
Meeting	Health and Well-Being Board
Date	21 st November 2013
Subject	Barnet Children's Safeguarding Report 2013
Report of	Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families
Summary of item and decision being sought	This report documents the work of the Barnet Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) and Barnet Council's Safeguarding Service during 2012-13, and the 2012-14 BSCB work plan.

Officer Contributors	Jo Moses (Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance) Teresa De Vito (Safeguarding Consultant) Ann Graham (Assistant Director)
Reason for Report	To note the annual report of the Safeguarding Children's Board and the 2012-14 work plan.
Partnership flexibility being exercised	None specifically arising from this report
Wards Affected	All
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Appendices	Appendix 1: The Governance of Safeguarding in Barnet Appendix 2: Further information on the key safeguarding governance structures in Barnet Appendix 3: BSCB work plan 2012-14 Appendix 4: Barnet Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2012/13

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Health and Well-Being Board notes and comments on the progress made in relation to children's safeguarding since last year.**
- 1.2 That the Health and Well-Being Board requires that children's safeguarding across the Council and partners continues to be strengthened, through the full engagement of all providers of health services, including NHS England and Healthwatch.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS AND WHERE HELD

- 2.1 Cabinet 24th September 2013 - Decision item 7 and 8: Safeguarding in Barnet
- 2.2 Cabinet 18th April 2013 - Decision item 8: 'Children and Young People's Plan 2013-16'.
- 2.3 Cabinet 17th July 2012, Decision Item 6: 'Safeguarding in Barnet' (Report of Cabinet).
- 2.4 Health and Well-Being Board 26th July 2012 - BSCB Annual Report 2012

3. LINK AND IMPLICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP-WIDE GOALS (SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY; HEALTH AND WELL-BEING STRATEGY; COMMISSIONING STRATEGIES)

- 3.1 Safeguarding is a key priority for the Council and partners and is reflected in strategic partnership goals including the Corporate Plan 2013-14, Health and Well-Being Strategy, Sustainable Community Strategy and Children and Young People's Plan.
- 3.2 The Health and Well-Being Strategy does not focus specifically on safeguarding but one of the four key strands of the Health and Well-Being Strategy is preparation for a healthy life – that is, enabling the delivery of effective pre-natal advice and maternity care and early-years development.
- 3.3 The Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Analysis says that overall children in Barnet have above average health, educational attainment and life chances. However this experience is not uniform for children across the borough. With significant growth in young people expected in the Borough, it is essential that clear and concerted effort is given to addressing the health inequalities that children in Barnet face and focusing on improving their health and well-being. The number of children classified as living in poverty has increased in Barnet to over 18,000 young people. It is important that early years services through Children's Centres and schools, through the disadvantage premium, ensure that children from all of Barnet's diverse communities enjoy and achieve. This Strategy aims to give every child in Barnet the best possible start to live a healthy life, to create more opportunities to develop healthy and flourishing neighbourhoods and communities and to support people to adopt healthy lifestyles to prevent avoidable disease and illness. Particular childhood health issues in Barnet are above average rates of childhood obesity and above average rates of smoking in pregnancy.
- 3.4 The Barnet Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) focuses in on safeguarding and says 'we must keep safeguarding at the forefront of all we do. We will constantly keep the safeguarding of children in our thinking and working practices. We have a duty of care to all our residents, especially the vulnerable, to keep them safe'. The Plan specifies that Children and young people should be safe in their homes, schools and

around the Borough, with an ability to develop healthy relationships with others. The children's partnership will work together to protect children from harm to ensure their safety and welfare, in particular through the work of the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board. The Children's Partnership has recognised a need to further develop its quality assurance to help keep our children and young people safe. The CYPP also aims to target personalised support for those children most at risk of not achieving their potential, helping to reduce inequalities. There is a commitment to providing effective early intervention for children and young people as evidence shows that intervening early significantly improves outcomes.

