrong	Divisional Manager Youth Support Service
Karen Ali	Operational Manager (West/Central)
Donna Thornly	Family Nurse Programme Supervisor
Heather Storey	Strategy and Projects Officer

Apologies:

Alison Blair	NHS North Central London, Barnet Borough Director
Vivienne Stimpson	Children's Commissioning Manager, NHS
Jenny Gridley	Head Teacher, Oakleigh School

Item	Minutes	Actions
1	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 9 February 2012 were agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>Apologies were received from the UK Youth Parliament outgoing members, who were unable to attend due to examination commitments.</p> <p>An item as added to the agenda under AOB, in which RM-G would report back on the response to the recent OFSTED inspection.</p>	
2	<p>Positive for Youth</p> <p>Flo Armstrong and Karen Ali gave a presentation on the Positive for Youth agenda, highlighting the cross-policy and cross-services approach to the development of the new policy, with an important role for Youth Services. FA emphasised the importance of partnership working in carrying out the policy, particular attention was drawn to the shift of responsibility for IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) from the LA to schools.</p> <p>This transfer of responsibility was discussed by the Board, with AT explaining that it represents a large potential loss to disadvantaged students, and that schools will have to find a tracking resource as well as providing the IAG itself, as schools will have to report on the destinations of students and at present there are a large number of 'not known's. It was noted that the council</p>	

	<p>is keen to position schools as well as possible to manage this, possibly including buying services back from the LA. David Byrne from Barnet & Southgate College drew the attention of the Board to the risk of students enrolling on inappropriate courses and then dropping out in higher numbers.</p> <p>FA explained that the Youth Offer Phase II involved reducing the level of funding for positive activities, she is looking to external partners to assist with this and also exploring the possibility of charging for some activities. There will be no reduction in front-line staff, but some non-frontline staff will be lost.</p> <p>A discussion took place around how this work should go forward, including the Raising the Participation Age policy. DC raised the issue of the availability of data for the 18-24 year olds, as CCIS information runs only to the 19th birthday. Cllr Helena Hart emphasised the need to create better relationships with SMEs and to lead by example to create better unemployment opportunities for young people. RM-G raised the point that it is also vital to ensure that young people are work-ready; JCP information tells us that there are jobs available, although it can be difficult to get good data from the JCP. It was agreed that the Youth Board should be asked about the opportunities from JCP. It was agreed that David Byrne from Barnet and Southgate College should attend the Youth Board. It was also agreed that an action should go forward to EMG regarding apprenticeships opportunities from the organisations represented at the Board.</p> <p>Jack Newton asked whether there was a level-2 provision gap, and FA agreed to send a summary on this topic as there has been an increase in this type of provision.</p>	<p>DB RM-G FA</p>
3	<p>Participation Strategy</p> <p>RM-G explained the strengths of participation in Barnet and that the strategy is now out of date and does not reflect what is actually being done. It was agreed that the plan should be reviewed by EMG, into a more practical living document. Cllr Harper suggested that EMG could learn from the work on the Health and Well Being Strategy, and that the group would welcome it becoming a partnership document. It was also noted that it must reflect vulnerable groups, including young carers and address working on the safeguarding agenda. FA suggested that the strategy should be taken to the recently re-established Young People's Participation Group.</p> <p>Mark Strugnell (Police) raised the need for the strategy to sit in line with the Children and Young People Plan, and attempt to deliver the objectives of the board.</p>	<p>RM-G</p>
4	<p>Young Carers</p> <p>A discussion of the Young Carers Strategy took place, in which it was agreed that this should be developed into a medium-term plan, within the Youth Support Service. It was agreed that a review of the old strategy (written in 2009) should be undertaken, and then developed into proposals and an action plan. The importance of hidden young carers was noted, particularly those caring for drug and alcohol dependent adults. It is expected that there are three to four times the number of young carers in Barnet than we already know about.</p> <p>It was suggested that a campaign should be aimed at adults, not children, in order to maximise identification. CS asked whether 'Young Carer' appears on the CAF checklist, it was agreed that it should and is to be checked with the CAF steering group. The mechanisms for identifying young carers in schools were discussed, and it was noted that typically a CAF would be initiated once a young carer was identified. All parties agreed that information sharing is vital in this issue.</p> <p>Data sharing issues surrounding young carers were discussed, regarding the confidentiality of the adult against the needs of the child being paramount. TB raised concerns from a safeguarding point of view, and reiterated the need to share information at the point of risk.</p>	<p>JM CS</p>

5	<p>Family Nurse Partnership</p> <p>Donna Thornly gave a presentation on the family nurse project, which has been running since 2007 in the UK, and for over thirty years in the USA, and is showing proven, positive outcomes. This is a three-year project, aiming to recruit one hundred pregnant young women, and work with them until the child reaches two years of age. Over this period it is likely that participants will have received 64 visits. There have been 62 referrals so far, through established pathways. Five have delivered so far, and 4 of those are breast-feeding, all had a healthy anti-natal period with only one admission. There are correlations with reduced child protection and safeguarding issues.</p> <p>Questions were raised regarding the criteria for participation in the pilot – it was noted that there is currently no flexibility on the age limit, relinquishing or gestation period. It was agreed that this would be discussed with the Department for Health.</p> <p>The Board was extremely pleased with this work and noted the risks associated with it.</p>	DT
6	<p>Troubled Families Update</p> <p>An update was provided by Jay Mercer, on the troubled families work being undertaken. It was noted that just under 1,000 families have been identified – only 587.5 (5/6 of 705) of these are funded by government. Interventions cost around £10,000 and £40,000 of this is to be paid upfront, as it is a largely outcomes based funding. JM is requesting 80% of the attachment fee upfront in order to complete the work in two years and a response is awaited regarding this.</p> <p>The teams have now been brought together, ranging from parenting work to much more complex work. There is greater flexibility and the CAF is being used at all levels. Cost-analysis of the programme is being undertaken by Loughborough University and Barnet has been invited to contribute. JM is also working on a costing tool and is seeking to electronically access the central databases.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that ‘Troubled Families’ is extremely loaded language; JM explained that this is only referred to in relation to the government programme and funding, and that within Barnet the programme is called ‘Family Focus’.</p>	
7	<p>The Future of CAMHS</p> <p>A paper was tabled on the future of CAMHS, which was discussed briefly and comments were requested in writing to Vivienne Stimpson, who sent her apologies.</p>	All members
8	<p>Arrangements for commissioning new schools</p> <p>It was decided that a sub-group of the CTB should meet to discuss this, Cllr. Harper will email members to facilitate this and will decide membership.</p>	Cllr. Harper
9	<p>AOB</p> <p>The Safeguarding Annual Report was requested at the next meeting of the CTB.</p> <p>An update was given by RM-G on the Ofsted report and resulting action plan, which covers three and six month recommendations. It was noted that an overall judgement of ‘good’ had been given, with 20 ‘good’ judgement and 2 ‘adequate’. Thanks were given for all support offered in this.</p>	TB
8	<p>Date of next meeting 13 September 2012, 2-4pm, COMMITTEE ROOM 2, HENDON TOWN HALL</p>	

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Title of Report: Children and Young People Plan 2013 - 2016

AGENDA ITEM 4

Report Author: Heather Storey

Summary/Purpose of Report: To gain the approval of the Children's Trust Board to proceed with Children and Young People Plan as proposed.

Details:

The Children and Young People Plan is no longer a statutory document, but the Children's Trust Board has chosen to keep one. Barnet has historically worked to a Children and Young People's plan which has been largely council driven and structured against the five every child matters themes. The ambition of the local authority is now to completely rework their Children and Young People's plan into a more concise and strategic document, focused clearly on three to four key priorities. The new plan should have a much stronger partnership dimension, and be owned across the council and its key partners as well as the borough's children and young people.

Key deliverables:

1. Produce and publish a concise, accessible and strategic Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) by April 2013
2. Ensure the CYPP is truly a partnership plan and foster ownership of the plan across the partnership
3. Think creatively and ambitiously whilst not losing sight of the challenges faced by the Children's Partnership

Process:

- Divide the plan into a short and accessible high-level document, produced every three years
- Produce an annual action plan, aligned to budget commitments, to sit alongside but separately to the CYPP
- Work as a partnership to decide the key priorities for the CYPP through a conference (to be held on 3rd October), focussing on the 'Journey of the Child – Obstacles and Opportunities', and its junctions in order to identify our key priorities for the next three years.
- Hold workshops with EMG and key officers to map out plans beneath the priorities
- Run a survey of children and young people (and their parents or carers) across the borough, through schools, GPs, early years settings and job centres to benchmark performance and get their views on the direction of the Children's Partnership
- Ask existing groups of young people (Role Model Army, Youth Shield, Bobby Panel, AllSorts) to contribute to the consultation both personally and by running consultation events within their peer groups.

- Consult on widely on the drafted document, across the partnership.

Recommendations or Input Requested

- Conference on 3rd October, all EMG to attend if possible. Please let Heather Storey know if think of anyone who may not be invited but should be
- Please let Heather Storey know if any thoughts on how the CYPP should look or the process of delivering it.

Contact Information

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CHILDRENS TRUST BOARD

13 SEPTEMBER 2012

AGENDA ITEM 5

Item 5: Children's Trust Board; future governance and work planning arrangements

1 Summary

This report updates the Board on proposed changes to the way it does business to ensure it is focused on outcomes and operates in line with other strategic partnerships in Barnet.

2 Details

2.1 As reported to a previous Trust Board, in February 2012 the Council's Cabinet agreed new arrangements for the main strategic partnerships in Barnet, to make them more efficient and provide greater openness, transparency and accountability.

2.2 The main implications for the Children's Trust Board are:

- a) There is a presumption that Boards meet in public except where there are good reasons not to. The Board has already agreed that the presentations by young people or families themselves, which have been so insightful, should take place in private to encourage them to express themselves freely. These will be badged as workshops for Board members only – as already happens on the Health and Well being Board.
- b) Papers will now be published on the Council's website. To meet common publication standards they will now need to be in a simple template, which reports on this agenda have followed, and prepared further in advance.
- c) There will now be an annual report on the performance of key partnerships and therefore, although the Board has deliberately steered away from detailed performance monitoring, there will need to be some form of high level performance management to give assurance that the Board is making progress towards its objectives. It is suggested that a short framework be drawn up alongside the priorities of the forthcoming Children and Young People Plan (see report elsewhere on this agenda). The views of the Board are requested on how frequently this is reported to them the frequency of this (quarterly, six monthly or annual)

2.3 Links with the other partnerships are being strengthened with the Chairman now represented on the Barnet Partnership Board and the Strategic Policy Adviser in the Chief Executive's Service now co-ordinating the business of all the Partnership Boards.

- 2.4 It is proposed to develop a rolling forward work plan for the group, which is constantly kept updated. A first attempt is attached at Appendix 'A' for any comments. There is less detail on agenda items for the 2013 meetings. However the way in which the Board has focused on three key outcomes seems to have worked well and therefore they should closely reflect priorities identified in the new Children and Young People Plan.
- 2.5 In addition, the role and membership of the Executive Management Group which sits below the Children's Trust is currently being reviewed. Proposals will be brought forward to a future meeting of the group.

3 Decision sought:

To note these arrangements and discuss the future role of the Board in performance management and future agenda items.

4 Background papers:

'Governance of partnerships: Cabinet, 20 February 2012, available at <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Cabinet/201202201900/Agenda/Document%207.pdf>

Andrew Nathan
Strategic Policy Adviser, LBB
22 August 2012

APPENDIX A

CHILDRENS TRUST

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Thursday December 6 2012

Presentation- Barnet and Southgate College recent leavers

16-24 policy developments

Package of support for NEET's- progress report and evaluation

School Results

Custodial Sentences- Transfer of responsibility

Community Budgets/Troubled Families

Munro review update

Thursday 14 March 2013

Begin reports around new themes of CYPP

Presentation- Young Parents Group

Thursday 27 June 2013

End year performance report

Thursday 12 September 2013

Thursday 5 December 2013

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Item 6**AGENDA ITEM 6**

Title of Report: Choice and achievement: A new Inclusion Strategy for Barnet

Report Author: Dr. Brian Davis, Principal Educational Psychologist/Interim Head Complex Needs, Children's Service, Barnet Council

1 Summary/Purpose of Report: To update the Children's Trust Board on the progress of the draft Inclusion Strategy, the initial drafting of an implementation plan and the outline consultation intentions and for Board to consider required associated developments

2 Details:

2.1 The previous Inclusion Strategy has lapsed. It is necessary to develop a new Inclusion Strategy up to September 2014, related to the Children and Young People Plan and the Health and Well Being Strategy to encompass our intentions for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and learning difficulties and disability, Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) and positive mental health. Statutory responsibilities may be changing and increasing as we move towards the Children and Families Bill in 2013 and the intention is to have a flexible strategy moving forward.

2.2 The draft principles and work stream produced by the Inclusion Strategy Group have been discussed and broadly welcomed at the Council's Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 July. The intention is now to launch the strategy principles, outline implementation plan and consultation process in November 2012. The principles document, 'Choice and Achievement', and the Implementation Plan, is attached at Appendix A.

2.3 Identifying children with SEN and /or disabilities early is an important part of the Children's Service's and Health's commitment to early intervention and prevention expressed in the Children and Young People Plan. This includes the objective to 'enable every child and young person to achieve their full potential, narrowing the gap for those whose attainment is at risk'. Academic outcomes for pupils with Special Educational Needs in Barnet were the best ever in 2011 with the gap reduced in Key Stage 2.

2.4 The main risks relate to maintaining performance, managing finance, and providing for the growth in numbers and increase in complexity of the SEN and SEBD population in Barnet. Increases are due to rates of birth, moving in, and improved health care and survival. Over the next four to five years this could lead to a 15-20% increase in the total number of children and young people affected aged 0 to 25. There will also be a proportionate increase in children with disabilities and SEBD who may not require a statement but require provision. In addition, in 2013 more children with statements of SEN and /or disabilities and children with SEBD requiring alternative provision will continue in full time schooling beyond age 16 due to Raising of the Participation Age. The compounding effect of increasing SEN and disabilities child populations in neighbouring boroughs needs to be considered in terms of the effects of other authorities seeking placements in Barnet and vice versa.

2.5 The authority's relationship with schools is changing, with the greater number of academies (not including our special schools at present) and the potential for direct arrangements between schools with additional resourced provision (ARPs), special schools and alternative provision (PRUs) and other authorities providing funding.

This poses challenges in terms of Special Education and Alternative Provision local place planning and delivering services for growth. Local Authorities will also start to administer funding for 16+ placements for Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, with an anticipated budget reduction of 17%. These increases and financial considerations will place pressure on the Children's Services and health in terms of providing education, supported living, respite and breaks and therapies for those up to the age of 25, and managing caseloads.

2.6 As well as potential benefits, inevitably there are risks associated with developing new ways of working especially for a vulnerable group such as children with SEN and/ or disabilities. Strong partnership working across the statutory agencies and the voluntary sector is crucial to support a more integrated local service that enables an holistic approach to a child or young person, which might avoid duplication and replication and hence reduce costs. Aligned and pooled budget arrangements, robust information sharing processes and appropriate supporting infrastructure will also be necessary to maximise resources. There is a risk that current IS and communication platforms may not be sufficient to support increased joint working and sharing of confidential data, especially with regard to transition.

2.7 Without a revised Inclusion strategy aimed at ages 0-25, reorganisation and joint consideration of budget arrangements, Barnet would not be able to meet the demands of current and proposed legislation.

3 Recommendations or Input Requested: The Children's Trust Board is asked to consider

1. support for the main principles outlined in the strategy for an overarching approach and any required strategic, planning and financial developments
2. the emerging draft implementation plan and how this can be best developed comprehensively across authorities and agencies to include a shared data set
3. note the intended phased consultation approach and the launch event for Children's Service and Health professionals (13 November) and consider how further consultation can be supported

Contact Information

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APPENDIX A

DRAFT

CHOICE AND ACHIEVEMENT – INCLUSION IN BARNET

A new policy for Barnet to promote independence and provide support to children and young people who are disabled or have Special Educational Needs (SEN) including Emotional, Social and Behavioural difficulties.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In May 2012 the Government produced “Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability – progress and next steps”.

This sets out a summary of the key responses to the consultation questions in the green paper, current progress and further plans for the vision, in which:

- children’s special educational needs are picked up early and support is routinely put in place quickly
- staff have the knowledge, understanding and skills to provide the right support for children and young people who have SEN or are disabled, wherever they are
- parents know what they can reasonably expect their local school, local college, local authority and local services to provide, without them having to fight for it
- children who would currently have a statement of SEN and young people over 16 who would have a learning difficulty assessment have an integrated assessment and a single Education, Health and Care Plan which is completed in a shorter time and without families having the stress of searching to get the support they need
- parents have greater control over the services they and their family use, with: every family with an Education, Health and Care plan having the right to a personal budget for their support
- parents whose children have an education, health and care plan having the right to seek a place at any state-funded school, whether that is a special or mainstream school, a maintained school, academy or Free School.

We will need to track further developments in the approaches outlined in the Green paper and the SEN pathfinders and move forward flexibly in order to maintain ongoing improvements and be in a position to implement the requirements of the Children and Families Bill expected in 2013.

There has been much progress in Barnet over recent years. Achievement for this group of children and young people as a whole compares very favourably nationally and there has been a steady improvement in attainment outcomes both in the primary and secondary phases of education. Our priorities include aiming for further improved outcomes, with a focus on early intervention and

support and improving transition as we move forward with a single multi-agency plan approach for a 0 – 25 age range.

WHO IS THIS STRATEGY FOR?

Barnet has high expectations in promoting the empowerment, achievement and inclusion of disabled children and young people and those with special and additional educational needs including those facing emotional, social and behavioural difficulties and challenges to positive mental health and well being. This strategy is for all such children and young people with needs of varying impact and complexity. These needs may currently be addressed by school or early years action and individual education planning through to those requiring statements of special educational needs and additional and special provision. It is recognised that their parents and carers must be partners and participants in that process and that they should be supported in their role.

