

**MEETING**

**CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

**DATE AND TIME**

**TUESDAY 14TH JUNE, 2016**

**AT 7.00 PM**

**VENUE**

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

**TO: MEMBERS OF CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE (Quorum 3)**

Chairman: Councillor Reuben Thompstone  
Vice Chairman: Councillor Bridget Perry

Councillor Rebecca Challice	Councillor Alison Cornelius	Councillor Val Duschinsky
Councillor Helena Hart	Councillor Anne Hutton	Councillor Kathy Levine
Councillor Kath McGuirk		

**Substitute Members**

Councillor Lisa Rutter	Councillor Stephen Sowerby	Councillor Tom Davey
Councillor Ammar Naqvi	Councillor Adam Langleben	Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb

**Co-opted Members**

Darren Warrington	Marilyn Nathan	Simon Clifford
Gladys Vendy	Denis Carey	Kevin McSharry

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions or comments must be submitted by 10AM on the third working day before the date of the committee meeting. Therefore, the deadline for this meeting is Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 10AM. Requests must be submitted to Edward Gilbert 020 8359 3469 [edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk)

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

**Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance**

Governance Service contact: Edward Gilbert 020 8359 3469 [edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk)

Media Relations contact: Sue Cocker 020 8359 7039

**ASSURANCE GROUP**

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# Decisions of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee

18 May 2016

Members Present:-

AGENDA ITEM 1

Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman)

Councillor Bridget Perry (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Rebecca Challice

Councillor Anne Hutton

Councillor Alison Cornelius

Councillor Kathy Levine

Councillor Daniel Thomas

Councillor Ammar Naqvi

Councillor Helena Hart

Also in attendance (as Co-opted Members):-

Marilyn Nathan

Gladys Vendy

Kevin McSharry

Apologies for Absence:-

Simon Clifford

Darren Warrington

Denis Carey

## 1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

**RESOLVED – The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 were agreed as a correct record.**

## 2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies of absence were received from Co-opted members Denis Carey, Darren Warrington and Simon Clifford.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None.

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

None.

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

None.

## 6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

**7. THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CAMPAIGNS OF BARNET'S 2015/16 UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBERS**

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, introduced the report which related to comments made by outgoing and incoming Youth Parliament Members in the borough.

The Chairman welcomed outgoing members to share their experiences about the campaigns they had championed during their time of being a Youth Parliament Member.

The committee then heard from incoming Youth Parliament members regarding what their campaigns for the forthcoming year would be. The Chairman and committee encouraged those members to work closely with the council during their time of office in order to support their campaigns.

Following discussion of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendations outlined in the cover report. The committee unanimously agreed the recommendations, and the following was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- **That the Committee noted the report on the progression of the existing UK Youth Parliament members and recognised the campaigns of the new UK Youth Parliament members as laid out in the appendices.**

**8. PRESENTATION: EXPOSURE - DOMESTIC ABUSE**

Councillor Hutton introduced the presentation, which related to a local campaign, run by Exposure, which raises awareness of domestic abuse.

*Note: the video presented to the committee can be found here:*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76YnazEIIY0>

**9. OPPOSITION MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR ANNE HUTTON FROM FULL COUNCIL: CUTS TO SCHOOLS AND THE NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA**

The committee noted that the item would be deferred to its next meeting.

**10. REPORT OF THE BARNET YOUTH ASSEMBLY**

Members of the Barnet Youth Assembly introduced the report, and spoke to the motions that they had discussed and voted on at their meetings.

Following discussion of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendations outlined in the cover report. The committee unanimously agreed the recommendations, and the following was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- 1. The committee noted the report.**

2. The committee commented on the priorities of the Youth Assembly and considered the key issues affecting young people as laid out at 1.6 of the report.
3. The committee approved and noted the officer proposals and responses to the priorities highlighted at 1.6 of the report.

**11. CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman introduced the committee's work programme for the forthcoming year.

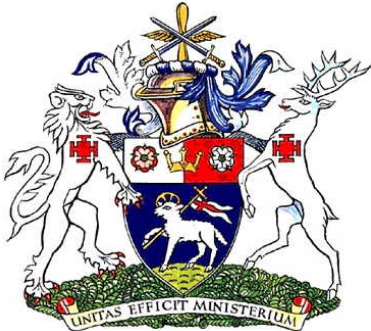
The committee unanimously noted the work programme.

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

None.

The meeting finished at 9.04 pm

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	AGENDA ITEM 6  <b>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</b>  <b>14<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b>
<b>Title</b>	Member's Item – Safeguarding implications of volunteer-run partnership libraries and unstaffed libraries
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Governance
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Edward Gilbert, Governance Officer Email: <a href="mailto:edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk">edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk</a> Tel: 020 8359 3469

**Summary**  
 The report informs the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee of a Member's Item and requests instructions from the Committee.

**Recommendations**

1. The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee's instructions in relation to this Member's item are requested.

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

- 1.1 Councillor Anne Hutton has requested that a Member's Item be considered on the following matter:

*I request that a report comes back to the next committee detailing the safeguarding implications of volunteer-run partnership libraries and unstaffed / technology enabled opening hours of libraries.*

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee are therefore requested to give consideration and provide instruction.

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

- 3.1 Not applicable.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

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

- 5.1.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

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

- 5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 The Council's Constitution (Meeting Procedure Rules, Section 6) states that a Member, including appointed substitute Members of a Committee may have one item only on an agenda that he/she serves. Members' items must be within the term of reference of the decision making body which will consider the item.

### **5.4 Risk Management**

- 5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

### **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 Members' Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

**5.6 Consultation and Engagement**

5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.

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AGENDA ITEM 7



## Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

<b>Title</b>	Opposition Motion in the name of Cllr Anne Hutton from Full Council: Cuts to Schools and the National Funding Formula
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Governance
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Edward Gilbert, Governance Officer Email: <a href="mailto:edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk">edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk</a> Tel: 020 8359 3469

### Summary

The report informs the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee of a Motion which was reported to Full Council on 04 April 2016. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23.5, if a Member's Motion is not deal with by the end of a Full Council meeting, it will be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and any necessary action.

### Recommendation

**The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee's instructions are required in relation to this item.**

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 On Monday 04 April 2016 Councillor Anne Hutton submitted an Opposition Motion to Full Council as follows:

### 1.2 Cuts to Schools and the National Funding Formula:

*Council notes that Barnet's schools are collectively facing a cut of around 8.7 per cent to their funding as a result of the move to a new National Funding Formula.*

*Council notes that the re-allocation of funds through the National Funding Formula hits London the hardest.*

*Council therefore supports efforts by London Councils to make the case to government for continued investment in London's schools, taking into account its complexities including deprivation, mobility and other local factors.*

*In particular, Council supports the broad principles of London Councils' campaign as follows:*

- To address any inequalities in the current funding formula, funding should be levelled up, rather than down*
- Fairer funding through a National Funding Formula should not result in a reduction in funding for London's children*
- Local flexibility over funding is vital to address and respond swiftly to local diverse and emerging issues*

*Council asks the Chief Executive to write to London Councils setting out LB Barnet's support for their campaign on the National Funding Formula and against these cuts to Barnet's schools.*

*Under Full Council Procedure Rule 23.5 I ask that my motion is voted on at the meeting.*

1.3 The Full Council Procedure Rules (rule 23.5), as outlined in the council's constitution, states that:

- If the Member's Motion is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it will be referred to the appropriate Council Committee or sub-Committee for consideration and any necessary action.

1.4 The motion was not discussed or voted on at the Full Council meeting. Therefore the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee is requested to consider the contents of the motion as set out in section 1.2 of this report and give instruction.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee is therefore requested to give consideration to the motion and provide instruction.

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

- 3.1 Not applicable.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the committee.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

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

- 5.1.1 Any actions arising will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

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

- 5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 The Full Council Procedure Rules (23.5), as outlined in the council's constitution, states that:

*If the Member's Motion is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it will be referred to the appropriate Council Committee or sub-Committee for consideration and any necessary action. (However, if the proposer has specifically asked in his or her notice for the Motion to be voted on at that Council meeting it will be voted on without discussion).*

- 5.3.2 Responsibility for Functions, Annex A, of the council's constitution provides the terms of reference of the committee. This section states that the committee has responsibility for overseeing the effective delivery of education in the borough.

- 5.3.3 There are no legal references in the context of this report.

### **5.4 Risk Management**

- 5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

## **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

## **5.6 Consultation and Engagement**

5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Motion to Full Council, 04 April 2016:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s30967/Opposition%20Motion%20-%20Councillor%20Anne%20Hutton.pdf>

	<p style="text-align: right;">ITEM 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Children, Education, Libraries, Safeguarding Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>14<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b></p>
<b>Title</b>	Review of Special Guardianship policy and support
<b>Report of</b>	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures</b>	<p>Appendix A: North London and DfE Recommended Minimum Rates</p> <p>Appendix B: LBB Permanency Policy</p> <p>Appendix C: LBB SGO policy</p> <p>Appendix D: Memoriam of Understanding for the North London Adoption and Fostering consortium</p> <p>Appendix E: LBB Financial Review Form</p> <p>Appendix F: LBB Special guardian Preparation Training slides</p> <p>Appendix G: Support Plan Template</p> <p>Appendix H: New SGO Regulations (2016)</p> <p>Appendix I: Equalities Impact Assessment</p>
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	<p>Jo Pymont, Assistant Director, Childrens Social Care  <a href="mailto:Jo.Pymont@barnet.gov.uk">Jo.Pymont@barnet.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Darren Johnson, Head of Service, Placements  <a href="mailto:Darren.Johnson@barnet.gov.uk">Darren.Johnson@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

## Summary

The London Borough of Barnet is committed to ensuring the appropriate and secure placement for children who are no longer able to live within their birth family. Special Guardianship Orders are a legal arrangement, but unlike Adoption, the Order does not sever the child's legal ties with their birth parents.

This commitment is in line with Barnet's Corporate Priority of building resilient communities in which children can thrive and achieve, and guided by the Corporate Plan principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity.

Barnet currently pays its special guardians an allowance that is significantly higher than the Department for Education (DfE) recommended London minimum rates. This paper proposes a reduction of the allowances to correspond to the DfE rates, to ensure greater parity across all London boroughs, and special guardians supported by Barnet.

Since the introduction of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) in 2005, the number of children provided with permanence through SGOs has steadily increased nationally and locally. This increase is expected to continue, putting increased pressure on resources.

Statutory guidance states that the means-tested allowance given to special guardians for care of the child must take into account the allowance that foster carers receive, which is reinforced by case law.

If this proposal is approved by the CELS Committee, special guardians and foster carers will be consulted with on the proposal. The final proposal will return to the CELS Committee for final sign-off with the consultation findings included.

The Committee is also asked to note the policy for Special Guardianship Orders (Appendix C), and that we will be consulting on the section relating to the allowances only.

## Recommendations

- 1. That the Committee note the SGO policy.**
- 2. That the Committee approve the proposal to consult on a new SGO allowance rate and corresponding changes to the maintenance rates for kinship foster carers and foster carers, with a paper incorporating the consultation findings, along with any amendments following such consultation, returning to CELS Committee for final sign-off. The costs of consultation are minimal and will be met within the project budget.**

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

### **1.1 Introduction**

Barnet is recognised as a great place to live for most families, children and young people. The council's vision is focused on making Barnet an even better place to live for all families - whether a couple with dependent children, a single-parent family, a foster family, a blended family or a family with special guardians to children in care.

A theme of resilience has been chosen to drive our ambition for strong communities in which children can thrive and achieve. Resilience is used to describe a situation when good outcomes occur for individuals or families in the face of adversity.

Barnet is committed to enhancing resilience for children who are no longer able to live with their birth parents through appropriate and secure placement options such as special guardianship.

This paper puts forward recommendations for amendments relating to Special Guardianship Order (SGO) support and allowance. It is recommended that Barnet SGO rates are brought in line with the recommended London rates for fostering, as issued by the Department for Education and updated on 31 March 2016.

These amendments would have a direct impact on rates for the following cohorts:

- Existing special guardians
- New special guardians
- Kinship carers who have not undertaken fostering training and are not approved foster carers

There will also be an indirect effect on rates for the following cohorts of Barnet carers, although these carers will not see an overall reduction in rates received as a result of these proposals:

- Approved foster carers

There is also a need for a SGO policy, which is provided in Appendix B.

### **1.2 Special Guardianship Orders**

The Prime Minister's Review of Adoption identified the need for an alternative legal status for children that offered greater security than long-term fostering but without the legal severance from the birth family that stems from an Adoption Order. As a result of this, Special Guardianship Orders were

introduced under an amendment to the Children Act 1989, and came into force in 2005.

Special guardianship offers a long term placement within the family or friend network, and will often offer the child a better sense of personal identity than long-term fostering. A SGO lasts until the child reaches 18. The special guardian obtains parental responsibility (PR) for the child through the order, and is charged with making day-to-day decisions for them. Critically, parents do retain PR for the child however their ability to exercise this is restricted. Although the order can be discharged, any person seeking to apply to do this would need leave of the court, which results in this order being a more secure placement than that under a child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order).

The objectives for special guardianship in the Government's White Paper were identified as:

- Give the carer clear responsibility for all aspects of caring for the child and for taking the decisions to do with their upbringing
- The child will no longer be looked after by a local authority
- Provide a firm foundation on which to build a lifelong permanent relationship between the child and their carer
- Be legally secure
- Preserve the link between the child and their birth family
- Be accompanied by access to a full range of support services, including where appropriate, financial support

A SGO is one of the ways in which the borough enables children to achieve greater permanency, thus leading to better outcomes for those children and young people. An SGO may be the desired option for the following cohorts:

- An older child who is wishing to retain legal links with his or her birth parents and does not wish to be adopted but would like security.
- Foster carers wishing to achieve permanency for a child in a long-term fostering placement where Family Services is in agreement that this plan is in the best interests of the child.
- A case in which there are cultural or religious objections to adoption.
- A child of any age whose parents cannot effectively exercise parental responsibility due to learning disability, long term history of substance abuse, mental illness, domestic violence or they live permanently abroad.
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children who prefer the SGO to Adoption as a result of their cultural background and/or religious beliefs and/or strong ties with families in their country of birth.

SGOs are granted by the court following care planning processes, in line with the Barnet permanency policy (see Appendix B) and using the support plan



template to set out the needs of the child (Appendix G). A flow chart depicting the process is available in the training slides (Appendix F).

Despite the government's drive to ensure that more children are adopted, the rigorous application by the courts of the principles set out in the case Re-BS has led to there being an increased number of children receiving the less interventionist special guardianship order instead of being adopted. This includes younger children, for whom the SGO was not originally intended.

### 1.3 National and Local Context

Since the introduction of SGOs, the number of children being provided with permanence through SGOs has steadily increased nationally as have the number of local authority areas in which it is used through the court process to secure placements for looked after (and other) children.

Less than one-third of local authorities made early use of this provision compared to 97 per cent of local authorities in 2011-12<sup>1</sup>.

*Table 1: Numbers of SGO orders nationally 2005-06 to 2011-12*

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Total SGOs in year</b>	98	807	1,180	1,332	1,421	1,960	2,173

In Barnet, there has been a significant increase in the number of SGOs over the past 4 years. As at February 2016 there are 153 children under a SGO, with an attached financial allowance.

*Table 2: Number of SGOs granted in Barnet 2005-06 to 2015-16*

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<b>No of SGOs granted</b>	2	5	8	11	13	19	32	15	26	21	28
<b>Year on year % change</b>	N/A	150	60	38	18	46	68	-53	73	-19	33

In Barnet, there is a rolling programme of training for all special guardians throughout the year which is provided as part of the North London Adoption

<sup>1</sup> 4.2 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/377448/DFE-RR372\\_Investigating\\_special\\_guardianship.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/377448/DFE-RR372_Investigating_special_guardianship.pdf)

and Fostering Consortium. There is a duty phone line during office hours for special guardians to access advice, signposting to services and support, often with regard to court proceedings and child and adolescent mental health support. A monthly support group takes place in the evening to provide face-to-face support.

All prospective special guardians in Barnet now also attend preparatory training, which is delivered by Family Services Finance and Social Care teams. This is to ensure that they understand the requirements of being a special guardian and the council's offer before committing to special guardianship (see Appendix F).

#### **1.4 Special Guardian Allowances**

Special guardians are financially assessed to determine their eligibility for an allowance from the council (see Appendix E).

Statutory guidance states that the means-tested allowance given to special guardians for care of the child must take into account the allowance that foster carers receive. This does not include the skills fee that foster carers receive.

Case law has been clear that special guardians are entitled to the same allowance as foster carers depending on how the child(ren) came into their care and their and the children's circumstances and needs.

As part of the review of SGO support in Barnet, the SGO allowance has been compared against the published DfE recommended minimum inner-London rates and this paper proposes a revision of these rates to ensure parity with recommended minimum rates for inner-London (see Appendix A).

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **2.1 Recommendation 1: That the Committee note the SGO policy**

Given the changing legal landscape, it is timely to ensure that there is a clear and transparent Special Guardianship Order policy. Family Services has a bank of refreshed policies that span most areas of work. It is important that an up-to-date policy also exists for Special Guardians, in order to provide a clear, defined offer of support and expectations.

**2.2 Recommendation 2: That the Committee approve the proposal to consult on a new SGO allowance rate and corresponding changes to the maintenance rates for kinship foster carers and foster carers, with a paper incorporating the consultation findings, along with any amendments which arise from the consultation period, returning to CELS Committee for final sign-off. There is a strong case for reducing the rates paid to SGOs in Barnet.**

Barnet is paying rates to special guardians that are significantly higher than the minimum inner-London rates as recommended by the DfE. Maintaining high rates, which are the product of historical decisions, is not sustainable in a climate of financial austerity and does not offer parity with other types of caring support.

There is an overspend of circa £106,000 projected for this area of the service<sup>2</sup> and a high risk level attached to this area of spend. This is because demand is set to rise and recent court decisions suggest that SGOs are being favoured as an alternative to adoption.

Efficiency savings and greater streamlining of processes have taken £75k out of the budget from June 2015 until 31 March 2016 (benefits realisation to take place), but additional savings will not be realised without a realignment of rates. There is a need to make further, more transformative savings from this area of the service in order to meet overall CELS MTFS savings targets of £14,547m by 2019/20.

There has been a significant increase in the number of special guardians in receipt of a maintenance allowance in Barnet over the past 4 years, and there has been a corresponding cost increase of 123% over this time period.

There is scope to reduce SGO rates whilst providing sufficient support to SGO carers, whilst ensuring that this amount is within the inner-London minimum recommended rates, and also ensuring that the decision to do so is lawful.

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

#### **3.1 Continue with the current rates paid to SGOs (Option A)**

An alternative option is to continue with the current rates paid to SGOs.

This would mean that Barnet continues to pay a rate that is significantly higher than the DfE recommended London minimum rates, and many of the other London based local authorities.

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<sup>2</sup> Projection for 2015-16 year end as at month 11

### 3.2 Introduce the proposed rates for new SGOs only (Option B)

Another option is to introduce the proposed rates for new SGOs only.

This would mean that Barnet continues to pay a rate that is significantly higher than the DfE recommended inner-London minimum rate to the existing cohort of special guardians.

This is not recommended, as savings would only be realised for new SGOs, resulting in a lack of parity between new and existing Special Guardians and continued overspend. There is potential for legal challenge in respect of this option as the amounts would not be applied fairly across the board.

With regard to both alternative options considered and not recommended, cost pressures at present contribute to the £105,488 overspend that the service is forecast to reach at the end of the 2015/16 financial year. Given the current pressures and increased demand, this overspend is forecast to continue, unless action is taken.

## 4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

### 4.1 Pre-decision timescales

The timescale leading up to the final decision is provided below.

*Table 5: Timescale Pre-Decision*

Targets	Milestone
Late May 2016	Affected cohorts contacted in order to inform them of the review of special guardianship policy and support, the forthcoming Committee paper and draw their attention to the forthcoming consultation.
Mid June 2016	SGO Rate Amendment proposal paper presented to CELS Committee.
Mid June 2016	SGO Rate Amendment consultation period commences; consultation will last 6 weeks.
Late July 2016	SGO Rate Amendment consultation period ends.
Early August 2016	Review of consultation response.

September 2016	Final SGO Rate Amendment proposal paper with consultation findings, and any proposed amendments presented to CELS Committee.
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## 4.2 Post-decision timescales

A high-level timescale of the post-decision implementation is provided below:

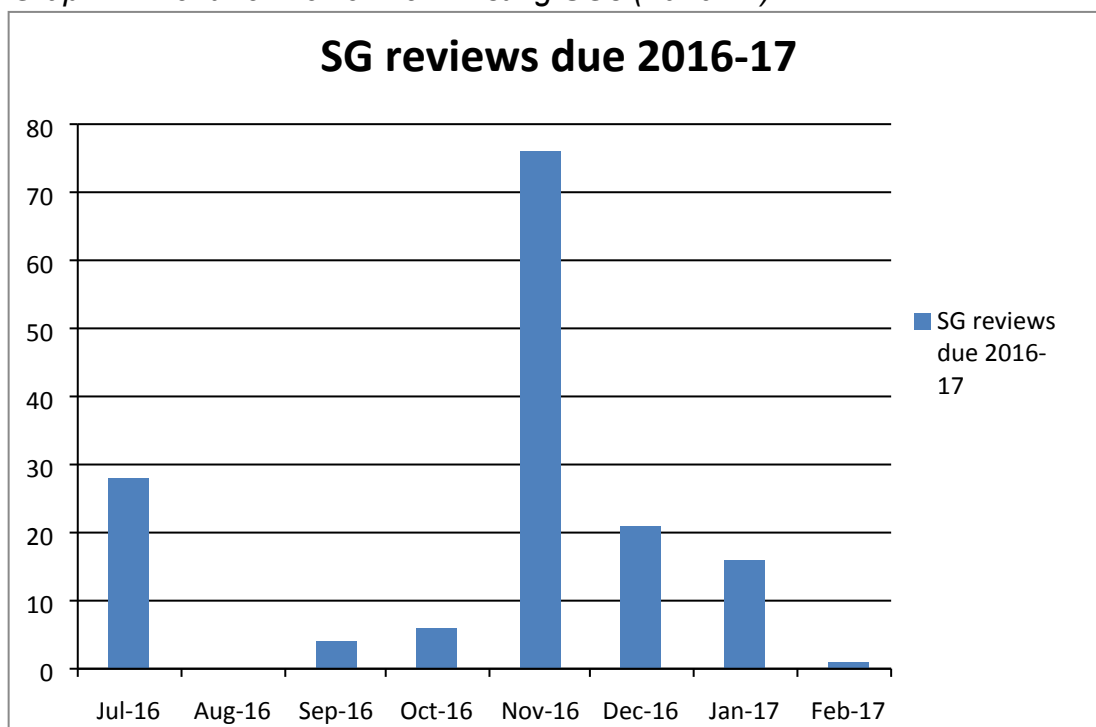
*Table 6: Timescale Post-Decision*

Targets	Milestone
October 2016	New SGO rates come into effect; programme to implement new rates begins (subject to outcome of consultation and approval).
October 2016 to October 2017	All existing special guardians, kinship foster carers and foster carer rates are reviewed and new rates are implemented. All new special guardians, kinship foster carers and foster carers receive the new rates.

Subject to approval, the new rates will be introduced for each special guardian, kinship foster carer and foster carer following their financial review.

The time at which this review takes place is dependent on when the carer was last reviewed. Legislation stipulates that this must be a period of at least 12 months following the last review. Graph A below shows the month in which allowances for the 153 children under Special Guardianship Orders will be reviewed.

*Graph A: Month of Review for Existing SGs (2016-17)*



The Financial Assessment will be fully processed an average of 1 month following the scheduled review, at which point the new rates would be introduced.

## 5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

### 5.1.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

The table below demonstrates how the decision will advance a number of LB Barnet's Corporate Priorities.

*Table 9: Implications for Corporate Priorities*

Corporate Priority	Implications
Ensure that Barnet is a place of opportunity, where people	Special Guardianship Orders provide the opportunity for children in Barnet to enjoy a more secure placement without severing the

can further their quality of life	legal ties to their birth parents. A fair and sustainable offer to Barnet special guardians will ensure that this option is available to current and future cohorts of children and young people.
Where responsibility is shared, fairly	Special Guardianship Orders allow carers looking after children in particular placements, such as long-term fostering, to take on greater responsibility for the child and thus allow them to have greater security in their placement. Special Guardianships allow responsibility for the child to rest with members of the child's family or existing network, which is a community-based way of ensuring that the child's needs are met. A new policy ensures that the responsibility borne by the council, and Special Guardians, is clear and unambiguous.
Where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.	The proposals put forward result in better value for money for the taxpayer, and good outcomes for increasing cohorts of children who require a Special Guardianship Order.

### 5.1.2 Needs Assessment

The population of children and young people in Barnet is estimated to grow by 6% between 2015 and 2020 when it will reach 98,914. This growth necessitates a clear, sustainable offer for special guardians as population growth may provide an additional pressure.

### 5.1.3 CELS Commissioning Plan Outcomes

The Committee's priorities are to;

- Ensure Barnet remains one of the best places in the country for children to grow up.
- Support children and families who currently do less well in life to overcome barriers to success allowing all children the opportunity to thrive
- Children and young people are safe in their homes, schools and around the borough.

The proposals will also help to achieve the CELS commissioning plan outcomes, in particular the following:

*Table 10: CELS Commissioning Objectives*

Objective	Description	Proposal
Health and wellbeing	Every child in Barnet has a great start in life, with the security and safety to grow in a nurturing environment.	Special Guardianship Orders offer security and safety in a placement that is more permanent than fostering. Barnet special guardians have access to training and support to enhance their ability to care for children in their care.
Preparation for adulthood	All young people are ambitious for their future, ready to contribute to society and have the ability to plan for the future.	Special guardianship is recommended by the local authority and/or chosen by the courts as the right legal order for a cohort of children who would benefit from this arrangement. It is important that Barnet is able to finance this arrangement in a sustainable way, so that future cohorts can benefit.
Parenting	All parents and carers are able to develop high quality relationships with their children, establishing effective boundaries and support physical and emotional well-being.	For children who are unable to remain with their birth families, special guardianship enables them to be cared for and parented within another family.

#### 5.1.4 Health and Wellbeing Plan proposal

The proposals support a number of outcomes of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020, namely improving outcomes for babies, young children and their families and wellbeing in the community for those children and young people for whom a Special Guardianship Order or Foster Care is the most appropriate option.

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

There are no significant direct or indirect resource implications for



Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property.

The implications for finance, and value for money are discussed in detail throughout this report.

### 5.2.1 Resources Provided to Special Guardians

Barnet provides a comprehensive level of support alongside the financial allowances which includes access to:

- North London Adoption, Fostering, and Special Guardianship Training Programme.
- Monthly special guardianship support groups.
- Monthly special guardianship preparation groups.
- Duty phone line during Monday to Friday in core hours.
- SGO consortium leaflets and North London Adoption, Fostering and Special Guardianship website ([www.specialguardiansnorthlondon.co.uk](http://www.specialguardiansnorthlondon.co.uk)).
- Adoption Support Fund for children to receive therapeutic support.
- PACT-UK contract which offers adult counselling for birth families involved in SGO cases.
- Annual Celebration Party for all Special Guardians and their children.
- Settling in Allowance, if assessed as necessary on a case by case basis.

The current and proposed SGO allowances are set out in Table 11 below:

*Table 11: Current and proposed Barnet rates for Special Guardians*

Age	SGO rate per week 0-2	SGO rate per week 3-5	SGO rate per week 6-10	SGO rate per week 11-15	SGO rate per week 16-17 <sup>3</sup>
Current Barnet rates	£185 (0-12)			£244 (13-17)	
Proposed rates <sup>4</sup>	£142	£145	£163	£184	£216
Average saving per week per child	£38.50 <sup>5</sup>				
Average saving	£165.55				

<sup>3</sup> In rare circumstances a child will be under an SGO past their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; in this case the 16-17 rate applies.

<sup>4</sup> Based on the DfE recommended minimum fostering rates for London

<sup>5</sup> Average saving is based on the ages of children within the existing cohort.

per month per child	
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### 5.2.2 Existing Special Guardians and Transitional Arrangements

The recommended option is to revise rates for all Barnet Special Guardians at their next Financial Review. At least 12 months must elapse since the previous review, so reviews will take place throughout the year, on a case by case basis.

If the special guardian is eligible for the means-tested allowance, they will start receiving the new rate of support approximately 1 month following the completion of their Financial Review.

For 2016/17, part-year savings across the 153 children under a Special Guardianship Order would be based on when Financial Reviews are due.

All annual reviews for the current cohort will be completed by August 2017 and all Special Guardians will therefore be subject to the new rates from August 2017 onwards. The full-year saving would be recurrent on an annual basis. Based on October 2016 implementation of the new rates for reviews due at this time, the annual savings of this policy change are set out in Table 12.

Part of the savings will address the budget overspend, while the continued savings will enable Barnet to manage future demand. The savings projected for the 2017/18 and 2018/9 are estimates based on an assumption that the inflow of cases will match the outflow as this is a cohort which is constantly in transition.

*Table 12: Savings relating to existing Special Guardians 2016/17-2018/19*

Financial Year	Saving
2016/17	£57,322
2017/18	£337,824
2018/19	£379,576
3 year saving	£774,721

### 5.2.3 New Special Guardians

The table below shows the cost that can be avoided by introducing the proposed new rates for all new special guardians over the next four years.

Modelling for numbers of new special guardians was originally forecast at a 20% increase year-on-year. However, this has been modified to a 15% increase because of the following:

- The Government's intentions to further speed up and streamline adoption
- The increased awareness-raising through training for all new Special Guardians in Barnet

#### **5.2.4 Foster Carers and Kinship Foster Carers**

Approved foster carers will not experience a reduction in rates. This is because they receive a skills based fee which will increase, resulting in no overall impact of this change on their allowance

Kinship foster carers who have not undertaken fostering training and are not approved fostering households do not received a skills based fee and will see an average reduction of £38.50 per week as a result of these changes.

### **5.3 Social Value**

A Special Guardianship Order helps to secure a long term placement for children which can assist in children's sense of security. Greater permanency leads to better outcomes for children and young people, which can advance their opportunities and impact within the community. The proposal will enable the local authority to better support this growing cohort to reach their potential with limited resources in the future.

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

Under the Special Guardianship Regulations 2005, Regulation 18, a local authority must review the financial support provided either on receipt of the annual statement of financial status, a change in relevant circumstances, or any stage in the implementation of the plan which they consider appropriate. The regulation also makes it clear that if, as a result any review, a decision to reduce or terminate financial support is made, the local authority must give the person notice of the decision and an opportunity for that person to make representations.

In line with these regulations, Barnet intends to engage current special guardians in consultation for a period of 28 days, and implement any new rates at the point of each individual financial review.

Responsibility for Functions, Annex A, in the council's constitution states that

the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has the responsibility for powers, duties and functions relating to Children's Services. In addition to this, the committee has responsibility for overseeing the support for young people in care and enhancing the council's corporate parenting role

New Statutory Special Guardianship Regulations came into force on 29 February 2016 (see Appendix H).

Section 22G of the Children Act 1989 requires local authorities to take steps that secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority's area which meets the needs of children that the local authority are looking after, and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation that is in the local authority's area ('the sufficiency duty').

## **5.5 Risk Management**

There is a risk that special guardians and affected kinship foster carers will not positively receive the information regarding the new rates and this may potentially compromise a child's permanency. This is unlikely, as feedback suggests that the motivations of becoming a special guardian or kinship foster carer are not financial. Special guardians do not receive a fee and support is not only financial in nature. Past adjustments to rates in Family Services have not resulted in children's permanency being disrupted. Professionals in the Adoption and Post-Permanency team will support special guardians through the transition period.

Reducing rates could result in fewer special guardians and kinship foster carers coming forward to care for children. This would result in a greater number of children having to be placed in long-term fostering placements or adoptions. However, the probability of this risk being realised is unlikely because special guardians and kinship foster carers are motivated by the desire to care for a child within their family rather than financial gain, and they do not receive a fee for fulfilling this duty. Furthermore, the new allowance rate proposed is the minimum rate recommended by the DfE for inner-London, which gives assurances that the rate is sufficient to cover the costs of looking after a child in London.

If the proposal is not subject to the correct formal procedures and consultation, the council may be subject to challenge. In order to ensure that affected cohorts are involved in the decision, formal consultation will be held with special guardians both to inform them about the proposed changes, and gather their views. Family Services will follow all relevant guidance on undertaking the consultation.

## 5.6 Equalities and Diversity

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

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

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

Data used in the Equalities Impact Assessment for this review was sourced from ICS (Children Social Care system).

Across the cohorts of children under a Special Guardianship Order, the following groups are most likely to be affected:

- Females
- Children aged 0-4

Across the cohorts of children in care, the following groups are most likely to be affected:

- Children with a disability
- Young people aged 15-18

Across the cohort of adult Special Guardians, the following groups are most likely to be affected:

- White adults
- Females
- Adults aged 50-64

Across the cohorts of adult Foster Carers, the following groups are most likely to be affected:

- BAME adults
- Females
- Adults aged 50-64
- Christians
- Married adults

The rates proposed are the recommended minimum DfE rates for London, so a negative impact is not expected on children of any age or background. If the disproportionate impact is negative, steps will be taken to address this as required within the service area.

All communities will be reassured that Barnet is taking measures to ensure a sustainable, robust offer for children who are unable to live with their birth families. This proposal brings Barnet's rates in line with the DfE recommended rate for Inner London to ensure greater parity across London's communities.

Following the consultation period, it may be that other issues come to light that will require consideration.

## **5.7 Consultation and Engagement**

If the recommendations of this report are approved by Committee, formal consultation will be undertaken for 6 weeks with Barnet special guardians and foster carers. There will be a minimum of 2 information sessions to which special guardians and foster carers will be invited, to learn more about the proposals and ask questions. Alongside this, a consultation paper and survey will be disseminated to these affected cohorts to gather their feedback, the findings of which will be incorporated into the final paper. Engagement with special guardians and foster carers to clarify the new support offer and rates will take place following consultation if the new rates are approved.

## **5.8 Insight**

Data has been used to inform the number and cohorts of special guardians, foster carers and children that changes to the Barnet SGO offer would affect. Past data and current insight was used to inform the forecast modelling for future SGO rates.

Data has been collected from the Department for Education and London boroughs to inform the proposed new rates.

Data on the characteristics of Barnet's cohort of special guardians and children under a SGO has been analysed to inform the SGO policy and the Equalities Impact Assessment.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There are no additional background papers.

**Appendix A: North London Special Guardianship and DfE recommended minimum Fostering Allowance rates**

National Guidance	DfE	SKILL TIER	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)																	
			0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
N London Rates																				
HACKNEY		Basic	£142	145			163				184				216					
Deducts child benefit			0-2 years	3-5 years			6-10 years				11-15 years				16-17 years					
ISLINGTON		Basic	145				163				203				TBC					
			0-4 years				6-10 years				11-15 years				16-17					
ENFIELD		Basic	180.25 less Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit										259.70							
Settling in allowance of up to £500 per child			0-11 years										11-18 years							
BARNET		Basic	£185.00 less Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit													£244 less CB & CTC				
Mostly given settling-in of £400 (but not in			0-12 years													Over 12 years				

every case)																			
CAMDEN	Basic	SG rates are means-tested and reviewed annually. The Maximum allowance is £217 per week, per child, out of which we deduct child benefit and child tax credit																	
DfE Minimum Rates		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
REST OF UK	Basic	123			126			139			159			185					
SOUTH EAST	Basic	136			140			156			177			208					
LONDON		<b>142</b>			<b>145</b>			<b>163</b>			<b>184</b>			<b>216</b>					

**South East** (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, East Sussex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and West Sussex)



# Family Services

## LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET PERMANENCY POLICY

### Contents

1. Introduction
2. Principles and Policy
3. Options for Permanency
4. Procedure

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The London Borough of Barnet is committed to ensuring that all children in its care are given the opportunity to live safely and securely in a family. In circumstances where children cannot remain with their birth parents, every effort will be made to ensure that alternative families are found to meet the needs of each child as speedily as possible through effective child care planning and monitoring.
- 1.2. Early permanency planning is essential for all looked after children to avoid drift and ensure that they have the opportunity of reaching their full potential from a safe and secure base.
- 1.3. In this context, the use of the term 'permanence' can mean various things which and acknowledges that permanence can be achieved through different routes - with existing or reconstituted birth families, with friends or relatives, through adoption or long term fostering with new or existing carers via residence and special guardianship orders and, for a minority of children through permanent residential care.

## 2. Principles and Policy

- 2.1. Barnet's permanency policy is based on the principles set out in this section (S2). It incorporates the National Adoption Standards and Regulations for England, the principles and values contained in the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 2.2. Barnet believes that all children have a right to family life. In the first instance, this should be with their parent/s, or where this is not possible, within their wider family or kinship network, or other significant person connected with them if this is considered to be in the child's best interests. Where this is inconsistent with the child's welfare, or not realistically a viable plan then Barnet will seek to place children in an alternative family environment, in an appropriate permanent

placement that offers a legally secure arrangement with adults who are able to meet their identified needs.

- 2.3. It is widely accepted that all children need to experience a sense of stability, security, continuity and belonging, to promote their identity and positive sense of themselves throughout their childhood **and beyond. Barnet will strive to ensure this sense of permanence and belonging for all children who become looked after is achieved.**

What matters most to children who are looked after is the quality of relationships with both the adults who care for them and ongoing relationships with their parents, siblings and other birth family members providing that this is in their best interests. The ethos of our permanency policy is to provide stability, security and continuity for individual children, and we understand that in order to achieve this for most children this means that we need to support routes to legal permanence

- 2.4 Barnet aims to achieve permanence for looked after children by;

- providing high-quality and stable care;
- supporting children's sense of identity and belonging; and
- connecting children's past, present and future throughout childhood and transitions out of care, and into adult life.

- 2.5 Whichever route to permanence is appropriate for a child we are clear it is essential that planning takes account of children's wishes and feelings to ensure that they understand the plan for them and why an alternative permanent placement is necessary.

## Principles

It is the fundamental right of every child to belong to a family and:

- Every child must have his or her wishes and feelings listened to, recorded and taken into account in decision making and planning for their future;
- Every effort must be made to recruit enough permanent families to meet children's needs;
- Every effort must be made to find families that reflect the ethnic origin, cultural background, religion and language of the children concerned;
- Every effort must be made to allow children to place sibling children together unless this is not assessed to be in their best interest;
- Every effort must be made to ensure that, where possible and appropriate, links between the children and their birth families are maintained.

## Policy

- Where children cannot live with their birth parent/parents, there is a duty to provide an alternative permanent home. This must be within a family environment unless there are significant needs that cannot be met within a family placement;
- Parallel planning must be considered for children where an assessment has identified that their parents may be unlikely to achieve or sustain the necessary changes in their parenting on their children's behalf;

- All children must have a permanency plan where a decision has been made that they cannot live with their birth parent/s;
- Every child is a unique individual and their individuality must be taken into account when planning all aspects of their needs, identity and wishes;
- Sibling groups must be placed together unless there are clear indications that this is not in the interest of the individual child and / or a placement could not be achieved within a reasonable time-scale;
- When a child is placed in a permanent alternative home through adoption, long term fostering, by means of a special guardianship order or a child arrangement order, an assessment must be made of their needs for continued support, to ensure the future stability of the placement. This will always be facilitated by the post order permanency service.
- Placements with family or friends' carers should be considered as a preferred option if there is someone with in the child's network who is willing, able and suitable to give them a permanent home unless there are strong reasons to the contrary;
- Adoption or special guardianship should be considered as the preferred option for all looked after children under 10 years needing permanent homes;
- Work must be undertaken in partnership wherever possible with the child's birth and extended family, to ensure the long term wellbeing of the child in their permanent placement.

### 3. Options for Permanency

#### 3.1. Staying at Home

The first stage within permanence planning is work with families and children in need to support them staying together. Staying at home or reunification usually offers the best chance of stability. This has to be balanced against the risks to the child of remaining in a family that is failing to meet the child's needs.

#### 3.2 Placement with Family or Friend Carers

If the assessment concludes that the child cannot safely remain at home, every effort must be made to secure a placement with a suitable family or friend carer/s. This will be either as part of the plan to work towards a return home or - if a return home is clearly not in the child's best interests - as the preferred permanence option. It is very important to establish at an early stage which relatives or friends might be available to care for the child, to avoid delays which can happen during court proceedings where this work has not been carried out. Upon a child coming into care a permanency planning meeting (PPM) will be held within 4 weeks to establish the likely outcome for permanence.

#### 3.3 Adoption

Research strongly supports adoption as the best way of achieving long term stability and security for children, especially for those under four years of age who cannot be reunified with their birth or extended family. Adoption transfers parental responsibility for the child from the birth parents

(and others who had parental responsibility, including the local authority, which means that the child ceases to be looked after) permanently and solely to the adopter(s).

The child is deemed to be the child of the adopter(s). The child's birth certificate is changed to an adoption certificate showing the adopter(s) to be the child's parent(s). A child who is not already a citizen of the UK acquires British citizenship if adopted in the UK by a citizen of the UK.

### 3.4 Long-term Fostering

This option is particularly useful for older children who retain strong links to their birth families and do not want or need the finality of adoption and where the carers wish for the continued involvement of the local authority. It is also a formal option for those children and young people who are considered harder to place.

### 3.5 Special Guardianship Orders

Special guardianship addresses the needs of a significant group of children, who need a sense of stability and security within a placement away from their parents but not the absolute legal break with their birth family which is associated with adoption. It will also provide an alternative for achieving permanence in families where adoption, for cultural or religious reasons, is not an option.

Special guardians have parental responsibility for the child and although this is shared with the child's parents, the special guardian has the legal right to make all day to day arrangements for the child. The birth parent seldom exercises PR in this situation.

### 3.6 Child Arrangement Orders (CAO)

A child arrangement order may be used to increase the degree of legal permanence in a placement with family or friend carer/s or a long-term fostering placement, where this would be in the child's best interests.

A child arrangement order confers parental responsibility, to be shared more equally with the parents than with special guardianship, which in some cases may be a more appropriate arrangement.

### 3.7 Residential Care

For a small number of looked after children settled residential care can be an option of choice. These children may have additional needs or special needs which cannot be met in a family setting, older children who have had a significant number of family placements and disruptions or children whose behaviour means it can be difficult to care for them in a family setting.

## 4. Procedure

**Planning** underpins all child care decisions. This includes an assessment of the child's permanency needs which must be considered at the second looked after review (held within 4 months of the child becoming looked after).

**Timescales** - Clear timescales must be set for the implementation of the plan, whether it is for the child's return home, preparation for independence or for permanency through adoption, fostering, a CAO or a Special Guardianship Order.

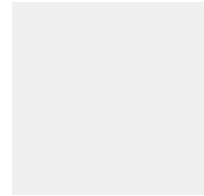
**Post Order and Post Permanence Support** – For all children placed permanently access to support services will be through the adoption and post order permanence team to ensure that all families are supported.

**Mediation in relation to matters relating to Special Guardianship Orders:** Should any of the parties wish to consider mediation in relation to matters relating to the Special Guardianship Order, this will be facilitated by Barnet's Adoption and Post Permanence Team within the first three years of the Special Guardianship Order being granted. Following the three year period mediation may be provided by the Local Authority in which the child is resident.

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## Appendix C: LBB SGO Policy

# Applications for Special Guardianship Orders



Section 5, Permanency Planning Meeting, has been revised and updated to reflect the enhanced assessment and reporting requirements set out in the Special Guardianship (Amendment) Regulations 2016. In Barnet this applies to all special guardianship reports to be filed after 29 February 2016.

### RELATED CHAPTER

This chapter should be read in conjunction with [Permanence Planning Guidance](#).