- 3.5 The Corporate Plan includes the strategic objective 'to create better life chances for children and young people across the borough' with an emphasis on early intervention and support and a further objective 'to promote family and community well-being' with a commitment to 'strengthen our approach to safeguarding'.

4. NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

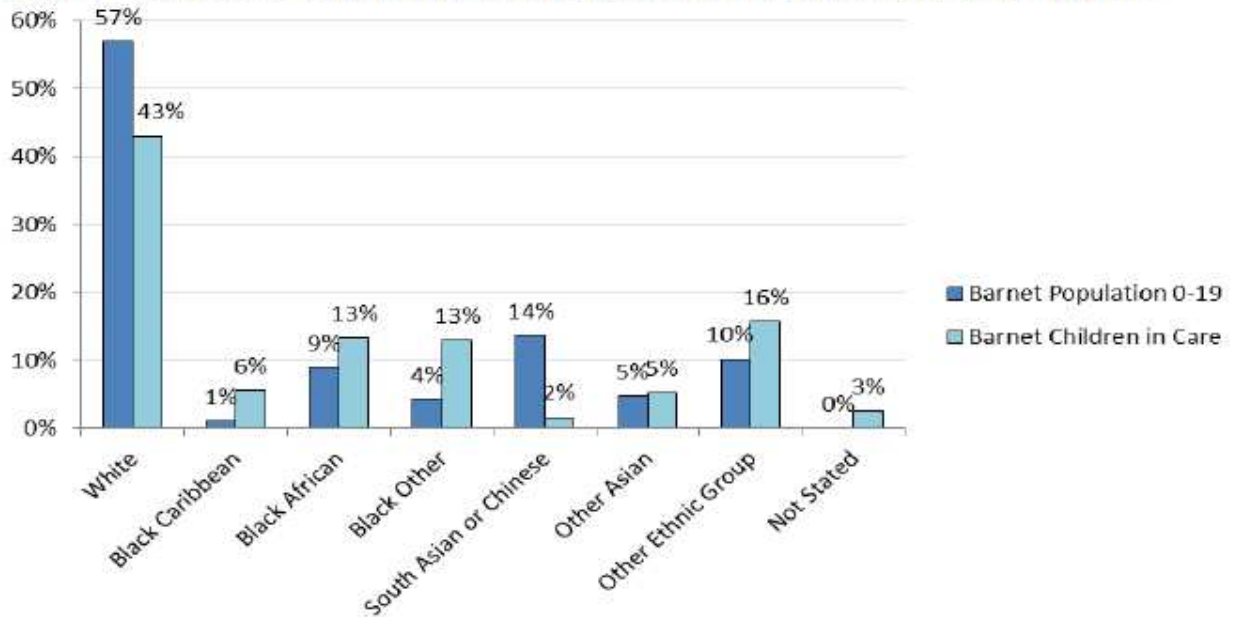
- 4.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in decision-making in the Council pursuant to the Equality Act 2010. This means the Council and all other organisations acting on its behalf must have due regard to equality duties when exercising a public function. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality and good relations into day to day business requiring equality considerations to be reflected into the design of policies and the delivery of services and for these to be kept under review.

- 4.2 Child Poverty: The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) is a sub-set of Income Deprivation Domain of the Indices of Deprivation (ID) 2010 and combines statistics on the number of children under sixteen who are living in households receiving a range of benefits including Income Support, Working Families Tax Credit, Disabled Person's Tax Credit and Income Based Job Seekers Allowance. Barnet has 210 super output areas, 56 of which rank within the most deprived for Income Deprivation affecting Children and 14 fall within the ten per cent most deprived on this indicator nationally. Those areas within the ten per cent most deprived can be found in along the A5 corridor in Burnt Oak, Colindale, West Hendon and Edgware, but are also scattered in pockets of Mill Hill, Coppetts and East Finchley.

4.3 Children's Service - Ethnicity:

- 4.3.1 Chart 1 shows the distribution of children by ethnicity in the care of Barnet Local Authority as compared with the 0-19 population of Barnet as a whole.

