

MEETING

CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

DATE AND TIME

TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY, 2017

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	Kevin McSharry
Gladys Vandy	Denis Carey	Vavancy

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 16th February at 10AM. Requests must be submitted to Edward Gilbert 020 8359 3469 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

Media Relations contact: Sue Cocker 020 8359 7039

ASSURANCE GROUP

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	5 - 10
2.	ABSENCE OF MEMBERS	
3.	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS	
4.	REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)	
5.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)	
6.	MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)	
7.	HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) Report: National Child Protection Inspections, The Metropolitan Police Service	11 - 16
8.	School Admission arrangements for 2018/19	17 - 42
9.	Schools Funding	43 - 64
10.	Early Years Funding	65 - 74
11.	Commissioning Plans - Addendums 2017/18	75 - 98
12.	Promoting arts and culture in Barnet	99 - 110
13.	Corporate Parenting Strategy	111 - 128
14.	Care Leavers' Strategy and Needs Analysis	129 - 164
15.	Placements Commissioning Strategy	165 - 206
16.	CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME	207 - 212
17.	ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT	

FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Hendon Town Hall has access for wheelchair users including lifts and toilets. If you wish to let us know in advance that you will be attending the meeting, please telephone Edward Gilbert 020 8359 3469 edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk. People with hearing difficulties who have a text phone, may telephone our minicom number on 020 8203 8942. All of our Committee Rooms also have induction loops.

FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by uniformed custodians. It is vital you follow their instructions.

You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts.

Do not stop to collect personal belongings

Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions.

Do not re-enter the building until told to do so.

This page is intentionally left blank

Decisions of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee

17 November 2016

Members Present:-

AGENDA ITEM 1

Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman)

Councillor Bridget Perry (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Alison Cornelius

Councillor Kathy Levine

Councillor Helena Hart

Councillor Rebecca Challice

Councillor Anne Hutton

Councillor Tom Davey (substitute)

Councillor Kathy Levine

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

Denis Carey

Gladys Vendy

Kevin McSharry

Marilyn Nathan

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillor Val Duschinsky

Absent:-

Darren Warrington (Co-opted Member)

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman informed all members and those present in the public gallery that the audio of the meeting would be streamed live through the council's committee section of the website.

RESOLVED – The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Val Duschinsky, who was substituted by Councillor Tom Davey.

Co-opted member Darren Warrington was absent.

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

The following interest was declared:

Councillor	Item	Nature of interest	Detail
Anne Hutton	9	Non-pecuniary	That the councillor is a trustee of the Barnet Carer Centre and Barnfield Children's Centre.

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

Public comments were made by Ms Joanna Conway and Ms Jennifer Conway in respect to item 11, 'Review of Special Guardianship policy and support – Consultation Feedback'.

Public questions and their corresponding answers were detailed in the item's supplementary paper.

Supplementary questions were asked and answers given at the meeting.

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman altered the order of the agenda so that item 11 (Review of Special Guardianship policy and support - Consultation Feedback) be considered before the other items.

6. REVIEW OF SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP POLICY AND SUPPORT - CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, and the Head of Service, Placements (Fostering, Adoption and Placements Team), introduced the item, which related to a review of the Special Guardianship policy and support with consultation feedback.

Following discussion of the item the Chairman then moved to the recommendations as outlined in the cover report. The Chairman took each recommendation in turn, with votes recorded as follows:

Vote on recommendation 1:

For	0
Against	9
Abstain	0

Vote on recommendation 2:

For	9
Against	0
Abstain	0

Vote on recommendation 3:

For	9
Against	0
Abstain	0

Recommendations 2 and 3 were therefore carried, and the following was **RESOLVED**:

- **The Committee approved the new rates for new special guardianship orders.**
- **The Committee delegated authority to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, to undertake an annual review on special guardianship allowances.**

7. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

8. NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY PROPOSALS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN BARNET

The Chairman invited the Education and Skills Director to the committee table to outline key information in the report and answer questions from the committee.

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, introduced the report; the Education and Skills Director then provided an overview of the report's contents.

Following discussion of the item the Chairman then moved to the recommendations as outlined in the cover report.

The following was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- 1. The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee noted the Government's consultation on proposals for education reform.**
- 2. The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee noted the outcome of the education service reviews undertaken by Cambridge Education.**

9. BUSINESS PLANNING

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, introduced the item, which related to business planning for the committee's areas of responsibility.

Following discussion of the item the Chairman then moved to the recommendations as outlined in the cover report. Votes were recorded as follows:

For	5
Against	4
Abstain	0

The recommendations were therefore carried, and the following was **RESOLVED**:

- 1. The committee agreed the Vision and Commissioning Priorities as set out in Appendix A to the report.**
- 2. The Committee recommended the savings programme as set out in Appendix B to the report to the Policy and Resources Committee.**

10. YOUTH SERVICE REVIEW

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, introduced the report with related the Youth Service Review. The Strategic Lead, Children and Young People, then provided an overview of the content of the report.

Following discussion of the item the Chairman then moved to the recommendations as outlined in the cover report. Votes were recorded as follows:

For	9
Against	0
Abstain	0

The recommendations were therefore carried, and the following was **RESOLVED**:

- 1. The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee noted the content of the report and approved the strategic outlines case.**
- 2. The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee delegated authority to the Commissioning Director of Children and Young People to prepare a draft outline business case, with options for consultation, and for a report to be brought back to a future meeting of the committee.**

11. LONDON REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY

The Chairman introduced the item which related to the London Regional Adoption Agency.

The Head of Service, Placements (Fostering, Adoption and Placements Team) then provided further information in relation to how the proposals would impact Barnet.

Following discussion of the item the Chairman then moved to the recommendations as outlined in the cover report. Votes were recorded as follows:

For	9
-----	---

Against	0
Abstain	0

The recommendations were therefore carried, and the following was **RESOLVED**:

1. **The committee agreed, in principle, for the council to join a London Regional Adoption Agency;**
2. **The committee delegated authority to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People (Director for Children’s Services) to progress arrangements relating to the development of the detailed financial analysis and the implementation of the London Regional Adoption Agency model;**
3. **The committee agree that a paper setting out the detailed financial analysis, and the detail of the proposed model, will be brought back to a future meeting of Children’s Education Libraries and Safeguarding Committee for consideration and agreement.**

12. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND JOINT COMMISSIONING IN BARNET

The Chairman introduced the item which related to the Children and Young People’s Health and Joint Commissioning in Barnet.

Following discussion of the item the Chairman then moved to the recommendations as outlined in the cover report. Votes were recorded as follows:

For	9
Against	0
Abstain	0

The recommendations were therefore carried, and the following was **RESOLVED**:

1. **The Committee noted the update on children and young People’s health and the update on jointly commissioned services.**
2. **That the Committee approved the extension of the Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership contracts to March 2018 to align with the School Nursing contract and the 0-19 Family Services Review. The extended contract price will be subject to the allocation from the Public Health Grant.**

13. CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman introduced the report which related to the committee’s forward work programme 2016-17.

The Chairman recommended that the committee approve to cancel the meeting of the committee scheduled for January 17th 2016, and that the items scheduled for that

meeting be considered at the meeting of the committee scheduled for 21st February 2016. The committee unanimously agreed the recommendation.

The following was **RESOLVED**:

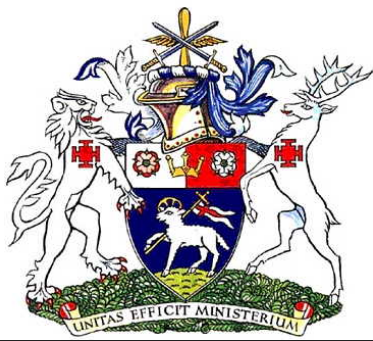
- 1. The committee agreed for the 17th January 2016 meeting of the committee to be cancelled, and that all scheduled items for that meeting be considered at the meeting of the committee scheduled for 21st February 2016.**
- 2. The committee noted the 2016-2017 work programme.**

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

None.

The meeting finished at 8.26 pm

AGENDA ITEM 7



Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

21 February 2017

Title	HMIC (Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary) Report: National Child Protection Inspections, The Metropolitan Police Service
Report of	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Edward Gilbert, Governance Team Leader Edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 3469

Summary

From 1st February– 27th May 2016 the HMIC carried out inspections of the child protection services in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). The findings were published in a report, listed as a background paper, on 25th November 2016.

The item offers members with the opportunity to consider the report published by the HMIC, and to ask questions of the Barnet Borough Commander of the Metropolitan Police, Simon Rose, concerning the report.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the Committee offers its comments on the report published by the HMIC on 25th November 2016 and note that any comments made will be fed back to the London Borough of Barnet Metropolitan Police.**
- 3. That the Committee notes that, when it is available, the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) action plan will be brought as a report to a future meeting for the Committee's consideration.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 On 26th November, the HMIC published a report on its findings from child protection inspections in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). The inspections were undertaken from 1st February – 27th May 2016.
- 1.2 The report examined a sample of child protection cases and found that, from that sample, approximately three-quarters (278 out of 374 examined) were substandard.
- 1.3 Prevailing themes that emerged the inspections were as follows:
 - The police response to children who regularly go missing from home is poor.
 - The focus at a borough level on reducing MOPAC 7 crimes is set out in posters and at management meetings far more clearly and more frequently than the need to achieve good results on behalf of London's children.
 - While the report found good examples of officers working quickly and effectively to protect children when the risk to them was evident and straightforward, they frequently failed to consider whether other children might be at risk from the same perpetrator.
 - Some officers and staff did not have the training they needed to do their jobs effectively, for instance some officers in roles focused on tackling child sexual exploitation (CSE) had not been trained in the subject.
 - Officers frequently failed to request strategy discussions with all relevant partner agencies (such as children's social care and health services).
 - Officers and staff often do not assess cases properly or speak to children who are clearly at significant risk of CSE and do not accelerate action to protect them and trace suspects – meaning they continue to be at risk of abuse.

- Children are frequently detained in custody after they have been charged rather than being moved to more appropriate accommodation (which should be provided by the local authority).
 - Borough officers are often unaware of the registered sex offenders in their areas and so miss opportunities to gather intelligence routinely about those who pose the greatest risk to children.
 - Unacceptable delays, in all kinds of investigations, in gathering evidence, updating children on the progress of their cases, or acting on information (for instance, about individuals possessing indecent images of children).
- 1.4 The report states that the MPS is the first force that the HMIC has inspected as part of its child protection programme to have no single chief officer with responsibility and accountability for all child protection matters across the force. The report therefore concluded that there is an ‘indefensible absence of strategic oversight of this very important issue’.
- 1.5 The report also found that the force does not adequately use MPS-wide police and partnership data analysis of child abuse and other related offence types to track incidents, interventions and outcomes for children. Instead the inspections found that different teams and areas in the service are carrying out their own analyses of demand and trends, yet frontline staff were frequently unaware of any analysis undertaken in their boroughs. This problem is compounded by the lack of connection among the IT systems, databases and spreadsheets that the MPS uses to record such analyses.
- 1.6 The problems highlighted in the report are said to be exacerbated by the limited searches conducted to link new reports of child protection cases with previous records, and by the generally poor use of information possessed by partner organisations (such as children’s social care). The report states that there are significant gaps in information and therefore missed opportunities to act quickly and decisively to protect children and prevent offending.
- 1.7 The full report – 113 pages – is listed as a background paper (section 6) for the committee’s consideration.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The recommendations ask the committee to note the report and to provide comments on the findings in the HMIC’s report.
- 2.2 The report also offers members of the committee to ask questions of the Barnet Borough Commander of the Metropolitan Police, Simon Rose, concerning the report.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None in the context of this report.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 None.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 By receiving this report, the committee is supporting the council's corporate priorities. Specifically, it supports the priority to 'ensure that Barnet is a place of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life'.

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 As set out in the responsibility for functions (Annex A) in the council's Constitution (Section 15a), the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has responsibility to ensure that the council's safeguarding responsibilities are taken into account.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 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 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 None in the context of this report.


6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Report published by the HMIC, 25th November 2016: National Child Protection Inspections, The Metropolitan Police Service – 1 February - 27 May 2016: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/met-national-child-protection-inspection.pdf>

6.2 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee Forward Work Programme:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPIId=697&RD=0>

This page is intentionally left blank

	<p align="center">Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p align="center">21st February 2017</p>
<p align="center">Title</p>	<p>School Admission arrangements for 2018/19</p>
<p align="center">Report of</p>	<p>Commissioning Director, Children and Young People</p>
<p align="center">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p align="center">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p align="center">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="center">Key</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p align="center">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A: Proposed admission arrangements for Barnet community schools in 2018/19</p>
<p align="center">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Chris Munday, Commissioning Director, Children and Young People Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7099</p> <p>Ian Harrison, Education and Skills Director, Barnet with Cambridge Education Ian.J.Harrison@Barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7943</p>

Summary

This report sets out the results of consultation undertaken on proposals to amend the admission arrangements for community schools (2018/19). It proposes that the admission arrangements for 2018/19 provide for a level of priority for children of teaching staff as set out in paragraph 1.6 and the priority for former pupils is amended as set out in paragraph 1.14.

The proposed admission arrangements for 2018/19, as amended, are set out in full in Appendix A.

For all other matters, no change to existing arrangements are proposed.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee agree the school admission arrangements for community schools for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix A.**

- 2. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee delegate to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services) authority to determine future admission arrangements where no change is proposed.**

1 WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 On the 12th July 2016, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee approved consultation on proposed changes to the admission arrangements for Barnet community schools for September 2018. Barnet's admission policy covers all community schools whereas voluntary aided schools, foundation schools and Academies determine their own admissions arrangements. Therefore the council is the admissions authority for 42 community primary schools and Friern Barnet Community Secondary School.

- 1.2 The Committee approved consultation on two proposed changes to the school admission arrangements:
 - awarding admissions priority to children of teaching staff
 - amending priority given to former pupils for in-year admissions

- 1.3 In accordance with the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, admission authorities are required to consult on any proposed changes to admission arrangements. The council consulted with schools, parents, residents etc. between December 2016 and January 2017. This reports contains the results of the consultation and seeks approval for the admission arrangements as set out in Appendix A.
 - a) awarding priority to children of teaching staff**

- 1.4 The School Admissions Code permits admission authorities to give priority to the children of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. In common with many schools in London, some Barnet community schools are experiencing challenges in recruiting and retaining staff. The council has hosted a working group of Barnet headteachers to explore ways to tackle this issue and arising from this, the proposal is to introduce an additional oversubscription criterion which gives priority to children of teaching staff in Barnet community schools. This priority

would be offered where the member of teaching staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made for Barnet community schools and will be in employment as a teacher at the school when the child starts school. Some local academies and voluntary aided schools as well as schools in neighbouring boroughs currently give priority to children of staff and extending this to Barnet community schools would help the schools to compete in the current recruitment climate. The council's proposal is to afford priority to children of teaching staff as it is teaching staff that are the most challenging to recruit.

As well as meeting the requirement to have been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, it is proposed that the priority is only given where the teacher is still in employment as their child starts at the school.

1.5 An analysis of admissions among those Barnet primary voluntary aided and Academy schools that currently operate this policy show that the number of places offered each year at primary schools is most commonly none or 1 each year. Out of 641 reception places these schools cover, 5 places in 2015/16 and 7 places in 2016/17 were allocated on the basis of being a child of a staff member. This does not include any subsequent siblings that would be eligible. While this number is small, in one school the number of places in 2016/17 is 5 and therefore, for an individual school, the impact could be significant. For secondary entry, three Academies in Barnet operate this arrangement and between 0 and 3 places are allocated at each school each year.

1.6 The council consulted on the introduction of an additional oversubscription criterion which gives priority to:

'children of teaching staff of the school where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and will be in employment as a teacher at the school when the child starts school'.

Consultation responses to the proposal

1.7 There were 124 survey responses to the proposal to give priority to children of teaching staff in the oversubscription criteria. 123 responses were received on line and a further response was received by email. This email response was supportive of the proposal and provided reasons for the support – this has been interpreted as 'strongly agree' for the purposes of presenting the findings. Of the 124 total responses, 101 agreed or strongly agreed to the proposal, representing 81%. Four disagreed and 12 strongly disagreed representing 13%. Five respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and two didn't know.

	Number of respondents	%
Strongly agree	75	60
Agree	26	21

Neither agree nor disagree	5	4
Disagree	4	3.
Strongly disagree	12	10
Don't know	2	2
Total	124	

1.8 The respondents were then asked to give reasons for their response. Reasons fell within the following broad themes.

For those that agreed with the proposal

- Benefit to teacher recruitment and retention
- To get and attract the best teachers to Barnet
- Encourage teachers to return to work
- Benefit to the member of staff 'making life easier'
- Teachers will be more effective, not worrying about childcare
- Potential to reduces absenteeism among staff

For those that disagreed with the proposal

- Loss of spaces for local children
- All working parents face the same issues
- Favours teachers and discriminates against other professionals
- All children should have an equal opportunity of a school place
- Not healthy for children to be at the school where their parent teaches.

1.9 This is the second time that the council has consulted on a proposal to offer a level of priority to school staff. As reported to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on 12th July 2016, the response to the earlier consultation in the year was felt to be too low to recommend a change to the admission arrangements and this further consultation was approved. For this later consultation, additional avenues to reach residents, parents and schools have been pursued. The consultation was advertised in Barnet First, on the council's website, advertisements were taken out in local newspapers and schools were provided with the material to advertise the consultation in their home/parent newsletters. We are confident that residents, parents and schools have now had sufficient opportunity to comment and to respond to the consultation.

1.10 On balance, given the support by 81% of respondents for the request by Barnet community schools to address an increasing recruitment and retention issue by offering priority for children of staff, it is recommended that Barnet adopts this proposal. This will bring the admission policy for community schools in line with those of some voluntary aided schools and Academies in Barnet that already incorporate this priority.

1.11 Appendix A contains the proposed admission arrangements for community schools 2018/19 and shows the level of proposed priority that would be afforded to this new category of applicant in relation to other priority criteria.

b) Amending priority given to former pupils for in-year admissions

- 1.12 The current arrangements for In-Year admissions give priority to children who are without a school place and to those wishing to transfer schools who have already been a pupil at the school. This priority provides continuity for former pupils who leave the school, maybe as they have moved away or accompany their family on extended leave, if they return to Barnet. However, as it currently stands, a former pupil who may live outside of the local area would attract some priority ahead of some other children without a school place within the local area. With the high demand of school places the council is proposing to change this oversubscription criterion restricting priority to former pupils without a school place, that live in the geographical area and who have attended the school in the previous 12 months.
- 1.13 The statutory School Admission Code confirms that oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective and procedurally fair. It must not disadvantage unfairly, a child from a particular social or racial group or a child with a disability or special educational need. Whilst there is no specific category related to former pupils within the admission code, the rationale for the criteria relates to the need to ensure that certain children who have left an area for a short period of time, have an opportunity to continue their education within their former school.
- 1.14 The council consulted on amending the oversubscription priority for former pupils to restrict priority to

'Children without a school place who live within the school's associated geographical area (as defined in the admissions policy), who are a former pupil of the school and who have attended the school in the 12 months prior to the date of the application'.

Consultation responses to the proposal

- 1.15 There were 103 responses to this proposal. Of these, 69 agreed or strongly agreed (67%) and 15 disagreed or strongly disagreed (15%). The remaining 19 respondents neither agreed nor disagreed, or didn't know.

	Number of respondents	%
Strongly agree	28	27
Agree	41	40
Neither agree nor disagree	16	16
Disagree	7	7
Strongly disagree	8	8
Don't know	3	3
Total	103	

- 1.16 The respondents were then asked to give reasons for their response. Some provided reasons for the principle of affording any priority at all for former pupils rather than for the proposal to amend the existing proposal.

Taking this into account, reasons fell within the following broad themes.

For those that agreed with the proposal to amend the criteria

- It seems fairer
- a local connection to the area is important
- where a child now lives in a different geographical area, they should go to school in their new geographical area

For those that disagreed with the proposal

- there should be no restriction on the length of time
- some children leave schools for urgent medical and social reasons and should be allowed to return, without the restrictions proposed.

1.17 Again, this is the second time the council has consulted on amending this priority. Given the pressure on school places and balancing the needs of former pupils with those children who may be awarded a school place under other priority categories (such as distance), it is recommended to adopt the amended criteria. It is felt that this achieves a fair balance by affording former pupils a level of priority where they reside in the geographical area and had been a recent pupil, defined as within the last 12 months.

1.18 Appendix A contains the proposed admission arrangements for community schools 2018/19 that reflects the revised priority for former pupils.

Determining admission arrangements in future years

1.19 In future years, where no change to admission arrangements are proposed, the report seeks delegated authority for the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services) to determine admission arrangements on behalf of the council.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The reasons for the first recommendation are set out in paragraphs 1.4 to 1.18 above.

2.2 The second recommendation seeks delegated authority for the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services) to determine future annual admission arrangements where no change to admission arrangements is proposed.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

Maintaining the current admission arrangements for 2018/19 with no further consideration of change was considered but rejected for the reasons set out above.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

The school admission arrangements for September 2018/19 will be determined and become effective for admissions to Barnet's community schools for pupils starting in September 2018.

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 appropriate and sufficient local school places are available for children 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.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

Under section 14 of the Education Act 1966, Barnet Council has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places for providing primary and secondary education are available in the borough. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 sets out the statutory framework for school admissions. This requires the local authority and admission authorities to act in accordance with the statutory school admission code. Whilst some functions in relation to admissions have been contracted out to Cambridge Education, the duty to determine admission arrangements for community schools remains with the Council. This encompasses duties within regulations to consult on proposed changes to admission arrangements.

School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 require admission authorities to consult on proposed changes to admission arrangements between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year, allow a minimum of 6 weeks and to determine the arrangements by 28 February. There are prescribed groups who must be consulted, including the governing bodies of community schools, other admission authorities in the local area, neighbouring local authorities, parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen who are resident in the local area and other interested parties as required.

Annex A, Responsibility for Functions, of the council's constitution states that the committee has responsibility for :

- Planning the adequate provision of school places in the borough
- To be responsible for those powers, duties and functions of the Council in relation to Children's Services (including schools)

5.4 Risk Management

Individuals can make an objection to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) if they think that the admissions arrangements of a maintained school or an academy do not comply with the statutory School Admissions Code or legislation relating to school admissions. There is a risk that any change to Barnet's admission arrangements could result in objections to the OSA. However, this risk has been mitigated as the proposed change to the admissions criteria have been subjected to an assessment of its compliance with the Schools Admissions Code.

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 its admission arrangements, the Council must ensure that it does not discriminate unfairly, either directly or indirectly, children from particular racial or social groups or a child with a disability or special educational need.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

In accordance with the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, admission authorities are required to consult on any proposed changes to admission arrangements and regulations set out requirements for this consultation.

The consultation was undertaken between 23rd November 2016 and 31st January 2017. 124 responses were received in total – 123 through the on-line survey and one received by email. The results of the survey are contained in paragraphs 1.7-1.8 and 1.15-1.16 above. Of the respondents that completed the survey and also provided information about their characteristics

- 73% of respondents were Barnet residents, 17% were from pre-schools, 3% were representing voluntary/community organisations, 2% were residents from a neighbouring borough.
- 39% were of Christian faith, 18% were Jewish, 1% were Muslim, 1% Sikh, 1% Hindu. The remaining respondents either recorded no faith or

preferred not to say.

- 3 responses were from a school, all of these represented primary schools.
- 30% of respondents who were parents of a school age child had children that attended a secondary school.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 12th July 2016
Agenda item 7, School Admission Arrangements 2018/19

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s33139/School%20Admission%20arrangements%202018-19.pdf>

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A

Proposed Oversubscription Criteria for Admission to Community Infant and Primary School Reception Classes in 2018

Offers of places at the preferred community school(s) will be made unless the number of applicants for the school(s) in question exceeds the relevant admission limit(s). When a particular school is oversubscribed, the following criteria would be applied, in order, to allocate the places available.

1. 'Looked after children' and children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been 'looked after' (see Note 1)
2. Children who the Director of Education & Skills accepts have an exceptional medical, social or other need which the school is particularly able to meet (see Note 2)
3. Children who, at the time of admission, have a sibling living at the same address who already attends the school, or the linked school in the case of separate infant and junior schools. Siblings would include half, step, adoptive and foster siblings provided they also live at the same address as the applicant
4. Children of teaching staff of the school where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and will be in employment as a teacher at the school when the child starts school.
5. Children living within the individual school's defined area, with priority given to those who live closest to the school when measuring distance in a straight line (See Note 3)
6. Children living outside the individual school's defined area, with priority given to those who live closest to the school when measuring distance in a straight line (See Note 3)

Note 1

A child looked after is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. An adopted child is defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Child arrangements orders are defined in Section.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

Note 2

Applications made under this criterion must be supported by a current letter from a doctor, social worker or other appropriate professional. The letter must name the school and specify the reasons why the particular school is most suitable for the child and the difficulties that would be faced if the child attends an alternative school. Information not provided at the time the application is submitted may not be considered at a later date.

Note 3

A map showing a school's defined area may be viewed at the school. Distance is measured in a straight line between the address point for the child's home, supplied by the Royal Mail, to the school's main gate (unless specified otherwise) using the Council's computerised geographical information system.

Tie Breaker

Distance will be used as a tie-breaker within each category.

Final Tie Breaker

Applicants from the same block of flats, or applicants who live the same distance from the school will be selected in random order and places will be offered accordingly.

Applications on behalf of Twins or Triplets (Multiple Births)

If only one place is available at the school and the next child who qualifies for a place is one of multiple birth siblings, we will ask community schools to go over their published admission number to support the family. These children will be deemed as 'excepted' pupils under infant class size legislation.

Request to delay entry to school (known as deferred entry)

Children reach compulsory school age at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. Parents of children below compulsory school age may defer their child's entry to a Reception class school until the later in the school year. However, a Reception class place should be taken up by the start of the summer term. If parents want their child to take up a Year 1 place in the following academic year a fresh application must be made.

Requests for admission outside a child's age group

Children are educated in school with others of their age group. However, parents may request that their child is exceptionally admitted outside their age group. The head teacher will decide whether or not the individual child's circumstances make this appropriate on educational grounds. Such requests will only be agreed in exceptional circumstances.

Parents seeking admission to an age group below the child's actual age should submit their request in the September of the year before the year when children of the same age are due to start school **and** submit a 'Request for Deferred Entry' form.

Summer-born children

If parents wish to apply for their summer-born child to join a Reception class, instead of Year 1, in September 2019, they must complete an application for Reception 2018 **and** submit a 'Request for Deferred Entry' form. Summer-born children are those born between 1 April and 31 August.

Fair processing and Sharing Information

The information provided with an application for a school place will be used in line with the provisions of the **Data Protection Act 1998**. Barnet has a duty under the Children's Act 2004 to work with partners to provide and improve services to children and young people in the area. Therefore, Barnet may also use this information for other legitimate purposes and may share this information where necessary with other bodies responsible for administering services to children and young people. Barnet also has a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end, it may use the information you have provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud.

The people who may receive this information are:

- o the current school
- o the school to which the child is to be admitted
- o other Admission Authorities so as to ensure that parents have provided consistent information and do not hold on to more than one school place
- o any organisation legitimately investigating allegations of fraud, criminal offences or child protection.

Oversubscription criteria for In-Year Admission to Community Schools 2018-19

(Please note: In-year admission oversubscription criteria are applied to applications that are made outside of the annual admission rounds for Reception and Year 7 school places.)

Offers of places up to the admission limit will be made to all those who apply unless the particular school is over-subscribed. When this occurs places will be allocated in the following order:

1. 'Looked after children' and children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been 'looked after' (see Note 1)
2. Children without a school place who the Director of Education & Skills accepts have an exceptional need which the school is particularly able to meet (see Note 2)
3. Children without a school place who live within the school's associated geographical area* and will have a sibling** at the school at the time of admission
4. Children without a school place who live outside the school's associated geographical area* and will have a sibling** at the school at the time of admission
5. Children of teaching staff of the school where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and will be in employment as a teacher at the school when the child starts school
6. Children who live within the school's associated geographical area* and who are without a school place because they have moved
7. Children without a school place who live within the school's associated geographical area*, who are a former pupil of the school and who have attended the school in the 12 months prior to the date of the application
8. Other children without a school place who live within the school's associated geographical area*
9. Children who live outside the school's geographical area* and will have a sibling** in the school at the time of admission
10. Other children who live within the school's associated geographical area*
11. Remaining places are offered to children living outside the individual school's defined area, giving priority to those living closest to the school when distance is measured in a straight line.

*For our community secondary school (Friern Barnet School), the associated geographical area is defined as the largest area to which places have been offered at secondary transfer during the last three years.

For our community primary schools, a map showing a school's defined area may be viewed at the school. Distance is measured in a straight line between the address point for the child's home, supplied by the Royal Mail, to the school's main gate (unless specified otherwise) using the Council's computerised geographical information system.

** A sibling would include a half, step, adoptive or foster sibling provided they also live at the same address and who is a pupil or has been offered a place at the school in years Reception – 11 (or in years 12-13 at Woodhouse College, provided they also attended in years 7-11 for at least one year), or at the linked school in the case of separate infant and junior schools.

Note 1

A child looked after is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. An adopted child is defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Child arrangements orders are defined in Section.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

Note 2

Applications made under this criterion must be supported by a current letter from a doctor, social worker or other appropriate professional. The letter must name the school and must specify the reasons why the particular school is most suitable for the child and the difficulties that would be faced if the child attends an alternative school.

Distance

Distance is measured in a straight line between the address point for the child's home, supplied by the Royal Mail, to the school's main gate (unless specified otherwise) using the Council's computerised geographical information system.

Tie Breaker

Distance will be used as a tie-breaker within each category.

Final Tie Breaker

Applicants from the same block of flats, or applicants who live the same distance from the school will be selected in random order and places will be offered accordingly.

Applications made on behalf of twins or triplets (Multiple Births)

If only one place is available at the school and the next child who qualifies for an infant class place is one of multiple birth siblings, we will ask community schools to go over their published admission number to support the family. These children will be deemed as 'excepted' pupils under infant class size legislation. When the over-subscription criteria are applied to other applications made on behalf of twins or triplets, they will be selected in random order and places will be offered accordingly. This could result in one (or two) children in a family being offered a place but not the other(s). Where relevant, the remaining child(ren) would be retained automatically on the particular school's waiting list and would have priority should any vacancies arise at that school.

Fair processing and Sharing Information

The information provided with an application for a school place will be used in line with the provisions of the **Data Protection Act 1998**. Barnet has a duty under the Children's Act 2004 to work with partners to provide and improve services to children and young people in the area. Therefore, Barnet may also use this information for other legitimate purposes and may share this information where necessary with other bodies responsible for administering services to children and young people. Barnet also has a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end, it may use the information you have provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud.

The people who may receive this information are:

- o The current school
- o The school to which the child is to be admitted
- o Other Admission Authorities so as to ensure that parents have provided consistent information and do not hold on to more than one school place
- o Any organisation legitimately investigating allegations of fraud, criminal offences or child protection.

Proposed Oversubscription Criteria for Transfer to Community Junior School in 2018-19

Offers of places at the preferred community school(s) will be made unless the number of applicants for the school(s) in question exceeds the relevant admission limit(s). When a particular school is oversubscribed, the following criteria would be applied, in order, to allocate the places available.

1. 'Looked after children' and children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been 'looked after' (see Note 1)
2. Children who, when the applications are processed, attend the linked infant school.
3. Children who the Director of Education & Skills accepts have an exceptional medical, social or other need which the school is particularly able to meet (see Note 2)
4. Children who live within the individual school's defined area and who are without a school place because they have moved
5. Children who, at the time of admission, have a sibling living at the same address who already attends the school, or the linked school in the case of separate infant and junior schools. Siblings would include half, step, adoptive and foster siblings provided they also live at the same address as the applicant.
6. Children of teaching staff of the school where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and will be in employment as a teacher at the school when the child starts school
7. Children living within the individual school's defined area, with priority given to those who live closest to the school when measuring distance in a straight line (See Note 3)
8. Children living outside the individual school's defined area, with priority given to those who live closest to the school when measuring distance in a straight line (See Note 3)

Note 1

A child looked after is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. An adopted child is

defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Child arrangements orders are defined in Section.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

Note 2

Applications made under this criterion must be supported by a current letter from a doctor, social worker or other appropriate professional. The letter must name the school and specify the reasons why the particular school is most suitable for the child and the difficulties that would be faced if the child attends an alternative school. Information not provided at the time the application is submitted may not be considered at a later date.

Note 3

A map showing a school's defined area may be viewed at the school. Distance is measured in a straight line between the address point for the child's home, supplied by the Royal Mail, to the school's main gate (unless specified otherwise) using the Council's computerised geographical information system.

Tie Breaker

Distance will be used as a tie-breaker within each category.

Final Tie Breaker

Applicants from the same block of flats, or applicants who live the same distance from the school will be selected in random order and places will be offered accordingly.

Applications made on behalf of twins or triplets

When the over-subscription criteria are applied to applications made on behalf on twins or triplets, they will be selected in random order and places will be offered accordingly. This could result in one (or two) children in a family being offered a place but not the other(s). Where relevant, the remaining child(ren) would be retained automatically on the particular school's waiting list and would have priority should any vacancies arise at that school.

Fair processing and Sharing Information

The information provided with an application for a school place will be used in line with the provisions of the **Data Protection Act 1998**. Barnet has a duty under the Children's Act

2004 to work with partners to provide and improve services to children and young people in the area. Therefore, Barnet may also use this information for other legitimate purposes and may share this information where necessary with other bodies responsible for administering services to children and young people. Barnet also has a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end, it may use the information you have provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud.

The people who may receive this information are:

- o The current school
- o The school to which the child is to be admitted
- o Other Admission Authorities so as to ensure that parents have provided consistent information and do not hold on to more than one school place
- o Any organisation legitimately investigating allegations of fraud, criminal offences or child protection.

Proposed Oversubscription Criteria for Friern Barnet Community Secondary School at Secondary Transfer 2018

Potential offers of places up to the admission limit of 162 will be made to all those who apply unless the school is over-subscribed. When this occurs places will be allocated in the following order:

1. 'Looked after children' and children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been 'looked after' (see Note 1)
2. Children who, at the time of admission, have a sibling living at the same address who is a pupil in years 7 - 11 of the school, or who is attending the linked 6th Form College, Woodhouse College, if they previously attended in years 7 – 11 for at least one year. Siblings would include half, step, adoptive and foster siblings provided they also live at the same address as the applicant.
3. Children of teaching staff of the school where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and will be in employment as a teacher at the school when the child starts school
4. Priority will be given to a maximum of 16 pupils who show performing arts potential in dance, drama or music
5. Remaining places are offered on a geographical basis, with priority given to those who live closest to the school when measuring distance in a straight line (see Note 2).

Note 1

A child looked after is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. An adopted child is defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Child arrangements orders are defined in Section.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

Note 2

Distance is measured in a straight line between the address point for the child's home, supplied by the Royal Mail, to the school's main gate (unless specified otherwise) using the Council's computerised geographical information system.

Tie Breaker

Distance will be used as a tie-breaker within each category.

Final Tie Breaker

Applicants from the same block of flats, or applicants who live the same distance from the school will be selected in random order and places will be offered accordingly.

Applications made on behalf of twins or triplets

When the over-subscription criteria are applied to applications made on behalf on twins or triplets, they will be selected in random order and places will be offered accordingly. This could result in one (or two) children in a family being offered a place but not the other(s). Where relevant, the remaining child(ren) would be retained automatically on the school's waiting list and would have priority should any vacancies arise at the school.

Fair processing and Sharing Information

The information provided with an application for a school place will be used in line with the provisions of the **Data Protection Act 1998**. Barnet has a duty under the Children's Act 2004 to work with partners to provide and improve services to children and young people in the area. Therefore, Barnet may also use this information for other legitimate purposes and may share this information where necessary with other bodies responsible for administering services to children and young people. Barnet also has a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end, it may use the information you have provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud.

The people who may receive this information are:

- o The current school
 - o The school to which the child is to be admitted
 - o Other Admission Authorities so as to ensure that parents have provided
 - o consistent information and do not hold on to more than one school place
 - o Any organisation legitimately investigating allegations of fraud, criminal offences or child protection.
6. Priority will be given to a maximum of 16 pupils who show performing arts potential in dance, drama or music
4. Remaining places are offered on a geographical basis, with priority given to those who live closest to the school when measuring distance in a straight line (see Note 2).