Many mainstream and specialist schools, educational settings and agencies both within and outside the authority and including the voluntary and independent sector, make a huge collaborative contribution to positive outcomes for this group of children and young people.

The council has a strong commitment as “Champions” for children with SEN and has an intensive interest in ensuring strategic developments in this area lead to the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

WHAT ARE THE KEY PRINCIPLES?

Our expectations

We are aspirational. Children and young people and their families are at the very heart of what we do and we want to ensure the best possible arrangements are in place for them. Planning for SEN provision will include joint developments across the council, the independent and voluntary sector and through the Children’s Health and Well Being board. Our intention is to meet our statutory responsibilities and deliver on local priorities within an equalities framework that values diversity and reduces inequality and disadvantage and maximises opportunities and life chances for our disabled children and young people and those with Special Educational and Additional Needs. Our focus is on raising achievement and closing the gap between vulnerable children and others less disadvantaged.

Personalisation

Personalised arrangements with personal and individual budget options and person centred planning can promote individual responsibility, joint accountability, independence and a sense of self determination for example

through the application of choice. These principles should apply in an holistic approach to education, training and employment, care and play and leisure and mobility and access across the community. Our approach to specialist assessment and intervention therefore will consider equality and diversity issues, the young person's community, home and school context and family support requirements as assessed through processes such as the Common Assessment Framework. Person centred planning will be key.

Pre-birth to young adulthood

Barnet believes that adopting a pre-birth to young adulthood perspective and a largely joined up system will assist in developing the preferred multi-agency collaborative model and single plan approach to meeting needs and ensuring smooth transition through a young person's development from pre-birth to twenty five and beyond. This approach will bring parents and carers and children and young people, agencies and departments within the council, the Children's Trust (Health and Well Being Board) and the independent and voluntary sector closer together in planning provision and monitoring progression.

Early Intervention and building independence and resilience

In common with the early intervention and prevention strategy, this strategy seeks to target early intervention and support to build independence and resilience in children, young people and their families, promote positive mental health and prevent escalation of special educational needs. Central to this is support for a universal offer which delivers quality education and care and the targeting of resources in an effective and economical manner, which reduces vulnerability and dependency. Central to this will be reasonable adaptations and modifications of a child's setting, targeted group interventions (e.g. for speech and language development) the uptake of training and professional development opportunities and access to multi-agency advice and consultancy, through virtual locally based teams in the Team Around the Setting and Network Model.

Provision through partnerships

Placement planning for children and young people with SEN including Emotional and Social Behaviour Difficulties (ESBD) will be increasingly carried out in association with other council alliances and partnerships with schools, the voluntary and independent sector and other service providers to ensure local provision is available to keep CYP in contact with their home community. In a new partnership with schools they will be encouraged and supported by the local authority to find collaborative approaches across the whole authority. There is increased need across North London as a whole at a time when Council budgets are under pressure. Analysis across authorities indicates a requirement for growth in provision particularly in the areas of

autism and emotional, social and behavioural difficulties and in arrangements for 16 plus learners and school leavers.

Consultation, Participation and Evaluation

This strategy will be outcome focussed and underpinned by initial and ongoing participation and consultation with children and young people, council members, unions, their parents and carers and service providers. Strategy developments will be informed by changes in legislation, guidance and SEN pathfinder outcomes. Strategic direction and operational developments will be underpinned by evidence informed practice, evaluation and research. Leading edge groups will continue to inform developments and the strategy will be overseen by the Inclusion Strategy Group and links to other strategic groups.

It is proposed that Barnet adopt an open channel and ongoing consultation approach to this strategy initially agreeing the principles of the strategy and support for an outline implementation work stream but retaining the flexibility to respond to innovation and evaluation, for example, through the SEN pathfinders.

Effective Communication and Clarifying the Offer

Schools and settings will be encouraged and supported in providing accurate information about what they can offer. Financial and SEN support arrangements will be published as required. Communication with stakeholders will be clear; services available should be signposted effectively with clear criteria for access. There will be clarity and transparency about the statutory and discretionary offer being made to parents and children in terms of available provision and services and the decision making processes. Where possible choices will be identified. Banding approaches will be explored to support this process and ensure that our approach is fair.

Parents and carers and families

In Barnet we believe that parents and carers are the best informed when it comes to understanding their child's needs and that parents want the best outcomes for their children. Parents tell us they want the best possible arrangements and not necessarily the most expensive. We will endeavour to collaboratively make provision which meets the approval of children and their parents, meets a young person's needs, allows them to feel included, ensures effective use of resources and value for money, does not negatively impact on the education and care arrangements for all children, but enhances their life experience.

Where the council believes it is acting in a young person's best interests but there is conflict with parents the council will engage in mediation before

confirming a decision but will remain mindful of its duty to taxpayers and other SEN children. The council will also ensure that the child and parent continues to have a voice in this process through engagement of parent partnership services and advocacy as required.

The role of young carers and the impact on their lives of living with siblings with significant needs is recognised. This strategy will link with other initiatives to ensure their needs are met.

Organisation and resourcing

Statements of special educational needs although currently a necessity, are resource consuming in the short and long term. Barnet Council and our schools are committed to ensuring special educational needs are met wherever possible through timely assessment and intervention and without the need for statutory assessment wherever this is possible and desirable. It is our intention that special schools and additionally resourced provisions in mainstream schools will work closely with support services to ensure an excellence and outreach model of service delivery to meet special educational needs.

Children's and Adults' services in Barnet will have an organisational structure that enhances delivery of this strategy and the intended outcomes. This will include bringing services providing administrative and decision making processes for different age ranges into closer collaboration. Jointly through work with early years providers, schools and colleges, health, early intervention and prevention services and social care, a single plan approach will be developed.

Effective teaching and support

Quality teaching in outstanding schools is the first line of support in meeting special educational needs. Our school improvement and review arrangements will continue to maintain a focus on working in partnership with schools to meet the needs of vulnerable students. Within this, there will be a particular focus on developing capacity to promote the development of communication and speech and language development from an early age.

Provision and service delivery (including therapies) will be safe, quality assured, meet professional and ethical standards (including NICE guidelines) employ effective performance management, monitoring (including outcomes and impact). Barnet standards for procurement, contracting and joint commissioning will be employed.

Services should wherever possible be delivered where children are involved in their usual day to day activities and in contexts with which they are familiar. Children's centres, schools and colleges should be hubs for the delivery of a personalised curriculum and multi agency services.

The authority will co-develop a provision mapping approach with providers to assist in this process. Where appropriate the local authority will assist the public, independent and voluntary sector: for example, to develop or target services according to identified need. Our aim is to ensure that we have a continuum of services to meet a continuum of need; our response to changing needs will be timely and efficient. The council will jointly plan with schools and assist in the duty to co-operate, to ensure services do not become fragmented but are consistently available and comprehensive in nature.

WHAT WE WILL ACHIEVE?

We will

- ensure that appropriate arrangements are made for the education and care of disabled Children and Young People including those with Special Educational Needs
- ensure effective progression and high attainment and achievement for children and young people with SEN
- close the gap in attainment between CYP with SEN including emotional and social difficulties and their peers not experiencing these challenges
- ensure a customer care approach, that parents are supported and satisfied and report that they are
- ensure that CYP with SEN can be educated within mainstream settings wherever possible and special school and college settings within our locality
- reduce the reliance on statements of special educational needs and pilot the use of a single plan
- reduce the number of tribunals with a high level of agreement from SENDIS that provision being made is appropriate
- reduce school leavers with SEN who are NEET
- increase the range of outstanding provision available to children and young people with SEN
- reduce exclusion of children with SEN
- ensure the positive health and emotional well being of children who are disabled or who have special educational Needs

Our immediate required developments

Autism and Profound and Multiple Learning difficulties

Expansion of provision for those with autism.

Mainstream schools

Quality training for Special Needs Co-ordinators and teaching assistants

Build capacity in high incidence need arrangements such as speech and language and emotional social and behavioural difficulties

Support changes in relation to SEN funding and organisation signalled in SEN Green Paper new funding for schools guidance.

Signpost and support mainstream school participation in Achievement for All initiative.

Explore responsibilities in the partnership to deliver on the duty to co-operate with regard to vulnerable pupils. Explore with schools how peer support, peer tutoring and mentoring can be included in volunteer and accredited programmes e.g. play buddies, circle of friends, travel buddies and mobility.

Speech Language and Communication

Roll out findings from the national Better Communication Research Project and assist in capacity building in schools and children's centres to develop communication skills including oration and presentation.

Expand Parent/Carer speech and language ambassadors in schools

Special school and Additionally Resourced Mainstream provision

Special schools and additionally resourced mainstream schools will need to work collaboratively with specialist teams and services to ensure further embedding of the excellence and out reach model to support inclusion.

Emotional, social and Behavioural difficulties and emotional well being

There will be consultation with schools and other providers about how the family of schools works with the authority to ensure the emotional, social and behavioural needs of students are met.

The continuum of provision will be identified and this could be brought under a coordinating structure with CYP remaining on roll at their schools whilst accessing the service. The age range for access to the provision should be extended upwards to ensure access to 19.

Life skills, respite and independent living

Joint planning for post 19 supported living and accommodation arrangements within Barnet. This to be linked with development of provision for education and training and social developments.

Consolidation of after school clubs provided in particular by special schools and ARPs but also mainstream schools.

Short breaks programme to facilitate involvement of the voluntary sector and link to single plan approach to meeting special educational needs

Transport and independent travel training

Joint consideration for planning and service delivery with other authorities for efficient transportation of children with SEN is underway through the WLA.

A programme for the development of independent travel training and travel buddy approaches is required. This is an area that has been discussed with the voluntary sector with a view to a lead or provision coming from this sector. Options include the provision of funds to special schools, mainstream schools and ARPs for the development of personal solutions. Tendering, by the voluntary sector, for management and delivery (or just delivery) of the service to be considered.

Support services

Agreements across all schools in Barnet to fund and strategically maintain and develop SEN support services to avoid fragmentation and promote quality and speedy access to assessment and intervention.

Agreements across all schools in Barnet to deliver on a strategic plan to meet the SEN and emotional, social and behavioural needs of children and young people in Barnet within the identified legislative and guidance framework.

Parent support and carer and young person advocacy

Work jointly with IPSEA and develop mediation and professional practice, customer service and client approaches which reduce legal and tribunal challenge (SEN and LLDD).

Work collaboratively with schools and other providers to provide good information and practice guidelines to ensure the dialogue with parents and carers of disabled children and those with SEN is positive and remains within the required legal parameters e.g. SENDA and Equalities Act.

Provide advocacy for young disabled people and those with SEN linked to person centred planning.

CHILDRENS TRUST BOARD

13 SEPTEMBER 2012

AGENDA ITEM 7

Item 7: Barnet Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2011-12

1 Summary/Purpose of Report

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LCSBs) are required by statute to produce an Annual Report. The 2011-2012 report is attached and will be presented for discussion by the Childrens Trust Board.

2 Details

The intention of this Annual Report is to outline the progress that has been made in the last year against the priorities that the Board set for itself, to identify work that needs to be carried out to improve safeguarding in Barnet and to assess the performance of the Local Authority and partners in delivering safeguarding outcomes for children young people and their families in Barnet.

The report forms part of the scrutiny function of LCSBs that should provide challenge to the work of the Children's Trust in driving improvement.

Following the OFSTED inspection, there is work required by the partnership to improve the outcomes for children and families. An agreed Action Plan will be monitored by the BSCB and senior managers with the Local Authority.

The independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board will present the Annual Report and highlight both key achievements and outcomes, but also areas for further improvement where the Children's Trust Board needs to play a leadership role.

3 Decision sought:

To note the Annual report and highlight any areas where the Children's Trust Board needs to drive improvement over the next year.

Lead; Tim Beach, Independent Chair, Barnet Safeguarding Children Board

Covering report prepared by; Andrew Nathan, Strategic Policy Adviser, LBB
22 August 2012

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Barnet Safeguarding Children Board Draft Annual Report

2011-12



‘Making Safeguarding Everybody’s Business’



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Foreword by Independent Chair

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board.

On a personal level it has been a privilege to be the Independent Chair of the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and to work with the representatives of the agencies that make up the BSCB. Probably the thing that I have been proudest of in the last year has been the achievements of the young people making up Youth Shield and the contribution they have made to the Board and also to the actual delivery of Safeguarding services in Barnet. That work is reflected in more detail within the Report and has been subject to London wide and national recognition.

The intention of the report is to outline the progress that has been made in the last year against the priorities that the Board set for itself, to identify work that needs to be carried out to improve safeguarding in Barnet and to assess the performance of the Local Authority and partners in delivering safeguarding outcomes for children young people and their families in Barnet. The most obvious point of reference for that assessment is the Ofsted inspection that was carried out in January of this year. Whilst the overall assessment of Ofsted was “good”, for both safeguarding and Looked After Children, it was a concern that the quality of provision was judged to be “adequate”. That means that although children in Barnet are safe there is work required by the partnership to improve the outcomes for children and families. An agreed Action Plan will be monitored by the BSCB and senior managers with the Local Authority.

Prior to the inspection, work had already been carried out through multi agency audit and case review which identified some of the issues that the Ofsted inspection reflected upon, and work was already underway to improve the quality of the provision across agencies particularly through the continued development of multi agency working and joined up risk assessment. This work is a matter of priority both for the Board and all the partner agencies and is outlined in greater detail through the report and on the BSCB Work Plan which is accessible on the BSCB website.

For this Annual Report each of the main agencies and partners to the Board has been asked to identify their own internal governance structures for safeguarding, their achievements over the last year in terms of impact for children and young people and their plans to further improve it over the next year. The Board felt it important that agencies highlighted their own individual contribution to overall safeguarding in Barnet so that it is possible for the wider public and the Board to make a judgement about the quality and quantity of the work being carried, out and more importantly how this translates into improving the lives of children and young people in Barnet.

The Annual Report records a good deal of impressive work, jointly and individually, with three specific pieces of work being recognised as outstanding at the Annual London Safeguarding awards in December 2011.

There are frequent references in the Annual Report to the Review of Child Protection that Professor Eileen Munro was asked to carry out by the Government and which she reported on in late 2011, providing a number of recommendations. The Government supported the vast majority of the recommendations and the BSCB regards the implementation of her recommendations as a focus for its work in the next year. The full report and recommendations can be found on the Department for Education website.

Challenges Facing the BSCB

- Despite efforts to protect children's services across the partnership, the threat of diminishing resources available to member agencies to safeguard children and young people remains. This has been logged as a risk and will continue to be actively monitored by the Board.
- It is likely in the current climate that senior staff across the partnership will be given substantial extra responsibilities which could impact on their capacity to fulfil BSCB responsibilities and deliver safeguarding services.
- The community and voluntary sector has experienced a significant impact from the changes to allocation of grants and funding to grassroots services.
- The provision and take up of multi-agency training, has been inconsistent across partner agencies which reflects a London and national trend.
- Ensuring that the lessons learned from local case reviews and case file audits become embedded in local practice and improve the quality of the provision of services to children.
- Ensuring that the views of children and young people are taken into account in service planning and provision including setting priorities for staying safe.
- The absence of BSCB's skilled Administrator, due to maternity leave, has not been fully backfilled and this will continue to be an issue throughout the forthcoming year.

Tim Beach
Independent Chair

Context:

Definition of Safeguarding: Safeguarding and Promoting the welfare of children is defined within the Working Together 2010 Guidance as

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

And undertaking that role so as to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully

The Children Act 2004 requires Local Authorities to establish Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) for their area as the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how organisations will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The LSCB develops local arrangements for safeguarding children and ensures that partners are working effectively together to achieve objectives

This report is prepared in line with the statutory requirements outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010. This will be subject to amendment as a recommendation of the Munro review, that requires the report to be submitted to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner (once appointed), and the Chair of the health and wellbeing board. The report will be submitted to the Children's Trust Board (CTB) and will be published as a public document.

The report forms part of the LSCB scrutiny function that should provide challenge to the work of The Children's Trust in driving improvement.

The report should provide an assessment of the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, set against a comprehensive analysis of the local area safeguarding context. It should recognise achievements and the progress that has been made in the local authority area as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges that remain' (Working Together 3.34)

The document has been structured to a template which is recommended for national use. The intention is to both reflect progress made but also capture the priorities and areas which will need to be subject to additional focus over the coming year in accordance with the Munro Review and shaped by the recent Ofsted Inspection

This report will cover the extent to which the functions of the LSCB as set out in "Working Together 2010" are being effectively discharged. The scope of the LSCB continues to be very broad and encompasses broader prevention as well as early intervention and child protection services: Within this framework, children at risk of harm will be a priority for consideration. The report will therefore include:

- The priorities of the Board: Why these areas have been identified as particular priorities and progress in relation to the priorities.
- Governance and Accountability of the Board: Effectiveness of the board and its sub groups.
- Monitoring & Evaluation/Quality Assurance Activity.
- Future challenges.

Summary of outcomes for the BSCB

Key activity and achievements of the Board itself over the last year include the following which will be outlined in more detail in the body of the report.

Ofsted Inspection: Barnet had a full inspection of its services in relation to safeguarding and looked after children in Jan 2012 and was judged to be good in all areas with the exception of quality of provision for safeguarding and looked after children services which were adequate. An action plan is in train to address areas identified as a priority for improvement. The following extracts signify the positive evaluation of safeguarding by the Inspectorate.