Chart 1 – Barnet's 0-19 population and Children in Care population by ethnicity



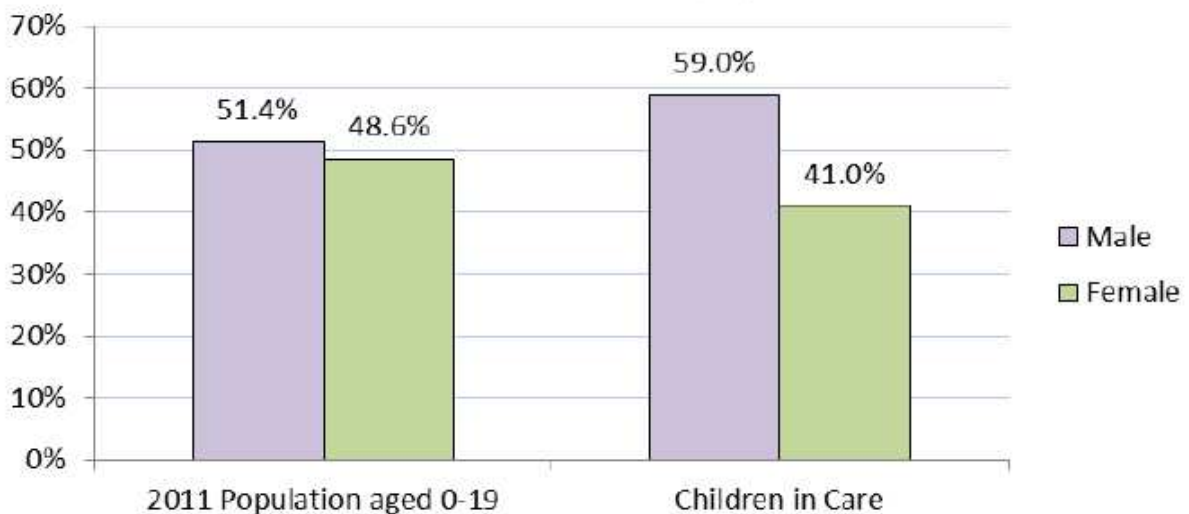
4.3.2 This indicates that:

- White children, and South Asian or Chinese children, are underrepresented in care compared to the wider population.
- Black African, Black Caribbean, and Black Other children are overrepresented in care in comparison with their proportion of the overall population.
- Children categorised as 'Other' are also over-represented¹

4.4 Children's Service – Gender

4.4.1 Chart 2 indicates that male children are over-represented in Barnet's Children in Care population, as compared to female children.

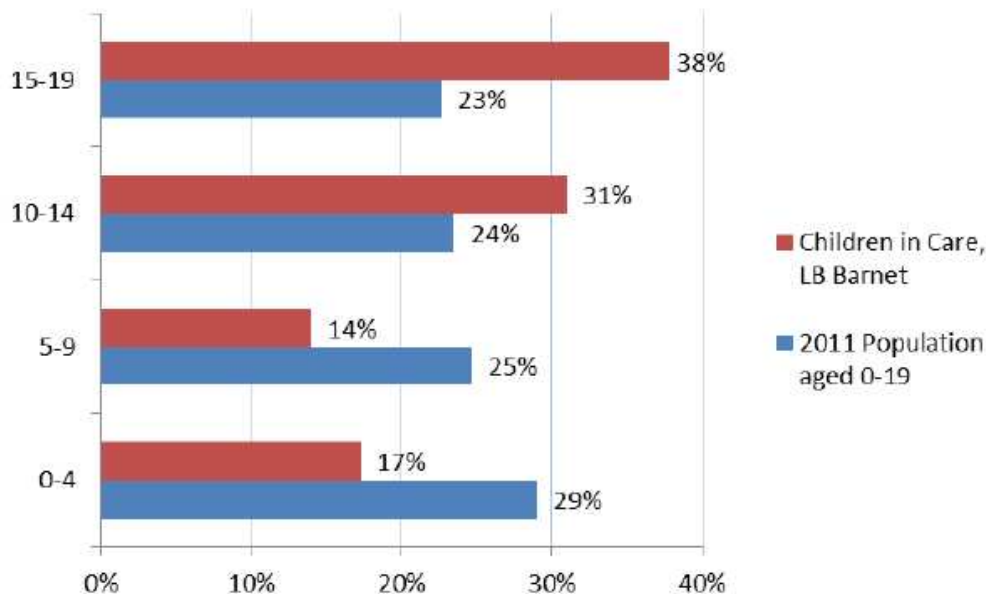
Chart 2 – Gender breakdowns of Barnet's population 0-19 and Children in Care