### RELATED GUIDANCE AND DOCUMENTATION

North London Adoption and Fostering Consortium (NLAFC) Special Guardianship leaflet

Barnet Special Guardianship Preparation Workshop

Support Plan Template

Department of Education Financial Modelling Template

Schedule of NLAFC Training for Special Guardians

SGO Journey flowchart

### Contents

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1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Who may Apply?](#)
3. [Parental Responsibility](#)
4. [The Circumstances in which a Special Guardianship Order may be Made](#)
5. [Permanency Planning Meeting](#)
6. [Approval of Special Guardianship for Looked After Children](#)
7. [Report to the Court](#)
8. [Discharge of Special Guardianship Order](#)

9. **Special Guardianship Support**
10. **Entitlement to Assessment for Special Guardianship Support**
11. **Assessment for Support**
12. **The Special Guardianship Support Plan**
13. **Review of Special Guardianship Support Plan**
14. **Financial Support**
15. **Urgent Cases**
16. **Special Guardian Duty on the Death of the Child**
17. **Changes in Circumstances**
18. **Complaints**

## 1. Introduction

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Special Guardianship offers an option for children needing permanent care outside their birth family. It can offer greater security without absolute severance from the birth family as in adoption.

It will address the needs of a significant group of children, mainly older, who need a sense of stability and security but who do not wish to make the absolute legal break with their birth family that is associated with adoption.

It will also provide an alternative for achieving permanence in families where adoption, for cultural or religious reasons, is not an option.

A Special Guardianship Order offers greater stability and legal security to a placement than a **Child Arrangements Order**.

Special Guardians will have **Parental Responsibility** for the child and, whilst this will be shared with the child's parents, however, their ability to exercise Parental Responsibility is subject to the ability of the special guardian to exercise Parental Responsibility to the exclusion of any other person.

A Special Guardianship Order made in relation to a **Looked After Child** will replace the **Care Order** and the Local Authority will no longer have Parental Responsibility.

A Care Order, however, will not automatically revoke a Special Guardianship Order although the Special Guardian's exercise of Parental Responsibility will be restricted as the local authority will have primary responsibility for decision-making under the Care Order.

For further details about the Special Guardianship as a permanence option for Looked After Children, see **Permanence Planning Guidance**.



## 2. Who may Apply?

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Applications for Special Guardianship may be individual or joint. Joint applicants do not need to be married. Special Guardians must be 18 or over.

The following persons may apply without having to obtain the leave of the court:

- Any guardian of the child;
- Where the child is subject of a Care Order or an Interim Care Order, any person who has the consent of the Local Authority;
- A local authority foster carer who is a relative of the child or with whom the child has lived for one year immediately preceding the application (even if the Local Authority does not consent);
- Anyone who is named in a Child Arrangements Order as a person with whom the child is to live;
- Anyone who has the consent of each person named in a Child Arrangements Order as a person with whom the child is to live;
- Anyone with whom the child has lived for three out of the last five years, providing the child has not ceased to live with the proposed applicant more than 3 months before the making of the application;
- Anyone who has the consent of all those with Parental Responsibility for the child;
- Anyone, including the child, who has the leave of the court to apply.

The parents of a child may not apply to become their own child's Special Guardians.

## 3. Parental Responsibility

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The Special Guardian will have Parental Responsibility for the child and will have clear responsibility for the day-to-day decisions about caring for the child to the exclusion of anyone else who might have Parental Responsibility (apart from another Special Guardian).

The child's parents will continue to hold Parental Responsibility but their exercise of it will be limited. The parents will, however, retain the right to consent or not to the child's adoption or placement for adoption

In addition there are certain steps in a child's life which require the consent of every-one with Parental Responsibility, for example:

- The change of name of the child;
- The removal of the child from the United Kingdom for longer than three months;
- The sterilisation of a child.

## 4. The Circumstances in which a Special Guardianship Order may be Made

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The Court may make a Special Guardianship Order in any family proceedings concerning the welfare of the child. This applies even where no application has been made and includes adoption proceedings.

Any person making an application for a Special Guardianship Order must give 3 months' written notice to their local authority of their intention to apply. In relation to a Looked After Child, the notice will go to the local authority looking after the child. In all other cases, the notice will be sent to the local authority for the area where the applicant resides. The local authority receiving the notice will then have a duty to provide a report to the Court.

The only exception to the requirement for 3 months' notice is where the Court has granted leave to make an application and waived the notice period.

Where the local authority has received notice from an applicant or a request for a report from the Court, it should send written information about the steps it proposes to take in preparing the report to the prospective Special Guardian and the parents of the child in question. This should include information about Special Guardianship support services and how to request an assessment of needs for support.

## 5. Permanency Planning Meeting (PPM)

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Once notice has been received that an application for Special Guardianship is to be made, the notice should be passed to the allocated social worker or, if the child is not previously known, arrangements must be made for the case to be allocated to a social worker.

The allocated social worker should arrange a planning meeting as soon as practicable (in conjunction with the Adoption and Permanency Team) after the notice is received. The planning meeting should clarify the steps to be taken, who will carry out the necessary assessments and who will contribute to the report for the Court. Court timescales will need to be clarified.

The social worker or social workers preparing the Court report should be suitably qualified and experienced. There are no specific requirements as to the level of qualification or experience required and it will be for the manager of the relevant social work team to ensure that the allocated worker is competent to write the report.

In all cases there will need to be:

- i. An assessment of the current and likely future needs of the child (including any harm the child has suffered and any risk of future harm posed by the child's parents, relatives or any other person the local authority considers relevant).

This will normally be undertaken by the Carer Recruitment and Assessment Team (CRAT).

An assessment of the prospective Special Guardian's parenting capacity including: ;

- i. their understanding of, and ability to meet the child's current and likely future needs, particularly, any needs the child may have arising from harm that the child has suffered;

- ii. their understanding of, and ability to protect the child from any current or future risk of harm posed by the child's parents, relatives or any other person the local authority consider relevant, particularly in relation to contact between any such person and the child;
- iii. their ability and suitability to bring up the child until the child reaches the age of eighteen;”.

The proposed contact arrangements and the support needs (See Section 11 Assessment for Support) (trix please link) of the child, parents and the prospective special guardian.

The assessment of the applicants should include their medical history, the references received and the Disclosure and Barring Service and other statutory checks undertaken for the assessment.

## 6. Approval of Special Guardianship for Looked After Children

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If the child is **Looked After** and the application has been agreed as part of the child's **Permanence Plan**, the assessments will usually have been undertaken and the outcomes agreed as part of the permanence planning meeting for the child.

Special Guardianship as an outcome for a Looked After child must be approved by the **Designated Manager (Special Guardianship or appropriate Head of Service)**.

## 7. Report for the Court

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The social worker or social workers preparing the Court report should be suitably qualified and experienced.

Once completed, the Court Report should be submitted by the author(s) to their line manager(s) for approval.

See **Court Reports in Adoption/Special Guardianship Guidance** for what is required to be included in the report.

The allocated social worker MUST ensure that the special guardianship support plan is signed by the prospective guardian and send a copy of the final plan to the person or people concerned.

## 8. Discharge of Special Guardianship Order

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A Special Guardianship Order can be varied or discharged on the application of:

- The Special Guardian;
- The local authority in whose name a Care Order was in force before the Special Guardianship Order was made;
- Anyone named in a Child Arrangements Order as a person with whom the child was to live before the Special Guardianship Order was made;

or

- With the leave of the court:
  - The child's parents or guardians;
  - Any step parent who has Parental Responsibility;
  - Anyone who had Parental Responsibility immediately before the Special Guardianship Order was made;
  - The child (if the court is satisfied that the child has sufficient understanding).

Where the applicant is not the child and the leave of the court is required, the court may only grant leave if there has been a significant change in circumstances since the Special Guardianship Order was made.

The court may during any family proceedings in which a question arises about the welfare of a child who is subject to a Special Guardianship Order, vary or discharge the Order in the absence of an application.

## 9. Special Guardianship Support

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The local authority must make provision for a range of Special Guardianship support services.

Special Guardianship support services are defined as:

- Financial support (see [Section 14, Financial Support](#));
- Services to enable children, Special Guardians and parents to discuss matters relating to special guardianship;
- Assistance including mediation in relation to contact between the child and their parents, relatives or significant others;
- Therapeutic services for the child;
- Assistance to ensure continuance of the relationship between the child and the Special Guardian, including training to meet any special needs of the child, respite care, and mediation;
- Counselling, advice and information.

Special Guardianship Support will be subject to the approval of the Designated Manager (Special Guardianship Support or appropriate Head of Service).

The services described above may include cash assistance.

Support services should not be seen in isolation from mainstream services and it is important to ensure that families are assisted in accessing mainstream services and are aware of their entitlements to tax credits and social security benefits as well as CAMHS and other therapeutic services.

Where the child was previously Looked After, the local authority that looked after the child has responsibility for the assessment and for providing support (other than financial) for the first three years after the making of a

Special Guardianship Order. Financial Support is covered in section 14. Thereafter the local authority where the Special Guardian lives will be responsible for the assessment of and provision of any support required.

If a child is not Looked After, the local authority where the Special Guardian lives has the responsibility for Special Guardianship support.

Ongoing financial support, which has been agreed before the Special Guardianship Order is made, remains the responsibility of the local authority that agreed it so long as the family meet the criteria for payments.

## **10. Entitlement to Assessment for Special Guardianship Support**

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Where the child is Looked After or was Looked After immediately prior to the making of the Special Guardianship Order, the following people **MUST** receive an assessment at their request:

- The child;
- The Special Guardian or prospective Special Guardian;
- A parent (but only in relation to their need for support with contact and/or discussion groups);

Where the child is not Looked After or was not Looked After immediately prior to the making of the Special Guardianship Order, the following people **MAY** be offered an assessment of their need for Special Guardianship support services:

- The child;
- The Special Guardian or prospective Special Guardian;
- A parent.

In all cases, whether the Special Guardianship child is looked after or not, the following people also may be offered an assessment of their need for Special Guardianship support services:

- A child of the Special Guardian
- Any person with a significant ongoing relationship with the child

If a local authority decides not to assess in cases where they have discretion as above, they must notify the decision in writing, including reasons for the decision, to the person making the request. This should be done within 28 days of the decision being made and the appeal process should also be clearly identified and stated.

Further, all children who were a Looked after Child immediately prior to the making of a SGO or were at some point prior to the making of a SGO the child will still be eligible for Leaving Care services. These services include advice, assistance and support and can include cash sums where appropriate. The Leaving Care Act and Regulations can be found on the following websites:

Leaving Care Act 2000

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/35/contents>

Leaving Care Regulations

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2571/pdfs/uksi\\_20102571\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2571/pdfs/uksi_20102571_en.pdf)

The Leaving Care Act 2000 is incorporated into the Children Act 1989 at s.24(1) CA 1989 and the duties and obligations of the Local Authority are clearly set out therein.

## 11. Assessment for Support

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The assessment should be based on the Assessment Framework under Working Together and include the following:

- The developmental needs of the child;
- The parenting capacity of the Special Guardian or prospective Special Guardian to meet the child's needs;
- Family and environmental factors that have shaped the life of the child and the capacity of the Special Guardian or prospective Special Guardian to respond to those experiences;
- Comment on how life with the Special Guardian might be for the child;
- Any previous assessment of the child or Special Guardian that is relevant;
- The needs of the Special Guardian or prospective Special Guardian and their family;
- The impact of the Special Guardianship Order on the relationship between the child, parent and Special Guardian.

Special Guardianship Support will be subject to the approval of the Designated Manager (Special Guardianship Support). During the assessment all prospective Special Guardians must attend a workshop on preparing for Special Guardianship... This is managed jointly by the Special Guardianship Support and Carer Recruitment and Assessment Teams.

Once an order has been approved Special Guardians are offered the chance to attend a monthly, themed, Special Guardian Support Group where they will have opportunity to receive advice, guidance and support, as well as meet with other special guardians to share experiences and discuss some of the issues they may be facing.

At the end of the assessment and once the necessary approval has been obtained, the social worker must inform the person being assessed of:

- the outcome of the assessment and the reasons for the decision;

- Where it relates to financial support, the basis on which this is determined;
- Where it relates to therapeutic support, the basis on which this is determined;
- The services (if any) that the Local Authority proposes to provide to help meet the child's needs;
- If financial support is to be paid, the amount and conditions attached.

## 12. The Special Guardianship Support Plan

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Where an assessment identifies the need for ongoing support services, a **Special Guardianship Support Plan** must be completed.

Other agencies, such as education and health, may need to be consulted about the contents of the Plan.

The Plan should be written in such a way that everyone affected can understand and set out:

1. The services to be provided;
2. The objectives and criteria for success;
3. Timescales for provision;
4. Procedures for review;
5. A named person to monitor the provision of services in accordance with the Plan.

Special Guardianship Support will be subject to the approval of the Designated Manager (Special Guardianship Support).

Once the necessary approval has been obtained, the social worker must send the proposed plan to the person requesting support, and allow 28 days for that person to make representations about the proposed plan. The social worker should also give information to the person concerned about who to contact to obtain independent advice and advocacy.

Where representations are received, they should be referred to the Designated Manager (Special Guardianship Support) to decide whether to amend or confirm the Plan.

## 13. Review of Special Guardianship Support Plans

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Special Guardianship Support Plans must be reviewed taking into account the following:

- Any change of circumstances affecting the support;
- At whichever stage of implementation of the plan is considered most appropriate;

- In any event at least annually.

It is Barnet's expectation that all children are seen during the support reviews. In exceptional circumstances, i.e. where the special guardian and child lives outside of the UK, the reviews may be a paper exercise. If there is a substantial change of circumstances, e.g. a serious change in the behaviour of the child, it would normally be necessary to conduct a new assessment of needs.

Any change to the Special Guardianship Support Plan will be subject to the approval of the Designated Manager (Special Guardianship Support). Local arrangements will determine whether any additional approval is required for changes to financial support.

If the local authority decides to vary or terminate the provision of support after the review, notice in writing must be given and the person concerned should be given 28 days to make representations.

## 14. Financial Support

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Financial support is payable to facilitate arrangements for a person to become a Special Guardian, and to support the continuation of such arrangements after the Order is made, where the local authority considers this to be beneficial to the child's welfare.

Financial support is generally not paid unless the child is (or was prior to the Order) a looked after child and, there is no assumption that all Special Guardians will receive financial support.

In accordance with Regulation 6 of The Special Guardianship Regulation 2005, the local authority must consider one or more of the following circumstances to exist for financial support to be payable:

- It is necessary to ensure that the carer can look after the child;
- The child needs special care which requires greater expenditure of resources because of illness, disability, emotional or behavioural difficulties, or the consequences of past abuse or neglect;
- It is appropriate to contribute to legal costs, including Court fees, for the making of a Special Guardianship Order or the discharge of such an order; or an application for an order under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989; or an order for financial provision to be made to or for the benefit of the child;
- Where the local authority considers it appropriate to contribute towards expenditure necessary for the purposes of accommodating and maintaining the child;

:Where financial support is to be considered, the prospective Guardian will be asked to complete a **Financial Assessment Form** and provide evidence of their financial resources and commitments. The Local Authority will also take into account any grant, maintenance payments, benefits, or resources the person will be entitled to as a result of becoming a special guardian of the child. The level of financial support will then be calculated by a Finance Officer using:

- The Department of Education means test 'Disposable Income' model
- The North London Consortium Adoption and Fostering Thresholds for Income and Savings
- **Government's National Minimum Fostering Allowances**



The prospective guardian will be informed of the outcome in writing and made aware of the conditions of support and cessation of support as listed in Regulation 10 of the Special Guardianship Regulations 2005:

- To notify the Local Authority immediately of any change in circumstances of either the child or guardian which may impact the level of financial support offered.
- To complete an annual statement providing evidence of their current financial position;
- To inform the Local Authority immediately of changes to their contact details;
- To inform the Local Authority immediately of any change which would trigger cessation of financial support (see below);
- To comply with any additional conditions, set by the Local Authority, regarding the purpose for which financial support should be utilized.

Financial support will cease to be payable to a Special Guardian if the child:

- Ceases to live with the Special Guardian or dies;
- Ceases full time education or training, and commences employment;
- Qualifies for Income Support, Job Seekers or Employment Support Allowance;
- Turns 18 years old.

The Guardian must agree to these conditions in writing before financial support can be paid. If the Guardian fails to comply with these conditions, the Local Authority may suspend or terminate financial support and take steps to recover payments from the date of change.

The Special Guardian allowance is linked to the [Government's National Minimum Fostering Allowances](#) and is based on the assessed needs of the child within the family. The allowance is inclusive of birthdays, festivals, holidays and school uniform and no additional payment in respect of these items will be made. Any variations to the standard allowances are discretionary and will only be made in exceptional circumstances with the authorisation of the Head of Service.

All Special Guardians (including foster carers who subsequently become guardians) will be required to apply for any benefits to which they are entitled to. This will usually include child benefit and child tax credits. These benefits will be deducted upfront from the allowance once the Order has been granted.

Financial support cannot normally include the payment of remuneration to the Special Guardian for care of the child. However, where the Special Guardian was previously the child's foster carer, and received an element of remuneration, the Local Authority may continue to pay that element for up to two years from the date of order. This is to enable the Guardian to transition to the new financial arrangement. Any decision to pay the remuneration beyond two years will be determined by an assessment of the child's needs and any such decision must be authorized by the Head of Service. No assumption can be made that for existing foster carers the amount previously paid as a foster carer will continue. This will be subject to annual review. This is in line with Regulation 7 of Special Guardianship regulations 2005.

Where the Special Guardian moves abroad from the UK, or is already living abroad when the child moves into their care, the level of financial support may be altered to take into account the comparative costs of living in the country of residence.

Where financial support is being considered for legal costs associated with the application of an order for a child that was previously looked after by the Local Authority, and the authority supports the making of the order, then the carers financial resources **will not be** means tested for financial support. The legal costs incurred will be

paid to the Special Guardian at the CLS 'Legal Help' rates. The following criteria must be satisfied to receive financial support for legal costs:

- The Local Authority supports the application of the Order
- The child is known to the Local Authority i.e. the child is Looked After, designated Child in Need or subject to Child Protection Plan
- The Local Authority considers that the carer or prospective Special Guardian requires legal advice about the different care arrangements and/or different types of Court Orders which could be made in respect of the subject child and supports the exploration of the child being placed or remaining in the prospective Special Guardian's care.
- The prospective Guardian is not eligible for free legal representation and does not have recourse to other financial assistance (e.g. under an insurance policy)
- The Local Authority considers that the prospective Special Guardian's financial circumstances are such that it would not be reasonable to expect him or her to pay their own legal fees.
- Legal fees for an initial consultation are payable up to the Local Authority's agreed limit of £350 (at July 2013). Itemised bills are to be submitted to the Local Authority. All legal expenditure must be approved by the local authority in advance.
- Court fees will be paid up to the Local Authority's agreed limit. Itemised bills are to be submitted to the Local Authority. All legal expenditure must be approved by the local authority in advance.
- Any solicitor instructed by the prospective Special Guardian should be a member of the Law Society's Children Panel, unless otherwise agreed by the local authority in advance of receiving such advice.

Where financial support is being considered for the following, the Local Authority can **disregard** the carer's financial resources, if deemed appropriate.

- Settling in grant
- Recurring costs for travel to facilitate contact
- A financial package for special care relating to illness, disability, abuse for any child that was previously looked after.

The Local Authority will undertake an annual review of all Special Guardians to confirm their ongoing eligibility for financial support and verify the child is still in their care. The review will involve the Guardian completing a financial assessment form and providing evidence of their financial resources. The Local Authority can provide help and assistance in completing the form as required. Based on the outcome of the review, the Local Authority can alter the level of support. If the carer's financial circumstances has changed then it is possible the level of financial support will change. If the outcome of the review is to reduce or terminate the support, the Local Authority will write to the Special Guardian informing them of the decision and allow a period of 28 days in which the Guardian may make representations, which will be considered by the Local Authority. A final decision will then be made and the Special Guardian informed in writing.

The Local Authority may also initiate an early review if:

- It becomes aware of any significant changes in the circumstances of the family or a breach of the conditions in Regulation 10 of the Special Guardianship Regulations 2005;
- The Special Guardian notifies the Local Authority of any significant changes or requests an early review because of a change in financial circumstances;
- At any stage in the implementation of the support plan that the Local Authority considers is appropriate.

Based on the outcome of the review, the Local Authority may alter the level of support.

If the Special Guardian fails to return their annual financial statement within the required timescale, the Local Authority will issue a reminder letter, giving 28 days' notice of the suspension of payments.

The provision of financial support, if any, will remain the responsibility of the Local Authority who originally agreed it, for as long as the family in question qualify for financial support and the Order remains in place.

## 15. Urgent Cases

Where a person has an urgent need of a service, the assessment process should not delay provision and arrangements can be made for support to be provided as a matter of urgency, on a without prejudice basis, in appropriate cases. The approval of the Assistant Director will still be required. The local authority will need to review the provision as soon as possible after the support has been provided in accordance with the procedures set out above.

## 16. Special Guardian Duty on the Death of the Child

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If the child with respect to whom a **Special Guardianship Order** is in force dies, the Special Guardian must take reasonable steps to give notice of that fact to:

- Each parent of the child with **Parental Responsibility**; and
- Each guardian of the child.

## 17. Changes in circumstances

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The Special Guardian must agree to and comply with the following conditions:

- I. That the Special Guardian will inform the local authority if he changes his address
- II. That the Special Guardian will inform the local authority if the child dies
- III. That the Special Guardian will inform the local authority if the child ceases to have a home with him, the child ceases full-time education or training and commences employment, the child qualifies for income support or jobseeker's allowance in his own right or the child attains the age of 18 unless he continues in full-time education or training, when it may continue until the end of the course or training that he is then undertaking.
- IV. That the Special Guardian will inform the local authority if there is a change in their financial circumstances or the financial needs or resources of the child which may affect the amount of financial support payable to him.
- V. That the Special Guardian will complete the yearly means assessment form

## 18. Complaints

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Disagreements or concerns about the Special Guardian process should first be raised with the social worker or team manager with a view to resolving any issues. If the complainant does not feel that this resolves the concerns they can use the formal complaint process.

Formal complaints should be directed to the Family Services Complaints Officer via [FSComplaints@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:FSComplaints@barnet.gov.uk) or 020 8359 7008.

If the complaint is related to decisions or actions taken by the Local Authority under the Children Act, the complaint will be processed under The Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure Regulations 2006.

All other complaints will be processed under the Council's Corporate Complaints Procedure.

DATED 4<sup>th</sup> December

2013

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR  
THE NORTH LONDON ADOPTION AND FOSTERING CONSORTIUM

between

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

and

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

and

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

and

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY

and

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON

and

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

THIS AGREEMENT is dated 4th of December 2013

## **PARTIES**

The parties to this memorandum of understanding ("MoU") are:

- (1) **THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET** of the Hendon Town Hall, The Boroughs, Hendon, London, NW4 4BG ("the First Authority") and
- (2) **THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN** of Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London, WC1H 9JE ("the Second Authority") and
- (3) **THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD** of Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3XA ("the Third Authority") and
- (4) **THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY** of Civic Centre, High Road, Wood Green, London, N22 8LE ("the Fourth Authority") and
- (5) **THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON** of Town Hall, 222 Upper Street, London, N1 1XR ("the Fifth Authority")
- (6) **THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY** of Town Hall, Mare Street, London, E8 1EA ("the Sixth Authority")

Hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Consortium Members"

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The Consortium Members have previously joined together to form a Consortium to, amongst other things, meet the placement needs of children and young people in the North London area and have operated under an agreement to that effect dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 ("the Original Agreement"). This agreement was

revised on 25 March, 2013, to include fostering activities undertaken in the Consortium

- 1.2.
- 1.3. The Consortium Members propose to terminate the 25 March, 2013, Agreement and to replace it by this MoU when the latter commences.
- 1.4. The Consortium Members now agree to continue working together through the North London Adoption and Fostering Consortium (“the Consortium”) to meet the placement needs of children and young people in the North London area in accordance with this MoU.
- 1.5. The Consortium Members are empowered to:
  - 1.5.1. provide facilities or secure the provision of facilities through a registered adoption society for the adoption of children and adoption support services pursuant to section 3 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002,
  - 1.5.2. offer placements for children with local authority foster parents pursuant to section 22C of the Children Act 1989,
  - 1.5.3. do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, and
  - 1.5.4. do anything that individuals generally may do pursuant to section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 1.6. The parties wish to record the basis on which they will collaborate with each other by setting out:
  - 1.6.1. the key objectives of the Consortium;
  - 1.6.2. the principles of collaboration;
  - 1.6.3. the governance structure of the Consortium; and
  - 1.6.4. the respective roles and responsibilities that the parties will have.

## **2. KEY OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1. The parties shall work together to achieve the Key Objectives set out in Appendix 1 to this MoU.

## **3. PRINCIPLES**

- 3.1. The Consortium Members agree to adopt the following principles when carrying out the work of the Consortium:
  - 3.1.1. collaborate and co-operate. Adhere to the governance structure set out in this MoU to ensure that activities are delivered and actions taken as required;
  - 3.1.2. be accountable. Take on, manage and account to each other for performance of the respective roles and responsibilities set out in this MoU;

- 3.1.3. be open. Communicate openly about major concerns, issues or opportunities relating to the Consortium;
- 3.1.4. learn, develop and seek to achieve full potential. Share information, experience, materials and skills to learn from each other and develop effective working practices, work collaboratively to identify solutions, eliminate duplication of effort, mitigate risk and reduce cost;
- 3.1.5. adopt a positive outlook. Behave in a positive, proactive manner;
- 3.1.6. adhere to statutory requirements and best practice. Comply with applicable laws and standards including EU procurement, data protection and freedom of information legislation;
- 3.1.7. act in a timely manner. Respond accordingly to requests for support;
- 3.1.8. deploy appropriate resources. Ensure sufficient and appropriately qualified resources are available and authorised to fulfil the responsibilities set out in this MoU. In particular the parties agree to make the contributions provided for in Appendix 3 to this MoU;
- 3.1.9. act in good faith to support achievement of the Key Objectives referred to in Clause 2 and compliance with these principles set out in this Clause 3.

#### **4. PROJECT GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1. The governance structure defined below provides a structure for the development and delivery of the Consortium's Key Objectives
- 4.2. The Consortium's governance will aim:
  - 4.2.1. to provide strategic oversight and direction;
  - 4.2.2. to be based on clearly defined roles and responsibilities at organisation, group and , where necessary, individual level;
  - 4.2.3. to align decision-making authority with the criticality of the decisions required; and
  - 4.2.4. to provide coherent, timely and efficient decision-making.

#### **4.3. Heads of Service Meeting**

- 4.3.1. The Heads of Service Meeting provides overall strategic oversight and direction to the Consortium.
- 4.3.2. The Heads of Service Meeting shall be managed in accordance with the terms of reference set out in Appendix 2 to this MoU.
- 4.3.3. The remit of the Heads of Service Meeting shall be as set out in Appendix 2..

#### **4.4. Fostering Team Managers Meeting**

- 4.4.1. The Fostering Team Managers Meeting shares best practice and exchanges information about approved foster carers and children looking for foster homes.



4.4.2. The Fostering Team Managers Meeting consists of the fostering team managers from each of the Consortium Members.

4.4.3. The Fostering Team Managers Meeting shall meet every four to six weeks.

#### **4.5. Adoption Team Managers Meeting**

4.5.1. The Adoption Team Managers Meeting shares best practice and exchanges information about approved adopters and children waiting for adoption.

4.5.2. The Adoption Team Managers Meeting consists of the adoption team managers from each of the Consortium Members.

4.5.3. The Adoption Team Managers Meeting shall meet every four to six weeks.

#### **4.6. Special Guardianship Managers Meeting**

4.6.1. The Special Guardianship Managers from each Consortium Member shall meet quarterly to share best practice, policies and procedures.

#### **4.7. Adoption Support Managers Meeting**

4.7.1. The Adoption Support Managers from each Consortium Member shall meet every two months to plan and develop collaborative working initiatives and share best practice.

#### **4.8. Publicity and Recruitment Group**

4.8.1. The publicity and marketing officers of the Consortium Members shall meet every four to six weeks, as required, to:

4.8.1.1. plan and co-ordinate the Consortium's Adoption & Fostering Recruitment Events;

4.8.1.2. discuss methods of improving the publicity and marketing aspects of the service for prospective adoption and foster parents and children; and

4.8.1.3. manage the Consortium's websites.

#### **4.9. Annual General Meeting**

4.9.1. An annual general meeting shall be held in the first quarter of each financial year at a date to be agreed by the Heads of Service Meeting.

4.9.2. The annual report referred to at 4.11.3 shall be agreed at the Heads of Service Meeting and presented at the annual general meeting.

4.9.3. The Heads of Service, Fostering Team Managers, Adoption Team Managers, Publicity Officers, Adoption Support Managers, Special Guardianship Managers and Associate Members shall be invited to attend the annual general meeting.

**4.10. Programme Manager**

4.10.1. The Programme Manager shall attend the Heads of Service Meeting, the Fostering Team Managers Meeting and the Adoption Team Managers Meeting in order to:

4.10.1.1. take the minutes of the meeting; and

4.10.1.2. feedback to the Heads of Service Meeting the minutes taken .

4.10.2. The Programme Manager shall fulfil the primary job function and discharge all the duties and responsibilities outlined in the job description of the Programme Manager as set out at Appendix 4.

**4.11. Reporting**

Consortium reporting shall be undertaken at three levels:

4.11.1. Fostering Team Manager's Meeting and the Adoption Team Manager's Meeting: minutes and actions will be recorded for each Fostering Team Manager's Meeting and the Adoption Team Manager's Meeting. Any additional reporting requirements shall be at the discretion of the Fostering Team Manager's Meeting or the Adoption Team Manager's Meeting.

4.11.2. Heads of Service Meeting: minutes and actions will be recorded for each Heads of Service Meeting.

4.11.3. Organisational: an annual report will be produced each year by the Programme Manager and the Chair of the Heads of Service Meeting. This will include an introduction from the Chair of the Heads of Service Meeting, a report from the Programme Manager, details of the issues and progress made in the various meetings that have taken place throughout the year, information about the associate members, plans for the future, details of the Consortium finances and other matters of relevance.

**4.12. Fourth Authority**

4.12.1. The Fourth Authority shall employ the Programme Manager. The job description of the Programme Manager is set out at Appendix 4.

4.12.2. The Fourth Authority shall manage the finances of the Consortium and shall produce accounts to the Heads of Service Meeting at the end of each financial year.

**4.13. Associate Members**

4.13.1. The Heads of Service may appoint organisations to be associate members to the Consortium ("the Associate Members").

4.13.2. The Associate Members shall be voluntary adoption agencies.

4.13.3. The Associate Members:

4.13.3.1. must be registered with Ofsted;

4.13.3.2. are not involved in the decision making or governance of the Consortium;

4.13.3.3. do not contribute financially to the Consortium;

- 4.13.3.4. are not parties to this MoU; and
- 4.13.3.5. may exchange best practice, knowledge or ideas with the Consortium.

## **5. ESCALATION**

- 5.1. If the nominated representative of any Consortium Member has any issues, concerns or complaints about the Consortium, or any matter in this MoU,

that nominated representative shall notify the other Consortium Members who shall then seek to resolve the issue by a process of consultation. If the issue cannot be resolved in this way within a reasonable period of time, the matter shall be escalated to the relevant Team Managers Meeting, which shall decide on the appropriate course of action to take. If the matter cannot be resolved by the relevant Team Managers Meeting within 28 days of being escalated to them, the matter may be escalated to the Heads of Service Meeting for resolution. If the matter cannot be resolved by the Heads of Service Meeting within 28 days of being escalated to them it shall be escalated to the Assistant Directors of the Consortium Members for resolution.

- 5.2. If any Consortium Member receives any formal inquiry, complaint, claim or threat of action from a third party (including, but not limited to, claims made by a supplier or requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000) in relation to the Consortium, the matter shall be promptly referred to the most relevant Team Managers Meeting (or its nominated representatives). No action shall be taken in response to any such inquiry, complaint, claim or action, to the extent that such response would adversely affect the Consortium, without the prior approval of the Team Managers Meeting (or its nominated representatives).

## **6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

- 6.1. The Consortium Members intend that any intellectual property created in the course of the work of the Consortium shall be freely available for use by all of the Consortium Members.

## **7. TERM AND TERMINATION**

- 7.1. This MoU shall commence on the date of signature by all parties, and shall continue until terminated in accordance with clause 7.2.

7.2. The Consortium Members may terminate this Agreement on the unanimous agreement of the Heads of Service Meeting.

7.3. A Consortium Member may withdraw from the Consortium upon giving twelve months' notice in writing to all other Consortium Members.

7.4. In the event that a Consortium Member withdraws from the Consortium it shall compensate the remaining Consortium Members for any expenses reasonably incurred by them as a consequence of the withdrawal.

## **8. VARIATION**

8.1. This MoU may only be varied by written agreement of the Consortium Members.

## **9. CHARGES AND LIABILITIES**

9.1. Except as otherwise provided in or under this MoU, each Consortium Member shall bear its own costs and expenses incurred in complying with their obligations under this MoU.

9.2. The Consortium Members agree to share the costs and expenses arising in respect of the Consortium between them in accordance with Appendix 3.

9.3. Each Consortium Member shall remain liable for any losses or liabilities incurred due to its own or its employee's actions and none of the Consortium Members intends that any other Consortium Member shall be liable for any loss it suffers as a result of this MoU.

## **10. STATUS**

10.1. This MoU is not intended to be legally binding, and no legal obligations or legal rights shall arise between the parties from this MoU. The parties enter into this MoU intending to honour all their obligations.

10.2. Nothing in this MoU is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any partnership or joint venture between the parties, constitute any Consortium Member as the agent of the other Consortium Members, nor authorise either of the parties to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of the other Consortium Members.

## **11. TERMINATION OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT**

11.1 The Consortium Members unanimously agree that the Existing Agreement be terminated on the commencement of this Agreement.

## Financial Assessment form 2015 -16

**Private and Confidential: Only authorised people will be allowed to read this form**

Please return completed form with original supporting documents (as applicable) to:

Daedra O'Connor  
Barnet Council, Building 2 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
North London Business Park,  
Oakleigh Road South,  
London  
N11 1NP

Or email to :

Daedra.oconnor@barnet.gov.uk

Telephone : 0208 359 3837

Ref : Family Services Finance Team/SGO/RO/1516

## Section 1 For ALL to READ

**Please read the notes below before you fill in the financial assessment form.**

The purpose of the financial assessment is to ascertain whether you are eligible for financial support and, if so, how much. It is important you complete all relevant sections and declare savings and capital assets (e.g. property).

If you do not complete a financial assessment we will be unable to assess you for financial support.

If you have any questions or need help completing the form then please contact us for assistance. Contact details are included on the front page of the form.

As part of the review, we will need to see the following documentation as applicable:

- 2 months' payslips if employed
- Latest set of filed accounts if self employed
- Details of all pension payments (e.g. state, private and occupational)
- Current, rent or mortgage statement
- Rental income on second properties
- Dividend income
- Current council tax statement
- Current water, electricity and gas bills
- Current housing benefit statement
- Any benefit award statements e.g. Job Seekers, DLA, PIP, Income support, child and working tax credits
- 3 months Bank statements (to include all Savings accounts)

It is recommended that you return the form and documents by **recorded delivery**. However, electronic copies will be accepted.

If after this form has been completed, your financial circumstances change, you will need to contact us immediately so we can update our records and reassess your financial situation.

## Section 2 Your Details

**Title**      Mr     Mrs     Miss     Ms     Other

**First Names**

**Surname**

**Address**

**Postcode**

**Home &  
Mobile  
number**

**Email address**

**Date of birth**

**Marital Status:**

Single     With Partner     Married     Separated     Divorced     Widowed

### Section 3 Other people including children in household

Do you have any dependants or other adults living with you? Yes  No  If 'Yes', please give details below

First Name	Surname	Relationship to you	Date of birth	In full time education Y/N
			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	



# Section 4 Your Weekly Income

**Column 1**      **Column 2**

Please provide documentation as applicable

## Income

	<b>Your Own income</b>	<b>State if weekly or monthly</b>	<b>Your partners income</b>	<b>State if weekly or monthly</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Income from Employment (including any overtime)					
Bonus from employment					
State Pension					
Occupational Pension					
Private Pension					
Any Other Pension					
War Widows / War Disablement Pension **					
Attendance Allowance					

**Column 1****Column 2****Please provide documentation as applicable**

# Income

**Your Own income**  
**State if weekly or monthly****Your partners income**  
**State if weekly or monthly****Notes**

Income Support (IS)

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

Employment Support Allowance (ESA)

Personal Independent Payment (PIP)

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – Care Component

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – Mobility Component

Carer's Allowance

Severe Disability Allowance

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

**Column 1****Column 2****Please provide documentation as applicable****Income**

	<b>Your Own income</b>	<b>State if weekly or monthly</b>	<b>Your partners income</b>	<b>State if weekly or monthly</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Child Benefit					
Child Tax Credit					
Working Tax Credit					
Child Maintenance you receive					
Existing SGO/RO Allowance					
Statutory/Maternity allowance					
Any Other Income 1					
Any Other Income 2					
Any Other Benefits 1					
Any Other Benefits 2					
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>		

## **2<sup>nd</sup> and Subsequent properties owned or partly owned either in the UK or Abroad**

<b>Address 1:</b>	<b>Rental income</b>	<b>expenses</b>
<b>Address 2:</b>	<b>Rental income</b>	<b>expenses</b>
<b>Address 3:</b>	<b>Rental income</b>	<b>expenses</b>

**Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.**

## Section 5 Savings and Investments

Please enter in this section detail of all savings and investments that you have. If they are held jointly with your partner or any other person or persons you must show the full amount. We will assume that jointly held savings and investments will be shared equally unless you can give us documentary proof to show that they are held in different proportions. **You must send us proof of all savings and investments, for example, photocopies of a recent full bank statement or a savings account book, will give us the evidence we need.**

**Do you, your partner or any other person(s) have any of the following? Please complete for each bank account / stock holding held and provide 3month's worth of statements.**

	<b>Name on Account</b>	<b>Current Balance £</b>	<b>Interest earned £</b>	<b>State if monthly/annual</b>
Bank Account 1				
Bank Account 2				
Bank Account 3				
Bank Account 4				
Bank Account 5				
Post Office Savings Account				
ISA Account 1				
ISA Account 2				
ISA Account 3				

Name on Account	Current Balance £	Interest earned £	State if monthly/annual
Premium Bonds			
National Savings Certificates			
Income Bonds / Capital Bonds (Capital Holding)			
Court of Protection Funds			
Funds Held in Trust			
Any other savings (please supply details)			

## Stocks and Shares

Name of Company shares held in

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of shares	Current Value	Dividend income per annum

Are you holding any of these savings and investments for a specific purpose?

Yes

No

If you have answered 'Yes' please give details and amounts below.

## Section 6: Your Property Details and expenditure

1 Are you an owner-occupier?

Yes

No

6 Are you in receipt of Housing Benefit? **If so how much**

Yes

No

2 Are you a Council tenant? Yes  No

3 Are you a housing association tenant? Yes  No

4 Are you a tenant of a private landlord? Yes  No

5 Are you another category of tenant? Yes  No

7 Do you own or are you a part owner of any another property, in this country or abroad? Yes  No   
If 'Yes' please supply details in the box below

**If answered 'Yes' to 2, 3, 4 or 5 who is your landlord? If 'Yes' to 6 who is this and how much are you receiving?**

**Housing costs- please provide documentation**

Council Tax

Rent

Housing benefit

Mortgage payment on property

Ground Rent/management charge

Annual water rates charge

Amount £

State if cost is Weekly, Monthly or Annual

Evidence Y/N

	Amount £	State if cost is Weekly, Monthly or Annual	Evidence Y/N
Council Tax			
Rent			
Housing benefit			
Mortgage payment on property			
Ground Rent/management charge			
Annual water rates charge			



**Housing costs- please provide documentation**

	Amount £	State if cost is Weekly, Monthly or Annual	Evidence Y/N
Annual Gas charge			
Annual Electricity charge			
Wages paid to housekeeper			
Abnormal Expenditure due to serious or prolonged illness or disability in the family. Give details			
Any other regular expenditure (e.g. childcare)			

**Section 10 Declaration:**

- I understand that if I do not wish to provide details of my finances, I will not be eligible to receive any allowance that may be payable by the London Borough of Barnet.  
Please tick this box if the above statement applies and sign the declaration.
- I declare that to the best of my knowledge, the information given which will be used to assess my financial circumstances is accurate and represents a full and true statement of my income and savings.
- I will immediately inform the Family Services Finance Team about any changes to my financial circumstances.
- I will immediately inform the Family Services Finance Team should there be any changes in my personal circumstances or that of the child in my care.

- I understand the information I have provided will be held on computer and may be disclosed to other agencies, such as Service Providers or the Department of Works and Pensions.
- I understand that should I be overpaid, I must repay the amount in full and the Council will take action against me for recovery of the outstanding balance

**Your signature**

**Date**

**Your Partners signature**

**Date**

**Any other relevant information:**

**Please return completed form to :**

**Daedra O'Connor  
Barnet Council, Building 2  
North London Business Park,  
Oakleigh Road South,  
London  
N11 1NP**

**Or email to :  
Daedra.oconnor@barnet.gov.uk**

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# **Introduction to Special Guardianship Orders for Carers**

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# Introductions and training objectives

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The purpose of this training is to explore :

- 1) What is a SGO (Special Guardianship Order)?
- 2) Why are you considering becoming a Special Guardian?
- 3) What is involved in becoming a Special Guardian?
  - How does the Local authority determine if a child should be made subject of SGO
  - How does the local authority assess you or other parties as suitable to be a guardian
  - How does the local authority decide what financial support you should receive
- 4) What happens after the SGO is granted?
  - What is the local authorities involvement
  - Parental responsibility
  - What support can you expect
  - Behavioural issues
  - Contact issues

# What is a Special Guardianship Order (SGO)

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- SGOs came into force under the Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- SGOs are intended to meet the needs of children:
  - who cannot live with their parents,
  - for whom adoption is not appropriate ,
  - who would benefit from a legal secure placement.
- A SGO is a court order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian.
- A guardian must be over 18 years.
- A foster carer can become a guardian.

# Why are you considering becoming a Guardian?

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# What is the process of becoming a Special Guardian (SGO)?

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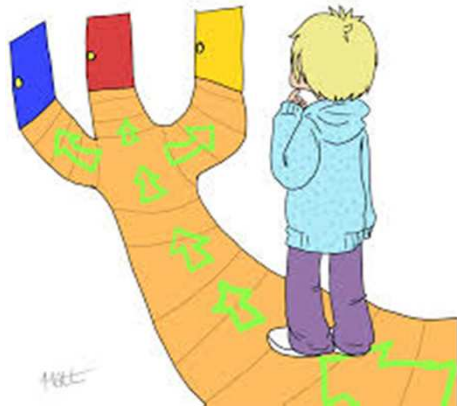
# Assessing the needs of the Child

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Adoption ?

Fostering ?

Child arrangement order ?