'Safeguarding outcomes are good for children and young people in Barnet. The vast majority of children and young people seen during the inspection reported that they felt safe' Ofsted Inspection Jan 2012

'The BSCB continues to be developed to ensure an effective structure is in place which promotes ownership, accountability and challenge. A wide ranging membership ensures all agencies and services are represented including the adult services safeguarding board representative' Ofsted Inspection 2012

- A focused audit for partner agencies to review compliance with the safeguarding duties contained in Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.
- Completion of a multi-agency case review using the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) model, which has identified important learning for all partners. This means that BSCB will be well placed to deliver the new Government requirement to use systems methodology for future review.
- Strengthened governance and accountability through the repositioning of the Executive Group which has oversight of policy, strategy and performance in respect of safeguarding children. The Executive is also responsible for establishing the BSCB budget and agreeing agency contributions which will be reviewed annually.
- Work with faith and cultural groups to increase safeguarding awareness in partnership with CommUNITY Barnet which was recognised by a London Safeguarding Children Board Award. This contributed to the development of new resources to support practitioners and communities.
- Enhanced arrangements for quality assurance through the Performance and Quality sub group which is developing a more robust outcomes framework in line with Munro.
- Involving children and young people through 'Youth Shield' whose members undertook a survey of over 400 young people in Barnet which highlighted their issues and concerns.
- Child Sexual Exploitation input to research and supporting development of operational structure so that young people can be safeguarded.
- Learning and development events including a conference focused on sexual abuse that included internationally acclaimed speakers
- Maintaining a focus on Safeguarding in challenging financial climates and organisational change. The LSCB has managed to maintain funding from contributing partners at 2009/10 levels.
- Closer engagement with schools to identify and respond to safeguarding and welfare issues.
- Increased focus and development of multi agency arrangements on high risk missing children.

Summary of Key Outcomes across the partnership

- A Triage model of the Youth Offending Service in partnership with Barnet Police and Targeted Youth Support has successfully reduced the number of First Time Entrants to the Criminal Justice System by 9%.
- The YOS has supported 71% of young people to be engaged in full time Education, Training or Employment by the end of their Court Orders.
- Youth Shield have researched and compiled 'Barnet Young People's Safeguarding Consultation 2011' which has enabled young people's views to feed into the priorities of the BSCB.
- Youth Shield have developed Creating Healthy Teenage Relationships: a project for young people to become peer trainers and deliver sessions in schools and youth settings to 14 year olds.
- Barnet's Youth Service has delivered Positive Activities (to 2647 young people) to targeted areas and groups of vulnerable young people during school holidays and evenings and work programmes for NEET young people.
- Protocol between Children's Services and Adult Mental Health developed, launched and being monitored.
- Interface meetings up and running to improve collaboration between services for high risk mental health cases.
- A robust process is in place for managing allegations in Barnet in order to reduce and manage risk of harm to children. The Local Authority Designated Officer role is well established and the resources committed to it are ensuring the safeguarding focus, in protecting children from high risk perpetrators as well as driving up the general practice in relation to safe working.
- Criminal investigations and a conviction in relation to a perpetrator of sexual abuse has contributed to the protection of further potential victims.
- An historic allegation of abuse has resulted in prosecution of a perpetrator for serious sexual offences.
- 3 cases of concern have led to a management case review with associated action plans to improve safeguarding processes.
- Safeguarding training has been delivered to over 1000 multi-agency staff in the last year as well as briefing events and a seminar at the BSCB conference in 2011.
- Continued funding to support Child Death Overview Panel process has been agreed.
- The substantial backlog of cases has been significantly reduced.

- An updated protocol and risk assessment tool for children missing from care has been developed, which was successfully piloted in our residential units and by Barnet MISPER. This is now being rolled out across the wider workforce.
- A process for high risk missing children cases to be referred to the Safeguarding Division and for the strategy meetings to be chaired independently by the Senior Safeguarding Officer (SSO) has been implemented.
- Work has also been undertaken to improve the quality of the data on missing children.
- Barnet has pledged support for the current campaign 'Cutting Children free from Sexual Exploitation'.
- Raised awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation across the partnership.
- Cohort of multi-agency staff trained to use resources in prevention work with young people at risk of CSE.
- Direct preventative work with young people at 2 secondary schools, a pupil referral unit and a residential setting.
- Direct one to one work over a 6-12 month period with 9 young people identified as being at high risk of sexual exploitation.
- Positive changes in young people's awareness of sexual exploitation and ability to keep themselves safe.
- In one case, a vulnerable young woman was able to reduce risky behaviour and live safely at home after a period of family conflict. She has been able to successfully complete GCSE's at school and is now studying a further education course at college.
- 182 CRB checks for faith and cultural groups.
- 21 + sign ups for on-line child protection training through faith groups.
- Child Protection courses delivered to 50 staff and volunteers from a Mosque.
- High level of attendance at multi-agency safeguarding courses run in Barnet.
- Support provided to a minority ethnic family at a strategy meeting.
- Successful collaboration in response to a safeguarding incident and investigation involving a faith community, Police and Children's Social Care Monthly safeguarding advice surgeries, 4 of which have been hosted by faith and cultural groups.
- Network of safeguarding leads established across the supplementary schools network.

- 26 facilitators from various ethnic and cultural groups recruited and trained to deliver parenting programmes.
- Fostering champions from supplementary schools.
- An early intervention project to support families (with children aged 0-11yrs) affected by domestic abuse.
- A multi-agency initiative, involving 3 DV workers within the Multi-Agency Support Team, Relate NW, Home-Start Barnet, Children's Centres and Health Visitors, as well as a range of community focused and domestic violence agencies.
- Solace Women's Aid are now contracted providers of advocacy and support services for survivors as well as refuge spaces and services for perpetrators.
- Review of the communication strategy and direct involvement of young people in that process.
- Improved awareness of the work of the BSCB including contribution to safeguarding month.
- Newsletter regularly circulated to front line staff.
- Website developed with a distinct branding and information tailored to the needs of different audiences.
- Participation by young people in developing accessible information.

Governance and Accountability Arrangements

'Leadership and management of safeguarding services in Barnet are good. Governance arrangements within the Children's Trust, the BSCB and the wider council and partners have developed well and are secure' Ofsted Inspection Jan 2012

The Board has an Independent Chair who formally reports to both the Council's portfolio holder for children and the First Class Education and Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Independent Chair is also a member of the Children's Trust Board where the work of the Board is tabled, including the annual report outlining the work of the BSCB. This ensures appropriate challenge where necessary.

The Lead member for Children's Services is a participant observer of the BSCB in accordance with the directive in Working Together 2010 and the Director of Children's Services a member of both the Executive and BSCB.

The Board has continued to evolve structure and governance arrangements to ensure a sharper focus on scrutiny and monitoring. There is currently a two part structure with an Executive that meets in advance of the full Board meeting. Executive Members are responsible for policy, strategy and performance in respect of safeguarding children. They are also responsible for establishing the BSCB budget and agreeing agency contributions which are reviewed annually.

The role of the Executive is to be further strengthened through a revised schedule of meetings to assure greater oversight of the BSCB agenda and maximise ownership of partnership working improvements.

The BSCB has established a large membership to include a wide range of partners, including Community (Lay) members and Youth Shield.

Attendance is actively monitored with gaps followed up and this is likely to be a continued challenge given the demands on partner agencies time and resources and overlapping structures that require some partners to service more than one LSCB.

The Board works to an agreed constitution and work plan and a number of sub groups are responsible for carrying out elements of the work programme and reporting back on progress at each Board meeting. This structure is also supported by a number of task and finish groups that are mandated to carry out specific pieces of work. Details of all of these groups are contained in Appendix 4.

BSCB Sub Groups: There are currently 4 sub groups in addition to the Standing Serious Case Review (SCR) Panel and the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). These are as follows:

Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group: This is chaired by the BSCB Independent Chair, with a remit to look at performance across partner agencies, utilising existing performance data and monitoring, as well as carrying out specific pieces of audit work. The group actively monitors multi-agency performance data as part of an agreed London dataset. This enables identification of trends and areas of risk that can be addressed and feed in to improvement planning. The group also includes reporting from partners on own agency quality assurance processes, for example, the Mental Health Trust, Quality Dashboard Account and the Probation service system have recently been considered. Work is currently in progress to introduce a revised quality assurance framework that has a more explicit focus on outcomes data, including the voice of service users and children and young people. This will give a picture of how measured activity has made a difference to the lives of children and families.

Training and Development Sub Group: The LSCB is responsible for the strategic overview of safeguarding training both by single agencies (to their own staff) and interagency training. The Training and Development sub group discharges this function in collaboration with the Children's Workforce Development Team to ensure that both single and multi-agency training is delivered to a consistently high standard and that a process exists for evaluating its effectiveness.

Professional Advisory Sub Group: The Professional Advisory Group (PAG) includes members with direct operational knowledge and its function will be to ensure that all policy and procedure is both appropriate and operable. It also oversees the work of a number of Task and Finish Groups which have a remit to develop policy or examine specific issues and report back to the PAG, and through that the LSCB, for example, in relation to sexual exploitation.

Cross-Generational Sub Group: This group operates as a cross service group responsible to both adults and children's safeguarding boards. The aim is to ensure that services collaborate as far as possible in promoting the safety and welfare of children and a holistic approach to working with families.

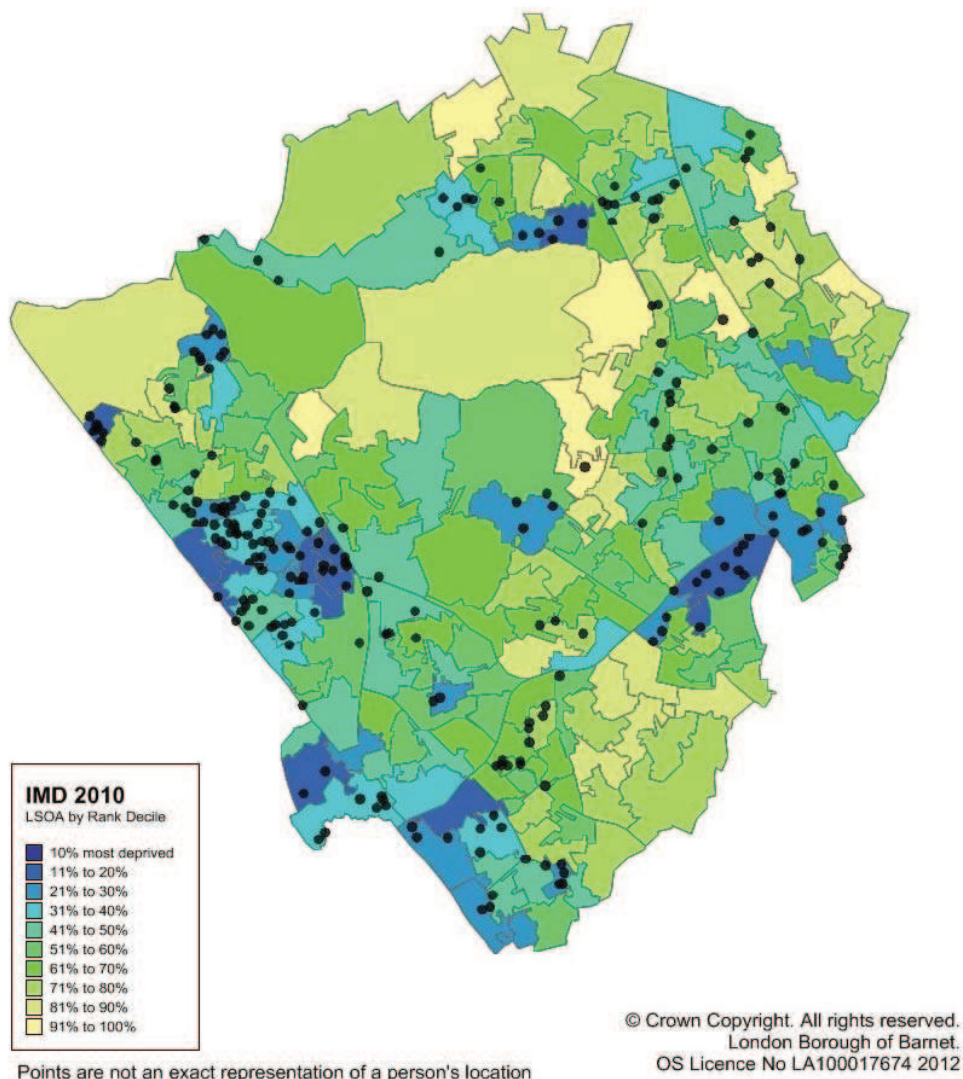
Child Death Overview Panel: This is responsible for the specific functions relating to child death as outlined in Working Together 2010. Its purpose is to review all child deaths and identify any matters of concern in relation to any child death in Barnet.

Standing Serious Case Review Sub Group: The Standing Serious Case Review Sub-Group links to the Child Death Overview processes when a child has died or been seriously harmed and abuse or neglect is believed to be a factor. Independent Chair arrangements further enhance the capacity to exercise scrutiny and challenge. The serious case review sub-group has a wider remit in supporting learning from reviews and has carried out a SCIE case review as part of a London pilot. This has identified learning and improvements in practice for a range of multi agency staff.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Distribution of Child Protection plans in Barnet

Challenge for regeneration areas: how can they be designed to support vulnerable children?



Children's Social Care in 2011/12



300 Children in Care



259 children Subject
of a Child Protection Plan



1,379 Children in Need



3,414 referrals
to Children's Social Care (2011/12)



83,565 children
aged 0-18 in

- Approximately 2.3% of Barnet's children are Children in Need, subject of a Child Protection Plan or are Children in care at any one time.
- Almost £27m is spent on these children each year.

It should be noted that there is a significant correlation between areas of higher social deprivation in Barnet and children Subject to Child Protection Plans. Both the Board and the Children's Services are aware of this and will keep this under active review over the following year to ensure that there is a sustained focus on the quality of service. Every attempt will be made across the Partnership to reduce the potential impact of budget cuts on the delivery of Children's Services and to monitor if that trend continues.

The Effectiveness of Safeguarding in Barnet:

Making an informed judgement as to the quality of work to safeguard children and generating consistent activity to make improvements where they are needed is probably the most significant task facing an LSCB. The summary of outcomes outlined above is intended to reflect some of the work that has gone on in the last year in Barnet that we judge to have had a real outcome in safeguarding children and families in Barnet. The key outcomes are provided with some narrative throughout the report.

Much of the work is concerned with activity or output. It is not always easy to identify the outcome, or result of the actions we take but our aim is always to try and maintain a focus on actions that make a difference to a child or young person. Sometimes this will involve making informed judgements about likely impact, for example, the effectiveness of training in helping professionals take action if they are concerned about a child

The task of forming a judgement is helped to a great degree by the inspection process. A full inspection of safeguarding and looked after children's services in 2012 in Barnet, gives a picture of organisational health and provides a focus for improvement. Overall the audit work that the Board and partners carried out together with case reviews and the Section 11 process, reflected many of the issues that were identified in the Ofsted report; that there is a great deal of good

work across agencies, children in Barnet are safe but there are improvements to the delivery of services that can and need to be made.

The Ofsted report is available on the London Borough of Barnet website.

The data and narrative below reflect the quality of safeguarding provision and helped to inform the content of the annual report and the overall view taken by Ofsted, which the Local Borough of Barnet and BSCB fully accepted.

“LSCBs play an extremely valuable role and will remain uniquely positioned within the local accountability architecture to monitor how professionals and services are working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. They are also well placed to identify emerging problems through learning from practice and to oversee efforts to improve services in response”.(Munro Chapter 4)

The Munro review identifies the LSCB as having a crucial role as the vehicle for scrutiny of safeguarding activity across the partnership. The Performance and Quality Assurance Sub-Group leads on this work and has responsibility for monitoring and evaluation through an agreed multi-agency programme of audit and review. Chair arrangements provide an opportunity for independence and challenge which has enabled the group to develop a strong basis with improved attendance and representation over the last year.

A review of partners Quality Assurance frameworks over the last year has provided assurance of robust processes within single agencies as well as across the partnership.

Within the Children’s Service, the Safeguarding Division has a pivotal role in the scrutiny function and has set out a “vision of continuous improvement”, within the divisional plan for the forthcoming year which has been developed in line with Munro principles.

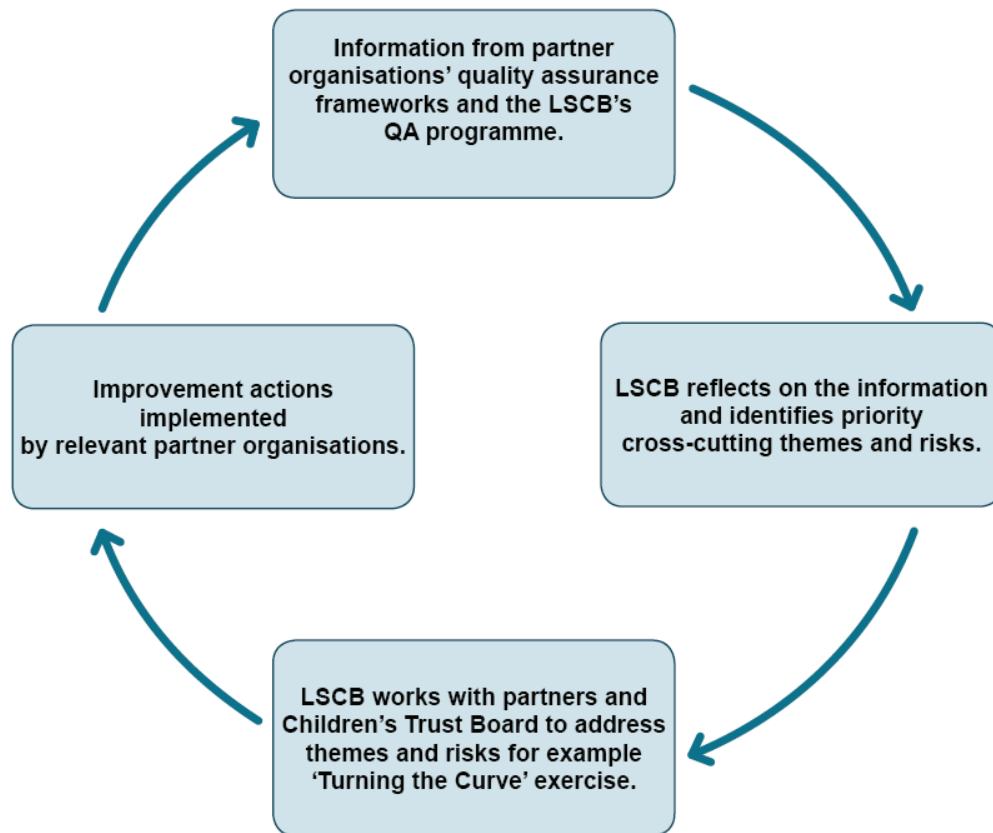
Barnet has continued to participate in the Pan London Safeguarding dataset in conjunction with the London Board which has enabled scrutiny of partnership data across the range of outcomes for children. Interrogation of the dataset has highlighted several areas of note, such as increasing referral rates to children’s service, which have been appropriately flagged as an area of risk and subject to ongoing monitoring. It has also been apparent that there are some gaps in the information that is readily available in some areas, including drugs and health data

The Safeguarding dataset discussions will need significant work at local and pan London level if the national and local performance indicators recommended by the Munro Review are to be adopted. This work has been accepted by the Board and Sub Group as part of their contribution to the Munro Action Plan being managed through Children’s Services and as one of the four priority areas for the Board. This work includes the development of feedback from service users and the workforce and will therefore assist in identifying the outcomes for children and families.