¹ Population group estimates are taken from Barnet's Children and Young People's Profile, based on ONS mid-year estimates and Census 2011 data. Mixed race ethnicities have been added into 'other' categories as per the GLA standards (e.g. Mixed British and Asian is added to the Asian other category). In order to protect information about our children in care, some ethnicity categories have been combined where numbers within individual categories are small.

4.4.2 Finally, when considering the age profile of Barnet's Children in Care, it can be seen in Chart 3 that the proportion of children aged 10-19 is higher than in the population at large, while the proportion aged 0-9 is lower.

Chart 3 – The distribution of the child population and Children in Care in Barnet by 5-year age bands



5. RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 A failure to keep children safe represents not only a significant risk to residents but also to the reputation of the Council. Failure to keep children safe is identified as a key risk in Children's Services. Although safeguarding must be the concern of all agencies working with children, the Local Authority is the lead agency for safeguarding children. As such, both Members and senior officers carry a level of accountability for safeguarding practice in Barnet. Governance structures are in place to ensure that other lead stakeholders, including health and the police, are represented to ensure that practice across the partnership meets safeguarding requirements.

5.2 There are a number of strategic Boards with oversight of safeguarding, as outlined in Appendix 1 of this report. Links between these Boards have been strengthened in recent years to support joined-up working. The Health and Well-Being Board has had a strong focus on quality and safety issues to help ensure that the right leadership arrangements are in place to keep patients safe in the new NHS system. Furthermore, a single Overview and Scrutiny Committee helps provide Councillors with greater oversight of safeguarding issues across the Council. There remain on-going challenges to ensure that learning related to safeguarding is effectively coordinated and disseminated across service areas and partner agencies.

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Primary functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are set out in S14(1) of the Children Act 2004. These are "to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established and; to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes".

6.2 The detailed functions are set out in LSCBs Regulations 2006/90 (The Regulations). Regulation 5 states that the functions of LSCBs in relation to its objective (as defined in section 14(1) of the Act 1) are as follows:

1. Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority.
2. Communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so.
3. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve.
4. Participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority.
5. Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

A brief summary of the relevant statutory provisions and guidance relating to safeguarding for children is given below:

6.3 Parts 3, 4 and 5 of the Children Act 1989 (CA 1989) together with statutory guidance place various statutory duties upon local authorities including the general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children within their area who are in need. In cases where children are found to be at risk of significant harm as defined in the CA 1989, the Local Authority has a clear legal duty to take steps to protect them by invoking the powers contained in Part 4 of the CA 1989.

6.4 The Children Act 2004 (CA 2004) provides the legislative framework for integrated planning, commissioning and delivery of children's services and for lines of accountability through the appointment of directors of all Children's Services. It created a statutory framework for local co-operation between local authorities, key partner agencies (health, police, schools, housing, early years, youth justice, probation etc) and other relevant bodies including the voluntary and community sector, in order to improve the well-being of children in the area. This provided for the framework for Children's Trusts within which agencies have been able to integrate commissioning and delivery of children's services with arrangements for pooled budgets. Barnet has chosen to keep a Children's Trust Board and to publish a Children and Young People Plan each year. The Act also imposes a duty on the relevant agencies to carry out their functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to guidance provided by the Secretary of State. The duty continues to apply where services are contracted out. In addition, sections 18 and 19 of the CA 2004 impose a duty on the children's services authority to appoint a director of children's services (DCS) and a Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS) respectively for the purposes of the functions conferred on or exercisable by the Local Authority as prescribed by statute.