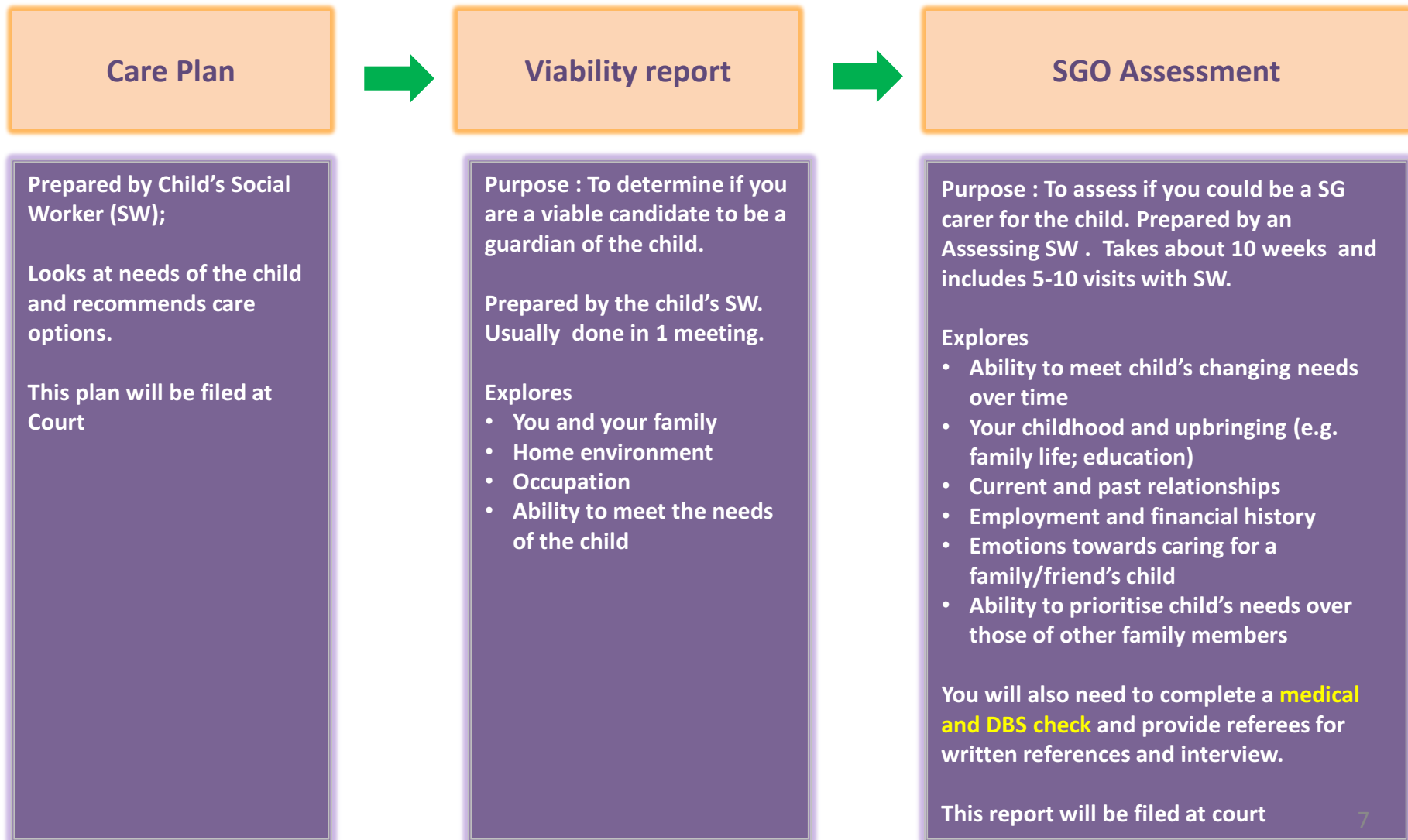


Connected carers ?

SGO ?

# Assessment Process - Key Documents

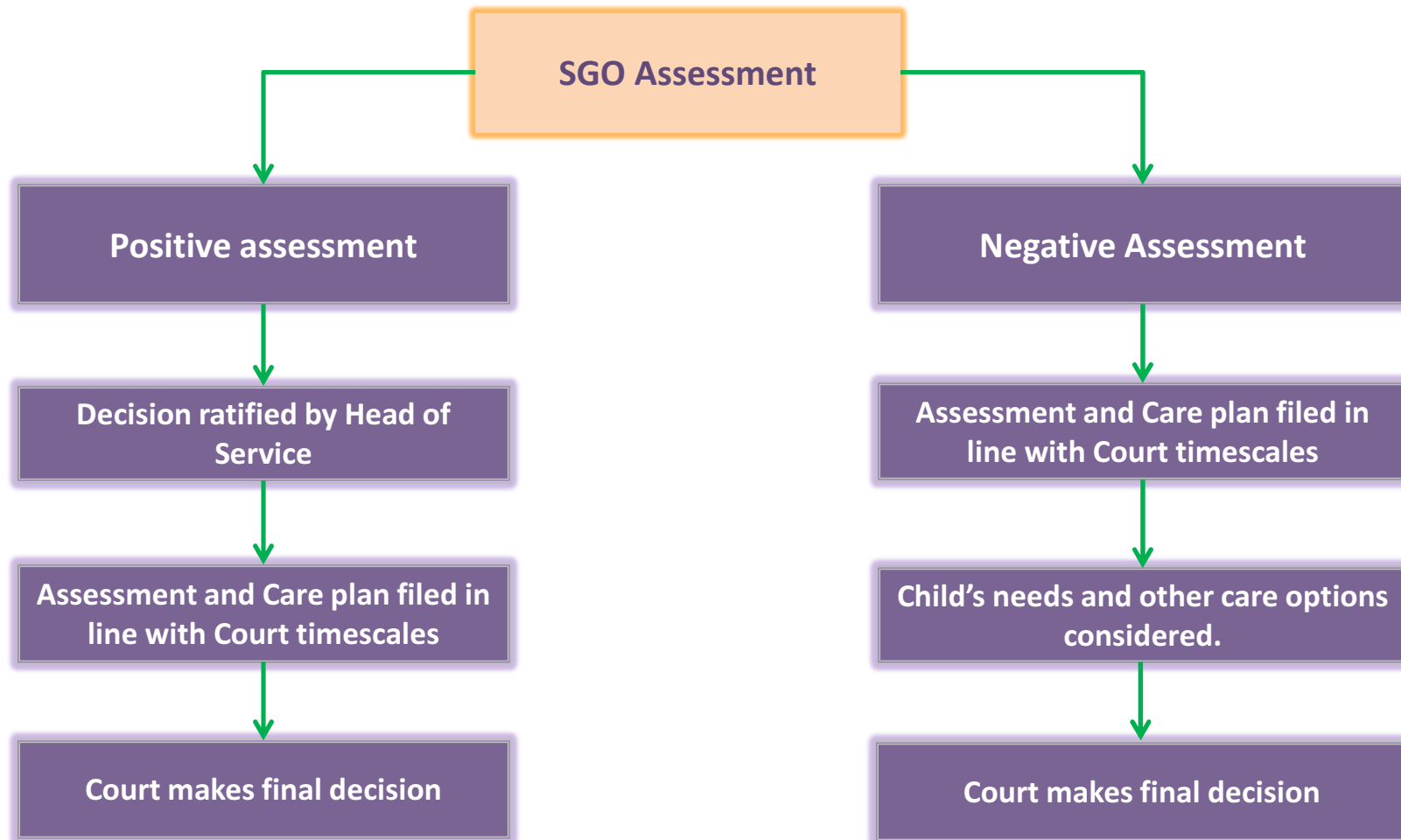
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# Outcome of Assessment

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- The outcome of the Assessment is either a positive or negative recommendation.
- All Assessments are filed at court, regardless of the outcome.
- The final decision is made by the court.



# SGO Support Plan

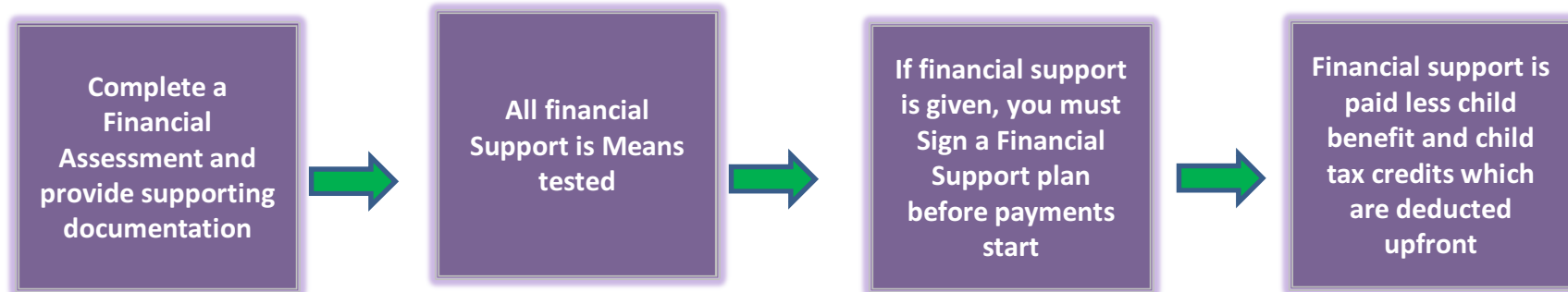
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- Your SGO Support Plan is very important. The Assessing Social Worker will complete this alongside your assessment.
- The Support plan will also be filed at court.
- The SGO Support plan is where you will have the opportunity to discuss with the Social Worker what you feel you and your child will need.
- You will need to read, agree and sign this before the order is made.



# Financial Support Assessment

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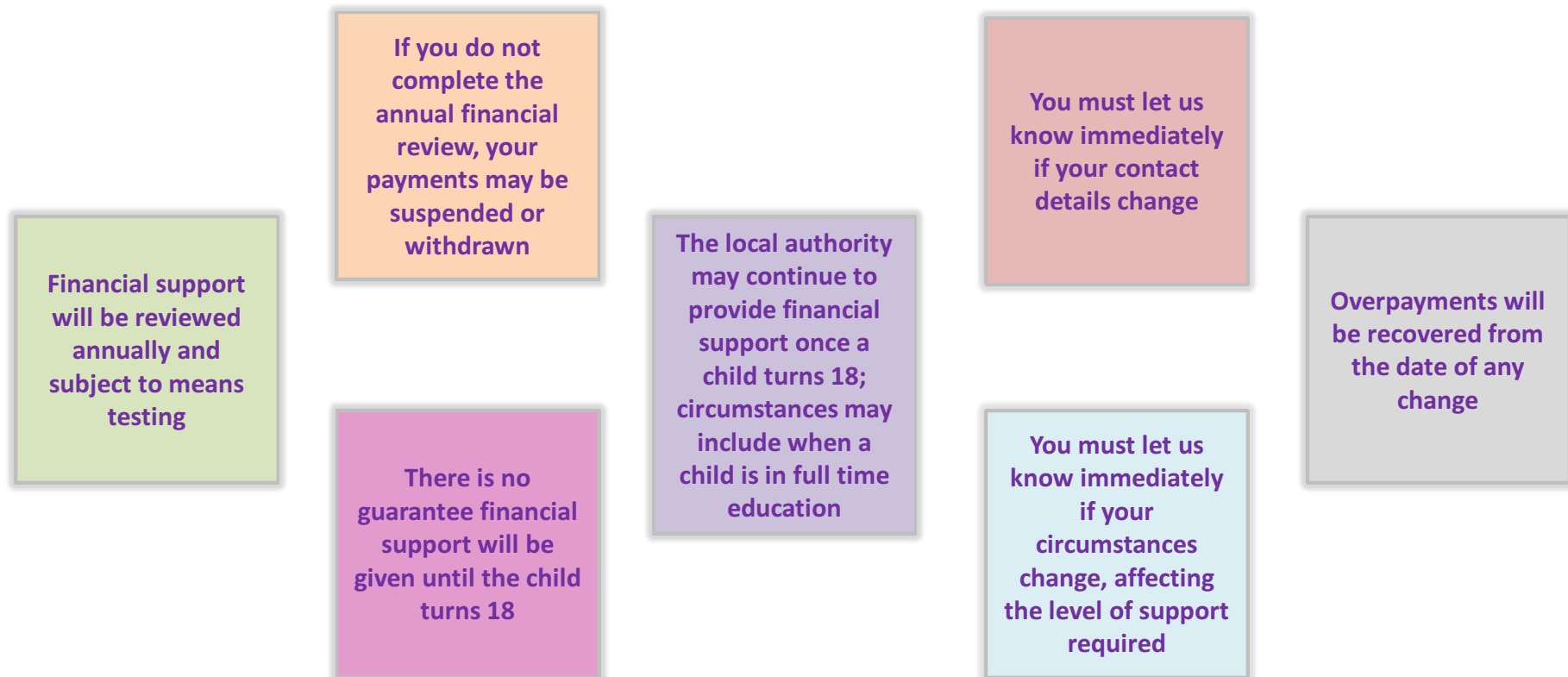
- As part of the process you will be asked to complete a Financial Assessment which aims to provide a snap shot of your financial position.
- It is important that you return the assessment form (with supporting documentation) otherwise we will be unable to assess you for financial support.
- If you need assistance completing the form we can help you .



# Terms of Financial Support (2 of 2)

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Carers must be mindful that financial support can change and is subject to the following :



# Legal Support

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- The local authority will pay for you to have a meeting with a solicitor, who is independent from the local authority, and can answer your questions.
- We really urge you to use the meeting to get clarity over the SGO process and what it means for you.
- If the SGO is contested by birth parents at any point after the order has been granted, the SG carer can apply for, and be assessed, for further legal support.





# What happens after the SGO is granted ?

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# What is the Local Authorities involvement?

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After the SGO is granted :

- The child will no longer have a Social Worker meaning the Local Authority will not be involved with the child (if no other order is granted)
- The child will no longer be a 'Looked After Child'
- The Local Authority will provide support in terms of information and advice (if needed).
- **You will have parental responsibility** for the child until they reach adulthood.



# Parental Responsibility & Exceptions

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- An SGO gives you parental responsibility for the child and the right to make decisions about how the child is raised (e.g. education, medical treatment etc)
- Unlike adoption, the SGO does not remove parental responsibility from the birth parents BUT there are very few decisions they can make whilst the SGO exists.
- However there are some things you cannot change without the consent of the birth parents :
  - a child's surname
  - take the child abroad for more than 3 months
  - Place the child for adoption



# Post SGO Support

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- The North London Consortium is made up of 6 boroughs : Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington. Therefore, as a Barnet SG Carer you will be able to access the following in any of these boroughs :
  - SGO Support groups,
  - Training sessions (e.g. on welfare benefits and contact issues)
  - Ad hoc activities (e.g. xmas party, fun days)
- Barnet will also provide the following support :
  - An annual review of your Finances
  - Support and advice from the SGO Post Permanence Team (as required)
  - Currently Barnet has a contract with PAC-UK to provide therapeutic services (this may change in the future).



# Educational support

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If your child has been 'looked after' prior to the SGO being granted, you will be entitled to :

- Pupil Premium Plus (up to £1900 per child to be used by the school to meet the child's needs within the educational system).
- Priority for school admission.
- 15 hours free nursery / child care for children who are 2 years old.



# Children's Behaviours

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- Many of our children have experienced trauma in one form or another, hence the reason why they cannot live with their birth parents. Therefore, a key role of a SG Carer's is to provide a stable and consistent environment for the child.
- For some children, moving to a new home, experiencing contact and having a new 'parent' maybe distressing and confusing, and this may cause temporary changes to their behaviour.
- For others, earlier trauma experiences may manifest at a later stage as difficult behaviour.
- The SGO Post Permanence team are here to provide support and advice in such cases.



# Contact

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- When a child is living with you under a SGO they should be able to stay in touch with their birth parents and siblings. This is called [contact](#).
- You should think about how to make the child feel safe and secure when they are having contact with parents, siblings or other family members.
- It maybe helpful to draw up a signed agreement with the family to manage contact and boundaries. The Post Permanence team can help with this.
- The agreement should cover:
  - Type of contact : face-to-face, telephone, greeting cards, email, Facebook, other
  - Where : at home, in the community
  - Frequency and duration
- The SG carer has the authority to change contact arrangements if they have evidence it is not in the best interest of the child.



# Issues around contact

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How should you and the birth parent behave at contact

What should you do if contact is affecting the child or you do not feel it is safe

What happens if one party is under the influence of drugs/alcohol

How are changes communicated or disagreements resolved



What should you do if one party turns up unexpectedly

What happens if the birth parents undermine your care

Can contact be supervised, if so how

What should you do if one party fails to arrive at the agreed time



# Who can support contact post order?

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- The SGO Post Permanency Team can provide you with support on issues you may experience with contact.
- It is also possible to have limited supervised contact via **Barnet's Family Resource Centre in Southgate**. All referrals must come via the SGO Post Permanency Team and are limited to a maximum of 6 sessions.
- The **National Association of Child Contact Centres** is also able to provide supervised contact. In North London, they have 2 centres based in Palmers Green and Muswell Hill.
- Their contact details are as follows:
- <https://www.naccc.org.uk/contact-us>
- [contact@naccc.org.uk](mailto:contact@naccc.org.uk)
- 0845 4500 280

# Voluntary Agencies who can help

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- Grandparents Plus

- Website : [www.grandparentsplus.org.uk](http://www.grandparentsplus.org.uk)
- Phone : 0300 123 7015
- Email : [Advice.gpc@grandparentsplus.org.uk](mailto:Advice.gpc@grandparentsplus.org.uk)



- Family Rights Group

- Phone : free phone 0808 801 0366
- Website : [www.frg.org.uk](http://www.frg.org.uk)



# FAQs

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- Will I get support with contact?
- Can the children return to the care of their parents?
- What if my circumstances change?
- Can I change a child's name?
- Can I move abroad?
- Can I stop contact?
- What happens if I die?



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**PROPOSED SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP SUPPORT PLAN**

**Assessing Local Authority:**

**Name of prospective guardian(s):**

**Local Authority where the family lives:**

**Child's name (please add details for each child, as applicable):**

**DOB:**

**Case Summary :**

<b>HEALTH (to include any special needs which a disabled child may have)</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Please include details of current GP/ dentist/ any other health professional involved with the child(ren)</i></li> </ul>				
<b>Support needs of child</b>	<b>Services to be provided</b>	<b>Person / agency responsible</b>	<b>Frequency / duration / starting date</b>	<b>Planned outcomes and plan for reviews</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Also consider pre-school &amp; after-school provisions</i></li> </ul>				
<b>Support needs of child</b>	<b>Services to be provided</b>	<b>Person / agency responsible</b>	<b>Frequency / duration / starting date</b>	<b>Planned outcomes and plan for reviews</b>

<b>EMOTIONAL &amp; BEHAVIOURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Please consider CAMHS involvement, if appropriate</i></li> </ul>				
<b>Support needs of child</b>	<b>Services to be provided</b>	<b>Person / agency responsible</b>	<b>Frequency / duration / starting date</b>	<b>Planned outcomes and plan for reviews</b>
<b>IDENTITY</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>LAC only: include Life Story work and Later in Life Letter</i></li> <li>• <i>If above has not been completed, please include date to be completed by</i></li> <li>• <i>What information will be shared about the child/ by whom/ by when, Post Order</i></li> <li>• <i>Does the child have a passport?</i></li> <li>• <i>Child's birth certificate – who has it and who can give this to the SG carer?</i></li> <li>• <i>Any other personal belongings – how would these be given to the child/ SG carer?</i></li> </ul>				
<b>Support needs of child</b>	<b>Services to be provided</b>	<b>Person / agency responsible</b>	<b>Frequency / duration / starting date</b>	<b>Planned outcomes and plan for reviews</b>
<b>FAMILY &amp; SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Quality of relationships between SG carer/ birth parents/ mother/ father/ child</i></li> <li>- <i>Quality of relationships between maternal and paternal sides of the family</i></li> <li>- <i>Peer groups for the child / friendship groups</i></li> </ul>				
<b>Support needs of child</b>	<b>Services to be provided</b>	<b>Person / agency responsible</b>	<b>Frequency / duration / starting date</b>	<b>Planned outcomes and plan for reviews</b>

<b>CONTACT</b>				
ARRANGEMENTS PLANNED POST ORDER				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Proposed arrangements to consider contact within birth family and SG family</i></li> </ul>				
<b>Person – name &amp; relationship to child</b>	<b>Type of contact</b>	<b>Frequency, duration, venue &amp; starting date</b>	<b>Will contact need to be supervised? Who will do this?</b>	<b>Purpose of this contact</b>
<b>CONTACT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To include arrangements for support from the family</i></li> </ul>				
<b>Support needs of child &amp; Special Guardian</b>	<b>Services to be provided</b>	<b>Person / agency responsible</b>	<b>Frequency / duration / starting date / LA (if needed) start and end date</b>	<b>Planned outcomes and plan for reviews</b>

## SPECIAL GUARDIAN & FAMILY

<b>HEALTH</b>				
<b>Support needs</b>	<b>Services to be provided</b>	<b>Person / agency responsible</b>	<b>Frequency / duration / starting date</b>	<b>Planned outcomes and plan for reviews</b>
<b>HOUSING</b>				

Support needs	Services to be provided	Person / agency responsible	Frequency / duration / starting date	Planned outcomes and plan for reviews

**SUPPORT SERVICES OFFERED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY (in addition to above)**

<b>FINANCIAL SUPPORT</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Means test / Annual review</i></li> <li>• <i>Weekly amount of SG allowance provided by the LA, per child</i></li> <li>• <i>SG carer is responsible to apply for Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit</i></li> </ul>				
Support needs	Services to be provided	Person / agency responsible	Frequency / duration / starting date	Planned outcomes and plan for reviews
<b>TRAINING</b>				
Support needs	Services to be provided	Person / agency responsible	Frequency / duration / starting date	Planned outcomes and plan for reviews
<b>POINT OF CONTACT</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Duty support, information, advice, referrals, EDT number, etc.</i></li> </ul>				
Support needs	Services to be provided	Person / agency responsible	Frequency / duration / starting date	Planned outcomes and plan for reviews
<b>CONTACT WITH OTHER SPECIAL GUARDIANS</b>				



<b>Support needs</b>	<b>Services to be provided</b>	<b>Person / agency responsible</b>	<b>Frequency / duration / starting date</b>	<b>Planned outcomes and plan for reviews</b>

<b>Prospective Special Guardian(s)</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Children's Social Worker</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Assessing Social Worker</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Head of Service</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.*

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2016 No. 111**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS, ENGLAND**

**The Special Guardianship (Amendment) Regulations 2016**

*Made* - - - - *2nd February 2016*  
*Laid before Parliament* *5th February 2016*  
*Coming into force* - - *29th February 2016*

The Secretary of State for Education makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 14A(8)(b) and 104(4) of the Children Act 1989<sup>(1)</sup>.

**Citation, commencement and application**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Special Guardianship (Amendment) Regulations 2016 and come into force on 29 February 2016.
2. These regulations do not apply where, before 29 February 2016—
  - (a) an individual has given the appropriate local authority written notice of their intention to apply for a special guardianship order in accordance with section 14A(7) of the Children Act 1989, or
  - (b) a court has asked a local authority to conduct an investigation and prepare a report in accordance with section 14A(9) of the Children Act 1989.

**Amendments to the Special Guardianship Regulations 2005**

3. The Schedule to the Special Guardianship Regulations (2005)<sup>(2)</sup> (matters to be dealt with in report for the court) is amended in accordance with regulations 4 and 5.
4. In paragraph 1 of the Schedule (matters in respect of the child) —
  - (a) after sub-paragraph (g) insert:
    - “(ga) any harm which the child has suffered;
    - (gb) any risk of future harm to the child posed by the child’s parents, relatives or any other person the local authority consider relevant;”
  - (b) in paragraph (j) after “related” insert “current needs or likely future”.

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(1) 1989 c.41. Section 14A was inserted by section 115 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (c.38). For the definition of “prescribed” see section 105 of the Children Act 1989.  
(2) S.I. 2005/1109 amended by S.I. 2008/1879, 2010/1172, 2013/235, 2013/630 and 2014/2103.

5. In paragraph 4 of the Schedule (matters in respect of the prospective special guardian or, where two or more persons are jointly prospective special guardians, each of them) —

(a) for sub-paragraph (j), substitute:

“(j) an assessment of the nature of the prospective special guardian’s current and past relationship with the child;”

(b) for sub-paragraph (n), substitute:

“(n) an assessment of the prospective special guardian’s parenting capacity, including:

- (i) their understanding of, and ability to meet the child’s current and likely future needs, particularly, any needs the child may have arising from harm that the child has suffered;
- (ii) their understanding of, and ability to protect the child from any current or future risk of harm posed by the child’s parents, relatives or any other person the local authority consider relevant, particularly in relation to contact between any such person and the child;
- (iii) their ability and suitability to bring up the child until the child reaches the age of eighteen;”.

2nd February 2016

*Edward Timpson*  
Minister of State  
Department for Education

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations amend the Schedule to the Special Guardianship Regulations (2005) (“the 2005 Regulations”) which prescribes the matters to be dealt with by local authorities in reports they prepare for the court in applications for special guardianship orders.

The amendments do not apply where a local authority has been placed under a duty to report prior to the date that these amendments come into force (regulation 3).

Regulation 4 amends paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the 2005 Regulations (matters in respect of the child) by requiring the report to deal with any harm which the child has suffered and any risk of future harm to the child posed by their parents, relatives or any other person considered relevant, for example a partner of the parent. It also amends the provision relating to the child’s needs to ensure that both the child’s current needs and their likely future needs are dealt with in the report.

Regulation 5 amends paragraph 4 of the Schedule to the 2005 Regulations (matters in respect of the prospective special guardian or, where more than one, each of them). It replaces the provision relating to the prospective special guardian’s relationship with the child with a more detailed provision requiring an assessment of the nature of the child’s relationship with the prospective special guardian both at the time of the assessment and in the past. It also substitutes a new and more detailed provision relating to the parenting capacity of the prospective special guardian.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sectors is foreseen. An Explanatory Memorandum is available alongside this instrument on [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk).

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## Children's Service Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

### Questionnaire

<b>1. Details of function, policy, procedure or service:</b>	
Title of what is being assessed: Impact of proposed new Special Guardianship Order financial offer	
Is it a function, policy, procedure or service?: Policy	
Department and Section: Family Services	
Date assessment completed: 15 April 2016	
<b>2. Names and roles of officers completing this assessment:</b>	
Lead officer	Paulette Thompson-Omenka
Stakeholder groups	Special Guardians, Children under a Special Guardianship Order, Foster Carers, Children in Care
Representative from internal stakeholders	Paulette Thompson-Omenka
CS Equalities Network rep	Lindsey Hyde
HR rep (for employment related issues)	N/A
<b>3. Full description of function, policy, procedure or service:</b>	
<p>We know that Barnet is a great place to live for most families, children and young people. Our vision is focused on making Barnet an even better place to live for all families - whether a couple with dependent children, a single-parent family, a foster family, a blended family or a family with Special Guardians to children in care.</p> <p>We have chosen a theme of resilience to drive our ambition for strong communities in which children can thrive and achieve. Resilience is used to describe a situation when good outcomes occur for individuals or families in the face of adversity.</p> <p>Barnet is committed to enhancing resilience for children who are no longer able to live within their birth family through appropriate and secure permanent placement options such as Special Guardianship. This paper puts forward recommendations for amendments</p>	

relating to Special Guardianship Order (SGO) support and allowance.

Barnet currently pays its Special Guardians an allowance that is significantly higher than the Department for Education (DfE) recommended London minimum rates.

This paper proposes a reduction of the allowances to correspond to the DfE rates as follows:

Age of child under SGO	0-2	3-5	10	11-15	16-17 <sup>1</sup>
Current Barnet rates per week	£185 (0-12)			£244 (13-17)	
Proposed DfE London rates per week <sup>2</sup>	£142	£145	£163	£184	£216

Between 1 March 2014 and 29 February 2016, Barnet had 153 children under a Special Guardianship Order. Since the introduction of Special Guardianship Orders in 2005, the number of children provided with permanence through SGOs has steadily increased nationally and locally. This increase is expected to continue, putting increased pressure on resources.

Statutory guidance states that the means-tested allowance given to SGOs for care of the child must take into account the allowance that foster carers receive, which is reinforced by recent case law.

Foster carer allowances in Barnet are made up of two separate elements, a maintenance allowance and a fee payment. It is the maintenance element that Barnet are proposing to reduce for foster carers in order to bring about savings for the SGO cohort. Foster Carers who have undertaken fostering training and are approved would not experience a net reduction in rates as a result of these changes, because of other allowances in place. However, the 17 Kinship Carer households who are not approved foster carers would experience a reduction in rates.

If this proposal is approved at Committee, Special Guardians will be consulted with on the proposal. The proposed consultation will

<sup>1</sup> In rare circumstances a child will be under an SGO past their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; in this case the 16-17 rate applies.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the DfE recommended minimum fostering rates for London (refreshed 31 March 2016)



provide further opportunity to understand needs of stakeholders and provide mitigation against any unintended consequences. Affected carers will be informed of the proposals before the paper goes to CELS Committee and will receive communications regarding how they can make their views heard during the consultation period.

Current and future cohorts of stakeholders will benefit from a more robust offer that is in line with DfE recommendations and therefore more sustainable in the shorter and longer term. Special Guardians will benefit from a clear policy that sets out Barnet's refreshed offer.

Needs of the affected stakeholders have been taken into account in the drafting of the proposal and these are reflected in this Equalities Impact Assessment. The EIA will be updated following the completion of the consultation.

4. How are the equality strands affected? Please detail the effects on each equality strand, and any mitigating action you have taken so far			
Equality Strand	Affected?	Explain how affected	What action has been taken already to mitigate this?
Race	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b><u>Children under SGO<sup>3</sup></u></b></p> <p>There is no disproportionate impact anticipated.</p> <p>Children of White ethnicity are slightly under-represented in the child SGO population (52% SGO compared to 55% in borough).</p> <p>The BAME population of the SGO population is very similar (44% SGO compared to 45% in borough).</p> <p><b><u>Children in foster care<sup>4</sup></u></b></p> <p>There is no disproportionate impact anticipated, as the BAME and White cohorts in the fostered child in care population correspond to the borough's</p>	<p>The rates proposed are the recommended DfE rates for London, so a negative impact is not expected on children of any ethnic background, or carers of any ethnic background.</p> <p>However, if there is any disproportionate negative impact, steps will be taken to address this as required within the service area.</p>

<sup>3</sup> Child under SGO cohort between March 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and February 29<sup>th</sup> 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Child in foster care cohort as at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. Includes the following cohorts: children in local authority foster care, children looked after by foster relative or friend, children looked after through a foster agency. For 34% of children in care Religion was not stated; the EIA has therefore been completed using the data only from those children where a religion was stated.

		<p>population.</p> <p><b><u>Special Guardians<sup>5</sup></u></b></p> <p>There will be a disproportionate impact on Special Guardians of White ethnicity.</p> <p>Special Guardians of White ethnicity are overrepresented against the whole borough population (71% of Special Guardians are White compared to 65% of Barnet residents).</p> <p>Special Guardians of BAME ethnicity are slightly underrepresented against the whole borough population (29% of Special Guardians are BAME compared to 35% in the wider borough).</p> <p><b><u>Foster carers<sup>6</sup></u></b></p> <p>There will be a disproportionate impact on Foster Carers of BAME ethnicity.</p> <p>Foster carers of BAME ethnicity are overrepresented against the whole borough population (40% of Foster Carers are BAME compared to 35% in the wider borough).</p> <p>Foster carers of White ethnicity are therefore underrepresented in the Foster Carer population (60% in the Foster Care population compared to 65% across the whole borough).</p>	
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<sup>5</sup> Special Guardian cohort as at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. For 75% of Special Guardians, religion was 'Not Stated', the EIA has therefore been completed using the data only from those Special Guardians where a religion was stated. 45% of ethnicity of Special Guardians was 'Not Stated'.

<sup>6</sup> Summary Of Registered Main Carers (only) Who Have At Least One Active Approval As At 06/04/2016. For 46% of Foster Carers, marital status was 'Not recorded'; the EIA has therefore been completed using the data only from those Foster Carers where marital status was recorded. 32% of religion of Foster Carers was 'Not Recorded'.

<p>Gender</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b><u>Children under SGO</u></b></p> <p>There will be a disproportionate impact on females, as these are over-represented in the child SGO population.</p> <p>Females are overrepresented in the SGO population (56% SGO compared to 49% in the borough populations).</p> <p>Males are therefore underrepresented in the SGO population (44% SGO compared to 51% in the borough population)</p> <p><b><u>Children in foster care</u></b></p> <p>There will be a disproportionate impact on males, as these are overrepresented in the fostered child in care population (61% in fostered CIC population compared to 51% in the borough population).</p> <p><b><u>Special Guardians</u></b></p> <p>There will be a disproportionate impact on females, as these are significantly overrepresented in the Special Guardianship population (89% of Special Guardians are female, as opposed to 52% in the borough population).</p> <p>Males are therefore significantly underrepresented in the SGO population (11% male as opposed to 48% in the wider borough).</p> <p><b><u>Foster Carers</u></b></p> <p>There will be a disproportionate impact on females, as these are significantly overrepresented in the Foster Carer Population (95% of main Foster Carers are female, as opposed to 52% in the borough population).</p>	<p>The rates proposed are the recommended DfE rates for London, so a negative impact is not expected on children of any gender.</p> <p>However, if there is any disproportionate negative impact, steps will be taken to address this as required within the service area.</p>
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		Males are therefore significantly underrepresented in the foster carer population (5% males as opposed to 48% in the wider borough).	
Disability	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b><u>Children under SGO</u></b></p> <p>There is no disproportionate impact anticipated.</p> <p>Young people with disabilities are slightly underrepresented within the SGO cohort (2% SGO compared with 3% borough population).</p> <p><b><u>Children in foster care</u></b></p> <p>A disproportionate impact is expected, as 12% of children in foster care are disabled compared to 3% in the borough population.</p> <p><b><u>Foster Carers and Special Guardians</u></b></p> <p>Disability information is not available for Foster Carers and Special Guardians</p>	<p>The rates proposed are the recommended DfE rates for London, so a negative impact is not expected on children with a disability.</p> <p>The Special Guardianship Order should be accessible to all young people and rates of disabled children under an SGO will be reviewed within the service area.</p> <p>Barnet will seek to ensure that support services provided to Special Guardians and Foster Carers are tailored to meet the needs of those with a disability.</p>
Age	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b><u>Children under an SGO</u></b></p> <p>There will be a disproportionate impact on children aged 0-4, as they are heavily over-represented in the SGO population (48% SGO compared to 30% borough)</p> <p>Children aged 5-9 are slightly overrepresented in the SGO population (31% SGO compared to 28% borough)</p> <p>Young people aged 10-14 and 15-18 are underrepresented in the SGO population.</p> <p><b><u>Children in foster care</u></b></p> <p>There will be a disproportionate impact on young</p>	<p>The rates proposed are the recommended DfE rates for London, so a negative impact is not expected on children with from any particular age group.</p> <p>However, if there is any disproportionate negative impact, steps will be taken to address this as required within the service area.</p>

		<p>people aged 15-18, as this cohort is significantly overrepresented in the child in foster care cohort (45% in the fostered CiC cohort compared to 18% in the borough).</p> <p>The 10-14 age group is slightly overrepresented in the fostered CiC cohort. The 0-4 and 5-9 age groups are underrepresented.</p> <p><b><u>Special Guardians</u></b></p> <p>There will be a disproportionate impact on Special Guardians aged 50-64, as this group is significantly overrepresented (53% of Special Guardians fall into this age category compared to 21% of Barnet residents).</p> <p>The majority of other age groups are underrepresented within the Special Guardian population.</p> <p><b><u>Foster Carers</u></b></p> <p>There will be a disproportionate impact on Foster Carers aged 50-64, as this group is significantly overrepresented (52% of Foster Carers fall into this age category compared to 21% of Barnet residents).</p> <p>All other age groups are underrepresented within the Foster Carer population.</p>	
Sexual orientation or gender reassignment	Unknown	<p>There is no data available on the sexual orientation or gender reassignment of young people in foster care or under an SGO.</p> <p>This data is also not available for Special Guardians or Foster Carers.</p>	<p>Barnet will seek to ensure that support services provided to young people are tailored to meet specific needs, including sexual orientation or gender reassignment, or that young people are signposted to other appropriate services for support where needed.</p>

			<p>Barnet will seek to ensure that support services provided to Special Guardians and Foster Carers are tailored to meet the needs of those adults, taking into account sexual orientation or gender reassignment as required.</p>
<p>Religion or belief</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b><u>Children under an SGO</u></b>                  There is no data available on the religion or belief of children under an SGO.</p> <p><b><u>Children in foster care</u></b>                  Muslim children are overrepresented in the fostered child in care population (22% of children in foster care compared 13% in the borough population. Other cohorts are similar.</p> <p><b><u>Special Guardians</u></b>                  Christians are significantly overrepresented within the Special Guardian population (64% in the SG population compared to 49% in the Barnet population).                  The Jewish population is similar to the borough population, and Muslims are underrepresented.</p> <p><b><u>Foster Carers</u></b>                  Christians are significantly overrepresented within the Foster Carer population (71% in the SG population compared to 49% in the Barnet population).                  The Jewish population slightly underrepresented in the Foster Carer population and the Muslim Foster</p>	<p>The rates proposed are the recommended DfE rates for London, so a negative impact is not expected on children or carers from any religious background.</p> <p>However, if the disproportionate impact is negative, steps will be taken to address this as required within the service area.</p> <p>Family Services does currently and will continue to ensure that appropriate advice and guidance is given to support young people in view of their religion or belief.</p>

		Carer population is similar to the borough population.	
Pregnancy/maternity (including teenage parents)	Unknown	<p>There is no specific data available on the pregnancy and maternity of young people in foster care and under an SGO and therefore this impact is difficult to quantify.</p> <p>Data is not available for Special Guardians and Foster Carers. However, given the overrepresentation of these cohorts in the 50+ age category, it is likely that pregnancy/maternity is underrepresented in these populations and therefore a disproportionate impact would not be expected.</p>	<p>The rates proposed are the recommended DfE rates for London, so a negative impact is not expected on pregnant women.</p> <p>The service does currently and will continue to ensure appropriate advice and guidance is given to support children in care in relation to their pregnancy and maternity.</p>
Marital status	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b><u>Children in foster care or under an SGO</u></b></p> <p>There is no data available on the marital status of young people in foster care or under an SGO. However, it is unlikely that this will be of direct relevance to the majority of this cohort (see age profile above).</p> <p><b><u>Foster Carers</u></b></p> <p>There will be a disproportionate impact on married couples, as they are overrepresented in the Foster Carer population (67% of foster carers are married, compared to 47% in the Barnet population)</p> <p>There are similar proportions of Divorced and Single adults in the Foster Carer population to the Barnet population, so no disproportionate impact is expected on these cohorts.</p> <p><b><u>Special Guardians</u></b></p>	<p>The rates proposed are the recommended DfE rates for London, so a negative impact is not expected.</p> <p>The service does currently and will continue to ensure appropriate advice and guidance is given to support children in care in relation to their marital status.</p> <p>Barnet seeks to ensure that support services provided to Special Guardians and Foster Carers are tailored to meet the needs of those adults, taking into account their marital status as required.</p>

		This data is not available for the Special Guardian population.	
Those on low incomes	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b><u>Children in foster care and children under an SGO</u></b></p> <p>This category does not apply to children in foster care or under an SGO, as their maintenance is paid for through their placement.</p> <p><u>Foster Carers</u></p> <p>This data is not available for the Foster Carer population.</p> <p><u>Special Guardians</u></p> <p>This data is not available for the Special Guardian population, although it is likely that Special Guardians accessing allowances are on lower incomes as this is means-tested.</p>	<p>The rates proposed are the recommended DfE rates for London, so a negative impact is not expected.</p> <p>The fostering allowance, which is available to Foster Carers, and the fee which is provided when training is undertaken, ensure that residents from all incomes can become Foster Carers.</p> <p>Special Guardians receive a means-tested allowance, which ensures that residents from all incomes can become Special Guardians.</p>

**5. What will be the impact of delivery of any proposals on satisfaction ratings amongst different groups of residents**

It is not envisaged that the delivery of this proposal will have an impact on satisfaction ratings amongst the wider group of Barnet residents.

Satisfaction ratings amongst Special Guardians and Foster Carers may decrease in the immediate term, in light of the proposed rate reduction to carers receiving means-tested allowances.

However, the proposal will lead to a more sustainable offer in the longer-term. It includes a refreshed SGO policy that sets out an attractive offer that will assist recruitment and retention.

Ongoing communication and any future Residents Perception Survey will enable the Council to gauge how satisfied residents are with services delivered by or on behalf of the Council and will form part of the ongoing monitoring of the impact of these proposals. This EIA will be updated following the completion of the consultation and the views of Special Guardians, foster carers and children and young people will be incorporated where applicable.



<b>6. How does the proposal enhance Barnet's reputation as a good place to work and live?</b>
<p>The proposal demonstrates the council's commitment to ensuring a robust and sustainable offer to children who are no longer able to live with their birth parents.</p> <p>This may enhance Barnet's reputation as the provision of services are being thoroughly reviewed and consulted upon to ensure that resources are being used in the best way possible and that services are achieving the best possible outcomes for Barnet's children and young people.</p>
<b>7. How will members of Barnet's diverse communities feel more confident about the council and the manner in which it conducts its business?</b>
<p>This Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken in line with this policy change proposal to understand any unintended impact and put actions in place to mitigate this.</p> <p>Clear communication, consultation and engagement is taking place through the proposed consultation events and survey to help ensure the views of Barnet's diverse communities are taken into account.</p> <p>All communities will be reassured that Barnet is taking measures to ensure a sustainable, robust offer for children who are unable to live with their birth families. This proposal brings Barnet's rates in line with the DfE recommended rate for Inner London to ensure greater parity across London's communities.</p>
<b>8. What measures and methods have been designed to monitor the application of the policy or service, the achievement of intended outcomes and the identification of any unintended or adverse impact? <i>Include information about the groups of people affected by this proposal. Include how frequently will the monitoring be conducted and who will be made aware of the analysis and outcomes? Include these measures in the Equality Improvement Plan (section 13)</i></b>
<p>Special Guardians, Foster Carers and children under all of the relevant legal orders will be affected.</p> <p>Application of the rates will be monitored through the service area and through the Finance service area.</p> <p>Complaints, Compliments and Comments regarding the refreshed offer will be directed to the relevant team. As part of quarterly monitoring, emerging themes will be addressed by Family Services officers as appropriate.</p>

**9. How will the new proposals enable the council to promote good relations between different communities?** *Include whether proposals bring different groups of people together, does the proposal have the potential to lead to resentment between different groups of people and how might you be able to compensate for perceptions of differential treatment or whether implications are explained.*

The proposal suggests rates that are in line with Inner London rates as suggested by the DfE, leading to greater parity for Special Guardians across the London boroughs.

Special Guardianship Orders can help a child remain within their wider family or cultural community. This is conducive to the child or young person's sense of identity and development.

**10. How have residents with different needs been consulted on the anticipated impact of this proposal? How have any comments influenced the final proposal?** *Please include information about any prior consultation on the proposal been undertaken, and any dissatisfaction with it from a particular section of the community.*

Consultation is planned in the 6 weeks following Committee approval of the recommendations. It is proposed that this consultation exists of 2 events, as well as a survey for affected Special Guardians and Foster Carers.

All views raised will be considered before the final proposal is drafted.

**11. Decision:**

No Impact  <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Impact  <input type="checkbox"/>	Neutral Impact  <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative Impact or Impact Not Known <sup>7</sup>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**12. Comment on decision**

Across the cohorts of children under a Special Guardianship Order, the following groups are most likely to be affected:

- Females
- Children aged 0-4

Across the cohorts of children in care, the following groups are most likely to be affected:

- Children with a disability
- Young people aged 15-18

Across the cohort of adult Special Guardians, the following groups are most likely to be affected:

- White adults
- Females
- Adults aged 50-64

Across the cohorts of adult Foster Carers, the following groups are most likely to be affected:

- BAME adults
- Females
- Adults aged 50-64
- Christians

<sup>7</sup> 'Impact Not Known' – tick this box if there is no up-to-date data or information to show the effects or outcomes of the function, policy, procedure or service on all of the equality strands.