The sub group agreed that an area for development, as identified in the recent Ofsted inspection, is to implement a more coherent outcomes based framework that supplements quantitative data with qualitative data on outcomes for children and families.

The Sub-Group will therefore be adapting the London Safeguarding Children Board Quality Assurance Framework for local use so that we have a comprehensive means of assessing how well we safeguard children in Barnet,

based on key priority areas. This is based on recognised good practice. A diagrammatic representation of the process is shown below.



Audit Activity:

A number of audits have been undertaken in the last year including the following:

- Disabled Children Team. This was conducted following concern in relation to the low numbers of children who had a disability who were subject to a child protection plan. It was felt that the service needed to take a closer look at this issue to assure itself that disabled children were adequately safeguarded in Barnet. The audit and management review conducted in accordance with Munro principles have identified a number of areas for improvement both in practice and process which are being acted upon,. The team is now represented on the Board to provide opportunities for dialogue and interface and a further review will be carried out to assess impact of the review.
- Children subject to Child Protection (CP) plans (see below)
- An in depth multi-agency review of 6 Child Protection Plan Cases. The information gleaned has identified learning opportunities on a number of levels for all areas of the service, including the issue of parental co-operation and challenges in working with disguised compliance.

The audit programme for the year ahead will be informed by the Munro Report, the SCIE review and the findings of the Inspectorate. A further Section 11 audit will also be conducted in late 2012 based on a revised London template.

There is an intention to explore the potential for peer audit with a neighbouring borough and repositioning the role of the Professional Advisory Group to assist in learning from front line operational feedback across agencies.

The Child In Need (CIN) Audit in 2010, together with the findings of the SCIE review identified a number of areas for further thematic review including the following

- Identification of the Professional network involved with a child
- CIN Plans and compliance with revised format, including clear identification of risk variables and contingency planning
- Outcomes of CIN or CP plans
- Recording Practice
- Supervision and Management Practice

Children Subject to CP Plans:

An in depth audit was conducted in Nov 2011 to explore the sustained increase in numbers of children subject to CP plans, the underlying causation and the implications for practice. It was concluded that multiple factors are contributing to this trend, including demographic pressures and change within the court process. Although the audit reflected a national trend in increasing referral and planning around neglect issues, thresholds were being applied appropriately. Numbers stabilised at the end of the year.

Ongoing monitoring by the BSCB is needed to examine how the service responds to the continued rise in referral rates and children subject to CP Plans to ensure that the impact on practice is minimised. Barnet's recently constituted protection panel, created as a response, is proving to be an invaluable forum to provide direct scrutiny of case decisions as well as identifying trends and patterns to be followed up at management level.

Routine audits are undertaken on an ongoing basis on children subject to CP plans for 2 years or more and those 're-registered'. This is to prevent 'drift' in those cases which can sometimes occur as a result of turnover of staff.

The safeguarding division has recently piloted the 'Strengthening Families' approach to the conference process which has been found to be an effective way of engaging families in bringing about improved safety for children.

This has been very positively evaluated and will now be adopted for use in all conferences using a revised report template.

The London Borough of Barnet Cabinet receives annually an overall Safeguarding Report which covers both Adults and Children's Services. This document reflects the general picture of Safeguarding within Barnet across the Partnership. That report was received at Cabinet on the 17th July 2012.

Agency Updates for 2011-2012

Rather than simply give an overview of the work of BSCB, we have asked our members to provide some concrete examples of how they have made a difference to keeping children safe in Barnet. What follows includes a summary of governance arrangements, key achievements and work planned for the forthcoming year from the partners making up the Board.

Organisation: Children's Social Care

Internal arrangements for governance regarding safeguarding children at risk:

- In accordance with legislation and statutory guidance, local authorities have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need living in their area.
- As part of ensuring effective partnership working, the local authority has a responsibility to ensure that arrangements are in place to promote cooperation with partners and others, as appropriate working with children in the local area.
- Children's social care carries out these duties working with other services and agencies both internal and external council.
- Children's Social Care works within the framework set out by the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board and adheres to the required policy and procedure, for example, the London Safeguarding Board procedures.
- The Chief Executive is the Chief paid Officer of Barnet Council. The Director of Children's Service (DCS) reports directly to the Chief Executive. The Assistant Director, Children's Social Care with day-to-day management of the Children's Social Care, reports directly to the DCS.
- The Council's organisation structure is available on the council website and shows the relationship between Children's Social Care and other services across the council. For more information on the functions within Children's Social Care, please see either the Children and Young People Plan or Barnet's Children's Service Plan both available through the internet.
- All social worker undertaking statutory functions in Children's Social Care hold a recognised qualification and are currently registered through General Social Care Council as required. From 31 July 2012, the registering body will be the Health Professions Council. All GSCC registered social workers will retain their registration.
- Social workers undertake regular training to maintain their registration.
- Children's Social Care is represented at the BSCB, Children's Trust Board, Health and Well Being Board, Domestic Abuse Strategic Board and other strategic groups relevant to promoting the welfare of children and young people.
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is a strategic priority for the council. The performance of Children's Social Care is central to achieving the Council's objectives. Please see the Council's Corporate Plan.
- Within the Council, the Assistant Director Children's Social Care attends Statutory Officers Group chaired by the Chief Executive and attended by other senior members of the Council to discuss matters regarding the safeguarding of children and young people. The Assistant Director is also a member of the Children's Service Senior Leadership team and other relevant teams within Children's Services.
- The AD CSC works with staff across Children's Social Care to continually improve outcomes for children and young people.
- The Governance of Children's Social Care is inspected by Ofsted as are many of its functions such as its fostering service, adoption service and children's homes.

Key outcomes and achievements for 2011/12.

- Ofsted (and the Care Quality Commission) undertook an inspection of Barnet's safeguarding and looked after children services in Jan 2012 and published their report on 24 Feb 2012. The outcome of the inspection was that the

- overall effectiveness and capacity for improvement was good.
- Barnet Council and partners were judged as good in 20 of 22 criteria areas inspected. Barnet was judged as 'adequate' for the quality of provision of both safeguarding and looked after children. An action plan for improvement with a focus on this area is in place.
 - The Ofsted inspection found that of the number of children and young people that took part in their survey, that "the vast majority of children and young people seen during the inspection reported that they felt safe" (Barnet Ofsted Inspection report, 2012)
 - Overseen the a significant safe reduction in the number of children subject to child protection plans from a peak of 289 in Nov 2011 a year end figure at March 2012 of 259.
 - Participation in an Ofsted survey to look at best practice in supporting social workers.
 - The Lead Member has signed us up to the Barnardo's Cutting Them Free campaign which supports our work with young people at high risk of sexual exploitation including the delivery of workshops at our residential units.
 - Formation of a liaison group with mental health services to focus on interface and development issues.

Work Planned for 2012/12

- Development and establish a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Continue to improve the interface between early intervention services and children's social care to ensure the early help is efficient and effective.
- Undertake significant service changes through the implementation of Munro using the Family Justice Review and the Adoption Action Plan as key drivers for change.
- Under the umbrella of Munro, Children's Social care will lead the development of a new single assessment replace the current initial and core assessments.
- Reduce the time it takes of children in need to have their cases heard through the family courts.
- Contribute to research undertaken by Action for Children and the University of Stirling into develop a tool for practitioners to use in cases of neglect.
- Introduce a model of assessment for use across Children's Social Care to improve the quality of assessment and professional confidence of social workers.

Ann Graham
Assistant Director of Children's Service
Barnet Children's Service

Organisation: Barnet Borough Police

Internal arrangements for governance regarding safeguarding children at risk:

- The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has a specific policy and standard operating procedure for Safeguarding Children; awareness of which is delivered, through training, to all operational staff.
- Barnet Police has a Detective Chief Inspector lead for Public Protection matters which incorporates Safeguarding, along with a dedicated Detective Sergeant for Safeguarding Children.

- Existence of a Police Community Safety Unit (CSU) which is dedicated to the investigation of all hate, domestic violence and ensuring that matters relating to safeguarding children are referred to appropriate bodies e.g. Child Abuse Investigation Command.
- All CSU staff undertake a specific two-week course to be able to understand and effectively investigate the above crimes.
- Representation on the Children's Safeguarding Board through attendance of a senior police leader (minimum Detective Superintendent level).
- Daily Management meetings, chaired by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, where risk and harm for all crime is assessed and appropriate resources allocated. All matters involving children at risk/victims/perpetrators of crime are listed and reviewed at the daily meeting.

Key outcomes and achievements in 2011/2012:

- Provided resources to the tri-borough Mental Health Assessment Team (Haringey, Barnet & Enfield), supporting problem solving activity and interventions with communities.
- Created a streamlined referral process via a safeguarding mailbox, to prevent loss of information and to ensure early intervention on high risks cases.
- We have supported the multi-agency homicide review processes, designed to capture learning and improve our ability to prevent serious crimes of violence.
- Developed plans with partners on the creation of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to ensure a more dynamic and holistic approach to safeguarding victims.
- Embarked on two mentoring programmes with Barnet Education Business partnership and Friern Barnet school Blue Skies project.
- Continued to support Youth Shield.
- Fully supported and part of the project team for the Family Intervention project.
- Developed the joint working processes of CAF social workers based at Barnet police station.
- Undertaken Junior Citizens scheme for year 6 pupils approaching transition.

Work Planned for 2012/2013:

- An MPS wide review has been completed and it is now intended to implement a new local policing model, with the aim of improving performance, public satisfaction, and enhancing capability, particularly in respect to crimes of violence and risk.
- Implementation of MASH to ensure timely risk assessment and action in relation to vulnerable children and adults across the partnership.
- Continuing to provide information, support and resources into the development of an intervention project, which intends to concentrate partnership resources on those families with the most complex needs across all agencies.
- Working with partners to implement a co-located Integrated Offender Management Unit, allowing a more joined up and speedy response to offender's risks and needs.
- Continue with a strong safer schools team concentrating on support and identification of threat, harm and risk. Running a 2012 Junior Citizens scheme.
- Undertake further mentoring programmes with Friern Barnet school.

Mark Strugnell
Detective Superintendent, Head of Crime Investigation
Metropolitan Police Service (Barnet Borough)



Organisation: Barnet Youth Offending Service

Internal arrangements for governance regarding safeguarding children at risk:

- The Youth Offending Service have a statutory responsibility to have regard for the welfare of children and young people in the Criminal Justice System; Safeguarding is therefore threaded through all areas of practice.
- Barnet YOS forms part of the Children's Service organisational structure. All YOS staff are required to update their Safeguarding training on a regular basis which they access through the Barnet internal multi-agency Safeguarding programme.
- There are two registered, qualified Social Workers on the YOS staff team, one of whom is an Operational Team Manager holding delegated responsibility as the Safeguarding lead, a designated Nurse, a Clinical Psychologist and access to Drugs Counsellors and Psychiatrists through Barnet Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service.
- The Youth Justice Board assessment framework requires the Youth Offending Service to undertake assessments of vulnerability for all young people who receive YOS service. Vulnerability Management Plans are drawn up to identify how needs will be addressed. These assessments and plans are regularly reviewed.
- A key performance indicator for the YOS is to reduce the number of children and young people remanded or sentenced to custody, with resources dedicated to creating robust bail support programmes and community sentences.
- The YOS maintain representation on the Children's Safeguarding Board and relevant sub-groups, the Children's Leadership Team and Safer Communities Partnership Board.
- Monthly multi-agency High Risk and Deter Panel meetings, at which Social Care is represented, address the needs of young people known to the YOS who are assessed as presenting a high risk of vulnerability. Vulnerability Management Plans are discussed and agreed with appropriate resources allocated.
- Assessments of victims of crime are conducted by the YOS Restorative Justice Co-ordinator. Where victims are under the age of 17, the Victims Code of Conduct requires that they are supported through assessments by an appropriate adult. These victims are then supported and encouraged to engage with restorative interventions designed to repair the harm that has been caused by their offender.

Key Outcomes and achievements in 2011/2012:

- An HMIP Core Case Inspection was carried out in September 2011. This commended the YOS on the frequency of vulnerability screenings being carried out, our communication and swift transfer of information with the secure estate, our partnership working to promote the welfare of young people and effective management oversight of vulnerability concerns of young people in custody. Any concerns identified have been addressed in an agreed action plan (see work planned for 2012/13).
- The number of custodial sentences imposed in the last year has remained constant and in line with the national picture.
- Through the development of a Triage model in partnership with Barnet Police and Targeted Youth Support, we have successfully reduced the number of First Time Entrants to the Criminal Justice System by 9%.
- We have supported 71% of young people to be engaged in full time Education, Training or Employment by the end of their Court Orders.
- The last year has seen the development of the Troubled Families agenda in Barnet and the YOS work closely with the Troubled Families division to address and promote the welfare of children and young people through a systemic approach.
- YOS practitioners continue to contribute to Child Protection Plans through attendance at relevant Local Authority meetings.
- YOS practitioners continue to work in close partnership with Social Care, Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service, CAMHS and Housing to ensure that targeted work is completed to safeguard young people and this work forms part of their Court Orders.
- Restorative Justice interventions with young victims of crime is a newly developed area of practice, the RJ co-ordinator has overseen successful RJ conferences resulting in verbal and written apologies to victims.

Work Planned for 2012/2013:

- In line with the Children's Service Plan, the YOS will invest in early intervention to reduce the number of children and families experiencing complex problems through improved joint working with the Police and Targeted Youth Support to further develop our Triage model and continue to reduce the number of first time entrants.
- Through our continued strong relationship with Court services and increased community based provision we aim to reduce the number of children and young people entering into the secure estate.
- As part of our HMIP Improvement Plan, we aim to provide better evidence of actions planned to safeguard children and young people by including measures to manage vulnerability in initial assessments and plans.
- In order to ensure timeliness and quality of assessments and plans, YOS managers will review our quality assurance process.
- As part of support offered through the High Risk and Deter Panel, YOS Police Officers will undertake home visits for young people leaving custody, or who are deemed to be high risk of vulnerability or harm to others. Closer liaison and information sharing needs will be developed with Parenting workers, the intensive family focus team and social care managers to ensure that existing home visiting provision is captured in YOS case recording and contributing to assessments.
- Work is currently underway with the Youth Justice Board and sector-led improvement initiatives to review the current assessment and intervention planning process and streamlining of forms to support YOS practitioners to spend more time delivering effective interventions targeting risk.

- We will continue to develop our service to Victims of crime in Barnet through Restorative Justice and expansion of our Reparation provisions.
- Working with partners to implement a co-located Integrated Offender Management Unit, allowing a more joined up and speedy response to offender's risks and needs.

Meeta Mahtani
Operational Team Manager
Barnet Youth Offending Service

Organisation: North Central London (NCL) Health, Barnet

Internal arrangements for governance regarding safeguarding children:

Since April 2012 NHS Barnet has sat within North Central London health commissioning cluster. NHS Barnet commission community health services from Central London Community Healthcare. Acute services from Barnet Hospital and Royal Free Hospital and Mental health services from Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental health Trust. Barnet are also lead commissioners for Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Stanmore. By April 2013 responsibility for children's safeguarding will be handed over to the Clinical Commissioning Groups under new health strategic arrangements. The role of the NHS commissioning board in monitoring the safeguarding aspect of Clinical Commissioning Groups will be made clearer within the forthcoming months.

NHS Barnet governance seeks assurance from it's providers that they have arrangements in place to safeguard children under Section 11 Children Act 2004. The Care Quality Commission also requires each health provider organisation to provide assurance in a number of domains for children. An Ofsted/ Care Quality Commission review of children's safeguarding and arrangements for children in care carried out in January 2012 confirmed that the arrangements in place within Barnet's health agencies were "good".

Internally NHS Barnet host a Safeguarding Children's Advisory group which is attended by all it's NHS providers and includes the ambulance service, General Practice Out of Hours Services and some independent providers within the borough. The group has both a governance and professional advisory and support element and reports directly to the Professional Executive Committee, which in turn reports to both the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board.

Key Outcomes and Achievements in 2011/2012:

In 2011/ 2012 health organisations in Barnet continued their role in ensuring that Barnet children were safeguarded both internally by ensuring that their arrangements were in line with CQC recommendations and also externally with their work with the Local Safeguarding Board.

Health services are represented and contribute to the multi-agency safeguarding agenda in Barnet and as discussed were inspected along with their local authority colleagues by Ofsted/ Care Quality Commission in January 2012. Each health organisation provides a programme of safeguarding children training for their staff in addition to the multi-agency programme delivered by the local authority.