Note 1

A child looked after is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. An adopted child is defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Child arrangements orders are defined in Section.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

Note 2

Distance is measured in a straight line between the address point for the child's home, supplied by the Royal Mail, to the school's main gate (unless specified otherwise) using the Council's computerised geographical information system.

Tie Breaker

Distance will be used as a tie-breaker within each category

Final Tie Breaker

Applicants from the same block of flats, or applicants who live the same distance from the school will be selected in random order and places will be offered accordingly.

Applications made on behalf of twins or triplets (Multiple Births)

When the over-subscription criteria are applied to applications made on behalf on twins or triplets, they will be selected in random order and places will be offered accordingly. This

could result in one (or two) children in a family being offered a place but not the other(s). Where relevant, the remaining child(ren) would be retained automatically on the school's waiting list and would have priority should any vacancies arise at the school.

Fair processing and Sharing Information

The information provided with an application for a school place will be used in line with the provisions of the **Data Protection Act 1998**. Barnet has a duty under the Children's Act 2004 to work with partners to provide and improve services to children and young people in the area. Therefore, Barnet may also use this information for other legitimate purposes and may share this information where necessary with other bodies responsible for administering services to children and young people. Barnet also has a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end, it may use the information you have provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud.

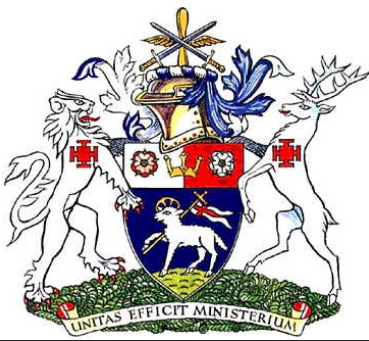
The people who may receive this information are:

- o The current school
- o The school to which the child is to be admitted
- o Other Admission Authorities so as to ensure that parents have provided consistent information and do not hold on to more than one school place
- o Any organisation legitimately investigating allegations of fraud, criminal offences or child protection.

Admission limits to Barnet community primary schools 2018/19

Community primary schools	Admission limit
Barnfield Primary	60
Bell Lane Primary	60
Brookland Junior	90
Brookland Infant	90
Brunswick Park Primary	60
Chalgrove Primary	30
Childs Hill Primary	60
Church Hill Primary	30
Claremont Primary	60
Colindale Primary	90
Coppetts Wood Primary	30
Courtland Primary	30
Cromer Road Primary	60
Danegrove Primary	90
Deansbrook Infant	90
Dollis Infant	90
Edgware Primary	90
The Fairway Primary	30
Foulds Primary	45
Frith Manor Primary	90
Garden Suburb Junior	90

Community primary schools	Admission limit
Garden Suburb Infant	90
Goldbeaters Primary	60
Holly Park Primary	60
Livingstone Primary	30
Manorside Primary	30
Martin Primary	90
Monkfrith School	60
Moss Hall Junior	120
Moss Hall Infant	120
Northside Primary	30
The Orion Primary	120
Queenswell Junior	90
Queenswell Infant	90
Summerside Primary	60
Sunnyfields Primary	30
Tudor Primary	30
Underhill Primary	60
Wessex Gardens Primary	60
Whitings Hill Primary	60
Woodcroft Primary	60
Woodridge Primary	30



Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

21st February 2017

Title	Annual report on School funding in Barnet for 2017/18
Report of	Commissioning Director –Children and Young People
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	<p>Appendix A: Schools budget for 2017/18 (as at January 2017)</p> <p>Appendix B: Draft response to the government’s consultation on the introduction of a national funding formula (stage 2)</p> <p>Appendix C: Draft response to the government’s consultation on the reform of high needs funding</p>
Officer Contact Details	<p>Chris Munday, Commissioning Director, Children and Young People Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7099</p> <p>Ian Harrison, Education and Skills Director, Barnet with Cambridge Education Ian.J.Harrison@Barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7943</p>

Summary

This annual report on school funding arrangements updates the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on the government’s progress towards the implementation of the national funding formulae for schools. The report also sets out the main features of Barnet’s schools budget for 2017/18 which takes into account the latest government guidance and regulations in relation to school funding in preparation for the move towards a national scheme. Finally the report discusses the implications of, and the local response to the government’s removal of the Education Services Grant to local authorities.

Recommendations

That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee:

- 1. Note the annual report on school funding in Barnet including:**
 - **The National Funding Formula for schools**
 - **The Barnet Schools Budget for 2017/18 set out in Appendix A and the submission of the Authority Pro-forma Tool as set out in Paragraph 1.9**
 - **The Education Services Grant**

- 2. Delegate to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services) authority to consult the Schools Forum and schools on any potential changes to the School Funding formula for 2018/19 and possible retention of part of the DSG budget to fund services to maintained schools currently funded from the Education Services Grant and any other significant changes to the Schools Budget that may be necessary as a consequence of published Government regulations or guidance.**

- 3. Comment on the proposed responses to the government's second round of consultation on the Schools national funding formula and the High Needs funding reform as set out in:**
 - **Appendix B: Draft Barnet response to the government consultation on the introduction of a national funding formula (stage 2)**
 - **Appendix C: Draft Barnet response to the government consultation on the reform of high needs funding.**

and delegate final submission of the response to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People.

- 4. Note that a report on the results of any consultation and any proposed amendments to Barnet's Funding Formula for 2018/19 and any other significant changes to the Schools Budget or in respect of funding of services to maintained schools currently funded from the Education Services Grant will be submitted to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee by December 2017.**

1 WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 At its meeting on 9th 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. On the 14th June 2016, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee considered the Government's intention to move to a national funding formula. It also delegated to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People authority to consult schools on any changes to Barnet's funding formula for 2017/18 and to submit Barnet's funding formula to central government.
- 1.2 The schools budget submitted for 2017/18 is set out in Appendix A. This report updates the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on:
 - a) The National Funding Formula for schools
 - b) The Barnet Schools Budget for 2017/18
 - c) The Education Services Grant.

An update on early years funding is considered in a separate report on the Agenda of the meeting.

- 1.3 The report also seeks delegated authority to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People to consult schools on any changes to Barnet's funding formula for 2018/19. A report on the result of the consultation and any proposed amendments to Barnet's funding formula to central government will be presented to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee in Autumn 2017.

a) The National Funding Formula for schools

- 1.4 The Department for Education released Stage 2 of the Schools national funding formula and the High Needs funding reform consultations on 14 December 2016, with a closing date for responses of 22 March 2017. The full consultation documents can be viewed online at: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/> and <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/high-needs-funding-reform-2/>
- 1.5 The National Funding Formula will be phased in during 2018/19 and 2019/20. There will be no impact on school budgets in 2017/18. The headline proposals are:
 - A 'soft' formula will apply for 2018/19 where school allocations under the National Funding Formula will be aggregated and allocated to local authorities in the Schools Block. There will be an interim local formula for this period. This allows for some local flexibility, but in practice most local authorities are likely to pass on the funding according to the national formula.

- From 2019/20, the national funding formula will be used to calculate the vast majority of each individual school's budget, but with local authorities continuing to have limited flexibility on some parts of the formula, particularly in relation to funding for pupil growth.
- The school level Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will continue at - 1.5% per pupil, but there will be additional protection in the form of a school level funding floor – limiting the reduction of overall funding to a school to a maximum of 3% per pupil by 2019/20.
- Allocations to most Barnet mainstream schools will reduce – with losses varying from a fraction of 1% up to 3% over two years. So the worst case scenario for individual schools is that they could lose up to 1.5% of their formula funding per pupil in 2018/19 and the same in 2019/20.
- The combined effect of the changes to funding are that, if the National Funding Formula had been fully implemented in 2016/17, Barnet would have suffered a total reduction in DSG funding of 0.8%, which represents a total loss of about £2.5m on the DSG budget of £319m. On average that means losses of about 1% to school budgets over the two years, 2018/19 to 2019/20.
- No local authority will lose funding as a result of the new High Needs formula (funding for Special Educational Needs) and schools' budgets for specialist SEN places will be similarly protected.

1.6 Appendix B sets out the proposed response to the second stage of the government's consultation on the introduction of the national funding formula. Appendix C sets out the proposed response to the government consultation on reform to high needs funding. Following the Schools Forum on the 9th February and the consideration of these responses by the committee, authority is sought to delegate the final response to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People.

b) The Barnet Schools Budget for 2017/18

- 1.7 The Schools Budget is mainly funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). For 2017/18 this is made up of three notional funding blocks:
- Schools Block
 - Early Years Block
 - High Needs Block.

Each block is calculated on a different basis:

- The **Schools Block** is calculated using pupil numbers taken from the October 2016 schools census, multiplied by a guaranteed unit of funding (SBUF).
- The **Early Years Block** is estimated using early years numbers taken from the Early Years and Schools census in January 2016. Extra funding has been provided to cover the cost of extending free childcare to 30 hours a week for eligible working parents.

- A further update to the 2017/18 Early Years Block allocation will be made once the January 2017 Early Years and Schools census numbers are finalised.
 - The early years pupil premium has been set at the same level as 2016/17 but may be subject to change.
 - The **High Needs Block** is a cash amount and is based on the amount that was allocated in 2016/17. In 2017/18, the DfE has increased the High Needs block funding slightly to account for population growth. Barnet will receive an additional £1.4m. High Needs funding for pupils with SEN is protected.
- 1.8 Funding for Barnet schools will remain broadly in line with funding in 2016/17. The Age-Weighted Pupil Unit remains the same as in 2016/17 for Primaries and marginally higher (£10 per pupil) for Secondaries.
- 1.9 The council is required to submit to the DfE annually a completed Authority Proforma Tool (the APT) which shows all the detailed assumptions underpinning the proposals for allocating budgets to schools and early years providers in the following year. Barnet's APT was submitted by the Commissioning Director Children and Young People, as delegated by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, to the DfE by the deadline of 20th January 2017.
- 1.10 The key factors, which were subject to consultation with the Schools Forum in December, are as follows:
- The government's minimum funding guarantee (MFG) for schools remains the same as in 2016/17 (-1.5%). This means that the maximum reduction in per pupil funding for any school is 1.5%.
 - Barnet's Primary to Secondary funding ratio has remained consistent at 1:1.29 and, in order to maintain this ratio in 2017/18, Schools Forum agreed to increase the secondary age weighted pupil unit (AWPU) by £10 per annum.
 - To ensure the affordability of the MFG protection, which means schools do not lose more than 1.5% per pupil in their formula funding, the Schools Forum also agreed a change to the amount schools can gain by applying a cap. Schools would keep formula funding gains up to a maximum of 2.25% per pupil.
 - The December 2015 IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) release meant that IDACI scores for all Barnet schools (and in London generally) were lower than in the previous year. To reflect the lower deprivation scores, the DfE has now redesigned the IDACI bands to return them to a similar size to previous years. In light of this, Barnet has reverted to funding the 3 most deprived IDACI bands, now classified as A, B and C. The total deprivation expenditure as a percentage of total distribution remains consistent with previous years.
 - All Academies and Free Schools are treated in the same way as maintained schools in that their pupils are used to determine the Schools

Block of the DSG, and the local authority calculates and submits their funding on the authority proforma tool (APT) so the money can be recouped by the Education Funding Agency from Barnet's DSG.

- Local authorities are responsible for pupil growth at all schools, except in the first year of opening a new free school. A total of £3.8m is needed in the growth fund budget for 2017/18 to pay for new year groups and bulge classes opening in academies and free schools as well as expansions at maintained schools.

1.11 The school funding rates for the 2017/18 financial year are as follows:

	Proposed 2017/18		2016/17 Rates	
	Primary Rate £	Secondary Rate £	Primary Rate £	Secondary Rate £
Age Weighted Pupil Unit	3,325.75	4,782.86	3,325.75	4,772.86
Free School Meals (Ever 6)	1,423.56	505.00	1,423.56	505.00
Lump sum per school	122,000.00	122,000.00	122,000.00	122,000.00
Deprivation: IDACI 3	Bands not in use in 2017/18		350.00	1,045.00
Deprivation: IDACI 4			2,100.00	5,225.00
Deprivation: IDACI 5			4,200.00	10,450.00
Deprivation: IDACI C	880.00	2,189.44	Bands not in use in 2016/17	
Deprivation: IDACI B	2,100.00	5,224.80		
Deprivation: IDACI A	4,000.00	9,952.00		
English as Additional Language 2	530.00	1,378.00	530.00	1,378.00
Mobility	422.90	618.53	422.90	618.53

1.12 The main pressure on the DSG expenditure budget is due to the continuing growth in primary pupil numbers now feeding through into secondary schools. The non-capital cost of setting up new classes is estimated to be £3.8m for 2017/18.

1.13 The approach to balancing the 2017/18 budget has been similar to last year:

- Agreement by the Schools Forum to use the £1.6m of DSG underspend carried forward from 2014/15 to support the budget gap by contributing to the growth fund. The remaining underspends from 2014/15 and 2015/16, £0.6m and £1.2m respectively, are planned to be carried forward and earmarked for pupil growth at new and existing schools from 2018/19. The

cost of growth will be high for the next 5 years as the growth in primary moves into secondary and regeneration attracts new families into Barnet.

- Officers are continuing to ensure the needs of children with SEN are met wherever possible in local provision rather than expensive independent placements. There is nevertheless pressure on the High Needs budget arising from the increased demand for specialist places for post 16 education
- The growth in 2-year-old places also puts pressure on the budget due to lagged funding (funding for the growth in numbers coming to the Borough after the growth has taken place), and the fact that we pay out at a slightly higher rate than we receive. However, 2-year-old places are not expected to increase significantly in 2017/18, as additional provider capacity is likely to be taken up by 3&4year olds qualifying for the working parent 30hour offer.

c) Education Services Grant (ESG)

- 1.14 In the 2015 Spending Review, the government announced a saving of £600 million from the ESG general funding rate by 2019/20. Barnet council currently receives an Education Services Grant (ESG) of £3.6million. Last year the DfE announced that it proposed to phase out ESG funding to local authorities in 2017/18.
- 1.15 The ESG is additional funding given to academies and local authorities for services such as school improvement, education welfare services, asset management and strategic planning. It is made up of two elements – a retained duties element which covers statutory duties in relation to all schools (including Academies and Free Schools) and a general fund element that relates to local authority statutory duties in respect of maintained schools.
- 1.16 The retained duties element of the ESG is based on a flat rate, currently £15 per pupil, and amounts to £797,000 for Barnet. Rather than cutting this, the DfE decided to move it into the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and allow local authorities to retain the funding for statutory purposes relating to all schools. The Schools Forum considered this at its December meeting and agreed to the council retaining this funding, noting that it was an in-out transaction with no negative effect on school budgets.
- 1.17 The remaining £2.8m of ESG funding relates to statutory duties in respect of maintained schools only. This will be withdrawn entirely by 2018/19. However, there are three mitigating factors.
- Firstly, local authorities will receive a separate grant for School Improvement, which was previously funded from the ESG. This grant will be to cover statutory intervention functions and services such as monitoring and commissioning of school improvement support. This will enable local authorities to play a transitional role, as the school-led system of school improvement continues to mature. The amount available to Barnet in 2017/18 is £191,820 for the period September 2017 to March 2018.

- Secondly, the DfE has indicated that Schools Forums may agree to de-delegate further funding for additional school improvement provision. As central expenditure on school improvement services is significantly greater than £192,000, this is a relevant issue for Barnet. Any decision on de-delegation would require the support of a majority of maintained schools' representatives on the Schools Forum. The DfE has, however, indicated that such de-delegation will not be allowed beyond 2018/19, on the assumption that this support will become either a 'no cost to schools' option or a traded service.
- Thirdly, local authorities will receive transitional ESG funding from April 2017 to August 2017. The ESG Transitional funding for Barnet has been confirmed at £985,000.

1.18 As a result, the council will suffer a funding loss of £1.6m in 2017/18, rising to £2.6m in 2018/19 (assuming the School Improvement grant continues). The DfE recognises that local authorities will need to use other sources of funding to meet the central costs of education services once the general funding rate has been removed.

1.19 Regulations come into force on 16th February 2017 which allow local authorities to retain some of their schools block funding to cover the statutory duties that they carry out for maintained schools which were previously funded through the ESG. The funding would have to be deducted after schools' budget shares have been determined at a single rate per pupil (per place in the case of special schools and Pupil Referral Units). This would be subject to approval by the relevant maintained school members of the Schools Forum, representing primary, secondary and special schools and pupil referral units. This builds on the existing de-delegation procedure. If the local authority and Schools Forum are unable to reach consensus on the level of the DSG to be retained by the local authority, the matter will need to be referred to the Secretary of State.

1.20 In the light of the allocation of transitional funding for 2017/18, it is not proposed to ask for de-delegation of school improvement funding or for retention of DSG funds (from the allocations to maintained schools) for 2017/18. However, it may be necessary to consider the position in respect of 2018/19 and future years, having regard to the overall budget position facing the council and the various factors impacting on school budgets. This also has the advantage of allowing time for detailed consideration of the issues and consultation with the Schools Forum ahead of any decision.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The report informs and updates the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee in relation to school funding. It seeks authority to delegate any further consultation required with schools in preparation for the 2018/19 schools budget.

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 Funding will be distributed to schools in accordance with the arrangements set out in the report.

4 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

Ensuring that resources available to schools 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)

The financial implications for the council are set out in the paragraphs above.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 Responsibility for Functions, Annex A, of the council's constitution states that the committee has responsibility for investment in educational infrastructure to meet the needs of the borough's learners, and do be responsible for those powers, duties and functions of the Council in relation to Children's Services (including schools).
- 5.3.2 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.
- 5.3.3 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. 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.
- 5.3.4 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 the 2019-2020 financial year.

5.3.5 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.

5.3.6 Current regulations require that the local authority consult its schools forum on any proposed changes to its funding formula and make an annual submission to the Department for Education.

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. Seeking authority to delegate some aspects of consultation and approval to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People helps to ensure that the council is able to comply with government timetable.

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 9th March 2015

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=697&MId=7927&Ver=4>

Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee 14th June 2016
Annual Report on school funding in Barnet and the Government's consultation on a national school funding formula

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s32469/Annual%20Report%20on%20school%20funding%20in%20Barnet%20and%20the%20Governments%20consultation%20on%20a%20national%20school%20fun.pdf>

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A: Schools budget for 2017/18 (as at January 2017)

				SForum 9Feb2017			
				Gross 1718 before recoupment	Net 1718 after recoupment	Gross Budget 1617 before recoupment	Net Budget 1617 after recoupment
Type	S251lin	S251 Desc	Subgroup				
Expenditur	1.0.1	Individual Schools Budget before Academy recoupment	2,3&4 year old:	26,640,556	26,640,556	19,050,560	19,050,560
			BudgetShares	245,560,573	144,465,555	240,578,335	144,769,295
			HighNeedsPlac	9,486,488	4,852,988	8,077,920	6,095,590
			1.0.1 Total	281,687,617	175,959,099	267,706,815	169,915,445
	1.1.1	Contingencies	Contingency	400,000	400,000	147,130	147,130
	1.1.2	Behaviour Support Services	Dedelegation	78,609	78,609	79,130	79,130
	1.1.3	Support to UPEG and bilingual learners	Dedelegation	84,732	84,732	87,000	87,000
	1.1.9	Staff costs - supply cover for facility time	Dedelegation	48,039	48,039	48,770	48,770
	1.2.1	Top-up funding - maintained schools	HighNeeds	16,145,946	16,145,946	16,969,420	16,969,420
	1.2.2	Top-up funding - academies, free schools and colleges	HighNeeds	7,693,776	7,693,776	7,434,150	7,434,150
	1.2.3	providers	HighNeeds	9,638,811	9,638,811	9,084,010	9,084,010
	1.2.5	SEN support services	Services	3,666,943	3,666,943	3,581,850	3,581,850
	1.2.6	Hospital education services	HighNeeds	541,146	405,860	530,010	530,010
	1.2.11	Direct payments (SEN & Disability)	HighNeeds	350,000	350,000	300,000	300,000
	1.3.1	Central expenditure on children under 5	Services	1,561,167	1,561,167	1,131,390	1,131,390
	1.4.1	Contribution to combined budgets	CAF Team	279,968	279,968	285,540	285,540
			Safer Families	183,720	183,720	183,720	183,720
			1.4.1 Total	463,688	463,688	469,260	469,260
	1.4.2	School Admissions	Services	401,200	401,200	361,200	361,200
	1.4.3	Servicing of schools forums	Services	34,680	34,680	34,680	34,680
	1.4.10	Pupil growth / Infant class sizes	Growth	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,456,322	1,456,322
	1.4.11	SEN transport	Services	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
	1.4.13	Other items	FairAccess	106,500	106,500	106,500	106,500
	1.5.1	Education welfare service - Former ESG retained duties	Retained Duties	286,891	286,891	-	-
	1.5.2	Asset management - Former ESG retained duties	Retained Duties	26,000	26,000	-	-
	1.5.3	Statutory/ Regulatory duties - Former ESG retained duties	Retained Duties	485,000	485,000	-	-
			Expenditure Total	325,400,746	219,536,941	309,927,637	212,136,267
Income	1.9.1	Dedicated Schools Grant	DSG	- 318,858,054	- 212,994,249	- 302,368,347	- 204,576,977
	1.9.4	Post 16 allocations from EFA	Post16	- 5,000,000	- 5,000,000	- 6,216,900	- 6,216,900
	1.9.2	Balance b/fwd	Income	- 1,542,692	- 1,542,692	- 1,342,390	- 1,342,390
			Income Total	- 325,400,746	- 219,536,941	- 309,927,637	- 212,136,267

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix B

Q1 In designing our national funding formula, we have taken careful steps to balance the principles of fairness and stability. Do you think we have struck the right balance?

The principles of fairness, and stability cannot really be challenged, nor the idea that money should go directly to schools, and support opportunity. Barnet has always applied these principles in its own formula.

Q2 Do you support our proposal to set the primary to secondary ratio in line with the current national average?

Yes, and the national average of 1:1:29 matches Barnet's existing primary to secondary ratio.

Q3 Do you support our proposal to maximise pupil-led funding?

Yes, Barnet has always aimed to maximise devolved funding to schools including as much pupil-led funding as possible. Our current funding formula reflects this.

Q4 Within the total pupil-led funding, do you support our proposal to increase the proportion allocated to the additional needs factors?

Yes, as this will direct funding to pupils that need additional support.

Q5 Do you agree with the proposed weightings for each of the additional needs factors?

Deprivation - pupil based at 5.5% (FSM/ FSM6)	Allocate a higher proportion	The proportion is about right	Allocate a lower proportion
Deprivation - area based at 3.9% (IDACI)	Allocate a higher proportion	The proportion is about right	Allocate a lower proportion

Low prior attainment at 7.5%	Allocate a higher proportion	The proportion is about right	Allocate a lower proportion
English as an additional language at 1.2%	Allocate a higher proportion	The proportion is about right	Allocate a lower proportion

The proposed weightings should be nearer the current national average (2016/17) spend. With regard to FSM/ FSM6 weighting, Barnet has a number of communities where FSM is not claimed and we would prefer a more even weighting between FSM/ FSM6 and IDACI. This weighting also gives an over-reliance on FSM6 funding, when taking into account that this is also used to calculate Pupil Premium allocations.

Q6 Do you have any suggestions about potential indicators and data sources we could use to allocate mobility funding in 2019-20 and beyond?

The indicator should be any pupil joining outside the first term of the relevant age range/ year group, still with a threshold of 10% of total cohort, but paid for 2 years only.

School-led factors

Q7 Do you agree with the proposed lump sum amount of £110,000 for all schools?

Primary	Allocate a higher amount	This is about the right amount	Allocate a lower amount
Secondary	Allocate a higher amount	This is about the right amount	Allocate a lower amount

We accept that the proposed lump sum may be reduced to £110,000 provided the difference is protected within the per-pupil Minimum Funding Guarantee calculation as suggested. The figure of £110,000 is slightly below the current lump sum of £122,000 allocated to all schools (primary and secondary) in Barnet.

Q8 Do you agree with the proposed sparsity factor of £25,000 for primary and up to £65,000 for secondary, middle and all-through schools?

Primary	Allocate a higher amount	This is about the right amount	Allocate a lower amount
Secondary	Allocate a higher amount	This about the right amount	Allocate a lower amount

No comment. Not a factor that is required/ relevant in Barnet.

Q9 Do you agree that lagged pupil growth data would provide an effective basis for the growth factor in the longer term?

No. As most growth is being delivered by new Free Schools and Academies agreed by the EFA, funding should be based on the projected growth in pupil numbers. Barnet's growth is now reaching secondary schools, so any per pupil growth allocation would need to be similar to NFF secondary pupil funding rates. Two secondary free schools have already opened in Barnet and three more have now been given permission to open. Such a large increase in provision over a short period presents a significant burden on the local schools budget.

Funding floor

Q10 Do you agree with the principle of a funding floor?

Yes. This is needed to minimise turbulence to schools.

Q11 Do you support our proposal to set the funding floor at minus 3%?

No. It should be set at the same level as the floor proposed for the Central Services Block, i.e. -2.5%

Q12 Do you agree that for new or growing schools (i.e. schools that are still filling up and do not have pupils in all year groups yet) the funding floor should be applied to the per-pupil funding they would have received if they were at full capacity?

Yes. Growing schools should be treated in the same way as schools with pupils in all year groups otherwise their per pupil funding will be distorted.

Transition

Q13 Do you support our proposal to continue the minimum funding guarantee at minus 1.5%?

Yes. In light of the significant proposed changes upon implementation of the National Funding Formula, the -1.5% MFG is needed to ensure minimal turbulence at school level, although this will obviously mean that movement onto the national formula funding will take some time.

Further considerations

Q14 Are there further considerations we should be taking into account about the proposed schools national funding formula?

No additional comments.

Central school services block

Q15 Do you agree that we should allocate 10% of funding through a deprivation factor in the central school services block?

Yes, it recognises that there is likely to be a greater number of pupils in need of additional support through central services.

Q16 Do you support our proposal to limit reductions on local authorities' central school services block funding to 2.5% per pupil in 2018-19 and in 2019-20?

Yes. Otherwise authorities that have managed their central services efficiently/ minimised costs will be penalised and not be able to gain under the central services block formula.

Q17 Are there further considerations we should be taking into account about the proposed central school services block formula?

Further clarification on the s251 lines of the central school services block regarding which items will continue to be permitted and which services will have to become optional/ traded. Also, what flexibility the LA will have to transfer funding between blocks, including how growth funding will be

calculated and allocated, and therefore whether there will be a need to call on the central services block.

Equalities analysis

Q18 Is there any evidence relating to the 8 protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010 that is not included in the equalities impact assessment and that we should take into account?

No additional comments.

Appendix C

Question 1

In designing our national funding formula, we have taken careful steps to balance the principles of fairness and stability. Do you think we have struck the right balance?

Yes, for the time being due to the protection offered. It does not however meet the original principles which proposed that the HN funding system should be simple and predictable.

Question 2

We are proposing a formula comprising a number of formula factors with different values and weightings. Do you agree with the following proposals?

- Historic spend factor – to allocate to each local authority a sum equal to 50% of its planned spending baseline
- Basic entitlement – to allocate to each local authority £4,000 per pupil

Yes. We are pleased that historic spend is included in the proposals

Question 3

We propose to use the following weightings for each of the formula factors listed below, adding up to 100%. Do you agree?

- Population – 50%
- Free school meals eligibility – 10%
- IDACI – 10%
- Key stage 2 low attainment – 7.5%
- Key stage 4 low attainment – 7.5%
- Children in bad health – 7.5%
- Disability living allowance – 7.5%

In general, yes. But it is difficult to project the impact of these going forward without having access to the full dataset used in the calculations, e.g. children in bad health, DLA etc. LAs would need to be assured that the measures for such factors are reliable and not subject to significant fluctuations.

Question 4

Do you agree with the principle of protecting local authorities from reductions in funding as a result of this formula? This is referred to as a funding floor in this document.

Yes. This is critical to ensure current pupils are not affected by reductions in LA allocations.

Question 5

Do you support our proposal to set the funding floor such that no local authority will see a reduction in funding, compared to their spending baseline?

Yes, this is critical (see above).

Question 6

Do you agree with our proposals to allow limited flexibility between schools and high needs budgets in 2018-19?

Yes, this is essential to ensure LAs can manage the impact of changes to both the National Funding Formula to schools and the HN national funding formula.

Question 7

Do you have any suggestions about the level of flexibility we should allow between schools and high needs budgets in 2019-20 and beyond?

Yes. The LA should still be able to transfer a limited percentage of funding between the schools and high needs blocks from 2019/20 onwards. The proposal that there is a small charge on schools budgets with schools working collectively and more strategically becomes more difficult as the profile of schools (maintained and academies/ academy chains) gets more diverse. The LA should retain overall responsibility for the strategic direction and therefore needs flexibility in the funding blocks too.

Question 8

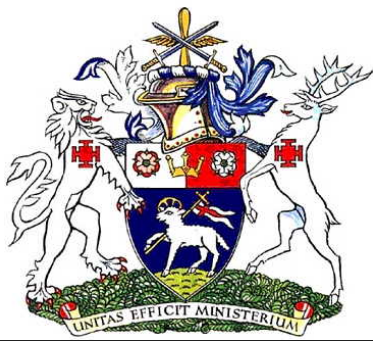
Are there further considerations we should be taking into account about the proposed high needs national funding formula?

No additional comments.

Question 9

Is there any evidence relating to the eight protected characteristics as identified in the Equality Act 2010 that is not included in the Equalities Analysis Impact Assessment and that we should take into account?

No additional comment.



Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

21 February 2017

Title	Early Years Funding Formula
Report of	Commissioning Director – Children and Young People
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Ben Thomas, Strategic Lead, Children and Young People Ben.thomas@barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 6178 Karen Pearson, Head of Early Years, Family Services Karen.pearson@barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 2459

Summary

At its meeting on the 21st September 2016 the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee agreed to:

Delegate to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People (Director of Children’s Services) – in consultation with the Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee – authority to make any necessary amendments to the early years funding formula, following consultation.

Alongside the increase to 30 hours of childcare for 3 and 4 year olds of working parents, the Department for Education has consulted on early years funding and in December published the changes to the funding for local authorities. The council is required to amend its formula to meet these requirements, including that 93% of the allocated funding is passed on to providers in 17/18 and 95% in 18/19. The council was required to let

providers know their rate as early as possible in advance of 2017/18.

A consultation was undertaken with local providers in October and November. Taking account of the responses to the consultation and feedback from Schools Forum members, proposed amendments to the early years funding formula were presented to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People for consultation with the Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee.

Following consultation with the Chairman of this committee, the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People agreed that the new early years funding formula will include a base rate of £5.17, a supplement for deprivation (5% of the funding allocation) up to a maximum of £1.53 and a SEND inclusion fund, as required by the DfE. The modelling shows that the impact of this will be that all providers (Schools, PVI's and childminders) will receive a higher rate of funding than they do currently. At the beginning of February early years providers were informed of the new rate.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding (CELS) Committee:

- 1. Note that following consultation the local funding formula for early education and childcare has been amended to include a base rate of £5.17, a supplement for deprivation (5% of the funding allocation) up to a maximum of £1.53 and a SEND inclusion fund, as required by the DfE.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 A new early years national funding formula for 3- and 4- year olds was announced on 1 December 2016. The key points are:

- The new formula allocates funding to local authorities for the existing 15-hour entitlement for all three- and four-year-olds and the additional 15 hours for three- and four-year children of eligible working parents. The funding rates for both the existing 15-hour entitlement and the additional 15-hour entitlement are the same. Funding in 2017-18 for the additional 15-hour entitlement (the 30 hour childcare policy) is for part of the financial year, reflecting the fact that this policy begins in September 2017.
- The formula consists of a universal base rate plus factors for additional needs, using measures of free school meals; disability living allowance and English as an additional language.
- The formula also includes an area cost adjustment multiplier to reflect variations in local costs. This uses the General Labour Market measure to indicate staff costs and Nursery Rates Cost Adjustment (NRCA) to indicate cost of premises.

- As a result of the move to the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF), Barnet will receive £5.90 per hour for three- and four-year-olds, an increase from the £4.80 per hour per child received in 2016/17. Extra funding at the same rate per hour has also been provided to cover the cost of extending free childcare to 30 hours a week for eligible working parents.
 - It is a requirement of the EYNFF that LAs must set a universal base rate per hour for all providers and it is also mandatory to include a deprivation supplement in the new formula.
 - A further requirement is that in 2017/18 at least 93% of the funding for three- and four-year-olds is passed on to providers through a combination of the formula funding for places and an Inclusion Fund to support children with low level or emerging special educational needs in Early Years settings.
 - The early years pupil premium has been set at the same level as 2016/17 but may be subject to change.
 - Funding for two year olds is calculated in a similar way to that for 3 and 4 year olds. The funding rate remains £5.92 an hour to the local authority, whilst the LA funds providers at the slightly higher rate of £6 per hour.
- 1.2 A consultation was undertaken with local providers in October and November. The survey went live on 14th October. The survey ran for 5 weeks and was closed on the 21st November 2016. Providers were notified and encouraged to respond through the following routes:
- Notice in schools circular
 - Head teachers advised at network meeting
 - Link shared at Early Years Network meeting
 - Link was sent to all PVI's and child minders
- 1.3 The response to the survey was small with 54 providers responding. Of these 48 were from the PVI sector and childminders, 2 were maintained schools, 3 were maintained nurseries and 1 independent school. The key points from the responses were:
- Concerns around viability- proposed rates not meeting costs of delivering good quality child care
 - 26% of respondents felt based on current information the funding would help them provide 30 hour places, 36% stated it would not and 37% were unsure
 - There was no significant difference in preference for any of the options.
- 1.4 The results were then taken to Schools Forum, the feedback from which was that there should not be a supplement for flexibility. Taking account of the responses from the survey and feedback from Schools Forum members, the proposals detailed below were presented to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People and the Lead Member for Children's Services.

- 1.5 The options, all of which included deprivation as the only supplement, were:
- a) Base funding rate and deprivation supplement at 5% (we are required to pay up to a maximum of 10% in supplements)
 - b) Base funding rate and deprivation supplement at 7.5%
 - c) Base funding rate and deprivation supplement at 10%

5% deprivation	
Target total spend = 17,506,081	
Total Base rate spend = £16,630,777	Total Deprivation spend = £875,304
Hourly Base rate	Deprivation
£5.17	£1.53

7.5% deprivation	
Target total spend = 17,506,081	
Total Base rate spend £16,193,125	Total deprivation spend = £1,312,956
Hourly Base rate	Deprivation
£5.03	£2.30

10% deprivation	
Target total spend = £17,506,081	
Total Base rate spend = £15,755,473	Total deprivation spend = £1,750,608
Hourly Base rate	Deprivation
£4.90	£3.07

- 1.6 The lower the percentage of supplements is, the higher the base rate is.

Following consultation with the Chairman of this committee, the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People agreed to adopt option 1 (supplements of 5%) as impact data shows that Barnet providers (schools,

PVIs and childminders) are better off with a higher base rate pass through. As a result, after allowing for central expenditure and the Inclusion Fund the hourly base-rate to providers will be £5.17 and the 'notional' rate to providers will be £5.44 per hour (compared to £4.30 in 2016/17). This is the average rate to providers consisting of base rate (the minimum for every child) plus a deprivation supplement based on the IDACI score of each child, which will vary for each child/ setting.

1.7 Two new measures are being introduced for 2017-18 to support children with disabilities or SEN:

- the Disability Access Fund (DAF) aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and/or helping with building capacity (be that for the child in question or for the benefit of children as a whole attending the setting);
- the SEN Inclusion Fund - local authorities are required to set up a fund to help providers better address the needs of individual children.

Three- and four-year olds will be eligible for the DAF provided they are in receipt of child disability living allowance and receive free early education.

1.8 The purpose of the SEN Inclusion Fund is to support local authorities to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEN. The fund is for 3- and 4-year-olds who are taking up any number of hours of free entitlement. 2-year-olds are not eligible to receive this funding. Local authorities are expected to target the fund at children with lower level or emerging SEN. Children with more complex needs and those in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the DSG.