- Married adults

### 13. Equality Improvement Plan

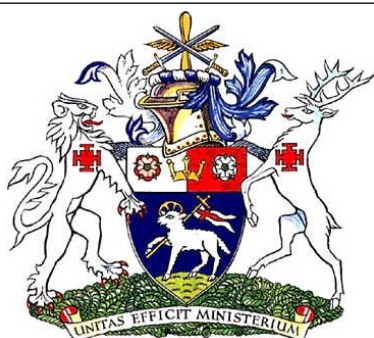
Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from the Equality Impact Assessment (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Equality Objective	Action	Target	Officer responsible	By when
Take measures to ensure that no child or carer is disproportionately impacted because of protected characteristics on a case-by-case basis as a result of the proposals	Engage with carers during and post-consultation and respond to any cases where it is clear that a case is disproportionately affected by the characteristics with mitigating factors	Ensure that no child or carer is disadvantaged beyond the scope of the proposal as a result of their characteristics.	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	August 2016
Managing negative equalities impacts from the proposals	Continue to monitor contract performance to track the delivery and effectiveness of services to vulnerable families and to take appropriate actions. This will include working within the service mitigate the impact to groups most likely to be affected by proposals.	Identify any negative impacts and take appropriate action to address these. For example, by developing appropriate action plans.	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	October 2107
Consulting with those affected	Clearly communicate the views received from those affected and the decision made by the council.	Ensure that Barnet's diverse communities feel confident about the council and the manner in which it conducts its business.	Paulette Thompson-Omenka	August 2016

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Authorised signature (Lead Officer)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Authorised Signature (Member of SLT)</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

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AGENDA ITEM 9



**Children, Education,  
Libraries & Safeguarding  
Committee  
14<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

<b>Title</b>	Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2016-2020
<b>Report of</b>	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix A: Children and Young Plan 2016-20 Appendix B: Consultation report: Children and Young People Plan 2016-2020
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Chris Munday, Commissioning Director, Children and Young People <a href="mailto:Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk">Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 0208 359 7099  Rebecca Johnson, Commissioning Strategy and Policy Advisor <a href="mailto:rebecca.johnson@barnet.gov.uk">rebecca.johnson@barnet.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 020 8359 3523

## Summary

The Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2020 establishes the vision, key priorities and outcomes for children and young people in Barnet, providing a strategic framework for activity in the borough.

Barnet is the most populous borough in London, with a large and growing number of children, young people and families. Our vision is that Barnet is the best place to live for families in London by 2020. The concept of Family Friendly Barnet is introduced in this Plan and the outcomes and priorities focus on how partners can support families to be resilient and strengthen communities. Evidence tells us this is central to delivering the best outcomes for children and young people.

The Plan is not prescriptive but concentrates on the outcomes and priorities which will make the biggest difference to children, young people and families in Barnet.

The Plan's outcomes and priorities have been informed both by engagement with key stakeholders including children and young people, parents and carers, and professionals as well as quantitative analysis of need, for example from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

A full six-week public consultation on the Plan has recently been concluded with comments considered. Overall there were 40 responses to the consultation and respondents were positive about the new Plan, its vision, key outcomes and objectives. Key changes to the Plan following consultation were:

- a refreshed Child Poverty Action Plan linking to the government's new Life Chances Strategy and clearly aligned to resilience
- incorporating issues raised by Members of the Youth Parliament at CELS Committee on 18 May 2016 around safety on public transport and support for migrant families.
- a focus on resilience; both in social work practice, parenting programs, and health promotion
- inclusion of objectives on initial health assessments for looked after children and increasing immunisation rates.

## Recommendations

**1. That the Children, Education, Library and Safeguarding Committee consider and approve the revised Children and Young People's Plan 2016-20 as summarised in 1.1 to 1.11 and contained in Appendix A.**

**2. That the Children, Education, Library and Safeguarding Committee delegates authority to the Commissioning Director for Children and Young People to work with partners to develop an action plan and implement the new Children and Young People's Plan.**



## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1. Barnet's Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) is a four year partnership plan setting out local priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people in the borough. The plan is developed by, and owned by, key partners including the council, NHS Barnet, Barnet Borough Police, schools and the voluntary sector.
- 1.2. Barnet has a large and growing population of children, young people and families with numbers predicted to reach 98,914 by 2020. Data about the boroughs population has informed the plan with key objectives reflecting the borough's changing demographics.
- 1.3. The plan sets out a proposed vision for partners across the borough which focuses on making Barnet an even better place for families to live. The vision for partners across the borough is that:

*We want Barnet to be the most Family Friendly borough in London by 2020. Children, Young People and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to.*

- 1.4. Barnet is a good place to live for families, with excellent schools, open spaces and low levels of unemployment. Family Friendly Barnet is introduced in the plan, a concept which builds on evidence showing that the resilience of parents and families is a key determinant of improved outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.5. The outcomes and objectives in the plan focus on how partners can enable families to be resilient and strengthen communities.
- 1.6. The draft CYPP and its outcomes and objectives has been developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders including children and young people, parents and carers, health, police, voluntary sector, schools and the council to ensure that there is joint ownership of the priorities.
- 1.7. Children and young people have been actively engaged in the process through Barnet's Youth Convention held in November 2015. The plan has also been informed by quantitative data including from the 'Profile of Children and Young People in Barnet', and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - which both provide data to support key areas of need.
- 1.8. The draft Plan went out to public consultation for six weeks between April and May 2016 with 40 responses received in total. Responses to the consultation were positive and all comments were considered. Following consultation some amendments were made to the Plan including:
  - a refreshed Child Poverty Action Plan linking to the government's new Life Chances Strategy and clearly aligned to resilience

- incorporating issues raised by Members of Youth Parliament at CELS Committee on 18 May 2016 around; safety on public transport and support for migrant families.
  - a focus resilience; both in social work practice, parenting programs, and health promotion
  - inclusion of objectives around initial health assessments for looked after children and increasing immunisation rates
- 1.9. Students from Middlesex University designed logos as part of a competition to develop a new logo for Family Friendly Barnet. Entries were judged by children from across the borough with the final logo agreed by partners and included in the Children and Young People’s Plan.
- 1.10. The Plan sets out four key outcomes for the borough to make it more Family Friendly where children and families are able to:
- keep themselves safe
  - achieve their best
  - be active and healthy
  - have their say
- 1.11. Under these outcomes are a series of objectives and the plan describes how partners will work together to achieve these.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The recommendations in this report have been developed through a stakeholder engagement process, as well as review of quantitative data around the needs of children and young people in the borough.
- 2.2 Following full public consultation between April and May 2016, the proposal contained in this report is to recommend the revised Children and Young People’s Plan 2016-20 and the implementation of its key outcomes and objectives.

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

- 3.1 The Council has the option not to publish a Children and Young People’s Plan as this is no longer a legal requirement. However it is seen as a valuable statement of intent and is a useful mechanism for partners to hold each other to account.

#### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 If the Committee approves the Plan, partners will work together to develop an implementation plan to ensure the Children and Young People's Plan's outcomes and objectives are met and will include how progress against these will be measured.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

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

- 5.1.1 The implementation of these recommendations would work towards the achievement of our corporate objectives, which promote improving the opportunities that we offer to residents, creating more involved and resilient communities, and which aim to support Barnet's children and young people to have a great start in life.

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

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

##### **5.3 Social Value**

- 5.3.1 In taking forward the Children and Young People's Plan due regard will be paid to the Social Value Act. The Social Value Act will be a useful tool in ensuring that our activities are embedded in prevention and early intervention. We will seek to look for added value that our partners can bring to deliver desired outcomes.
- 5.3.2 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

## 5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Regulations made under the Children Act 2004 require local authorities to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan. The plan must set out the improvements which the local authority intend to make during the plan period to the well-being of children and young people. Well-being includes:

- physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing;
- protection from harm and neglect;
- education, training and recreation;
- the contribution made by them to society; and
- social and economic well-being

5.4.2 Each plan shall include the following:

- (a) a statement as to how the authority intend to achieve the improvements referred to above, with specific reference to the following—
- (i) the integration of services provided by the authority and its relevant partners to improve the well-being of children and relevant young persons;
  - (ii) arrangements made by the authority under section 11(2) of the Children Act 2004 (arrangements to safeguard and promote welfare); and
  - (iii) arrangements for early intervention and preventative action;
- (b) a needs assessment against the outcomes;
- (c) an outline of the key actions planned to achieve the improvements so far as relating to the outcomes;
- (d) a statement as to how the authority's budget will be used to contribute to those improvements; and
- (e) a statement as to how the plan relates to the authority's performance management and review of services for children and relevant young persons.”

5.4.3 The Children and Young People Plan provides a strategic framework from which to coordinate activities across the partnership and will assist the council in fulfilling its statutory duties.

5.4.4 This paper outlines the current arrangements to co-ordinate service provision to support children and young people to achieve good outcomes. Work is undertaken on an on-going basis to ensure that functions and services across the partnership enable Statutory Duties to be upheld.

5.4.5 Annex A of the Responsibility for Functions, outlined in the council's constitution, states that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has the responsibility to 'Approve the children and Young People and associated sub strategies promoting the following areas:

- Education
- Inclusion
- Child poverty
- Early intervention and prevention

## 5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 There is a risk that key initiatives within the Plan will not be carried out, which could adversely impact on the council's reputation. In order to mitigate this risk, extensive consultation was carried out with partners, early in the planning process with attention paid to the financial implications of plans.

5.6 Reducing resources may have an impact on partners' ability to undertake actions they have committed to, however, we have sought to mitigate this by developing actions alongside partners' business and finance planning.

## 5.7 Equalities and Diversity

5.7.1 In compliance with the council's statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equalities Duties<sup>1</sup> (PSED) this report sets out how, as a Public Body, Barnet Council (and other organisations acting on its behalf) has approached its statutory obligation in relation to the proposed Children and Young People Plan.

5.7.2 As set out in the Equality Act 2010 the council pays active due regard to the need to:

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

5.7.3 The protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

5.7.4 At this stage it is anticipated that the CYP plan will have a neutral/positive equalities impact. The equalities impact assessment will be kept under review and the specific impact of particular proposals will be assessed as they develop and reported back to decision makers

5.7.5 At their first meeting on June 10 2014, Barnet's Policy and Resources Committee discussed the concept of fairness and how Council Committees should be mindful of fairness and in particular, of disadvantaged communities when making their recommendations and this has also been taken into account.

5.7.6 The Children and Young People Profile describes the demography of the current population of children and young people in Barnet on an annual basis helps us to ensure that actions accurately target the diverse needs of Barnet's children and young people. Equality and diversity issues were considered in the review of the Children and Young People Plan to ensure that such considerations are reflected in the design of policies and the delivery of services.

5.7.7 The Children and Young People Plan contains the key principle of targeting resources to narrow the gap in achievement for those at risk of not achieving their potential. This principle aims to reduce the inequalities between groups of children and young people in the borough.

## 5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 On 23 March 2016 CELS committee approved the draft version of the Children and Young People's Plan to go out to public consultation. Consultation was carried out fairly. In general, a consultation can only be considered as proper consultation if:

- Comments are genuinely invited at the formative stage;
- The consultation documents include sufficient reasons for the proposal to allow those being consulted to be properly informed and to give an informed response;
- There is adequate time given to the consultees to consider the proposals;
- There is a mechanism for feeding back the comments and those comments are conscientiously taken into account by the decision maker / decision making body when making a final decision;
- The degree of specificity with which, in fairness, the public authority should conduct its consultation exercise may be influenced by the identity of those whom it is consulting; and
- The consultation is clear on the reasons why, and the extent to which alternatives and discarded options, have been considered.

5.8.2 Barnet Council is committed to involving residents, businesses and service users in shaping the borough and the services they receive. Consultation and engagement is one of the key ways the council interacts with and involves local communities and residents, providing them with opportunities to:

- Gain greater awareness and understanding of what the council does
- Voice their views and understand how they can get involved
- Feed in their views to the democratic decision making process.

### **Preliminary consultation and engagement**

5.8.3 In developing the Children and Young People Plan the council has consulted widely with partners, children and young people across the borough, as well as parents and carers to inform and to develop the Draft Plan.

### **Formal Public Consultation**

5.8.4 Following approval of draft Plan on the 23 March 2016, formal public consultation commenced on 14 April and ended on 26 May.

5.8.5 The consultation ran for six weeks and consisted of an online consultation - published on Engage Barnet which included a link to the full strategy and a

consultation document which summarises the strategy and key questions. Residents were able to give their views via an online questionnaire. Alternative formats were also made available on request

5.8.6 Workshops were held with young people across the borough, facilitated by Barnet's Members of Youth Parliament.

5.8.7 In total 40 responses were received and showed a high level of support amongst respondents for the vision, outcomes and objectives of the plan as well as the Child Poverty Action Plan and Youth Charter. A detailed summary of findings is included in Annex B, key findings included:

- over 37 out of 40 respondents agreed with the Plan's vision
- over three quarters of respondents agreed with the four key outcomes
- the large majority of respondents agreed with the objectives under each of the four outcomes
- over three quarters of respondents agreed with the priorities set out in the Child Poverty Action Plan, with almost all respondents agreeing with the key actions
- 20 out of 23 respondents agreed with the Youth Charter, with no respondents disagreeing.
- of those respondents who identified themselves, 74% were Barnet residents, and 88% were parents.
- 71% of those who identified themselves in the survey were female, and the majority were white.

## 5.9 Insight

5.9.1 In developing the Children and Young People Plan the council has drawn on insight from the 'Profile of Children and Young People in Barnet', and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - which both provided data to support identification of key areas of need across the borough.

5.9.2 In addition consultation workshops took place with partners, children and young people, parents and carers, whose feedback also informed the development of the Draft Plan.

## 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

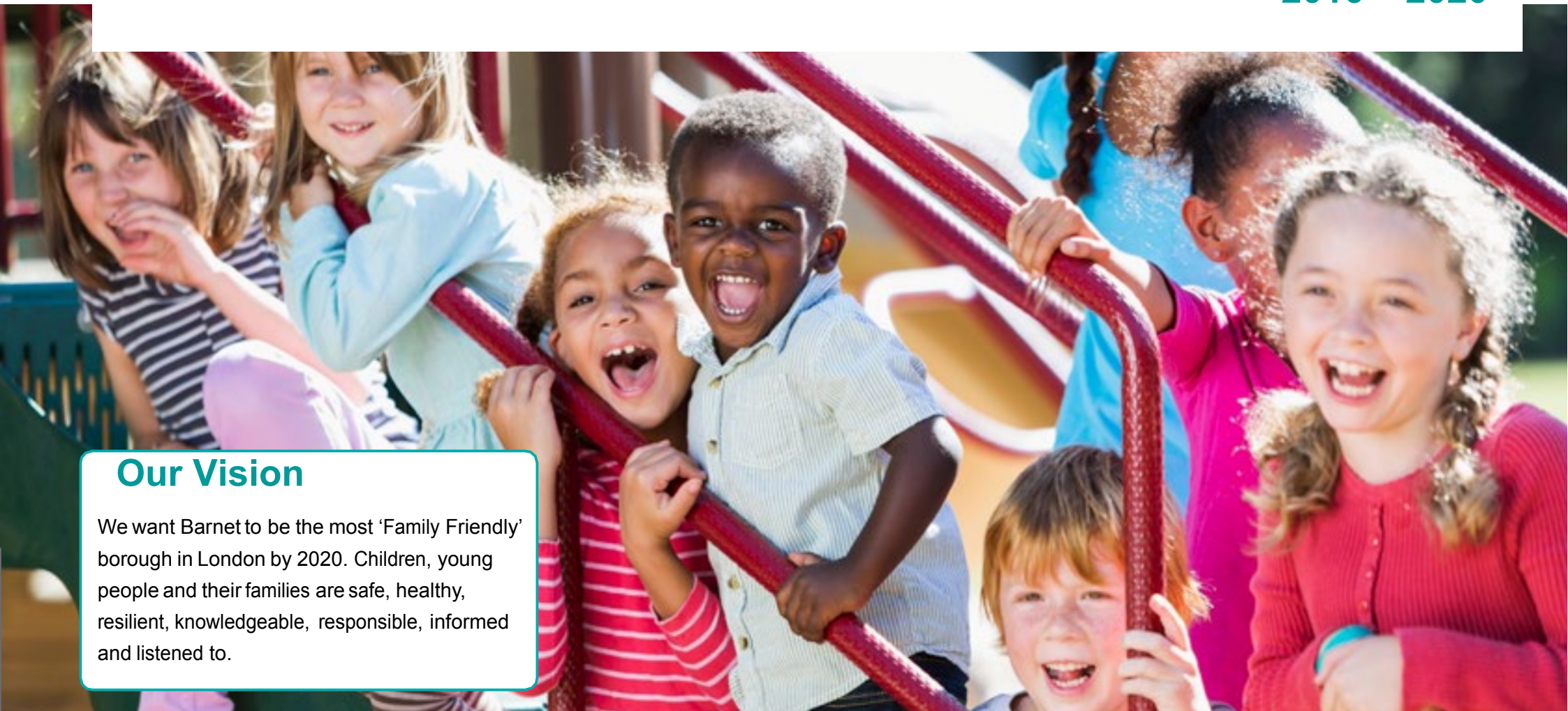
6.1 None.

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# Barnet Children and Young People's Plan

2016 – 2020



## Our Vision

We want Barnet to be the most 'Family Friendly' borough in London by 2020. Children, young people and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to.

## Introduction

Working in partnership across Barnet is the only way organisations involved in the lives of children, young people and their families can be sure of jointly supporting the aspirations defined in our new Children and Young People's Plan. Barnet's strategic partners have high aspirations and believe that by working together we can continue to make a real difference to all our children and young people in Barnet, especially those who are most vulnerable.

This is a partnership plan, developed and shaped by partners from different sectors across the borough, and represents our joint commitment to making Barnet London's most 'Family Friendly' borough, where communities thrive and build their resilience.

Our focus on key priorities has helped target attention and resources on the most vulnerable, but there is still more that needs to be done.

Working in partnership and with children and young people from across the borough, we have produced a new child-friendly plan for 2016-2020 that we think reflects the priorities, needs and aspirations of the local population and sets out how, together, we can make Barnet an even better, more

'Family Friendly' place to live.

In a 'Family Friendly' Barnet, children and families are able to:

- keep themselves safe
- achieve their best
- be active and healthy
- have their say.

This partnership approach to setting priorities is really important. Supporting families to address issues facing children and young people in Barnet is the responsibility of everyone who lives with, works with, and cares about them.

Our Plan sets out how we will focus on increasing resilience in the community, helping families to help themselves. It focuses on how we will work in partnership with children, young people and their families, ensuring that we are helping them to do things for themselves, rather than to them or for them.

There is recognition however, that sometimes, for the most vulnerable in Barnet, there is a need for additional support from partnership agencies. Where this is the case, partners will look at how they can build responses and services around these families' needs, and wherever possible intervene early, building family resilience to stop problems escalating.

Our hope is that by involving children and young people, and their parents and carers in its development, this new plan will be something that is relevant and meaningful, which children and young people in the borough can read, engage with, and understand.



## What is the Children and Young People's Plan?

The Children and Young People's Plan identifies the shared vision, outcomes and objectives for partnership working across the borough. The Plan sets out what those working with families in Barnet aim to do to help people improve their own lives.

Partners across the borough include the local authority, police authorities, the Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health, children and young people, parents and carers, schools, and the voluntary and community sector.

The Plan covers children and young people aged 0-19 years and up to 25 years for those with special educational needs and disabilities. The Plan is aimed at those working with children, young people and families so they are aware of the priorities that need to drive their work. We want this to be a Plan that can be easily understood by parents, carers, as well as children and young people.

The Plan doesn't cover everything we are doing but concentrates on the key outcomes which will make the biggest difference to children, young people, and families in Barnet.



## Children and Young People in Barnet: key facts

Barnet is part of a successful and thriving London economy and has the largest population of any borough, with an estimated 393,000 residents. The borough's population of 93,590 children and young people aged 0-19 remains the second largest in London and this group makes up a quarter of the borough's overall population. This is estimated to grow by 6% between 2015 and 2020 when it will reach 98,914.

Each year, Barnet publishes information that sets out a wide range of demographic data in relation to children and young people and this information can be found ([here](#)). Some key highlights are:

- in 2015, Golders Green had the highest population of children and young people of any ward in Barnet at 6,218, followed by Colindale with 6,055 children. Projections suggest that by 2025 Colindale will have the highest population of children and young people of all wards. Colindale also has 30.9% of children living in low-income families, the largest proportion of all wards in Barnet. Neighbouring Burnt Oak also has a high level of deprivation and currently has the highest number of children from low-income families in Barnet, as well as the highest number of out of work families
- there are more children from all Black and Minority Ethnic groups in the 0 – 9 age group, than there are White children. Children and young people in the 10 – 19 age groups are predominantly White. This demonstrates a more diverse population shift in terms of ethnicity
- figure 1 shows that couples with dependent children are the largest single type of family unit in Barnet, representing 40% of all One Family Households.



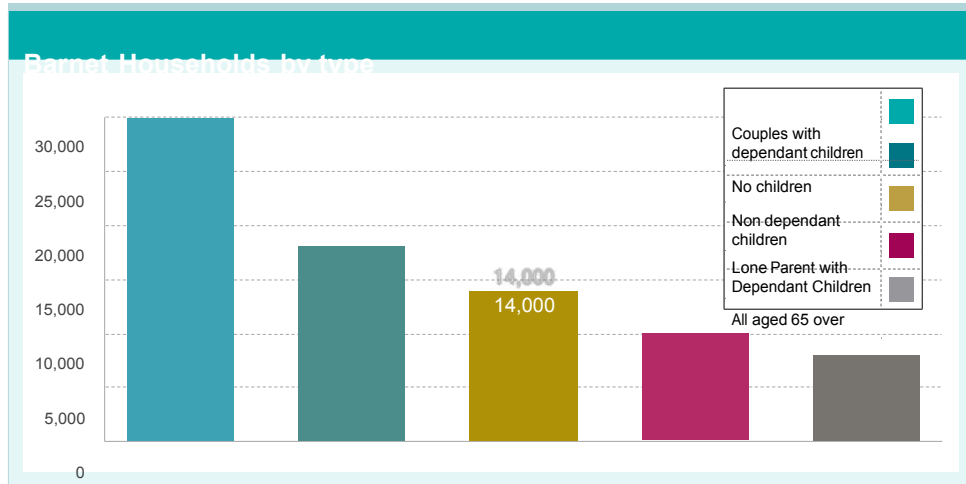


Figure 1: Barnet households by type, HMRC August 2010

- data suggests that as a borough, Barnet has a larger proportion of families, and has higher household incomes compared to the rest of London
- poverty is the most significant general indicator of risk, and nationally it is recognised that children living in poverty and deprivation are more vulnerable to educational under-achievement, ill health, involvement in crime, and social exclusion. There remain some children in Barnet that are at risk of poorer outcomes through poverty

- 2010 HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) data looked at all wards in London in terms of child poverty. The data shows Barnet is the ninth least deprived borough in London, with a rate of around 21% (the least deprived has a rate of 10.7% and the most deprived 48.6%). Colindale and Burnt Oak have the highest proportion of children living in low-income families. Just over one third of the children in Burnt Oak and in Colindale are living in low-income families. East Finchley has an overall lower percentage at 18.9% despite having the most deprived Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in Barnet in the Strawberry Vale Estate. Golders Green, which has the highest number of children of all wards in Barnet has 14% of these living in low-income families. Garden Suburb has the lowest percentage at only 7.9%
- at any one time, there are around 315 children in care with around 800 children 'in need' and relatively low rates compared to elsewhere in the country
- around 5,912 pupils in Barnet have some form of Special Educational Need (SEN) with over 600 children and young people registered as having a disability. Almost 3,000 children and young people are known to provide unpaid care for their parents or other family members, although this is likely to be an underestimate.

## What do we mean by 'Family Friendly'?

We know that Barnet is a great place to live for most families, children and young people. Barnet has some of the best schools in the country, some of the best parks and open spaces in London, and low levels of unemployment among the adult population. The borough is benefitting from large-scale regeneration projects, which are creating more housing, infrastructure and opportunities for all. In Barnet, most children and young people achieve well and successfully make the transition into adulthood.

Our vision is focused on making Barnet an even better place to live for all families - whether a couple with dependent children, a single-parent family, a foster family, a blended family or any other kind of family. Our strategy to achieve this is to focus on developing families' resilience, which evidence tells us is pivotal to delivering the best outcomes for children and young people.

The term resilience is used to describe a situation when good outcomes occur for individuals or families in the face of risks or adversities that might otherwise be expected to produce a poor outcome. An approach based on resilience involves looking for strengths and opportunities that we can build on, rather than for issues or problems to treat.

Clearly there are strengths and opportunities in Barnet we can build on. There is a growing body of evidence which outlines ways that we can support parents and families to be more resilient and these will need to be incorporated into practice across the borough.

These include:

- parents' role in helping children to cope with adversity:

**“Parents, or alternative caregivers, play a pivotal role in promoting the knowledge, skills and environment that can help children cope with adversity.**

**Parents play a vital part in mediating individual and community factors, directly or indirectly. They can buffer children from some of the worst effects of adversity in the surrounding environment.**

**Warm, authoritative and responsive parenting is usually crucial in building resilience. Parents who develop open, participative communication, problem-centred coping, confidence and flexibility tend to manage stress well and help their families to do the same”**



- schools' central role in promoting resilience in relation to both poverty and family difficulties:

**“Schools can play a central role in promoting resilience in relation to both poverty and family difficulties. This can relate to factors such as academic stimulus, support by teachers, learning opportunities and access to friends and peers.”**

- community factors can also promote resilience

**“Community factors can also promote resilience. Children are likely to find it easier to access support outside the home when they live in cohesive neighbourhoods with formal facilities that encourage participation and achievement.”**

- voluntary and Community sector have a key role in building communities resilience

**“Voluntary sector organisations play an important part in building the social networks and ties (both strong and weak) that are required for a community to be resilient to change and cope with crises.”**

At the heart of promoting resilience is effective relationships, positive behaviour and social connectedness. Partners across the borough play an important role in helping to build this.

The diagram in Figure 2 shows the model of our strategy and at the centre is improving outcomes for children and families. The model also shows how we will focus on building strong, resilient families and communities, that care for themselves and are capable of coping with difficulties they may face, avoiding problems escalating and the need to access statutory interventions. However, statutory interventions are still there for those children who need them.

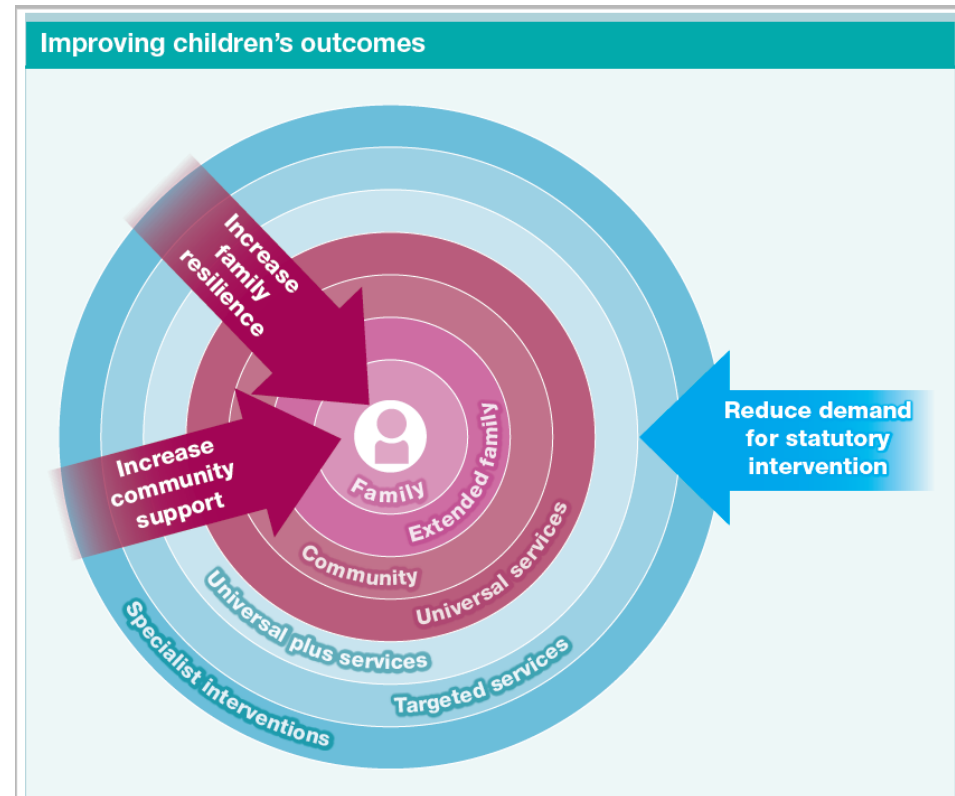


Figure 2: 'Family Friendly' Barnet Model

More work will be done to understand how 'Family Friendly' residents feel Barnet is, so that we can measure how far we need to go to achieve our vision.

## Our Evidence Base

The Plan's priorities are based on both quantitative analysis (data) that the council and its partners have collated, and on qualitative research (what people have told us). The quantitative analysis includes data from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), a detailed overview of the health and wellbeing needs and inequalities of the local population. The qualitative research which has informed the Plan was developed through workshops we held with children, young people, and families across the borough.

### Who did we ask?

We have explored the idea of 'Family Friendly' Barnet with children, young people, their parents and carers, as well as professionals involved in their care. This feedback has confirmed support for this aspiration.

This feedback process began with Barnet's first ever Youth Convention where around 200 young people - aged between 10 and 25 from schools, colleges and organisations across Barnet - gathered to help inform the Plan's priorities, as well as develop a new Charter for Children and Young People in Barnet (appendix 2).

Following this, we ran a series of small targeted workshops to find out how local residents think Barnet can become a more 'Family-Friendly' borough. We ran similar workshops with the voluntary and community sector, parents and carers, as well as colleagues from partnership organisations. As well as this, we held a full public consultation on the draft Plan between April and May 2016 giving everyone the opportunity to tell us what they thought.

All of this information, both the data we have about families in Barnet and what people have told us, has been analysed, and has informed the outcomes and objectives of this new Children and Young People's Plan for 2016 –2020.

### What did they tell us?

Emerging themes for making Barnet 'Family Friendly' included:

Making full use of resources in the borough, e.g. through:

- promoting services and activities provided by partners
- utilising spaces and buildings, including schools, to their full potential
- harnessing people power through encouraging volunteering.





Making some improvements to what's on offer in Barnet to help make the borough more 'Family Friendly':

- making information about what is going on in the borough more accessible
- improving the local parks
- developing the cycle infrastructure
- more activities for youths
- increasing provision of childcare places.

Where possible, making living in the borough affordable, especially in the following areas:

- housing
- child care
- leisure activities

Emerging themes from children and young people at the Youth Convention:

Making living in the borough more young people friendly, e.g. through:

- free or subsidised travel for young people
- more and affordable youth activities
- space for studying
- taking steps or measures to make young people feel safer on the streets.

Promoting active lifestyles and healthy living, e.g. through:

- raising awareness about healthy living

- improved health education for young people
- access to healthcare and support early, and at convenient times
- developing network of cycle lanes.

Support young people to prepare for adulthood, e.g. through:

- developing more opportunities to improve employability skills
- ensuring there are enough houses for young people/ families to live in.

## How are we addressing these in the Plan's objectives?

From the analysis undertaken, there continues to be a group of children, young people and families in the borough who are struggling to achieve good outcomes.

The shared outcomes set out below will refresh our collective determination across the borough to tackle the issues facing some of our children, young people and families, particularly those who are most vulnerable or who face significant challenges and, wherever possible, enable families to effectively meet those needs.

This section sets out the four key outcomes, as well as identifying a number of key objectives, to strengthen our 'Family Friendly' borough in line with the vision of this Plan.

We have set four key outcomes to drive our work over the next four years to improve the lives of Barnet's children, young people and families as we strive to achieve our vision of making Barnet the most 'Family Friendly' borough by 2020.

### Outcome 1: Families and children are kept safe

Partnership objectives include our plans to:

- work with families to build their resilience, providing information, advice and support
- ensure we deliver the best outcomes for children in need of social care, implementing our vision of resilience based practice in social work

- help children to live in safe and supportive families, increasing the number of foster care placements in Barnet
- review and ensure that there is effective sharing of information between agencies
- review the targeting of early intervention and prevention work to ensure that the focus is on building family resilience, and that clearer pathways are developed across the partnership
- explore the development of Early Intervention hubs which will focus on supporting family resilience
- seek to work with families to help prevent young people from getting involved in violence, crime and anti-social behaviour
- raise awareness of travel safety for children and young people using public transport
- increase awareness of, and responsiveness to, Child Sexual Exploitation in the borough
- increase awareness within our families and communities of, and responsiveness to, the key factors that put young people at risk of radicalisation, in response to the Prevent agenda.

### Outcome 2: Families and children achieve their best

Partnership objectives include our plans to:

- support children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning by ensuring sufficient high quality early years places, and working with partners to manage supply/demand
- promote free early education places to those that are eligible and increase take up of these places



- ensure resilience based parenting approach is implemented through programs like 'Incredible Years' and 'Triple P'  
ensure all schools in Barnet are good or outstanding, maximising the opportunity presented by the new partnership with Cambridge Education, who deliver the borough's education services
- work with partners to ensure there are sufficient high quality school places to meet demands
- improve attainment for all young people, closing the attainment gap – which is highlighted in Barnet's Education Strategy
- assess provision to children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and make sure this is meeting changing needs
- improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and support families to access care through the new 0-25 disability service
- support young people with the transition into adulthood, providing advice and support for young people on options available for further education and/or employment
- work with partners to develop more opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships
- work with partners to support Barnet's looked after children (LAC) to achieve their goals and aspirations – as outlined in the new Pledge for Children in Care and Care Leavers.
- promote work by Middlesex University to support access to education for migrant families
- focus on specific areas of the health of children and young people which have been identified as having poor outcomes in Barnet - including reducing incidence of dental cavities, reducing obesity, increasing rates of necessary immunisation for children and promoting sexual good health
- implement vision for resilience based health promotion
- ensure Looked after Children receive timely initial health assessments

### Outcome 3: Families and children are active and healthy

Partnership objectives include our plans to:



- support families to access healthcare services, promoting support offered in a variety of settings such centres for children
- promote young people's health through education and health settings and enable easy access to the school nursing service, advertising the School Health Matters website in schools and on the web
- make healthcare accessible for children and young people by ensuring families can access to good quality Primary Care outside of school hours
- encourage education settings to promote Healthy Living and encourage schools and early years settings to embed health and wellbeing measures, to achieve Healthy School/Centre status
- improve experiences and outcomes for the growing number of children, and young people with complex disabilities in Barnet, and their families
- ensure the new model for delivery of services to children and young people with disabilities and their families (0-25 service) fosters working together between agencies, and that children and young people using the services are supported to become more independent and achieve their goals
- consider the expansion of special school provision in Barnet
- consider whether there is a business case for a Child Development Centre in Barnet to more effectively work with families to intervene earlier for children with developmental delay
- raise awareness of mental health and promote mental well-being across Barnet – adopt a new approach to promoting mental well-being across Barnet in line with the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health
- review and re-commission Child and Adolescent Mental Health services
- help develop support networks for migrant families including Syrian refugees in Barnet, and ensure information is accessible



- encourage physical activity, providing quality spaces for children, young people and families to be active and safe, that are designed around their needs – as highlighted in Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
- provide play, leisure, culture and sporting opportunities
- work with partners to provide opportunities for children of all ages and abilities to get involved in a range of activities that are affordable
- ensure that the future development of open spaces is informed by needs and requirements of children, young people and families, and accessible to them. Ensure these groups are also actively involved in the design of open spaces
- develop, in partnership, a holistic youth offer, including through the new Youth Zone in Burnt Oak/Colindale area of Barnet
- seek to ensure the places where children, young people, and families live, promote active and healthy lifestyles – striving to increase housing supply, delivering homes that people can afford.

#### Outcome 4: Families and children have their say and are active citizens

Partnership objectives include out plans to:

- recognise and promote the rights of children as embedded in UK law through implementing the new Charter for Children and Young People which sets out commitments to involving and engaging with children and young people
- increase the numbers of disadvantaged children and young people participating through youth voice forums
- promote opportunities for young people to be involved in volunteering, with education settings actively encouraging volunteering

- ensure children, young people and families have opportunities to have their say on how we are doing through residents' perception surveys
- ensure children, young people and families have opportunities to be involved in decision making that will affect them, including the design of new housing developments, and parks and open spaces
- work with UNICEF to promote the voice of children and young people in decision making, increasing the number of opportunities for children, young people and families to participate and have their say and embed the rights of the child through championing the voice of those children who are hard to reach.

#### How will we work together to achieve our vision?

The CYPP sets out our ambition to make Barnet the most 'Family Friendly' borough in London by 2020. Our partners bring the plan to life, translating the Plan into improved outcomes for our children and young people, their families and their communities.

Across Barnet there are a whole range of services, agencies and settings responsible for supporting children and young people.

These come together in a diverse range of formal and informal partnerships, including through the:

- Safeguarding Children's Board
- Health and Wellbeing Board.

#### How we will know how well we have done?

The difference the Plan is making will be monitored by:



- a detailed Action Plan with clear and measurable indicators for each priority
- Children and young people through the Young Commissioners, a group of young people who are actively involved in the commissioning cycle
- partners agencies through the Children's Partnership Board
- asking residents how well they think we are doing through the Residents Perception Survey.

### Further information and advice for parents, carers, children and young people

If you would like advice on accessing any of the services that relate to the Outcomes and Objectives detailed in this Plan please contact Rebecca Johnson by emailing [rebecca.johnson@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.johnson@barnet.gov.uk) or call 020 8359 3523

Barnet's Family Information Service (FYi) provides information, advice and guidance for families who have children or young people up to the age of 20. FYi also provides this service to professionals who work with children, young people and families.

More information can be found here: <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/children-young-people-and-families/fyi-families-and-young-peoples-information-service.html>

## Glossary

### Who are Barnet's most vulnerable Children and Young People?

- Children in Need (CIN) – Barnet has a relatively low rate of CIN but there are around 346 CIN per 10,000 children
- Children subject to a child protection plan (CP) – again Barnet has a relatively low rate of CP but there are around 42 children who are subject to a protection plan per 10,000 children
- Children In care (CIC) – once more Barnet has a relatively low rate of CIC, with around 60 children in care per 10,000 children
- young carers – the 2011 Census revealed that there are 2,911 children and young people aged 0 – 24 providing unpaid care in Barnet. Using estimates that there could be up to four times more young carers this would mean there are over 11,600 young carers (aged 0 – 24) in Barnet, one in ten of the 0 – 24 population.
- other key groups of children and young people who are amongst the most vulnerable include:
  - those with disabilities or learning disabilities,
  - care leavers,
  - children with mental health issues,
  - missing children,
  - children at risk of CSE,
  - Children on the edge of gang activity,
  - young offenders,
  - those at risk of radicalisation,
  - unaccompanied asylum seekers.



## Appendix 1: Review of child poverty

It is estimated that third of all children in the UK live in poverty. According to the 2010 Child Poverty Act, a child is defined as being in poverty when he/she lives in a household with an income below 60% of the UK's average. Child poverty touches all areas of a child's life, from the home they live in to their health, educational attainment, involvement in crime and social exclusion and is the most significant general indicator of risk.

Effective understanding of child poverty needs to consider both the child poverty, as well as the underlying drivers which lead to child poverty. Action must also seek to realise this and include action which works to directly lift children out of poverty by giving their families the resources they need, as well as action which builds families and children's resilience to deal with poverty as best as possible, and to improve their future outcomes.

Whilst in the past poverty has been seen as material poverty, a more developed understanding looks beyond economic factors to look at a variety of social factors too. Earlier this year, the government announced a new Life Chances Strategy, which is due to be published later this year.

The new Life Chances Strategy shifts focus away from material poverty, instead looking at how we can address the lack of opportunity which is causing some children and families to remain behind. The strategy promotes a life cycle approach, focusing on four key social insights to boost life chances, these are:

- backing stable families
- improving education
- ensuring opportunities are genuinely more equal

- providing high quality treatment for people with mental health issues and addiction

In line with the Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2020 the Child Poverty Action Plan takes a resilience based approach to improving life chances, focusing on helping people to make the most of opportunities on offer and help themselves.

### Child poverty in Barnet

- 21.2% of children living in Barnet live in poverty; a total of 17,330 children
- Barnet has a lower level of child poverty than the London average (36%), but a slightly higher rate than the England average (20.6%). There are geographic variations across Barnet, ranging from just 7.7% in Garden Suburb to 37.5% in Colindale.
- In general there is a propensity for a greater number of areas in the west of the Borough to be affected by child poverty and the factors that directly and indirectly influence it.
- The following groups are likely to be more at risk of poverty than others: lone parents, large families, families affected by disability, and black and minority ethnic groups.

### Partnership working

All services across the borough share a commitment to improving outcomes for children, young people and families in poverty. With reduced budgets, there is a need for partners to focus resources on addressing the drivers of child poverty, building resilience to improve future outcomes.

To address child poverty and its contributing factors, there is no single response that will succeed on its own. Services





need to work together on a whole family basis in order to improve outcomes and wellbeing for children living in poverty. Evidence suggests that single agency responses are unlikely to affect the change a child and family requires to escape deep-rooted poverty.

## Child Poverty Action Plan

Research recognises that poverty is complex with a number of crucial areas of focus emerging. Tackling child poverty needs to recognise this and requires action targeted at both the child themselves, and at their wider environment, including their family, and the community in which the child lives.

The Child Poverty Action Plan sets out partners' key priorities and actions to tackle child poverty in Barnet, and build families and children's resilience to ensure better outcomes. The action plan focuses on four key priorities and a series of actions to achieve these.

### Priority 1: Strengthening families and early years

- Support families who are able to, to take up work, promoting employment support programs and schemes such as employment coaching
- Expand our childcare offer to families through
- increase to 30 hours of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds so that parents/carers can work
- Expand our free childcare offer to 2 year olds for families on low incomes so that parents/ carers can work
- Promote parenting classes in the borough to ensure families feel confident able to support the development of their children
- Expand the number of Health Visitors to support new parents
- Help families develop strong support networks in their communities

- Make sure that children in the council's care are looked after in stable families
- Continue to target specialist multi-agency support through our Families First initiative to Barnet's most vulnerable families
- Implement our vision of resilience based practice in social work
- Implement welfare reforms, providing information and advice to the most vulnerable families to make sure they are getting the benefits they need

### Priority 2: Developing resilience and improving education

- Ensure children have access to high quality education at good or outstanding schools
- Focus on closing the attainment gap at schools
- Promote opportunities for young people to help others through volunteering schemes
- Develop programs to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment and support (NEETs)
- Link education funding more closely to need through pupil premium

### Priority 3: Developing equal opportunities

- Roll out and promote programmes for work experience, apprenticeships, training, volunteering, and paid employment
- Encourage children and young people to take part in mentoring schemes
- Make culture and the arts more accessible for all children, through development of a new culture strategy
- Make sure regeneration projects promote community cohesion



- Improve access to advice and support for people in poverty by co-locating and better coordinating services – for example benefits and housing advice services, Jobcentre Plus and careers services currently provided by Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team (BOOST).

#### Priority 4: Targeting support

- Ensure there is the right treatment and support available for those in crisis
- Review mental health support available for children and young people – intervening early to stop issues from escalating.

## Appendix 2: Barnet Youth Charter

Hearing the voices and views of children and young people is at the centre of our 'Family Friendly' Barnet approach.

When setting out our vision to ensure that Barnet is truly 'Family Friendly' we knew that we would need to listen to the ideas of hundreds of children and young people of all different ages and backgrounds.

They told us what their priorities were and what we would need to do, through our partnership arrangements, in order to make sure that Barnet is the best borough in London for families to be, and for children and young people to thrive. This information was then blended with our desire to passionately promote a children's rights approach through our partnership working.