Bespoke training is provided for Independent health contractors .This training also has support from colleagues in the Metropolitan police and Barnet Social care as required.

Health agencies were actively involved in the Social Care Institute of Excellence pilot carried out in 2011. Health were represented in both the Review team and the case team and are in the process of ensuring that themes learned are disseminated to all staff.

In 2011 following a press enquiry concerning the arrangements for safeguarding children in Walk in Centres in London, NHS London undertook a policy and practice audit for all Walk in Centre sites. The aim of the audit was to seek assurance that arrangements were in place to identify and refer children who may be at risk of harm to the appropriate agency and to ensure that NHS Walk in Centres were properly connected to the wider child protection community. The resulting rating for Barnet Walk in Centre departments identified a very positive result regarding their ability to ensure children are safeguarded.

Lists of children subject to child protection plans are now received by acute providers of healthcare and Barnet Walk in Centres electronically. Staff within these units have worked with London Borough of Barnet Safeguarding teams to make adaptations to their internal systems where necessary to ensure that these vulnerable children are identified.

Ensuring that staff are aware of the impact of domestic violence has on children living within the home is high profile within health organisations across Barnet. A member of the Safeguarding team within Central London Community Hub represents health organisations at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment conference in Barnet and feeds back relevant information to health staff following this meeting.

In 2011/2012 Designated professionals at North Central London to include Barnet staff have now developed a safeguarding monitoring system for all health providers within the sector i.e. Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Camden and Islington. Health providers will be expected to complete a monitoring matrix on a quarterly basis to NCL London Performance and Quality team who it is anticipated will then provide this information to NHS Barnet. The Designated Nurse Safeguarding children will use this feedback to inform Barnet Safeguarding Children's Board Performance and Quality sub-group and to the Professional Executive Committee NHS Barnet.

Work Planned for 2012/2013:

- Link with Clinical Commissioning consortium to ensure safeguarding children's agenda is embedded in new arrangements.
- Continue to support multi-agency safeguarding strategy and agenda.
- Meet Ofsted/ CQC action plan targets.
- Further develop internal safeguarding training across health providers to ensure learning from SCIE review is widely disseminated.
- Monitor provider assurance reporting and highlight any risks to children within the borough.
- Continue to work with cluster Designated professionals to develop the strategic work programme for safeguarding children across NCL.
- Develop the roles of named safeguarding professionals within provider organisations.



Organisation: Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust

The Trust is a large NHS provider of integrated mental health and community health services. In Barnet this includes adult, child and adolescent mental health services and the Barnet Drugs Advisory Service.

The Director of Nursing Quality and Safety is the Trust's Executive lead for Safeguarding. There is an Assistant Director of Safeguarding Children and a matrix of Named Nurses and Doctors and a safeguarding children coordinator in each team to help provide support and supervision to over 3000 staff.

Key Outcomes and Achievements in 2011/2012:

There is a strong commitment to provide a wide range of preventative and responsive safeguarding children services throughout the trust. The evidence from quality assurance activity indicates that this is being both achieved and evidenced across trust services. There has been a continued increase in the amount of safeguarding activity at a strategic, quality assurance and individual case level over the last two years.

Key Outcomes
The Trust has further developed its comprehensive safeguarding quality assurance system. This provides quarterly feed back on our regular auditing of involvement in child protection work including meeting attendance, referrals and supervision.
Involvement in the development and publication of the multi-agency protocol "Safeguarding Children where there are concerns of Parental Mental Health" in October 2011.
Formation of a joint quarterly meeting with children's Services Social Care in each borough to encourage building of relationships and discuss arising interagency safeguarding issues at an early stage.
Mental Health staff have been involved with 363 safeguarding children cases during 2012-13.
Levels of attendance at level one and two safeguarding children mandatory training is 84% (above the 80% standard).
The Trust has contributed to six statutory multi-agency case reviews.
In November 2011, the Care Quality Commission completed a review of compliance for the Essential Standard of Quality and Safety Outcome 7. It judged community and in patient mental health services at Edgware Community Hospital, St Ann's Hospital and Chase Farm Hospital as compliant. Further unannounced inspections have found compliance with this standard across the Trust.
96.4% of staff and volunteers have the appropriate Criminal Records Bureau Check and this has been updated at least three yearly in line with good practice guidance.

Work Planned for 2012/2013:

The Trust aims for 2012-13 support its commitment to safeguarding children and includes:

- Promoting patients' overall health and wellbeing.
- Strengthening partnerships with other organisations, to improve services further.
- Continued development of staff – with new staff development opportunities and new ways of working.

The Trust's safeguarding children and young people priorities include:

The development of practice in responding effectively to Domestic Abuse, including the further development of the Trust protocol and training to support all Trust staff working with adults and children who experience domestic abuse.

Achieve at least 80% of eligible staff having attended appropriate level three safeguarding children training by reviewing the training strategy, increasing the provision of in-house training and recording of attendance at Local Safeguarding Children Board Training.

Integrating the views of children and young people into our service development plans for 2013-14 by engaging with young carer networks.

The development of a child protection leaflet for children and young people.

Further develop our audit methodology for supervision to capture the wide breadth of this throughout the Trust.

Ensuring that there is adequate specialist safeguarding resource within the Trust.

The Trust's safeguarding children work plan will guide the achievement of these priorities and is outlined in the Trust's Safeguarding Children and Young People Annual Report.

Deborah Perriment
Assistant Director – Safeguarding Children
BEH Mental Health Team

Barnet, Enfield and Haringey 
Mental Health NHS Trust

Organisation: Lay Advisers Report

Since our appointment in 2009, we have attended not only the main Barnet Safeguarding Children Board's meetings but also some of its sub-committees and a training/planning day. We have sat on the multi faith forum and the communications committee, which looks at how the public awareness of safeguarding can be increased. We are looking forward to being able to participate in the E-Safety sub-committee when it starts up again.

We have gained a real insight into the workings of the Board and its constituent agencies and the huge efforts taken to ensure effective cross agency collaboration. All members of the Board have been very welcoming and ready to listen to any issues that we wish to raise.

One of the most interesting meetings was when members of Barnet Youth Shield gave a presentation on the results of a survey that they had carried out amongst the young people of Barnet. The survey covered issues such as relationships, peer pressures and safety. It painted an invaluable picture of the issues facing youth today and will be one which I am sure all members of the Board will find very informative and essential in their work.

We are sorry to have had to say good-bye to one of our group of three who unfortunately needed to leave. We will miss her depth of experience and knowledge and would like to thank her for her contributions.

We look forward to the coming year and the opportunities to utilise our experience gained now that we have become more familiar with our roles.

Naomi Burgess and Maxine Seltzer Lay Members to the Board

Organisation: Youth Shield



Youth Shield members have a standing invitation to the BSCB and report back regularly on their activity. At other times the Chair and Board Manager attend meetings with the young people.

The Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) is committed to ensuring that the views and experiences of children and young people play a key part in driving the agenda of the Board. Much work has been done in laying the groundwork to enable young people in Barnet to play an active role in the work of the BSCB. In order to support this process, the BSCB commissioned CommUNITY Barnet to consult with children and young people on the safeguarding agenda. Over the course of this project, the views of 400 children and young people were gathered

Key Outcomes and Achievements 2011/2012:

- Researched and compiled 'Barnet Young People's Safeguarding Consultation 2011'.
- Ran a workshop about adults engaging with young people at the London Safeguarding Conference.
- Worked with London Safeguarding to judge other categories of the London Safeguarding Children Awards.

- Won a Highly Commended award for Emerging Good Practice in the London Safeguarding Children Awards. Our work was recognised as an example of promising practice at the recent London Safeguarding Board Safeguarding Awards.



- Attended a Stop the Traffik Roadshow and fed back to the group about the Barnet Roadshow.
- Shortlisted to the last 3 of 400 organisations in the Team London Awards on 1 March 2012.
- Developed Creating Healthy Teenage Relationships: a project for young people to become peer trainers and deliver sessions in schools and youth settings to 14 year olds.

Creating Healthy Teenage Relationships: Become a Young Trainer

12th April 2012

Rainbow Centre, Barnet

Attendance: 13 young people aged between 15-23

Attendees: Youth Shield Members and opened it up to other young people including young mothers and children in care.

We did a survey for young people in Barnet (Barnet Young People's Safeguarding Consultation 2011). 60% said they do not receive enough relationships education in schools. 15.8% said they had been grabbed, pushed or shoved by a boy or girl they were going out with and 69.5% thought that domestic violence exists in teenage relationships. 16-24 year olds are most likely to experience abuse from someone they know and every week 2 women are being killed by a partner or ex partner here in the UK.

We worked with Tender, an organisation which uses drama and education to actively prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence. Together, we developed the training for Youth Shield and 2 trainers from Tender came along to deliver it. The first part of the training course taught the participants about relationship abuse amongst young people using drama and media to raise awareness.

In the afternoon, the group developed its own training session using techniques learnt in the morning but also including their own ideas and experiences.

The session we created as a group will be the basis of what will be taught to other young people in schools and clubs around Barnet in the coming year. Each participant received a certificate and will continue to work with Youth Shield to practise the session they developed before it is delivered.

Comments from Youth Shield Members:

How have you found the experience of being part of the board?

“It’s been a good opportunity and opened up other doors and it’s good to know that the work we have done has been recognized and awarded.”

“It is interesting to find out how the Safeguarding Children Board works and what the issues are.”

“Youth Shield is fun and I like the work that we do”

About the Healthy Relationships workshop:

“It was interesting and you learn things that are really going on for real people. You learn things that you can use in everyday life and you can use the information to help someone. “

“It can help you build healthier relationships and get you out of your normal life”

“I learnt lots of new skills and I really like the training and want to keep doing more”

“I found out about different types of violence, warning signs, helping my friends, how to get out of relationships that are unhealthy and who to go to for help.”

**Youth Shield
Youth Members of the Board**



Organisation: Barnet Youth Support Service

Internal arrangements for governance regarding safeguarding children at risk:

- Youth Support Service deliver/operate all safeguarding processes within the Children’s Service guidance and policy
- All Youth Support Service staff are recruited with an enhanced CRB and undergo a Warner Interview
- Members of the Management Team are represented on the Children’s Safeguarding Board, Professional Advisory Sub Group, Raising Educational Achievements (REA) for Looked After Children, Inclusion and Tracking Transition group and the Pupil Placement Panel
- All staff are required to attend Safeguarding training within 3 months of being employed and are responsible for updating their training at required periods
- Quarterly Health & Safety meetings include Safeguarding with details of accidents and incidents

- Divisional Manager attends special review child protection case conferences as required

Key Outcomes and achievements in 2011/2012:

- Supporting delivery of the Junior Citizens Scheme – attendance at workshops and funding
- Contribute to the CAF Practitioners forum and CAF steering Group
- Delivery of Positive Activities (to 2647 young people) to targeted areas and groups of vulnerable young people during school holidays and evenings and work programmes for NEET young people
- Development of counselling provision at 2 drop-in sites
- Delivered Evolve training to all staff for risk assessment inputting
- Implementation of Court Assessment meetings in relation to attendance
- Delivery of targeted work on a casework basis
- Targeted Youth Support early intervention multi-agency approach
- Meetings held with Practitioners working with young people in Barnet from the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. The meetings during 2011-12 included focus on Safeguarding, Safer Places for young people and gangs. Each meeting was attended by between 70 to 90 Practitioners with additional communications going out to over 700 Practitioners
- Further development of the Barnet Youth Board which is the youth council for the Borough of Barnet. It represents 13-19 year old young people across Barnet secondary schools, colleges and many community groups. It aims to give young people a voice and allow them to take their views to decision makers. As well as schools (including PRU's), there are members representing children in care, young carers, faith groups, Youthshield, BLAB (Barnet Libraries advisory board) and disabled young people.

Work Planned for 2012/2013:

- Continued targeted delivery of Positive Activities to targeted areas and groups of vulnerable young people during school holidays and evenings and work programmes for NEET young people
- Training to all providers in Child Protection awareness
- Training to all providers in risk assessments
- Participation in the Junior Citizens 2012
- Targeted 'gangs' work through courses e.g. boxing, mechanics
- Alternative education provision for non-attendees and young people at risk of exclusion
- Regular meetings with Practitioners which will include updates/information on safeguarding developments
- Continued delivery of targeted work on a casework basis

Karen Ali
Operational Manager (West/Central)
Youth Support Service

Organisation: CommUNITY Barnet representing Children's Voluntary Sector

Internal arrangements for governance regarding safeguarding children at risk:

- CommUNITY Barnet is an umbrella organisation representing a numerous and varied voluntary and community sector in Barnet. It provides the vital link between those working with children and young people and the strategic and operational groups in Barnet.
- We are represented on the BSCB and all its sub-groups, as well as related groups such as the Domestic Violence Forum, and both the CAF steering and practitioners group.
- These representatives report back via the Children, Young People and Families Network as well as via a regular e bulletin and newsletter. These methods are also used to inform members of safeguarding training, changes in legislation, encourage participation in Safeguarding Month and to link to other relevant site.
- We provide guidance and support in writing and reviewing safeguarding policies and procedures, including dealing with allegations against staff and safer recruitment.
- Community Barnet children's workers have regular meetings to ensure safeguarding is an integral part of everybody's work as is participation, support for supplementary schools, etc.

Key outcomes and achievements in 2011/2012:

- London Safeguarding Children Board AGM – co-presented workshop and Community Barnet won a highly commended award for our work with faith & cultural groups.
- Checked 112 CRB forms for voluntary sector groups.
- Excellent attendance record for multi-agency meetings.
- Involvement in planning Safeguarding Month and run 3 events.
- 197 attendees at safeguarding training and workshops provided by CommUNITY Barnet.
- Recruited and supported Safeguarding leads in Supplementary Schools.
- Created the Barnet Safeguarding website.
- Have provided advice and third party reporting on safeguarding incidents.

Work planned for 2012/13

- Enhance the website and make it the prime source of safeguarding advice and information for the voluntary and community sector.
- Hold regular liaison meetings with representatives who sit on various Safeguarding & Children's Services committees, working groups, etc to ensure a consistent approach and to benefit from each other's knowledge,
- Extend safeguarding leads to cover all Supplementary schools and ensure all are offered SafeNetwork training.
- Support the work of the Local Authority Designated Officer in ensuring groups recognise their responsibilities in dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers.
- Support a greater role for the Faith & Culture group in implementing new LSCB guidance.
- To work with more faith and cultural based groups on safeguarding issues such as FGM and spirit possession.

Barry Rawlings
Safeguarding Advisor
CommUNITY Barnet

Organisation: London Fire Brigade

Internal arrangements for governance regarding safeguarding children:

- London Fire Brigade (LFB) has a policy specifically for Safeguarding Children which is known by all fire officers.
- If an officer suspects there may be a safeguarding issue, details are forwarded to the duty Assistant Commissioner who will decide whether to make a referral to the Local Authority or not.

Key Outcomes and achievements in 2011/2012:

- LFB has started a new partnership arrangement with Barnet's Domestic Violence Sanctuary Scheme. The partnership ensures that a Home Fire Safety Visit is carried out to all women on the scheme. The LFB will also provide an arson-proof letter box when deemed necessary.
- LFB within Barnet have established a more robust system to identify premises in the borough that have had more than one fire in the home over the past two years. If premises are identified, LFB staff ensure that a Home Fire Safety Visit has been provided and that all appropriate measures have been considered to prevent further fires occurring. This includes liaison with other agencies including Barnet Social Services.
- LFB have successfully persuaded Barnet Homes to provide a domestic sprinkler system for an individual known to be at high risk from having further fires. (He has had 3 previous fires, is a heavy smoker, heavy drinker and has severe mobility issues). This is the first domestic sprinkler system to be installed in a private or rented home within Barnet (as far as we know).

Work Planned for 2012/2013:

- Continued working with the Children's Safeguarding Board, seizing opportunities to make vulnerable people safer.
- Continued working with all identified partners, improving links when necessary to make vulnerable people safer.
- We will continue to promote the LFB's Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Scheme to partners.
- We will continue working with YOS, promoting the LFB's Local Intervention Fire Education programme.
- We will again be an active partner at Barnet's 4 week Junior Citizen event.
- We will continue to work with various youth groups, engaging with children to promote fire safety.
- We will have an Open Day at Finchley Fire Station on 22nd July 2012, the day will primarily be for promoting fire safety to young people.
- LFB will carry out over 2500 Home Fire Safety Visits within Barnet during 2012/13, the vast majority of these will be to vulnerable people or within areas that we have identified as being at higher risk of fire.
- LFB will introduce a Functional Working model across its stations in North West London. Under this model the Borough Commander and 1 Station Manager will work solely on Community Safety and partnership work within Barnet. This enhancement has the potential to see an improved service including the introduction of a more robust quality assurance process.

Tom George
Borough Commander
Barnet

Organisation: London Ambulance Service

Contribution to Barnet Safeguarding Annual Report 2011/12

Introduction

The London Ambulance Service continues to strive to improve its safeguarding practice, which has resulted in a continual increase in referrals and requests for information and contributions to safeguarding investigations. The Trust’s safeguarding structure is designed to support and embed best practice by collaborating with professional colleagues to ensure staff are familiar with national guidance. Further information about policy and processes can be found at www.londonambulance.nhs.uk.

Incidents

	Referrals made to social services	Feedback received from social services about referrals made	Requests for information	
2011/12	368	4	3	requests to review information
			7	general enquiries
TOTAL	368	4	10	

During 2011/12 the Trust made 9,963 referrals pan London; local authorities fed back on 111 referrals and the Trust received 302 approaches to assist with multi-agency work to safeguard adults.