1.9 The council has paid a subsidy to nursery schools since the introduction of the Barnet Early Years Funding Formula. This was reduced to 50% of the 14/15 subsidy level in 2015/16 and to 25% in 2016/17. Under the National Early Years funding formula, the same funding formula will apply to all providers. Supplementary funding will be paid to some local authorities for up to two years, where this is needed to enable local authorities to maintain their current maintained nursery schools' funding levels.

1.10 Barnet has not yet received any supplementary funding – the Maintained Nursery School (MNS) allocation - because the DfE believes the notional hourly rate exceeds the rate that was paid to Barnet nursery schools in 2016/17. However, officers are in discussion with the DfE about this. Whatever the outcomes of these discussions, Barnet nursery schools will receive a similar level of funding in 2017/18 without the supplementary funding than they did in 2016/17 with the subsidy included.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The new funding rate (a higher base rate and supplements of 5%) was recommended because impact data shows that this is the only option where all Barnet providers (Schools, PVI's and Childminders) will receive a higher rate than they do currently.
- 2.2 Also, the increase in funding rate from the DfE is being provided to enable providers to provide the additional 15 hours of childcare to working parents of 3 and 4 year olds. This increase in provision is therefore needed across the borough and not just in areas of deprivation, which will be best achieved through a greater increase to the base rate. The free early education places for two year olds of disadvantaged parents will continue to be offered and provide the targeted support to build the resilience of families in deprived areas specifically.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Supplements for Quality, English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Flexibility were considered. They were not recommended because they would be difficult to administer and could be seen as inequitable across the range of providers. Current funding has supplements for deprivation and flexibility, the latter having presented some challenges in administration and not being supported in the consultation or view of Schools Forum.
- 3.2 A higher deprivation rate was also considered but the increase in provision is needed across the borough to meet the increased demand created by the additional 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds of working parents. The two year old funding will continue to be offered focused in deprived areas specifically.

3 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Providers were notified of the new funding formula at the beginning of February 2017 to give them maximum notice ahead of the new financial year.
- 4.2 New funding arrangements will commence for the existing 15-hour entitlement in April 2017 alongside the funding rate uplift, and for the additional 15 hours in September 2017 when the 30-hour entitlement is implemented nationally.

4 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The proposals set out align with key themes from the council's corporate plans of families and work. Increasing the funding rate to providers will reduce

the cost of childcare for working families and break down the barriers to work, so that parents who want to return to work or work more hours can do so.

5.1.2 The ability to access good quality early years education and childcare provision is also critical to realising the vision, set out in the Children and Young People's Plan, of resilient children and families. There is a body of national evidence which shows that when early education and childcare provision is of high quality there are positive effects on a range of child outcomes, particularly educational attainment, that are sustained well into the teenage years. Increased employment supports households to move out of poverty and builds the resilience of families.

5.1.3 The proposals are also intended to support the corporate principle of fairness by providing a funding rate that will enable providers to offer free childcare to eligible families and remain sustainable in the long term.

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

5.2.1 The Early Education Entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), the current rates for 2 year olds in 2016/17 is £6 per hour and base rate for 3 and 4 year olds £3.76 per hour (£4.30 per hour including supplements).

5.2.2 The proposed rates for 2017/18 are set out in paragraph 1.6 above.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare is sufficient to meet the requirements of working parents and those wishing to take up work or undertake education or training. Section 7 places a duty on local authorities to secure that early years provision is available free of charge for prescribed children. The current duty relates to 15 hours per week of free early education to all 3 and 4 year olds and 15 hours per week of free early education to prescribed disadvantaged 2 year olds. The Childcare Act 2016 sets out a new duty for eligible 3 and 4 year olds of working parents, which if brought into force would extend the free provision to 30 hours per week. Whilst the detail of the duty is reserved to regulations, the recent consultation indicates that the duty will take effect from September 2017 and will apply to working parents with a specified means test.

5.3.3 Under current legislation, local authorities are required to set and use a locally determined formula to fund all types of early years provision (the early years single funding formula) and supply to all providers an indicative budget at the beginning of the financial year and adjust budgets to reflect actual levels of participation. The formula must be constructed of either a single base rate for

all providers or a number of base rates to differentiate by type of provision, based on unavoidable cost differences. The formula must include a deprivation supplement for 3 and 4 year olds and must be based on a count of children attending the provision. Local authorities are required to have a schools forum and to include representatives from the early years sector on this forum. Under the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, a local authority must annually consult its schools forum in respect of its functions relating to schools budgets, in connection with arrangements for early years provision.

- 5.3.5 Responsibility for Functions, Annex A, as laid out in the council's constitution states that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has responsibility for those powers, duties and functions of the council in relation to Children's Services.

5.4 Risk Management

- 5.4.1 The actions outlined in the report, including consulting with providers, require implementation in order to create a fair funding process. Without this action, it is unlikely that there will be a significant increase in provision and therefore that the Council will be able to secure sufficient childcare provision.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.5.1 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
- 5.5.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services
- 5.5.3 Detailed profiling has been undertaken in order to identify eligible children in Barnet, this includes a wide range of characteristics, including relevant equalities and diversity characteristics.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.6.1 During January 2016, as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, a telephone survey was undertaken with private, voluntary and independent childcare providers (PVI), including childminders and children's centres, operating throughout Barnet. The aim of the survey was to understand whether providers were likely to expand under the forthcoming extension to childcare. This showed that 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 PVIs expect to offer additional sessions. One of the key reasons cited by providers for not intending to offer the additional hours was the lack of certainty around the funding rate. Most providers said that they thought the current funding rate was too low and that if they increase the free entitlement hours for one child to 30 hours per week at the current rate, therefore reducing the additional hours they could sell privately at a higher rate, this would make their business model unviable.

5.6.2 Following consultation with Schools Forum, a consultation was undertaken with local providers in October and November. The consultation was via Survey Monkey and information on the consultation and how to access the survey will be through the Barnet website, and through direct communication to providers.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Consultation document- Early Years National Funding Formula
https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-funding/eynff/supporting_documents/Consultation%20Document%20%20Early%20Years%20National%20Funding%20Formula%2011%2008%2016.pdf

This page is intentionally left blank

	<p>AGENDA ITEM 11</p> <p>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>21 February 2017</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding (CELS) Commissioning Plan - 2017/18 addendum</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Commissioning Director – Children and Young People</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A: Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Commissioning Plan - 2017/18 addendum</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Ben Thomas – Commissioning Lead, Children and Young People. Tel. 0208 359 6178 Email: ben.thomas@barnet.gov.uk</p> <p>Alaine Clarke – Head of Performance & Risk Tel: 0208 359 2658. Email: alaine.clarke@barnet.gov.uk</p>

<h2>Summary</h2>
<p>In March 2015, the CELS Committee approved a five year Commissioning Plan for the period 2015-20, which sets out the Committee’s priorities and outcome performance measures across its core areas of responsibility. All Theme Committees agreed five year Commissioning Plans.</p> <p>This report presents updated targets for 2017/18 in an addendum to the Commissioning Plan (Appendix A).</p>

Recommendations

1. That the Committee review and approve the addendum to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding (CELS) Commissioning Plan for 2017/18 (Appendix A).

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 The council's **Corporate Plan** 2015-20 was agreed by Full Council in April 2015. It sets the strategic priorities and direction for the council to 2020 and targets against which progress is measured. Each year, the priorities and targets are refreshed to ensure they remain focused on the things that matter most to the council. The 2017/18 addendum will be presented to Full Council on 7 March 2017 and will include the new priority on delivering quality services:

- **Delivering quality services** – we strive to deliver services to the highest possible standard and to continuously improve this standard. We are committed to high quality customer service and being as transparent as possible with the information we hold and our decision-making.
- **Responsible growth, regeneration and investment** – in an era of reduced Government funding, growth is necessary for councils to increase the local tax base and generate income to spend on public services. The council has an ambitious programme of regeneration, which aims to create new homes and jobs, and the proceeds of this growth will be reinvested in the borough's infrastructure and essential community facilities.
- **Building resilience in residents and managing demand** – we will focus on the strengths and opportunities in our communities and target resources at those most in need. The council will support residents to stay independent for as long as possible through equipping people to help themselves and intervening early to address issues as they arise rather than waiting until they reach a critical stage.
- **Transforming local services** – as a Commissioning Council our focus is on reaching the best outcomes for our residents whilst delivering value for money to the taxpayer. This means delivering differently and working with a range of public, private, and voluntary sector organisations to ensure we can meet our priorities.
- **Promoting community engagement, independence and capacity** – we want to support residents and the wider community to become more independent and self-sufficient. This means residents having more of a say in the future of their local area, and where appropriate, taking on more responsibility for local services.

1.2 In 2015/16, each thematic Committee agreed a 5 year Commissioning Plan. The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding (CELS) Committee agreed in October 2014 that the critical outcomes for Barnet's Children and Young People are as set out in the following table:

Priority	Key Outcomes
Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and young people are safe in their homes, schools and around the borough, with an ability to develop healthy relationships with others. - When children are at risk, by intervening early the Council will improve outcomes for children, young people and families, enabling them to thrive.
Education	<p>Excellent school standards result in all children achieving their best, being safe and happy and able to progress to become successful adults.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Every child attends a good or outstanding school, as judged by Ofsted. ● The attainment and progress of children in Barnet schools is within the top 10% nationally. ● The progress of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils is accelerated in order to close the gap between them and their peers.
Health & emotional well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and young people are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy. - Every child in Barnet has a great start in life, with the security and safety to grow in a nurturing environment. - Childhood in Barnet is safe and fun, with lots of opportunities to grow and develop through education, leisure and play. - Children and young people feel supported to achieve and engage, while developing their identities and resilience.
Preparation for adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people are ambitious for their futures, ready for employment and contribute positively to society. - Young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families are able to plan for their future and enable growth.
Parenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All parents and carers are able to develop high quality relationships with their children, establishing effective boundaries and support physical and emotional well-being.
Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children benefit from reading, literacy and learning opportunities. - Adults benefit from reading, learning opportunities and easy access to the wider world of knowledge and information. - A range of outcomes are achieved by community groups through community spaces, access and resources.

1.3 Each Theme Committee is now being asked to agree a 2017/18 addendum to their plans, which sets out the Q3 position against 2016/17 targets and updated targets for 2017/18. This will give Committees the opportunity to review and consider their priorities for the year ahead and the associated targets against which progress will be measured. The addendum to the CELS Commissioning Plan for 2017/18 is provided at Appendix A. It should be noted

that the 'context for the commissioning plan' section is still to be inserted, as this reflects the introduction in the corporate plan which is still being finalised.

Summary of Q3 position against 2016/17 targets

- 1.4 Performance in 2016/17 to date has been strong across a number of areas, with no delayed commissioning intentions having a medium or high impact. Key progress in 2016/17 has included publishing a new Children and Young People's Plan, developing a new resilience model of practice and delivering a comprehensive training programme on Signs of Safety to support social work practice.
- 1.5 In terms of performance indicators, the percentage of children in LBB foster care has been successfully increased, enabling a higher proportion of looked after children to benefit from local provision. In the coming year there will be continued focus on reducing the percentage of children in external residential placements. The number of Common Assessment Frameworks opened in a quarter has been consistently high throughout the year, which demonstrates a partnership commitment to effective early intervention and prevention.
- 1.6 The Annual Educational Standards Report will be presented as a separate item to the Committee and this will cover the education performance against the targets.

Summary of the 2017/18 priorities and targets

- 1.7 In line with the Children and Young People's Plan 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. We will undertake another Young People's Perception Survey to find out what young people think about Barnet.
- 1.8 In the coming year we will prioritise reducing the demand for high cost interventions in a number of ways. We will continue to develop new models of social work practice and interventions in order to reduce the need for higher cost placements and the rate of adolescents in our care, especially in residential provision.
- 1.9 We will continue the reshaping of early intervention and prevention services, alongside our partners, to build the resilience of families, providing effective, targeted interventions to improve outcomes for children, young people and families and to reduce the demand for higher cost interventions. We will put hearing the voice of the child at the heart of all that we do, including through implementing the corporate parenting pledge.
- 1.10 On education, through the strategic partnership with Cambridge Education, we will continue to sustain and grow services. The partnership will build on the strong relationship with local schools to generate income growth by selling services to more schools and other local authorities

- 1.11 We will continue the integration of health, social care and education services and resources to improve the experience of receiving care and support for disabled children and their families and reduce duplication.

Next steps

- 1.13 The proposed addendum to the CELS Commissioning Plan, including updated targets for 2017/18, is set out in Appendix A. Members are invited to review and agree the document.
- 1.14 Following agreement, the Committee will receive a progress report during the year against this Plan and associated in-year targets. The Committee will be asked to agree updated targets for 2018/19 in March 2018 and this process will continue through to 2020.
- 1.15 Performance and Contract Management Committee will continue to review progress against the council's Corporate Plan, and overview of the performance of both internal and external Delivery Units. This Commissioning Plan will enable Performance and Contract Management Committee to focus on the key areas of performance for different service areas.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 A key element of effective strategic and financial management is for the council to have comprehensive business plans in place that ensure there is a clear strategy for addressing future challenges, particularly in the context of continuing budget and demand pressures (resulting from demographic and legislative changes), delivering local priorities and allocating resources effectively.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 There is no statutory duty to publish Committee Commissioning Plans but it is considered to be good practice to have comprehensive business plans in place for each Committee – which set out priorities and how progress will be measured – to ensure that the council's vision for the future is clearly set out and transparent.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Revisions to the Commissioning Plan will be communicated internally and with key stakeholders.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 This report invites Members to review and approve the addendum to the Commissioning Plan for 2017/18.

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

5.2.1 In addition to continuing budget reductions, demographic change and the resulting pressure on services pose a significant challenge to the Council. The organisation is facing significant budget reductions at the same time as the population is increasing, particularly in the young and very old population groups.

5.2.2 The Commissioning Plan has been informed by the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, which set a savings target of £53.9m from 2017-18 to 2019-20. The CELS Committee is expected to save £11.9m across its portfolio.

5.3 Social Value

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

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 All proposals emerging from the business planning process must be considered in terms of the council's legal powers and obligations, including its overarching statutory duties such as the Public Sector Equality Duty.

5.4.2 Annex A of the Responsibility of Functions, as outlined in the council's constitution, states that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has the responsibility for those powers, duties and functions of the council in relation to Children's Services. The committee therefore has the responsibility for commissioning activity that falls under the remit of Children's Service, giving cause for the setting of a Commissioning Plan.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The council has an established approach to risk management. Key corporate risks are assessed regularly and reported to Performance and Contract Management Committee on a quarterly basis.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The general duty on public bodies is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

- 5.6.2 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 5.6.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
 - c) Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 5.6.4 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 5.6.5 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, the need to tackle prejudice; and promote understanding.
- 5.6.6 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.
- 5.6.7 The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 5.6.8 It also covers marriage and civil partnership with regard to eliminating discrimination.
- 5.6.9 In agreeing the Corporate Plan, the council is setting an updated strategic equalities objective and reiterating our commitment to delivering this. The strategic equalities objective is as follows:
- Citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.7.1 The original Corporate Plan and Commissioning Plans were informed by extensive consultation through the Budget and Business Planning report to Council (3 March 2015).
- 5.7.2 The consultation aimed to set a new approach to business planning and engagement by consulting on the combined package of the Corporate Plan, Commissioning Plans, and budget. In particular it aimed to:
- Create a stronger link between strategy, priorities and resources
 - Place a stronger emphasis on commissioning as a driver of the business planning process.
 - Focus on how the council will use its resources to achieve its Commissioning Plans.
- 5.7.3 To allow for an eight week budget consultation, consultation began after Full Council on 17 December 2014 and concluded on 11 February 2015. Further consultation on the budget for 2017/18 has been undertaken following Policy and Resources Committee on 1 December 2016.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 17 November 2016. Vision and Commissioning Priorities for 2017/18:

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s36060/Appendix%20A%20-%20Vision%20and%20Commissioning%20Priorities%20of%20the%20Children%20Education%20Libraries%20and%20Safeguard.pdf>

APPENDIX A

CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE Commissioning Plan 2015 – 2020

2017/18 addendum & targets

This document is an addendum to the **Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Commissioning Plan 2015 – 2020**, which sets out a revised narrative and updated indicators/targets for 2016/17. The full Commissioning Plan can be found here: <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/council-and-democracy/policy-and-performance/corporate-plan-and-performance.html>

1. CONTEXT FOR COMMISSIONING PLAN

Each Theme Committee is now being asked to agree a 2017/18 addendum to their plans, which sets out the Q3 position against 2016/17 targets and updated targets for 2017/18. This will give Committees the opportunity to review and consider their priorities for the year ahead and the associated targets against which progress will be measured. It should be noted that this section ('context for the commissioning plan') is still to be inserted, as this reflects the introduction in the corporate plan which is still being finalised.

2. OUR APPROACH TO MEETING THE 2020 CHALLENGE

The council's Corporate Plan sets the framework for each of the Theme Committees' five year commissioning plans. Whether the plans are covering services for vulnerable residents or about universal services such as the environment and waste, there are a number of core and shared principles, which underpin the commissioning outcomes.

The first is a focus on fairness: Fairness for the council is about striking the right balance between fairness towards the more frequent users of services and fairness to the wider taxpayer and making sure all residents from our diverse communities – young, old, disabled and unemployed benefit from the opportunities of growth.

The second is a focus on responsibility: Continuing to drive out efficiencies to deliver more with less. The council will drive out efficiencies through a continued focus on workforce productivity; bearing down on contract and procurement costs and using assets more effectively. All parts of the system need to play their part in helping to achieve better outcomes with reduced resources.

The third is a focus on opportunity: The council will prioritise regeneration, growth and maximising income. Regeneration revitalises communities and provides residents and businesses with places to live and work. Growing the local tax base and generating more income through growth and other sources makes the council less reliant on Government funding; helps offset the impact of budget reductions and allows the council to invest in the future infrastructure of the borough.

Planning ahead is crucial: The council dealt with the first wave of austerity by planning ahead and focusing in the longer-term, thus avoiding short-term cuts and is continuing this approach by extending its plans to 2020.

3. CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES

The **principles of Fairness, Responsibility and Opportunity** are at the heart of our approach. We apply these principles to our **Corporate Plan priorities** of: **delivering quality services; responsible growth, regeneration and investment; building resilience in residents and managing demand; transforming local services; and promoting community engagement, independence and capacity.**

These priorities are underpinned by a commitment to **continual improvement in our customer services** and to be **as transparent as possible with the information we hold and our decision-making.**

Fairness

- fairness for the council is about striking the right balance between fairness towards more

frequent users of services and to the wider taxpayer

- **building resilience in residents and managing demand** – between 2011 and 2016 we've successfully saved over £112m through effective forward planning. In order to meet the £61.5m budget gap to 2020, we will target resources on those most in need and support residents to stay independent for as long as possible
- this will require a step change in the council's approach to early intervention and prevention, working across the public sector and with residents to prevent problems rather than just treating the symptoms.

Responsibility

- the council will focus not only on getting the basics right, but also **delivering quality services**, and striving to continuously improve the standard of services
- **promoting community engagement, independence and capacity** - as the council does less in some areas, residents will need to do more. We're working with residents to increase self-sufficiency, reduce reliance on statutory services, and tailor services to the needs of communities
- in doing so, the council will facilitate and empower residents to take on greater responsibility for their local area.

Opportunity

- the council will capitalise on the opportunities of a growing local economy by prioritising regeneration, growth and maximising income
- **responsible growth, regeneration and investment** is essential for the borough – by revitalising communities and providing new homes and jobs whilst protecting the things residents love about Barnet such as its open spaces. New homes and business locations also generate more money to spend on local services, which is increasingly important as the money received directly from government reduces to zero
- we will use the proceeds of growth to invest in local infrastructure and maintain Barnet as a great place to live and work as we continue to deal with budget reductions to 2020
- we will explore the opportunity this presents to **transform local services** and redesign them, delivering differently and better
- we will focus on making services more integrated and intuitive for the user, and more efficient to deliver for the council and the wider public sector.

The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty impose legal requirements on public organisations to pay due regard to equalities. The Corporate Plan is fundamental to the council's approach to deliver equalities. It enables the principles of equalities and valuing diversity to be reflected and mainstreamed into all council processes. It also outlines the council's Strategic Equalities Objective (SEO) that citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer.

Through the SEO, Barnet aims to provide the best start for our children and access to equal life chances to all our residents and taxpayers who live, work and study in Barnet. Progress against the SEO is monitored annually in an Annual Equalities Report which is publicly reported to Council and the SEO is also reflected through our Commissioning Plans and priorities for each Theme Committee. Management Agreements with our Delivery Units have a number of commitments which reflect the importance of equalities and how the Commissioning Plans will be achieved in practice, and performance indicators have been set and published for each Delivery Unit.

4. VISION FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING

Children

- The vision, set out in the Children and Young People’s Plan, is to make Barnet the most **‘Family Friendly’ borough** in London by 2020, where children, young people and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to. At the core of this vision is a resilience-based approach.
- There will be a **resilience-based model of practice** embedded across our work and our partners’ work with children and families, identifying issues early and supporting them to build their resilience.
- **Safeguarding arrangements** for vulnerable children and young people will be resilience based, effective and robust, with greater interface, including sharing information, between services.
- The social care workforce will be equipped and enabled to understand the importance and meaning of **purposeful social work** in Barnet and the organisational culture, systems and tools will support the delivery of high quality social work.

Education

- Education in Barnet will remain **among the best in the country**, with enough early years and school places for all and with all children achieving the best they can, and the council’s excellent relationships with schools will be maintained.
- Barnet will continue to have primary and secondary schools that are **amongst the best in the country**, with the council recognising that this is why many people choose to live here.
- The attainment and progress of children in Barnet schools will be **within the top 10% nationally** and the progress of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils will be accelerated.

Libraries

- Barnet is a great place to live and we want a **21st Century library service** that is in tune with the **changing lifestyles of our residents**.
- Libraries are a universal and unique service, offering **learning opportunities** from the early years and through retirement.
- Our ambition is for libraries to:
 - Help all children in Barnet to have the **best start in life**, developing essential language, literacy and learning skills and developing a love of reading from an early age.
 - Provide residents with the skills to **live independently**; to improve their **health and wellbeing**; and to **get a job** and **progress whilst in work**.
 - Bring people together, acting as a **focal point for communities** and assisting resident groups to support their local area.

5. COMMISSIONING PRIORITIES

Over the next four years, the council will need to continue to save money from across all services - including libraries - to meet an overall budget gap of £53.9m to 2020. The CELS Committee is expected to save £11.9m across its portfolio.

Children

- The effective **safeguarding of the borough's vulnerable children and young people** is, and always will be, at the heart of what the council does. As the council changes and local services evolve, this commitment will not change.
- We are working with our social workers and the wider workforce to implement **resilience based model practice**, using a range of tools such as Signs of Safety, supporting children and families to build their resilience so that they can achieve better outcomes.
- **Gangs and serious youth violence** has escalated in seriousness and frequency of the violence, the decreasing age and increasing vulnerability of gang involved young people. We will establish a smaller, multi-skilled and multi-professional team to lead in the delivery of support to high risk/high vulnerability adolescents.
- We will put hearing **the voice of the child** at the heart of what we do, including through implementing the corporate parenting pledge.
- Children's social workers, as professionals, need to be at the heart of driving effective practice which **gets things right first time for children, young people and their families**
- We will consider **working with neighbouring authorities** and across London to drive good practice and efficiencies.
- We're working with providers to deliver **high quality early education places** for 2,3 and 4 year olds.
- Children placed with foster carers in Barnet tend to have better outcomes than those placed in residential care. The cost is also considerably **lower than the cost of placing a child in residential care**. We're increasing the size and effectiveness of our in-house foster care service, helping a greater number of children and young people to **move to foster care placements**.
- We will develop **targeted and specialist interventions** that build resilience, including support for adolescents on the edge of care.
- The financial challenges facing the council means all services are being carefully looked at. However, as well as the need to make savings, it is also an opportunity to look at how we can **deliver services differently and better**.
- We're exploring opportunities to develop a **social work-led, not-for-profit organisation** to provide some services for children and young people
- We will **re-commission our CAMHS services** with the Clinical Commissioning Group, ensuring that resilience based practice is embedded in the new arrangements.
- We will **re-commission children's therapy** services with the Clinical Commissioning Group, ensuring a more integrated, community focused and resilience based service is provided.
- We will **improve and re-commission the Looked After Children health assessment pathway** with the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- We will **redesign the Health Visiting and School Nursing services** to ensure integration with wider family services in order to make best use of our resources, respond to policy change and to provide families with a joined up offer of support that is provided at the right time, in the right place and is resilience based.
- We will work with the Clinical Commissioning Group to **implement the new pathway for children with complex needs** to ensure we are providing packages of care closer to home, avoiding the need for high cost out of borough placements. Where a placement is the best option we will work in partnership to ensure the best possible placement and care package is provided.

Education

- At the heart of our resilience based approach we will work with schools to establish a new **Education Strategy** for Barnet focussing on improving outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people.
- **School Improvement Partnerships** are operating across the borough, leading a schools-led self-sustaining school improvement system, enabling schools to challenge and support each other, sharing best practice to ensure all schools are good or outstanding.
- Improving the range of **alternative education support** for children and schools is continuing, with schools leading a new multi-academy trust that will, over time, bring together the borough's current offer to develop an improved spectrum of support for children at risk of underachieving in school.
- There is a focus on improving services that support schools and families to meet the needs of children and young people with **special educational needs and/or disabilities** and in particular, improving and developing communication and partnership working with parents/carers and young people building their resilience. We will continue to develop appropriate and timely education and health and care plans, where required, to better co-ordinate services around the needs of each child.
- To build resilience we will extend our close working with schools that identifies and provides **early support to young people** at risk of not making a successful transition into either education, employment or training to working the Barnet and Southgate college to identify and support vulnerable college leavers.
- The partnership with Cambridge Education is **guaranteed to save the council £5.4 million by 2019/20**. This will be achieved through a mixture of efficiency measures, and income growth as a result of marketing and selling services to more schools and to other local authorities.
- To maintain local authority education support functions in the face of the challenging financial climate, we've entered into a strategic partnership with Cambridge Education to sustain and grow services. Through the governance structure of the partnership, Barnet schools will help shape its growth and development, enabling schools to commission the services they need, including academies and free schools. The partnership will **build on the strong relationship with local schools** to generate income growth by selling services to more schools and other local authorities.

Libraries

- We are **maintaining the same number of libraries (14)**, as well as the **home, mobile, schools, archive** services and an extended **digital service**.
- We are **increasing access to libraries** by using new technology **to provide self-service opening hours** across the service, alongside a reduction in **staffed opening hours**.
- We are harnessing local community support through **more volunteering opportunities in libraries**, with four Partnership libraries to be run by residents and community organisations. Financial support will also be maintained for the borough's two community libraries.
- We are **maximising the income we generate** through better commercial and other use of library buildings. The remodelling of buildings to implement the new approach will take place during 2017.
- We will explore funding opportunities to promote culture and arts (such as local lotteries) as part of an emerging culture and arts strategy.

6. KEY SUCCESSES IN PAST YEAR

Children

- A **new Children and Young People's Plan** was published following significant engagement with young people and partners across the borough. This vision is to make Barnet the most Family Friendly borough by 2020.
- We have implemented a new **resilience based model of practice**.
- We have delivered a comprehensive training programme on Signs of Safety to support social work practice.
- There has been **agreement for two Family Friendly Hubs to be located in Barnet**.
- **New Park House residential children's home has been rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted**.
- A significant amount of work was undertaken to increase the size and effectiveness of the in-house **foster care service**, including targeted recruitment to further increase the number of fostering households that can offer high quality, local placements to Barnet's children in care.
- Families First - DCLG visited in July to undertake an audit and their feedback was that they were **'impressed by the practice of the family workers interviewed and the data management systems used to track progress of families'**. The Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) project delivered its first roadshow to embed early intervention work with partners.
- The **children achieving a good level of development at the end of Foundation Stage has improved consistently year on year reaching 69% this year**.
- **All Barnet Children's Centres have now been awarded Healthy Children's Centre status**
- **Over 94% of Barnet's nurseries were judged by Ofsted as good or better**
- The **Children in Care Council engaged 26 new young people over the summer** and its members chose to rename as 'Barnet on Point' (BOP). Members of BOP have helped shape the future provision of services such as Family Group Conferences.
- A **Young People's Survey** has been undertaken alongside the Residents Perception Survey to see how Family Friendly young people think Barnet is, with future survey's tracking any change in perception.
- Successful funding applications including perinatal mental health, youth offending CAMHS, increasing early intervention support and waiting times reduction project totalling £545k for next 12 months.
- The **Family Nurse Partnership** has continued to support improving outcomes for young parents and their children for e.g. a reduction in smoking, an increase in breastfeeding and **100% take up of immunisations**.
- We have revised the assessment, support and funding processes for children with complex needs requiring residential placement. This has led to a more streamlined, efficient and timely response to meeting the needs of these children and a transparent approach to funding. The new pathway and process is aligned to adults Continuing Health Care improving transition when a young person turns 18.
- Through a multi-agency approach (Saracens Sport Foundation, England Athletics, LBB, Barnet Partnership for School Sport and Middlesex University) primary schools have been encouraged to increase physical activity levels by participating in the Mayors Golden KM Challenge. To date **10 primary schools** have engaged in the pilot programme with over **5,000 children and young people completing the daily KM**.
- SHAPE – a Sport England funded project providing sports and physical activity opportunities to young people aged 14 – 19 in Burnt Oak and Colindale has **engaged over 1,300 people** since it began in January 2015, with **50 young people being supported with training and development opportunities** such as Go Lead and Football Activators.

Education

- New **strategic partnership with Cambridge Education** to deliver the councils' education services commenced on the 1st April 2016
- **94% of Barnet primary schools** – 83 out of 88 schools – are **good or outstanding (25th nationally)** as are **92% of secondary schools** – 22 out of 24 schools (**25th nationally**).
- **All children starting primary or secondary school in September 2016 were offered a school place**
- Barnet is ranked **4th nationally (out of 152 Local Authorities) for the average progress 8 score, and 5th nationally for attainment 8 scores.**
- On the 16 September 2016, the Government announced that **three applications to open new free schools in Barnet were successful** (The Saracen's High School, The new Compton free school and The Windmill School).

Libraries

- New library strategy to **retain all 14 libraries**, the home, mobile and digital library whilst delivering savings approved in April 2016
- Appointment of **partner organisations** to run four Partnership Libraries from April 2017.
- New Colindale Library opened in September 2016 to replace Grahame Park library.
- Resident consultation leading to a decision to **co-locate East Barnet Library** with the new proposed leisure centre in New Barnet.
- Successful piloting of **technology-enabled opening** at Edgware Library

7. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Children and Young People's Plan is a partnership plan setting out the vision, aims and objectives for the partnership in Barnet. There is an action plan that details the actions of the partners to deliver the vision and strategy.

The draft Children and Social Work Bill proposes that *Local Safeguarding Children Boards* are replaced by a new set of arrangements to be made by the 'key safeguarding partners' (local authority, health, police). We will review, with our partners, our multi-agency partnership arrangements, including the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, to ensure that they are most effective at co-ordinating agencies at safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

As set out in the CELS committee paper in November 2016, the government is putting in place new Regional Adoption Agencies to replace existing authority-led approaches. London Borough of Barnet is at the forefront of this work; the steering group leading the project to establish the London Regional Adoption Agency is chaired by LBB's DCS. CELS gave an in principal decision to be part of the new regional arrangements and we will work throughout 2017 with our partner boroughs and key voluntary agencies to develop the new organisation. Benefits to LBB should include improved economies of scale and access to a wider pool of potential adopters making the process even faster than currently.

Barnet's strategic partnership with Cambridge Education is overseen by a series of governance boards on which schools, the council and Cambridge Education are represented. These boards drive the improvement and service development agenda for the strategic oversight of education, school improvement and school standards, school organisation and place planning and services for children with Special education needs and/or disabilities.

8. TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

The council's *transformation programme* will help to deliver the £12.779 million savings required by the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as per the second table below. The key benefits of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Portfolio, along with the expected costs of delivery and financial benefits are outlined in the tables below.

Key benefits

Area	Key benefit
Strategy for Change	Develop opportunities to develop a social work-led, not-for-profit organisation to provide some services for children and young people
Practice Improvement	Continue to implement the Practice Improvement Plan with a focus on building resilience through purposeful social work practice, enabled by appropriate tools and a high quality workforce.
Resilient Futures	Safely reduce the rate of children in care through targeted and specialist interventions that build resilience, including support for adolescents on the edge of care, and increasing the use of local fostering placements.
Early Years	Develop and deliver a new model for early years services which focuses on developing a more flexible, targeted model
Youth Services	Develop and deliver a new model for youth services, alongside the development of the new Youth Zone
Libraries	Implementation of the library strategy, post consultation and Committee
Voice of the Child	Further develop and embed mechanisms to ensure that children's voices are heard and inform service development.

Transformation Programme cost and Medium Term Financial Plan benefits

Project	Total cost	Total financial benefit
Strategy for Change	£625,000	Saving of £0.80m
Resilient Futures	£1,000,000	Saving of £2.069m
	£1,600,000	
Adoption Regionalisation		Saving of £0.150m
Children in Care Resource Management	£100,000	Saving of £1.757m
Workforce and third party efficiencies	£100,000	Saving of £1.014m
Reforms to Early Years	£667,395	Saving of £1.965m
Reforms to Youth Services	£100,000	Saving of £0.80m
CAMHS/Health Visitors Procurement	£70,000	Saving of £0.20m
Reforms to Libraries	£342,700	Saving of £2.139m
Education and Skills ADM	£1,480,000	Saving of £1.885m
Total	£7.52m¹	£12.779m

¹ Total portfolio costs includes an apportionment of central programme costs, contingency and legal advice

9. INDICATORS FOR 2017/18

The tables below outline how the Committee contributes to achieving the priorities of the Corporate Plan: **Delivering quality services** (Responsibility); **Responsible growth, regeneration and investment** (Opportunity); **Building resilience in residents and managing demand** (Fairness); **Transforming local services** (Opportunity); and **Promoting community engagement, independence and capacity** (Responsibility).

Key:

CPI = Corporate Plan Indicator

SPI = Commissioning Plan Indicator

Children

Delivering quality services (Responsibility)

Resilient futures - Increase the size of in-house foster care service

Ref	Indicator	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target	2019/20 Target	Service
CPI NEW - TBC	Percentage of children newly placed in London Borough of Barnet foster care ²	NEW FOR 2017/18	NEW FOR 2017/18	Monitor	Monitor	Family Services

Building resilience in residents and managing demand (Fairness)

SAFEGUARDING - Effective safeguarding of the borough's vulnerable children and young people

Ref	Indicator	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target	2019/20 Target	Service
SPI FS/C17	Number of Children Missing from Care (during reporting period)	Monitor	40	Monitor	Monitor	Family Services
SPI NEW - TBC	Number of times serious incident response protocol triggered (youth violence) ³	NEW FOR 2017/18	NEW FOR 2017/18	Monitor	Monitor	Family Services

² New indicator – targets set as Monitor.

³ New indicator – targets set as Monitor.

RESILIENT PRACTICE – High quality and efficient social work practices

Ref		Indicator	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target	2019/20 Target	Service
CPI	NEW - TBC	Ratio of children subject to: CAF:CiN:CP:LAC (per 10,000) ⁴	NEW FOR 2017/18	NEW FOR 2017/18	Monitor – and seek to reduce LAC and increase CAF	Monitor – and seek to reduce LAC and increase CAF	Family Services
SPI	FS/S2	Children made subject to Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	Perform in line with statistical neighbours (currently 15.6%)	15.9%	Perform better than statistical neighbours (17.6% in 15/16, LAIT)	Perform better than statistical neighbours (currently 17.6% in 15/16, LAIT)	Family Services
SPI	FS/C18	Percentage of children in care with three or more placements during the last 12 months	10%	12.5% (Q3 Target 11.5%)	10%	Perform in top 10% in country (7% in 14/15 ⁵ , LAIT)	Family Services
SPI	FS/S5	Number of children adopted	10	7 (Q3 Target Monitor)	13	18	Family Services
SPI	TBC	Percentage of agency social workers	NEW FOR 2017/18	NEW FOR 2017/18	10%	Further reduction	Family Services

Resilient futures – Safely reduce the rate of children in care through targeted and specialist interventions, such as therapies to support adolescents on the edge of care

Ref		Indicator	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target	2019/20 Target	Service
SPI	FS/S11	Percentage of children in external residential placements	9.2%	8.8% (Q3 Target 9.6%)	8.6%	8.0%	Family Services

⁴ New indicator – targets set as Monitor. CAF = Common Assessment Framework; CiN = Children in Need; CP = Child Protection; LAC = Looked After Children

⁵ To be updated when 2015/16 data is released.