### Within a 'Family Friendly' Barnet...

#### Education, training and employment

The right to have the best education will be available for every child and young person. Our places of learning will identify and address barriers that prevent progress and the enjoyment of learning.

Children and young people will have the opportunity to learn about the values of democracy, the rule of law, mutual respect, tolerance and liberty in order to promote community togetherness and develop aspirations.

#### Health

The physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people will be supported by information which is presented in a way that is accessible and easy to understand and where appropriate providing access to good quality care and support.

There will be plentiful opportunity for children and young people to stay healthy and to participate in recreational and leisure activities during term time and school holidays in order to make new friends and to bring families together.

#### Recreation and leisure

There will be plenty of high quality parks and open spaces for children and young people to come together, play and make friends within a safe environment.

We will seek to deliver cultural events that showcase and celebrate the talent of children and young people within the borough in order to encourage community cohesion and resilience.



## Listening to children

Every child and young person in Barnet will have the opportunity to have his or her voice heard, feel empowered and be involved with important decision making.

## Safer communities

Children and young people can feel safe and protected from harm within our communities. Education and raising awareness of risks will be at the forefront of our approach to supporting families to support one another and to stay free from harm.

## Housing

Children and young people will be afforded a good standard of living within housing that is safe and where it is possible affordable.

## Equality and diversity

Children and young people's race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality or disability will not be a barrier to accessing services.

We will celebrate religion and children and young people's freedom of faith, so long as they do not affect the freedom of others.

## Transport and planning

Children and young people can make safer and easier journeys across the borough in order to explore what our borough has to offer.

Children and young peoples' views will be considered within re-generation projects to ensure that transport infrastructure is child and family friendly.

## Appendix 3: Partner Organisations

The following organisations were involved in drafting the content of the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2016 – 2020:

- Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group
- Barnet Council;
  - Commissioning,
  - Education and Skills,
  - Family Services,
  - Public Health,
  - Street Scene,
  - Youth Assembly and Members of Youth Parliament
- Barnet Youth Convention
- Children's Centres (Canada Villa, Wingfield, Newstead)
- Citizens Panel
- CommUNITY Barnet
- Foster Carers Network
- Metropolitan Police
- Underhill School and Grasvenor Avenue Infant School
- Voluntary and Community Organisations

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For more information:  
tel: 020 8359 3523 email: [rebecca.johnson@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.johnson@barnet.gov.uk)  
or visit [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk)



## Appendix B

# Barnet Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2020

## Consultation Report

# Consultation Detailed Findings - Respondents

## Executive summary

The drafting of a new Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2020 has been subject to a formal public consultation. This report sets out the full findings from the consultation. The findings will be considered by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on 14 June 2016, where the final decision on adoption of the Children and Young People's Plan 2016 -2020 will be taken.

In total 40 people responded to the online consultation which ran between 14 April and 26 May 2016. Overall responses were very positive to the Plan's vision, key outcomes, objectives as well as the Child Poverty Review and Youth Charter.

Key findings included:

- Over 37 out of 40 respondents agreed with the Plan's vision
- Over ¾ of respondents agreed with the four key outcomes
- The large majority of respondents agreed with the objectives under each of the four outcomes
- Over ¾ of respondents agreed with the priorities set out in the Child Poverty Action Plan, with almost all respondents agreeing with the key actions
- 20 out of 23 respondents agreed with the Youth Charter, with no respondents disagreeing.
- Of those respondents who identified themselves, 74% were Barnet residents, and 88% were parents.
- 71% of those who identified themselves in the survey were female, and the majority were white.

With a low response rate to questions in the 'About you' section it is difficult to compare the profile of respondents to that of the borough as a whole.

## Technical details and method

In summary, the consultation was administered as follows:

- The Consultation was open for six weeks, from between 14 April 2016 and 26 May 2016
- The consultation was published on Engage Barnet <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk> together with a consultation document which provided detailed background information.
- Respondent's views were gathered via an online survey. Paper copies and an easy read version of the consultation were also made available on request.
- The consultation was widely promoted via the council and partner's websites; and posters in libraries, children's centres and youth centres.
- Key stakeholders were contacted directly, i.e. schools, voluntary and community sector, and invited to take part in the consultation.

## Questionnaire design

The questionnaire was developed to ascertain residents' and other stakeholder's views on the draft Plan. In particular the consultation invited views on the following:



- if the Plan has set the right vision
- if the key outcomes and objectives within the Plan are supported and if any have been missed
- if the priorities and action in the Child Poverty Strategy and Youth Charter are supported and if any have been missed.

In order to enable further understanding and in-depth analysis the questionnaire also included:

- Open ended questions, where respondents were invited to write in any comments on the reason behind some of their answers, if they believed the Plans objectives were correct, or if any were missing, as well as more general comments
- Key demographic questions to help understand the views of different demographic groups.

Throughout the questionnaire, and where applicable, hyperlinks were provided to the relevant sections of the consultation document and Plan.

## Response to the consultation

A total of 40 questionnaires and responses have been completed online.

## General public and stakeholder response and profile from questionnaire

Of the 40 public questionnaire responses that were received all responses were through online questionnaire, no paper questionnaires were returned. Figure 1 below shows the profile of those who responded.

Responses to the 'About me' section were optional and the majority of respondents did not answer this questions. Due to low response rate it is difficult to compare the respondent profile to the profile of the borough.

**Figure 1: General Public Sample Profile (Below)**

Stakeholder	Number	%
Resident	17	42.5
Business	0	0
Resident and business based in Barnet	0	0
Public sector organisation and representatives	0	0
Voluntary/community organisation	4	10
Early years or education setting representative	1	2.5
Other	1	2.5
Not answered	17	42.5

<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>
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17 respondents chose not to answer this question which identified the type of stakeholder they were responding as. Of those who responded, most were residents of Barnet - 17 out of the 23.

The chart below shows the demographic profile of those who responded to consultation questionnaire in terms of key demographics. Only 17 out of 40 respondents answered this question. In terms of age most respondents who answered the question were in their mid-40s to mid-50s, with 8 of the 17 respondents. Out of the 17 respondents who answered the question, none identified themselves as under 25 or over 75.

12 out of the 17 who responded were women, and 12 identified themselves as being pregnant. Out of 14 who responded 7 white, 2 white Irish. Out of 14 that responded 1 identified themselves as disabled.

Characteristic		Number
<b>Disability</b>	Yes	1
	No	13
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Other	2
	Black	0
	Asian	1
	White	9
<b>Age</b>	65+	1
	55-64	3
	45-54	8
	35-44	4
	25-34	1
	18-24	0
	under 18	0
<b>Gender</b>	Male	5
	Female	12

**Figure 2: General public consultation sample profile – key demographics (above)**

### Protected Characteristics

The council is required by law, Equality Act 2010, to pay due regard to equalities in eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people from different groups.

The protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

To assist us in complying with the duty under the Equality Act 2010 we asked the general public consultation respondents to provide equalities monitoring data and explained that collecting this information will help us understand the needs of our different communities and that all the personal information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be stored securely in accordance with our responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998.

**Figure 3: Protected characteristic sample profile**

Protected Characteristic - Faith	Number
Agnostic	3
Atheist	0
Baha'i	0
Buddhist	0
Christian	2
Hindu	0
Humanist	0
Jain	0
Jewish	4
Muslim	1
Sikh	0
No religion	0
prefer not to say	2
Other Faith	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

### Interpretation of the results

In terms of the results of the questionnaire it is important to note that:

- The general public consultation is not representative of the overall population of Barnet but provides information, in particular on the opinion of those residents who are more engaged with the council.
- It should be treated with caution as a guide to overall opinion, however because the response profile does not match the Barnet population.

- The responses although not representative of the borough's population, do provide an important indication of where there may be particular strength of feeling in relation to children and young people.
- Where percentages do not add up to 100, this may be due to rounding, or the question is multi coded.
- All open-ended responses to the public consultation have been classified based on the main themes arising from the comment, so that they can be summarised.

### **Calculating and reporting on results**

The results for each question are based on "valid responses", i.e. all those providing an answer (this may or may not be the same as the total sample) unless otherwise specified. The base size may therefore vary from question to question.

## Consultation Detailed Findings - Results

Barnet's Children and Young People Plan 2016-2020 (CYPP) is a four year partnership plan which sets out local priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people in the borough. The plan has been developed and will be owned by key partners including:

- the council
- Barnet CCG
- Barnet Borough Police
- schools
- the voluntary sector

Barnet has large and growing population of children, young people, and families with numbers predicted to reach 98,914 by 2020. Data about the boroughs population has informed the plan with key objectives reflecting the boroughs changing demographics.

The new plan was drafted based on a wide variety of quantitative data and information including:

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Profile of Children and Young People in Barnet

The Plan was also informed by qualitative data, from stakeholder engagement sessions with; children and young people, parents and carers, health, police, voluntary sector, schools and council officers.

### Feedback from initial stakeholder engagement

In developing the Children and Young People Plan the council has consulted widely with partners, children and young people across the borough, as well as parents and carers to inform and to develop the draft Plan.

Engagement to identify priorities was launched at Barnet Youth Convention held in November 2015 where 200 young people from across the borough were asked to identify their key priorities over the next 5 years. Priorities identified included:

- Making living in the borough more young people friendly, e.g. through:
  - free or subsidised travel for young people,
  - more and affordable youth activities,
  - space for studying, and
  - taking steps or measures to make young people feel safer on the streets.
- Promoting active lifestyles and healthy living, e.g. through:
  - raising awareness about healthy living,
  - improved health education for young people,
  - access to healthcare and support early, and at convenient times, and
  - developing network of cycle lanes.
- Support young people to prepare for adulthood, e.g. through:
  - developing more opportunities to improve employability skills, and
  - ensuring there are enough houses for young people/ families to live in

Workshops were also held with other key partners including: parents, and carers (workshops were held at Children's Centres, with Foster Parents and with Citizen Panel members), the voluntary and community sector, public health and Barnet CCG, police, schools and council officers.

Workshops explored the concept of Family Friendly Barnet and identified key priorities for Barnet to become a more Family Friendly borough. Priorities identified at these workshops included:

- Making full use of resources in the borough, e.g. through:
  - promoting services and activities provided by partners
  - utilising spaces and buildings, including schools, to their full potential
  - harnessing people power through encouraging volunteering.
- Making some improvements to what's on offer in Barnet to help make the borough more 'Family Friendly':
  - making information about what is going on in the borough more accessible
  - improving the local parks
  - developing the cycle infrastructure
  - more activities for youths
  - increasing provision of childcare places.
- Where possible, making living in the borough affordable, especially in the following areas:
  - housing
  - child care
  - leisure activities

All of these engagement activities informed the draft Children and Young People Plan which was approved for consultation by CELS committee on 23 March 2016.

## Consultation Response - Public Consultation

The consultation outlined the purpose of the new Children and Young People Plan 2016-2020 as well as how it was informed and developed by partners across the borough.

The consultation focused questions in four key areas:

- The vision set out on the Plan
- The key outcomes and objectives in the Plan
- The Child Poverty Strategy
- The Youth Charter

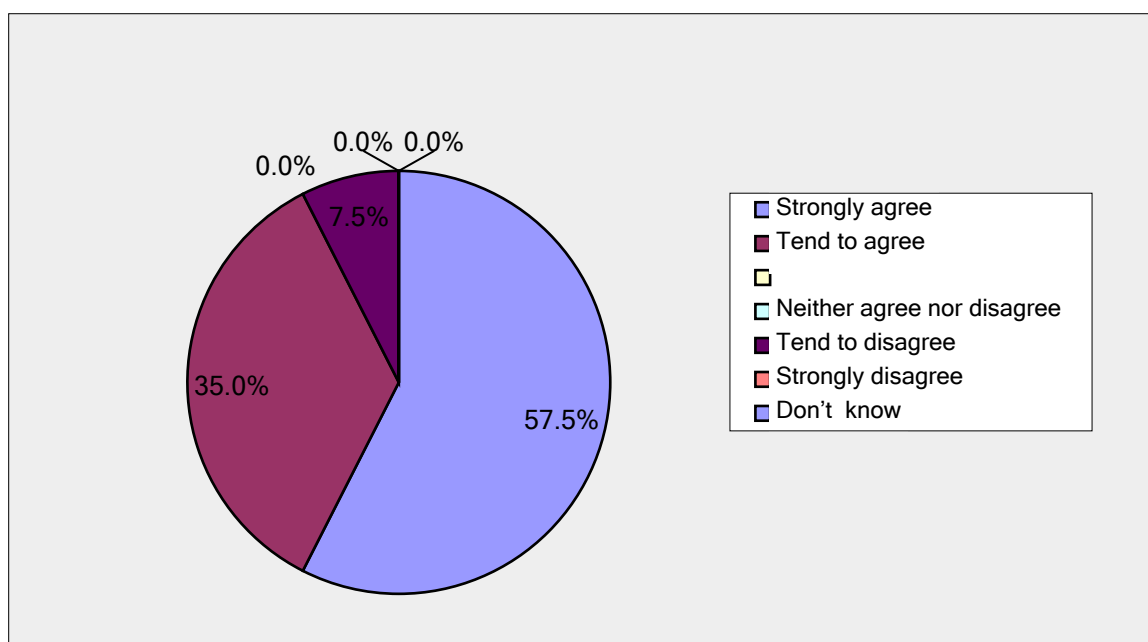
## Views on the vision of our Plan

The Plan sets out a proposed vision for partners' across the borough which focuses on making Barnet an even better place for families to live. The vision for partners across the borough is that:

*We want Barnet to be the most Family Friendly borough in London by 2020. Children, Young People and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to.*

Respondents were asked if they agree with the proposed vision. 37 out of 40 respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed vision, with 3 respondents disagreeing.

**Figure 4: To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for children and young people in Barnet?**



Respondents who disagreed with the vision were asked to comment, 3 out of 37 commented with comments on the following topics:

- Listening to all residents
- Focus on children with disabilities/ special educational needs

### Views on the key outcomes of our Plan

The outcomes and objectives in the plan focus on how partners can enable families to be resilient and strengthen communities. The Plan sets out four key outcomes for a borough to make it more Family Friendly where children and families are able to:

- keep themselves safe
- achieve their best
- be active and healthy
- have their say

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the proposed outcomes of the Plan, of the 34 respondents over three quarters either agreed or strongly agreed with the outcomes. A small number of respondents either disagreed or neither agreed/ disagreed with the outcomes. Results are shown in Table 1.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the outcomes that have been identified? (Please tick one option on each line)

Answer Options	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ Don't know	Response Count
Children and families are able to keep themselves safe	19	7	2	4	2	0	34
Children and families are able to achieve their best	22	10	2	0	0	0	34
Children and families are able to be active and healthy	20	8	3	3	0	0	34
Children and families are able to have their say	24	5	2	2	1	0	34

**Table 1**

Respondents who disagreed with the vision were asked to comment, 9 out of 34 commented with comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
Need for detail on how outcomes will be achieved	3
Meaning of keeping themselves safe	2
Training for professionals	1
Secondary school provision for children with SEN	1
More services/ activities for children in Burnt Oak	1
Promoting cycling and road safety	1

Respondents were also asked if they thought any outcomes had been missed with 8 of 32 commenting. Comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
Ambition for joined up services/ working together	2
Clearly extend to all families	1
Need for more detail	1
Focus on disabled children	1
Training and support for professionals	1
Children / families signposted to services	1
Impact of budget reductions	1

### Views on the objectives of our Plan

Under these outcomes are a series of objectives, the plan describes how partners will work together to achieve these. Respondents were asked firstly if they agreed with the proposed objectives, as well as if they thought any objectives had been missed.

#### Children and families are kept safe

The consultation outlined what partners across the borough will be doing to ensure children and families are kept safe, with respondents asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the objectives under this outcome. Out of the 28 respondents who responded to this



question, the vast majority either agreed or strongly agreed with the objectives. A small number of respondents either disagreed or neither agreed/ disagreed with the outcomes as shown in Table 2.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the objectives that have been identified under the 'Families and Children are kept safe' outcome? (Please tick one option on each line)							
Answer Options	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ Don't know	Response Count
Work with families to build their resilience, providing information, advice and support	17	8	2	0	1	0	28
Ensure we deliver the best outcomes for children in need of social care	23	4	0	1	0	0	28
Help children to live in safe and supportive families	22	4	1	1	0	0	28
Review and ensure that there is effective sharing of information between agencies	20	7	0	1	0	0	28
Review the targeting of early intervention and prevention work to ensure that the focus is on building family resilience	18	9	0	1	0	0	28
Explore the development of Early Intervention hubs which focus on supporting family resilience	19	6	1	2	0	0	28
Seek to work with families to ensure they help prevent young people from getting involved in violence, crime and anti-social behaviour	20	7	0	1	0	0	28
Work to increase awareness of, and responsiveness to, Child Sexual Exploitation in the borough	23	3	1	1	0	0	28
Work to increase awareness within our families and communities of, and responsiveness to the key factors that at young people at risk of radicalisation in the borough	20	5	3	0	0	0	28

**Table 2**

Respondents who disagreed with any objective were asked to outline why, 8 out of 28 responded to this question with comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
Actions to underpin objectives	1
Keeping own families safe	1
Social workers case load	1
Parenting support	2
Why focus on sexual exploitation/ radicalisation	1
More information	2

Respondents were also asked if they thought any objectives had been missed with 7 of 28 commenting. Comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
Work to support children with additional needs	1
Role of parents / carers	2
Transition to adult services	1
Actions to underpin objectives	1
Safeguarding training for professionals	2

### Children and families achieve their best

The consultation outlined what partners across the borough will be doing to ensure children and families achieve their best, with respondents asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the objectives under this outcome, 28 respondents answered this question, with the large majority of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the objectives set out. Results are shown in Table 3.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the objectives that have been identified under the 'Families and Children achieve their best' outcome? (Please tick one option on each line)							
Answer Options	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ Don't know	Response Count
Support children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning - ensure there are sufficient, high quality, Early Years places	21	6	1	0	0	0	28
Promote free early education places to those that are eligible and increase take up	19	7	0	2	0	0	28
Ensure all schools in Barnet are good or outstanding	21	6	1	0	0	0	28
Work with partners to ensure there are	22	4	2	0	0	0	28

sufficient, high quality, school places to meet demands							
Improve attainment for all young people, closing the attainment gap	21	3	4	0	0	0	28
Assess provision for children with Special Educational Needs or disabilities (SEND) and make sure this meets changing needs	25	2	1	0	0	0	28
Improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND and support families to access care through the new 0-25 disability service	23	3	1	0	1	0	28
Support young people with transition into adulthood - provide advice and support for young people on options available for further education and/ or employment	23	4	0	1	0	0	28
Work with partners to develop more opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships	24	3	1	0	0	0	28
Work with partners to support Barnet's looked after children (LAC) to achieve their goals and aspirations	24	3	1	0	0	0	28

**Table 3**

Respondents who disagreed with any objective were asked to outline why, 6 out of 28 responded to this question with comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
0-25 service - effectiveness	1
Actions to ensure objectives achieved	3
Pressure on Early Years services	1
Support for young carers	1

Respondents were also asked if they thought any objectives had been missed with 6 of 28 commenting. Comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
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Training for children, young people and families	1
Support at various key transition points	1
Racism/ anti-Semitism	1
Increasing children's centre opening hours	1
Support/ training for PVI early years settings	1
Young carers	1

### Children and families are active and healthy

The consultation outlined what partners across the borough will be doing to ensure children and families are active and healthy, with respondents asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the objectives under this outcome. 27 respondents answered this question, with the large majority of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the objectives set out. Results are shown in Table 4.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the objectives that have been identified under the 'Children and Families are active and healthy' outcome? (Please tick one option on each line)							
Answer Options	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ Don't know	Response Count
Focus on specific areas of the health of children and young people that have been identified as having poor outcomes in Barnet	15	9	3	0	0	0	27
Support families to access healthcare services, promoting support offered in a variety of settings such centres for children	18	7	0	2	0	0	27
Promote health in young people through education and health settings and enable easy access to the school nursing service	20	6	0	0	1	0	27
Make healthcare accessible for children and young people by ensuring families can access to good quality Primary Care outside of school hours	21	4	0	0	1	0	26
Encourage education settings to promote Healthy Living and encourage schools and Early Years	19	5	2	1	0	0	27

settings to embed health and well-being measures, and achieve Healthy School/ Centre status							
Improve experiences and outcomes for Barnet's children, young people and their families with complex disabilities	23	3	1	0	0	0	27
Ensure the new 0-25 disability service fosters working together between agencies, and that children and young people using the services are supported to become more independent and achieve their goals	23	1	3	0	0	0	27
Consider the expansion of special school provision in Barnet	22	4	1	0	0	0	27
Consider whether there is a business case for a Child Development Centre in Barnet to more effectively work with families to intervene earlier for children with developmental delay	18	7	2	0	0	0	27
Raise awareness of mental health and promote mental well-being across Barnet - adopt a new approach to promoting mental well-being across Barnet	21	5	0	1	0	0	27
Review and re-commission Child and Adolescent Mental Health services	19	4	3	0	0	1	27
Encourage physical activity, providing quality spaces for children, young people and families to be active and safe that are designed around their needs	22	4	1	0	0	0	27
Provide play, leisure, culture and sporting	22	4	1	0	0	0	27

opportunities. Work with partners to provide opportunities for children of all ages and abilities to get involved in a range of activities that are affordable.	20	5	1	1	0	0	27
Ensure future development of open spaces is informed by needs and requirements of children, young people and families, and accessible to them. Ensure these groups are also actively involved in the design of open spaces.	21	4	1	0	0	0	26
Develop in partnership a holistic youth offer, including through the new Youth Zone in Burnt Oak/Colindale area of Barnet	14	9	3	1	0	0	27
Seek to ensure the places where children, young people, and families live promote active and healthy lifestyles - striving to increase housing supply, delivering homes that people can afford	21	4	1	1	0	0	27

**Table 4**

Again, the large majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the objectives. Respondents who disagreed with any objective were asked to outline why, 6 out of 27 responded to this question with comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
Housing need	1
Role if children's centre / supporting to deliver	2
Reliance on Youth Zone	1
Access to primary care outside work hours	1
Capacity of school nurses	1

Respondents were also asked if they thought any objectives had been missed with 2 of 27 commenting. Comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to
----------------	---------------------------

	theme.
Develop role of children's centres	1
Supporting families to look after mental health and wellbeing	1

### Children and families have their say

The consultation outlined what partners across the borough will be doing to ensure children and families have their say, with respondents asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the objectives under this outcome. Of the 26 who answered, the large majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the objectives.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the objectives that have been identified under the 'Families and Children have their say and are active citizens' outcome? (Please tick one option on each line)**

Answer Options	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ Don't know	Response Count
Recognise and promote the rights of children as embedded in UK law through implementing the new Charter for Children and Young People.	21	3	2	0	0	0	26
Increase the numbers of disadvantaged children and young people participating through the borough's Youth Voice forums.	18	7	1	0	0	0	26
Promote opportunities for young people to be involved in volunteering with education settings actively encouraging volunteering.	20	5	0	1	0	0	26
Ensure children, young people and families have opportunities to have their say on how we are doing through resident perception surveys.	19	7	0	0	0	0	26
Ensure children, young people and families have opportunities to be involved in decision making that will affect them, including the design of new housing developments and parks and open spaces.	20	4	0	1	0	0	25
Work with UNICEF to promote the voice of children and young people in decision making, increasing the number of opportunities	20	4	1	1	0	0	26

for children, young people and families to participate and have their say.

**Table 5**

Respondents who disagreed with any objective were asked to outline why, 2 out of 26 responded to this question with comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
No need for a new document	1
Schools role in preparing young people for work	1

Respondents were also asked if they thought any objectives had been missed with 12 of 28 commenting. Comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
Volunteering opportunities for young people and families	1
Poor communication	1

### Views on the Child Poverty Strategy

The consultation outlined three key priorities for partners across the borough to address child poverty, with a number of actions linked to each of these.

The three priorities are:

- targeted intervention
- getting families back to work
- closing the education gap.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagree with the top level priorities the Child Poverty Strategy, out of 26 respondents, almost all agreed or strongly agreed with the priorities.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the top level priorities the Child Poverty Strategy focuses on? (Please tick one option on each line)**

Answer Options	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ Don't know	Response Count
Closing education gap	21	4	1	0	0	0	26
Getting families back to work	19	4	2	0	0	1	26
Targeted intervention	15	8	2	0	0	1	26

**Table 6**



Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the actions identified under these priorities, 26 responded with overwhelming majority agreeing or strongly agreeing with the actions identified.

Respondents who disagreed with any priorities were asked to outline why, 3 out of 26 responded to this question with comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
Children of parents with no recourse to public funds not eligible for free-school meals	1
Develop universal services	1
Drive to get parents back to work	1

Respondents were also asked if they thought any objectives had been missed with 1 of 26 commenting. Comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
Affordability	1

**Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the actions that have been identified? (Please tick one option on each line)**

Answer Options	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ Don't know	Response Count
Closing education gap: Continue to monitor and review attainment and achievement data for a school	16	8	2	0	0	0	26
Closing education gap: Ensure schools claiming Pupil Premium - additional funding given to schools so that they can support disadvantaged pupils and close the attainment gap between them and their peers	20	6	0	0	0	0	26
Getting families back to work: Support families to find work experience, training, volunteering and paid employment	18	7	0	0	0	1	26
Getting families back to work: Promote adult education	19	6	1	0	0	0	26
Targeted intervention:	19	5	2	0	0	0	26

Review impact of Welfare reform on most vulnerable families Targeted intervention: Target support through multi-agency working in localities as the Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team (BOOST) are already successfully doing in the West of the borough	16	6	2	1	0	1	26
Targeted intervention: Provide decent homes for Barnet families	15	7	2	0	0	0	24

**Table 7**

Respondents were asked if they disagreed with any of these actions, 3 out of the 37 who answered this question disagreed with priorities with comments on the following topics:

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
ESOL support	1
Roll out of Opportunity and Support Teams across borough	2

Respondents were also asked if they thought any actions had been missed with 4 of 23 commenting. Comments on the following topics:

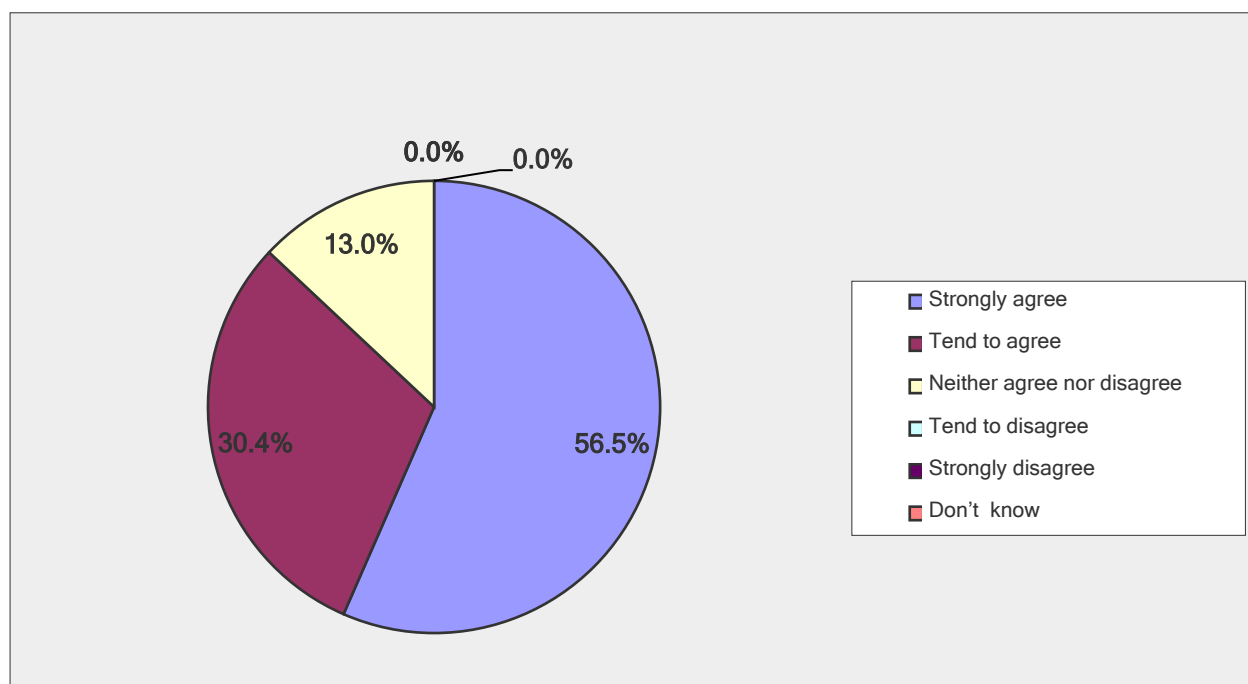
Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
Support for migrant families / refugees	1
Recognition of children with additional needs	1
Affordability of housing	1
Increased budget for healthcare	1

### Views on the Youth Charter

Respondents were positive about the Youth Charter with 20 out of the 23 respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the articles set out and none disagreeing. There were no comments on the Charter.

There were no comments of the Charter.

**Figure 5: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the articles set out in the Youth Charter?**



**Overall comments on the Children and Young People’s Plan**

Respondents were asked to provide any further comment on the Children and Young People’s Plan, 10 out of 40 respondents provided overall comment on the Plan. The themes of these comments are summarised in Figure 6 below.

Response theme	No. responses relating to theme.
Voice of the Child and Parent	1
Actions that underpin Plan	3
Activities for children with SEN	1
Resourcing	2
Young carers	1
Training for staff in education settings	2

**Figure 6: Response by theme**

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	<p><b>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</b></p> <p><b>14 June 2016</b></p>
<p><b>Title</b></p>	<p>The future provision of specialist places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2015/16 to 2019/20</p>
<p><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Commissioning Director, Children and Young People</p>
<p><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Key</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix A: Consultation responses on the future provision of specialist places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</p>
<p><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Chris Munday, Commissioning Director, Children and Young People <a href="mailto:chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk">chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 0208 359 7099</p> <p>Ian Harrison, Education and Skills Director, Barnet with Cambridge Education, <a href="mailto:ian.j.harrison@barnet.gov.uk">ian.j.harrison@barnet.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 0208 359 7943</p> <p>David Monger, SEN Consultant <a href="mailto:david.monger@barnet.gov.uk">david.monger@barnet.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 020 8359 2754</p>

<p><b>Summary</b></p>
<p>This report sets out the results of consultation on the future provision of new specialist education places to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Informed by this consultation, the report recommends that additional places are provided through the development of a new special school in Barnet. It advises the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee of a Free School application submitted to the Department for Education to establish a new special school.</p>

## **Recommendations**

- 1. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee note the results of the consultation and approve the need for a new all-through special school for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) to meet current and future demand.**
- 2. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee note that a Free School application to establish a new all-age special school in Barnet has been submitted to the Department for Education by Oak Lodge Special School and agree that such a school would meet the need identified in recommendation 1.**
- 3. That the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People be authorised to pursue the development of a school to meet the need set out in recommendation 1 and to report back to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on any capital requirements if such a school cannot be funded via a free school application.**

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

- 1.1. Section 27 of the Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to keep under review their special educational provision and social care provision, consulting a range of partners, as well as parents, children and young people.
- 1.2. At its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee considered a report which set out the estimated future requirement for specialist places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) through to 2019/20. The report noted some developments already planned and concluded that there remained a minimum further requirement of 3 primary and 8 secondary classes (a total of 72 places) to be provided. The report set out three options to meet this demand:
  - Option A: a new all-age Special School for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
  - Option B: a new Special School Sixth Form Centre and new Primary Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP)
  - Option C: new primary and secondary ARP Provisions

The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee approved a process of consultation on these three options which has now concluded.

### **Responses to the consultation**

- 1.3. Paragraph 5.6 below sets out the method of consultation which included an on-line survey, supported by a consultation document that was widely disseminated and presented at various fora. People were encouraged to

provide their feedback through the on-line survey. In total, 66 responses to the consultation were received through the portal. Of those who identified their role, the majority were parents. A summary of the consultation responses is contained in Appendix A. Overall, respondents felt that the options put forward by the council reflected the issues facing the borough. There was a clear preference for the identified need for more provision to be met through a new ASD special school, with 65% supporting this option. 12% favoured a new Special Sixth Form Centre and 21% additional ARPs.

1.4 Respondents were given the opportunity to provide the reasons for their response. Among those that expressed a preference for a new ASD special school, key reasons included;

- Support for a single all-through provision from primary through to secondary specialist, children would not need to change provision
- Specialist provision for ASD pupils, enabling more focussed support, specialist teaching etc.
- Provide a type of provision that currently isn't on offer in Barnet, enabling children to be educated closer to home.

1.5 For those that expressed support for the other options, reasons included a preference for ARPs which could address a range of needs as well as ASC and a belief that children with the right support can attend mainstream schools. Some respondents who preferred Option A were also keen to point out the value of ARPs. The pursuit of Option A will add to the current mix of ARPs and special schools, maintaining a range of options to meet needs.

1.6 One respondent raised a potential worry as to whether a new ASC school could be to the detriment of Barnet's existing special schools. At present the special schools work very closely together in a partnership (known as the MOON partnership), sharing expertise and knowledge, training resources and challenging each other to continually improve. As the Windmill School is being proposed by an existing member of this partnership, there is no indication that this mutually beneficial partnership will not continue.

1.7 Paragraph 5.2.1 sets out the revenue and capital costs associated with each option. Option A, the preferred option by respondents, is also the most cost effective in relation to revenue funding. Capital costs will depend on the route through which new buildings are provided.

1.8 Taking account of the consultation responses, the revenue implications and the recent submission of a Free School application to provide new SEN places in Barnet (see below) it is recommended that Option A becomes the preferred option.

#### **Next steps for the preferred option**

1.9 To take forward the preferred option, there are several routes to establish a new special school. Increasingly, new schools are being provided through the government's free school programme, administered by the Department for Education.

- 1.10 The Department for Education has confirmed the submission of an application for a new Special Free School in Barnet, to be known as the Windmill School. The application is led by Oak Lodge Special School, an outstanding Barnet secondary special school with a nationally recognised headteacher and a school that works closely with the local SEND parent community. The proposal would see Oak Lodge Special school become an Academy with the ability to sponsor other schools as part of a Multi Academy Trust.
- 1.11 The proposal is to open an autism specific specialist school for learners aged 5 to 19 years with a confirmed diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition and with an Education, Health and Care Plan. Currently, there is no autism-specific maintained school in Barnet. At full capacity, the Windmill School would be able to provide education for up to 90 students.
- 1.12 All applications for new free schools are considered and determined by the DfE's Regional Schools Commissioner. Once a new free school is approved, the Education Funding Agency (EFA) on behalf of the Department for Education seek to identify a suitable site and oversees the funding and construction of the building. If the Windmill School receives approval, it is proposed that the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People work with Oak Lodge Special School and the DFE/EFA to
- Ensure that the new free school provision meets the local requirements for SEND places. The council has been in close liaison with Oak Lodge Special School as it has prepared its free school application and this liaison would continue.
  - Support the EFA in its search for a suitable site in Barnet, including the exploration of council owned sites. The future use of any council owned site is the responsibility of the Assets and Regeneration Committee. The Government's White Paper published in March 2016, which will inform the forthcoming 'Education for All' Bill, set out an aim for local authority land to be required to be used for free schools. However, until the Bill is published, it is not certain whether this aim will be taken forward.
- 1.13 If this (or any other similar) free school application for special school provision is not successful, the council would need to instigate a process to commission a new school directly. In addition to a site, it would need to identify capital funding for the construction of a new special school. It is proposed to report back to this committee should this circumstance arise. Any capital funding would be considered as part of the council's capital investment programme within the council's medium term financial strategy, overseen by Policy and Resources Committee.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommendations would enable the identified need for additional school places for children and young people with specialist educational needs to be met.



### 3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

The Council has a statutory duty to provide a school place for all children, including those with special educational needs. Given the demographic pressures facing the council over this period, the alternative to expanding specialist provision would be to commission more places in the Non-Maintained and Independent Special School sectors, which would have a significant negative impact on the 'Schools Budget' (funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant) and on the SEN Transport budget, which is funded from the council's general fund.

### 4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

The Commissioning Director for Children and Young People will work with Oak Lodge Special School and the Department for Education, to ensure that the development of a new special Free School in Barnet meets the local requirements.

### 5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

#### 5.1. Corporate Priorities and Performance

The quality of the education offer is at the heart of Barnet's continuing success as a place where people want to live, work and study. It plays a crucial part in making Barnet family friendly, with many families attracted to the area by the good reputation of Barnet's schools. Ensuring that appropriate and sufficient local school places are available for children with special educational needs supports the delivery of the council's Corporate Plan to ensure that 'Barnet's children and young people will receive a great start in life' and that 'Barnet schools will be amongst the best in the country, with enough places for all and with all children achieving the best that they can'.

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

#### 5.2 Revenue Considerations

5.2.1 The cost of providing places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is funded from the DSG. The additional number of specialist places is identical across all three options. The difference is between the number in ARPs and those in Special Schools. We can estimate the cost of each option by calculating the different number of places in these two sectors only and multiplying by the relevant unit costs:

	Avge Unit Cost	Option A		Option B		Option C	
		No. of Places	Annual Cost - £s	No. of Places	Annual Cost - £s	No. of Places	Annual Cost - £s
ARPs	29,306	16	468,896	32	937,792	110	3,223,660
Special School	23,824	126	3,001,824	110	2,620,640	32	762,368
<b>Total</b>		<b>142</b>	<b>3,470,720</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>3,558,432</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>3,986,028</b>

Option A is, in revenue terms, the most cost effective. Option B is £88,000 more expensive. Option C is considerably more expensive - by an estimated £515,000 per annum. Option C would therefore have a significant impact on the schools budget (Dedicated Schools Grant).

### Site and Capital Considerations

5.2.2 Finding suitable sites for new education provision to meet the general growth in pupil numbers in Barnet is already a significant challenge. Given the distribution of children and young people with SEN across the Borough, it would be preferable if suitable sites could be identified in the west of the borough to minimise journey times for students and transport costs (funded from the council's general fund).

5.2.3 Capital costs will depend on the nature of the site, its ownership and other factors. At this stage therefore, the figures included here are very broad estimates based on recent similar examples across London. These figures must therefore be treated with caution, but are used to indicate a broad pattern.

	Number of Sites to Find	Indicative Building Cost	Possibility of additional external capital funding
Option A	1	£25 million	Through Free School application
Option B	2/3	£21m	Potential for Sixth Form Centre to be established as Free School
Option C	3/4	£16m	No additional capital funding likely, over and above annual capital grant for new basic need

5.2.3 The proposed preferred option (Option A) will require the identification of a site and the construction of a new special school. In relation to the site, as set out above, it is proposed that the council continue to work closely with the EFA to help identify a suitable site that best meets the needs of Barnet pupils (see paragraph 1.12 above). If the Free School application submitted by Oak Lodge Special School is successful, the new school will be constructed and funded as part of the Government's Free School programme.

5.2.4 Paragraph 1.13 sets out the circumstances in the event that this or any other similar) free school application for special school provision is not successful.

### 5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, Annex A, sets out the terms of reference of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee including:

- planning the adequate provision of school places in the Borough
- investment in educational infrastructure to meet the needs of the Borough's learners

- to be responsible for those powers, duties and functions of the Council in relation to Children’s Services (including schools).

5.3.2 The Council has a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure the provision of sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in their area. Under s.14 of the Education Act 1996, a local authority shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in their area. Sufficient means sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. In meeting this duty, a local authority must do so with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

5.3.3 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires a local authority to seek proposals for the establishment of an academy if it thinks that a new school is required (“the free school presumption”). There are very limited circumstances when a new maintained school can be created. If publishing proposals, the local authority must identify possible site options. Statutory guidance confirms that local authorities can liaise with the DfE where it has identified a need and if there is an existing proposal for a new free school that might meet the need, the local authority can postpone the holding of a competition or determine that the proposal meets the identified need. Once the local authority has commenced a competition, it is expected to continue with the process. For this reason, it is appropriate for the Council to liaise with the DfE and the free school proposer to identify whether this will meet the identified need, before commencing a separate statutory process.

## **5.4 Risk Management**

5.4.1 Pupil place planning is based on pupil projections and there is a risk that the projections are inaccurate. There is a risk that the needs of groups of children change over time. The development of the strategy for future provision will be developed to promote flexibility.

5.4.2 The preferred Option A will meet the need for new specialist places that has been identified as unmet need. The projected need for new places assumes that current plans for expansion that will provide an additional 3 classes come to fruition. Should these fail to materialise, additional provision would be required over and above the new special school proposed in the preferred option.

## **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

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

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

protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

The protected characteristics are:

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

5.52 Ensuring a high quality education offer supports the progress of all children and young people including those with additional needs or at risk of underachievement, for example, children with additional learning needs or young people with behavioural emotional and social difficulties. By reshaping and investing in new provision for children with special educational needs and aiming to retain Barnet’s diverse educational offer, the council is investing to ensure that Barnet remains a popular place for families to live and study.

### 5.53 Consultation and Engagement

The list of consultees, and methods of engagement, were as follows:

<b>Group to be Consulted</b>	<b>Method</b>
Parents and Children with SEN	Meeting with Barnet Parent & Carer Forum. Public meeting hosted by Barnet Parent & Carer Forum. Consultation document sent to all parents of children with statements/EHCPs.
Governing Bodies/Academy Trusts	Consultation document sent to all Chairs of Governing Bodies for maintained schools and Academy Trusts. Discussion at Director’s Meeting with Chairs
Headteachers of Barnet Schools/ Academies	Consultation document sent to all Headteachers. Discussion at Director’s Meeting with Headteachers. Meetings with Headteachers of Special Schools/ schools with ARPs
Post 16 Institutions	Consultation document sent to all Principals of Colleges and ISPs attended by current Barnet SEN students and those likely to be a provider in the future

Governing bodies, proprietors or principals of other schools and post-16 institutions in England and Wales likely to be attended by children or young people from Barnet	Consultation document sent to all Principals of schools/colleges attended by or will possibly be attended by Barnet students with statements / EHCPs
Non-Maintained and Independent Special Schools	Consultation document sent to all Heads of all NM and Independent Special Schools in Barnet and those currently attended by Barnet pupils
Adult Social Care	Consultation document sent to Head of Adult Social Care and 0-25 Service
Children's Social Care	Consultation document sent to Head of Children's Social Care and Children's Intervention team
Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Consultation document sent and meeting to be arranged
CAMHS	Consultation document sent to Barnet, Enfield and Haringey NH Trust
Hospital Services	Consultation document sent to Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

## 6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Item 10, Planning for New School Places 2015-16 to 2019-20: Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 15th September 2014.

Item 10, Preparing to Meet Future Need for Children with Special Educational Needs: Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 9th March 2015.