6.5 The CA 2004 also requires Local Authorities to establish LSCBs for their area and it has been a requirement for Local Authorities to have a Board since 2006. The LSCB replaced the former non statutory Area Child Protection Committees. The intention of Parliament was for the LSCB to have a wider remit than ACPCs and to be more proactive. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 subsequently introduced a requirement for the LSCB to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.

6.6 Statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) was revised following the Munro Review and sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and the Children's Act 2004.

7. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS- FINANCE, STAFFING, IT ETC

7.1 There are no significant resource implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7.2 The current annual budget of the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) is £155,390, which includes the contributions made by partner agencies, of which the Local Authority contribution is £98,000. Most of the budget covers staffing requirements including the Independent Chairs of the BSCB and the Serious Case Review Panel.

8. COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH USERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

8.3. The work of Youth Shield was recognised as an example of good practice when they won the London Safeguarding Children Board Award 2012. During this year young people were involved in designing a CAMHS leaflet for young people regarding allegations, and Youth Shield have proposed a work plan including roll out of healthy relationship peer to peer training and a mystery shopping exercise of different services.

9. ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT WITH PROVIDERS

9.1 The Barnet Safeguarding Children's Board and its subgroups are made up of the key agencies that provide safeguarding to children in the borough. Professionals at both strategic and operational levels are embracing the notion that safeguarding children is a shared responsibility rather than one confined to children's social care. The recently launched MASH will further develop this shared responsibility and true multi agency safeguarding of Barnet children.

9.2 An imminent review of the BSCB will ensure that members are of sufficient seniority to 'speak for their organisation with authority, commit their organisation on policy & practice matters and hold their organisation to account'.

9.3 The revised Ofsted framework will inspect the functioning and effectiveness of all LSCBs in addition to inspecting children's social care departments. This means that excellent partnership working and communication at all levels must be in place to ensure that Barnet is 'inspection ready'.

9.4 It is important to consider not only BSCB membership but also the level of active participation in meetings and work to support the BSCB. The BSCB has a number of partners chairing sub groups and membership of these across the partnership is good.

10. DETAILS

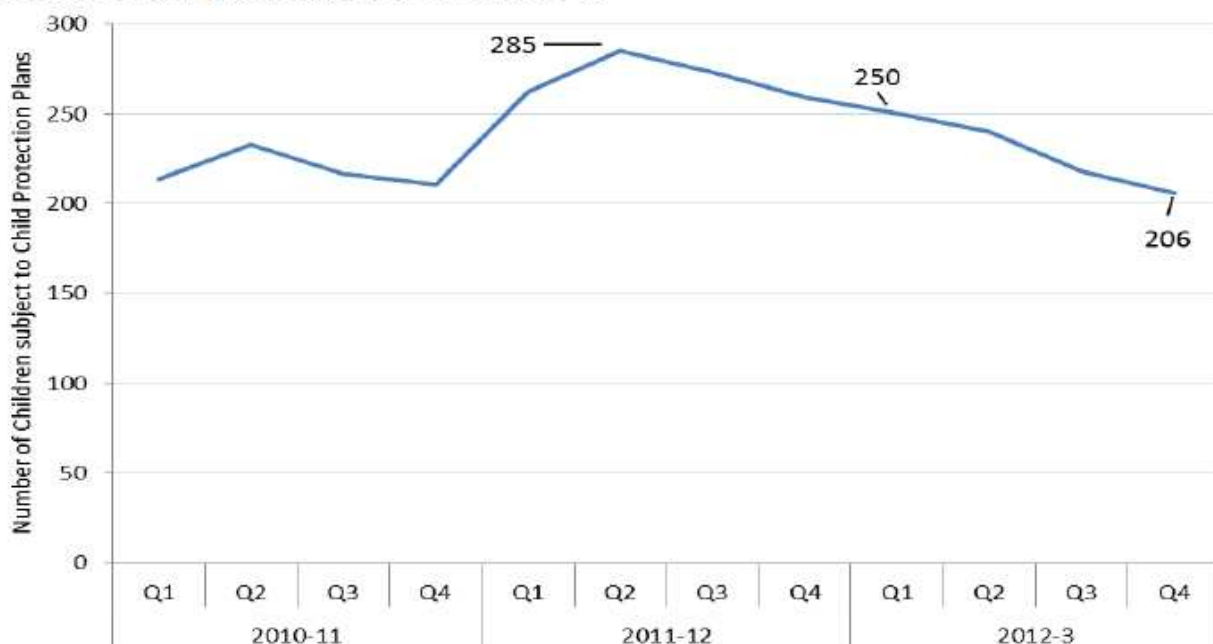
10.1 In 2012/13, several trends and potential issues have been identified in relation to safeguarding, which have required further analysis.