Ref		Indicator	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target	2019/20 Target	Service
SPI	FS/C19	Number of Children in Care further than 20 miles from borough	Monitor	77	Monitor	Monitor	Family Services
SPI	NEW - TBC	Actual placement days	NEW FOR 2017/18	NEW FOR 2017/18	Monitor	Monitor	Family Services
SPI	NEW - TBC	Average gross cost per placement	NEW FOR 2017/18	NEW FOR 2017/18	Monitor	Monitor	Family Services
SPI	NEW - TBC	Income for joint placements	NEW FOR 2017/18	NEW FOR 2017/18	Monitor	Monitor	Family Services

Working with children, young people and families to build their resilience

Ref		Indicator	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target	2019/20 Target	Service
CPI	FS/S7	Percentage of free entitlement early years places taken up by parents/ carers that are eligible for a place	63% (London average)	60% (Q3 Target 59%)	70%	85%	Family Services
CPI	FS/S15	Percentage of care leavers age 19 – 21 in education, employment or training ⁶	55% Above our statistical neighbours	63.8%	Above statistical neighbours (51% in 15/16, LAIT)	Top 10% in England (68% in 15/16, LAIT)	Family Services
SPI	FS/S8	Percentage of the target groups that are registered with the children centre within the area it serves	65%	85.4%	65%	65%	Family Services
SPI	FS/C16	Percentage of families with child/ren under 5 within the borough are registered and accessing services at children's centres	80%	83.8%	80%	80%	Family Services
SPI	FS/S18	Proportion of care leavers age 19 – 21 in suitable accommodation	90%	98.1%	90%	Top 10% in England (96.5% in 15/16, LAIT) ⁷	Family Services

⁶ Methodology changing in 2017/18 to include 18 year olds.

⁷ This does not include 18 year olds.

Ref		Indicator	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target	2019/20 Target	Service
SPI	FS/C15	Young offenders in education, training or employment	Above London and National Averages (currently 66%)	74%	Above London and National Averages (YDS 52% in Q2 2016)	Above London and National Averages (YDS 52% in Q2 2016)	Family Services

Putting the voice of young people at the heart of what we do

Ref		Indicator	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target	2019/20 Target	Service
SPI	NEW - TBC	% of children in care participating in own statutory reviews	NEW FOR 2017/18	NEW FOR 2017/18	95%	95%	Family Services

Education

Delivering quality services (Responsibility)

EDUCATION - Excellent school standards result in all children achieving their best, being safe and happy and able to progress to become successful adults.

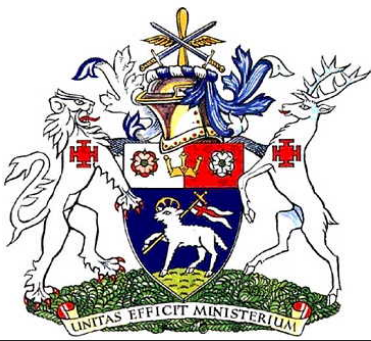
Ref		Indicator	2016/17 Target (AY 2015/16)	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target (AY 2016/17)	2019/20 Target (AY 2018/19)	Service
CPI	CES/S1	Percentage of primary schools rated as 'good' or better	95%	94%	95.5%	100%	Education and Skills
CPI	CES/S3	Percentage of secondary schools rated as 'good' or better	92%	92%	95.8%	100%	Education and Skills
CPI	Formerly CES/S13 (a) (Annual)	Average attainment 8 score	Top 10% in England	55.70	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England for all measures (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills

Ref		Indicator	2016/17 Target (AY 2015/16)	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target (AY 2016/17)	2019/20 Target (AY 2018/19)	Service
CPI	Formerly CES/S13 (b) (Annual)	Average Progress 8 score	Top 10% in England	0.32	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England for all measures (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	Formerly CES/S13 (c) (Annual)	Percentage of pupils achieving the threshold in English and mathematics (In 2016, the threshold is grade C GCSE, in 2017 the threshold is grade 5)	Top 10% in England	72.50%	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England for all measures (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	Formerly CES/S13 (d) (Annual)	Percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate	Top 10% in England	43.30%	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England for all measures (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	CES/S8 (Annual)	Primary pupils' average progress in English Reading	Improve national ranking (AY 15/16)	1.5	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	CES/S9 (Annual)	Primary pupils' average progress in English Writing	Improve national ranking (AY 15/16)	0.3	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	CES/S23 (Annual)	Primary pupils' average progress in Mathematics	Improve national ranking (AY 15/16)	1.7	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
CPI	CES/S24 (Annual)	Percentage of primary pupils achieving the 'expected standard' in English Reading, English Writing and Mathematics (combined) at the end of Key Stage 2	Improve national ranking (AY 15/16)	59%	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	Formerly CES/S11 (a) (Annual)	Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals in the past 6 years (FSM6) achieving the 'expected standard' in English Reading, English Writing and Mathematics (combined) at the end of Key Stage 2	Improve national ranking	46%	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills

Ref		Indicator	2016/17 Target (AY 2015/16)	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target (AY 2016/17)	2019/20 Target (AY 2018/19)	Service
SPI	CES/S11 (b) (Annual)	b) Difference between achievement level of pupils eligible for free school meals in the past 6 years (FSM6) and their peers ('expected standard' in Reading, Writing and Maths combined)	Improve national ranking	-20%	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
CPI	NEW – TBC (Annual)	Attainment and progress of looked after children (measured through basket of indicators) ⁸	NEW FOR 2017/18	NEW FOR 2017/18	TBC	TBC	Education and Skills
SPI	Replaces CES/S15 (Annual)	Average Attainment 8 score of looked-after children	National average	Not reported	National average (AY 16/17)	National average (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	Replaces CES/S16 (Annual)	Average Progress 8 score of looked-after children	National average	Not reported	National average (AY 16/17)	National average (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	CES/S25	Percentage attendance levels at primary schools	London Average (96% in 2015/16)	96%	London Average	London Top quartile	Education and Skills
CPI	CES/S18 (a)	Percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training	London Top Quartile	2.3% (Q3 Target 2.5%)	London Top Quartile (2.4% in 2015)	London Top Quartile	Education and Skills
SPI	CES/S18 (b)	Combined percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment of training and those whose current activity is not known to the local authority	London Top Quartile	18.81% (Q3 Target 7.6%)	London Top Quartile	London Top Quartile	Education and Skills
SPI	CES/S21 (Annual)	Percentage of children who applied on – time for a Reception place made an offer on national offer day	99.9%	100%	99.9%	99.9%	Education and Skills
SPI	CES/S26	Percentage of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan or statement of special educational needs achieving the 'expected standard' in English Reading, English writing and Mathematics at Key Stage 2	Top 10% in England	10%	Top 10% in England	Top 10% in England	Education and Skills
SPI	CES/S27-1	Average attainment 8 score for pupils with pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan or statement of special educational needs	Top 10% in England	Not reported	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills

⁸ New indicator – targets will be set after methodology agreed and baseline identified.

Ref		Indicator	2016/17 Target (AY 2015/16)	2016/17 Q3 Result	2017/18 Target (AY 2016/17)	2019/20 Target (AY 2018/19)	Service
SPI	CES/S27-2	Average progress 8 score for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan or statement of special educational needs	Top 10% in England	Not reported	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England	Education and Skills
SPI	NEW - TBC	Average attainment 8 score for pupils eligible for Free School Meals in the past 6 years	Top 10% in England	Not reported	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	NEW – TBC	Average progress 8 score for pupils eligible for Free School Meals in the past 6 years	Top 10% in England	Not reported	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	NEW - TBC	Gap in average attainment 8 score between pupils eligible for Free School Meals in the past 6 years and their peers	Top 10% in England	NEW FOR 2017/18	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	NEW - TBC	Gap in average progress 8 score between pupils eligible for Free School Meals in the past 6 years and their peers	Top 10% in England	NEW FOR 2017/18	Top 10% in England (AY 16/17)	Top 10% in England (AY 18/19)	Education and Skills
SPI	NEW - TBC	Percentage of final Education, Health and Care plans issued within 20 weeks including exceptions	Improvement on 2015/16	NEW FOR 2017/18	90%	90%	Education and Skills
SPI	NEW - TBC	Percentage of final Education, Health and Care plans issued within 20 weeks excluding exceptions	Improvement on 2015/16	NEW FOR 2017/18	95%	95%	Education and Skills



Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

21 February 2017

Title	Promoting arts and culture in Barnet
Report of	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Chris Munday, Commissioning Director, Children and Young People and the Director of Children’s Services Chris.munday@Barnet.gov.uk

Summary

Barnet is a large, diverse and growing borough and residents enjoy a broad range of arts and cultural opportunities, both those located in Barnet and through access to the opportunities afforded from being part of the capital city. This report sets out ways in which the council is currently promoting and supporting arts and culture in the borough and proposes that the council works in partnership with others to develop a strategic framework to shape the future development of arts and culture in the borough. A strategic framework will help to ensure that Barnet continues to be a vibrant and thriving place to live and that it is well poised to seize future opportunities that arise to develop arts and culture, either locally or as part of a wider London offer.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee note what Barnet is doing to promote culture and arts in the borough.**
- 2. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee approve the approach for the development of a strategic framework for arts and culture in Barnet as set out in paragraph 1.24 and for the ongoing support for arts and culture as set out in paragraph 1.25.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This report advises the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee of the work currently undertaken by the council to support arts and culture within the borough as requested by the Council on the 13th December 2016 (see paragraph 1.8 below). It proposes the development of a strategy to provide a framework for the activities undertaken by the council, partner organisations and the numerous other voluntary sector organisations and individuals who work in the borough to ensure the Barnet continues to be a vibrant and thriving place to live.

Context

- 1.2 As set out in the council's corporate plan, Barnet is a large, diverse and growing borough. Overall, most of its residents enjoy a successful and healthy life, with many families choosing it as a great place to raise their family. A wide range of services and amenities support this success and overall, residents are well served by both local services and by those provided for London as a whole. The infrastructure that provides, for example, green open spaces, public transport and health services are not constrained by borough boundaries and many residents make use of services across north London, Hertfordshire and central London. Arts and cultural activities and infrastructure is similarly utilised, with a plethora of local 'home-grown' activity and facilities in Barnet alongside the world class facilities offered in central London, which as the capital city hosts a range of national and world leading cultural facilities, activities and festivities.
- 1.3 All London boroughs benefit from the cultural and artistic energy that comes from being part of a creative capital city and finding ways to ensure that all Londoners have an opportunity to benefit is realised through a mix of improving access to existing opportunities and providing the right conditions for local cultural and arts activities and facilities to grow, flourish and be sustained.
- 1.4 In Barnet, there is already a lot to celebrate. This report contains examples of arts and cultural activities, services and facilities that take place here, many of which have developed over time through the inspiration and creativity of Barnet residents. Overall, Barnet residents have access to high quality education; there is good community cohesion and the voluntary sector is

supported by a strong ethos among the community to volunteer and help each other.

- 1.5 The times of generous grant-giving by government, the GLA, individual boroughs or national arts organisation are long gone and the financial climate becomes ever more challenging for public sector organisations. The council helps to support arts and cultural activities through its day to day work in providing a wide range of services to residents, businesses and organisations and it has retained some small grant giving facilities, described below. Increasingly, the role of local authorities is to establish a vision and framework within which residents, organisations and other service providers can shape the services residents need and want.
- 1.6 Barnet is well placed to take advantage of developments that the new Mayor of London may want to introduce as he develops his new cultural strategy for London. For example, the new Brent Cross regeneration proposals provide an opportunity to showcase Barnet to ensure that the transport and housing benefits it will bring can attract arts and cultural opportunities to serve this part of London. This report is the first step in developing a new arts and culture strategy for Barnet that will set out the opportunities in Barnet and how the council's corporate plan to promote opportunity, responsibility and fairness can support its residents, partner organisations and the voluntary sector to continue to ensure that Barnet's cultural richness continues to develop and thrive.
- 1.7 At its meeting on the 23rd March 2016, the Children's, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee resolved that the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, bring a report back to a future meeting of the committee which details the following:
 - *The possible development of a cultural activities plan which could include: making a dedicated page on the internet for cultural activities, promoting the arts through the council's magazine Barnet First and how the arts can be incorporated in future meeting agendas.*
 - *Suggestions of how to involve residents and community groups in cultural activities.*
 - *Feasibility of the council appointing an artist-in-residence and/or an 'Arts Champion' to be an ambassador for arts in the borough.*
 - *Whether community spaces can be offered at discounted rates across the borough to community groups (for instance spaces in libraries). This will include a definitive view on the current – and any potential future – rates available for community groups.*
- 1.8 At its meeting on the 13th of December 2016, the Council considered and passed a motion that stated:

A Cultural Strategy for Barnet Council believes that culture and the arts enriches lives, inspires learning and education, boosts economic growth, attracts investment, helps build communities and strengthens community cohesion by celebrating diversity. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has said he plans to "democratise the arts" in the capital, so that Zone 1 should not "hog the best arts and culture in our city". Council notes that Barnet has a rich cultural heritage and history, and is one of the best placed boroughs to demonstrate what outer-London can offer. Barnet has vibrant community festivals in East Barnet and East Finchley; museum space at the RAF Museum, Avenue House and Barnet Museum; an English Heritage registered battlefield where the Battle of Barnet was fought during the Wars of the Roses; 2,155 listed buildings, objects or structures considered to be of special architectural or historic interest; 4 registered historic parks and gardens; amateur and professional theatres such as the artsdepot, Finchley Youth Theatre, The Bull Theatre, The Incognito Theatre and The Garden Suburb Theatre, and Community Focus who has a long history of engaging with young people and those with disabilities through the arts. Barnet also has other venues hosting arts events within the borough and on our borders such as The Phoenix Cinema, The Hampstead Garden suburb Institute and Chicken Shed Theatre. This list is not exhaustive, but shows the breadth of Barnet's cultural offer. Council believes that investing some time and effort into developing a cultural strategy for Barnet could help meet council policy objectives across all themed committees, as well as improve the Borough's standing in London, nationally and internationally. Council also believes that a proper cultural strategy for the borough could help position Barnet to be a future London Borough of Culture. Council therefore requests that the CELS Committee works with partners including schools, Barnet College, Middlesex University, Barnet Borough Arts Council and local businesses to develop a Cultural Strategy for Barnet. As a first step, Council asks that the CELS Committee receives a report at the next committee meeting detailing

- *What LB Barnet is doing to promote culture and the arts in the borough, and*
- *How LB Barnet is engaging with arts and heritage groups in the borough, the Arts Council and the Mayor of London to promote Barnet as a cultural centre.*

What Barnet Council is doing to promote culture and arts in the borough

- 1.9 As set out in the council motion, Barnet has a rich and broad arts and culture offer. The motion lists many of the borough's key cultural facilities that illustrate this, many of which also attract a significant number of visitors to the borough such as the artsdepot and RAF Museum. Many of the organisations that help to provide this breadth are part of the very fabric of Barnet and engage in numerous ways with the council, receiving council services, contributing to shared aims and objectives and participating in partnership structures.

From the top of the council organisation down to the frontline, there are many partnership structures and opportunities for partnership working that help to provide and support a wide range of services, e.g. in children services, adults,

and health services. The voluntary sector in particular utilise arts and culture opportunities to help support Barnet families and residents to learn, to develop and to remain healthy.

- 1.10 The newly organised Barnet Partnership Board chaired by the Leader of the Council, comprising of Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group, CommUNITY Barnet, Barnet and Southgate College, Middlesex University, Brent Cross shopping centre, Metropolitan Police, Job Centre Plus, Groundwork London, Federation of Small Businesses, West London Business, Argent Related and Saracens, provides a new opportunity to focus and harness the partnership effort, energy and capacity to promote arts and culture in the borough. Arts and Culture will be one of five themes for the work of this partnership over the coming year.
- 1.11 Many of Barnet's elected members promote and support a wide range of activities and events and serve on local governance bodies of organisations. Through these channels, they personally champion and support arts and culture events and activities in their wards and across the borough. The administration directs the funding and priorities of council spending and below are some examples of the range of council services that work year round to promote and support residents, partners and voluntary groups in Barnet. It is not an exhaustive list but illustrates the way in which arts and culture are part and parcel of what the council does.
- 1.12 **Vibrant town centres** as places for arts and culture to flourish are supported through events in parks, street closures for street parties, opportunities for art/sculpture in the public realm and events organised through the council's Town Teams. The Burnt Oak Town Centre project for example, has promoted arts and culture through activities that 'celebrate forgotten heritage' and 'vibrant not messy', street murals; supporting traders to improve shop displays and creating welcoming community spaces. Local Traders have received support to promote cultural events including the Burnt Oak Multi-Cultural Festival and a Burnt Oak Festive Fair. Support for flexible and low cost space for community activities in town centres offers another example e.g. grant aid to 10 Grand Arcade in North Finchley.
- 1.13 Key **community arts, events and festivals** receive financial assistance through the council's grant programme; East Barnet Community Festival in July, East Finchley Arts Festival in October; the Barnet Christmas Fayre in December and the Barnet Unity of Faiths Festival. Other examples of funded projects include Art Reach, SAAM Theatre Company, the Larches Community and 'Together We Create', a filmmaking project for young people recording the regeneration of Cricklewood from a young person's perspective.
- 1.14 The council's website **promotes arts and culture opportunities for residents**; hosting information about local events, including festivals, arts and cultural activities: <https://barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/events>. The council has recently developed the Barnet Community Directory, an online directory of services across voluntary and community sector, many of whom offer a range of cultural and arts activities in the borough. The council's strategy unit is developing new methods of supporting organisations to raise funds for civic

projects e.g. piloting the use of *Spacehive* an online platform to **empower people to create and fund projects** which matter to them and to work with partners, local businesses and contractors to encourage funding pots to be made available to local communities.

- 1.15 **Arts and culture infrastructure** is supported to be sustainable through the council's community asset tool that recognises the contribution of voluntary and community organisations in determining rental/lease charges. Where possible, the council also completes lease arrangements for council owned buildings to maximise the chance of an organisation obtaining grant funding (e.g. Barnet Museum and the artsdepot in relation to funding from the Arts Council.) The council also supports new public art works where appropriate and has recently provided workspace for the completion of a new public artwork at Finchley Memorial Hospital
- 1.16 The council's investment in **regeneration and growth** is providing new schools, health facilities, libraries and other community based facilities that provide an infrastructure for local communities to establish and flourish. For example, in Colindale, a new library has been opened, co-located with new Barnet and Southgate College facilities and several local Barnet voluntary sector organisations and a new community hub located adjacent to Heybourne Park will offer services for young children, young adults and facilities for local voluntary groups to use and hire. In areas undergoing regeneration, community arts, festivals and cultural events are organised through local community or resident groups (e.g. the Colindale Communities Trust). A range of similar new community facilities are planned at each regeneration scheme and an example of how the facilities support a thriving local community range of activities is the opening in summer 2016 of One Stonegrove, a partnership trust - <http://sct.london/about-onestonegrove/>. Barnet Homes delivers a range of community engagement activities across its housing portfolio which include supporting community centres, community and tenant groups, events such as Urban Gamez and outdoor film nights, support for a Love Burnt Oak exhibition of photos of high street shop owners.
- 1.17 The council commissions **support to voluntary and community organisations** through CommUNITY Barnet, Volunteering Barnet (Groundwork) and the Communities Together Network. Together this infrastructure offers advice and support for organisations to establish, become sustainable and attract volunteers for the many and varied range of activities and services offered in the sector, including many that provide arts and cultural opportunities to residents across all age ranges.
- 1.18 Council's services for **children and young people** include the administration of child licenses for performing arts; the provision range of positive activities for young people including Finchley Youth Theatre and Canada Villa; funding of trips and activities for looked after children; partnership work with the boroughs schools which provide arts and cultural opportunities for their 57,000 pupils; capital investment in art and drama facilities in schools (new theatre in Orion primary school); health and safety system for school trips; promotion of arts competitions, events and activities in libraries including visiting authors, summer reading challenge, regular books groups

(<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset?tags=Libraries>). The new Partnership Libraries will provide further opportunities for locally based organisations to utilise the space for arts and cultural activities to respond to local needs. Music services for Barnet's children and young people are provided through Barnet Education and Arts Trust, created as an independent charity from the council's music service.

- 1.19 Local arts and cultural activities are part of council commissioned services to support opportunities for **vulnerable adults**; groups to help support older residents for example promoting dementia screening/events at the Phoenix, artsdepot, RAF museum: promoting art and cultural events through prevention support, social care connect and engagement events including Silver Sunday. The Altogether Better scheme arranges regular cinema trips, reading groups, trips to local landmarks, and the men's shed; sheltered housing putting on films / virtual tours of museums etc.
- 1.20 Entrepreneurial Barnet, the council's strategy to **support and promote businesses to grow** in Barnet, including **creative industries**, sets out a range of activities and ways in which the council is helping local businesses to establish and succeed. <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/business/Entrepreneurial-Barnet.html>.

Arts and culture in London, the Arts Council and the Mayor of London

- 1.21 The Mayor of London has made culture a priority and is establishing a Cultural Leadership Board to lead and deliver a new cultural strategy for London. In his manifesto, the Mayor set out a number of ambitions he would like to achieve and has since made clear his intention for all of London, including outer London to benefit from the opportunities that arts and culture offer. London Council's co-ordinates a Culture Forum for London boroughs (funded in part by the Arts Council) to lead discussion around emerging policy areas where arts and culture is essential to drive change and growth; to share information and best practice; to identify areas for cross borough collaboration; to build links between the arts/cultural sector and wider policy areas creating opportunities for cultural commissioning and to support advocacy work for local arts and culture services.

In relation to Arts Council funding, the council has submitted bids when the opportunity has arisen – for example, the new four Partnership Libraries that will be in place from April 2017 have recently submitted a joint bid for funding to develop community engagement and new services in each locality.

Developing an arts and culture strategy for Barnet

- 1.22 The above sections demonstrate that Barnet hosts a diverse range of arts and cultural opportunities for its residents, many of whom will also benefit and make use of the wider opportunities that come from being part of the country's capital.
- 1.23 Many of the local opportunities, activities and events that residents enjoy are driven by independent organisations, charities, residents, community and voluntary sector organisations and do not rely on the council directing or

commissioning activity and services. However, Barnet will want to ready to exploit any opportunities to attract investment or activity that may arise from the Mayor of London's new vision. To do this, and to help further promote and sustain arts and cultural activities in the borough, it is proposed to develop a strategic framework for arts and culture in the borough. It is important to note that within the council's medium term financial strategy it is not proposed to divert funding from other essential council services to establish a specific, ring fenced arts and culture budget. This report has set out the ways in which the council helps to support arts and culture and this approach will continue, albeit within the constrained resources available to the council. In the course of developing a strategic framework, it is likely that other ways for the council to support arts and culture will emerge (e.g. through social media innovations) or for existing support services to be reviewed and where possible within resource constraints, these will be considered.

1.24 To develop a strategic framework for the promotion of arts and culture in the borough it is proposed to;

- host a conference for all interested parties currently working and offering services in Barnet
- establish a partnership working group to steer the development of the strategic framework to be presented to the Children's, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding committee in the summer term.

1.25 In the meantime, the opportunity will be taken to:

- Continue to promote arts and culture through the day to day work of the council and offer support for resident led events (e.g. festivals, street events, pop ups etc.).
- Reflect the contribution that arts, culture and other creative industries can play when reviewing key council strategies (egg Local Plan)
- Champion arts and culture through the new Barnet Partnership, chaired by the Leader of the Council.
- Explore ways to attract additional funding opportunities to support the development of arts and cultural activities.
- Review the council's web pages to ensure that there are opportunities for arts and culture activities to be promoted.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 This report responds to a motion passed by Council on the 13th December 2016, and a Member's Item raised by Councilor Anne Hutton at the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee 2016.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 The alternative option is not to develop a strategic framework for arts and culture. Whilst this option would not be detrimental to the current provision, it

may reduce the opportunity for Barnet to seize future opportunities that may arise.

- 3.2 A request was made in the Member's Item in the name of Councillor Anne Hutton to examine the possibility of launching an *Artist in Residence* scheme in the borough. Some organisations, such as galleries, appoint an *Artist in Residence* to promote the arts and there are some examples of projects such as Crossrail, who appointed an *Artist in Residence* to make a pictorial diary of the project's development. The aims of *Artist in Residence* programmes are usually tailored to the organisation running the scheme and are usually funded, either by providing an allowance to the representative or allocating money to events by the organisation running them.
- 3.3 Several local municipal councils in Australia run *Artist in Residence* schemes on an annual basis, no examples of local authorities in Britain that have appointed an *Artist in Residence* have yet been identified. There would likely be cost implications if the council wished to appoint an *Artist in Residence*, such as providing dedicated space, staff support hours and financial incentive for the scheme. Due to this, it is not recommended that the council appoint an *Artist in Residence* at this stage.
- 3.4 The Members item also requested that the council consider whether community spaces can be offered at discounted rates across the borough to community groups (for instance spaces in libraries). The community asset tool now in place recognises the contribution of voluntary sector and other partner organisations when setting the terms of rental or lease agreements. It is not recommended to introduce a further differential rate system for more ad-hoc letting arrangements, such as room hire. As seen above, there are a myriad ways for promoting arts and culture and establishing a system to distinguish the aims and activities of the large number and different types of organisations that hire council facilities on an ad-hoc basis would be overly onerous. Furthermore, some services (such as the library service) rely on income from ad-hoc room hire and any reduction in this income would need to be met from elsewhere.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

See paragraphs 1.24 and 1.25 above

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Barnet's continuing success as a place where people want to live, work and study is a key aim of the Council's corporate plan. A thriving arts and culture offer supports this ambition and contributes to:

- Barnet's children and young people receiving a great start in life
- Public Health being integrated as a priority theme across all services
- A broad offer of skills and employment programmes

- Barnet's parks and green spaces being amongst the best in London
- Barnet being among the safest places in London, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe.

Working with partner organisations and residents to achieve this, the councils aim is for:

- **Fairness:** striking the right balance between more frequent users of services and fairness to the wider taxpayer, making sure all residents benefit from opportunities for growth.
- **Responsibility:** where all parts of the public service system play their part in helping to achieve priority outcomes with reduced resources.
- **Opportunity:** the council will capitalise on the opportunities of a growing economy by prioritising regeneration, growth and maximising income

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

5.2.1 The development of the framework to be bought forward for consideration by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee will be financed from within existing resources. Any resource implications of the framework itself will be considered in the future report.

5.2.2 The report has set out the myriad of ways in which arts and culture activities are supported and promoted in the delivery of council services. These are funded from within core council service budgets. There are also examples in the report of where the council has sought opportunities to bid for additional funding opportunities and this approach will continue.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 As set out in the Responsibility For functions (Annex A) of the Council's Constitution (Section 15a), the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has responsibility to lead the Council's responsibilities under the Children Act 2004 and Education and inspection Act 2007.

5.3.2 Responsibility for Functions, Annex A, of the Council's Constitution also states that the committee has responsibility for the development of cultural activities.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 None.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 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.

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

5.5.3 The equality implications of the framework will be brought to the attention of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee for consideration.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

It is proposed to hold a conference/workshop for partner organisations in Barnet to

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS


6.1 Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk to Full Council, 13th December 2016:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s36655/Opposition%20motion%20-%20Cllr%20Kath%20McGuirk.pdf>

6.2 Member's Item in the name of Councillor Anne Hutton – Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 23rd March 2016:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s30707/Members%20Item%20-%20Councillor%20Anne%20Hutton.pdf>

This page is intentionally left blank

	<p align="center">Children, Educational, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p align="center">21 February 2017</p>
<p align="center">Title</p>	<p align="center">Corporate Parenting Strategy</p>
<p align="center">Report of</p>	<p>Commissioning Director – Children and Young People</p>
<p align="center">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p align="center">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p align="center">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="center">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="center">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A: Corporate Parenting Strategy</p>
<p align="center">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Brigitte Jordaan Head of Permanence, Transitions and Corporate Parenting Brigitte.Jordaan@barnet.gov.uk</p>

Summary

The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out our key principles and priorities to improve the outcomes for children in care by the building of their resilience, aspirations and independence as they move through care into adulthood.

Recommendations

1. That the Committee approve following Corporate Parenting Strategy as appended.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 It is important that Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee is briefed on the implementation of this Strategy, as Committee Members are key stakeholders in overseeing Barnet's Corporate Parenting Duties for looked after children and care leavers.
- 1.2 The launch of the Children and Young People Plan 2016-2020 sets out the vision for Family Friendly Barnet, to develop resilient families and resilient children. A strategy based on resilience involves looking for strengths and opportunities to build on, rather than for issues or problems to treat. It is within this context that Barnet will implement the Corporate Parenting Strategy.
- 1.3 This paper informs Members of the priorities for children in care and care leavers that are proposed until 2020. This will enable members, officers and partners to better meet the needs of children in care and care leaver through targeted activity that will make a difference to outcomes for Barnet's children.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 As corporate parents, Members are requested to approve the strategy. The strategy proposes the direction of travel for Barnet's corporate parenting services over 2017-20.
- 2.2 Members are invited to input their views into the strategy the document is finalised and submitted to CELS for sign-off.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The report supports Members in advancing this agenda specifically, and all Members in fulfilling their roles as Corporate Parents.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Progress will be monitored through the reporting of key indicators both through monthly officer assurance reports and as part of the management information update to Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel.
- 4.2 A detailed action plan is being developed to ensure that priorities are advanced in a defined and timely fashion. This action plan will be taken forward with the Corporate Parenting Action Plan by a group of officers.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 This strategy addresses the corporate responsibility to children in care and care leavers and is aligned with the Corporate priorities of developing resilient

communities, managing demand of services and transforming services.

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

5.2.1 There are no direct financial implications of the strategy at this stage. There are, however, pressures related to the Children and Social Work Bill in particular the requirement on Local Authorities to provide Personal Advisors for care leavers up to the age of 25. This will be reviewed and the details reported to the Panel and other relevant Committee once the Bill becomes legislation. .

5.2.2 Family Services commissioning involves children and young people and is supported by clear monitoring arrangements which are robust and clearly governed to provide oversight of how commissioned services achieve outcomes. The Commissioning process is informed by needs analysis drawing on diverse sources of insight.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

5.3.2 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 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children in care under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004. They also duties under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 towards eligible and relevant and former relevant children i.e. current and future cohorts of children who have left or will leave the local authority's care.

5.4.2 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004. They have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, provided that this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings. Services might include day care for young children, afterschool care for school children, counselling, respite care, family centre services or practical help in the home or targeted parenting and family support.

5.4.3 The Council's Constitution, in the Responsibility for Functions – Annex A, outlines that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee is responsible for ensuring oversight of effective support for young people in care and to enhance the Council's corporate parenting role.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The nature of services provided to children and families by Family Services involve managing significant levels of risk. High quality early intervention and social care services reduce the likelihood of children suffering harm and increase the resilience and likelihood of children developing into successful adults and achieving and succeeding.

5.5.2 Family Services maintains a risk register, to ensure that risks relating to safeguarding children and young people are managed effectively. These risks are reviewed at least every quarter. Any risks arising from the strategy or the related projects will be managed in line with the corporate risk management framework.

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

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

5.6.2 Equalities and Diversity considerations are a key element of the Council's approach to safeguarding and work with children and young people. Services provided take equality and diversity considerations into account, and there are seasonal events arranged for children in care and care leavers that celebrate diversity.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 Across Family Services, the participation agenda is driven by the Voice of the Child Strategy, which outlines a clear vision to provide all children and young people within Barnet the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 The Barnet placements commissioning strategy is based on a thorough needs assessment and sets out the profile and needs of Barnet's looked after children and is designed to better meet the needs of our looked after children.

This includes meeting equality and diversity considerations as set out in the 2010 Equality Act.

Sources of insight include:

- National research on challenges, opportunities and outcomes for care leavers
- Governmental papers and strategies
- Local data, from the ICS social care system

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Item 5 (Corporate Parenting Strategy), Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel, 7th February 2017:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=208&MId=8789&Ver=4>

This page is intentionally left blank

Family Services

Document control	
Document title	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016 - 20
Document description	The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out our key principles and priorities to improve the outcomes for children in care by the building of their resilience, aspirations and independence as they move through care into adulthood
Document author	

Version control	
Document production date	19 January 2017
Document currency	

Clearance process	
Quality approver	Date
Jo Pymont	
Release approver	Date
Chris Munday	

Contents

Foreword.....	3
The National Context.....	4
Local context.....	5
Corporate Parenting.....	7
Our Principles.....	8
Key Priorities for Corporate Parenting.....	9

Foreword

At the heart of our vision for Family Friendly Barnet is the concept of Resilient Families and Resilient Children. We have high aspirations for, and expectations of, the children in our corporate care and want them to be able to confidently say *“I have, I can, I am”*.

In 1998 the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, wrote to all local authority councilors reminding them that they were ultimately responsible for the quality of care for children their care. Corporate parenting relates to all children in care, wherever they are placed, including young people receiving after care services up to, in some circumstances, 25 years of age.

Corporate Parenting is about offering at least the same standards of care as would a ‘reasonable parent’ in respect of the children in the care of the Local Authority. Children who enter the care system can have a range of disadvantages arising from their early life experiences and it is the duty of the corporate parent to make every effort to ensure that children in care are given the opportunity and support to develop into happy and successful adults.

The thrust of corporate parenting is about improving the life chances of children in care, by protecting their welfare, promoting their wellbeing, and helping them reach their full potential. Children’s identity and sense of belonging is central to the care planning and service development. This means that for children in care and care leavers *all* aspects of their wellbeing, aspirations and learning should be promoted and assured.

Historically, outcomes for children who have been in care have been comparatively poor compared to their peers. Research has shown that, as adults, they do less well educationally; they are over represented in the criminal justice system; have poorer health outcomes including an increased risk of suffering from mental health difficulties; have an increased likelihood of becoming homeless and experience economic and relationships difficulties in their own families.

The National Context

Corporate Parenting is used to describe the duties and responsibilities of a local authority in respect of the children in care to that authority. Parental responsibility for looked after children is the responsibility of the whole Local Authority not just the Family Services division. In addition the local authority must enlist the support of its partner agencies in helping to fulfill their corporate parenting responsibilities in respect of those children in the Local Authority's care.

The Children Act 1989 sets out the local authority's legal duties and responsibilities which underpin service provision for children in care and care leavers. Although the term "Corporate Parenting" is not specifically mentioned in the Children Act 1989 it is a term that has been widely adopted and is included in the recent guidance associated with the Act.

Subsequent legislation, regulations and government advice has extended and strengthened the obligations of local authorities towards children in care, including:-

- Letter from the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson in 1998 regarding councillors' roles and responsibilities towards children in care
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 - extended the types of service and upper age limit of young people the local authority is responsible for as a corporate parent to 24 (subsequently extended to 25)
- Further government guidance issued for councillors has reiterated the role that they should play in being an effective corporate parent for children in their care. The "If this were my child" (DfES 2003) guidance posed the benchmark question to develop the necessary mind set for achieving high quality outcomes for children in care. Children Act 2004 - contains a statutory requirement for local authorities to promote the educational achievement of children in care and emphasizes the role of collaborative service agreements with other agencies to achieve the right type of service provision.
- Children & Young People Act 2008 - reinforced the message that all local authorities, and particularly elected members, hold responsibility for ensuring good outcomes for children in care. It also made explicit the responsibility of local authorities to secure sufficient accommodation for children in care within their area which meets their needs.

More recently in April 2011, further statutory guidance was introduced to clarify the local authority's responsibilities for children in care and produced a suite of documents to set out the responsibilities.

In April 2013 The Care Inquiry published 'Making not Breaking; Building Relationships' for our most vulnerable children. It concluded that 'permanence' for children means 'security, stability, love and a strong sense of identity and belonging' and reinforced that the quality of relationships with the people who care for and are around them is fundamental.