Internal arrangements

- The Director of Health Promotion and Quality has responsibility for Safeguarding.
- The Trust continues to operate a safeguarding committee that reports into the Clinical Quality and Safety Executive Committee and is supported by separate Mental Health and Learning Disability committees.
- The Trust continues to cooperate and work with partners to improve practice and share learning as members of the London Safeguarding Adults Network, the Metropolitan Police Service Safeguarding Adults Group and hosting the National Ambulance Safeguarding Group.

Achievements in 2011/12

- Appointment of a lead mental health practitioner.
- Completion of the Safeguarding Adults Audit Framework which led to the development and ongoing monitoring of the Trusts safeguarding adults action plan.
- Clinical staff participated in an annual core skills refresher course; this covers several safeguarding elements including sexual abuse perpetrated against adults with a learning disability; domestic violence and homeless people.

Priorities for 2012/13

- Appointment of a Named Professional for Safeguarding Adults.
- Adoption and cascade of the pan London safeguarding adults at risk policy and guidance into the Trust’s Safeguarding Adults Policy.
- Implementation of a telephone based referral system.

- Establishing a pilot to provide consistent, timely responses to support high risk victims of domestic violence via the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference.
- Review and update the safeguarding information on the website to enable the public to recognise and report abuse, and enable professionals to understand the Trusts processes.
- Introduction of the Operational Workplace Review to include observation of crew's ability to put safeguarding training into practice in a clinical setting.

Steve Lennox
Clinical Director
London Ambulance Service



London Ambulance Service **NHS**
 NHS Trust

Serious Case Reviews

The Standing Serious Case Review Group is chaired by an Independent Consultant Sally Trench and has a remit to promote wider learning from review.

The panel has been responsible for ensuring action plans have been completed in respect of previous SCRs and these will continue to be monitored as required via the Performance and Quality Assurance sub-group.

Barnet has not been involved in a Serious Case Review during the last year. However, a key area of activity during 2011/12 has been the pilot of the SCIE model for learning from case reviews as part of a Pan London Project. This is based on a systems approach which explores the underlying conditions that affect professional decision making in the journey of a case.

The Munro review has advocated a systems approach and although the current arrangements are in a transition period pending revised guidance, it is likely that this methodology will be one of a number of agreed approaches so Barnet will be well placed in readiness for the new system.

The case selected was also the subject of a Domestic Homicide Review and both reviews have generated powerful learning which has particularly highlighted the challenges and impact of working with personality disorder for the professional network.

The BSCB is now actively implementing the findings of the review which have been collated into a composite thematic response from all the agencies involved.

A series of learning events will be delivered in collaboration with colleagues from the Domestic Homicide Review team culminating in a large scale conference later in the year focused on working with Personality Disorder

The SCR subgroup also recently commissioned an independent review into the case of a vulnerable young woman with a young child who appeared to have fallen under the radar of services.

The resultant action plan emphasises the importance of psycho social history and is focused on the outcome of ensuring vulnerable young adults (pregnant or with

children) receive appropriate assessment, support and intervention focused on the needs of parent and child.

The group expects to discuss in detail the third case of a teen-ager (second female) who has died by hanging. This will happen at the next meeting, when we will have an overview of all the Health reports produced for the health SUI review process.

The case raises issues about communication with private health providers and about their standards, as well as about support for a school where such an incident has occurred.

Measuring our Performance and Progress in Other Policy Areas

In the BSCB Annual Report from 2010/11, we identified the following priorities:

What we said	What we did
<p>Embed robust Quality Assurance arrangements. We said we wanted to increase ownership of safeguarding audit and review across the partnership.</p>	<p>We have a strong basis to move forward as we have secured engagement of all key partners in our Performance and Quality Sub-group which is a well functioning group. Audit activity during the last year has included health and other partners and work is in progress to agree an outcome based framework in line with Munro. Partners have played an active role in bringing their own QA processes to the scrutiny of the group. The S11 audit will be conducted in the near future based on an agreed London wide tool.</p>
<p>Private Fostering. We said we will continue its work to raise awareness about private fostering and provide training to staff across a wide range of agencies.</p>	<p>We have continued to keep this under active review and have given prominence to this issue at workshops, training and other events, including meetings with designated safeguarding leads in education and GP training. The number of privately fostered children registered has increased from 16 in 2010/11 to 28 at end of April 2012 but this will continue to be an area for ongoing scrutiny.</p>
<p>Implement and Review the SCIE Pilot. We said we would complete a SCIE review as part of a Pan London project.</p>	<p>We completed the review within the timescales and have engaged all the relevant partner agencies in responding to the findings with identified actions to improve multi-agency practice. We are running a programme of learning events to disseminate the learning and are developing new initiatives to support front</p>

	line staff in working with adults with personality disorder. We will also be collaborating with SCIE and the Tavistock clinic to promote learning from review and critical evaluation of outcomes.
Communication. We said we wanted to broadcast the work of the BSCB more widely and to become interactive with the citizens of Barnet in order to ascertain what is important to them in safeguarding children.	We have worked with CommUNITY Barnet and Youth Shield to develop material for a new website that will be more accessible and interactive. We have also developed a directory of resources via the Professional Advisory Group so that staff across all sectors can access information, guidance and up to date procedures in a single place.
Future Planning. We said we wanted to ensure that the CTB and BSCB are in a position to assess and mitigate as far as possible the impact of the current financial climate on partner agencies.	We have kept this under review and have asked partners to identify associated safeguarding risks
Strengthen governance of safeguarding We said we wanted to continue to embed the new structure and Governance arrangements for the BSCB embracing the changes that might arise following the Munro review.	During 2011, we have reviewed our structure and identified the need for an enhanced role of the Executive which has been put into place through a revised schedule of meetings and business planning.
Maintain agency contributions to support an agreed budget. We said we hoped to maintain partner contributions in a review of the budget.	We have secured renewed commitment of partners to sustain the current level of funding thereby enabling the delivery of the work plan.
Stronger Strategic Approach to Domestic Violence. We said we wanted to ensure the needs of children affected by DV are given priority through a coherent framework of service delivery supported by robust governance arrangements.	A Strategic steering group has been created which is jointly chaired by the Director of Children's Services and the Police Borough Commander, which ensures joined up delivery of services including the development of a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Progress in Other Areas of Safeguarding:

The policy areas and priorities for BSCB have largely been reflected in the work of the Sub Groups and Task and Finish groups operating throughout the year as outlined below.

Managing Allegations Against Adults working with Children:

Barnet has a dedicated investigations officer for investigating all allegations made against adults in the children's workforce. The work is overseen by the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) and sits within the Safeguarding Division of the Children's Service.

The number of allegations referred to the Division has increased significantly and regularly over the past few years, from around 50 a year in 2007 to 96 in year ending March 2011 and 131 between April 2011 to March 2012. That increase is regarded as a positive indicator.

The majority of referrals continue to come from school settings although referrals are also received across the children's workforce including the private and voluntary sector.

The primary aim of referrals to the LADO is to ensure children are adequately protected, and having some independent and expert overview of referral information assists with this, in terms of directing concerns along the right pathway as well as picking up wider safeguarding issues and themes.

The data below provides a summary of referral activity and outcomes for 2010-11.

Total number of allegations referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011:

Total:	96
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Number of referrals by agency:

Agency:	Number:
Social Care	34
Health	5
Education	40
Foster Carers	
Connexions	
Police	3
YOT	
Probation	
CAFCASS	
Secure Estate	
NSPCC	1
Voluntary Youth Organisations	
Faith Groups	
Armed Forces	
Immigration/Asylum Services	
Other	13
Total (should equal question 1)	96

Number of concluded referrals that resulted in:

No further action after initial consideration	31
Being unfounded	16
Being unsubstantiated	23
Being malicious	1
Substantiated	23
Suspension	17
Dismissal	2
Resignation	1
Cessation of use	
Section 47 investigation	2
Criminal investigation	5

Caution	
Conviction	1
Acquittal	
Referral to DCSF	
Inclusion on barred/restricted employment list	
Referral to regulatory body	8

Key Outcomes:

- A robust process is in place for managing allegations in Barnet in order to reduce and manage risk of harm to children. The LADO role is well established and the resources committed to it are ensuring real value is added to the safeguarding agenda in protecting children from high risk perpetrators as well as driving up the general practice in relation to safe working.
- Criminal investigations and a conviction in relation to a perpetrator of sexual abuse has contributed to the protection of further potential victims.
- A historic allegation of abuse has resulted in prosecution of a perpetrator for serious sexual offences.
- 3 cases of concern have led to a management case review with associated action plans to improve safeguarding processes.
- Training has been delivered to over 200 multi-agency staff in the last 2 years as well as briefing events and a seminar at the BSCB conference in 2011.

Priority for 2012-13:

The priority over the forthcoming year is to ensure the role is understood across all services and settings and that young people and vulnerable groups are assisting in raising issues via better information about the process.

Work is planned with members of Youth Shield to produce an information leaflet. In addition feeding back learning from for example recent case reviews in relation to safe recruitment will raise standards in this area.

Child Death Overview Panel:

Of the 29 cases reviewed during the period 1st April 2011 to March 31st 2012, nine were female and 23 were male and were aged in the range of 0 day to 15 years, with 76% of deaths occurring prior to the age of one. Ethnically, there was a prevalence of "white other" cases. However 10 cases were recorded as blank or unknown. Golders Green and Burnt Oak wards had the highest number of cases. Six of the child deaths were categorised as potentially preventable with the remainder noted as not preventable. Currently there are seven outstanding cases with 12 to be discussed at June CDOP meeting and seven ready to be discussed at the September meeting.

Category of deaths reviewed 2011-12:

Level/ Category		Total Number	Male	Female	Preventability
Level 1	Chromosomal, genetic and	7	5	2	Not preventable

	congenital anomalies				
	Chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies	3	2	1	Potentially preventable
	Sudden unexpected/unexplained death	0	0	0	Not preventable
	Perinatal/neonatal event	8	3	5	Not preventable
Total		18	10	8	

Key Outcomes:

- Continued funding to support CDOP process has been agreed.
- Substantial backlog of cases has been significantly reduced.

Missing Children:

Work in relation to Missing Children is driven through a task and finish group reporting to the PAG with membership comprising of frontline practitioners with specialism in the identified areas. The group includes members of staff across the Children's Service and members from the Met MISPER Unit (Jigsaw). Last year the group reviewed the procedures and guidance in respect to children missing from care, including the local Barnet protocol. It was concluded we needed a new Barnet protocol and risk assessment tools that provided better assistance to those who had to deal with the immediacy of a child going missing, to assess the risks and to guide appropriate decision making.

Key Outcomes:

- Members of the task group contributed to producing an updated protocol and risk assessment tool which was successfully piloted in our residential units and by Barnet MISPER. This is now being rolled out across the wider workforce alongside testing through ICS.
- The group has set up and implemented a process for high risk cases to be referred to Safeguarding and for the strategy meetings to be chaired independently by the Senior Safeguarding Officer (SSO).
- Work has also been undertaken to improve the quality of the data.

Priority for 2012-13:

The priority over the next financial year will be to extend protocols, practice and data collection in relation to children missing from home and ensure alignment with initiatives in relation to other vulnerable groups of young people, for example, those who are subject to sexual exploitation.

Sexual Exploitation:

This continues to be a high priority in Barnet and nationally .A full evaluation of the Barnardos project work undertaken in 2010-11 was conducted in May 2011 which included a review of the outcomes for each young person.

Key Outcomes:

- Barnet has pledged support for the current campaign 'Cutting Children free from Sexual Exploitation'.
- Raised awareness of CSE across the partnership.
- Cohort of multi-agency staff trained to use resources in prevention work with young people.
- Direct preventative work with young people at 2 secondary schools, a pupil referral unit and a residential setting.
- Direct one to one work over a 6-12 month period with 9 young people identified as being at high risk of sexual exploitation.
- Feedback from team manager's and allocated social workers conveyed positive changes in young people's awareness of sexual exploitation and ability to keep themselves safe.
- In one case, a vulnerable young woman was able to reduce risky behaviour and live safely at home after a period of family conflict. She has been able to successfully complete GCSE's at school and is now studying a further education course at college.

Priorities for Future Work:

- Build the capacity of professionals to identify and support young people at risk of sexual exploitation, using the existing multi-agency framework.
- It is intended that there should be targeted action to set up such a group to coordinate intelligence, action and support services in relation to vulnerable groups of young people. There is currently discussion at the Safeguarding Board Professional Advisory Group regarding setting up a vulnerable person's group.
- Explore opportunities for cross borough work with Enfield and Haringey
- Develop initiatives to promote awareness for parents through the Stop it Now and Parents Protect education programme which we are piloting through one of our Children's Centres.

Safeguarding Across Faith and Cultural Groups:

The Faith and Cultural task group aims to establish and promote dialogue with a range of faith and other community groups that represent Barnet's diverse population.

A key area of activity during the past year has been Barnet's involvement in a Pan London project focused on safeguarding children from Black and Minority ethnic, faith and cultural groups. This was led by CommUNITY Barnet in collaboration with the Board. This included 'safeguarding surgeries' delivered at community venues in order to provide advice and support to the sector in relation to safeguarding matters. Relationships were also built with the Supplementary Schools in Barnet and a network of safeguarding leads has been established.

Our work was recognised as an example of promising practice at the recent London Safeguarding Board Safeguarding Awards.



As part of the project a number of focus groups and surveys were completed by practitioners and communities in Barnet to inform the development of practice guidance.

This was also adapted and expanded to include safeguarding adults and inform the work of colleagues in adult services.

Outputs of the project were as follows:

- Practice Guidance in relation to safeguarding children and families across different cultures and faiths, to accompany the London Child Protection Procedures.
- A Training toolkit to support implementation of the guidance.
- LSCB Engagement Strategy to assist in developing sound, effective and sustainable partnership working with local groups, communities and third sector agencies.

Key Outcomes in Barnet:

- 182 CRB checks for faith and cultural groups
- 21 + sign ups for on-line child protection training
- Child Protection courses delivered to 50 staff and volunteers from a Mosque
- A high level of attendance at multi-agency safeguarding courses run in Barnet
- Support provided to a minority ethnic family at a strategy meeting
- Successful collaboration in response to a safeguarding incident and investigation involving a faith community, Police and Children's Social Care
- Monthly safeguarding advice surgeries, 4 of which have been hosted by faith and cultural groups
- Network of safeguarding leads established across the supplementary schools network
- 26 facilitators from various ethnic and cultural groups recruited and trained to deliver parenting programmes
- Fostering champions from supplementary schools

Priorities for 2012-13:

- Launch and promote the Practice Guidance.
- Refresh and expand membership of the group.
- Further develop partnership work to convey key safeguarding messages via universal services.

- Build capacity and confidence in safeguarding across faith and cultural groups and to explore a model of using safeguarding champions in the different communities.

Domestic Violence:

Domestic Violence continues to be a concern for many children and families in Barnet and a high proportion of families known to Children's Services are affected by domestic abuse at some level.

A range of early intervention services are provided to families through the Safer Families Project which was initially run as a pilot and following rigorous evaluation became embedded as part of the Early Intervention and Prevention Division.

The work was recognised as an example of promising practice at the recent London Safeguarding Board Safeguarding Awards.



Key Outcomes:

- An early intervention project to support families (with children aged 0-11yrs) affected by domestic abuse.
- Run from 2 'specialist hub' Children's Centres – The Hyde (with the Hyde School) and Newstead with links to other CCs.
- It is a multi-agency initiative, involving 3 DV workers within the Multi-Agency Support Team, Relate NW, Home-Start Barnet, Children's Centres and Health Visitors, as well as a range of community focused and domestic violence agencies.
- The Project offers a range of services including specialist parenting programme with a crèche, stay and play sessions, family/couple/individual counselling.
- It provides signposting to other services and outreach.
- Solace Women's Aid are now contracted providers of advocacy and support services for survivors as well as refuge spaces and services for perpetrators.

Priorities for 2012-13:

- Focus on domestic abuse in the context of young people's relationships.
- Ensure MASH arrangements extend to DV issues

Training Sub-Group:

The Training Sub Group is responsible for the strategic overview and quality assurance of safeguarding training, both by single agencies (to their own staff) and interagency training (where staff from several agencies train together).

The work of the group is driven by a multi-agency training strategy that has been updated to reflect Working Together 2010 and the Inter Collegiate Framework for health partners.

As well as working in collaboration with the Barnet workforce development group, there is an active link with the London Safeguarding Board to promote a consistent approach.

Barnet has an excellent training programme and offers a wide range of courses that are generally well attended and positively evaluated across the partnership.

There has been active involvement in supporting the delivery of single agency training to a wide range of staff including GPs, health service clinicians, schools, faith and community groups, caretakers, and others.

Partner agencies have played a very active role in contributing to some of this training and in particular colleagues from the Police Child Abuse Investigation Team and Children's Social Care have made a significant contribution to GP training that has been very well received.

Training is planned for Police Community Support Officers in response to an identified gap.

Safeguarding sessions have also been provided for elected members as part of their development programme.

There will inevitably continue to be some pressures on resources and the possibility of cross service and cross borough collaboration in commissioning training should be explored as a way of maximising access to training.

Training Data:

The following table shows the number of courses and attendance broken down by agency, together with the %age that were quality assured. It should be noted that this refers to the workforce development rolling programme and does not include specific or bespoke training. Take up of the on line programme by agency has also been included and identified gaps are being acted upon in planning training delivery. It should also be noted that some of our partners work across boroughs and may therefore access training in neighbouring authorities.