Item 8, Future Provision of Specialist Places for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities: Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 16th July 2015

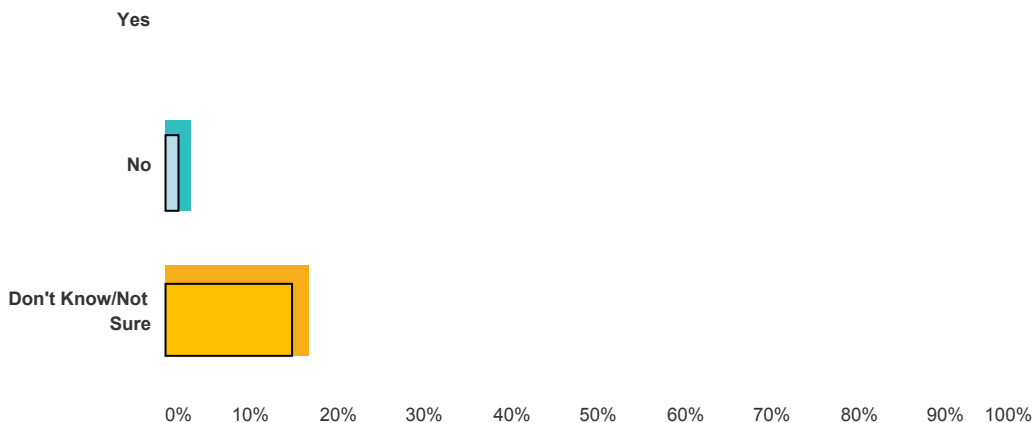
Item 9, The future provision of specialist places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2015/16 to 2019/20: Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 6th January 2016

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## Appendix A: Consultation responses on the future provision of specialist places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

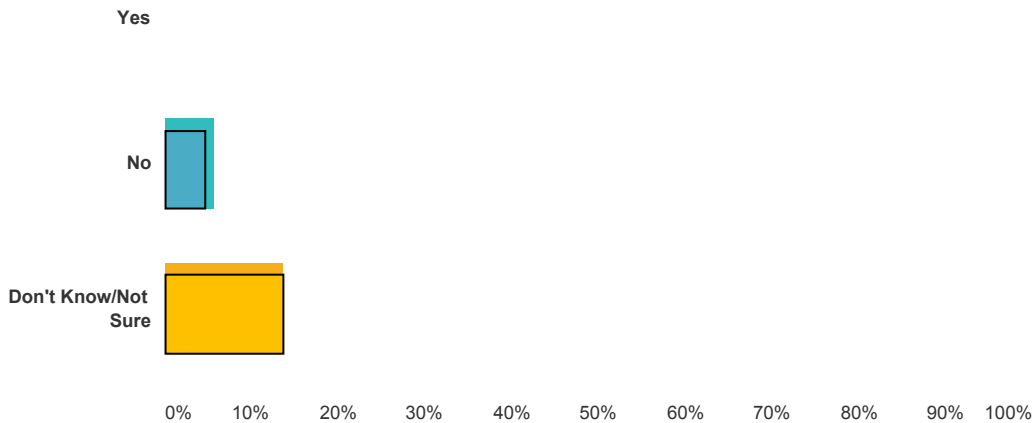
Do you agree with the future requirement of specialist places as set out in the consultation document?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 0



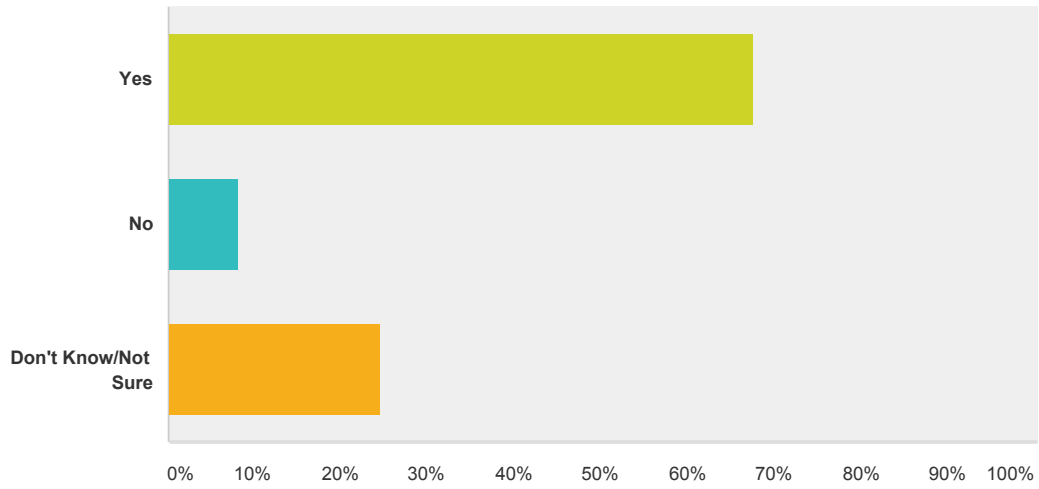
Do you agree with the summary of the issues regarding Option A as set out in the consultation document?

Answered: 51 Skipped: 15



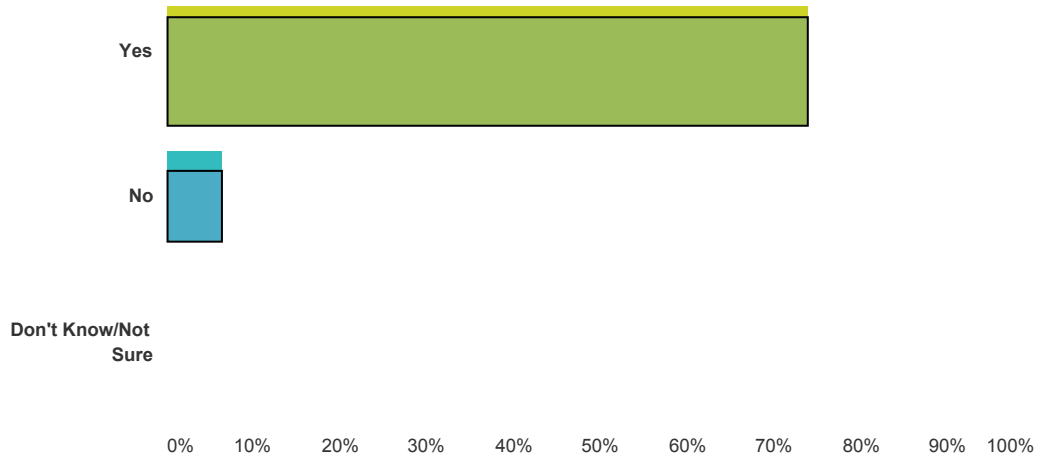
Do you agree with the summary of the issues regarding Option B as set out in the consultation document?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 17



**Do you agree with the summary of the issues regarding Option C as set out in the consultation document?**

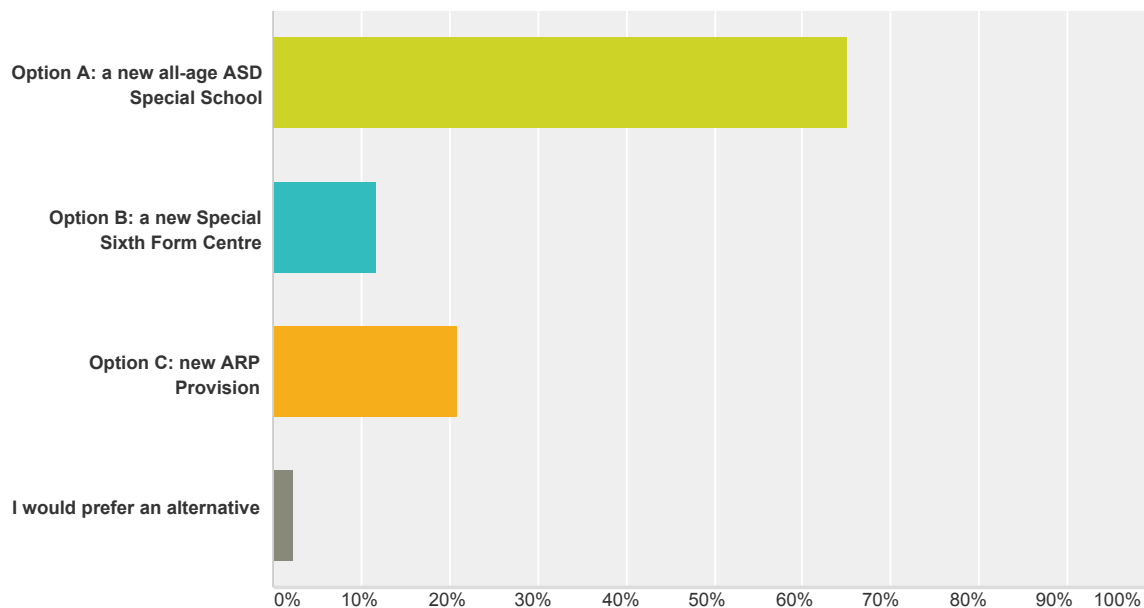
Answered: 46 Skipped: 20



**What is your preferred option of the three options set out in the consultation document?**

Answered: 43 Skipped: 23





### Please give reasons for your choice

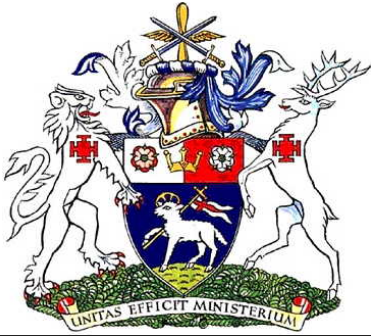
Answered: 30 Skipped: 36

#	Responses
1	There is a huge gap for children with an ASD. Some children are very bright but can't access the mainstream in ARPs because of their sensory needs yet a special school doesn't meet their academic needs. An ASD school would be the perfect half way house, where children who are more able can access a bespoke curriculum to meet their personal needs in a low arousal environment. This would replace the need to go to specialist schools like Holmewood. Makes perfect sense. Just a shame my son is transitioning in 2017 to secondary school so this is not an option for him. We have no option but to look at the private sector.....
2	For the reasons cited under option A
3	Option A gives the widest ranging solution as will cover the full education cycle, from primary through to sixth form. The other options are too narrow and will not address some of the key issues with the current options.
4	It will improve parental choice for this very specialist area of autism
5	A school to grow in, I wish there was something like this now for my 5 year old son.
6	This would allow all pupils, of all ages, to have the opportunity of a specialised setting, to suit pupils with ASD, currently of which there is a lack of. An all age school is lacking in Barnet. This would centralise resources and allow for specialist teachers to work together, sharing expertise from the FS/KS1/KS2. Thus allowing a continuum of support and knowledge,
7	Option A seems to give the most new places to special needs children in specialist settings. I just hope this is not to the detriment of children with special needs other than autism, or to the detriment of special needs schools within Barnet (i.e. Mapledown, Oak Lodge, Oakleigh and Northway) which already cater for autistic children. What comfort can you give to that end?
8	There is currently a high demand at all ages for an ASD Special School across Barnet. There are currently students whose autism means that they find it difficult to cope with the demands of both mainstream and generic special needs schools. Additionally it would put the borough in a position to reduce out-borough, independent and non-maintained special school placements that parents currently rely on for their children. Children with autism are often the hardest to place and often their needs are wide ranging and unique. In my experience it can sometimes be very challenging to deliver tailor made or bespoke programme for an autistic student in a mainstream environment - sometimes schools are unable to individualise work to the extent necessary. Hopefully this option would provide coherence, consistency and continuity into further education including the provision at Barnet and Southgate College.

9	We would prefer a mix of ARP provisions since this would potentially allow these provisions to also be focused on sixth-form provisions which include areas other than just one condition, for example, Option A (autism) and for those where the conditions are not as severe as those requiring Options A or B. There are a number of children/young adults in the borough for whom a special school would not be the right solution but where mainstream is perfect with the appropriate support framework.
10	Would prefer a mix of ARP provisions since this would potentially allow these to also be focused on sixth-form provisions which include areas other than just one condition, for example, Option A (autistic) and for those where the conditions are not as severe as those requiring Option B.
11	There are some very experienced ASD teachers in Barnet who would be able to offer what is best for these children
12	Best future fit
13	I believe that with the right assistance and help ASD pupils can attend mainstream education
14	I think a new all-age ASD special school will be better able to support and provide resources for children. Autism need to be focused in a different way than the other learning disabilities
15	To provide consistency for vulnerable children
16	Better to have single all age Autistic school, which can focus on this disability. The school has to be in a central location of the Borough.
17	Children with SEN should have the opportunity to stay at mainstream schools as this can help their learning and social integration and prepare them for the real world as young adults.
18	Children with complex and severe ASD needs require very individual and specialised support.
19	This seems to cover the needs that will be apparent in the future the best
20	I think this could be most responsive to the differing needs of children on the spectrum. I still feel the current ARPs also have a role to play.
21	This would allow children to continue at one school with asd rather than having to change at various levels and arranging the supervision at new schools hence causing horrendous upheaval to the child and also there will be more vigour plus monitoring in a school that specifically focuses on asd
22	My daughter who is ASD is presently in a special needs school. We very very lucky to get a place for her and it was quite difficult as there were very limited spaces available. This was such a stress full period for me and a whole lot of parents, and to date continues to be a major issue
23	I think this would provide continuity for students, familiarity is key. Also resources/support are all in one place
24	Sixth Form Centre will be very useful in teaching skills needed to be an independent individual
25	If investment into proper training in autism for school teachers and support staff was given, more parents/carers would not have to go out of the borough and into non-maintained special schools. Many children with autism can progress well with a high-quality supportive ARP within the school.
26	therefor everyone benefits
27	I believe in inclusion. Currently there are a lot of children in the spectrum who fall into an invisible gap especially at secondary school because they are too high functioning to go to a special school yet are not progressing well in mainstream because of either lack of support or untrained staff. The only schools in the Borough that fill this gap are JCOS and Hendon. The first is Jewish and although open to anyone, it is not the obvious choice if you are of a different religion. Hendon's provision is very small. So more are definitely needed.

28	<p>There have been too many children with autism in ARP's who have received no access to the mainstream, a very poor standard of education and have consequently fallen behind as a result. This includes my child. The problem has been that a child at 4 may seem suitable for an ARP but after a year or so when it becomes apparent the placement is not suitable and the school do not want the challenging behaviour in their mainstream classes, the child effectively becomes imprisoned in the provision and from what I have witnessed in more than one provision, their education is totally neglected. It is also a bitter battle to prove the placement does not meet the child's needs and get them into a more appropriate placement due to the lack of available provision in the borough. If we are looking at the longer term reduction of financial burden on the state of these children, we need to educate them in the appropriate environment from as early as possible and not leave children stuck in inappropriate placements fighting for the only suitable places in the independent sector. Many other local authorities have highly successful autism specific schools and it is a shame that Barnet is so far behind in this.</p>
29	<p>Children and young people with ASC are likely to be out of school more than other yp with SEN due to their sensory needs. The autism bill also indicates that people with autism should be supported by the LA to achieve the similar life outcomes as non-as peers and this currently is not being done. I feel that an additional specialist ASD school is important to help those that typically fall through the net now to be caught and helped. It also claims to be offering support to parents and this is vital if cyp are to reach the best possible outcomes.</p>
30	<p>My son is in year three I am petrified what if I can't find him suitable school for his educational needs. This year most of my friend with autism children struggled to find secondary school places</p>

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	<p><b>Children, Education, Libraries &amp; Safeguarding Committee</b>  <b>14<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p>Childcare Sufficiency Assessment</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Commissioning Director, Children and Young People</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix A - Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2015/16</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Karen Pearson – Head of Early Years and Early Help  <a href="mailto:Karen.pearson@barnet.gov.uk">Karen.pearson@barnet.gov.uk</a>                  0208 3592459</p>

**Summary**

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, as appended to the cover report, provides a comprehensive review of the childcare market in the London Borough of Barnet in 2015. This includes an analysis of the supply and demand of childcare provision in the borough and how local parents’ childcare needs are being met.

**Recommendations**

**That the Committee approve the following:**

- 1. The Child Sufficiency Assessment is agreed for 2015/16**
- 2. That the Early Years’ Service continue working to improve the London Borough of Barnet’s childcare information so that parents are able to access better information about childcare in their area**
- 3. That the council is in the process of rolling out a new Provider Portal which will capture live information about childcare providers and vacancies. This will be**

linked to the LB Barnet website, giving greater transparency of local childcare services to parents.

4. That the Early Years' Service continues to work closely with those groups identified in this report that are not accessing the two year old offer. This work includes addressing specific barriers to accessing services by particular groups and continued delivery of a targeted action plan of support to increase take-up.
5. That across relevant areas of the council there are plans for the impending demand for additional childcare in areas where regeneration work is currently taking place, actively promoting the creation of new childcare provision in Colindale and Burnt Oak, where there is a current shortfall in childcare and where there is predicted to be a higher demand for places.
6. That the Early Years' service work closely with Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers to explore opportunities to expand provision for the forthcoming childcare policy to provide an additional free 15 hours for 3 and 4 year old children in working families, and increasing out of school childcare. The policy will include creating a clear Strategy to respond to the demands placed on the childcare system in Barnet by the additional 15 hours childcare for working families.
7. That the Early Years' service and Cambridge Education will work with schools to look for further opportunities to develop the role they play in providing early years services, and addressing the shortage of out of school childcare provision.
8. That the Early Years' service are developing a robust system to ensure the childcare needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are met and to promote the additional support on offer by childcare providers for children with special educational needs.

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1. Following the Childcare Act 2006 all local authorities are under a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare, so far as reasonably practicable, for parents of children aged 0-14 years (up to 18 for disabled children) who are working, studying or in training in their local area. The Early Education and Childcare Statutory guidance for Local Authorities 2014 recommends that there is an annual report to elected council members on how the Council is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare, and to make this report available and accessible to parents.
- 1.2. A number of **key findings** have emerged from this research:

Although the majority of parents in Barnet felt they knew about the entitlement to free early education, around 10% of parents felt that there they find it difficult to gain information about what provision was available and this

prevented them from accessing childcare. However, this is still comparatively lower than the national average, where around 32% of parents feel that there was too little information about childcare in their area.

Burnt Oak and Colindale remain in the bottom 20% of deprived wards according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. These areas have the lowest number of eligible 2 year olds accessing the free entitlement to early education which is in part due to a shortage of places available. In the Golders Green take up of early education entitlement by Jewish families in the area is low due to reasons of culture.

The largest population of 0-4 year olds is in Burnt Oak, Colindale, and Golders Green, with Colindale in particular to experience a spike in its population over the next three years due to current regeneration work. It is estimated that around 5,420 homes will be created as part of developing affordable housing, adding pressure to a community which has already has an existing shortage of childcare.

Whilst 89% of providers were familiar with the planned increase of the additional 15 hours for three and four year olds for working families, only 45% of PVI's expect to offer additional sessions. Providers cited a number of reasons for not intending to increase the provision, which includes the current funding rate which they believe to be too low, capacity to deliver and staffing.

From the survey we found that most parents and carers would like additional childcare, especially out of school childcare such as holiday clubs and afterschool care; however 10% of parents cited that they did not know where to look for information on childcare providers and often relied on recommendations from friends and family.

Currently 2.6% of two year olds in Barnet receive SEN support; this is in contrast to 2.8% nationally. Only 5.1% of three and four year olds in Barnet currently access some form of SEN support compared to 6.1% of the four and three year old population nationally.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 In order to meet the statutory duties in point 1 the recommendations are in relation to areas highlighted in the Child Sufficiency Assessment that require a focused approach to increase awareness of provision, supply and demand.
- 2.2 The CSA is attached as an appendix and sets out details about the provision in Barnet, views of parents and carers and particular areas of need across the Borough. The assessment makes a number of recommendations, which have been translated into recommendations for the Committee to consider. The statutory guidance particularly recommends that the Council consider provision for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) or a disability, families in receipt of state benefits, parents who work irregular hours, children entitled to free early education places and school age children. The committee will note that there are recommendations particularly targeted

at supporting parents of children with SEN or a disability. In relation to supporting parents on low incomes, the areas of highest deprivation levels are Burnt Oak, Colindale and Childs Hill. For this reason, one of the recommendations supports work with regeneration colleagues to ensure sufficient, high quality childcare in Burnt Oak and Colindale. The assessment identified a need for childcare covering longer hours and wraparound and holiday care for school age children and one recommendation is focused on working with schools to address this shortage of provision. Finally one recommendation focuses on working with parents and providers to increase the uptake of free early education places

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

- 3.1 The alternative option to leave the sufficiency of child care in its current form does not provide a sufficient response to increasing demand and priorities and the duties set out in the Childcare Act 2006

### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Once approved the recommendations will be actioned by the Early Years' Service. This service reports quarterly to the Early Years Board where these actions will be reviewed. In line with the statutory duty outlined in point 1 the Child Sufficiency Assessment will be reviewed and reported to Members annually

### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

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

##### **5.1.1 The council will continue to ensure a great start in life for every child and that young people are well prepared for adulthood**

- 5.1.2 The CSA has identified where we have sufficient good quality child care and areas where supply and demand are required to increase. Access to these services by our youngest children and their families supports good early development for a great start in life and supports parents to access training and employment which supports economic development in the borough and issues relating to child poverty

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

- 5.2.1 The recommendations proposed will be dealt with as part of business as usual and as such there are no additional resource implications arising directly from this report.
- 5.2.2 The Early Education Entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), the rates for 2 year olds in 2015/16 was £6 per hour and for 3 and 4 year olds £3.74 per hour (£4.30 per hour including supplements). In the last financial year the costs for 3 and 4 year old places



was £15,484,608 plus Early Years Pupil Premium of £163,142 and £2,619,143 for disadvantaged 2 year olds. The funding rate for the proposed government changes to increase the three and four year old offer to 30 hours for eligible children has yet to be confirmed. The financial implications of any government proposed changes will be reported to the Committee, when known.

### **5.3 Social Value**

5.3.1 The work required from the recommendations of the CSA do not require procurement of services. In order to engage providers to increase supply the Early Years team provide advice, support and guidance in relation to legislative and Ofsted requirements for delivery. Funding of child care is either via the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) from the DSG to providers who are registered for the scheme and have a good or outstanding Ofsted judgement or via fee paying parents/carers

5.3.2 As part of the CSA questionnaire we asked parents how much they spent on childcare on average. Parents responded with ranges from between £10 per week for one child, most likely attending one or two sessions per week, to up to £1000 per week, based on more than one child, attending full time at a childcare setting

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

5.4.1 Responsibility for Functions Annex A, as outlined in the council's constitution, states that the committee is responsible for those powers, duties and functions of the Council in relation to Children's Services

5.4.2 Under the Childcare Act 2006, local authorities have various duties in relation to young children in their area. This includes a general duty under s.1 to improve the well-being of young children and reduce inequalities and specific duties to provide early years services in an integrated manner and to promote services to those parents who are unlikely to take advantage of them.

5.4.3 The 2006 Act also contains a specific duty to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the provision of sufficient childcare to enable parents/carers to take up or remain in work, or to undertake education and training leading to work.

5.4.4 The Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities to take account of the quantity and quality of early childhood services that are or are expected to be provided. For this reason it is appropriate to carry out an assessment of the sufficiency of childcare within the area. The assessment measures the nature and the extent of the need for, and supply of, childcare within each local area.

5.4.5 Statutory guidance – Early Education and Childcare - was published in September 2014. The guidance recommends that local authorities report annually to council members on how they are meeting their sufficiency duty. It

recommends that the report includes details of how the local authority is ensuring it meets the specific needs of children with disabilities, children from families in receipt of working tax credit or universal credit, children of parents who work irregular hours, children age 2-4 entitled to free childcare places, school age children and children requiring holiday care. The report should also cover the accessibility, affordability and quality of provision and how any gaps in provision are being met.

## 5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 Barnet has a rapidly growing population and the research has identified a shortfall of 1,700 places across the borough in relation to two year old places and the planned expansion of 30 hours for three and four year olds. We have seen access of two year old places rise by 10% in the last year to 51% take up in February 2016, although there is an upwards trajectory this is low compared to the London average of 60%. There are areas in the borough, such as in the west where there are waiting lists for two year olds due to insufficient places available. If the recommendations of this report are not implemented there is a risk that current child care supply will not be able to effectively meet demand leaving children and families unable to access early education and child care.
- 5.5.2 It is important that the Early Year's service work with providers to increase supply and ensure that provision is of a high quality.

## 5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
  - advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
  - foster good relations between people from different groups
- 5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into everyday business.
- 5.6.3 The equalities characteristics of Barnet's population are taken into account in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. This information, insight and data are also taken into account in extending the reach of services, for example in providing early years places.
- 5.6.4 Childcare by its nature impacts on parents of working age and children below school age and of primary age more than other age groups. Decisions made will also impact on women receiving maternity services and those parents wishing to return to work following having children. Childcare is particularly important to lone parents, who are more likely to be female and families on low income where both parents have returned to work. In Barnet the areas of highest relative deprivation, such as Colindale, Burnt Oak, and West Hendon, have the largest proportion of black and minority ethnic groups. It has also been identified that the Jewish Community, largely based in Golders Green

and Childs Hill, are less likely to make use of the early education entitlement. We have considered these groups when devising a strategy for improvement and engagement.

5.6.5 Families where English is an additional language are more likely to live in areas of higher deprivation and as such are more impacted by decisions affecting childcare provision in these areas. In Barnet, this is mostly concentrated in Colindale, Burnt Oak, and West Hendon. Parents of children with SEN or a disability often find it harder to locate childcare provision than other parents. It is anticipated that the recommendations will have a positive impact on these groups, as childcare provision will be more targeted to groups with these protected characteristics

## 5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 During December 2015 – January 2016 259 respondents completed an online questionnaire. The data collected was cross-borough in order to preserve the anonymity of parents and their answers. The online survey sought a combination of quantitative and qualitative responses from interviewees about a range of issues.

5.7.2 The vast majority of respondents were aged between 25 and 44 and female. 25% of respondents had sole responsibility for their child(ren). 15% were either pregnant or on maternity leave. 58% of respondents were either working full time or part time and 26% were full time parents or carers. 5% described themselves as disabled.

5.7.3 The highest number of respondents were in paid employment either full or part-time, with 4% working either shifts, weekends or nights. 26% were full-time parents. 6% were currently studying or training, and 5% were jobseekers.

5.7.4 In addition to this parent one-to-ones were conducted between December 2015 - January 2016 at the London Jewish Family Centre and some children's centres (Barnfield, Wingfield, Parkfield & The Hyde, Newstead, Coppetts Wood).

5.7.5 During January 2016 a telephone survey was undertaken with childcare providers and childminders operating throughout Barnet.

- 61% were childminders. The majority of childminders provided full daycare, but a small number (3%) only provided sessional care. As childcare providers are typically registered for five places or fewer<sup>1</sup>, they accounted for only 20% of registered childcare places
- 34% were PVI childcare settings – mainly offering full daycare, but some offering sessional care only. PVI nurseries accounted for 60% of all registered places
- 1% were Children's centre settings, accounting for 2% of registered places

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<sup>1</sup> A childminder may care for a maximum of six children under the age of 8. Of these, a maximum of three may be under five, and no more than two may be under 18 months of age.

- 4% were school-based childcare, accounting for 18% of registered places

5.7.6 We also used data from an additional piece of research to inform our understanding of whether PVI's were likely to expand under the forthcoming extension to childcare. This short study sought views from PVI settings only. Two types of research were undertaken:

- Telephone interviews with PVI's for three weeks from 22 February – 14 March 2016
- Analysis of Census data to establish number of grant funded and fee paying children in PVI settings

5.7.7 We contacted 182 settings to take part in a short survey about increased provision. Out of this, 89 settings responded. We asked a combination of qualitative and quantitative responses, which included:

## **6 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 The previous full and comprehensive CSA was undertaken by the London Borough of Barnet in 2013 and an executive summary was published [here](#). Elements from the 2013 assessment have been researched and considered when producing this document.

6.2 The Department for Education (DfE) has recently issued a consultation document, entitled 'Childcare free entitlement: delivery model' which can be found at:  
[https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-funding/childcare-free-entitlement/supporting\\_documents/CONDOC.%20final%20version%2031st.pdf](https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-funding/childcare-free-entitlement/supporting_documents/CONDOC.%20final%20version%2031st.pdf)

# APPENDIX A –

## **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2015/16**

**London Borough of Barnet**

Early Years Team, March 2016

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## 1. Executive Summary

Following the Childcare Act 2006 all local authorities are under a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare, so far as reasonably practicable, for parents of children aged 0-14 years (up to 18 for disabled children) who are working, studying or in training in their local area. Statutory guidance recommends that there is an annual report to elected council members on how the Council is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare, and to make this report available and accessible to parents<sup>1</sup>.

This Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) has used both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to explore childcare sufficiency in LB Barnet. Supply issues have been identified by undertaking an analysis of provider data using Tribal and supported by a survey of 196 childcare providers. Demand issues were identified by undertaking a survey of 259 parents and the analysis of completed online questionnaires, as well as parent one to ones with hard to reach groups. An analysis of the gaps in the market was undertaken by mapping supply to demand and identifying gaps in provision.

Geographically, children's services in LB Barnet are planned and delivered across three localities (East Central, West, and South). However, these localities cut across ward boundaries and are comprised of a number of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). For the purpose of this CSA we have reported on ward level data. It is important to note that the data used in this CSA has come from a range of sources; population data has been based on the Greater London Authority population estimates for 2014. Other data is gathered from the LB Barnet's internal childcare data collection tool, Tribal<sup>2</sup>, Schools Census (EYSFP, 2015), Early Years Census (2015), DWP Data and Analytics (2014), and Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2014). In addition to this, data is collected over different time periods as data is released at varying frequency.

Barnet is one of the largest boroughs in London, and the population is set to grow further in the next ten years, with regeneration projects in progress and an increase in new homes and jobs. According to Greater London Authority population estimates for 2014, 0-14 year olds make up around 26% of the total population in Barnet. The demand for childcare in Barnet is growing, and around 60% of all parents surveyed said that they had used some form of childcare in the past twelve months, compared to 79% of parents across England<sup>3</sup>. Out of this, 73% said their main reason for using childcare to find work or to remain in employment. 43% of respondents felt that their child benefitted socially from attending a nursery setting.

In terms of childcare, there is a wide range of provision in the borough, and currently there are 849 domestic and non-domestic childcare settings available. Childminders are the most commonly used form of childcare in Barnet, followed by the PVI sector. Although the borough is

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<sup>1</sup> The Children and Families Act 2014 repealed Local Authorities' legal duty to assess the sufficiency of childcare provision. However, The Early Education Statutory Guidance 2014 states that all local authorities are responsible for securing sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 25 for disabled children), and to secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should take into account what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means in their area.

<sup>2</sup> Tribal, February 2016 download

<sup>3</sup> Parents surveyed in the most recent term time week. Data take from the Statistical First Release 09/2016, 3 March 2016 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/504693/SFR09-2016\\_Childcare\\_and\\_Early\\_Years\\_Survey\\_of\\_Parents\\_2014-15\\_SFR.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/504693/SFR09-2016_Childcare_and_Early_Years_Survey_of_Parents_2014-15_SFR.pdf)

mostly affluent with a relatively sufficient number of childcare providers, there are pockets of deprivation where childcare is not being accessed, either because it is not seen as a being a significant part of early childhood development due to ideological or cultural reasons, or there is a genuine shortfall in places due to a rapidly increasing population of 0-4 year olds. Overall, Barnet has relatively low levels of deprivation compared to the national picture. Based on the IMD 2015, only two out of 211 Lower Super Output Areas in Barnet are amongst 10% the most deprived, 18 amongst the 20% most deprived and 39 amongst the 30% most deprived.

A number of **key findings** have emerged from this research:

- Although the majority of parents in Barnet felt they knew about the entitlement to free early education, around 10% of parents felt that there they find it difficult to gain information about what provision was available and this prevented them from accessing childcare. However, this is still comparatively lower than the national average, where around 32% of parents feel that there was too little information about childcare in their area<sup>4</sup>.
- Burnt Oak and Colindale remains in the bottom 20% according to the IMD, and has the lowest number of eligible 2 year olds accessing the free entitlement to early education due to a shortage of places and some underlying engagement issues with Jewish families in the Golders Green area due to reasons of culture.
- The largest population of 0-4 year olds is in Burnt Oak, Colindale, and Golders Green, with Colindale in particular to experience a spike in its population over the next three years due to current regeneration work. It is estimated that around 5,420 affordable housing will be created, adding pressure to a community which has already has an existing shortage of childcare.
- Whilst 89% of providers were familiar with the planned increase in an additional 15 hours for three and four year olds from working families, only 45% of PVIs expect to offer additional sessions. Providers cited a number of reasons for not intending to increase the provision, which includes the funding rate, capacity to deliver and staffing.
- From the survey we found that most parents and carers would like additional childcare, especially out of school childcare such as holiday clubs and afterschool care; however parents cited that they did not know where to look for information on childcare providers and often relied on recommendations from friends and family.
- Currently 2.6% of two year olds in Barnet receive SEN support, this is in contrast to 2.8% nationally. 5.1% of three and four year olds in Barnet currently access some form of SEN support compared to 6.1% of the four and three year old population nationally<sup>5</sup>. Although all childcare providers should have Special Educational Needs support in place, we found that parents who took part in the survey felt that there should be more clarity

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<sup>4</sup> Statistical First Release 09/2016, 3 March 2016

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/504693/SFR09-2016\\_Childcare\\_and\\_Early\\_Years\\_Survey\\_of\\_Parents\\_2014-15\\_SFR.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/504693/SFR09-2016_Childcare_and_Early_Years_Survey_of_Parents_2014-15_SFR.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Education provision: Children under 5 years of age, January 2015:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provision-for-children-under-5-years-of-age-january-2015>

about the childcare offer for children with special educational needs and the additional support on offer.

In light of these key findings, this CSA makes the following **recommendations**:

- Improve LB Barnet's childcare information so that parents are able to access better information about childcare in their area and data collection both internally and externally. LB Barnet is in the process of rolling out a new Provider Portal which will capture live information about childcare providers and vacancies. This will be linked to the LB Barnet web site, giving greater transparency of local childcare services to parents.
- Work closely with a particular sub-set of hard to reach groups identified in this report to access the two year old offer. In particular to create a new Strategy and Engagement Plan to identify specific barriers in accessing services by particular groups and create a targeted action plan of support to increase take-up.
- Plan for the impending demand for additional childcare in areas where regeneration work is currently taking place, actively promoting the creation of new childcare provision in Colindale and Burnt Oak, where there is a current shortfall in childcare and where there is predicted to be a higher demand for places.
- Work closely with PVIs to explore opportunities to expand provision for the forthcoming childcare policy to provide an additional free 15 hours for 3 and 4 year old children in working families, and increasing out of school childcare. This will include creating a clear Strategy to respond to the demands placed on the childcare system in Barnet by the additional 15 hours childcare for working families.
- Work with schools to look for opportunities to further develop the role they play in providing early years services, and addressing the shortage of out of school childcare provision.
- Develop a robust system to ensure the childcare needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are met and to promote the additional support on offer by childcare providers for children with special educational needs.

## 2. Introduction

This Childcare and Sufficiency Assessment provides a comprehensive review of the childcare market in the London Borough of Barnet in 2015. This includes an analysis of the supply and demand of childcare provision in the borough and how local parents' childcare needs are being met.

The previous full and comprehensive CSA was undertaken and published by LBB in 2013 and elements from the 2013 assessment have been researched and considered when drafting this document; this includes:

- **Demographic make-up:** Current and projected demographics with regard to the population(s) of 0 – 14 year olds (and up to 25 for children with SEND)
- **Childcare market:** Analysis of the current childcare supply and demand in Barnet
- **Parental demand:** Feedback from parents on childcare across the borough as a whole, in relation to childcare needs and future improvement
- **Provider input:** Feedback from daycare providers and childminders on the 'childcare market' in Barnet
- **Gap analysis:** Quantifying and qualifying the scale and extent of existing and/or continuing gaps with regard to childcare provision within the borough.

In the last CSA there were a number of demographic challenges reported which included a large projected population growth in the next years placing increased pressure on childcare provision and other services. Some of Barnet's areas of severest deprivation contain the highest numbers of births, and it was expected that this would lead to higher demand for services in these areas. We have considered this as part of our research.

### 3. Methodology

The research that has informed this CSA was conducted during the period November 2015 – January 2016. The following types of research were undertaken:

#### 3.1 Desk research

##### 3.1.1 Identification of key demographic and socio-economic issues

Desk research was undertaken in order to identify demographic and socio-economic factors which will have a *discernible influence* on the (sufficiency of and suitability of) existing and future provision of childcare throughout Barnet:

- Existing population of 0 – 14 year olds (and up to 25 SEND)
- Planned and proposed local regeneration initiatives
- Ethnicity and language of families and children aged 0 – 5 years
- Data on children with special needs and disabilities resident in the borough
- Data on families in out of work benefits
- Data on lone parent families
- Data on child poverty and deprivation

##### 3.1.2 Identification of the supply of childcare in Barnet

The number of places accessible to parents and the availability of the following types of childcare provision were identified using the LB Barnet childcare data collection tool, *Tribal* and Early Years Census data. We examined the following information:

- Day nurseries and pre-schools (sessional childcare providers)
- Independent sector nursery schools
- Maintained school nursery classes<sup>6</sup>
- Nursery schools
- Out of school childcare providers
- Childminders<sup>7</sup>

We also undertook analysis of data from the most recent Census data to establish the number of grant-funded and fee paying children in PVI setting<sup>8</sup>. Part of this analysis was conducted using information we hold from Spring 2016 Headcount data, and some of this information was obtained from provider telephone interviews.

#### 3.2 Field research

##### 3.2.1 Parental demand face-to-face questionnaire and on-line survey

During December 2015 – January 2016 259 respondents completed an online questionnaire. The data collected was cross-borough in order to preserve the anonymity of parents and their answers. The online survey sought a combination of quantitative and qualitative responses from interviewees about subjects and issues including:

- Use of childcare
- Type of childcare (including informal and formal means)

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<sup>6</sup> Data taken from LB Barnet Early Years Census, 2015

<sup>7</sup> Data taken from Tribal, February 2016, some childminders were registered and others are unknown.

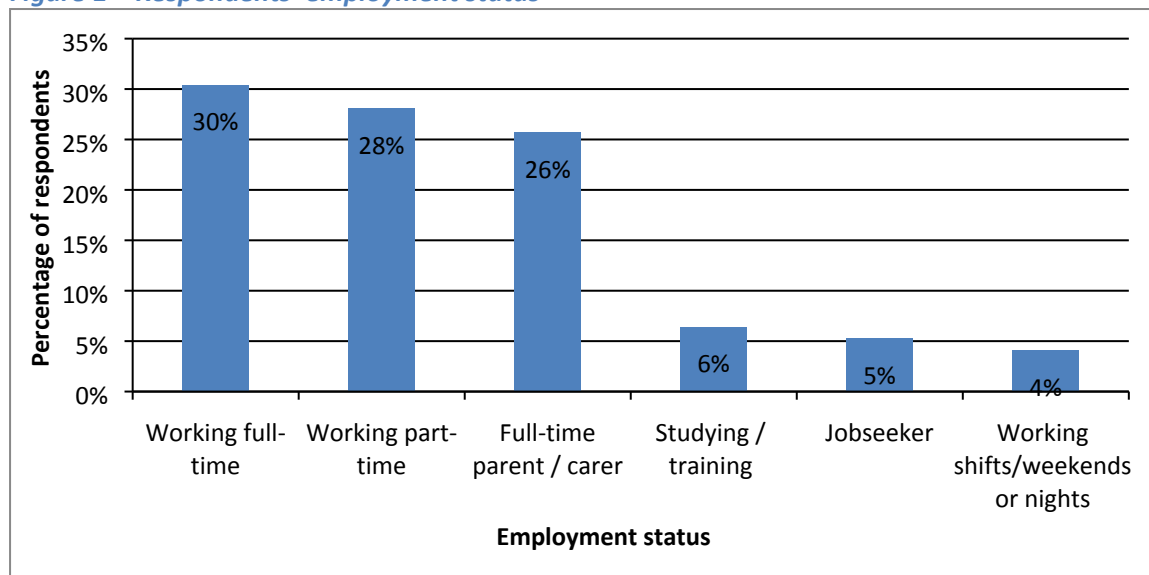
<sup>8</sup> Data taken from Early Years Census, Spring 2016

- Free Entitlement to Early Education for three and four year olds
- Free Entitlement to Early Education for eligible two olds
- Barriers to using childcare (quality, safety)
- Demand for childcare (timings, sessions, special educational needs and disabilities, out of school, holiday clubs)

The vast majority were aged between 25 and 44 (92%) and female (88%). 25% of respondents had sole responsibility for their child(ren). 15% were either pregnant or on maternity leave. 58% of respondents were either working full time or part time and 26% were full time parents or carers. 5% described themselves as disabled.

The highest number of respondents were in paid employment either full or part-time, with 4% working either shifts, weekends or nights. 26% were full-time parents. 6% were currently studying or training, and 5% were jobseekers.

**Figure 1 – Respondents’ employment status**



In addition to this parent one-to-ones were conducted between December 2015 - January 2016 at the London Jewish Family Centre and the following children’s centres:

- Barnfield
- Wingfield
- Parkfield & The Hyde
- Newstead
- Coppetts Wood

**2.2.2 Online and Telephone survey with childcare providers and childminders**

During January 2016 a telephone survey was undertaken with childcare providers and childminders operating throughout Barnet.

A standard format of semi-structured interview questions invited childcare providers and childminders to feedback on issues including:

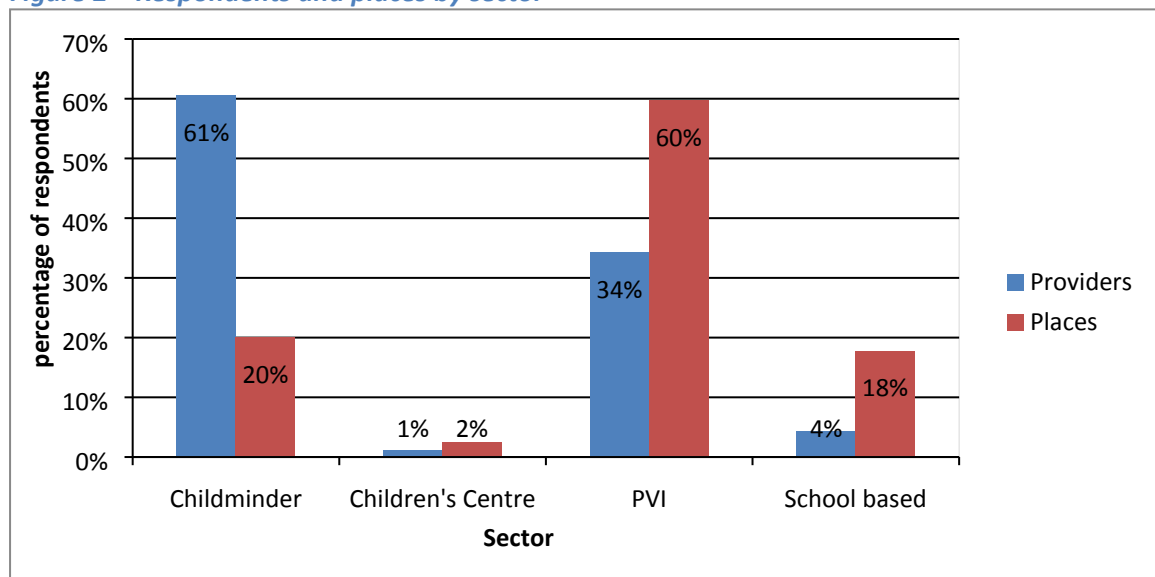
- Sector, location, type, cost, Ofsted judgement

- Childcare places (including provision for children with SEN)
- Vacancies
- Free Entitlement to Early Education for three and four year olds
- Free Entitlement to Early Education for eligible two year olds
- The Childcare Business and potential expansion under the additional 15 hours for working parents

Responses were collated from a total of 196 childcare providers, providing 3,142 childcare places, of whom,

- 61% were childminders. The majority of childminders provided full daycare, but a small number (3%) only provided sessional care. As childcare providers are typically registered for five places or fewer<sup>9</sup>, they accounted for only 20% of registered childcare places
- 34% were PVI childcare settings – mainly offering full daycare, but some offering sessional care only. PVI nurseries accounted for 60% of all registered places
- 1% were Children’s centre settings, accounting for 2% of registered places<sup>10</sup>
- 4% were school-based childcare, accounting for 18% of registered places

Figure 2 – Respondents and places by sector



Respondents were asked for their postcode, from which ward and locality were assessed.

- 52% of respondents, offering 45% of registered places were located in East Central locality
- 21% of providers, offering 29% of registered places, were located in South locality
- 27% of providers, offering 26% of registered places, were located in West locality

<sup>9</sup> A childminder may care for a maximum of six children under the age of 8. Of these, a maximum of three may be under five, and no more than two may be under 18 months of age.