10.2 Children's Service: Numbers of Children on Child Protection plans reduced significantly: While 2012/13 saw a small rise in initial assessments, a significant rise in core assessments and a rise in Section 47 child protection investigations, the number of children on a child protection plan reduced significantly. This compares well to the

previous year 2011-12 when there were concerns about increasing numbers of children being placed on child protection plans compared to similar Boroughs.

- Over 2012/13, the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan in Barnet has fallen by 20%.
- This is a reduction from 258 children (March 2012) to 206 (March 2013) (of note is that the under 18 population has increased)²
- This follows a peak of 285 children in September 2011

Chart 5 – Number of Children in London Borough of Barnet subject to a Child Protection Plan, quarterly, 2010-11 to 2012-13



10.3 Revolving Door in Child Protection: There has been a continuous downwards trend over the past two years showing a reduction in the number of children who become the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time.

Table 4 - Proportion of children subject to CPP for second or subsequent time

Proportion of children becoming subject to CPP for a second or subsequent time			
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
%	18%	13.8%	9.6%
Numbers	37	35	22

10.3.1 In 2011-2012, the proportion of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time decreased to 13.8% (35 children) from 18% (37 children) in the previous year. This trend continued in 2012-13 with 22 (9.6%) of children made subject of child protection on plans for a second or subsequent time. The following actions have been in place to tackle this ‘revolving door’ and support the reduction of subsequent child protection plans:

² GLA population projections suggest that the population of 0-17 year olds in Barnet has increased from 84,845 in 2012 to 86,809 in 2013.

- Strengthening support when children cease to be subject of a child protection plan with improvements to our Early Intervention services including the intensive work of Family Focus (Troubled Families).
- Carrying out the style of audits recommended by Professor Eileen Munro to draw out organisational issues and other key themes to improve practice.
- A newly developed Protection Panel now meets on a monthly basis to examine the findings of case audits in detail and make recommendations both in terms of thematic organisational issues that emerged.

10.4 Drugs and Alcohol: Substance misuse covers both drugs and alcohol. Alcohol use is a growing concern, given the new guidelines for GPs which dictates mandatory alcohol screening and scoring; this could 'reveal' a new type of alcohol user who has not traditionally identified themselves as having a problem. Substance misuse in Barnet is still below national levels. In 2012/12 a total of 365 people entered treatment; 16% of the 365 entering treatment in Barnet are parents with children living at home. A whole family approach needs to be adopted to ensure effective treatment and appropriate safeguarding. There is already a seconded drugs/alcohol worker based in Family Focus (troubled families) however anecdotal reports suggest there may be many more drug using parents in Barnet who are not entering treatment and we need to consider how to assess and meet these needs.