In the Children and Social Work Bill 2016/17 the Government has reaffirmed its plans to enable a child to be adopted by a new family in a shorter period of

time, improve the standards of social work, and give greater support for children leaving care through a new 'Care Leavers' Covenant'. The bill opens with a list of standards for how local authorities should better act as a 'corporate parent' to support children in care as they move into adulthood.

The principles are applicable to all local authorities in England, whether or not they are or were the local authorities looking after the child.

The "Care Leavers Covenant" announced the Queen's Speech will require local authorities to consult on and publish a 'local offer' to care leavers setting out all the services that they are entitled to. This is similar to that required of local authorities for children with special educational needs after the Children and Families Act 2014.

The proposed legislation extends the right to a Personal Adviser, someone who will make sure care leavers receive the support they need as they transition into adulthood, to every care leaver that wants one up to the age of 25.

All schools must appoint individuals who hold responsibility for helping care leavers, adopted children and children in special guardianship orders, to achieve positive educational outcomes. There is a duty on the schools in England to designate a member of staff at the school to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of certain previously looked after pupils.

There is also an additional duty on LAs and schools to support the educational achievement of adopted children and those in the care of guardians. Prospective adopters with whom a child is placed will be given the same rights as birth parents in adoption order hearings. The Bill is currently being debated in the House of Commons.

Local context

In Barnet we want the same things for the children and young people in our care as any good parent would want for their child. We want our children to be resilient and by that we mean healthy and happy in childhood, to feel valued for who they are and to feel loved. It is important that they benefit from their experience in school and enjoy learning. We want them to grow into well adjusted, resilient, emotionally balanced individuals who will experience positive relationships, be responsible citizens, fulfill their goals and ambitions and ultimately provide good parenting to their own children.

Within our resilience philosophy for children in care and care leavers we want them to be able to say;

I have...

- People around me I trust and who love me, no matter what
- A safe and comfortable place to live
- I have a job and a place at college/university, or an apprenticeship
- People who set limits for me so I know when to stop before there is danger or trouble
- People who aim high for me and who will guide me in the right direction
- Access to services that support my cultural and ethnic identity

- Access to services that support me when I am not able to live independently due to my disability or special need
- A voice that is heard by all those who work to support me
- People who can help me connect with my birth family and understand my story
- People who can support me to make safe choices in relationships
- People who want me to learn to do things on my own
- People who help me if I become a parent
- People who can support me with my health needs

I am...

- Supported to make the right choice
- Successful in my job or training
- Happy with my relationships
- Supported to understand why I came into care and can avoid past mistakes
- Able to contribute to services for other care leavers to make their experience better
- Willing to be responsible for what I do
- Safe with those who care for me
- A willing contributor to my transition plan as a care leaver

I can...

- Talk to others about things that frighten or bother me
- Find ways to solve problems that I face
- Control myself when I feel like doing something not right or dangerous
- Figure out when it is a good time to talk to someone or to take action
- Find someone to help me when I need it
- Contribute to my care plan and attend my reviews
- Contact my SW, IRO, PA or advocate when I need to, to help me to cope
- Talk to my chosen professional about how I feel
- Contribute to my life story journey
- Say what I would like to do in the future
- Have a choice about where I would like to live
- Undertake some tasks to help to live independently in the future

In Barnet the number of looked after children has remained relatively stable over the past 5 years, with a similar inflow and outflow each year. However, at 352, this is now at the highest it has been in 6 years and is not in line with population growth. Barnet has seen significant increase in UASC numbers with referrals rising from 46 (2014/15) to 61 (2015/16).

<i>Numbers of LAC as at 31st March 2016</i>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Barnet 0-18 population	89,193	90,298	91,655	91,021	92,610
Numbers of LAC	300	305	310	305	315
Children starting to be looked after	155	170	170	175	180
Children ceasing to be looked after	165	170	170	185	175

Rate of looked after children per 10k under 18 population, 2012-2016					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
England	59	60	60	60	60
Outer London	49	48	48	47	47
Inner London	70	66	64	60	56
Barnet	36	36	36	34	35

There was a notably higher proportion of children aged 16+ in Barnet's care compared to the national average (+9%) but the rate is in line with overall London figures and is likely to reflect the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs) placed within London and issues of youth homelessness within the capital. The response to UASCs (16+) has been to place them in semi-independent provision but with the numbers increasing this is becoming more challenging.

In Barnet, the ethnic breakdown for children looked after has varied little since 2011. Nationally and in Barnet, the highest number of LAC are from a white British background. Barnet's percentage of white LAC is significantly lower than England's however this is in line with Barnet's population.

The percentage of mixed ethnicity LAC is significantly higher in Barnet than it is nationally; they are also disproportionately represented compared to the Barnet population of mixed ethnicity 0-19 year olds (10.6%).

There has been an increase in young people placed on remand in 2016 and Barnet is implementing a new approach with the REACH team to respond to the serious youth violence and gang culture that is growing within the borough.

Corporate Parenting

Corporate Parenting involves the whole local authority. Schools, Parks, Libraries, Housing and Cultural and Leisure activities are important in enriching the lives of the children in care. This strategy applies to both the commissioners and the providers of services for children in care.

The Director of children's services (DCS) and the Lead Member for children's services hold particular responsibility for children in care. The DCS has a professional responsibility for children's services and the Lead Member holds political responsibility. Together the Director and Lead Member provide a clear and unambiguous top line of accountability for children's wellbeing. They should have a complementary working relationship and report to the Chief Executive and Local Authority leader who between them have overall responsibility to ensure the needs of all children in care are reflected across the whole local authority and local strategic partnership.

All councillors assume the role of Corporate Parent and have a duty to:-

1. Ensure that they know how the Local Authority performs in respect of the key national indicators for children in care and leaving care.
2. Champion the rights of children in care and care leavers, through their links in the community and directly through their other roles for example, as school governors.
3. Ensure that there are effective mechanisms for the voice of children in care and care leavers to be heard and to influence strategy.
4. Ensure that the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel progresses the strategic priorities.
5. Ensure that the allocation of resources is adequate to meet the needs of children in care and care leavers.

In partnership with the local authority, schools, police, Health, the voluntary sector, faith groups and the local community all need to deliver on the corporate parenting pledge to children in care and care leavers.

In Barnet the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel, chaired by the Lead member, provides strategic leadership to ensure that the council delivers on our priorities and corporate parenting duties, working effectively with partners to achieve the best outcome for children in care and care leavers.

As Corporate Parents we adopt the principles of Barnet Family Services Resilience Philosophy. All involved with children in care recognise that in order to build a strong platform for onward transition to adulthood, there needs to be a cohesive approach which is underpinned by strong values and a resilient methodology. *Grotberg's (1995) "I have, I can, I am"* sets a good and firm foundation to ensure consistency across services around the children at the edge or in care and those leaving care.

Our Principles

1. Our vision for Family Friendly Barnet is founded on the concept of Resilient Families and Resilient Children. As corporate parents, we will strive to ensure that we provide a service that builds resilient children who can resist adversity, cope with uncertainty and recover more successfully from traumatic events and episodes.
2. Wherever possible we will endeavour to keep children within their families, but where it is not possible we will ensure that we deliver on our pledge to children in care and seek to make a difference in the outcomes for their lives
3. The responsibility for children in care or at risk of coming into care rests across all of children services and partner agencies.
4. The impact of all intervention into a child's life should be measured, build resilience, invite challenge and show commitment to the child through focussed care planning.
5. We will develop and use resilience based intervention with children and young people and their families and wherever possible the intervention will focus on reunification of children with their families.
6. Placements should be sufficiently local to enable children in care to remain in their communities, maintain their networks and minimise disruption to their lives.
7. Children in care should receive the best education provision available.
8. Children in care and care leavers are encouraged to have aspirations to achieve success and be ambitious for their futures.
9. Children in care have the opportunity to make their views known and be assured that their views influence both their individual plans and the shape of current and future services
10. We will celebrate the achievements of children in care in all aspects of their lives
11. Children in care and those leaving care will have their health and wellbeing responded to efficiently and with the appropriate level of professional expertise.

Key strategic priorities for Corporate Parenting

Priority 1

To better promote the welfare and safeguarding of children in care and those on the edge of care

- We will work collaboratively with partner agencies to share information and develop a cross-cutting strategy around child sexual exploitation, missing children, gangs and domestic violence
- We will promote and embed resilience based practice across all service areas to ensure consistent purposeful social work practice that enhances and improves outcomes for children in care and leaving care

Barnet facts

Family services has developed a multidisciplinary REACH Team that will work with the high risk complex young people

Workforce development strategy aims to deliver on embedding resilience based practice

Priority 2

To improve the choice of placement through the Placement Commissioning Strategy

- We will increase recruitment of local foster carers to ensure greater choice of placements
- We will develop a new model of residential care through a redeveloped children's home
- We will re-procure provision of independent fostering agencies and residential placements to ensure best value for money
- We will ensure that provision of placements meets the changing needs of the children in

Barnet facts

40% of children in care are aged 10-14 years and 32% are over 16 years old.

Barnet has 107 in house foster carers

13% of children in care are in residential schools or children's homes

There are 122 children in local foster care and 63 in IFA placements

care population and options are creative and flexible

- We will ensure that the offer to the increasing number of UASC placed in Barnet is in line with their needs

Priority 3

To improve the involvement and impact of young people on the planning and evaluation of service design

- We will develop a role of corporate parenting champions amongst Council members
- We will strengthen the voice of the child through the VOTC strategic group
- We will broaden the opportunities for young people to contribute to and inform planning through the bi-annual survey for children in care and develop creative methods of engagement and communication
- We will ensure that The Pledge is implemented and understood by children and young people in care of Barnet

Barnet facts

96% of children in care participate in their reviews

In 2016 Barnet published a Pledge for children in care and care leavers that informs this strategy

The Voice of the Child Team has led on the development of the MOMO (Mind of your own) app

The VOTC Team together with the Children in care Council will review our pledge to the children

Priority 4

To improve the education attainment and aspirations of all children in care and leaving care

- We want all children in care to be able to access good quality education that provides the opportunity for high educational achievements and strong future aspirations

Barnet facts

92% of children in care attend an education provision that is good or outstanding

The percentage of care leavers who are NEET was 32% in 2016. This is a 7% decrease from previous year

Over 20 care leavers attend university and there are 2 young people accessing apprenticeships

- We will support 16+ year olds into further education, university or employment and enhance opportunities for apprenticeships
- We will make sure that children in care have access to independent information, advice and guidance to plan their futures

Priority 5


To improve the physical, social health and emotional wellbeing of children in care and care leavers

- We will work with the Clinical Commissioning Group and appropriate providers to ensure a comprehensive health offer for all children in care and care leavers
- We will work with commissioners and providers on the recommissioning of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- We will ensure that all children in care have access to a timely and appropriate initial health assessment

Barnet facts

95% of children in care have had health assessments but the timeliness and access to initial health assessments needs improvement

16 children in care have agreed tripartite funding for their placements

	<p>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>21st February 2016</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Care Leavers’ Strategy and Needs Analysis</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Commissioning Director – Children and Young People</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A: Barnet Care Leavers’ Strategy Appendix B: Barnet Care Leavers’ Needs’ Analysis Appendix C: What makes a Resilient Care Leaver?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Brigitte Jordaan Head of Permanence, Transitions and Corporate Parenting Brigitte.Jordaan@barnet.gov.uk</p> <p>Sophie Reece-Trapp Strategy and Insight Officer Sophie.reece-trapp@barnet.gov.uk</p>

<p>Summary</p>
<p>Care leavers are one of the most vulnerable groups in society and research at a local and national level demonstrates that they do not have the same life opportunities and outcomes as their peers.</p> <p>Appendix A to this report presents Barnet’s strategy for care leavers for 2017-2020, with its proposed key strategic priorities. The underpinning needs analysis is provided in Appendix B, which spans key areas including education, employment and training; housing; finances and access to services.</p>

Recommendations

1. That the Committee approve the Barnet Care Leaver's Strategy as appended.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 It is important that the Committee on Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding (CELSC) is briefed on the implementation of the Care Leavers' Strategy, as Committee Members are key stakeholders in overseeing Barnet's Corporate Parenting Duties for children in care and care leavers.
- 1.2 The launch of Barnet's Children and Young People Plan 2016-2020 sets out the vision for Family Friendly Barnet: to develop resilient families and resilient children. A strategy based on resilience involves looking for strengths and opportunities to build on, rather than for issues or problems to treat. It is within this context that Barnet will implement the Care Leavers' Strategy.
- 1.3 Care leavers are one of the most vulnerable groups in society. Research shows that journey through the first decade of adult life can often be disrupted, unstable and troubled, and their life chances are significantly worse than those of their peers without a care leaving background.
- 1.4 The government's intention is to give care leavers the same care and support that their peers would expect from a reasonable parent, such as help finding a job or setting up home. The July 2016 'Keep on Caring' cross-government strategy sets the scene for the future of care leaving services to support better outcomes for care leavers. It invites councils to be more creative about the ways in which they meet their needs.
- 1.5 The Children and Social Work Bill, which is yet to receive royal assent, places duties on local authorities for cohorts including care leavers, including a local offer for care leavers. It also proposes that all care leavers receive a Personal Advisor to support them up to the age of 25 (rather than the present age of 21 for most care leavers).
- 1.6 Members have special responsibilities towards Barnet care leavers, as their corporate parents. Members' commitment to the care leaving agenda was demonstrated through the Barnet Pledge, brought by Members as a joint motion to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee in January 2016 and the Corporate Parenting Action Plan that is being advanced to improve outcomes for Barnet's children in care and care leavers.
- 1.7 Barnet has recently been named as a UNICEF Child Rights Partner, in recognition of activity undertaken and planned to ensure that the rights and participation of children in care and care leavers are at the heart of service delivery and design. The three priorities for participation in the programme

align with the strategic priorities of the care leavers' strategy, and will strengthen these.

- 1.8 This paper informs Members of the needs of the care leaving cohort (Appendix B). On the basis of this, key strategic priorities for the council and its partners are proposed until 2020. This will enable members, officers and partners to better meet the needs of care leaver through targeted activity that will make a difference to outcomes for Barnet's care leavers.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 As corporate parents, Members are requested to note the Care Leavers' strategy, as well as the needs' analysis that underpins it. The strategy proposes the direction of travel for Barnet's care leaving services over 2017-20.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The report supports CELSC Members in advancing the corporate parenting agenda, and all Members in fulfilling their roles as Corporate Parents. Neglecting to send the strategy to CELS would impede this.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Progress against strategic priorities will be monitored through the reporting of key indicators both through monthly officer assurance reports and as part of the management information update to Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel and CELSC.
- 4.2 A detailed action plan has been developed to ensure that priorities are advanced in a defined and timely fashion. This action plan will be taken forward by the Corporate Parenting Officers' Group, in tandem with the Corporate Parenting Action Plan.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

Ensure that Barnet is a place of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life:

As one of the most vulnerable groups in society, research demonstrates that care leavers do not have the same life chances and opportunities as their peers without a care background. The Care Leavers' Strategy provides clear direction, based on evidence, of how opportunities can be improved for Barnet care leavers.

Support families and individuals that need it– promoting independence, learning and well-being.

Research shows that there are barriers to care leavers engaging in education, employment and training, which can be compounded by mental health issues or issues with financial management. Barnet's care leavers experience

independence earlier in their lives than many of our young people, and need resilience to deal with life's challenges at this transition to adulthood.

As former children in care, care leavers also benefit from activity taking place around the following corporate priority: ***To create better life chances for children and young people across the borough.***

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

5.2.1 There are no financial implications of the Care Leavers' Strategy at this stage. There are, however, pressures related to the Children and Social Work Bill in particular the requirement on Local Authorities to provide Personal Advisors for care leavers. This will be reviewed and the details reported to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel and other relevant Committees once the Bill becomes legislation.

5.2.2 There are clear governance arrangements in place and there is a stable management team in Family Services, which support continuous service improvement. Improvement work across the service, including the leaving care team 'Onwards and Upwards', is driven by the Practice Improvement Plan.

5.2.3 The 'Onwards and Upwards' team have developed a resilience philosophy for their work with care leavers (including statements in Appendix C), and are participating in Signs of Safety training, which forms a key component of the resilience model.

5.2.4 Recruitment and retention of social workers is being advanced as part of the Practice Improvement Plan and Workforce Planning Framework 2016/17. As part of these plans, there is a focus on decreasing the service's reliance on agency social workers and increasing recruitment and retention of permanent staff.

5.2.5 Family Services commissioning involves children and young people and is supported by clear monitoring arrangements which are robust and clearly governed to provide oversight of whether commissioned services achieve outcomes. The Commissioning process is informed by needs analysis drawing on diverse sources of insight.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

5.3.2 Before commencing a procurement process for services that are relevant to care leavers, 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. Opportunities to secure social value

through the implementation of the Care Leavers' Strategy will be considered.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004. They also have statutory duties under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the associated regulations, being the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 in respect of eligible and relevant and former relevant children i.e. current and future cohorts of children who have left or will leave the local authority's care.
- 5.4.2 Local authorities have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, provided that this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings. Services might include day care for young children, after-school care for school children, counselling, respite care, family centre services or practical help in the home or targeted parenting and family support.
- 5.4.3 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.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 The nature of services provided to children and families by Family Services involve managing significant levels of risk. High quality early intervention and social care services reduce the likelihood of children suffering harm and increase the likelihood of children developing into successful adults and achieving and succeeding.
- 5.5.2 Family Services maintains a risk register, to ensure that risks relating to safeguarding children and young people are managed effectively. These risks are reviewed at least every quarter. Any risks arising from the strategy or the related projects will be managed in line with the corporate risk management framework.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

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

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

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

5.7.2 Equalities and Diversity considerations are a key element of the Council's approach to safeguarding and work with care leavers. Analysis of local needs with regard to equality and diversity have fed into the care leavers' strategy. Services provided take equality and diversity considerations into account, and there are seasonal events arranged for care leavers that celebrate diversity.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 The needs analysis (Appendix B) draws on national findings from surveys with care leavers.

5.7.2 Barnet care leavers were consulted with to inform the needs' analysis and strategy, at a BBQ event in August 2016 and a co-produced survey was circulated to care leavers via their workers in November/December 2016. Personal Advisors and Social Workers at Onwards and Upwards were surveyed in late 2016 around the opportunities and challenges facing care leavers in Barnet.

5.7.3 On 24th January 2017, a stakeholder event with partners working with or for care leavers was held. This provided an opportunity to present partners with headlines from the needs analysis, generate discussion around improving outcomes for care leavers, and secure new commitments to Barnet's care leaving offer. Pledges from partners have been incorporated into the final strategy and accompanying action plan.

5.7.4 Across Family Services, the participation agenda is driven by the Voice of the Child Strategy, which outlines a clear vision to provide all children and young people within Barnet the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 The Barnet placements commissioning strategy is based on a thorough needs Assessment. It sets out the profile and needs of Barnet's looked after children and is designed to better meet the needs of our children in care. This includes meeting equality and diversity considerations as set out in the 2010 Equality Act. Sources of insight include:

- National research on challenges, opportunities and outcomes for care leavers
- Governmental papers and strategies

- Local data, from the ICS social care system
- Survey of social workers and personal advisors in the 'Onwards and Upwards' leaving care team
- Surveys of care leavers
- Findings from an external analysis of Barnet's care leaving cohort

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1. Item 6 (Care Leavers' Strategy) – Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel, 7th February 2016:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s37769/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.pdf>

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A: Barnet Care Leavers' Strategy 2017-20

1. INTRODUCTION

In Barnet, we want the same things for our care leavers as any good parent would want for their child. We want our care leavers to be resilient, and by that we mean healthy, happy and feel valued. We want them to grow into well-adjusted individuals who will experience positive relationships, be responsible citizens, fulfil their goals and ambitions, and ultimately provide good parenting to their own children. Barnet has high aspirations for young people who have left our corporate care and want them to be able to confidently say phrase like:

I have a place at uni

I am happy with my relationships

I can talk to others about things that frighten or bother me¹

We know that each care leaver is an individual with his or her own strengths, interests and background. Care leavers in Barnet, and across the country, go on to achieve amazing things and inspire others.

However, when researchers look at care leavers as a group, they have found that care leavers experience more difficulties in life than other young people. These include getting a job, staying well mentally and having good accommodation.

In line with our Family Friendly Barnet approach, we want care leavers to be able to bounce back from life's challenges and embrace new opportunities. Our vision is for a society where care leavers have the same life chances and ambitions as other young people.

One of the ways in which we can achieve this is through a strategy. A strategy is a way of partners in Barnet coming together to work towards the same, agreed priorities for Barnet's care leavers. These priorities are based on evidence about what will make the biggest difference to the lives of Barnet care leavers.

2. DEFINITIONS

Care Leavers

A care leaver is a young person who is 25 years old or younger and was in the local authority's care for at least 13 weeks after the age of 14 and who was looked after by the Local Authority at school leaving age or after that age. They have since left the local authority's care and are entitled to a leaving care services

Local authorities are required by law to support care leavers until they are 21 years old (or 25 in some cases).

¹ Modelled on Grotberg, E: 'A guide to promoting resilience in Children: strengthening the human spirit' (1995) See Annex C: What makes a resilient care leaver? for more local examples.

Care Leaving Services

Care leaving services are resources, drop-ins and other forms of support provided to care leavers. They are delivered by Barnet's Onwards and Upwards team and other organisations in order to support care leavers in areas of their lives including work, study and training; accommodation and health.

3. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT CARE LEAVERS NATIONALLY?

Over 10,000 young people aged 16 or over leave local authority care each year. 58% are male and 48% are female.

The government's wants to give care leavers the same care and support that their peers would expect from a reasonable parent, such as help finding a job or setting up home. The July 2016 'Keep on Caring'² cross-government strategy outlines the future of care leaving services. It invites councils to be more creative about how they meet care leavers' needs.

Research shows that care leavers working, studying or in training are more likely to have good mental health. However, only 60% of 19-year old care leavers nationally fall into this category. Care leavers are five times less likely than their peers to attend university. They are eight times less likely to be apprentices than the wider population.

Good housing can help care leavers across a range of areas, including mental health and education. One in three young people with care backgrounds experience homelessness at some stage. Nationally, 79% of care leavers live in accommodation defined as suitable. Research highlights the importance of care leavers having choice about where they live.

Care leavers have often suffered abuse and neglect during childhood, which is known to have a significant impact during adulthood. Around half of care leavers have a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire score (which measures mental wellbeing in young people) that is cause for concern, which means that they are more likely to develop poor mental health as an adult.

Budgeting is particularly difficult for young people living alone after leaving care. Navigating the benefits and council tax systems also brings challenges.

64% of care leaving services nationally are judged to be inadequate, or requiring improvement by the Ofsted inspection body. Generally, the more a council resources its care leaving services, the more supported care leavers feel. Care leavers say that they want to be valued by their local authorities as experts on the care system.

² Ibid

To find out more about care leavers nationally, please take a look at Appendix B (Needs Analysis).

4. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT CARE LEAVERS IN BARNET?

In Barnet, there are 195 young people eligible for care leaving services (Sept 2016).

65% are male, which means that males are overrepresented in the care leaving population. Just over 1 in 10 has a learning disability. 7% are parents. 22% are Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers.

When it comes to education, 63% of Barnet's care leavers work, study or are in training. 9% of Barnet's care leavers attend university and 2% are completing apprenticeships. Care leavers are ambitious for themselves and tell us that they see working or studying as the biggest opportunity for their future.

In 5 years I want to:

- Be working as a carpet fitter
- Have finished my BA in music and have opened my first music studio
- Be a vet
- Work in a well-paid trade
- Be working full-time with my own place

(5 Barnet care leavers)

Being able to live independently, manage my bills and prove I can do it presents the biggest opportunity for me

(Barnet Care Leaver)

Nearly two-thirds of Barnet's care leavers live within the borough. Of the third that do not, the majority live within the London area. 96% of our care leavers are in suitable accommodation. 15% live with their foster carers post-18 as part of the 'Staying Put' arrangement.

Nearly 2 in 5 care leavers in Barnet have mental health issues. These can be significant or diagnosed (16% of the cohort) or poor mental health that is undiagnosed (23% of the cohort).

Accessing adult mental health is the first step, then I can think about working
(Barnet care leaver)

To find out more about care leavers in Barnet, take a look at Appendix B (Needs Analysis).

5. CORPORATE PARENTING

Corporate parenting involves the whole of the local authority. It means that the local authority, including its elected Members, has special responsibilities towards children in care and care leavers.

Corporate parenting also involves working effectively with our partners, like health, education and the police, to make a difference to many areas of a care leavers' life.

In Barnet, there is a Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel, chaired by the lead member for children's services. It helps to ensure that the council delivers on our priorities and corporate parenting duties. There is a Barnet Pledge for children in

care and care leavers, setting out what they can expect from Barnet as a corporate parent. In early 2017 Barnet was named as a UNICEF child rights partner, and the priorities identified as part of this initiative will strengthen the care leavers' strategy.

6. OUR PRINCIPLES

The following principles guide Barnet, as corporate parents, in helping care leavers build resilience and do well for themselves.

We will:

- Build resilience in our care leavers, and put them at the heart of our work
- Encourage them to have hopes for the future and continue to study, work or train to secure their preferred future
- Listen to what care leavers want when it comes to placements, helping them to remain in their communities, keep their networks of friends and families and minimise disruption to their lives as they transfer from care
- Support them to be healthy in body and mind
- Help them make their views known and show how this influences both their individual plans and shapes services that they receive

In doing this, Barnet will work together with different organisations, to give care leavers the services and support they need to build resilience. Care leavers can expect Barnet to listen to them and be open and honest. We will celebrate the different backgrounds of our care leavers.

7. KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our mission is to help care leavers build resilience and enjoy equal life opportunities to their peers. Barnet wants to support care leavers at an important time in their lives.

Priority 1: We will support you to **work, study and train**

- We will increase the number of care leavers going to university, in order to close the gap with their peers (1A³)
- We will support more care leavers to complete high-quality apprenticeships, as these should be available to all care leavers who want to lay the foundations for their future career (1B)
- We will make sure that, regardless of whether a care leaver was in foster care, residential care, or another type of care, they participate in work, study or training (1C)

Priority 2: We will help you find **accommodation** that is suitable and right for you

³ This reference refers to the Action Plan

- We will offer a greater number of semi-independent placements and improve care leavers' access to them (2A)
- We will help more care leavers to 'Stay Put' with their foster carers once they turn 18, because it can be an excellent option at a time of change (2B)
- We will help young people in residential care to 'Stay Close' to their residential home once they turn 18, if that is what they wish (2C)
- We will give care leavers clarity around the housing offer and work with Barnet Homes and housing associations to improve access to service (pathways), increase support and make sure that care leavers are in the right accommodation for them (2D)

Priority 3: We will help you to **be well** in body and in mind

- We will give more support to care leavers who are young parents, so that they can build resilience as a parent and give their child a good start to life (3A)
- We will support care leavers with poor mental health who do not meet thresholds for adult social care to manage their condition in the community (3B)
- For those care leavers who are eligible for adult social care, we will improve access to services (pathways) so that they get what they need to manage their condition (3C)
- We will improve the experience of care leavers with a learning disability or physical disability and support them to achieve better outcomes (3D)

Priority 4: We will help you to **live independently** and manage your finances

- We will make moving from care to leaving care an easier experience (4A)
- We will help care leavers to better manage their finances (4B)
- We will make sure that finances are fair and accessible for care leavers(4C)

Priority 5: We will support you to **make your voice heard**, help you to **access services** and we will **build your resilience**

- We will help care leavers take part in developing and shaping care leaving services that work for them – and make a difference to their lives (5A)
- We will help elected Members to understand and undertake their corporate parenting responsibilities (5B)
- We will raise the profile of care leavers across Family Services, the wider council and local organisations, so that we are working together to increase opportunities and remove barriers for care leavers (5C)
- We will support frontline practitioners to build on care leavers' strengths and manage risk, using the Family Services resilience model (5D)
- We will develop and publish a local offer for our care leavers, so that they know what services are available and how to access them (5E)

- We will explore ways to formally document work with care leavers who have left the service (5F)
- We will make our services more responsive to care leavers, so that they know how to access them in ways and at times that are convenient to them (5G)
- We will have a defined offer for care leavers who are (former) Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (5H)

Appendix B: Barnet Care Leavers' Needs Analysis

Summary

This needs analysis was undertaken using data from the latter half of 2016 from a range of local and national sources. It includes the views of care leavers. The needs analysis informs the care leavers' strategy (Appendix A) and its priorities.

Profile

- There are 195 young people eligible for Barnet's care leaving services (Sept 2016). This number is expected to rise in the coming years.
- Males are disproportionately represented in the care leaving population (65%), as are young people from BME ethnic groups

Education, Employment and Training¹

- Around 2/3 of Barnet's care leaving population are in education, employment or training, which compares favourably to the national picture
- Barnet's care leavers are very aspirational for themselves, as are the professionals who work with them. Care leavers report that education, employment and training are a challenge for them – as well as the biggest opportunity for their futures.
- In Barnet, 71% of care leavers who were in foster care only, were later engaged in education, employment and training, which contrasts with 40% from other placement types
- 32% of Barnet's care leavers are not in education, employment or training (NEET), which is below the national average
- 9% of Barnet's current care leaving population attend university – higher than the national figure (6%) but significantly lower than their peers without a care background (33%).
- Only 2% of Barnet's care leaving population are undertaking apprenticeships, which is comparable with the national picture for care leavers (3%) but significantly lower than their peers without a care background

Accommodation

- 61% of Barnet's care leavers live within the borough. Of the remaining 37% who live out of borough, the majority live in London.
- 96% live in suitable accommodation, which compares favourably to statistical neighbours
- Circa 15% have entered into the 'Staying Put' arrangement, continuing to live with foster carers post-18
- Young people are not always ready to take on longer-term tenancies; however, there is a shortage of semi-independent provision in the borough

Other

- An audit demonstrates that nearly 2 out of 5 Barnet care leavers have mental health issues. 16% of the cohort had mental health issues at a higher tier and 23% at a lower tier.
- Council tax is an area of concern for many care leavers

¹ Referred to as 'work, studying and training' in the strategy

- Care leavers are enthusiastic about the help that they receive from their workers and the services at Woodhouse Road
- Barnet keeps in touch with 99% of its care leavers, which compares favourably to the national picture.

Contents

1. Background Information.....	7
1.1 Sources of Insight.....	7
1.2 Definitions.....	7
2. Profile of care leavers in Barnet.....	8
2.1 Age.....	8
2.2 Gender.....	8
2.3 Ethnicity.....	9
2.4 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).....	9
2.5 Special Educational Needs (SEN).....	9
2.6 Parenting.....	9
2.7 Gang Membership.....	9
3. Education, Employment and Training.....	10
3.1 Introduction.....	10
3.2 Aspirations.....	10
3.3 Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training.....	11
3.3.1 Education.....	11
3.3.2 Higher Education.....	11
3.3.3 Apprenticeships.....	11
3.4 Care Leavers who are not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET).....	12
4. Housing.....	13
4.1 Introduction.....	13
4.2 Suitable Accommodation.....	14
4.3 Staying Put.....	14
4.4 Unsuitable Accommodation.....	15
4.5 Temporary Accommodation.....	15
4.6 Semi-independent and supported accommodation.....	15
4.7 Longer-term Tenancies.....	15
4.8 Choice of placement.....	16
4.9 Homelessness.....	16
5. Health and Wellbeing.....	17

5.1	Introduction	17
5.2	Disability and Learning Disability	17
5.3	Mental Health	17
6.	Managing finances.....	18
6.1	Introduction	18
6.2	Transitions	19
6.3	Council Tax.....	19
6.4	Emergency Payments	20
7.	Care Leaving Services	20
7.1	Introduction	20
7.2	Feedback from Care Leavers	20
7.3	Caseloads.....	20
7.4	Participation	21
7.5	Facilities and Activities	21
7.6	Frontline work	21
7.7	Keeping in touch.....	22
8.	Care Leaving Services in Barnet.....	22
8.1	Introduction	22
8.2	Services.....	22
8.3	Working with partners.....	23
8.4	Feedback.....	23
8.5	Innovation	23

1. Background Information

This Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) provides information on the profile and needs of the current and future cohorts of care leavers in Barnet.

1.1 Sources of Insight

The information in this JSNA has been gathering using diverse sources of insight at a national and local level:

Ref	Local/ National	Source of insight	Number	Month	Year
1	National	Research (e.g. Barnado's National Audit Office, Government)	N/A	N/A	2010-2016
2	Local	Local authority data from ICS	296 current and future eligible care	Sept	2016

			leavers		
4	Local	Care Leaver Analytics	-	June	2016
5	Local	Survey of care leavers	23 care leavers	Nov/Dec	2016
6	Local	Survey of care leavers	32 care leavers	August	2016
7	Local	Survey of Onwards and Upwards frontline staff	7 practitioners	Nov/Dec	2016
8	Local	Dip-sample of cases with staff	82 care leavers	Nov/Dec	2016

1.2 Definitions

The following cohorts are referred to throughout the report:

Care Leaver ('Former Relevant')

Young people aged 18-21, who have been eligible and/or relevant (see definition below). If at the age of 21 the young person is still being helped by the local authority with a prescribed programme of education or training, s/he remains a former relevant child (care leaver) until the end of the agreed programme.

Young people aged 21 - 25 who return to the local authority for assistance with education or training reassume their 'former relevant' (i.e. care leaver) status until they have completed the prescribed programme.

Future Care leaver ('Eligible')

A young person who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks after the age of 14. They are still in the local authority's care but will be entitled to a leaving care offer once they leave. They are referred to in this document as Barnet's future care leaver cohort.

Additionally, young people who were detained in hospital or voluntary patients in hospital before the age of 16 and who remain detained at age 16 and immediately before having been detained or admitted to hospital, had been accommodated for 13 weeks by a local authority.

2. Profile of care leavers in Barnet

2.1 Introduction

In Barnet, there are 195 young people eligible for care leaving services (Sept 2016).

The number of Barnet Care Leavers is forecast to increase in the coming years as a result of a number of trends:

- The increase in eligible young people, as more children in Barnet have entered care in the past year than previous years
- Increasing numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in care and leaving care

- 16 and 17 year olds who present as homeless may become looked after children
- The Social Work Bill will require additional care leavers aged 21 – 24 to receive support from a Personal Advisor under the proposals in the Bill, to a maximum of an additional 187 young people by 2019/20 assuming full take up.

2.2 Age

The age of transition to and from care leavers' services differs across local authorities, spanning ages 15 to 25. In Barnet, care leavers transition to Onwards and Upwards at the age of 17 years and 9 months. Care leavers leave the service at age 21, or 25 if they have a disability or are in education.

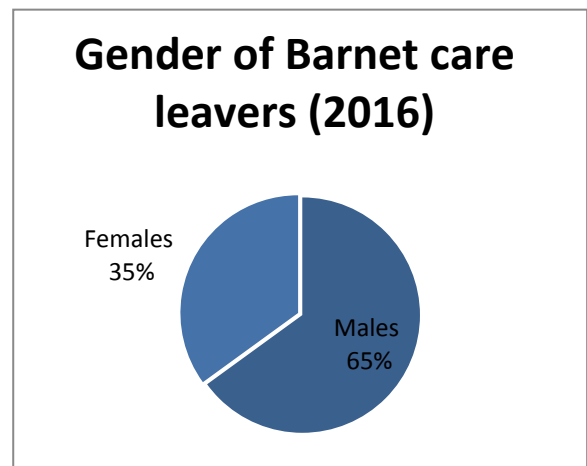
In Barnet, 18-21 year olds make up 89% of the care leaver cohort. This is similar to the national picture however Barnet has significantly more 18 year olds and fewer 21 year olds compared with nationally. This may be because more young people are entering care in their teenage years, sometimes voluntarily, and because of an increase in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).

Future cohorts	Age									
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30th September 2015	35%	65%								
30th September 2016	53%	47%								
Current cohort	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30th September 2015	2%	3%	27%	27%	25%	10%	3%	2%	1%	1%
30th September 2016	2%	2%	36%	22%	24%	7%	4%	3%	1%	1%

2.3 Gender

Nationally, the breakdown of care leavers by gender is as follows: 58% male and 42% female.