<sup>10</sup> This figure is based on the number of children’s centres who responded as part of the survey and does not reflect the actual number of children in children’s centres accessing a childcare place which can be seen in Figure 5 and Figure 9.

In addition to this, we used data from a separate piece of research to inform our understanding of whether PVIs were likely to expand under the forthcoming extension to childcare. This short study sought views from PVI settings only. Two types of research were undertaken:

- Telephone interviews with PVIs for three weeks from 22 February – 14 March 2016
- Analysis of Census data to establish number of grant funded and fee paying children in PVI settings

We contacted 182 settings to take part in a short survey about increased provision. Out of this, 89 settings responded. We asked a combination of qualitative and quantitative responses, which included:

- Provision session timings
- Knowledge of the planned 15 hour increase in childcare for working families
- Capacity to deliver
- Type of support required to deliver additional provision
- Why providers would not increase their hours
- Number of Free Early Education Grant paying children
- Number of Fee paying children



## 4. Context

### 4.1 National & Local Priorities

Barnet is London's most populous borough and is set to grow significantly over the next 10 years. According to GLA estimates, there are currently 391,500 people living in Barnet. One of the biggest challenges for Barnet has been the take up of the free entitlement to early education for disadvantaged two year olds. This has posed a particular challenge to LB Barnet due to lack of engagement with parents and demand, this has been coupled with a surge in population within some of the most deprived parts of Barnet, and a shortfall in places<sup>11</sup>. However, Barnet is now responding to this challenge by introducing a new brokerage model and strategy for engagement with eligible families and we are looking to increase our provision of places through direct work with Children's Centres and PVI settings in areas where the need for places is at its greatest.

In recent months Barnet has also undergone considerable changes to its early years and childcare implementation model, this has included:

- Review of the early years team and a new structure in place
- Locality model adopted for Children's Centres (from four, to three localities; East Central, South, and West)
- Working with PVIs to consider ways to increase capacity for the two year old offer, and free early education for three and four year olds.

In addition to this, other changes that will affect early education and childcare in Barnet will be the forthcoming policy around the introduction of 30 hours of free childcare for three and four year old children in working families, the introduction of the new tax-free childcare offer and the funding reviews.

### 4.2 Deprivation

Generally affluent, Barnet is suburban in nature, with pockets of deprivation. Barnet has 21 wards and 211 lower super output areas (LSOAs). Overall, 9% of Barnet's LSOAs fall within the bottom 20% most deprived areas (see Table 1, below).

At 6.9% Barnet has low unemployment rates. The local economy is dominated by micro businesses, and there is evidence of health and education sector growth; and of a recent resurgence in the construction and property sector associated with the Council's regeneration programme. However, there are persistent pockets of deprivation located along the west side of the Borough, which Barnet Council is currently seeking to improve through regeneration activities in these areas; and the targeted work of the Skills, Employment, and Enterprise programme.

Below is a list of Barnet's most deprived areas as ranked against the IMD 2015, which provides a relative measure of deprivation at lower super output areas across England. Areas are ranked from least deprived to most deprived on seven different dimensions of deprivation and an overall composite measure of multiple deprivation, these include; income; employment; health and disability; education; crime; barriers to housing and services; and living environment deprivation rated against multiple deprivation indicators.

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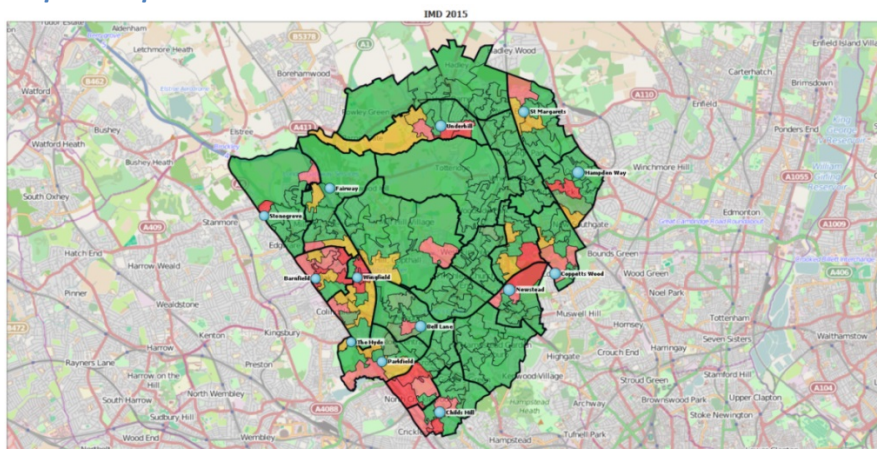
<sup>11</sup> See Table 7, Annex A

Figure 3 – Percentage of ward with LSOAs in bottom 20% IMD<sup>12</sup>

Ward	% of bottom 20% IMD
Brunswick Park	10%
Burnt Oak	30%
Childs Hill	17%
Colindale	40%
Coppetts	0%
East Barnet	0%
East Finchley	10%
Edgware	10%
Finchley	
Church End	0%
Garden Suburb	0%
Golders Green	18%
Hale	0%
Hendon	0%
High Barnet	0%
Mill Hill	0%
Oakleigh	0%
Totteridge	0%
Underhill	20%
West Finchley	0%
West Hendon	10%
Woodhouse	10%
Total	9%

According to the 2013 CSA Colindale and Burnt Oak had the highest proportion of 0-4 year olds and also faced large gaps in childcare provision and were thought to have the biggest growth in 0-4 year old children until 2023<sup>13</sup>. From the table above we can see that the areas with the highest levels of deprivation are in Colindale, Burnt Oak, and Underhill.

Map 1 – Deprivation based on the IMD 2015



<sup>12</sup> IMD 2015 English Indices of Deprivation, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>

<sup>13</sup> Barnet CSA 2013

### 4.3 Regeneration

Barnet is currently undergoing extensive regeneration; with challenging new housing targets that hopes to deliver 28,000 new homes between 2011 – 2026. Over half of these new houses will be located in the areas of Grahame Park (Colindale), Stonegrove, and West Hendon. The Barnet Regeneration programme hopes to create between 5000-6000 new jobs and over 15,000 new homes; which means that even more people than before will have the opportunity to live and work in an already densely populated borough<sup>14</sup>.

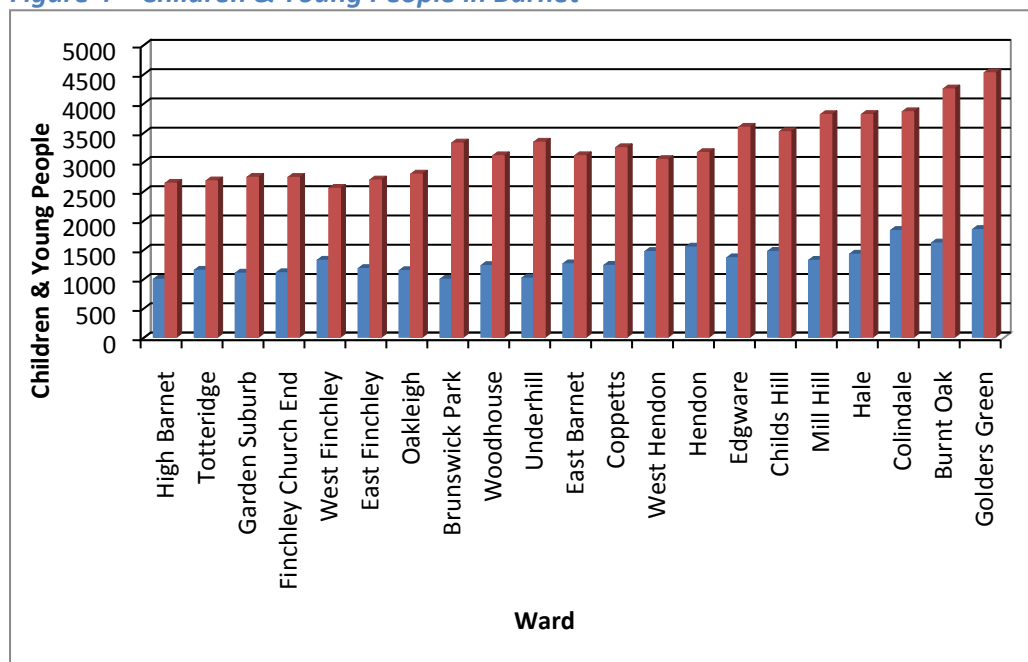
### 4.4 Barnet Demographics

According to Greater London Authority population estimates for 2014, there are a total of 374,915 people living in Barnet. Out of this, 27,538 are 0-4 year olds, and 68,417 are aged 5-14. Of the total population, 0-14 year olds make up around 26% of the total population.

0-4 year olds make up 7% of Barnet’s population and the highest proportion of children aged 0-4 are located in Golders Green, Colindale, and Burnt Oak. The smallest population of children aged 0-4 is located in Brunswick Park and High Barnet. 5-14 year olds make up 18% of the total population, and these are mostly located in Hendon, Burnt Oak, Colindale and Golders Green are areas where the largest population of 5-19 year olds currently live<sup>15</sup>.

Over the next few years, Colindale will see a surge in population, with a greater number of jobs and housing in the area. There will therefore be greater pressure points on childcare in the area.

Figure 4 – Children & Young People in Barnet



<sup>14</sup> London Borough of Barnet Regeneration Plan 2015

<sup>15</sup> GLA Population Estimates 2014, Refer to Table 1, Annex A,

#### **4.4.1 BAME and EAL Children**

The highest number of 2, 3 and 4 year olds is in Colindale, followed by Golders Green and Burnt Oak<sup>16</sup>. This population is expected to grow further until 2020. In terms of ethnicity, the highest proportion of BAME children is in Colindale, Burnt Oak, and West Hendon. EAL is also represented at its largest in these areas, as well as Childs Hill and Golders Green<sup>17</sup>.

#### **4.4.2 Special Educational Needs**

There are 7,501 children who are accessing SEN provision in Barnet, this includes known children in Reception up to year 14 and includes all children with a Statement, Education and Health Care Plan, or SEN support. The number of children accessing services in Colindale and Burnt Oak is highest, with East Barnet and Golders Green following suit. This indicates that a link between multiple deprivation and special educational needs.

#### **4.4.3 Out of work benefits and lone parent families**

In Barnet there are 5435 families with children aged between 0-4 who are on out of work benefits. The highest population of families who are on out of work benefits is based in Burnt Oak (48%), followed by Colindale (38%) and Childs Hill (34%). In addition to this, the number of lone parents is also at its highest in Burnt Oak (210) and Colindale (175)<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> For a detailed breakdown see Annex A, Table 2

<sup>17</sup> Early Years Census Data, LB Barnet, See Annex A, Table 2

<sup>18</sup> Data taken from DWP Data and Analytics, see Annex A, Table 4

## 5. Childcare Supply

According to LB Barnet's internal Tribal database, the number of childcare providers in the Borough has increased by 52% in 2015/3, from 408 to 849 since the 2013 CSA.. Out of this, there are 342 childminders, 395 settings in the Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector, 65 settings in the maintained sector, and 41 out of school care providers<sup>19</sup>.

There has also been a growth in the places available for childcare; in 2014 there were 8924 childcare places in Barnet. In 2015 this figure grew by almost 45% to 12444 childcare places.

### 5.1 Number of providers and places

The table below lists the type of childcare currently available by locality<sup>20</sup>:

*Figure 5 – Providers and Places*

Total Provider Type	Total number of providers	% of providers	Total number of places	% of places
Childminders	342	40%	1270	10%
Independent Sector	59	7%	1717	14%
Private & Voluntary Sector	336	40%	4389	35%
Maintained Sector	71	8%	3113	25%
Out of School Care	41	5%	1955	16%
Total	849	100%	12444	100%

The majority of childcare places are provided by the PVI sector, with day nurseries and sessional preschools offering a greater number of places. This is followed by the maintained sector.

#### 5.1.1 Number of places by ward and shortfall

The highest number of places have been filled in Burnt Oak due to the large proportion of under fives in the ward, however there is a clear shortfall in three and four year old places in Colindale where the population of 0-4 year olds makes up 7% of the total 0-4 population in Barnet<sup>21</sup>. The largest shortfall for two year old places is in Golders Green, which has a large Jewish population and anecdotal evidence suggests that this is a group which is particularly reluctant to take up the two year old offer due to cultural and religious reasons. Our one to one parent sessions which took place at the London Jewish Family Centre in Golders Green found that parents felt any nursery provision for their children would have to be Jewish.

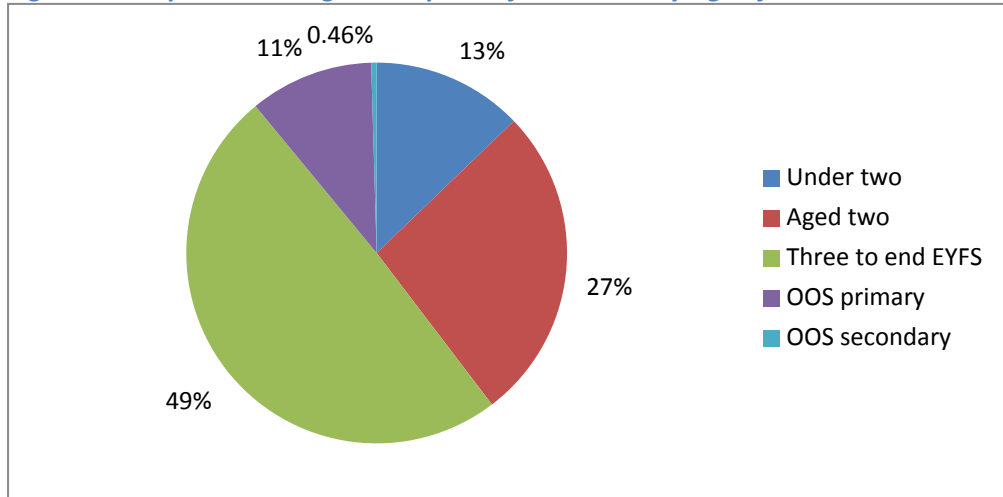
In terms of age groups of children who attended their settings, providers were asked how many children, and what age groups, they were registered to care for. Respondents had more registered places for three and four year olds than any other group, with 49% of all places available for this age group. The fewest number of places was for secondary school out of school care, with childminders offering 17 out of school secondary places.

<sup>19</sup> The maintained sector excludes maintained nursery classes as individual settings.

<sup>20</sup> Data taken from LB Barnet, Tribal data system, February 2016 download and LB Barnet Early Years Census 2015 data

<sup>21</sup> See Table 7, Annex A. NB: This data cannot be broken down per age due to restrictions of the Tribal system.

Figure 6– Respondents’ registered places for children by age of child



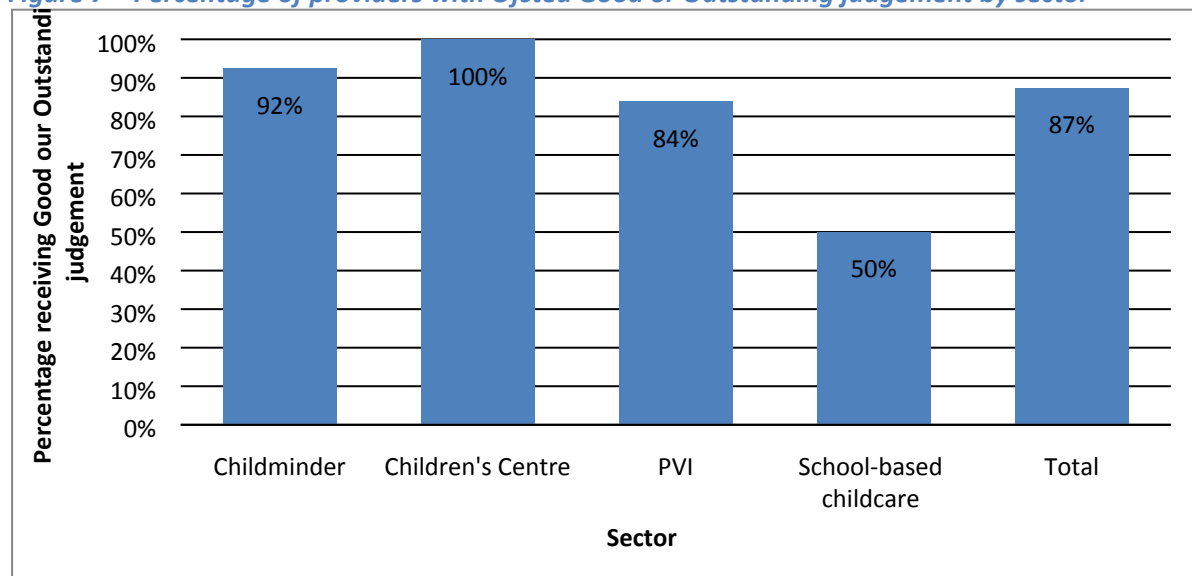
### 5.2 Cost

Respondents were asked about their hourly, daily and sessional charges. However, a number of respondents reported the same amount for all three categories, leading to lack of confidence in the results. Most providers appeared to charge between £5.00/hour to £17.00/hour, with an average price of £6.50/per hour.

### 5.3 Ofsted judgements

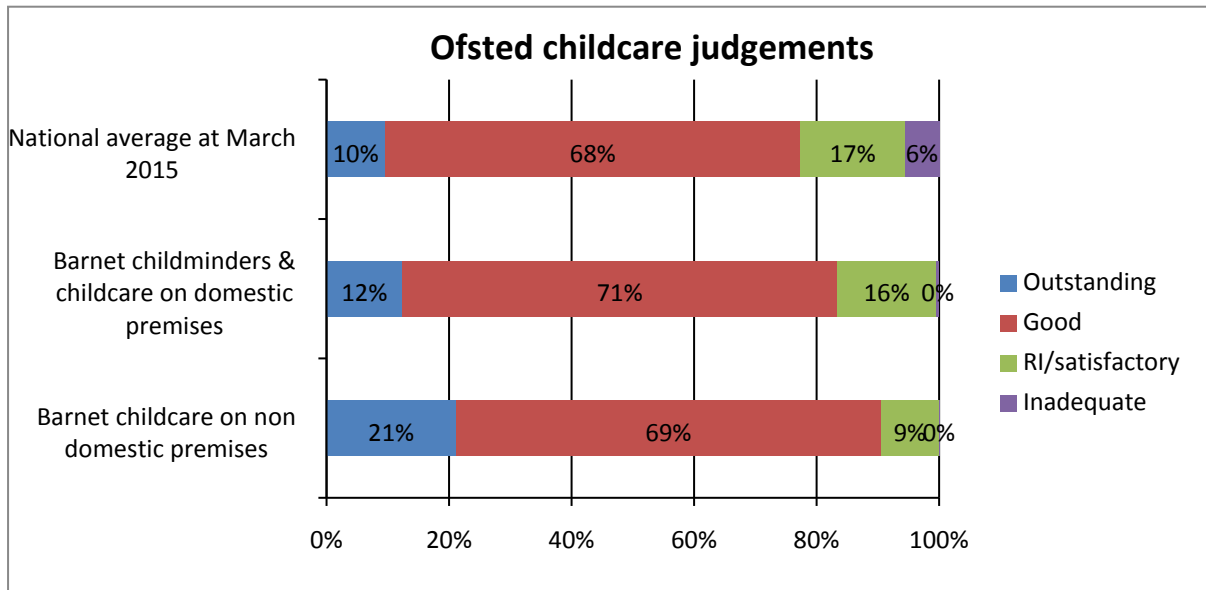
159 providers<sup>22</sup> (81% of the sample) provided information on their most recent Ofsted judgement. Overall, 87% of these providers had received a Good or Outstanding judgement at their last inspection. It is important to note that results from Children’s Centres is derived from just two Centres, and is not representative of all Centres.

Figure 7 – Percentage of providers with Ofsted Good or Outstanding judgement by sector



<sup>22</sup> Providers that did not provide this information were often new and had not yet been inspected

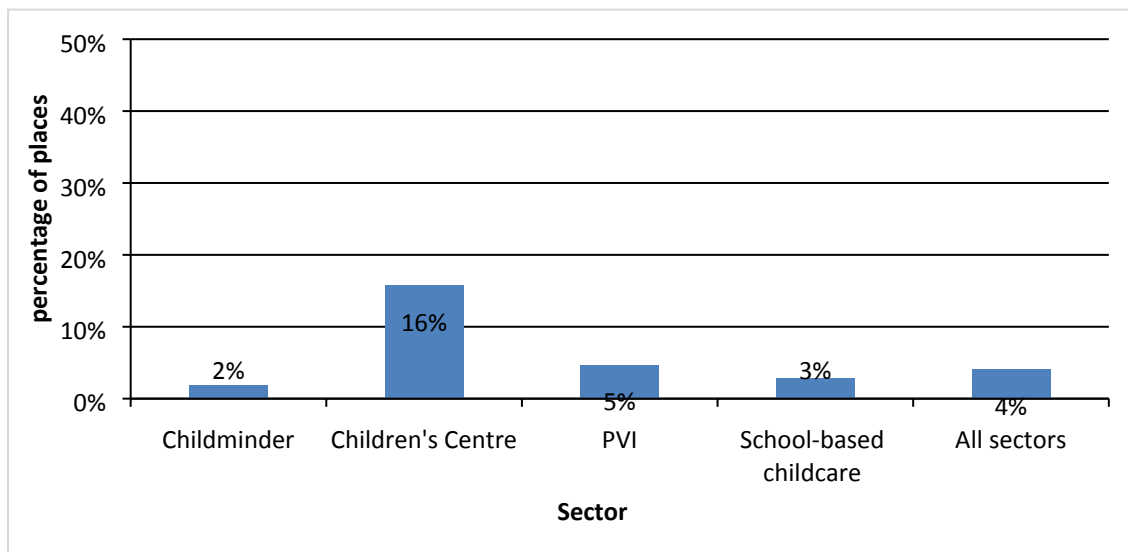
Nationally, Barnet is performing above average in terms of good and outstanding childcare providers<sup>23</sup>, which currently stands at 78%. In Barnet, 90% of childcare providers on non-domestic premises are good or outstanding, compared to 85% nationally; whilst 83% of childminders and childcare providers on domestic premises are good or outstanding.



#### 5.4 Special Educational Needs (SEN)

In Barnet 2.6% of two year olds receive SEN support; this is in contrast to 2.8% nationally. 5.1% of three and four year olds in Barnet currently access some form of SEN support compared to 6.1% of the four and three year old population nationally<sup>24</sup>. From our provider survey, we found that 4% of all children were considered to have special needs, with 16% of those accessing Children’s Centres having special needs, but just 2% of those attending childminders.

Figure 8 - Percentage of children with Special Needs



<sup>23</sup> Data taken from LB Barnet’s Tribal System

<sup>24</sup> Education provision: Children under 5 years of age, January 2015:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provision-for-children-under-5-years-of-age-january-2015>

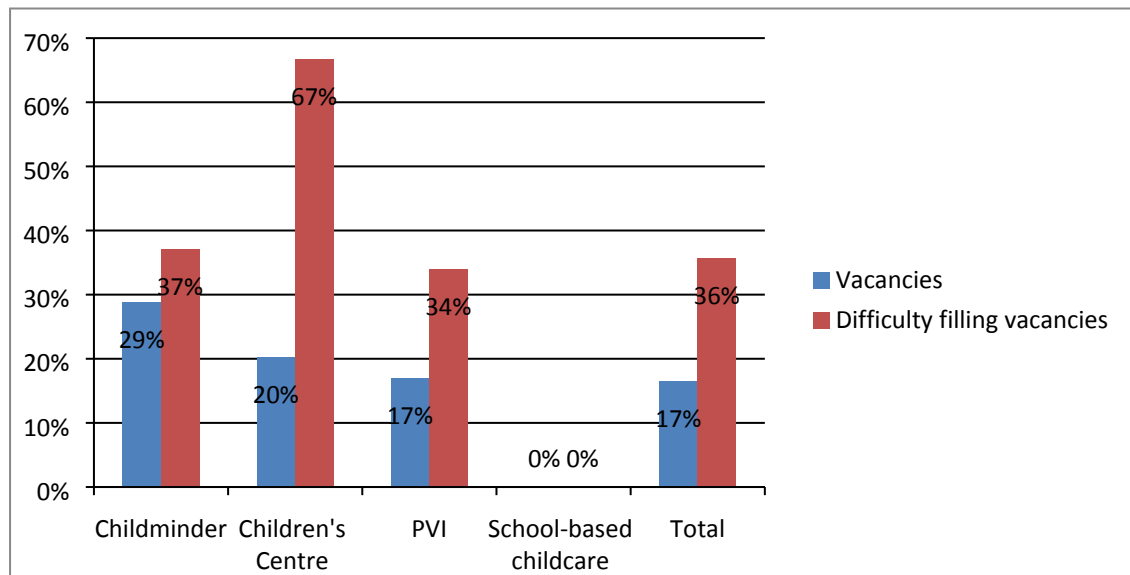
## 5.5 Vacancies

Respondents were asked about current vacancies and whether they experienced difficulties in filling vacancies. Overall, 17% of registered places were currently vacant, with childminders experiencing the highest level of vacancies (29%) and school-based childcare experiencing the lowest at less than 1%.

36% of all respondents that replied to this question said that they had difficulty in filling vacancies. Children’s Centres were most likely to identify difficulty in filling places, with 67% stating that they experienced difficulty in filling vacancies. School-based childcare had the lowest level of vacancies at 1%.

Figure 9 - Percentage of vacancies and difficulty filling vacancies by sector

### 5.5.1 Reasons for vacancies



#### 5.5.1.1 Parents’ preference for nursery places

A number of childminders stated that parental preference was for nursery places in particular for older children - so if a full daycare nursery opened near to them, they would often lose custom.

#### 5.5.1.2 FYI website

Both childminders and day care settings were frustrated that the FYI website was not operating as effectively as they would have wanted. However these issues have now been addressed and we have refreshed the information on the web site in relation to the details about childcare providers in Barnet.

#### 5.5.1.3 Location

Childminders in particular felt that some areas were oversaturated with childminders, which accounted for their vacancies



#### **5.5.1.4 Age groups**

Both childminders and childcare settings stated that some age groups were harder to fill than others. In particular, babies under one year old – which several settings described as the ‘hardest to fill’, and childminders felt was the age when many parents preferred the home-based care of a childminder.

#### **5.5.1.5 Impact of FEE**

Whilst providers were asked separately about the impact of Free Early Education (FEE), a number separately identified the impact of FEE on their vacancies.

The most common reason cited was that whilst FEE places were popular and FEE places were easy to fill, they were not financially viable – in particular for providers that employed qualified and high quality childcare staff.

## 6. Free Early Education (FEE)

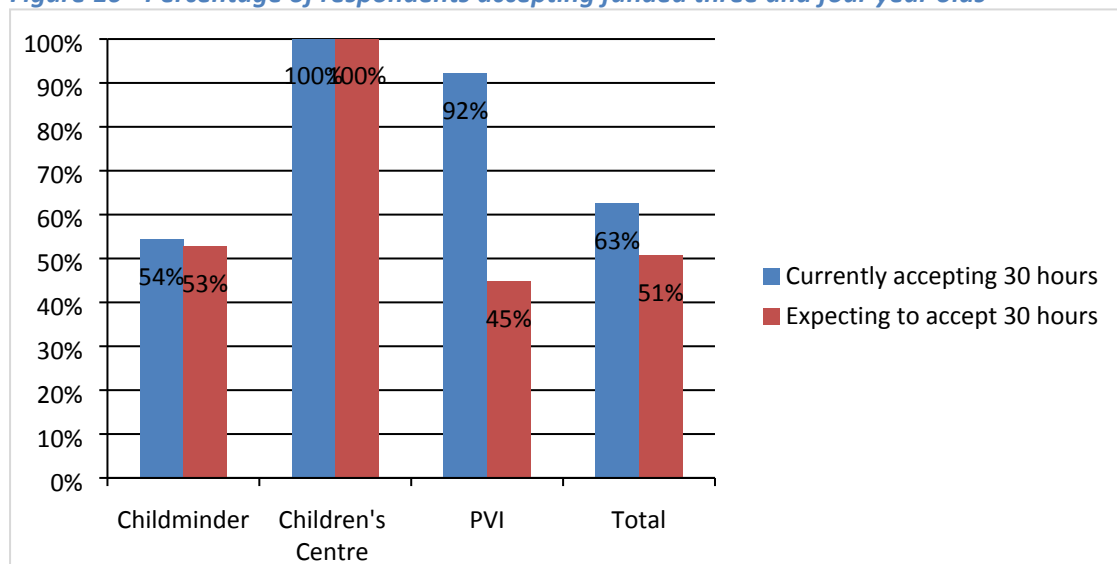
The most recent headcount data revealed that Barnet has achieved 82% take up for all three and four year olds accessing the free entitlement, compared to 96% of three and four year olds nationally, whereas take up for two year olds accessing the free entitlement is 53%<sup>25</sup>. This is compared to 58% of eligible two year olds nationally<sup>26</sup>.

All settings were asked if they accepted free early education funding for two, three and four year olds, and if they were aware of the plans to increase to 30 hours per week the free childcare offered to working parents<sup>27</sup>.

### 6.1 Providers accepting funded three and four year olds

Overall 63% of respondents currently accepted FEE funding for three and four year olds, ranging from 46% of childminders to 100% of Children’s Centres.

Figure 10 - Percentage of respondents accepting funded three and four year olds



#### 6.1.1 Reasons for not accepting FEE funding

Respondents who did not accept, or did not expect to accept, FEE 3 and 4 were largely of the view that the money was insufficient for their business model. Where providers could fill their places with full fee-payers, they did not think that the FEE scheme made commercial or quality sense, with providers identifying “The financial impact of underfunding on our business and quality of care”.

### 6.2 Two year old funding

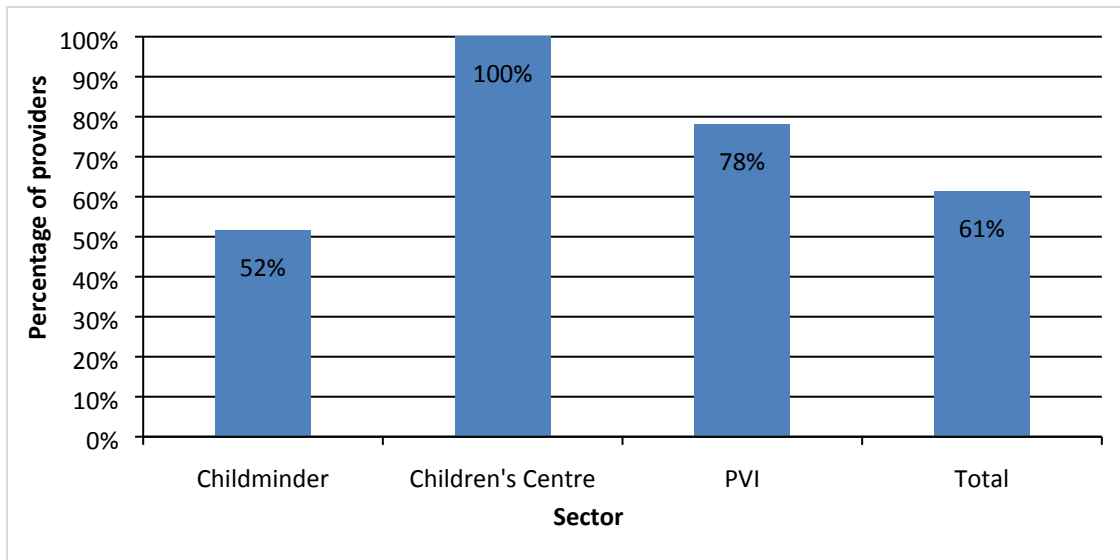
Overall, 61% of all providers who responded to the question accepted FEE 2 funding, ranging from 52% of childminders to 100% of Children’s Centres.

Figure 11 - Percentage of respondents accepting FEE2

<sup>25</sup> Autumn 2015 headcount data taken for FEE 3 and 4 year olds and Spring 2016 headcount data taken for FEE 2 year olds. Both figures are below the England average.

<sup>26</sup> Statistical First Release 20/2015: Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2015: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provision-for-children-under-5-years-of-age-january-2015>

<sup>27</sup> DFE-00177-2015

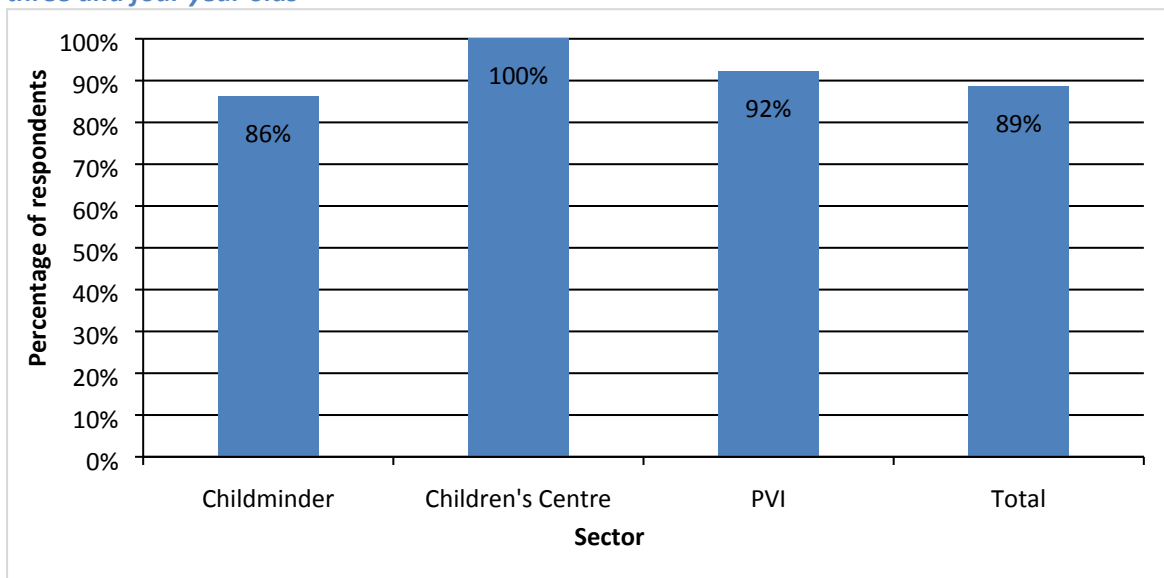


Providers that did not accept the funding were, for the most part, of the view that it was insufficient to continue to provide high quality childcare.

### 6.3 Awareness of increased hours for three and four year olds

Overall 89% of relevant providers were familiar with the planned increase to 30 hours per week for working parents of three and four year olds, with similarly high recognition from all sectors. Whilst Children’s Centres unanimously expected to be able to respond to the planned increase in hours, other sectors were more likely to reject it, with only 45% of PVIs expecting to be able to offer 30 hours/week free childcare.

*Figure 12 - Percentage of providers that were aware of the planned increase to 30 hours FEE for three and four year olds*



In addition to this we conducted a short survey of PVIs. We contacted 89 providers PVIs out of whom

64 providers who took part in the Telephone survey, 69% said they would be interested in increasing their provision for children with working parents, whereas 39% said they would not. Providers cited the reasons below in relation to not being able to expand their provision.

### **6.3.1 Cost and funding rate**

The majority of respondents cited financial concerns as the reason to not increase their provision; providers stated that they did not know how much the hourly rate would be and feared that a rate per hour that was too low would be unsustainable for them as a business. Most providers said that the current funding rate for FEE3/4 is already quite low and if they increase hours for one child to 30 hours per week at the current rate then this would make their business model unviable. However, these respondents also said that their decision to expand would be based on the new hourly rate.

### **6.3.2 Capacity**

Providers who said that they would be interested in expanding their provision for working families stated that they would need some support to expand their physical space to accept more children for longer hours; this included capital grants from the local authority to convert rooms. In addition to this, providers said they would need to negotiate the use of their premises if they considered expanding or look into moving into new buildings.

### **6.3.3 Staffing**

Some providers mentioned staffing as a concern for increasing their childcare hours. Some settings stated that they would need to consider additional staff training and make provision for staff sickness during longer working hours. There would also be added impact by the increase in minimum wage, and unless this is off-set by the new funding rate, it would make the option of increasing almost impossible.

### **6.3.4 Impact on disadvantaged children**

One provider stated that there would be an impact on disadvantaged children accessing the first 15 hours of grant-funding, and places may be prioritised for working families, which could marginalise an already disadvantaged child.

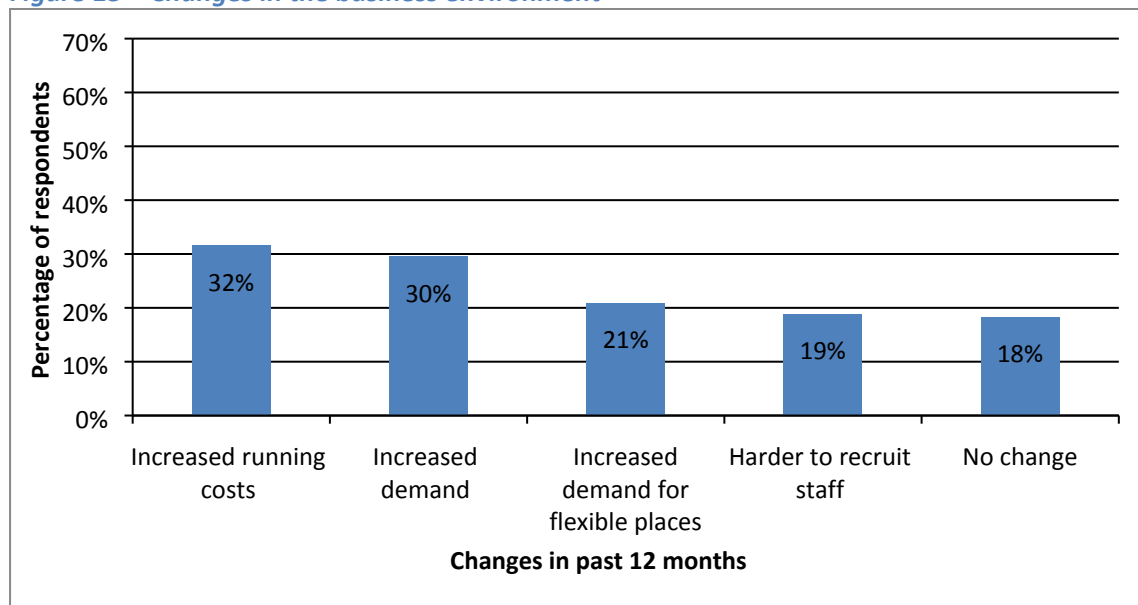
## 7. The Childcare business

Providers were asked about significant changes to their business in the previous 12 months, and how they intended to respond – in particular if they planned to increase their fees and/or stay in the childcare business

### 7.1 Changes in the business environment

82% of respondents felt that the business environment has changed in some way in the past 12 months, with 32% identified an increase in running costs. 30% identified an increase in demand, and 19% felt that it was harder to recruit staff.

Figure 13 – Changes in the business environment

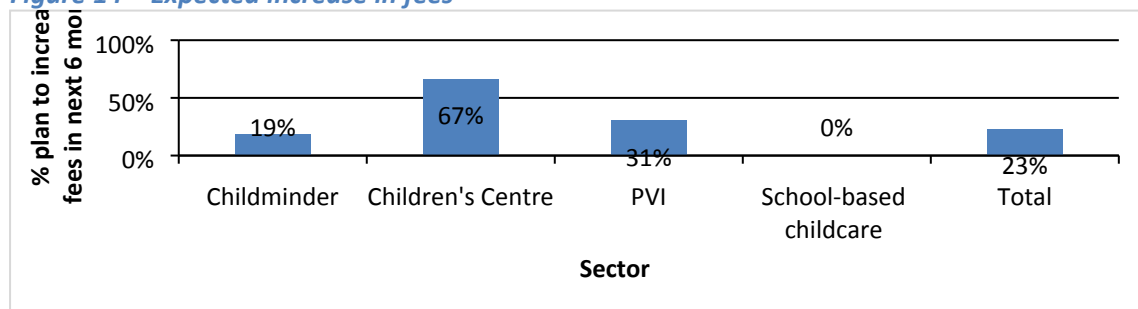


There were some differences by sector, with Children’s Centre and PVI settings more likely to cite an increase in demand (67% and 45% respectively) than childminders 22%. Children’s Centres were the most likely to find it harder to recruit staff (67%) than any other sector.

### 7.2 Plans to increase fees

Overall, 23% of respondents planned to increase their fees in the next six months. Broken down by sector; interestingly, Children’s Centres were most likely to increase their fees (67% of Children’s Centres).

Figure 14 – Expected increase in fees



### **7.3 Plans to continue as a childcare provider**

Providers were asked how long they intended to continue to provide childcare. 55% of providers planned to remain for the foreseeable future. Providers who did not plan to remain in childcare gave the following reasons

#### **7.3.1 Funding and the increase in Free Nursery Education funding**

Number of providers cited lack of funding as one of the main factors in not increasing the Free Early Education funding. Providers felt that the lack of funding which would become available would not be enough and that it could undermine the quality of provision in the future.

#### **7.3.2 Paperwork**

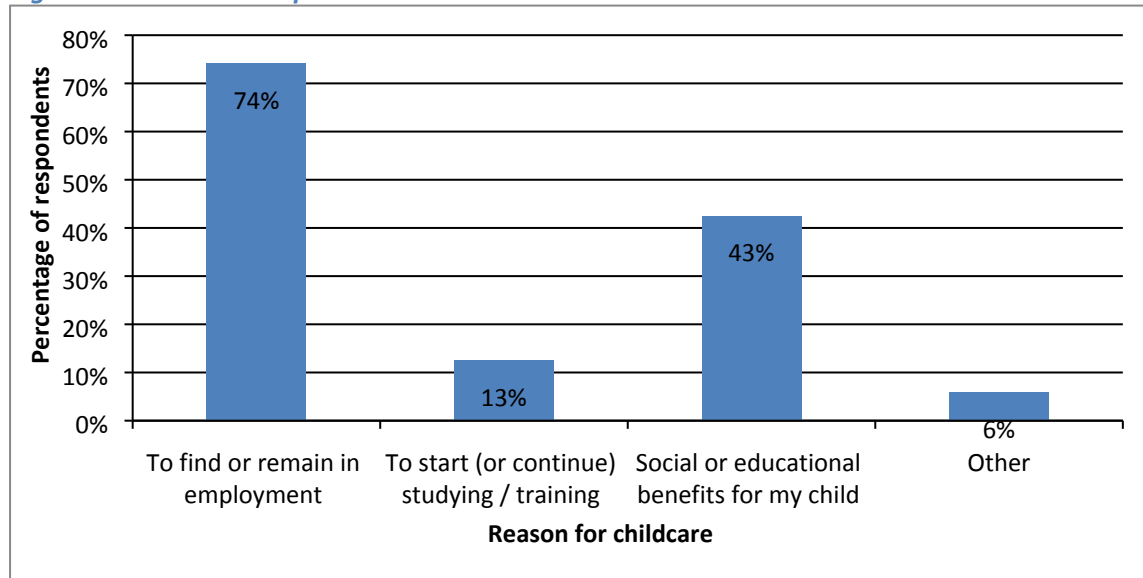
Paperwork and Ofsted requirements were cited by a small number of respondents; specifically stating that paperwork and pressure from Ofsted was preventing them from spending time providing high quality childcare.

## 8. Childcare Demand

### 8.1 Main reasons for using childcare

The majority of respondents using childcare (73%) stated that it is to enable them to find or remain in employment. A further 12% use childcare to enable them to access training opportunities. In addition, 43% of respondents said they felt their child would benefit socially from childcare. A small number of parents cited other reasons - largely to give them or their partner a break from childcare.