10.5 Integrated Offender Management: We continue to monitor offenders in the Borough with a view to working with key partners and services to risk-assess and track offenders and ex-offenders who live with or have direct contact with children to ensure those children are kept safe and to challenge intergenerational criminality.

10.6 Early Intervention and Prevention: There is a key commitment to early intervention and prevention across the Council and partners. The key developments over the last year are:

10.6.1 The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was established in July 2013 and fully operational from August this year. The MASH provides a fire-walled secure co-location which allows the sharing of information to be undertaken safely and is seen as a key tool to building strong partnership work to identify vulnerable children earlier and help services intervene at an early stage. It brings together a core membership including Children's Social Care, Police, Probation, Mental Health, Education, Housing, Youth Offending Service and Health. Information on how referrals to the MASH will link to existing CAF and Social Care referrals are now incorporated into all Safeguarding training for practitioners.

10.6.2 Barnet's Family Focus work continues to provide early interventions to build families' resilience; concentrating on supporting families with multiple problems to improve parenting skills and relationships within the family and improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people. Across the partnership, we are currently undertaking a cost analysis project on our Troubled Families work to ensure we fully understand the impact of the work.

10.7 Key Achievements

10.8 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013: The revised Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 was implemented in April this year and an action plan has been established through the Safeguarding Children Board in order to ensure implementation. All actions are now completed except the work on assessments which is due for completion by March 2014*.

1. The Board have published a widely accessible threshold document to ensure widespread understanding of the processes for early intervention and referral to social care.
2. A report is being prepared for the BSCB on the completed audit of all relevant agencies using S11 guidance.
3. The Barnet Safeguarding Children Board has a new independent chair who will also chair the Safeguarding Adults Board.
4. In order that the BSCB maintains a local learning and improvement framework, cases are referred to the Board where there are areas of poor practice and where good practice is recognised to allow learning to be shared. A comprehensive audit of a child's journey has been introduced to focus in depth with the involvement of all relevant agencies.
5. Regular reviews are in place using the recommended SCIE model as recommended by Profession Munro, and outcomes reported to the BSCB.
6. The Serious Case Review group follows guidance and reports to the BSCB Chair.
7. Final reports of SCRs findings are published on the Council's website and the LSCB's website for a minimum of 12 months.
8. Child Death Review processes are in place and follow national guidance. These are reported to BSCB through an Annual report from the Paediatrician lead for child deaths.
9. Work to address the revised nature of initial and core assessments is under way and will be completed by March 2014.*

10.9 Implementing the Ofsted Inspection Plan Action Plan from 2012:

1. BSCB were required to ensure that all schools adopted the correct safeguarding procedures. Guidance was refreshed and re-issued to schools and presented at relevant heads and safeguarding leads meetings. Additional training was also arranged with an input from the police Child Abuse Investigation Team and schools were encouraged to take up training including that related to allegations management.
2. Attendance at board meetings was not consistent. The BSCB chair held discussions with relevant agencies and attendance has improved and continues to be monitored.
3. BSCB was asked to strengthen its management oversight. Changes were made to the Executive Group that has provided additional scrutiny to areas of focus such as case reviews and the examination of data.
4. The Board was asked to be more robust in scrutiny of data and it has developed changes to the presentation of data using an information dashboard which highlights areas of significant change or priorities.

10.10 BSCB Audit with Partner Agencies: BSCB carried out a focused section 11 audit in 2013 with partner agencies to review compliance with safeguarding duties. The findings from this will be reviewed through the BSCB in quarter 3 of 2013/14; however one of the emerging priorities is in relation to improving information sharing across the agencies. Establishing a MASH has improved information sharing from the point of referral to children's social care. As part of the response to the most recent serious case review, it has been agreed that the BSCB will undertake work on information sharing.