Barnet's wider population aged 18-21 is 53% male, 47% female. **In both the current and future cohort of Barnet care leavers, there is a significantly higher proportion of males (65%) than females (35%).** This figure is in part a reflection of Barnet's children in care cohort where males are overrepresented at 61%. This also reflects the higher proportion of males in the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker cohort.



2.4 Ethnicity

The most prominent ethnicity in the Barnet care leaver cohort is White (42%) which is significantly lower than the borough's 16-25 population (circa 60%).

BME ethnic groups are over represented in both Barnet's current care leaver and future care leaver cohorts. The Asian ethnic group is under-represented within both cohorts; however it appears that numbers will increase as future cohorts come through.

From the data available on current and future cohorts, **English is the most widely spoken language.** 10 other languages are recorded.

Approximately 15% of Barnet's population identify as Jewish. However this is not reflected within the looked after children population where only 4% of this cohort are Jewish.

2.5 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) **20% of Barnet's current care leaver cohort are or were Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (n=39).**

This figure is projected to increase up to a cap of 63 (which would be 32% of the current care leaver population), given ongoing global events and local authorities' responsibilities in this area.

2.6 Special Educational Needs (SEN)

In 2016, 14.4% of pupils nationally had special educational needs.

20% of Barnet's current care leaving population is recorded as having special educational needs.

2.7 Parenting

7% (n=6/82) of care leavers sampled were a parent.

Comparator data is not readily available.

2.8 Gang Membership

4% (n=3/82) of care leavers sampled were identified as being in a gang.

A further 6% (n=5/82) were identified as being edge-of-gang, which refers to association with gang members, or struggling with violent behaviour that puts the young person at risk of gang-related activity.

Comparator data is not readily available.

3. Education, Employment and Training

3.1 Introduction

A young person's experience in care has an impact on their educational attainment once they have left care.

Research shows a positive correlation between a young person's time spent in care, the stability of their placement and their educational performance². There is also a close relationship between care leavers' emotional wellbeing and their successful engagement in education, employment and training (EET).

In Barnet 63% of care leavers are in EET which is an improvement of 10% from 2015. This is also higher than the national rate.

84% of care leavers in EET are in full-time education, employment or training. For the majority of the Barnet cohort, this means full-time participation in education other than higher education (including college).

3.2 Aspirations

Low esteem and lack of confidence can prevent care leavers from achieving or seizing new opportunities. **Nationally, care leavers are five times less likely than their peers to attend university** and it is often confidence that determines which young people attend university³.

In a survey completed by Barnet care leavers, when presented with the statement 'I want the best for myself now and in the future', on a scale of 1-5 (with 5 being completely agree), the average score was 4.8. The lowest independent score given was a 3, which means that no young person disagreed with this statement. This shows that **Barnet care leavers have very high aspirations for themselves.**

In 5 years I want to:

- Be working as a carpet fitter
- Have finished my BA in music and have opened my first music studio
- Be a vet
- Work in a well-paid trade
- Be working full-time with my own place

(5 Barnet care leavers)

Professionals also play a central role in building aspirations, so that care leavers are empowered to take up new opportunities. Within the Barnet survey, care leavers were asked to scale the statement: 'professionals in Barnet have high hopes for me' (with 5 being 'completely agree'). The average score was 3.7 with 57% giving a 4 or 5, which shows how **Barnet care leavers perceive Barnet professionals as being aspirational for them, too.**

3.3 Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training

When surveyed about the challenges they face, **38% of the Barnet cohort stated education, employment and training as the main challenge for them;** in particular gaining employment.

At the same time, **48% of Barnet care leavers surveyed stated that employment, education and training presented the biggest opportunity for them.**

² Who Cares Trust: *Open Doors, Open Minds* (2011/12)

³ Ibid

Similarly, when answering what they want to be doing in 5 years' time, **67% of respondents referred to education, employment or training opportunities.**

3.3.1 Education


The aspirations of professionals for care leavers plays a key role in the educational outcomes that they achieve, as well as the ability of professionals to provide guidance around all of the opportunities.

In Barnet and other local authorities, care leavers who spent all of their time in foster care are more likely to be in education, employment and training, on average. **In Barnet, 71% of care leavers who were in foster care only were later engaged in EET, as opposed to 40% in EET from other placement types** (residential, secure etc.), or a variety. This was echoed by a worker, who saw a noticeable difference in the motivation of young people who had experienced a stable period of care in foster care to those who had not.

3.3.2 Higher Education

Nationally, care leavers are five times less likely than their peers to attend university. There is little national data to demonstrate the comparative educational attainment of care leavers against their peers once they are in higher education.

9% (n=25) of Barnet's current care leaving population attends university. This is higher than the national figure for care leavers (6%), but still significantly lower than 33% of the general public that go to university⁴ (NAO 2015).



Higher education is the only way for me to fully be independent. It also opens doors for jobs

(Barnet Care Leaver)

3.3.3 Apprenticeships

Nationally, care leavers aged 19 to 21 not at university are eight times less likely to be apprentices, compared to the general population⁵. **Only 2% (n=3) of Barnet's care leavers are undertaking apprenticeships**, which is slightly below the national percentage (3%).

Apprenticeships provide a vital route into longer-term employment and there are clearly significant barriers nationally and locally to care leavers' taking up apprenticeship opportunities. At the same time, it is important to note that there can be discrepancies in the quality of apprenticeships and staff would want to ensure that young people are opting for high-quality apprenticeships that help them progress.

Survey findings from Onwards and Upwards staff indicate that this is as a result of the low apprenticeship wage, which presents care leavers with financial challenges. There are also cost implications of taking up an apprenticeship, including travel costs.

⁴ National Audit Office, [Care Leavers' Transitions to Adulthood](#) (2015)

⁵ Children's Commissioner: [Delivering a Care Leaving Strategy for traineeships and apprenticeships](#) (2016)

3.4 Care Leavers who are not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

Nationally, 15% of young people in the general population are not in education, employment or training (NEET), which contrasts with more than 40% of 19-year old care leavers nationally who are NEET.

In Barnet, the percentage of care leavers who are NEET is 32%, which is below the national average. Some of Barnet's care leavers are NEET owing to illness and disability as identified by the practitioner (which may include learning disability); for others pregnancy and parenting may be a barrier to engagement in EET.

A dip sample revealed the following detail around care leavers who are NEET for reasons other than these:

Reason	Total (n)	Total (%)
Custody	1	5%
Non-engagement	1	5%
Lack of aspiration/ confidence/ motivation	7	37%
Immigration issues	4	21%
Want to find a job but no success	4	21%
Lacking qualifications	2	11%
Total	19	(100%)

Onwards and Upwards staff emphasised the need for not only a strong EET offer, but also an offer that fosters a mind-set in young people that helps them to engage sustainably in EET. This is often in the context of ongoing negative associations with education.

Local data shows that the following variables can have an impact on a young person's likelihood of becoming NEET:

Age of entry to care

- In Barnet, children who entered care later (15+) were not more likely to become NEET. This is different from other local authorities where this is the case.
- Children who entered care at 10 or under were less likely to be future NEET
- Young people entering care at 14 or 16 were more likely to be NEET.

Type of provision during care

- There is a correlation between young people spending more time in residential care and becoming NEET.

Time in and out of care

- Children who spent time out of care (for example, they returned home to their family for a period) are almost twice as likely to be NEET

Stability

- Children with even 2 placements (as opposed to 1) since their 10th birthday were significantly more likely to be NEET.

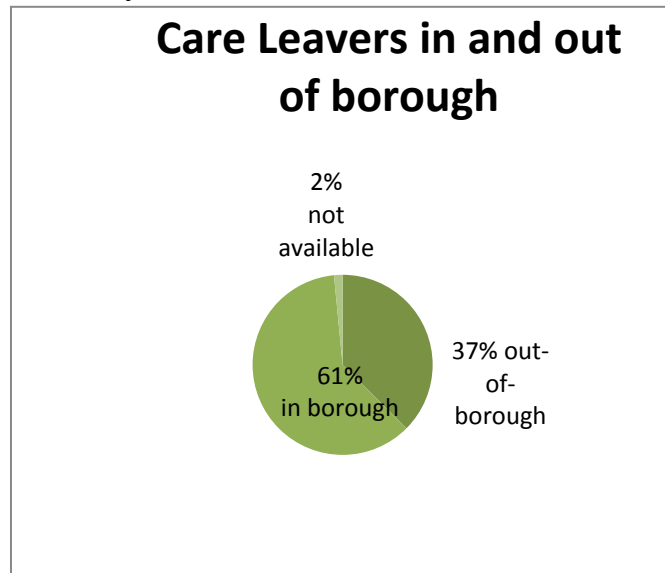
4. Housing

4.1 Introduction

Housing is described as “a vehicle for stability” for care leavers and affects a wide range of other outcomes (Demos and Barnardo’s, 2010). Care leavers most likely to have housing needs are those who left care at a young age, young people with a health need or disability, those with mental health issues, substance use or offending needs⁶.

Housing is about more than the physical environment that young people live in, although the suitability of the accommodation is an important factor. Care leavers define safe, settled accommodation as follows⁷:

- having a choice when to leave care
- being prepared for leaving care
- having a choice in their accommodation
- being and feeling safe
- having practical and personal support
- having support from family, friends and former carers
- having financial support
- being involved in services affecting them.



61% of Barnet care leavers live within the borough of Barnet.

Of the 37% of care leavers that are placed out-of-borough, two-thirds live within the London area and a further third are placed nationally.

One in five of Barnet’s care leavers surveyed said that accommodation provided the biggest challenge for them. 70% of all complaints raised with the advocacy service by care leavers were about accommodation.

Strong relationships have been developed between the Onwards and Upwards teams, and various housing teams. Workers stated that many care leavers come

⁶ Barnados: [On my own: The accommodation needs of young people leaving care in England](#) (2014)

⁷ Stein, M: [Increasing the number of care leavers in ‘settled, safe accommodation’](#) (2010).

back post-21 to resolve housing difficulties, including where the case is no longer open.

4.2 Suitable Accommodation

Accommodation is regarded as suitable if it provides safe, secure and affordable provision for young people. It would generally include short-term accommodation designed to move young people on to stable longer-term accommodation, but excludes emergency accommodation used in a crisis.

A Barnet audit undertaken in November 2016 demonstrated that **96% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation**. This compares favourably to the national average and statistical neighbours, where 79% of care leavers are in suitable accommodation.

As at September 2016, for those in suitable accommodation:

- Nearly half (49%) were living independently
- 13% of care leavers were living semi-independently or in transitional accommodation.
- 9% were staying with former foster carers ('Staying Put')⁸
- 8% were living with parents/relatives

Barnet does not use bed and breakfast accommodation, as this is unsuitable accommodation.

4.3 Staying Put

The national 'Staying Put' arrangement, in place since 2013, allows care leavers to stay with their foster carers after they turn 18, if the young person and foster carer agree to this arrangement.

As at January 2016, 15% (n=28) of Barnet's care leavers in and out of borough are living with former foster carers after they turn 18, via the Staying Put arrangement. This is despite the fact that the majority of Barnet's care leavers live with foster carers immediately before leaving care.

A number of workers spoke highly of Staying Put, as it supports young people to continue to engage in education and gives them a more gradual transition to living independently. Conditions conducive to the Staying Put arrangement include a positive placement that meets the young person's needs, and the will of both the young person and foster carer to continue with the arrangement. Workers highlighted the discrepancy between this excellent offer and the offer for young people for whom Staying Put was not an option.

In some cases there may not be the will from either party to continue this arrangement; however, the low percentage of uptake suggests that foster carers are not fully informed about this relatively new option from a sufficiently early stage.

⁸ Note that the rate is higher at 15% as at January 2017

There is a need for an offer for those young people for whom Staying Put is not an option, and who cannot access semi-independent accommodation.

4.4 Unsuitable Accommodation

Of the 4% (n=9) of Barnet care leavers in unsuitable accommodation, as demonstrated in a November 2016 audit:

- 33% (n=3) were in a youth offending institution
- 22% (n=2) were not engaging with the service
- 33% (n=3) did not want to move from their unsuitable property and/or refused accommodation offered

4.5 Temporary Accommodation

Temporary accommodation is defined by the Housing Act as an interim housing arrangement, which is deemed suitable.

Temporary accommodation is not the preferred option for care leavers, and workers attested that placing care leavers in temporary accommodation can be challenging. Any young person without leave to remain is placed in emergency temporary accommodation. As at October 2016, 18 care leavers were listed with Barnet Homes as being in temporary accommodation.

More could be done to ensure that the needs of the young person being placed in temporary accommodation are fully appreciated. However, a shortage of housing stock means that care leavers stay in temporary accommodation before a longer-term housing solution is found.

4.6 Semi-independent and supported accommodation

There is a need for a greater volume of semi-independent and supported accommodation for both those young people who are not yet ready to enter a longer-term tenancy, as a transitional phase. This would also help to reduce the number in temporary accommodation and in arrears.

This is being progressed through the Placements Strategy.

4.7 Longer-term Tenancies

Longer-term tenancies are defined here as tenancies that are 5 years or longer. As at January 2016, 73% of our care leaver cohort living in-borough are in longer-term tenancies.

Longer-term tenancies provide stability that temporary accommodation cannot provide. Workers spoke highly of the relationship between the Onwards and Upwards team and the housing teams for care leavers in longer-term tenancies.

However, workers expressed concerns that young people were not always ready to take on the responsibility of a longer-term tenancy, leading to arrears in council tax and rent. They were clear that a greater range of semi-independent accommodation would help to build resilience prior to the young person entering a longer-term arrangement.

4.8 Choice of placement

A survey by Barnado's⁹ found that having a choice about where they lived was particularly important for care leavers who had unstable placements during their time in care.

National research reveals that only 69% of care leavers felt that they were in the right accommodation for them (Morgan, 2014) and that over half (55%) of care leavers felt that they had "no real choice" in the accommodation offered to them (A National Voice, 2005). This is compounded by forthcoming changes in national legislation, which places restrictions on the housing that care leavers are able to access.

In Barnet there is a need for a bespoke pathway for care leavers that allows more opportunity for planning, choice and support, via the housing nominations process.

4.9 Homelessness

Research studies show that about one-third of young people with care backgrounds experience homelessness at some stage between six and 24 months after leaving care¹⁰. 25% of homeless people nationally have been in care¹¹.

A study by Barnado's¹² indicated that problems with managing an independent tenancy and living on a low budget increased the risk of homelessness amongst care leavers.

Barnet currently has no care leavers in its care who are homeless. However, longer-term data on homelessness, following the young person's departure from the service, is not available and national data shows that care leavers are significantly overrepresented in the homeless population.

5. Health and Wellbeing

5.1 Introduction

Care Leavers have often suffered abuse and neglect during childhood, which are known to have a significant impact in adulthood. Many care leavers spoke about an abrupt withdrawal of support upon leaving care¹³. In an NSPCC survey, many interviewees also emphasised the variation in skills and aptitude for supporting looked after children's emotional wellbeing among social workers

As was voiced in many interviews conducted by the NSPCC, young people leaving care frequently experience many transitions in a short period of time, including

⁹ Barnado's: [On my own: The accommodation needs of young people leaving care in England](#) (2014)

¹⁰ Stein, M: [Increasing the number of care leavers in 'settled, safe accommodation'](#) (2010).

¹¹ National Audit Office: [Care Leavers' Transition to Adulthood](#) (July 2015)

¹² Barnado's: [On my own: The accommodation needs of young people leaving care in England](#) (2014)

¹³ NSPCC: [Achieving emotional wellbeing for looked after children](#) (2015)

leaving their placement (and carer), a change of key worker and, in some cases, moving to a new geographical area to live in new accommodation. This means that leaving care can be a stressful time, which impacts on a young person's health and wellbeing. Discussions with young people and professionals indicate that preparation for leaving care tends to be focused overwhelmingly on practical concerns rather than on emotional preparation.

5.2 Disability and Learning Disability

14% of Barnet care leavers have a disability. Comparator data is not readily available for the national 18-25 cohort, but there is likely to be an overrepresentation of disability in the care leaver cohort given that 16% of the UK population aged 16-64 has a disability – and care leavers are at the lower end of this spectrum.

0.5% of the Barnet adult population have a learning disability. **11% (n=9/82) of care leavers sampled were identified as having a learning disability.**

Of these:

- 7% have a severe or moderate learning disability
- 4% have a mild learning disability.

5.3 Mental Health

A study of care leavers' outcomes found that those who left care with poor mental health were at greater risk of experiencing homelessness and were twice as likely to have poor employment outcomes¹⁴. Around half of care leavers nationally have a SDQ score¹⁵ that is cause for concern.

A care leaver surveyed by the NSPCC said that for him, poor wellbeing was "waking up and thinking 'oh is it today already?'"

Onwards and Upwards staff fed back that there was significant need around mental health in the care leaver population, both at a lower-level where poor mental health was a barrier to accessing service, to higher-level needs that may or may not have a diagnosis.

Accessing adult mental health is the first step, then I can think about working

(Barnet care leaver)

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) cases are closed on the young person's 18th birthday, and these often do not meet thresholds for adult social care intervention; however, these young people have the added complexities and vulnerabilities of being care leavers. One worker highlighted the ways in which low-level mental health issues can have a significant impact on a young person's ability to engage with education, employment and training.

¹⁴ NSPCC: [Achieving emotional wellbeing for looked after children](#) (2015)

¹⁵ The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a brief measure of psychological well-being in 2-17 year olds. It is probably the most widely used measure of its kind.

In the Barnet survey conducted in November, **few care leavers selected 'being well' as a key challenge for them. It is likely that this is a significant underrepresentation, given the stigma surrounding mental health.**

Circa 15% of men and women aged 18-64 in Barnet have some form of common mental health disorder¹⁶.

To gain a more nuanced picture of mental health issues, 82 cases were analysed across 4 Onwards and Upwards workers. This revealed that:

- **39% of the Barnet care leaver cohort has mental health issues**
- **16% have mental health issues at a higher tier** (significant/diagnosed mental health issue)
- **23% have mental health issues at a lower tier** (poor mental health).

6. Managing finances

6.1 Introduction

Research by Barnado's¹⁷ shows that budgeting is particularly difficult for young people living alone after leaving care. Many young people found the abrupt shift from having few responsibilities while in care to running their own household to be a significant challenge, even if they had previously felt prepared to live alone or had support to move towards independence.

We are left with a lot of instant decisions.

(Barnet Care Leaver)

When surveyed, **43% of Barnet care leavers said that their biggest challenge was living independently.** 78% of those said that this was in particular down to managing finances. Following this, when asked what support could help them in overcoming this challenge, common themes were help with council tax and housing benefits.

6.2 Transitions

At present, young people in care transition to care-leaving services at **17 years and 9 months.**

This means that the young person may move out of their placement, exit education and receive a change of social worker at a significant transition point in their lives, all whilst starting to manage their finances.

There is a need for better planning for points of transition, taking into regard the vulnerabilities of the young person.

6.3 Benefits

¹⁶ Barnet JSNA

¹⁷ Barnado's: [On my own: The accommodation needs of young people leaving care in England](#) (2014)

National research and local insight suggests that navigating the benefits system can be difficult for care leavers, especially as they may be entitled to a variety of benefits that alter according to their changeable employment or housing status.

[Many care leavers] want to work, but as soon as they do, they have difficulty making payments and they're not financially better off.

Social Worker, O&U team

Benefits may also provide disincentives to engage in education, employment or training, as the young person may receive a smaller overall amount of money, particularly if they move into an apprenticeship or entry-level job. Onwards and Upwards workers attested to these very real barriers to care leavers taking up opportunities.

6.4 Council Tax

The majority of care leavers fall into the lower council tax bands A and B. Care leavers pay council tax to their host local authority.

A survey was undertaken at the August 2016 Care Leavers' BBQ around issues important to care leavers. Of the 32 care leavers surveyed, **60% selected council tax as an area of concern**. Other key areas of concern were housing and benefits; more so than issues like relationships, crime and parenting.

Being able to live independently, manage my bills and prove I can do it presents the biggest opportunity for me

(Barnet Care Leaver)

Whilst some care leavers have in the past been left with council tax concerns and some have been referred to the bailiff, links between the leaving care team and revenues are much improved and have led to discretionary reductions being granted to some care leavers. Most are already entitled to Council Tax Support, but under Barnet's current scheme 20% remains due.

An additional discretionary hardship fund is also available, which is applied on a case by case basis. A review is underway to ensure that care leavers are supported adequately by the council tax team, and that all applicable discounts are applied.

6.5 Emergency Payments

Occasionally, young people will require small emergency payments to tide them over in times of financial need. A number of workers raised the issue of easily getting money to young people in an emergency, noting that the current payments system was not sufficiently flexible to enable a swift and resource-light transfer of funds.

7. Care Leaving Services

7.1 Introduction

Ofsted has reported that 64% of care leaver services inspected are inadequate or require improvement. Lack of personal support was a problem for care leavers at many of the local authorities it has inspected. Care leaving services were graded 'Good' at Barnet's previous Ofsted inspection, across the following domains: being well, staying safe, enjoying and achieving and making a positive contribution (including user engagement).

Nationally, professionals were often concerned about the limitations in support that they were able to offer to care leavers¹⁸. The Barnet care leaving team has highlighted that in order to provide the best possible service for care leavers, a more flexible approach to the working day needs to be considered.

There is a correlation between the resourcing of care leaving services and how supported care leavers feel¹⁹.

7.2 Feedback from Care Leavers

In response to the survey question 'What works well for you?' many care leavers mentioned the help they were getting from their worker and/or supportive staff at Onwards and Upwards.

At a recent focus group, care leavers talked enthusiastically about the help that they had received from their social workers and personal advisers.

7.3 Caseloads

A sample of 22 local authorities across England showed that there was an average of 25 cases per worker. In Barnet, the workload for the Onwards and Upwards team in October 2016 was 195 cases with an average caseload of 17.7 cases. Lower caseloads support good practice.

When it comes into force, the Social Work Bill will require the local authority to work with care leavers up to the age of 25, regardless of their circumstances. This will require additional resource of up to 10 personal advisors in 2019-20 to work with 187 additional young people aged 21-24.

Staff raised the fact that there was further work ongoing with older care leavers who did not meet the threshold for case-reopening, but were still vulnerable and requiring ad hoc services from the team in order to live independently and keep safe.

7.4 Participation

Children and young people in care, and care leavers, consistently report that good emotional wellbeing and *feeling listened to* are one and the same thing. Looked after

¹⁸ NSPCC: [Achieving emotional wellbeing for looked after children](#) (2015)

¹⁹ Ibid

children and care leavers reported that want to be valued by their local authorities as experts on the care system²⁰.

Work is ongoing in Barnet, supported by the Participation Strategy and action plan, to strengthen the participation and engagement of both children in care and care leavers. A care leaver, who is undertaking an apprenticeship at LB Barnet, facilitates the child in care/care leaver council (#BOP) and there is a care leaver representative within this group.

7.5 Facilities and Activities

The Woodhouse Road centre was highlighted as an excellent resource by care leavers, staff and partners. Young people stated that they valued access to the DWP coach, housing advisor, and their social workers/personal advisors, as well as computers and other facilities.

88% of care leavers surveyed at the summer BBQ said that they were happy with the service received at Woodhouse Road and areas for improvement related largely to physical improvements to the hub and gardens.

It was noted by workers that care leavers who live at the other side of Barnet, which is London's largest borough by size, or out-of-borough, were less likely to be able to access services at Woodhouse Road.

Staff reported that young people generally know about the drop-ins available, but that the appointment times do not always fit in with young people's lives. At the same time, attendance has been variable when evening drop-ins have been made available.

Events with food are well-attended. Staff report that care leavers enjoy the informal setting of these events, including barbeques and themed food nights.

7.6 Frontline work

Staff spoke of the important role that they plan in helping young people manage risk themselves, and manage risk to the young person. This risk may fluctuate considerably and risk assessment is an ongoing process.

Staff also spoke about the need to build aspiration and self-esteem, but the possible barriers to achieving this when practical tasks needed to be carried out with the young person during a visit. This was particularly the case where the young person lived out-of-borough.

7.7 Keeping in touch

Over the past 6 months, Barnet has kept in touch with 99% of its care leavers. This compares very favourably to the national picture and demonstrates that care leavers see the value of continued relations with a social worker or PA.

²⁰ Ibid

8. Care Leaving Services in Barnet

8.1 Introduction

Barnet's care leaving service, Onwards and Upwards, is situated within the Permanence, Transition and Corporate Parenting service area of Family Services.

The team is based at Woodhouse Road, North Finchley. As at January 2016, the team consists of a Head of Service, Team Manager, Deputy Team manager, 2 Advanced Practitioner, 3 full time equivalent social workers and 5.5 FTE personal advisors, with a further personal advisor being recruited. The team is experienced and culturally diverse, reflecting the diversity of young people. The management team is recruits with this in mind. In addition, there are resources and staff dedicated to care leavers across Family Services and the wider council, as part of its Corporate Parenting role

All care leavers are supported by a Social Worker or Personal Advisor from the Onwards and Upwards team. They support the young person to transition from care, and provide them with advice, support and a meaningful pathway plan as a care leaver. Staff are readily available for young people to contact, via email, phone or drop-in at Woodhouse Road on weekdays. Thursdays are the busiest days of the week for drop-ins.

8.2 Services

At Woodhouse Road, young people are supported to access specialist services; housing; education, employment and training; money management; volunteering opportunities; drug and alcohol services; health services and immigration services.

To facilitate this, the Onwards and Upwards team have the following core offer in place:

Topic	Organisation	Frequency
EET	Job Centre Plus	Up to 3x week
EET	Virtual School	1x week
EET	Drive Forward	1x week
EET	Bridging the Gap	2x week
Housing	Barnet Homes	1x month
Living Independently	Money Management	1:1 via referral
Being Well	Sexual Health	1x month
Being Well	Drug counselling (YPDAS)	1x week
Being Well	Family Nurse Partnership	1:1 referral

Care Leavers are invited to access care-leaving services via the care leaving hub at Woodhouse Road, but they are also supported in the community and remotely, both in and out of borough.

A training flat is available for young people to experience independence and prepare them for managing their own or semi-independent accommodation. There is

logistical and emotional support to attend appointments, including health, housing and court.

A range of events take place throughout the year, including the care leavers' BBQ, achievements day and seasonal celebrations for a range of different cultural activities.

Woodhouse Road provides a 'safe space' for all care leavers, with facilities including computers, a pool table and a relaxation area. Staff are on duty daily to provide immediate support and assistance to care leavers as required.

8.3 Working with partners

Onwards and Upwards have sought to build strong strategic links with housing, council tax and benefits team, to ensure that care leavers' vulnerabilities are known and supported in a holistic way. Care leavers are flagged on the housing system. Quarterly meetings take place with Barnet Homes to address housing issues including the training flat, processes and any issues.

For council tax, an officer provides dedicated support to young people in long term tenancies in-borough only. Council tax matters are handled through the council's contact centre, where two officers have informally agreed to be the point of contact for care leavers.

The Housing Benefit Team Manager is now the first point of contact for all applications for care leavers living in-borough and ensures that they are handled promptly and sensitively. This link has helped to avoid the eviction of care leavers from their properties.

8.4 Feedback

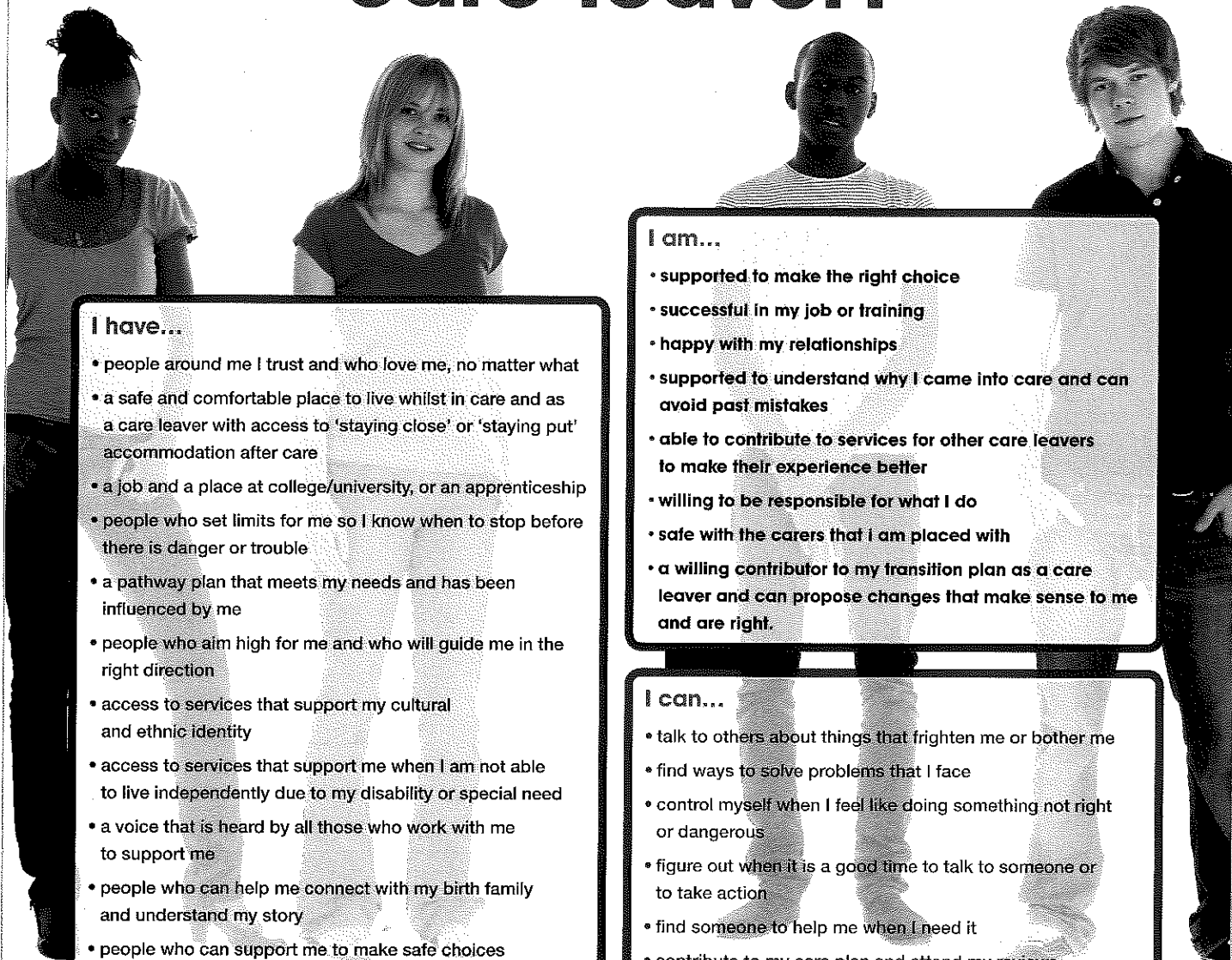
There is a clear governance structure for children in care and care leavers to be aware of their rights, entitlements and for their views, wishes and feelings to be taken into account in planning for their current and future development.

Channels such as questionnaires and feedback from complaints, compliments and comments, ensure that services are designed and delivered with care leavers' input.

8.5 Innovation

Barnet is currently working with Social Finance as one of six local authorities as part of the Leaving Well analytics hub to develop tools and a 'what works' centre to improve services and outcomes for care leavers.

What makes a resilient care leaver?



I have...

- people around me I trust and who love me, no matter what
- a safe and comfortable place to live whilst in care and as a care leaver with access to 'staying close' or 'staying put' accommodation after care
- a job and a place at college/university, or an apprenticeship
- people who set limits for me so I know when to stop before there is danger or trouble
- a pathway plan that meets my needs and has been influenced by me
- people who aim high for me and who will guide me in the right direction
- access to services that support my cultural and ethnic identity
- access to services that support me when I am not able to live independently due to my disability or special need
- a voice that is heard by all those who work with me to support me
- people who can help me connect with my birth family and understand my story
- people who can support me to make safe choices in relationships
- people who want me to learn to do things on my own
- people who help me if I become a parent
- people who can support me with my health needs.

I am...

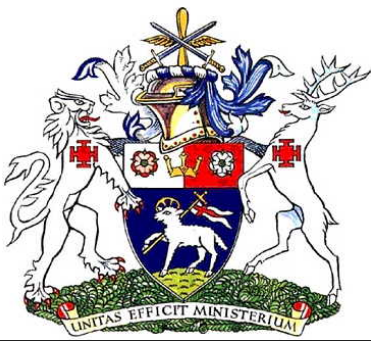
- supported to make the right choice
- successful in my job or training
- happy with my relationships
- supported to understand why I came into care and can avoid past mistakes
- able to contribute to services for other care leavers to make their experience better
- willing to be responsible for what I do
- safe with the carers that I am placed with
- a willing contributor to my transition plan as a care leaver and can propose changes that make sense to me and are right.

I can...

- talk to others about things that frighten me or bother me
- find ways to solve problems that I face
- control myself when I feel like doing something not right or dangerous
- figure out when it is a good time to talk to someone or to take action
- find someone to help me when I need it
- contribute to my care plan and attend my reviews
- contact my SW, IRO, PA or advocate when I need to, to help me to cope
- talk to my chosen professional about how I feel
- contribute to my life story journey
- say what I would like to do in the future
- have a choice about where I would like to live
- undertake some tasks to help to live independently in the future.



This page is intentionally left blank



Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

21 February 2017

Title	Placements Commissioning Strategy
Report of	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Yes
Enclosures	Appendix A: Placements Commissioning Strategy
Officer Contact Details	Chris Munday, Commissioning Director for Children and Young People Chris.Munday@barnet.gov.uk 02083597099

Summary

This report sets out the key elements of Barnet’s placements commissioning strategy for looked after children and care leavers. It identifies current and projected gaps in provision and sets out plans to address them. The strategy has been developed as part of a wider transformation programme within the council’s Family Services to review and reshape service provision to both improve service quality and to deliver revenue savings as set out in the council’s medium term financial strategy. The strategy is a key part of the operationalisation of the ‘Resilient Families: Resilient Children’ vision. The full strategy is set out in Appendix A.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Committee approve the following Placements Commissioning Strategy**
- 2. That the committee notes that the strategy aims to achieve the following: to better enable children and families to build their resilience, to increase the number of local placements through improving support for foster carers and to reduce the long term costs associated with residential placements.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

Every local authority has a statutory duty to ensure that their area provides sufficient accommodation for looked after children which meets their needs. This update to the 2015 Placements Commissioning Strategy outlines the strategy going forward based on progress made since the last strategy and an updated understanding of the needs of Barnet's children and young people. It will support the delivery of placement savings within the Medium Term Financial Strategy as part of the Family Services 2020 transformation programme.

1.2 Progress against previous strategy

The Placements Commissioning Strategy published in 2015 set out the target operating model going forward with the aim of increasing use of fostering and kinship placements. The use of these types of placement has increased from 43% (March 2014) of all placements to 47% (November 2016), while the use of IFAs and external residential placements has decreased from 37% to 27% during the same period. There has been a significant increase in the number of other placements such as in semi-independent accommodation, which reflects the increased number of UASCs during this period.

The strategy also set out a series of enablers. Progress against these is outlined below:

- Re-design fostering processes and enhance offer to foster carers – fostering processes were re-designed, increased marketing took place and an enhanced offer was delivered. This has helped to deliver the change in placement mix outlined above.
- Work with other boroughs, including around the transition to adulthood – Barnet has worked as part of the West London Alliance to put in place an approved list for semi-independent provision for 16 and 17 year olds, launched in April 2016. Careplace, a web based, e-Brokerage tool for facilitating placement referrals, has also been developed through the WLA.
- Review Barnet's housing offer to young people and foster carers – Barnet's Housing Strategy now includes care leavers as a key vulnerable group and the council has made changes to its Housing Allocations Scheme to give young care leavers more priority for council and housing association homes. Foster carers can access capital funding for house extensions where there is robust evidence it will enable them to support another child or larger sibling groups.
- Develop options for improving physical environment of Meadow Close children's home – proposals are being progressed for a re-located children's home at Woodside Avenue that will better meet the needs of children and young people.
- Our recently developed placements dashboard brings together data and financial information to enable better budget management. Specifically,

managers will be able to identify what proportion of any over/under spend on placements is attributable to volume, unit cost and / or income.