Figure 15 – Reasons respondents use childcare



### 8.2 Cost of paid childcare

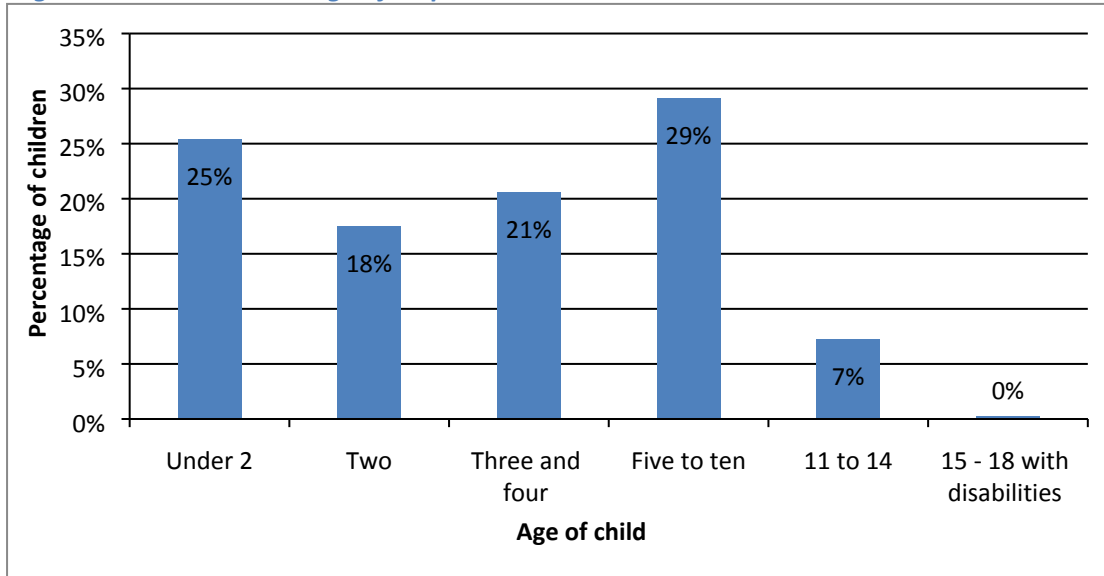
Respondents were asked what they currently paid for childcare in an average week, both during term-time and over the school holidays. The average costs were similar, ranging from £10 per week to over £1,000 per week, and averaging between £150 and £200.

### 8.3 Age and number of children

Parents had a total of 457 children aged under 14 (or under 19 for children with SEN or disabilities). 26 children (5.7% of the sample) had special needs or disabilities. The age breakdown was as follows

- 25% of all children in the survey were under two years old
- 18% of all children in the survey were two years old
- 21% of all children in the survey were aged three to four years old
- 29% of all children in the survey were aged five to ten years old
- 7% of all children in the survey were aged 11 to 14 years old
- One parent had a child aged 15 to 18 years old with a disability

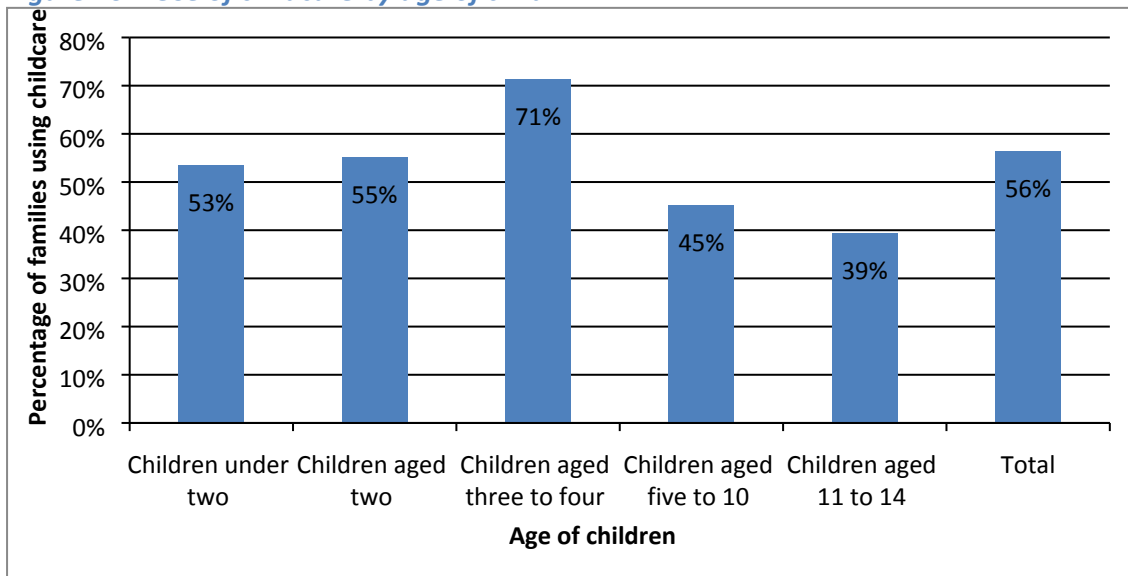
Figure 15 – Number and age of respondents’ children



#### 8.4 Use of childcare in the past 12 months

60% of respondents (146 respondents) said they had used some form of childcare – including paid and/or unpaid - in the last 12 months. This was highest amongst parents with children aged three to four, with 71% of parents of this age group accessing some form of childcare. Parents with children aged 11 to 14 were least likely to use childcare.

Figure 16 – Use of childcare by age of child

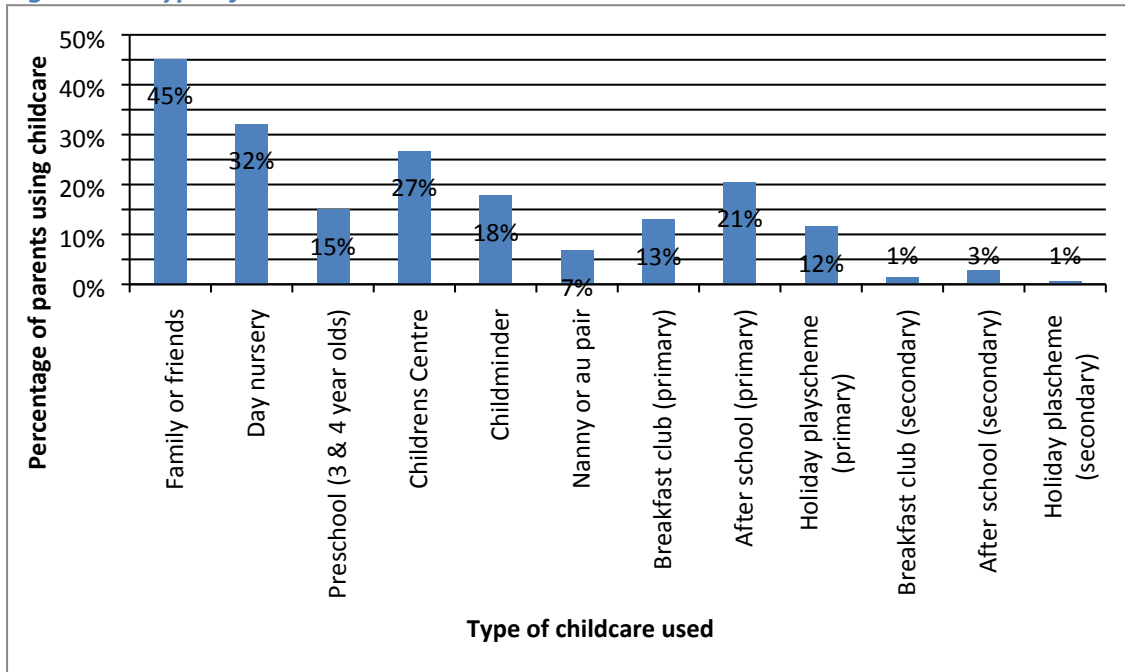




### 8.5 Type of childcare used

Parents were asked what type of childcare they used, with the majority of parents using several types of informal childcare.

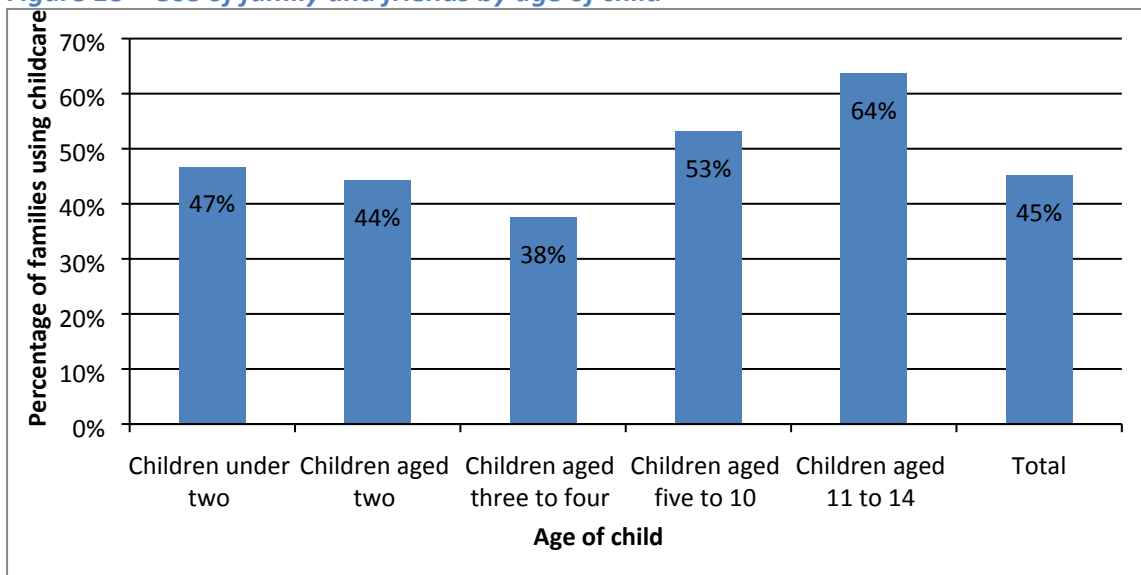
Figure 17 - Type of childcare used



### 8.6 Use of family and friends for childcare

Overall, 45% of all parents who use childcare used family and friends. This rose to 64% of parents with children at secondary school, many of whom relied entirely on family and friends.

Figure 18 – Use of family and friends by age of child



## 9. Free Nursery Education

### 9.1 Two year old offer

90% of respondents with a child aged two stated that they 'were aware of' the two year old early education offer and 42% thought that their child might be eligible. 69% of respondents that thought they might be eligible took up their child's free place. 94% of respondents that took their child's free place used childcare in the London Borough of Barnet.

Respondents that thought that they were eligible<sup>28</sup>, but did not take up the child's place were asked why they did not take up the place.

- 33% felt that their child would not benefit
- 33% could not get a place at their chosen provider
- 33% stated that their chosen provider did not accept funding for free nursery education

### 9.2 Three and four year old free nursery education

80% of respondents with children aged three and four said they took up a funded place for their child, of whom 92% stated that the place was in LB Barnet. Respondents who did not take up their free offer<sup>29</sup> gave the following reasons

- 25% stated that their child would not be ready for nursery education until they were four
- 25% stated that there was a charge for additional hours
- 25% stated that they could not get a place at their chosen provider or there were not places available and a further 8% stated that the setting to which they sent their child did not use the scheme
- 17% stated that they did not know about the free entitlement

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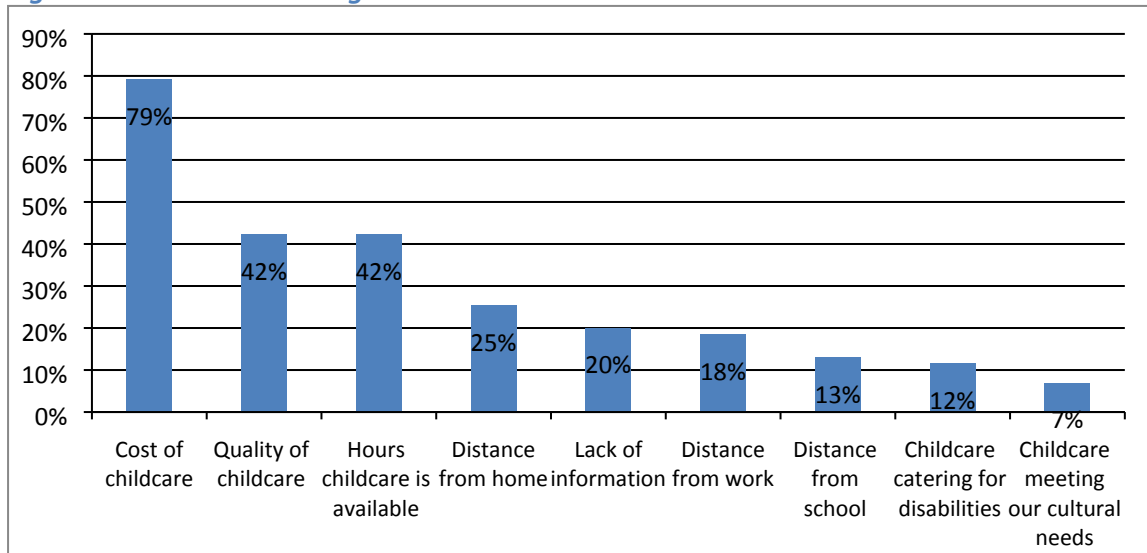
<sup>28</sup> Numbers are very low, so percentages are not statistically valid

<sup>29</sup> Numbers are very low, so percentages are not statistically valid

## 10. Barriers to using childcare

The cost of childcare was cited by 79% of respondents as the biggest barrier to taking up a funded place. Quality of childcare and hours it was available were also cited by large numbers of respondents.

Figure 19 – Barriers to using childcare



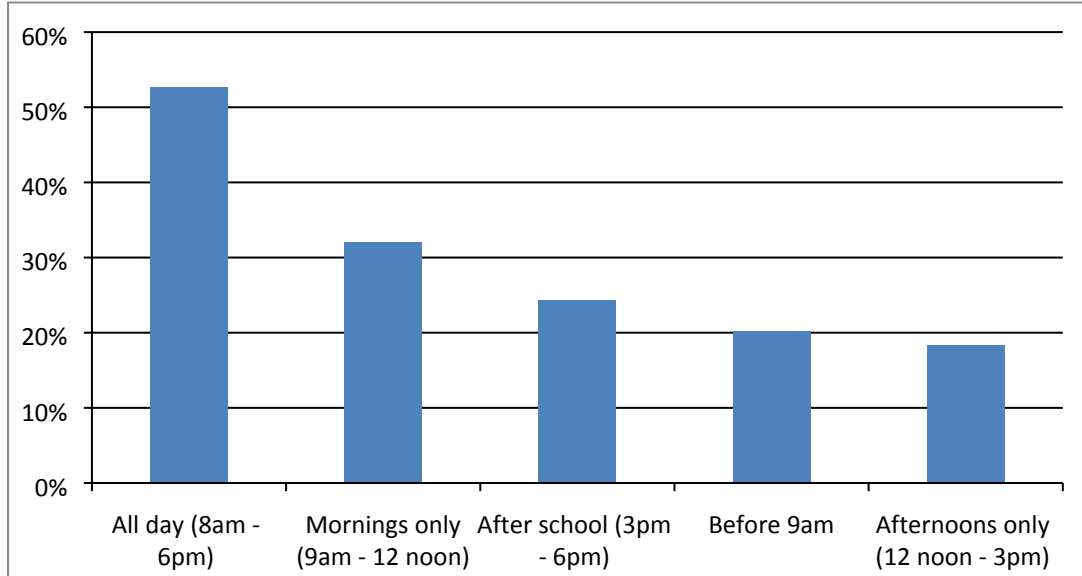
Lack of availability of suitable childcare was also cited by a number of parents, in particular lack of after school care. In addition to this, one parent with a disabled child cited the lack of childcare and/or respite activities to support families with disabled children.

## 11. When childcare is required

### 11.1 School term time

53% of respondents said they wanted full time daycare between 8-6pm, followed by mornings only (32%), after school (24%), early morning (18%) and afternoons only (11%).

Figure 20 – When childcare is required



### 11.2 School holidays

During school holidays, similar times were required. A number of respondents stated that they were teachers, and therefore had not need for childcare for their school-aged children.

## 12. Improvements parents would like to see

Parents were asked what improvements they would like to see. A number stated that they were very happy with all aspects of childcare.

### 12.1 Improved information

A number of parents stated that they had found it hard to find information about the type and quality of childcare available, and that they had to rely on family and friends.

### 12.2 Cost of childcare

A common concern was the cost of childcare, with the increasing costs of nurseries and child minders making it very uneconomic for many parents to return to work. A number of parents stated that the cost of childcare made it not worth working.

### 12.3 Free Nursery Education

From those who took part in the survey, a number of parents found it difficult to take up the free nursery education offer. For example, some parents found that the nursery of their choice did not accept Free Nursery Education funding. Where the funding was accepted, it often offered very little reduction to the overall charges.

### 12.4 Times childcare is available

A number of parents requested longer opening hours. In particular, parents working in central London needed 7am to 7pm to accommodate commuting time.

### 12.5 Childcare for children with special needs

Families with children with special needs felt that there was inadequate childcare catering for their child's needs and in particular no out of school childcare.

### 12.6 Out of school care

Out of school childcare was said to be insufficient, and parents felt that not enough information is available to them. In addition to this, parents stated that they would like to see more drop off and pick-up services at school sites, and more affordable out of school childcare provision.

### 12.7 High quality places

Respondents felt that nurseries with high Ofsted ratings usually had long waiting lists; some parents stated that they felt there were fewer teachers and they felt worried that more cutbacks would lead to larger teacher-child ratios.

### 12.8 Safety concerns

A number of parents felt that the authority's response to recent concerns about sexual abuse was inadequate, leading to a fear of leaving children in unsafe settings.

## 13. Gap Analysis

### 13.1 Childcare

As mentioned earlier in this report, Barnet has a rapidly growing population, with a high number of 0-4 year olds concentrated in some of the most deprived parts of the borough, in particular in the west, in Colindale and Burnt Oak. These areas also have the highest population of families who are on out of work benefits and lone parents. When considering available childcare in these areas we have discovered that the largest shortfall in places is in Colindale. However, this area is also undergoing extensive regeneration, with new affordable housing and new jobs which will create a greater need to ensure there is sufficient childcare.

### 13.2 Information for parents

As part of this parents said that they found it hard to find information about the type and quality of childcare available, and that they had to rely on family and friends.

### 13.3 Two year old offer

Our survey found that although 90% of respondents said they knew about the two year old offer, only 42% thought that they were eligible. Out of this number 69% took up a place. Parents said that they did not know how to find out if their child were eligible, or how to take up a place if they were. In addition to this, there is a particularly high shortfall in the number of FEE 2 year old places in Golders Green, which has a large Jewish population. Evidence collated from our one to one parent sessions which took place at the London Jewish Family Centre in Golders Green shows that mothers were particularly reluctant to take up the FEE 2 offer due to cultural and religious reasons.

### 13.4 Extension of childcare for three and four year olds of working families

With regard to childcare providers potentially increasing their provision to accommodate the new extended free entitlement for three and four year old children from working families, our research has found that providers cited reasons such as the current cost and funding rate; capacity; staffing levels and quality; and impact on disadvantaged children – in particular some providers were concerned that new places for FEE3/4 might have a detrimental effect on the number of places allocated for FEE2 children and push disadvantaged groups out.

### 13.5 Out of school care

Finally, parents who took part in the survey found that there is a distinct shortage in the number of childcare providers for out of school care, such as breakfast, after school, and holiday clubs. In addition to this, one parent said that there was no provision available to children who are affected by special educational needs and disabilities.

## 14. Recommendations

The following recommendations have been identified based on this assessment:

- Improve LB Barnet's childcare information online and through the work of early years professional to ensure all parents can access information about the type of childcare that is available in the borough, both in early years settings, childminders, and in particular, for families seeking out of school childcare such as breakfast club, afterschool care and holiday clubs. This also includes improving the quality of data held by LB Barnet on its internal childcare database, Tribal, for more robust evidence on the service offered by childcare providers, registered places, and live vacancies. LB Barnet has plans to launch a new Provider Portal in September 2016, which is intended to capture live information about childcare providers and vacancies. This will be linked to the LB Barnet web site, and will give greater transparency of local childcare services to parents.
- This CSA proposes that the early years' service works closely with the Jewish community to increase take up of the two year old offer, particularly in Golders Green where there is the highest shortfall in take up numbers. In particular the service will develop a Strategy and Engagement Plan to identify specific barriers in accessing services by particular groups and create a targeted action plan of support to increase take-up.
- Increase the number of free early education and childcare places available to two year olds from the most deprived areas and for those children in lone parent and out of work families, particularly in the west of the borough. This report has highlighted a disproportionately high number of disadvantaged families in areas such as Burnt Oak and Colindale where regeneration over the next five years will create more affordable housing and jobs for local people, putting added pressure on the need for targeted intervention with families in these areas to provide high quality, local childcare.
- Work closely with PVIs to help broker places for disadvantaged two year olds and explore opportunities to expand provision for the forthcoming childcare policy to provide an additional free 15 hours for three and four year old children in working families and increasing the provision of out of school childcare for older children. This will include creating a Working Families Childcare Strategy and Action Plan to respond to the growing demands on childcare provision for working families in the borough.
- Work with school to look for opportunities to further develop the role they play in providing early years services and out of school childcare, including the development of the free entitlement for two year olds in some schools and lead in the expansion of the forthcoming entitlement of free 30 hours for children of working families.
- Develop a robust system to ensure the childcare needs of children with SEND are met. In particular by developing partnerships between the boroughs inclusion team and supporting providers to improve their provision to cater for the needs of all children, and making this information transparent and accessible to parents of children with special educational needs.

## Annex A – Tables

Table 1 - Total number of 0-4 and 5-14 year olds in Barnet

Ward	Total no. of 0-4 year olds	Total no. of 5-14 year olds
Brunswick Park	991	3320
Burnt Oak	1612	4244
Childs Hill	1469	3513
Colindale	1826	3854
Coppetts	1230	3240
East Barnet	1256	3103
East Finchley	1175	2688
Edgware	1359	3589
Finchley Church End	1104	2732
Garden Suburb	1097	2734
Golders Green	1842	4519
Hale	1421	3807
Hendon	1542	3156
High Barnet	991	2632
Mill Hill	1316	3805
Oakleigh	1139	2789
Totteridge	1146	2673
Underhill	1013	3334
West Finchley	1317	2546
West Hendon	1466	3037
Woodhouse	1226	3102
Total	27538	68417

Source: GLA population estimate, 2014



**Table 2 – Ethnicity and EAL of children under 5**

Ward	Number of 0-4 year olds in ward	Number of EAL children under 5	% of children in ward	Number of BAME children under 5	% of children in ward
Brunswick Park	991	388	39%	461	46%
Burnt Oak	1612	1180	73%	1000	62%
Childs Hill	1469	1150	78%	744	51%
Colindale	1826	1160	64%	1057	58%
Coppetts	1230	582	47%	574	47%
East Barnet	1256	486	39%	366	29%
East Finchley	1175	486	41%	420	36%
Edgware	1359	753	55%	506	37%
Finchley Church End	1104	669	61%	537	49%
Garden Suburb	1097	610	56%	360	33%
Golders Green	1842	1107	60%	502	27%
Hale	1421	750	53%	616	43%
Hendon	1542	811	53%	538	35%
High Barnet	991	324	33%	329	33%
Mill Hill	1316	735	56%	667	51%
Oakleigh	1139	480	42%	353	31%
Totteridge	1146	660	58%	625	55%
Underhill	1013	401	40%	399	39%
West Finchley	1317	797	60%	568	43%
West Hendon	1466	938	64%	740	50%
Woodhouse	1226	542	44%	485	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27538</b>	<b>15008</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>11847</b>	<b>43%</b>

Source: LB Barnet Early Years Census 2015

**Table 3 – Children with Special Educational Needs**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Reception - Yr 14</b>
Brunswick Park	276
Burnt Oak	612
Childs Hill	228
Colindale	588
Coppetts	277
East Barnet	424
East Finchley	271
Edgware	256
Finchley Church End	205
Garden Suburb	120
Golders Green	410
Hale	347
Hendon	285
High Barnet	213
Mill Hill	346
Oakleigh	269
Totteridge	205
Underhill	294
West Finchley	209
West Hendon	280
Woodhouse	284
Out of Borough (children funded by Barnet)	1102
<b>Total</b>	<b>7501</b>

Source: LB Barnet Schools Census 2015

**Table 4 - Out of work benefits**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Number of families</b>	<b>Total in ward</b>	<b>% of families with children aged 0-4</b>
Brunswick Park	205	991	21%
Burnt Oak	545	1146	48%
Childs Hill	370	1097	34%
Colindale	420	1104	38%
Coppetts	315	1317	24%
East Barnet	270	1175	23%
East Finchley	240	1139	21%
Edgware	215	991	22%
Finchley Church End	120	1226	10%
Garden Suburb	105	1013	10%
Golders Green	265	1256	21%
Hale	280	1230	23%
Hendon	225	1466	15%
High Barnet	155	1542	10%
Mill Hill	265	1359	19%
Oakleigh	225	1469	15%
Totteridge	140	1316	11%
Underhill	345	1421	24%
West Finchley	160	1826	9%
West Hendon	290	1612	18%
Woodhouse	280	1842	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5435</b>	<b>27538</b>	<b>20%</b>

Source: DWP data and analytics, 2014

Table 6 – Lone Parents

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Lone Parent</b>
Brunswick Park	60
Burnt Oak	175
Childs Hill	135
Colindale	210
Coppetts	120
East Barnet	100
East Finchley	75
Edgware	70
Finchley Church End	40
Garden Suburb	15
Golders Green	100
Hale	95
Hendon	75
High Barnet	50
Mill Hill	70
Oakleigh	110
Totteridge	40
Underhill	115
West Finchley	50
West Hendon	95
Woodhouse	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>1895</b>

Source: DWP data and analytics, 2014

**Table 7 – Shortfall in places**

Ward	Number of known childcare places	Shortfall in impending 30 hours FEE ¾ places	Shortfall in FEE2 places
Brunswick Park	246	51	-23
Burnt Oak	672	128	95
Childs Hill	120	125	38
Colindale	322	167	32
Coppetts	404	75	4
East Barnet	477	60	16
East Finchley	276	59	-8
Edgware	262	95	30
Finchley Church End	318	66	1
Garden Suburb	48	75	21
Golders Green	179	155	119
Hale	574	71	34
Hendon	386	110	13
High Barnet	375	41	-29
Mill Hill	314	95	-6
Totteridge	191	75	-1
Underhill	356	57	0
West Finchley	277	79	23
West Hendon	281	114	24
Woodhouse	340	67	27
<b>Total places</b>	<b>12444</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>337</b>

Source: Early Years Team, LB Barnet, March 2016

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## Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

<b>Title</b>	Annual Report on school funding in Barnet and the Government's consultation on a national school funding formula
<b>Report of</b>	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People and the Director of Children's Service
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	<p>Chris Munday,                      Commissioning Director, Children and Young People  <a href="mailto:Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk">Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk</a>                      Telephone: 0208 359 7099</p> <p>Ian Harrison,                      Education and Skills Director, Barnet with Cambridge Education  <a href="mailto:Ian.J.Harrison@Barnet.gov.uk">Ian.J.Harrison@Barnet.gov.uk</a>                      Telephone: 0208 359 7943</p>

### Summary

This annual update on school and early years funding arrangements focuses on the recent government consultation on proposed reforms to school funding arrangements nationally. It sets out the key elements of the government's ambition to move to a national funding formula and identifies the key issues for Barnet. In view of the further government consultation later this year (and probably in the Autumn term), the report seeks authority to delegate decisions to the Commissioning Director Children and Young People in relation to Barnet's school funding formula for the school funding year 2017/18.

## **Recommendations**

**That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee:**

- 1. Note the annual report on school funding in Barnet and the recent government consultations on potential changes to school funding.**
- 2. Delegate to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services) authority to consult schools on any potential changes proposed by Barnet Schools Forum, as a consequence of further published Government regulation or guidance, expected in Autumn 2016.**
- 3. Delegate to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services) authority to make any necessary amendments to the Schools Funding Formula for 2017/18 to enable the changes to be included in the submission of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to the DfE on 31 October 2016 (or alternative date required by central government).**

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

- 1.1 At its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee agreed to receive an annual report on the local funding formulae for schools and early years and other financial issues affecting early years and schools.
- 1.2 This year's report focuses on two consultations recently launched by the Department for Education (DfE); one on a Schools National Funding Formula and the other on High Needs Funding (SEN). Both consultations are in two stages, the first stage invited submissions by 17<sup>th</sup> April and the second at a date to be announced later in 2016. The department also plans to consult on Early Years Funding later in 2016.
- 1.3 The proposal for a national funding formula paves the way for a fundamental reform of school funding in England. The first stage of the consultation covers the principles, methodology, and the framework of a national funding formula. Crucially, the detail that will allow us to calculate the potential impact on the local authority and individual schools in Barnet will not be released until the second stage of the consultation. Therefore, until more is known, it is not intended to propose any changes to Barnet schools funding formula.

#### **A national funding formula for schools**

- 1.4 The government proposes to introduce a national funding formula for schools that ensures a consistent and fair approach to funding schools across the country based on needs rather than historic patterns of expenditure. It is consulting on the factors that should be included in the formula and the approach to introducing it.



- 1.5 The DfE plans to have a 'hard' national funding formula in place for all mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies from April 2019, with the aim of distributing funding fairly and consistently across the country. It uses the term 'hard funding formula' to distinguish between what will happen in 2019 and what will happen in the two previous financial years.
- 1.6 From 2019/20 the national formula determined by central government will generate the funding for each school (including academies). During 2017/18 and 2018/19 the Schools Block paid to local authorities will be determined by aggregating the amounts that individual primary and secondary schools would get under the national formula. However, in order to allow some local management of the phasing in of the new national formula, local authorities, advised by their Schools Forum, will be able to use a local formula to determine how much each school will actually receive. In other words it will be a hybrid model, referred to as a 'soft' national funding formula.
- 1.7 The government plans to base the national formula on various factors already in use by local authorities, that will be common across the country and has been consulting on those factors. The only adjustments for the location of any school will be an area cost adjustment to take account of higher costs in some areas, particularly London, and the sparsity factor which helps isolated rural schools.

### **Funding blocks**

- 1.8 Between April 2017 and March 2019 the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding must be passed in its entirety to schools.
- 1.9 There will also be a new, formula-based Central Schools Block to support central local authority services. This will cover some of the duties previously funded through the Education Services Grant (ESG). The ESG contributes towards the funding of some central functions that are not funded through the DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) such as school improvement for maintained schools, education welfare statutory work and asset management.
- 1.10 The DfE proposes to provide specific funding for Pupil Number Growth but the consultation document proposed that this should be allocated on historical expenditure, which many local authorities may find difficult, especially at this time when the expansion of secondary schools is about to begin. Our concerns over this have been expressed in Barnet's response to the consultation.
- 1.11 The Pupil Premium, Universal Infant Free Meals, Devolved Formula Capital and other grants will continue.
- 1.12 The government also proposes to reform High Needs funding so that it is distributed more fairly through a formula that is based on factors relating to need rather than on historic patterns of expenditure and provision. To that end it proposes, and has consulted on, the factors that should be taken into account in determining the formula. At the same time it recognises the need to phase in any changes slowly in order to avoid disrupting provision and to give local authorities time to plan, and make the necessary adjustments to, their SEN arrangements and provision. Local authorities will continue to have responsibility for identifying, placing, and providing funding (including top-up

funding) for, children with Education, Health and Care Plans in all schools (including academies).

### **Key issues in relation to the proposed National Funding Formula**

1.13 The key issues for Barnet are:

- **School improvement:** In its consultation document on school funding, the DfE proposed the removal of the LA role in school improvement from April 2017. This was linked to proposals in the White Paper, 'Education Excellence Everywhere' to transfer responsibility for school improvement from local authorities to schools and system leaders – Academy chains and Multi-Academy Trusts, Teaching Schools, National Leaders of Education and other designated system leaders. It is not yet clear how these proposals will be affected by the government's announcement on 6<sup>th</sup> May that, although it remains committed to all schools becoming Academies by 2022, it no longer intends to legislate to require this of all primary and secondary schools.

Barnet is one of the best performing LAs in the country in relation to the proportion of maintained schools that are good or outstanding (94%) but this involves a mixture of strategies. Increasingly it is a school-led system and the school improvement partnerships established across Barnet put Barnet schools in a strong position to respond to the proposed new agenda. However, the key question that any new approach must address is how to ensure a robust programme of monitoring and challenge, as well as support, for all schools, and appropriate intervention for the small number of Barnet schools that are a school causing concern, particularly during the period before all schools become Academies, with most of them in Multi-Academy Trusts.

- **The area cost adjustment** will need to be enough to cover the actual extra cost of living and working in London, taking account of both London weighting and how average school salaries are higher in London, to reflect housing costs etc.
- **The speed of introduction of any changes** – the DfE is proposing to phase in the new arrangements with a gradual move to the national formula and a gradual move away from local formulae paid through local authorities over 2 years. Whether the changes can be achieved without major disruption will depend on the scale of change for individual schools and local authorities over those 2 years, the actual phasing within those 2 years and the level at which they set the Minimum Funding Guarantee, currently set at -1.5%, meaning per pupil funding for any school cannot fall by more than 1.5% a year.
- **The creation of a new central block and the requirement to passport the schools block in full.** This may be achievable without detriment to key services if the central services are funded by top-slicing the school block first and the current High Needs block is protected, but otherwise it could mean significant cuts to central services or Special Educational Needs services. It is not yet clear how the central block will be determined. However, this must be a significant budget risk for Barnet,

especially in relation to some of the historic protected budgets for Family Services (e.g. funding for support to troubled families) and the historic Dedicated School Grant contributions to SEN transport and the educational psychology service.

- **Growth Funds** –The consultation documents say that growth funds will be based on historic spend in 2016/17 and 2017/18. This potentially may assist Barnet as we have a high level of spend but only if it is sufficient to cover actual growth costs as the pupil bulge feeds through to the more expensive secondary sector.
- **High Needs funding** – There is not yet enough information on what the formula will look like to enable any comment on the implications for Barnet.

### **Barnet's response to the consultation**

- 1.14 Schools and local authorities were invited to respond to the consultation. The council's response to the DfE's consultation on both the schools' national funding formula and the High Needs national funding formula can be found at <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s31689/Appendix%20I%20-%20Barnet%20response%20to%20the%20National%20Funding%20Formula%20Consultation.pdf>
- 1.15 London Council's submitted a response on behalf of London and this can be found at <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/children-and-young-people/education-and-school-places/consultation-response-schools>
- 1.16 It is likely that there will be further consultations as the Government moves towards a national funding formula and the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People will co-ordinate any response in consultation with Barnet's Schools Forum.

### **Barnet's school funding formula for 2017/18**

- 1.17 At this time of year, it is usual for the Schools Forum to consider whether to consult with schools on any changes to Barnet's funding formula for the following financial year. However, this year, it is not recommended to consult on any changes ahead of knowing the government's intentions for 2017/18 in relation to moving towards the national funding formula. However, it is likely that following the next round of government consultation, some changes may be required and this report seeks agreement for the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People to be delegated to authorise any consultation with schools, as recommended by Barnet's Schools Forum. Each year, the council has to submit its intended funding formula by the end of October through the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) based on the results of any consultation with schools that may be undertaken. This report also seeks delegated authority for the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People to make any necessary amendments to the Schools Funding Formula to enable the

changes to be included in the submission of the APT to the DfE by the end of October.

## **Early Years**

- 1.18 The department has said it will consult later in the year on a new national funding formula for Early Years. In the meantime it has recently issued a consultation document, entitled 'Childcare free entitlement: delivery model' which can be seen at:

[https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-funding/childcare-free-entitlement/supporting\\_documents/CONDOC.%20final%20version%2031st.pdf](https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-funding/childcare-free-entitlement/supporting_documents/CONDOC.%20final%20version%2031st.pdf)

- 1.19 This consults on the arrangements for the provision of 'free entitlement' childcare, including the planned extension of free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds from 15 to 30 hours a week for working parents. The consultation is not about funding although the document does highlight an increase in the 'national average funding rate to providers' for 3 and 4 year olds (rising from £4.56 to £4.88 by 2019/20. This rate is the average amount paid to local authorities, not providers, and varies depending on the location of the LA. Barnet's actual rate is higher.
- 1.20 Responses to this consultation have been invited by 6 June. The early years team has circulated it to all Private, Voluntary and Independent providers and is preparing a local authority response. Schools have been alerted through the Schools Circular.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The proposed recommendations enable any consultation that may be required with schools as a result of changes proposed by central government together with a timely submission of Barnet's funding formula in October 2016.

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

- 3.1 The alternative option to bring further reports to Committee could jeopardise the ability to properly consult with schools in a timely way.

## **3 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 If the recommendation is approved, any consultation with schools and early years settings would commence following publication of further information on proposed changes to the school funding regime by the DfE.

## **4 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

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

Ensuring that resources available to schools and early years settings are appropriately allocated and supports the delivery of the council's Corporate Plan to ensure that 'Barnet's children and young people will receive a great start in life' and that 'Barnet

schools will be amongst the best in the country, with enough places for all and with all children achieving the best that they can’.

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

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The financial implications of any government proposed changes to the funding formula will be reported to the Committee, when known.

## **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 The composition, constitution and procedures of Schools Forums are set out in the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/2261). They set out the respective roles and responsibilities of the local authority and the Forum.
- 5.3.2 The current system of school funding is based on the dedicated schools grant being split into three separate blocks, namely the schools' block, high needs block and early years block. In addition there is a separate education services grant for use by the local authority. From the schools' block, the local authority is permitted to retain funding for central education services. The legislation governing the current system is the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and associated regulations. In addition there are detailed regulations covering decision making and consultation requirements with the schools' forum and individual schools.
- 5.3.3 The new proposal is to have the dedicated schools grant split into four blocks, namely schools' block, high needs block, early years block and central schools block. It is proposed to distribute the schools' blocks directly to schools based on a national funding formula, whereas local authority funding will be contained within one central schools block. This will require a change to primary legislation and it is intended that this would not be in place to allow implementation before 2019-2020 financial year.
- 5.3.4 The interim proposal is for the Government to calculate the schools' block based on a national funding formula, but to continue to distribute this to local authorities, who will continue to have requirements in relation to consultation with the schools forum and autonomy to distribute it to schools based on existing factors. The funding will be based on a notional per school funding basis, plus funding for premises and growth. There is proposed to be some changes to existing regulations to remove the post 16 factor and to require all funding to be passed to schools. There is also proposed to be a change to the level of the minimum funding guarantee to reflect the fact that some local authority areas may receive less funding and to give these authorities the necessary flexibility to ensure a fair distribution of funding.
- 5.3.5 There is separate consultation on the high needs funding and planned consultation on early years funding as well as on the future role of the schools' forum.

5.3.6 Current regulations require that the local authority consult its schools forum on any proposed changes to its funding formula and to submit a provisional APT to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in October to allow the EFA to confirm that the formula is compliant with current legislation and guidance. A final submission is made in January, however only changes relating to pupil numbers should be submitted at this stage.

#### 5.4 **Risk Management**

The annual submission of school funding information to the Department for Education is governed by a strict timetable to ensure that schools are allocated budgets in good time for each new financial year. The deadlines required by the Department can vary. There is a risk that the Committee meeting dates do not align well with the Government timetable – by delegating this to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, this risk is mitigated.

#### 5.5 **Equalities and Diversity**

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

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

The protected characteristics are:

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

In reviewing the arrangements for the education of pupils with special educational needs and for the use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school ensures that the particular needs of vulnerable children and young people are championed

#### 5.6 **Consultation and Engagement**

The regulations set out the requirements to consult with schools for aspects of school funding. Consultation will be undertaken if required. Schools have been made aware of the government's ambition to move to a national funding formula through the Schools Forum, briefings with headteachers and chairs of governors.

## **6 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

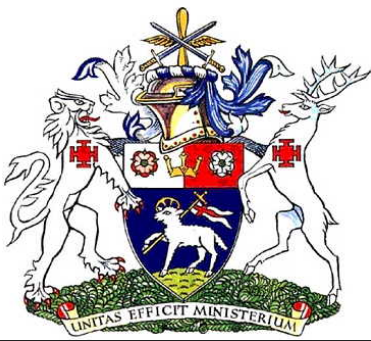
Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=697&MId=7927&Ver=4>

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AGENDA ITEM 13



## Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

<b>Title</b>	Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee Work Programme
<b>Report of</b>	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix A - Committee Work Programme – June 2016 - May 2017
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Edward Gilbert, Governance Service Email: <a href="mailto:edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk">edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk</a> Tel: 020 8359 3469

### Summary

The Committee is requested to consider and comment on the items included in the 2016 work programme

### Recommendations

- 1. That the Committee consider and comment on the items included in the 2016-17 work programme**

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

- 1.1 The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee Work Programme 2016-17 indicates forthcoming items of business.
- 1.2 The work programme of this Committee is intended to be a responsive tool, which will be updated on a rolling basis following each meeting, for the inclusion of areas which may arise through the course of the year.
- 1.3 The Committee is empowered to agree its priorities and determine its own schedule of work within the programme.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 There are no specific recommendations in the report. The Committee is empowered to agree its priorities and determine its own schedule of work within the programme.

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

- 3.1 N/A

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Any alterations made by the Committee to its Work Programme will be published on the Council's website.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

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

- 5.1.1 The Committee Work Programme is in accordance with the Council's strategic objectives and priorities as stated in the Corporate Plan 2015-20.

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

- 5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 The Terms of Reference of the Committee is included in the Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, Annex A.

### **5.4 Risk Management**

- 5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

**5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 None in the context of this report.

**5.6 Consultation and Engagement**

5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.

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Children, Education, Libraries &  
Safeguarding Committee Forward  
Work Programme  
June 2016 - May 2017

Contact: Edward Gilbert 020 8359 3469 [edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk)

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Report Of ( <i>officer</i> )	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
Items to be allocated			
Noam Conversion to Voluntary Aided Sector	To approve the granting of voluntary aided status to Noam Primary School.	Education and Skills Director	Non-key
12th July 2016			
School Admission Arrangements	Committee to receive a report on school admission arrangements.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, Education and Skills Director	Key
Strategy for change for children social care	This item relates to strategy for change for children social care.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, Family Services Director	Key
Updated Early Years Strategy	Committee to consider a paper relating to the updated Early Years Strategy.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key
Annual Safeguarding Board Report	Committee to consider the Annual Safeguarding Board Report.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key
Response to Annual Safeguarding Board Report	Committee to consider the Council's response to the Annual Safeguarding Board Report.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key
Children's Health Performance Report	Committee to receive a performance report regarding Children's Health.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Overview of decision</b>	<b>Report Of (officer)</b>	<b>Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)</b>
Early Years Performance Report	Committee to receive a performance report regarding Early Years Performance.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key
<b>21st September 2016</b>			
School Place Planning	Committee to consider a paper relating to School Place Planning.	Education and Skills Director	Key
Outline Business Case: Alternative Delivery Model for Family Services	This item relates to an outline business case for an alternative delivery model for Family Services.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Key
Youth Strategy	Committee to consider a paper relating to the Barnet Youth Strategy.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key
Annual Report of Safeguarding Services	Committee to consider the Annual Report of Safeguarding Services.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key
Annual report from Schools Forum	Committee to consider the annual report from the Schools Forum.	Education and Skills Director	Non-key
Social Care Performance Report	Committee to receive a performance report regarding social care.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Report Of ( <i>officer</i> )	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
17th November 2016			
Business Planning Report 2017/18	Committee to consider a paper relating to Business Planning for the committee. This will incorporate Finance Planning and a Capital Report, which both relate to the functions of the committee.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Key
Culture and Arts	Committee to consider a paper relating cultural activities in the borough.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key
9th January 2017			
Fees and Charges	Committee to consider above inflation Fees and Charges relating to the remit of the committee.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key
1st March 2017			
Annual report from the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel	Committee to consider the annual report from the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key
17th May 2017			