Description	10/11 outturn	11/12 outturn	Qtr 1 11/12	Qtr 2 11/12	Qtr 3 11/12	Qtr 4 11/12
Number of LSCB safeguarding children training courses provided in the past year	68	56	11	11	12	22
Agency attendance total						
Local Authority	351	259	58	52	69	80
Police	0	1	1	0	0	0
Health	61	154	19	33	26	76
Mental Health	26	38	14	1	10	13
<i>Voluntary</i>	171	190	83	32	35	40
<i>Private</i>	250	181	52	21	23	85
<i>Education</i>	352	274	50	48	74	102
<i>Probation</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Service Users</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Online Safeguarding Introduction Training						
Agency total						
Local Authority		6	4	2	0	0
Police		0	0	0	0	0
Health		0	0	0	0	0
Mental Health		0	0	0	0	0
<i>Voluntary</i>		86	55	19	5	7
<i>Private</i>		71	30	20	8	13
<i>Education</i>		25	1	22	2	0
<i>Probation</i>		0	0	0	0	0
<i>Service Users</i>		0	0	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>		0	0	0	0	0
% of courses that were quality assured/evaluated/ audited	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Other Large Scale Learning Events:

- A safeguarding conference for schools and education staff took place in July 2011.
- An event to launch the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust and Children's Services Protocol was held in Sept 2011 attended by over 100 colleagues.
- The BSCB Annual Conference took place in Nov 2011 with the theme of sexual abuse, including speakers of international renown, Joe Sullivan and Donald Findlater. This was attended by approximately 100 delegates and work is planned going forward to engage in prevention work with parents through the Stop It Now and Parents Protect agenda.

Priorities for 2012-13:

- Review quality assurance framework.
- Ensure learning events reflect messages from review.

Cross Generational Work:

The Cross generational sub-group was established as a cross cutting group that reports to both the Safeguarding Children Board and the Safeguarding Adults Board. The aim is to address issues that arise from working across the interface of adults and children's services. This links to messages from serious case reviews nationally and local concerns to promote improved collaboration across services

During the last year, work was undertaken in relation to dissemination of the national cross government information sharing guidance supported by regular training.

The development of protocols between the Children's Service and Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust culminated in a successful launch event in Sept 2011. Implementation of this protocol is being supported through a system of operational interface groups that enable complex cases or issues to be considered by social care and mental health service managers with a view to promoting collaboration in practice and resolving areas of professional difference.

Key Outcomes:

- Protocol between Children's Services and Adult Mental Health developed and launched.
- Interface meetings up and running to improve collaboration between services.

Priorities for 2012-13:

- Group to be refreshed and for a revised Terms of Reference to be developed to take into account new and emerging cross cutting areas of practice such as family focus and troubled families.

Communications Strategy

This year the BSCB has focussed on continuing to spread the message that Safeguarding is Everyone's Business, with opportunities provided through Safeguarding Month.

There has been a review of the communications strategy in the light of feedback from colleagues and young people about the difficulty of accessing information. Work has taken place in partnership with CommUNITY Barnet to develop content for the website and this will now be connected as a 'satellite' to the new Barnet on line. This will include sections for professionals, young people and the community. The professionals section will include a directory of resources to support practice on the ground. It is envisaged that there will also be a discrete section for Board members where information about board business, including details of meeting dates and minutes can be accessed.

Youth Shield will actively contribute to the website to promote young people's access to information and ensure their views are reflected.

Key Outcomes:

- Review of the communication strategy.
- Improved awareness of the work of the BSCB including contribution to safeguarding month.
- Newsletter regularly circulated to front line staff.
- Website developed with a distinct branding and information tailored to the needs of different audiences.
- Participation by young people in developing accessible information.

Safeguarding Month

‘Safeguarding is Everybody’s Business’:

November 2011 saw a repeat of the successful initiative safeguarding month at Barnet Council and, as part of this, a range of events took place to emphasise the message that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. Safeguarding month has been a good opportunity to raise awareness about safeguarding and the challenge now is to keep up the momentum, building on best practice and ensuring that safeguarding issues are integrated into everyone's day to day work.

Key Outcomes:

- An informative presentation from the Fire Brigade about fire safety and their contribution to safeguarding vulnerable people, through fire safety checks in the home as well as preventive work with young people at risk of fire setting.
- Wide range of events including express training sessions on how to spot and report a safeguarding concern to events about sexual exploitation of young people, Female Genital Mutilation, cyber bullying and domestic violence.

Looking to the Future

BSCB Priorities for 2012/13:

Quality Assurance, Challenge and Scrutiny. To further develop scrutiny of BSCB in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding activity across the partnership so that children & young people in Barnet are safe from abuse neglect, violence and sexual exploitation.

Risk Assessment, Information Sharing and Partnership Work. Seek to develop Tools/Protocols to promote improved information sharing , risk assessment and partnership working, including support for development of MASH.

Young People at risk through peer violence and exploitation. To focus on peer to peer violence including Gangs/Sexual exploitation/ Anti Bullying/e safety.

Early Intervention. Promoting and evaluating a model of early help for children and families which reduces demand and cost (Munro review).

Learning and Development To strengthen the BSCB role in promoting learning and development across the partnership.

Conclusion

This Report is intended to reflect the current state of safeguarding activity across Barnet, highlighting the level of work undertaken, outcomes and those areas which

need additional focus. It is clear that a great deal of extremely positive work is either underway or has been completed, but there are some areas outlined above in which the BSCB in conjunction with the Children's Trust Board, can continue to refine its own processes and structures, and thereby contribute to improving the delivery of safeguarding across all the agencies.

Over the past year there has been significant development of the work of the Board but there continue to be some issues around attendance at some of the Sub Group meetings in particular, and the Board will need to continue to monitor this in order to maintain the progress and momentum of the work being carried out.

Throughout the report, key outcomes have been identified to evidence progress and this does reflect a great deal of effective work has been carried out that will improve outcomes for children and families in Barnet.

The impact of budgetary restraints over the next few years will need to be closely monitored by individual partners, the CTB and the Board as a whole, in terms of the potential to undermine capacity to safeguard children and young people in Barnet. Some of that impact can be ameliorated through joint planning, commissioning and co-location to deliver appropriate services. This fits with the wider strategic plans outlined above and the stated intention of the Local Authority and partners to continue to develop joined up services for children and families such as "Family Focus" and "One Barnet".

An outcome of the recent review of the budget is the renewed commitment of partners to sustain the current level of funding thereby enabling the delivery of the work plan and sustain the role of the BSCB.

In summary lots done and a lot more to do.

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Partner Contributions as identified

May 2012

Appendix 1: Indicators for Safeguarding Childrens Board

	Outturns 11/12
Number of initial assessments completed in the year	↓3082 Provisional
Number of core assessments completed in the year	↑792 Provisional
Number of section 47 enquiries initiated during the year	↓501 Provisional
Number of children subject to an initial child protection conference during the year	↑289 Provisional
Number of children subject to a child protection plan at 31 March	↑259 Provisional
Number of children who became subject to a child protection plan during the year	↑254 Provisional
Of those children becoming subject to a child protection plan during the year, the number who had a previous child protection plan (at any time)	↓35 (13.78%) Provisional
Number of children with a child protection plan ceasing during the year	↑207 Provisional
Of the child protection plans ceasing during the year, the number of children whose child protection plan had lasted for 2 years or more	↑30 Provisional
Of the child protection plans which should have been reviewed during the year, the percentage reviewed on time	↔100% Provisional

	Outturns 10/11
Number of initial assessments completed in the year	↑3089
Number of core assessments completed in the year	↓647
Number of section 47 enquiries initiated during the year	↑556
Number of children subject to an initial child protection conference during the year	↑243
Number of children subject to a child protection plan at 31 March	↑212
Number of children who became subject to a child protection plan during the year	↓207
Of those children becoming subject to a child protection plan during the year, the number who had a previous child protection plan (at any time)	↑37 (17.87%)
Number of children with a child protection plan ceasing during the year	↑198

Of the child protection plans ceasing during the year, the number of children whose child protection plan had lasted for 2 years or more	↑14
Of the child protection plans which should have been reviewed during the year, the percentage reviewed on time	↔100%

	Outturns 09/10
Number of initial assessments completed in the year	2871
Number of core assessments completed in the year	705
Number of section 47 enquiries initiated during the year	487
Number of children subject to an initial child protection conference during the year	217
Number of children subject to a child protection plan at 31 March	201
Number of children who became subject to a child protection plan during the year	241
Of those children becoming subject to a child protection plan during the year, the number who had a previous child protection plan (at any time)	28 (11.6%)
Number of children with a child protection plan ceasing during the year	187
Of the child protection plans ceasing during the year, the number of children whose child protection plan had lasted for 2 years or more	0
Of the child protection plans which should have been reviewed during the year, the percentage reviewed on time	100%

	Outturns 08/09
Number of initial assessments completed in the year	2610
Number of core assessments completed in the year	757
Number of section 47 enquiries initiated during the year	397
Number of children subject to an initial child protection conference during the year	196
Number of children subject to a child protection plan at 31 March	151
Number of children who became subject to a child protection plan during the year	185
Of those children becoming subject to a child protection plan during the year, the number who had a previous child protection plan (at any time)	17 (9.2%)
Number of children with a child protection plan ceasing during the year	189

Of the child protection plans ceasing during the year, the number of children whose child protection plan had lasted for 2 years or more	7 (3.7%)
Of the child protection plans which should have been reviewed during the year, the percentage reviewed on time	100%

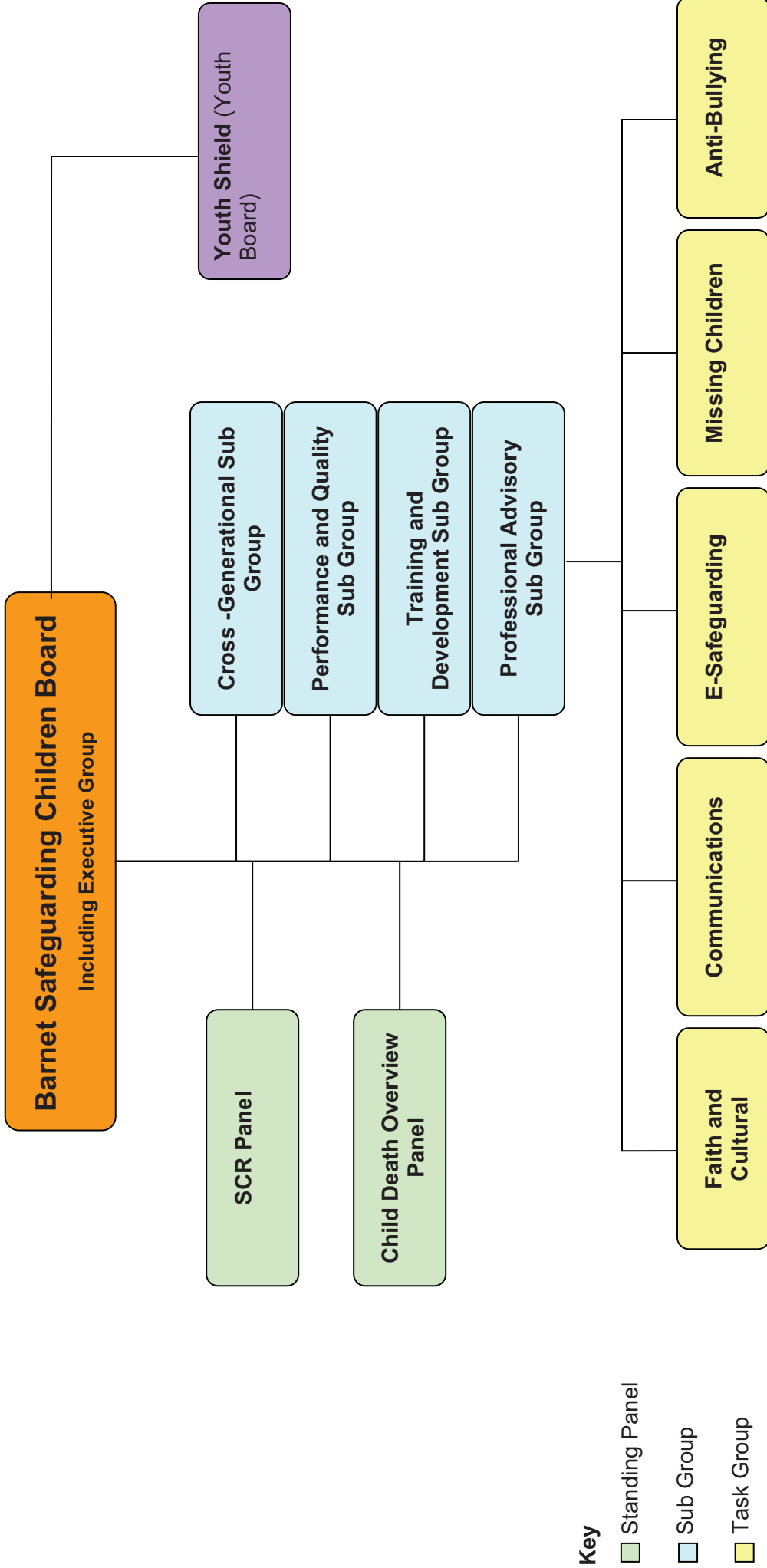
Appendix 2: Governance Arrangements

Subject to Current Review

Appendix 3: Barnet Safeguarding Children Board Sub Groups

Chair's Name	Group	Email	Reporting Schedule
Tim Beach	Performance and Quality Sub-Group	tim.beach@barnet.gov.uk	Quarterly
Bridget Griffin	Professional Advisory Group	bridget.griffin@barnet.gov.uk	Quarterly
Helen Elliott	Training and Development Sub Group	helen.elliott@barnet.gov.uk	Quarterly
Cynthia Folarin	Child Death Overview Panel	cynthia.folarin@nclondon.nhs.uk	Quarterly
Ann Graham	Cross -generational Sub-group	ann.graham@barnet.gov.uk	Quarterly
Sally Trench	Serious Case Review Panel	swtrench@btinternet.com	Quarterly

Appendix 4: Barnet Safeguarding Children Board Structure Chart



Key

- Standing Panel
- Sub Group
- Task Group

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Item 9: Home learning environment research project: preliminary report

Report of; Joint Director for Public Health

1 Summary/Purpose of Report

This paper and its appendix summarise the preliminary findings of a PCT-sponsored research project in Barnet into parental attitudes to the 'home learning environment' of pre-school children as a major factor in determining subsequent educational attainment and thus health status.

The purpose of this research is to identify ways in which Barnet Council and its partner organisations can better enable parents of pre-school children to be able to take the fullest advantage of their school education through improvements in their home learning environments.

The Children's Trust are asked to note the progress to date described in this report and to suggest ways of identifying more, suitable subjects for this project.

2 Details

2.1 There is good evidence that a child's ability to take advantage of their school education is highly dependent upon the learning environment that they are exposed to at home before they start pre-school or school activities. This includes, but is not limited to, parents reading to and with their children, stretching their experiences in the language they use with them, and providing them with educationally stimulating toys and activities. On average, even those children who have a high cognitive ability at a very young age, if they are part of a family living in poverty, are likely to have a relatively lower cognitive ability by the age of ten years. Conversely, even those children with a low cognitive ability at a young age, if they are part of a family living in less deprived circumstances, are likely to have a relatively high cognitive ability by the age of ten years. Importantly, there is good evidence that various interventions can ameliorate this disadvantage in cognitive ability for children living in poverty.

2.2 Using formal PCT research funding, the Barnet public health team has commissioned research by the Institute for Child Health, University College London, to explore the attitudes of Barnet parents towards their children and their development focusing particularly on those living in poverty. This research is at an early stage and the paper attached at Appendix 'A' provides a preliminary report based on the first nine interviews with families.

2.3 There is an issue in recruitment of families for this project and advice and support from the Children's Trust Board is sought. The researchers need, especially, to be able to contact families with young children living in the most deprived parts of the borough. There are Data Protection Act implications to

this. For example, whilst families in receipt of free school meals (as a proxy for poverty) could be identified from council sources, and these data matched with GP records to identify which families had children of pre-school age, such use of data would probably breach the Data Protection Act. To do this would probably require us to write to all school parents and GP practice patients and seek their consent to use the data held on them in this way. Almost certainly, the people we would most wish to interview would consciously or unconsciously exclude themselves and we would risk obtaining a biased sample. We therefore need to identify ways, within the Data Protection Act and within the bounds of the ethical approval obtained for this research, to identify more potential subjects on an individual basis and to seek their informed consent to participate.

2.4 The early findings of this research, based on a very small sample so far, seem to suggest that:

- regardless of background and education, parents generally want 'the best' for their children, although what this 'best' might be can differ (for example, attitudes to 'confidence', 'education' and 'happiness' are not all the same);
- most see a need to provide support at home to enable young children to develop although, again, how this is done differs, and beliefs differ in, for example, what the most appropriate balance is between more formal 'learning' and less formal 'playing' (noting that playing can have a strong educational aspect to it);
- some see a great importance of religious instruction in shaping their children's future attitudes and behaviours; and
- there are differences in parental opinions about what should be provided at home in terms of enabling learning, and different abilities in terms of time availability. (Research elsewhere has also shown that parental ability and confidence, for example in reading, can also play a key role in this).

2.5 A lack of parental knowledge of how to help their children achieve their full potential, and/or a lack of access to social resources can lead to isolation. Indeed, the most important early finding in this research – albeit limited to interviews with just nine families so far – indicates that it is social exclusion rather than poverty of itself that is a key feature in a child experiencing a sub-optimal home learning environment.

3 Decision sought:

Board members are asked to note progress to date and to identify ways of identifying more, suitable subjects for this research project

Contact for further information:

Dr Andrew Burnett: andrew.burnett@nclondon.nhs.uk; tel 07917 190 330

APPENDIX A

The Home Learning Environment and the Child A collaborative study between Barnet PCT and UCL

Preliminary Report

1. Introduction/Purpose of Report

This report is an outline of the preliminary findings of ongoing research being undertaken to examine the relationship between poverty and cognitive and educational outcomes, through an understanding of the provision of a home learning environment within households in Barnet. This research was commissioned by Barnet PCT with a view to informing interventions to improve parenting and the Home Learning Environment in poor households in Barnet.

After a brief introduction to the context of the research, we describe the methodology and summarise the findings to date. This report is therefore based on the first ten interviews conducted. Based on these early findings tentative conclusions will be drawn, and recommendations made.