1.3 Key elements of the strategy

The core principles have not changed:

'Barnet seeks to ensure that children who enter the care system are given a good start in life, with a stable home and access to education and other support. Wherever possible, we seek to enable children to remain with their families. Where it is necessary for children to remain in care and to live with alternative carers, we will support them in the most appropriate type of placement and we seek the most appropriate permanence options for children and young people. The availability of high quality support in stable and local placements is integral to supporting our looked after children to achieve good outcomes.'

The updated strategy has four key objectives that support this, which are being carried out through the Resilient Futures project, part of the Families Services 2020 programme.

1. Permanence is everybody's business and is secured at the earliest opportunity and families are reunified where this is in the child's best interests:

Children in care achieve permanency as quickly as possible. Whenever it is in the child's best interests, this will be within a family environment and may include reunification with their birth family, long-term fostering, special guardianship or adoption. Carers are well-supported and have access to high quality professional development opportunities. Children experience stability in their relationships with adults through thoughtful placement planning and careful matching. Consideration for permanency should be across the whole system, starting at the front door. We will clarify management expectations on achieving permanence in the best interest of the child.

2. Our placement mix meets local need and provides value for money:

Through the development of existing partnerships and increased use of in-house provision, we provide and commission a mix of high quality placements that help children and young people thrive and develop resilience. We do this as cost effectively as possible, commissioning for value and quality.

3. Young people are supported from care to independence:

Young people in care are supported in the transition from care through the provision of high quality leaving care services which support care leavers to find and maintain suitable accommodation arrangements, including 'staying put' and 'staying close' where appropriate.

4. Highly skilled, stable workforce building respectfully curious relationships with families and children:

Achieving sufficiency for looked after children, young people and care leavers is dependent upon our workforce development strategy. We will recruit staff that are committed to our vision of a resilience based model of practice and create an environment and systems that empower staff to be in control of their work. We will challenge and support the workforce, creating a dynamic learning organisation where good practice is shared across the service and with partners.

1.4 In order to successfully deliver the placements commissioning strategy going forward and to ensure the above objectives are being met, Barnet will be doing the following interventions. This is not an exhaustive list:

1.4.1 Adoption regionalisation

Barnet has agreed in principal to join the London Regional Adoption Agency (RAA), subject to detailed financial analysis. The Department of Education anticipates that RRAs will speed up matching, improve adoption support and achieve cost efficiencies. Expected local benefits include economies of scale coupled with an ability to maintain relationships with children / adopters via a hub and spoke model. Final detailed operational arrangements will be developed by September 2017.

1.4.2 Developing services to support children and young people to remain with their families wherever possible

1.4.3 Family Group Conferences have been routinely provided in Barnet to families of children who are on the edge of care to help prevent escalation of need. From April 2017, we will significantly increase the capacity of this service, including as an integral part of our early help offer.

1.4.4 A new team of Specialist Clinical Practitioners integrated within children's social care will provide highly specialist clinical assessments and interventions aimed at supporting children, young people and their families to build their resilience and minimise risk, using evidence-based techniques

1.4.5 A flexible, family-friendly facility will be built to act as a base for our rapid response services to deliver wrap around support to adolescents and their families. The hub will provide a space for family therapy, family group conferencing, positive activities and other family-based group activities as well as a training space for carers and residential care workers.

1.4.6 Reducing the number of Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements by increasing the number of looked after children in LBB/internal foster placements

1.4.7 It is nationally recognised that IFA foster placements are more expensive than in-house provision and often result in children being placed at a greater distance from their families, friends and education. This is also the case in Barnet, the strategy sets out that an IFA placement is, on average, £339 per week per child more expensive (IFA placement has a cost of £904 per week compared to LBB unit cost of £565). We also know that Barnet's in-house foster placements provide high quality, local placements to our children and young people and our ambition is to make this available to more of our looked after children.

1.4.8 There are three main groups of children who are more difficult to provide with in-house foster placements, therefore recruitment activity is taking a particular focus on recruiting fostering households to offer placements to children with these types of needs:

- Children over the age of 11
- Sibling groups
- Children with complex emotional and behavioural needs

1.4.9 Semi - independent commissioning

1.5 West London Alliance and our in-house provision are unable to meet the forecast rising demand for placements for young people aged 16+, including UASCs. In anticipation of the need to increase our capacity to provide semi-independent accommodation, LB Barnet has commissioned a local provider to provide eight units of provision, plus on-site support and 24 hour security. The provision includes up to ten hours support per young person per week.

1.5.1 Step Out multi-disciplinary team incorporating specialist adolescent foster carers, residential care workers and other agencies

1.5.2 Residential care workers, specialist foster carers and other disciplines will be brought together under one management umbrella to improve placement stability and permanency outcomes for children aged 11-17 who are looked after and could move to other types of provision or are at risk of placement breakdown. The remit of this staff group will be extended to provide outreach support/ crisis interventions to foster and birth families in order to promote placement stability and reduce the need for teenagers to enter care. Significant numbers of our adolescent looked after young people are placed out-of-borough in IFA placements or externally-provided residential care and in some cases this is a consequence of insufficient supply of suitable in-house placements; these carers will help bridge that gap.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee are asked to agree the updated strategy and note the progress being made to improve placements for looked after children. Barnet has a statutory duty to provide accommodation for looked after children, as outlined in paragraph 1 of this report. This strategy, which the Committee are recommended to approve, is the means in which we will deliver this duty.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Progress has been made on the existing Placements Strategy which requires updating to ensure that Barnet continues to meet the changing needs of children and young people in a way that helps build their resilience, as well as delivering on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The delivery of the Resilient Futures project and the placements commissioning strategy is being overseen through the Family Services 2020 programme. Beyond the life span of the programme, the work will be led by business as usual service delivery and improvement.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 ***Ensure that Barnet is a place of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life:***

Family Services seeks to build community resilience to provide a good start in life for children and young people. “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.” (Hill et al, 2007)

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

The Family Friendly Barnet vision, as set out in the Children and Young People’s Plan 2016-2020, means that children, young people and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to. Family Services will focus on developing families’ resilience, which evidence indicates is pivotal to delivering the best outcomes for children and young people.

- 5.1.3 The Practice Improvement Plan is a key mechanism through which Family Services will deliver the Family Friendly Barnet vision, which seeks to build resilience in children and parents.

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

- 5.2.1 The placements budget for looked after children is held within the Family Services Delivery Unit. The budget for 2016/17 is £15.3m (including SGOs/ROs and under 18 UASCs). The Medium Term Financial Strategy (2017/18 to 2019/20) includes £2.069m of savings in relation to reducing

placement spend, in addition to £1.53m in relation to health and education contributions to joint placements.

- 5.2.2 The Resilient Futures project and the placements commissioning strategy is being governed through the Family Services 2020 Programme which has already gained authority for the deployment of required resources, including for interventions to enable children, young people and families to develop their resilience.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. 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. Elements of the Practice Improvement Plan implementation, and roll-out of the resilience model, will involve the commissioning of services and training, learning and development. Opportunities to secure social value through these mechanisms will be considered as part of any commissioning process.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 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'). When meeting this duty, the local authority must have regard to the benefit of having a number of accommodation providers in their area and a range of accommodation in their area capable of meeting different needs.
- 5.4.2 The Council's Constitution, in the Responsibility for Functions – Annex A, outlines that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee is responsible for ensuring oversight of effective support for young people in care and to enhance the Council's corporate parenting role.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 The risks associated with the delivery of the Resilient Futures project and the placements commissioning strategy are reported using the Council's risk management framework and are mitigated and governed through the Family Services 2020 Programme.
- 5.5.2 The most significant risks facing the successful delivery of the placements strategy are:
- Lack of capacity – impacting on ability to build and maintain momentum.

- Poor co-ordination / implementation of changes – both within and beyond the Sufficiency Strategy - which leads to duplication of effort and/or sub optimisation of new initiatives.

Mitigation in both cases is the continued oversight of a project board with the right people participating to ensure that areas of greatest need are prioritised and dependencies and linkages are identified and managed.

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

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.

- 5.6.2 The Barnet placements commissioning strategy is based on a thorough needs assessment and sets out the profile and needs of Barnet's looked after children. The strategy provides data on the LAC population. This indicates that males, children and young people with SEN or a disability and specific ethnic groups, including mixed are overrepresented in the LAC population. The Resilient Futures project has been developed on the basis of this needs assessment and strategy and is designed to better meet the needs of our looked after children.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

There is ongoing engagement with looked after children and young people through Family Services participation work and voice of the child coordination. As part of a West London Alliance (WLA) consultation exercise in autumn 2016, 96 young people from Brent, Harrow, Hounslow and Barnet gave their views on what is most important to get right before a placement or placement move, what is most important in the first few days following a placement and things to consider in the longer term. This has been incorporated into Barnet's Placements Strategy as well as influencing WLA commissioning arrangements. For example, feedback has been shared with around 130 providers to provide a clear message to the market on what young people have told us and our subsequent expectations from providers, feedback has been used to create the standards against which providers will be assessed when awarding contracts, and contract implementation will include ensuring that the views of children and young people are at the forefront of service delivery. The evaluation questions from the tender focus on a range of areas - safeguarding, management, outcomes for CYP and transition. The views of

children and young people will be incorporated in model answers for the evaluation, and providers will be expected to demonstrate how they take on board views of CYP throughout service delivery. Once contracts are awarded, ensuring that the views of children and young people are at the forefront of service delivery will be included as part of contract implementation / contract monitoring.

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 Looked After Children in Barnet

Barnet's rate of looked after children per 10,000 children under 18 is low when compared to London, England, and Barnet's Statistical Neighbours. As at March 2016, Barnet had a rate of 35 children in care per 10,000. The trend over the past ten years shows Barnet's rate gradually reducing year on year, from a rate similar to England to a rate significantly lower. This low rate indicates that overall Barnet is not taking children into care unnecessarily.

5.8.2 The predominant age for children becoming looked after in Barnet is 10-15 years. This is followed by children aged 16+ years. Understanding the age of children entering Barnet's care is important to the development and delivery of appropriate placements and other support services.

5.8.3 As at end March 2016, Barnet had 315 looked after children, the majority of whom were placed in foster care. The table below provides a detailed breakdown.

Provision Type	2016	Number
LBB Fostering	36%	114
Independent Fostering Agency	21%	66
Independent/Private Residential	10%	32
Other	14%	44
Kinship Fostering	13%	41
Placed for Adoption	3%	9
LBB Residential	3%	9

5.8.4 Barnet had over a third of its looked after children placed within the borough as at 31 March 2016, which compares favourably to the outer and inner London averages, although significantly below the England average. In total, nearly two-thirds of Barnet's children in care were placed either within the borough or within 20 miles of its boundary.

5.8.5 Barnet has a comparatively high proportion of children placed in secure units, children's homes and semi-independent living accommodation when compared to the national profile. This is partially because Barnet, along with most other London boroughs, has on average larger proportions of young people aged 16+ in care, who are the cohort most likely to be placed in semi-independent accommodation.

5.8.6 In Barnet the number of UASC in care has increased by 100%. In 2015 the number was 10; this has increased to 20 in 2016. This is a significantly higher increase than nationally and regionally. This will have implications for caseloads, diversity of foster carers and specialist placements, as well as early intervention and prevention services.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A - Children's social care, Placements commissioning strategy.

APPENDIX A

**CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE
PLACEMENTS COMMISSIONING STRATEGY**

PLACEMENTS COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

1.	INTRODUCTION	5
2.	NATIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT	6
2.1	NATIONAL CONTEXT	6
2.2	LOCAL CONTEXT	7
2.3	LAC POPULATION	8
2.4	AGE, DIVERSITY AND DISABILITY DIMENSION	8
2.5	ADOLESCENTS	9
2.6	REMAND/SERIOUS YOUTH CRIME	9
2.7	CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	10
2.8	UNACCOMPANIED ASSYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC)	10
2.9	UNBORN CHILDREN AT RISK	11
2.10	PROGRESS	11
2.11	GOING FORWARD	13
	ANNEX 1 – DEFINITIONS	16
	COMMISSIONING AND SUFFICIENCY	16
	LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	16
	PLACEMENT NEEDS ANALYSIS	16
	ANNEX 2 – STRATEGIC NEEDS ANALYSIS	17
	LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN IN BARNET: COMPARATOR PROFILE	17
	GENDER	18
	EPISODES OF CARE	19
	LEGAL STATUS	20
	RELIGION	21
	CARE ENTRANTS 2015/2016	22
	PLACEMENT MIX: COMPARATIVE PROFILE	25

PLACEMENT MIX: LOCAL PROFILE	27
RESIDENTIAL CARE	28
FOSTER CARE	29
ANNEX 3 – VIEWS OF LAC AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON THEIR PLACEMENTS	31
CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE	31

FIGURES

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF LAC AT 31.03.2016	8
FIGURE 2: RATE/NUMBER OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	17
FIGURE 3: RATE OF CHILDREN IN CARE	18
FIGURE 4: AGE PROFILE OF CHILDREN IN CARE	18
FIGURE 5: PROPORTION OF CHILDREN WHO STARTED TO BE LAC DURING 2015/16 BY SEX AND AREA	19
FIGURE 6: PROPORTION OF CHILDREN LAC AT 21/03/2016 BY ETHNIC ORIGIN AND AREA	19
FIGURE 7: EPISODES OF CARE – CHILDREN WHO ENTERED AND EXITED CARE IN THE SAME YEAR (2015/2016)	20
FIGURE 8: PROPORTION OF CHILDREN LAC BY LEGAL STATUS AND AREA AT 31/03/2016	21
FIGURE 9: RELIGION	22
FIGURE 10: CHILDREN LAC BY DISABILITY AND SEN	22
FIGURE 11: TOTAL UASC SUPPORTED IN BARNET (2011 – 2016)	23
FIGURE 12: CARE ENTRANTS 2015-2016	24
FIGURE 13: PROPORTION OF LAC BY PLACEMENT AND AREA 31/03/2016	25
FIGURE 14: PROPORTION OF LAC BY PLACEMENT IN OR OUT OF L.A. AREA 31/03.2016	26
FIGURE 15: PROPORTION OF LAC BY PLACEMENT PROVIDER 31/03/2016	26
FIGURE 16: GROSS AVERAGE UNIT COST PER DAY	27
FIGURE 17: PROPORTION OF LAC BY PLACEMENT TYPE (JUNE 2016)	28
FIGURE 18: PROPORTION OF LAC PLACED IN SECURE UNITS, CHILDREN'S HOMES AND SEMI-INDEPENDENT LIVING ACCOMMODATION	29
FIGURE 19: PROPORTION OF LAC BY PROVISION TYPE	30

1. INTRODUCTION

In Family Friendly Barnet there is a belief that for most children and young people, the best place to live is with their family of origin. However, there will be some children and young people who need to live, either short term or permanently with substitute carers.

We have high aspirations for, and expectations of, the children in our corporate care and want them to be able to confidently say “I have, I can, I am”. Historically, outcomes for children who have been in care have been comparatively poor compared to their peers. Research has shown that, as adults, they do less well educationally; they are over represented in the criminal justice system; have poorer health outcomes including an increased risk of suffering from mental health difficulties; have an increased likelihood of becoming homeless and experience economic and relationship difficulties in their own families.

Statutory guidance requires local authorities to take steps to secure sufficient accommodation for looked after children within the authority’s area, which meets their needs (‘the sufficiency duty’). The purpose of this strategy is to set out how we will meet this duty. It focuses on assessing the demand and supply of placements for children who are looked after or leaving care and supports the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The scope of this strategy is not restricted to making good quality placements. It builds on service-wide approaches already in place:

- In line with the overarching Family Friendly Barnet vision, our ambition is that all families in Barnet, including birth, foster, adoptive and other family types, are able to bounce back from stress and adversity, taking on new challenges that lead to better outcomes for children and their families. This is being realised through the resilience model which has been introduced across the partnership.
- Within Family Friendly Barnet, there is a focus on early intervention and prevention with three guiding principles; i) Intervene as early as possible; ii) Take a whole family approach; and iii) Use evidence based monitoring systems. These aim to reduce the numbers of children and young people entering care and requiring local authority accommodation. This approach is consistent with Barnet’s belief that investing in services that are able to promote change within families and build resilience is frequently more effective and efficient than removing children and placing them in alternative care.
- ‘Every Day Counts’ places a focus on reducing drift and delay and ensuring that children don’t stay a day longer in care than they need to with the aim of improving outcomes and managing costs.

The complexity of market forces and a changing local demographic create a challenge in confidently predicting supply and demand; however the collation, analysis and systematic refresh of local qualitative and quantitative evidence helps us to understand

these dynamics and plan for the future. The strategy outlines our current profile of looked after children, our current placement mix and sets out how LB Barnet will achieve sufficiency over the period 2016-2020.

2. NATIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT

2.1 National Context

The following primary legislation governs our commissioning in relation to looked after children:

- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Care Standards Act 2000
- Adoption and Children Act 2002
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Statutory Guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children 2010
- Guidance on the Provision of Accommodation for 16 & 17 year old young people who be homeless and/or require accommodation 2010
- Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- Promoting the Educational Achievements of Looked After Children: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities 2014
- The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012
- Associated legislation, regulations and statutory guidance

Over the last five years Local Authorities have had to consider their planning in line with a number of major legislative programmes aimed at improving services for vulnerable children with a particular emphasis on looked after children.

- The introduction of the 2012 Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act confers looked-after status to all young people remanded through the courts and has further increased the numbers in care
- The Children's and Families Act 2014 covers a range of areas and its provisions on adoptions are designed to increase the number of children placed in adoptive families and also the speed within which this achieved. The current government has outlined a series of measures all intended to transform the current system. Implementing the introduction of a 26 week time limit for care proceedings, a shorter adopters' assessment period, a concurrent planning requirement and less emphasis on ethnic matching. This has required significant service reshaping by all local authorities.
- In June 2015, in its Regionalising Adoption paper, the Department of Education set out proposals for new regional adoption agencies ("RAAs") to speed up matching, improve adoption support and achieve cost efficiencies. The paper invited councils and Voluntary Adoption Agencies ("VAAs") across England, to

submit Expressions of Interest in becoming part of new regionalised arrangements. In response, the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) submitted a high level London proposition that was subsequently approved by DfE.

- The Children and Social Work Bill 2016 - Power to test different ways of working. Eileen Munro showed in 2011 how regulation can get in the way of social workers putting children first and the power to test different ways to working is about confronting this challenge and aims to empower those in the frontline to tell government where things don't work and give opportunities to test and build new approaches in a controlled and carefully monitored setting.

National information (Characteristics of Children in Need: 2015 to 2016) about looked after children who have been looked after continuously for twelve months as of March 31st 2016 states that:

- There were 70,440 looked after children at 31 March 2016, an increase of 1% compared to 31 March 2015 and an increase of 5% compared to 2012. The rise this year reflects a rise of 1,470 in unaccompanied asylum seeking children, compared to a rise of 970 in all looked after children.
- In 2016 the number of children in foster care continued to rise; of the 70,440 looked after children, 51,850 (74%) were cared for in foster placements
- In 2016 the number of looked after unaccompanied asylum seeking children increased by 54% compared to last year's figures, up to 4,210 children at 31 March 2016 from 2,740 in 2015 and up from a low of 1,950 in 2013.
- At 31 March 2016, unaccompanied asylum seeking children represented 6% of the looked after children population
- 32,050 children started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2016; an increase of 2% from the previous year's figure of 31,340 and an increase of 13% from 2012.
- 31,710 children ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31st March 2016. This was a small increase of 1% from the previous year.
- 4,690 looked after children were adopted in 2016, down 12% on a high of 5,360 in 2015 which followed a period of growth since 2011.

2.2 Local Context

In Barnet it's essential that our children & young people are placed locally in order for them to be close to their families/communities and have access to local resources that can promote resilience and support them achieving good outcomes e.g. educational/health attainment, re-unification work and securing permanency and placement stability. There may be exceptions to this if it is deemed not to be in the child's/ young person's interest to be placed locally.

We want the same things for the children and young people in our care as any good parent would want for their child. We want our children to be healthy and happy in childhood, to feel valued for who they are and to feel loved. It is important that they benefit from their experience in school and enjoy learning. We want them to grow into well adjusted, emotionally balanced individuals who will experience positive relationships, be responsible citizens, fulfil their goals and ambitions and ultimately provide good parenting to their own children.

2.3 LAC Population

In Barnet the number of looked after children has remained relatively stable over the past 5 years, with a similar inflow and outflow each year. However, as at January 2017 the number of LAC is at 352, which is the highest it has been in 6 years and is not in line with population growth, predominantly due to the increase in UASC. There are also more children starting to be looked after than there are ceasing to be looked after which is the first time this has happened in the last 4 years.

Figure 1: Number of LAC @ 31.03.2016

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Barnet 0-18 population	89,193	90,298	91,655	91,021	92,610
Barnet per 10,000 rate	36	36	36	34	35
Numbers of LAC	300	305	310	305	315
Children starting to be looked after	155	170	170	175	180
Children ceasing to be looked after	165	170	170	185	175

2.4 Age, Diversity & Disability Dimension

In Barnet, the ethnic breakdown for children looked after has varied little since 2011. Nationally and in Barnet, the highest number of LAC are from a white British background. Barnet's percentage of White LAC is significantly lower than England's however this is in line with Barnet's population. The percentage of mixed ethnicity LAC is significantly higher in Barnet than it is nationally; they are also disproportionately represented compared to the Barnet population of mixed ethnicity 0-19 year olds (10.6%). The "any other" ethnic group cohort in Barnet is also larger than the cohort nationally this is due to the increase in UASC.

The highest proportion of children is within the 10-15 age bracket and the lowest proportion is under 1. There is a slight skewing of the looked after population towards males however this is a consequence of two specific cohorts; UASCs (whereby 95% are male) and children with a disability and or SEN (of whom 74% are male). Once these two cohorts are accounted for, the gender profile is more balanced. The largest ethnic group in the looked after population is White British, followed by those identifying as Mixed. It is important to note that one of the most

prominent religions within Barnet is Judaism, with approximately 15% of the population being Jewish. However this is not reflected within the looked after children population as only 4% of this cohort are Jewish. This is in part due to the fact that Jewish families often have large extended families, community networks and an established and effective voluntary sector which means that they may not need to depend on social care services as often.

2.5 Adolescents

There was a notably higher proportion of children aged 16+ in Barnet's care compared to the national average (+9% as at March 2016) but the rate is in line with overall London figures and reflects the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs) placed within London. We currently have significant increases in numbers of adolescents entering care with high level complex needs. This is mainly due to the increase in Remand/serious youth Crime, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, the increase in gang violence and the over 16s who are entering care due to family relationship breakdown some of whom are at risk of child sexual exploitation, homelessness and or exhibiting significant anti-social behaviour

A high percentage of young people falling within 16+ age group are placed with specialist semi-independent units or children's homes. Capacity within Barnet's in-house fostering scheme and two children's homes are fully utilised. This places significant pressure on available resources particularly in regards to response to placement requests requiring careful search in identifying appropriate placements that meet need. The challenge then becomes to place them in the right placement, keeping them local and preventing the escalation into residential care due to the lack of sufficient foster carers.

Therefore given increase in LAC population, Barnet future challenge is one of achieving right placement mix providing options for 16+; with creative care plans providing opportunities for young people to increase confidence/resilience to enable them to aspire and achieve and successfully make the transition towards adulthood

2.6 Remand/Serious Youth Crime

The key features of this group are young men who are gang affiliated some of whom are either victims of violence or known to Barnet's Youth Offending Team (YOT). Young people who pose a risk to others therefore requiring additional support/risk management via remand/secure unit or specialist semi-independent provision and gang affiliated members requiring out of borough/distance placements based on YOT information and police intelligence

In April 2016 Barnet established their Serious Incident Reporting Protocol (SIRP) setting out processes for providing multi-agency response to serious incidents involving young people who are either victims or perpetrators of serious youth violence. SIRP's panels take place within 24 hours producing safety and risk

management plans which are then reviewed within 5 working days. During 2016/17 the SIRP Panel deliberated on total 23 cases, out of these cases four related to LAC Children involved in violent incidents e.g. stabbings, shooting or incidents resulting in hospitalization.

In terms of remand cases, Barnet had 15 children remanded to secure accommodation pending court cases of which 3 children were on care orders that received sentencing and remained looked after to local authority care.

The challenges are that remand placements are beyond the control of the Local Authority. Who comes in, when and where they go is non-negotiable and at the discretion of the courts, it is therefore difficult to negotiate costs or block booking. Work is being undertaken on prevention and ensuring good bail support packages

2.7 Child Sexual Exploitation

During 2016/17 period 34 cases were presented at MASE Panel linked to CSE. The analysis shows that the largest risk factor associated with CSE cases was not attending a mainstream school (177 times greater risk compared to the general population), and being a looked after child (LAC 98 times increased risk compared to the general population). Many CSE victims have had more than one missing episode in the last 12 months and almost all (97%) of CSE victims are known to the Local Authority; many coming from a troubled family or being raised in care; both requiring local authority support. A large proportion of CSE involved 'grooming' meaning that the victim did not necessarily recognise the exploitative nature of the relationship(s) they were in. Very often, alcohol and drugs were involved and the abuse would take place whilst the victim was under the influence of those substances. Friends, gang affiliation and associates played a role, with evidence suggesting that some CSE victims are introducing other young people to potential abusers.

2.8 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

Barnet has seen significant increase in UASC numbers with referrals rising from 46 (2014/15) to 61 (2015/16); this is mainly attributed to high percentage of unaccompanied minors placed in London. Also DfE have set a target on numbers of UASC referred to local authorities' equivalent to 0.007% of child population. The implications being that Barnet is expected to support up to 65 children for 2017/18. Given the level of vulnerability, emotional trauma, isolation, language barrier and lack of access to family/support networks experienced by unaccompanied minors, support packages are developed in conjunction with Education, Health, YOT and Housing in recognition of complex needs surrounding this group.

A key practice challenge is determining age and ensuring careful matching with other children accommodated in fostering or care homes; being mindful that some may present significantly younger than the actual age stated on arrival. An age assessment is carried out where age is questioned, taking approximately two weeks to complete.

The response to UASCs (16+) has been to place them in semi-independent provision but with the numbers increasing this is becoming more challenging. Barnet have responded by arranging block booking with a local semi-independent provider in anticipation of anticipated increase in numbers.

For those young people unsuccessful in securing re-unification with birth relatives, our core offer needs to be robust with particular emphasis on targeted support in order to help integration in mainstream education and provide clear care planning to support leaving care transition

2.9 Unborn Children at Risk

In Barnet the numbers of unborn children at risk has increased significantly during last 12 months. This rise has necessitated an increase in the use of residential mother and baby units and mother and baby foster care placements.

The challenges are that there is a need to strengthen pre-birth assessments and planning in order to make decisions on risk and put in place support packages before the baby is born. This would reduce the need to undertake high cost assessments whilst in residential or foster placements with decisions around community placement or adoption having already been made. Currently Barnet's family finding performance is good in relation to permanency planning and timeliness e.g. length of time taken in matching and placing a child with an adoptive families

2.10 Progress

In reviewing progress against key actions highlighted within 2015 Placements Commissioning Strategy, main headlines are as follows:

- A new West London Alliance (WLA) approved list for Semi-independent provision was launched in April 2016. This was accompanied by market engagement activity and the intention is to re-open this list in 2017, so as to enable additional providers to join.
- The WLA has developed Careplace, a web based, e-Brokerage tool for facilitating placement referrals. This tool will provide a secure, web-based platform for brokering placements via the DPS – Dynamic Purchasing System. The system also enables reporting on market activity and insight into demand on a local and regional basis which can be used to inform further market development activity once it is available.

- Barnet have made significant savings by reducing numbers of children placed out of borough with private/voluntary children homes and through improving care planning/ “step down” arrangements e.g. to fostering, semi-independence placements or re-unification work. Over 2015/16, 8 children were “stepped down” from residential care to either reunification with their families or to semi-independence and fostering.
- Our recently developed placements dashboard brings together data and financial information to enable better budget management. Specifically, managers will be able to identify what proportion of any over/under spend on placements is attributable to volume, unit cost and / or income.
- The 2016/17 Barnet Fostering Communication Plan outlined key deliverables for increasing numbers of new approved carers. This included marketing and recruitment campaign initiative e.g. join Our Barnet Family Campaign, Teenage Foster Carer Recruitment Drive, Outreach to Faith/Community Groups, Social Media and Press & Radio Promotions. As of December 2016 Barnet fostering households had increased from 97 households (2015/16) to 104 households (2016/17).
- The fostering service have received 6 applications for loft conversions with the focus on fully utilising our in-house fostering households for adolescents and sibling groups and reducing spend on IFAs - Independent Fostering Agencies.
- Nationally, statutory and independent fostering agencies are struggling to recruit enough carers. The London operating environment is particularly challenging with local authorities competing with over 100 independent fostering agencies across the capital.
- Barnet is part of the North London Consortia (6 neighbouring local authorities) engaged in consortia wide campaign initiatives aimed at recruiting more carers. A further review of campaign strategy will be undertaken to improve placement mix and expand in-house options for supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children, teenagers, sibling groups and parent and child placements.
- In consolidating and enhancing our support offer to Barnet foster carers we have commissioned PACE (Playfulness, acceptance, curiosity and empathy) therapeutic training model which will enable carers to become more confident and resilient. This will in turn support good outcomes for older children/young people with complex needs e.g. including embedding therapeutic practice and increasing placement stability
- The new Permanency Planning Panel (PPP) has been introduced to provide senior level oversight and scrutiny on care plans and permanency planning for children on edge of care or accommodated. The PPP has a central role in ensuring plans are appropriate/child centred; resulting in timely decision making and purposeful practice that promotes step down from residential placement to fostering or re-unification with families.

Barnet is investing in a Resilient Futures project which uses a combination of resilience based interventions and practice tools for supporting “step down” plans for children placed in residential settings. It is envisaged that the project which will include a virtual team, will result in improved placement options and better outcomes for children.

- Barnet continues to fully utilise the Adoption Support Fund to enable children to live locally where appropriate with their birth relatives. Funding is used to undertake direct therapeutic work with carers/children or develop wrap around support packages to build confidence, strengthen resilience and maintain placement stability.
- Barnet has been successful in placing children with adopters using the inter-agency fee to ensure timely linking and matching with locally approved adopters and those approved and available via North London Consortia. A further review of adoption recruitment strategy is needed in view of impact arising from pan-London regionalisation work and government withdrawal of inter-agency fee to support matching with consortia approved adopters.
- The capital bid for development of new premises for the Meadow Close children’s home has been approved and plans are currently being developed to create a “hub” to host the virtual team as part of the resilience futures programme.
- The overall benefits of the WLA Children’s Programme are showing that during 2014/15 and 2015/16 the programme achieved savings of £2.4 Million. Barnet made 93 new IFA placements in 2015/16 of which 52 were placed through the WLA framework and 41 through LCP or spot purchasing. This equates to 56% being placed through the WLA and 44% on other Frameworks. Savings are being made through cost and volume and sibling placements.

2.11 Going Forward

A continued pressure on services, at a time of reducing Council budgets, calls for a holistic commissioning response which will support children to remain with their families wherever possible and which will provide a range of effective options for those requiring alternative care arrangements. Due to the continuing change in trends it is difficult to predict accurately future needs.

A placements model has been developed to enable us to refocus as needed, help track progress against placement aspirations, including number of placement days, unit costs and income (such as health and education contributions to placements). The quality of support to children and young people will be monitored through the Family Services quality assurance cycle including through audits, practice observation and feedback from children and young people. Over time, if the strategy is successful in building resilience it is anticipated that the placements mix will change.

LB Barnet's comparatively low rate of children in care provides an opportunity to build on the strengths within the service to ensure the right children are looked after at the right time. Detailed cohort analysis shows that outcomes for specific cohorts of children in care, or on the edge of care, could be improved, and care averted, with the use of targeted, evidence-based interventions. Specific issues include:

- Poor adult mental health is very often a significant factor in the decision to look after younger children who enter care;
- A comparatively high proportion of Barnet's looked after children are placed in secure units, children's homes and hostels when compared to all England LAs. As at 31 March 2015, only one other England LA had a higher proportion of children residing in these types of placement;
- A limited range of early help accessible to the families of children with disabilities and / or SEN;
- There is a high level of turnover amongst children aged 0-5 and young people aged 15-17
- Barnet has seen an increase in the total number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and young people (UASC) requiring support over the past five years. This reflects an increase in UASC applications nationally and the closing of the Calais Camp
- There is an Increase in the number of care leavers (32% of the Looked After cohort 16+ - based on 31st March 2016 data). There will therefore be an increased number of Semi-independent placements and this will continue to increase.
- There is an increase in the numbers of young people with gang affiliation, complex needs and CSE which will increase the demand on placement provision for the 13+ age group e.g. semi-independent supported lodging and specialist foster care placements.

For further details and information please see the Strategic Needs Analysis.

Based on the Needs Analysis of children and young people in care (annex 2 and 3), the following four priorities have been identified to support this work and a detailed action plan will be developed to drive this forward.

- Permanence is everybody's business and is secured at the earliest opportunity and families are reunified where this is in the child's best interests
Children in care achieve permanency as quickly as possible. Wherever it is in the child's best interests, this will be within a family environment and may include reunification with their birth family, long-term fostering, special guardianship or adoption. Carers are well-supported and have access to high quality professional development opportunities. Children experience stability in

their relationships with adults through thoughtful placement planning and careful matching. Consideration for permanency should be across the whole system, starting at the front door. We will clarify management expectations on achieving permanence in the best interest of the child

- Our placement mix meets local need and provides value for money
Through the development of existing partnerships and increased use of in-house provision, we provide and commission a mix of high quality placements that help children and young people thrive and develop resilience. We do this as cost effectively as possible, commissioning for value and quality.
- Young people are supported from care to independence
Young people in care are supported in the transition from care through the provision of high quality leaving care services which support care leavers to find and maintain suitable accommodation arrangements, including 'staying put' and 'staying close' where appropriate.
- Highly skilled, stable workforce building respectfully curious relationships with families and children
Achieving sufficiency for looked after children, young people and care leavers is dependent upon our workforce development strategy. We will recruit staff that are committed to our vision of a resilience based model of practice and create an environment and systems that empower staff to be in control of their work. We will challenge and support the workforce, creating a dynamic learning organisation where good practice is shared across the service and with partners.

ANNEX 1 - DEFINITIONS

Commissioning and Sufficiency

Commissioning can be described as the process for deciding how to use the total resource available in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in the most efficient, equitable and sustainable way. Since April 2012 there has been a 'sufficiency duty' on all local authorities to secure sufficient local accommodation and services to meet the needs of all their looked after children for whom a local placement is the most suitable option.

Looked After Children

The Association of Directors of Children's Services has described the purpose of the care system as incorporating the following elements:

1. To protect children from harm by providing a place of safety and stability in which children and young people can flourish – either by helping families to build capacity to resume care for their children, or away from the family where necessary
2. To improve the outcomes of children and young people who are vulnerable by meeting the specific and individual needs of each child and young person. The system must provide support for as long as it is needed, responding to changing circumstances.
3. To address a child's basic need for good parenting by introducing and planning effective substitute parenting to perform the fundamental role of steering and supporting a child through his or her formative stages of development

Placement Needs Analysis

A needs analysis is a way of estimating types of need and prevalence across a given cohort. This assists with planning and commissioning services to meet predicted demand and helps to ensure that appropriate services are available to meet the range of needs of the looked after children population.

ANNEX 2 – STRATEGIC NEEDS ANALYSIS

Looked After Children in Barnet: Comparator Profile

This section provides an overview of Barnet’s population of looked after children compared with England, inner London and outer London averages, and is based primarily on 31 March snapshot data released by the Department for Education on 8 December 2016.