10.11 Munro Demonstrator Pilot: Children's Services in Barnet were selected as a Munro Demonstrator site the purpose of which is to improve practice and for learning to be shared between Local Authorities in implementing the Munro recommendations. A significant focus of that work has been around addressing neglect. Barnet social care

and partner agencies worked with Action for Children and Sterling University in the development of a Neglect Resource Pack for use by practitioners across agencies.

- 10.12 Sexual Exploitation: A renewed focus on sexual exploitation linking with arrangements to safeguard missing children is a priority for BSCB. Sexual exploitation training is being delivered including gangs training with input from young people who have been affected by gangs. A conference on trafficking and sexual exploitation has been held jointly with Enfield Safeguarding Children's Board.
- 10.13 Personality Disorder Pilot: Working with families where a parent or care had a personality disorder was a key issue in a recent case review. The BSCB has developed a pilot of support and consultation for staff working with families where personality disorder is a feature, helping practitioners manage cases more effectively without the need to escalate. Early reports are that staff find this support helpful and effective in their work with families.
- 10.14 Violence against Women and Girls: Barnet has agreed to move the response to Domestic Violence so that it includes the wider Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda with a new strategy and action plan. This is in line with national and London Policy, and will prioritise a wider range of issues affecting safeguarding of women and girls including forced marriage, trafficking and Female Genital Mutilation.
- 10.15 Future Challenges and Opportunities
- 10.16 New Children's Service Inspection Framework: Ofsted moved away from its proposed multi agency inspection framework for implementation in 2013 and has returned to a single agency approach. Ofsted has developed a single agency framework for inspecting Local Authority child protection; children in need, and services for looked after children to include those leaving or who have left care. The single framework proposes an evaluation of help, protection and care for children including the arrangements for Local Authority fostering and adoption services as well as inspecting the BSCB. As part of service improvement, Barnet is strengthening its provision of services in line with the recommendations of the Munro Review and findings from the 2012 Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children. We have also recently commissioned an in depth external audit (Mock Inspection) to give a thorough review of our services and to identify areas for improvement. This piece of work was completed in October 2013 and gave much positive feedback as well as a very useful remit for driving forward improvements and being ready for the new inspection regime.
- 10.17 Reduced Resources but Increased Demand: Barnet's total population has grown by 16.5% over the past decade, to approximately 375,000. Over the next 5 years, Barnet's population is expected to increase by a further 8.7%, including significant growth in the 0-19 age group (8.4%). This will continue to pose challenges; even if levels of safeguarding and social care activity remain constant there will be an increased need for services due to an overall increase in the population at a time of scarce resources.
1. The Safeguarding Children Board has identified the threat of diminishing resources available to member agencies to safeguard children as a risk which has been logged and will continue to be monitored.
 2. There are concerns that the financial impact of changes to grants and funding to voluntary and community sector services may have an impact on safeguarding in this sector.

10.18 Strengthening Partnerships across the Children's and Adults Safeguarding Boards: In order to strengthen safeguarding practice, a single Independent Chair for both adults and children's safeguarding Boards has been appointed and work is on-going to streamline the Boards and share some functions and administration to improve efficiency. Joint subgroups for training, working with faith and BME communities, and shared communications will support both Boards to take a more joined up approach to safeguarding.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (i) Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 Department for Education 2013: <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/w/working%20together.pdf>
- (ii) Department for Education. May 2011. The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/175391/Munro-Review.pdf
- (iii) Ofsted. April 2012. Framework for the inspection of Local Authority arrangements for the protection of children: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-inspection-of-local-authority-arrangements-for-protection-of-children>
- (iv) Ofsted and CQC. February 2012. Inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services: London Borough of Barnet: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/media/reports/20120328%20NHS%20Barnet%20CQC%20Final%20Report.pdf>
- (v) Framework and evaluation schedule for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers (single inspection framework) and reviews of Local Safeguarding Children Boards: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-and-evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-services-for-children-need-of-help-and-protectio>

Legal – SW
CFO – AD