2. Background

2.1 Poverty and the Home Learning Environment

The importance of the socio-economic status of the household as a determinant of educational outcome has been well-researched. An influential study by Feinstein (2003) showed that two year-olds with high cognitive ability in the lowest socioeconomic groups, are easily overtaken in ranking of cognitive ability by children with low cognitive ability in the highest socioeconomic group by the age of five, or when they start school (Feinstein 2003). A number of factors have been shown to explain this. These include parental education levels, socioeconomic status and the school environment. But the most consistently influential has been found to be the home learning environment (Siraj-Blatchford et al 2007).

The home learning environment is defined as measures taken in the home to encourage children's learning. These include: reading to the child, taking the child to the library, teaching nursery rhymes and songs and encouraging learning through play. To provide a good home learning environment costs nothing and is clearly within the financial means of even the poorest families. However, there is considerable evidence that in many resource-poor households the home learning environment is weak, and this is thought to explain poor educational outcomes. The reasons for the barriers to the provision of a good home learning environment in such households are not clear. The aim of this research therefore is to examine the possible barriers to the provision of an adequate home learning environment in poor households through in-depth interviews with parents.

One of the challenges of research in this area centres around definitions of poverty. The World Bank bases its definition of poverty on having sufficient income to meet basic needs. The minimum level is called the "poverty line" and every country (and even region within country) uses lines which are appropriate to its level of development, societal norms and values. (World Bank Organisation 2012). In most developed countries poverty is defined in relative terms, calculated on the individual or household income relative to the national average. In the UK the official definition of poverty is any family living on less than 60 per cent of the median income.

There is a large literature examining the impact of poverty on children's morbidity, mortality, emotional development, as well as their cognitive development and educational attainment. This literature suggests that in general 'poor families' "are more likely to be headed by a parent who is single, has low educational attainment, is unemployed, has low earning potential, and is young" (Brooks-Gunn and Duncan 1997:56). Much of the literature attempts to examine 'pathways' by which poverty acts on the child. One such pathway is identified as the 'home environment' and the literature around this suggests that as income increases, household resources such as learning materials and toys also increase, whilst parental practices, such as discipline, and the quality and warmth of parent-child interactions improve (Brooks-Gunn and Duncan 1997:62).

Another term now more commonly used in the context of deprivation is 'social exclusion.' This has been defined as "what can happen when individuals or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown" The term 'social exclusion' refers to the alienation of individuals or groups of individuals from society. It has been proposed that social exclusion has more influence on childhood outcomes than poverty *per se*. (Social Exclusion Unit 1997:1)

2.2 Barnet

Barnet has relatively low levels of deprivation compared with other London boroughs: it has the 26th highest level of child poverty in London (out of the 32 boroughs in the capital). Despite this it is estimated that over 18,000 children in Barnet are living in poverty, reflecting sharp inequalities in the borough, with pockets of concentrated disadvantage in some areas. In particular, problems of disadvantage in housing and crime are drivers of local deprivation. As elsewhere across the UK children in these disadvantaged households are less likely to achieve basic educational qualifications and are more likely to experience a range of health problems both in childhood and in later life. Addressing these issues of disadvantage would not only improve outcomes in the children themselves but would benefit the whole population of Barnet.

3. Methodology

This is a qualitative study involving face-to-face interviews, ethnographic observation and focus groups. The latter have yet to be conducted. We opted to focus on the Home Learning Environments of children aged between two and five, since research has shown this is a formative period for a child's later cognitive and academic achievement. For the interview and ethnographic observation components, it was decided that 30 carers should be interviewed and observed. It was felt that 30 would give access to a fairly wide variety of carers, living in various degrees of poverty and social exclusion, while allowing for sufficiently in-depth interviewing and ethnographic observation to take place within the timeframe. We intended to interview individuals who were on benefits, single parents, teenage parents, recent immigrants, drug addicts, alcoholics, individuals with mental illness, physical illness and disability, low income households, and individuals who were experiencing or had experienced domestic violence.

Ethical approval for the project was obtained from the UCL Ethics Committee. All participants underwent an informed consent process. Anonymity of all collected data was assured.

3.1 Sampling

Up to now we have used snowballing techniques to identify possible participants. Snowball sampling is a well-established method in qualitative research and it relies on referrals from initial subjects to generate additional subjects. One of the researchers has family members living in Barnet, one of whom is a single mother of two small boys living on benefits in a council flat. She was a good initial contact as she fit the criteria for research participants and gave researchers access through personal introduction to other potential research participants living in Barnet. These other research participants were contacted, interviewed, and asked to introduce further potential research participants. While the snowballing method has proved productive in identifying appropriate informants, we have reached saturation using this method (that is we are not acquiring new information). This together with the fact that we have not identified the most vulnerable households in Barnet, means we will alter our sampling methods in the next phase.

3.2 Interviews

Potential interviewees were first approached through a phone call by the researcher. She explained the purpose and conduct of the research. If the respondent agreed to participate the researcher made two visits to the home. At the first visit informed consent was obtained. The interview took place across the two visits in two parts. The first was designed to explore the social and economic background of the participant and the second of which was designed to explore more deeply attitudes towards parenting and the home learning environment. The first interview focused on basic socio-demographic information such as age, religion, ethnicity, marital status, number of children, as well as indicators of social exclusion such as education, employment status, relative income, housing status, health status (including mental health), misuse of drugs and alcohol, and family makeup.

The five questions in the second interview were designed to more deeply explore the participants' attitudes towards and beliefs around parenting and education within the home. Parents were asked about aspirations they have for their children, ideas about what is and what isn't a good parent, responses to state management and control of parenting, educational activities which take place within the home, and the participants own ideas about what may prevent parents from providing educational activities within the home. Asking these questions across a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds allowed for a comparison of parenting beliefs and practices between these households.

All interviews were audio-taped with the specific consent of the respondents. Notes were made on the ethnographic components.

3.3 Participant observation

The participants were asked if the researcher could observe a routine in the child's day. It was hoped that the researcher could watch a bedtime routine so, for example, activities such as bedtime stories could be observed. However, for some participants this was felt to be too late and disruptive, and so other routines such as meal times and homework were observed.

Observation included watching interactions between carers and children, examples of education and learning, as well as discipline, communication and structure. Of particular interest was the way in which the child was involved in the activity of the carer. Observation also included the

wider home environment and examples of books, toys, games, drawing, painting, extracurricular activities, and other examples of the provision of educational opportunities within the home.

3.4 Transcription and analysis

Interviews were transcribed and themes will be identified using the technique of thematic analysis. Formal analysis will be conducted when all interviews and focus groups are complete.

4. Summary of findings

4.1 Overview of research participants

Results from the first nine interviews, which have been fully transcribed, are presented here. The small number is clearly a major limitation; when the rest of the interviews are complete and the focus groups are conducted the results will be more robust.

Research participants came from a wide variety of social and economic backgrounds. This section examines the possible relationship between social and economic background and attitudes to and beliefs around a child's upbringing and education, and specifically the provision of a home learning environment. This will of course be explained when interviews are complete.

Of the research participants interviewed, all were female, with the exception of a couple who were interviewed together. Male partners/fathers were often around and added to the interview, but were not the principal respondents. The age of research participants ranged between seventeen and forty two, with the average age being thirty. Relationship status varied with participants being single, in a relationship, cohabiting, and married or separated. There was also a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Research participants identified themselves as being English, French, Filipino, Polish, Ukrainian, Indonesian, and New Zealander, and, of those who weren't English, as either immigrants or second generation immigrants. A wide variety of religious backgrounds were also represented with participants identifying themselves as Catholic, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, or Atheist, with varying levels of practice and faith. Of those children born to immigrants and second generation immigrants, many were bilingual, speaking Polish, Bahasa, Russian, and some French. However, English was usually the dominant language spoken at home.

The economic and work background of participants was equally variable with several families depending solely on benefits, but other families living on high incomes with professional jobs. All the female research participants had at least GCSEs, although one male partner had been expelled from primary school for bad behaviour and had not managed to gain any academic or professional qualifications. Other qualifications included diplomas, BTecs, NVQs, degrees and nursing qualifications. Housing varied with participants living in council housing, rented property, or as owner-occupiers. Two participants were staying with friends or relatives while they waited for the council to house them. Almost all participants said they felt safe in the local residential area.

On the whole, the general physical and mental health of participants was reported to be good. Only a few of the participants smoked and all claimed they had stopped whilst pregnant. With the exception of one father, all participants left the house to smoke and were mindful of the effect of smoke on their child.

The ages of the children of research participants ranged between fourteen months and six years. The children were almost all reported to have good physical and mental health, although in one family both children had allergic eczema and asthma. All children were reported to be achieving appropriate milestones and parent had no concerns about their development.

4.2 Aspirations for children

Parent's aspirations for their children varied surprisingly little across social and economic groups. Specifically, parents were asked what they would like their children to be doing twenty years from now. Almost all participants responded that they wanted their child to be doing "whatever they wanted to." However, with a little further investigation, parental expectations of their child became apparent. The starkest contrast was between the wealthiest mother, and the poorest mother, who was living on benefits. The wealthy mother said she wanted her son to do well educationally, and would prefer he enters a profession. She intended to send her son to a private school. The mother on benefits said in response to this question that she wanted both her sons to be happy, healthy and in a fulfilling relationship. This interpretation of and response to the interview question suggests that economic and career success were not a high priority for her children, but rather a good quality of life. Most other research participants understood the research question as relating to the child's future work and career, and while all said that ideally they'd prefer their child to go to university, depending on their chosen career, they also said they wanted their child to do what made them happy.

4.3 Being a parent

Again, there was little variation in how parents understood their role of being a parent and bringing up their children. Almost every parent interviewed understood their role to be taking an interest in and getting involved in their children's lives.

For mothers, particularly, there seemed to be a sense that being a parent should involve sacrifice to a greater extent, and there seemed to be a certain amount of guilt if these sacrifices were not made. Women who frequently made personal sacrifices (for example, giving up something they found personally pleasurable) in order to spend time with their children were considered to be 'good mothers' by other women. It was often suggested by those I interviewed that women may not be providing a stimulating and enjoyable home learning environment for their children because they did not want to give up time for themselves (i.e. they were 'bad' mothers).

4.4 The Home Learning Environment

In all homes there were toys, some of which were specifically "educational" in nature. Of the nine mothers, four read to their children routinely, five irregularly. Three mothers used the library to obtain books. In all households, but one, the television was permanently on, sometimes at high volume.

4.5 Consideration of child's education

Despite a great variation in social and economic background there was little distinction between parents' concerns about their child's development and education. Almost all parents recognised the importance of an education and had a desire for their child to do well and succeed. They all recognised the importance of supporting their child through the provision of educational activities at home and the need for their own involvement in these. There seemed to be a

relatively high level of anxiety around finding a good school for their child and most parents said they would research local schools online and check OFSTED reports before signing their child up for a school. Some parents even went so far as planning to move to another borough so their child would be eligible for a school of their choosing.

Despite this what did vary was the priority and emphasis placed on a child's education and academic achievement to the detriment of other skills. For example, the mother in the highest earning family believed that at the age of two, all emphasis should be placed on learning. During observation, her child spent his time playing quietly with toys, Disney DVDs, or an educational computer his parents had bought him. Other parents, whilst recognising the importance of education, also placed emphasis on confidence, physical exercise, and sociability as skills they needed to teach their children. A good example of this is the mother in one of the poorest households who interpreted the research question on aspirations to refer to the future happiness of her children (rather than their future career). Confidence was one of the most important things she could instil in her children and she did this by talking to them and encouraging their sociability rather than solely focusing on their learning. For another - relatively wealthy - mother, physical activity was very important, as was attending Church on a Sunday. These were two things the family could do together, and were thought to make them closer.

4.5 Concerns of parents regarding a child's education and development - what they found difficult or prevented them from focusing on the child's education

Many parents interviewed were quite articulate about what prevented them from providing an optimal home learning environment, and what they felt might prevent other parents from providing an adequate home learning environment for their children. Some parents felt that, in retrospect, they did not have the knowledge required when their children were very young to provide an educational environment. One mother spoke about not allowing her child to become messy or to experiment whilst playing, and felt she had been wrong to do this. She also expressed regret that she had lacked knowledge about selecting the best school for her child. With regards to the experimentation and learning through play, she felt she had gained this knowledge through her role as nursery assistant and manager, where she was trained in basic child education. Another mother, previously a nursery manager, also felt the same. She believed a lot of parents were unaware of the importance of the home learning environment because of a lack of basic education in parenting and felt that parenting classes should be offered to new parents.

Many parents spoke about local services available to parents with small children, and how this affected the child's education at home. This particularly affected new mothers who had recently arrived in the United Kingdom from other countries. One woman, from Poland, explained that a complete lack of knowledge about local mother and toddler groups and drop-in centres left her feeling isolated, lacking in support, and at risk of depression. She said she found out about these groups from meeting other mothers in the local park, and attending the groups meant she could meet other mothers and learn about what was 'normal' and to be expected when bringing up a small child.

Other parents expressed concern regarding local ante- and postnatal services. On the whole these were considered to be very helpful and supportive and there was a fear that services were being reduced due to a lack of funding. Many parents wanted several classes prior to giving birth and home visits afterwards so they knew what to expect from being a new parent.

Several parents spoke about their desire for their child to be educated in a religious environment or institution and felt that religious instruction and guidelines would help shape their child and their sociability. One of the poorest mothers believed that sending her children to a Church of England school would instil a morality and a community spirit in them. The mother from Indonesia felt that the secular educational and social system in London lacked a structure and community support that a more religious society, such as an Islamic one, could provide. Another mother was envious of her sister-in-law who was Jewish and deeply religious. She felt this provided her family life with a structure and direction which she could not attain, partly due to her lack of faith.

When asked about why parents may not be able to provide their children with an adequate home learning environment, many research participants felt that either too little time - parents were out all day, working, and preparing meals and doing housework when they returned and did not have the time to support their child - or too much time, by which they meant that parents who spent all their time with their children did not have the time to miss them, or had stopped enjoying spending time with their children. What was ideal was a balance between these two states.

Several parents mentioned that they were often made to feel inadequate by the government and in the press. The single mothers in particular described how they were made to feel that they were irresponsible or incapable of bringing-up a child alone, that their children were seen as having a bad start in life, and that this made the job all the more difficult.

5. Summary and conclusions

Despite research participants coming from a wide variety of social, economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds, there was very little variation in attitudes and beliefs around parenting and educating children. All parents prioritised the future happiness of their children over academic and career achievement. This was reflected in their understanding of their role as a parent, and the activities they provided for their children. Parenting itself - which refers to and is defined by the research participants as attention placed on children and their development - seemed to be, in part, a tension between providing quality time and attention for the children, and the need to place attention elsewhere, such as work, the household, other children, partners, or the self. Many parents spoke about guilt associated with this placement of attention, and referred to parents who do not pay adequate attention to their children as 'bad mothers'.

There seem to be several social and individual barriers to the provision of an optimal home learning environment. Social barriers included a lack of education about what children required to enhance their learning potential, lack of knowledge about or access to local social resources which would support an optimal home learning environment, provide a support network for parents, and prevent social isolation which may affect the relationship between carer and child, and a weak social structure not informed by strong social or religious ties. Individual barriers include a lack of desire to conform to the social role of 'mother,' and psychological distress (such as postnatal or clinical depression, or alcohol or substance abuse). Social and individual barriers are inextricably linked.

These results suggest that an inadequate, or suboptimal home learning environment is a product not of 'poverty,' as even those living on benefits demonstrate the similar values, knowledge, and capacity to provide an effective home learning environment as those who are relatively wealthy. Rather, it is a product of 'social exclusion,' as it is more broadly defined: as not having access to, or rejecting, dominant social expectations of being a parent.

6. Recommendations and interventions

Recommendations from this initial component of the research are of course tentative. We have yet to interview the most vulnerable parents, such as substance abusers and the mentally ill). However, from this first phase several recommendations emerge.

- 1) Parenting classes should become a normalised, but not mandatory, part of having a first child in the UK, particularly for those with little external social support and little access to other parents who can advise on aspects of parenting. Such classes should include a focus on the home learning environment
- 2) Information about parent and baby groups and parent and toddler groups should be made accessible to parents from the early stages of pregnancy, preferably through GP or antenatal services. This information should be made available to non-English speakers, and culturally appropriate groups provided.
- 3) Social, nongovernmental (neighbourhood, ideally) agencies, possibly working through GPs, should be available to identify parents who are struggling with social isolation, or do not have a support network or money to allow them freedom from their children (and subsequently to enjoy their children) and assistance should be offered. Further research is needed into why some parents do not access these services, such as SureStart.
- 4) National and local governmental and nongovernmental agencies should be made aware that, as long as children are not being harmed, parents have a right to decide how to bring up their children and what to prioritise in their parenting, and that these decisions need to be respected by others.

7. Measuring the effectiveness of interventions

“Impact Is defined as the immediate effect that health promotion programmes have on people, stakeholders and settings to influence the determinants of health. Health promotion programs may have a range of immediate effects on individuals and on social and physical settings. For individuals, the immediate effects include improved health knowledge, skills and motivation, and changes to health actions and behaviour.” (Australian Institute of Primary Care 2003).

The effectiveness of interventions can be measured through longitudinal assessment study of families involved in pilot schemes, An important aspect of all interventions should be that parents feel supported and happy in their desire and ability to provide a home learning environment for their child, so much of assessment will be dependent on the subjective experience of parents. A longitudinal study would also be able to assess a child's academic achievement, although other interventions and circumstances would have to be controlled for. With an improved home learning environment it would be expected that children would do better at school, and have an increased enjoyment of school. It may be possible to predict a child's cognitive and academic achievement without intervention, and measure actual achievements against this.

Report authors: Ellie Reynolds & Therese Hesketh, UCL
July 26, 2012

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