LB Barnet has notable variance from comparators on the following metrics:

- LB Barnet has a very low comparative rate of children in care
- LB Barnet’s proportion of young people aged 16+ and in care is higher than the England average but in line with London comparators
- In 2015/16, only two London boroughs had a higher proportion of children entering care as a consequence of a disability than Barnet

The subsequent section provides a more in-depth analysis of these factors

Figure 2: Rate/Number of LAC

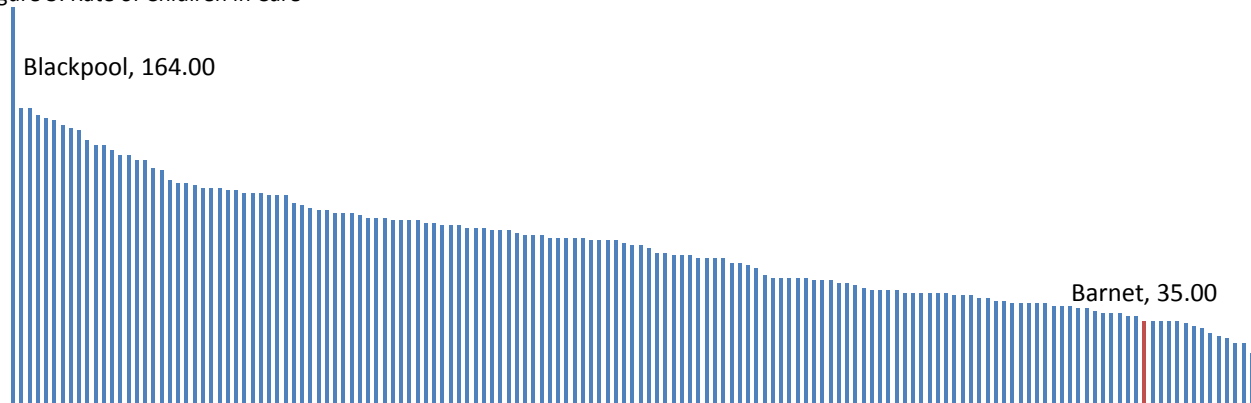
Rate of looked after children per 10k under 18 population, 2012-2016					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
England	59	60	60	60	60
Outer London	49	48	48	47	47
Inner London	70	66	64	60	56
Barnet	36	36	36	34	35

LB Barnet has one of the lowest rates of children in care in England. Real terms growth has followed our more conservative estimates.

The rate of children in Barnet’s care reduced from 36 to 34 per 10,000 of under-18 population over 2012-2015 before rising slightly to 35 per 10,000 in 2016; the rate remains significantly below the England average and London average. In 2016, the average rate of looked after children across Barnet’s statistical neighbours was 43.3 per 10,000; statistical neighbours with a lower rate included Redbridge (28 per 10,000) and Kingston-Upon-Thames (30 per 10,000). There were only 10 local authorities across England with a lower rate of children in care.

In regards to the number of children in care, figures have remained relatively stable over the past 5 years, with a similar inflow and outflow each year; however this is the highest it has been in 6 years and is not in line with population growth. This could be due to the increase there has been in UASC.

Figure 3: Rate of Children in Care



Age of Children in Care / Entering Care

The age profile of children in Barnet's care as at 31 March 2016 broadly mirrored the England profile.

There was a notably higher proportion of children aged 16+ in Barnet's care compared to the national average (+9%) but the rate is in line with overall London figures and is likely to reflect the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC's) placed within London and issues of youth homelessness within the capital

Figure 4: Age Profile of Children in Care

Age profile of children in care, LB Barnet / England, 31 March 16	Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-9	Age 10-15	Age 16+
England	5%	13%	20%	39%	23%
Outer London	4%	9%	15%	38%	35%
Inner London	4%	8%	14%	40%	34%
LB Barnet	4%	9%	14%	40%	32%

For children who started to be looked after in 2015/16, the Barnet age profile of care entrants broadly mirrored the London profile, with the exception of a lower proportion of children aged 16+ entering care (-3% compared to all outer London boroughs).

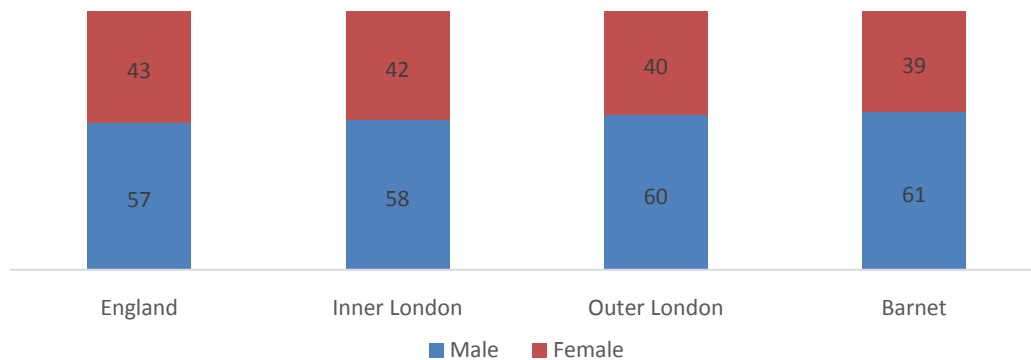
Gender

Across England and London there is a slight skewing of the looked after population towards males; in Barnet this ratio is 61% male and 39% female.

This skewing towards a male population is a consequence of two specific cohorts within Barnet: 1) unaccompanied asylum seekers, of whom 95% are male (June 2016) and 2) children with SEN and or have a disability, of whom 74% are male (June 2016). Once

these two cohorts are accounted for, the gender profile of children in care as at June 2016 was more balanced, with 54% male and 46% female.

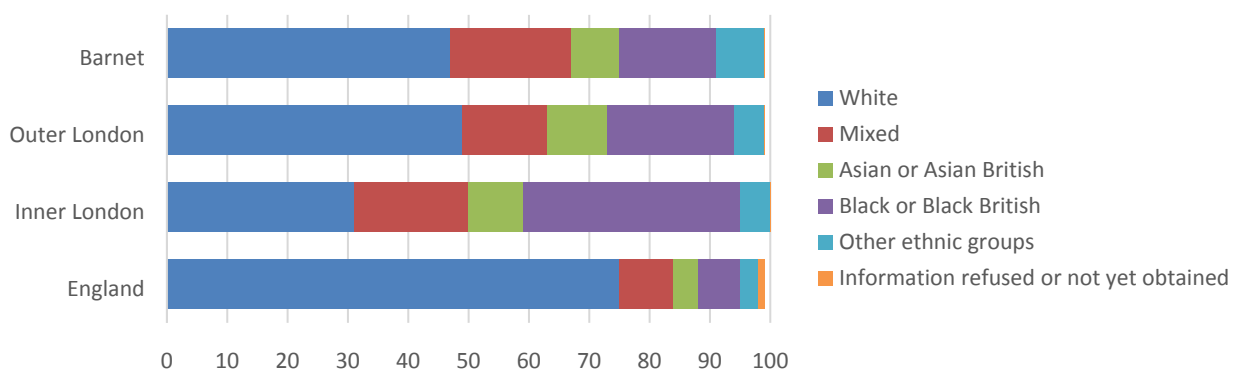
Figure 5: Proportion of children who started to be looked after during 2015/16 by sex and area



Ethnicity

As at 31 March 2016, the ethnic profile of children in Barnet's care was broadly in line with the outer London profile, with slightly more children identifying as 'mixed' in Barnet (20%, Barnet, 14% outer London) and slightly less identifying as Black or Black British (16%, Barnet, 21% outer London). The number of Black or Black British looked after children in is line with Barnet's population however the number identifying as 'mixed' is slightly higher compared to Barnet's population (11%).

Figure 6: Proportion of children looked after as at 31 March 2016 by ethnic origin and area



Episodes of Care

Exiting Care: 35% of those who entered care in 2015/16 also exited in the same year (n=61). The age profile of those children is shown below.

Figure 7: Episodes of Care – children who entered and exited in the same year (2015/16)

Children who entered and exited care in the same year (2015/16)				
Age at entry to care	Number of children entering care in 2015/16	% of all entries to care	Number of children exiting care in the same year	% of age cohort who entered and exited in the same year
Under 1	18	10%	8	44%
Age 1-4	27	15%	7	26%
Age 5-9	26	15%	7	26%
Age 10-15	60	34%	19	32%
Age 16+	45	26%	20	44%
Total	176	100%	61	35%

Of the children who entered care over 2015/16, 15% had been in care at some point previously (n=23) and the majority of these were aged 14+ (n=14). This mirrors the 2003-2013 profile; over this period 13% of children had more than one episode of care. Less than five children had two or more episodes of care within the 2015/16 year.

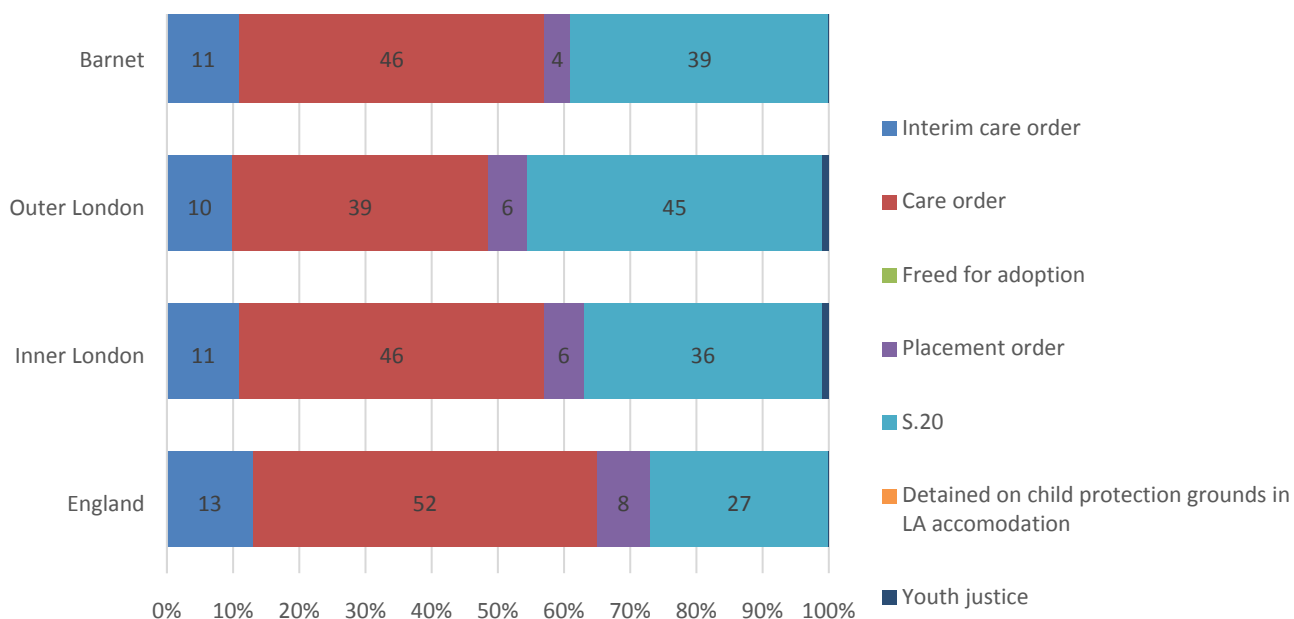
Over October 2013 to September 2016, 241 children left Barnet's care and returned home; of these 14% had subsequently re-entered care (n=34) by September 2016. However as this figure includes recent exits it potentially makes the reunification breakdown rate look artificially low. [DfE analysis](#) found that at a national level, of those children who returned home from care in 2006/7, by 2012, 64% had experienced at least one failed return and a third had oscillated in and out of care twice or more.

Legal Status

Detained on child protection grounds in LA accommodation includes police protection, emergency protection

As at 31 March 2016, the proportion of children in Barnet looked after under an interim care order was broadly in line with comparators. Compared to the England average, a smaller lower proportion of Barnet's looked after children were subject to a care order but the Barnet rate was in line with inner London and higher than outer London. The use of s.20 in Barnet was lower than the outer London average by 6% points but higher than the inner London and England averages. As at June 2016, 56% (n=59) of looked after young people aged 16+ were voluntarily accommodated; of these 22% (n=13) had been looked after under s.20 for 2+yrs

Figure 8: Proportion of children looked after by legal status and area, 31 March 2016



Looked After Children in Barnet: Detailed Local Profile

This section provides a deeper analysis of Barnet’s looked after population and includes qualitative evidence from family services’ managers, detailed data analysis and audit findings.

Factors with a significant influence on our local approach to sufficiency include:

- A recent rise in the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children with significant growth forecast for this cohort;
- A relatively high rate of exit for children who entered care over 2015/16 aged 0-5 and 15-17
- A very low rate of exit for children with disabilities, coupled with a comparatively high entry rate
- A significant proportion of children aged 0-10 who enter care, in part, as a consequence of parental mental illness.

Three of these young people had SEN and / or a disability

Religion

The table below sets out the stated religious affiliation of children who entered Barnet's care over 2015/16. 'Not stated' and 'no religion' combined account for 43% of care entrants; the most commonly cited religions for this cohort was Christian (18%) and Muslim (18%) followed by Roman Catholic (9%). Over half of all UASC who entered care in Barnet over 2015/16 were Muslim. Only 4% of the children who entered care over 2015/16 are stated as Jewish, which is significantly different to the Barnet population whereby 15% are Jewish

Religion	Total number of children	Number of UASC
Atheist	x	x
Buddhist	x	x
Catholic	x	0
Christian	31	x
Church of England	x	0
Hindu	x	0
Refused	x	0
Ismailia Muslim	x	0
Jehovah Witness	x	0
Jewish	7	0
Muslim	31	15
No Religion	21	x
Not stated	55	5
Pentecostal	x	0
Quaker	x	0
Roman Catholic	16	0
(blank)	x	x
	176	27

Figure 9: Religion

Care Entrants 2015/2016

In 2015/16, a total of 177 children became looked after by Barnet. Key characteristics of those children are summarised below. The age profiles exclude children with a SEN and / disability or who were Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children; their profiles are set out separately.

Children with a special educational need and / or disability (n=16, 9% of all care entrants in 2015/16)

- Nearly 70% of these children entered care aged 11 years or older
- Of the 14 children who entered care with a disability (with or without SEN), only one exited care in the same year.
- Snapshot profiles of children looked after in January 14 and June 2016 show a decrease over time in the number of children looked after with a disability and / or SEN.

Figure 10: Children Looked After by Disability and SEN

Children looked after	Jan-14	Jun-16	Variance
-----------------------	--------	--------	----------

Disability and SEN	33	24	-9
Disability, no SEN	9	7	-2
No disability, with SEN	31	26	-5
No disability, no SEN	231	261	+30

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (n=27, 15% of all care entrants in 2015/16)

- Most of these young people are male (n=24) and nearly two-thirds are recorded as age 16 or 17 when entering care. Over half are Muslim (n=15).
- Four assessments of these children cited trafficking as a factor
- As at 31st March 2014, 24 unaccompanied minors were looked after by LB Barnet; this increased by 46% to 37 as at 28th June 2016

Figure 11: Total Number of UASC Supported in Barnet

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Under 18 years	25	30	35	46	61
18 years and over	56	46	42	49	58
Turned 18 during the year	5	10	10	11	21
Unique total	76	66	67	84	98

Figure 12: Care Entrants in 2015/16

Age range/number	0-5 (n=97)	6-10 (n=35)	11-14 (n=92)	15 – 17 (n=95)
Police Protection Order (EPO)	14	6	9	7
Interim Care Order (ICO)	19	8	0	0
Voluntarily accommodated S20	21	5	27	53
Entered care in 15/16 and left care within 12 months	24	8	31	19
Exited care to family – no order	19	8	25	16
Presenting issues	Parental mental health was cited as a factor at the end of assessment for nearly 60% of these children. Parent subject to domestic violence and parental drug misuse were the next most frequently cited factors.	Parental mental health was cited as a factor at the end of assessment for nearly 60% of these children. Parent subject to domestic violence was the next most frequently cited factor.	Parent subject to domestic violence was the most commonly cited factor at the end of assessment for these children. Child’s mental health, parental alcohol misuse and child subject to domestic violence were the next most frequently cited.	‘Socially unacceptable behaviour’ was the most commonly cited factor at the end of assessment for over 40% of these children. ‘Drugs misuse’, ‘gangs’, ‘child’s mental health’ and ‘missing’ were also frequently cited.
Comments	Nearly two thirds had been subject to a CP plan at or prior to entering care.	Nearly two thirds had been subject to a CP plan at or prior to entering care.	Around half had been subject to a CPP at some point prior to entering care. These children generally had no experience of care.	Nearly one third had no previous referrals and almost another third had 4 or more referrals. Around a quarter had been in care previously.

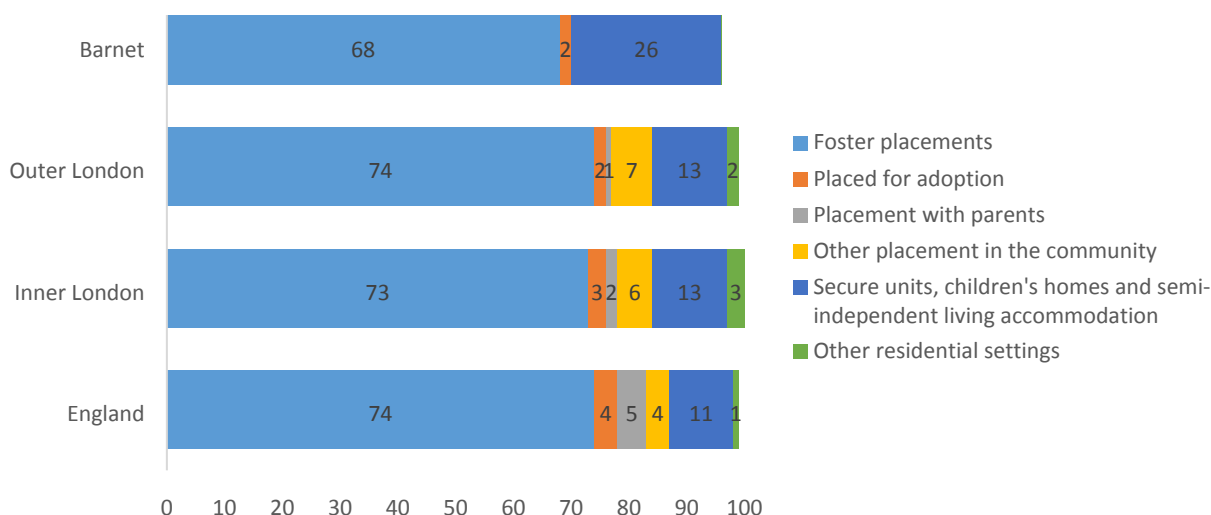
Placement Mix: Comparative Profile

This section provides an overview of Barnet's 'placement mix', including comparative data (31 March 2016 snapshot) and local analysis. Factors that influence our local approach to developing sufficiency include:

- The proportion of children Barnet placed in foster care is notably lower than the England, inner London and outer London averages
- The proportion of children Barnet placed in secure units, children's homes and semi-independent living was notably higher than the England, inner London and outer London averages
- Barnet's foster care recruitment has kept pace with the growth of the looked after population over 2014-16 and has made some small gains in shifting the placement mix to in-house and family and friends provision
- Barnet does well, compared to inner and outer London authorities in placing children locally.

As at 31 March 2016, London Borough of Barnet had a lower rate of children placed in foster care (either Barnet foster care or through Independent Fostering Agencies) when compared to the England, inner London and outer London averages. Only 20 England authorities had a lower rate of children in foster care, placing London Borough of Barnet in the lowest quintile of performance. The lower rate of children placed in foster care and high rate of children placed in residential/semi-independent compared to other authorities is due in part to the increase in young people involved in Gang activity as we are not placing in as many in foster care and are placing more young people in semi-independence and residential

Figure 13: Proportion of LAC by Placement and Area at 31.03.2016

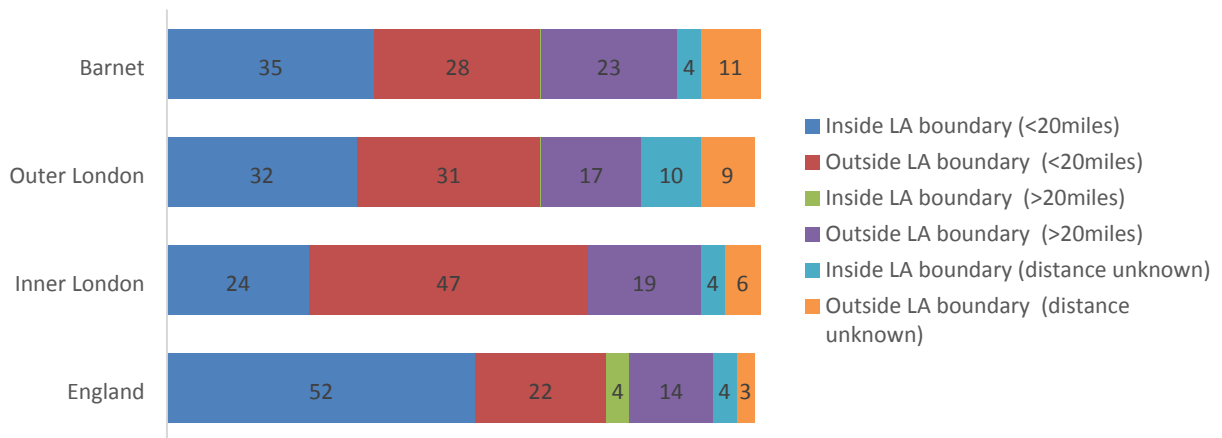


Note that percentages do not add to 100 as figures less than five are unpublished to protect confidentiality.

Conversely, LB Barnet had a notably higher proportion than comparators of children placed within secure units, children's homes and semi-independent living accommodation. Nevertheless, LB Barnet had over a third of its looked after children

placed within the borough as at 31 March 2016, which compares favourably to the outer and inner London averages, although was significantly below the England average. In total, nearly two-thirds of LB Barnet's children in care were placed either within the borough or within 20 miles of its boundary.

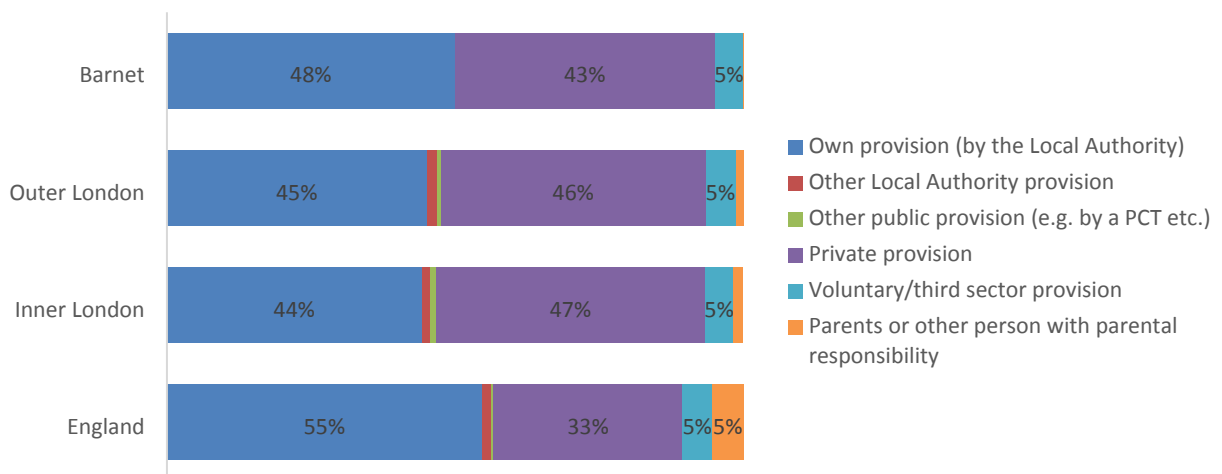
Figure 14: Proportion of looked after children by placement in or out of local authority's area, at 31 March 2016



*Note this group of Placement types reflects data released by the DfE and cannot be disaggregated
Note that percentages do not add to 100 as figures less than five are unpublished to protect confidentiality*

As at 31 March 2016, LB Barnet placed nearly half of the children in its care within its own provision. This again compares favourably with the inner and outer London averages but is below the England average.

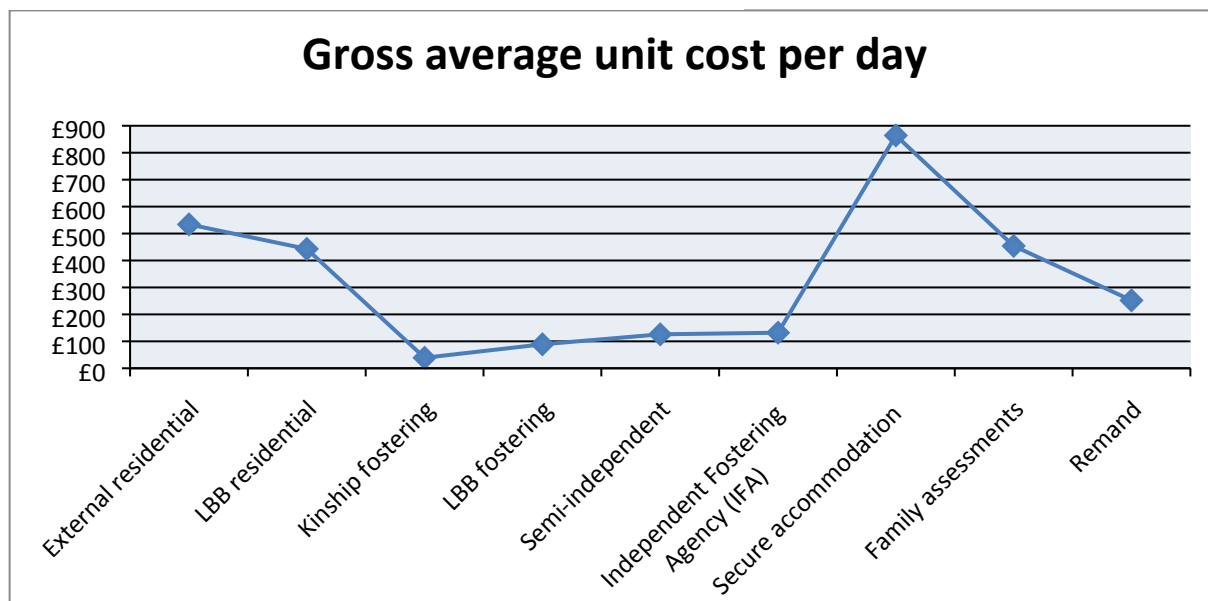
Figure 15: Proportion of children looked after by placement provider, 31 March 2016



Note this grouping of placement types reflects data released by the DfE and cannot be disaggregated

Note that percentages do not add to 100 as figures less than five are unpublished to protect confidentiality.

Figure 16: Gross Average Unit Cost per Day



Placement Mix: Local Profile

The table below sets out the proportion of looked after children living in each placement type as at June 2016. UASC were primarily placed in semi-independent accommodation, with a significant minority also living in IFA placements. This is because if a UASC reports to services that s/he is under 16, then the local authority is required to provide services appropriate to that age. If the authority is concerned that the UASC is older than they report to be, it would not be appropriate to place the young person with minors. Consequently, IFA placements where there are no other children placed are often used while age assessments are being conducted. The Age Assessment process at the Front door (Duty and Assessment) takes up to 2 weeks from point of referral. We do not age assess every UASC. Once an age disputed young person comes in and is settled in an appropriate placement, the social worker arranges for an Age Assessment that involves a second Merton trained assessor, an Advocate and an interpreter. This takes about a week and the Age Assessment is then completed within the following week. The difficulties come in when the young UASC is not age disputed at the initial entry point and then other professionals raise concerns once the young person has already been made LAC or are in another team. Those kinds of arrangements usually take longer as they are not managed at the Front door.

Children with a disability and / or SEN were most often placed in foster care (44%) and around a third were placed in residential schools or children’s homes. 18% of 15-17 year olds were placed in residential schools or children’s homes (not SEN / disability), while a significant minority of 11-14 year olds were placed with friends and family. The friends and family rate for older teenagers was very low at 7%

Figure 17: Proportion of LAC by Placement Type (June 2016)

Proportion of looked after cohort by placement type, June 2016							
	Friends and family	Placed with own parents or other person with PR	Residential school or children's home	Placed for adoption	Semi-independent	LBB foster care	External foster care
UASC	0%	0%	5%	0%	41%	16%	38%
Children with a SEN / disability	9%	4%	32%	0%	7%	23%	21%
Age 0-5	8%	0%	0%	13%	0%	48%	25%
Age 6-10	16%	5%	2%	2%	0%	44%	30%
Age 11-14	27%	2%	8%	0%	0%	39%	24%
Age 15-17	7%	0%	18%	0%	21%	32%	15%
TOTAL	11%	2%	13%	2%	12%	34%	24%

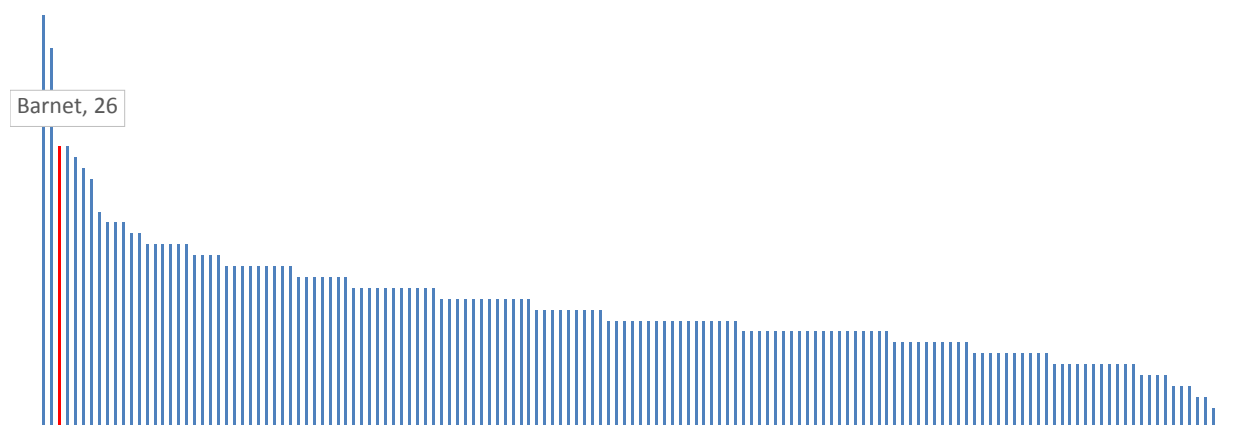
Residential Care

As at June 2016, LB Barnet looked after 42 children in a residential school, children's home, secure unit or a medical provision. Of these children, 45% (n=19) were recorded as having a SEN or disability. All were placed in private provision. The average age was 14 years with a range of 9-17yrs. Eight children had been in their current placement for more than two years while six had been there six months or less.

Of the 23 children placed in a residential school, children's home, secure unit or a medical provision without a disability or SEN (n=23), 70% had been in their current placement for 6 months or less (n=16); of these, six had gone straight to their current residential provision immediately on this episode of being looked after. Less than five had been in their current residential placement 18 months or longer.

LB Barnet has a comparatively high proportion of children placed in in secure units, children's homes and semi-independent living accommodation when compared to the national profile. As at 31 March 2016, only two other England local authorities had a higher proportion of children residing in these types of placement

Figure 18: Proportion of looked after children placed in secure units, children's homes and semi-independent living accommodation, 31st March 2016, all England LAs



This is partially because Barnet, along with most other London boroughs, has on average larger proportions of young people aged 16+ in care, who are the cohort most likely to be placed in semi-independent accommodation. This does not account for the full effect however, as Barnet's proportion of looked after children aged 16+ is lower than other the outer and inner London averages. Another contributing factor maybe the higher than average rate of children who enter Care in Barnet as a consequence of a disability, who may subsequently require specialist residential care. A final contributing factor may be that the average length of stay in residential care. The DfE (Dec 2014) Children's Home data pack set out the average length of time that children spend in a range of placement options. At a national level, more than half of placements in children's homes, residential schools, secure units and unregulated homes and hostels last less than 3 months, reflecting, in part, the use of residential care for children on the edge of care, many of whom will either return home, become fostered, or move on to a more permanent residential placement. 83% last less than a year. The data indicates that LB Barnet may have a much lower proportion of children's homes placements lasting less than one month and a much higher proportion lasting 1-3 months and 6months –2 years compared to the England average. Caution is required as the two datasets are not directly comparable, but this does suggest that the average length of stay in children's homes may be comparatively longer in LB Barnet, which would contribute to an overall higher rate of children placed in residential provision

Foster Care

A greater proportion of children were placed in in-house foster care or family and friends placements in November 2016 than in March 2014. Although the proportional shifts appear small, as the cohort has grown over time, in real terms there were 28 more children in these types of placements and 18 fewer children in IFA placements in November 2016 compared to March 2014. Conversely, the number of children in residential care was only slightly lower in November 2016 when compared with March 2014. There was a significant increase in the number and proportion of children in 'other' types of accommodation; this predominately includes semi-independent accommodation and reflects the increased numbers of UASC looked after by Barnet during this period.

Figure 19: Proportion of LAC by Provision Type

Provision type	Fostering			Residential			Total
	LB Barnet	Kinship	IFA	Private / Voluntary	LB Barnet	Other	
Placement mix (Mar 2014)	99 (31.9%)	35 (11.3%)	81 (26.1%)	34 (11%)	10 (3.2%)	51 (16.5%)	310 (100%)
Placement mix (Nov 2016)	112 (32.5%)	50 (14.5%)	63 (18.3%)	30 (8.7%)	9 (2.6%)	81 (23.5%)	345 (100%)
Difference, 2014 v 2016	+13 (+0.6%)	+15 (+3.2%)	-18 (-7.8%)	-4 (-2.30%)	-1 (-0.6%)	+30 (+7%)	+35

ANNEX 3 – VIEWS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON THEIR PLACEMENTS

As part of a WLA consultation exercise, 96 young people from Brent, Harrow, Hounslow and Barnet gave their views on what is most important to get right before a placement or placement move, what is most important in the first few days following a placement and things to consider in the longer term. Feedback from the children and young people is summarised below.

What is most important to get right before a fostering placement?

- To know about their foster carer and for the foster carer to know about them
- To have notice before moving
- To have a say in what's happening

What is most important when first arriving at a new fostering placement?

- To get to know the young person
- To understand their needs and background
- To explain the boundaries and develop a respectful, open relationship

What is most important to get right in the longer term?


- To help the young person to be confident about their longer term plan
- To build a positive relationship and help to manage expectations around contact
- To support the young person at times of transition

WLA arrangements have been influenced by this feedback in the following ways:

- In October 2016, a Barnet care leaving apprentice presented the survey findings, alongside commissioners, to c.130 to IFA, residential and SEN placement providers at a WLA market engagement event
- A summary of the key themes has been included in the service specification for the Dynamic Purchasing System (procurement exercise) across IFA, residential and SEN. This is to provide a clear message to the market on what young people have told us and our subsequent expectations from providers.
- The evaluation questions from the tender focus on a range of areas - safeguarding, management, outcomes for CYP and transition. The views of children and young people will be incorporated in model answers for the evaluation, and providers will be expected to demonstrate how they take on board views of CYP throughout service delivery.
- Once contracts are awarded, ensuring that the views of children and young people are at the forefront of service delivery will be included as part of contract implementation / contract monitoring.
 - Have you considered insurance arrangements?
 - Have you factored cash-flow implications into your costing?
 - If the recommendation is linked to a contract, have the contract procedure rules been adhered to? The report needs to evidence appropriate authorisations have been sought and value of contract
 - If the recommendation is linked to a contract, commercially sensitive

information needs to be included in an exempt report

- For services contracts, have Social Value considerations been taken into account at the pre-procurement stage (see equalities and diversities section below)

	<p style="text-align: center;">Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21st February 2016</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee Work Programme</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Commissioning Director, Children and Young People</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A - Committee Work Programme: February 2017 - May 2017</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Edward Gilbert, Governance Service Email: edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk Tel: 020 8359 3469</p>

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 2017 work programme

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee Work Programme 2017 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.

This page is intentionally left blank

**Children, Education, Libraries &
Safeguarding Committee
Forward Work Programme
February 2017 - May 2017**

Contact: Edward Gilbert 020 8359 3469 edward.gilbert@barnet.gov.uk

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Report Of (<i>officer</i>)	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
17th May 2017			
Report of the Barnet Youth Parliament Members	Committee to receive a report relating to incoming and outgoing Youth Parliament members in Barnet.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key
Report of the Barnet Youth Assembly	Committee to receive a report outlining the work of the 2016-17 Barnet Youth Assembly, including the Assembly's priorities for young people in Barnet.	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People	Non-key