

## **Appendix 1**

This paper sets out the Council's response to the published 2014/15 Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report. It provides comment on the report and summarises key developments for BSCB areas of priority.

### **1. Early Help**

The Council shares the Board's ambition to continue growing the use of CAF across the partnership in Barnet and acknowledges the role that the e-CAF will play in supporting this. A greater number of contacts from Children's Centres, midwives and health visitors will help to achieve this.

As the Annual Report notes, the Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) Strategic Board oversees the development of a multi-agency 5-year Early Intervention Strategy. In order to support embedding the EIP strategy into practice a number of areas of work are being developed:

A half day workshop with key partners has taken place to enable those responsible for children and young people and family services across Barnet to have professional conversations around EIP and integrated partnership working. The group undertook a review of current delivery against the EIF Early Intervention Matrix and agreed key actions to further develop partnership working in this area

The EIP Partnership Board has agreed the broad framework for EIP, which spans universal, universal plus, targeted and specialist services and interventions across three age groups. They have identified areas of work for a number of work streams that will further develop an integrated approach to EIP. The first work streams that commence in December focus on:

- A refresh of data and analysis to support targeted interventions in areas of need
- Pathways and a menu of interventions so that children and young people and families receive the right services when they are needed
- Developing an Early Help assessment and increasing the numbers of CAF's undertaken

These work streams have key deliverables and outcomes within three months and support the development of a locality model for an Early Help hub.

A more integrated approach is being taken within the MASH so that early help is an integral part of the MASH process and in addition clear step up and step down processes have been implemented.

### **2. Audit and Performance**

As set out in the Annual Report, the Performance and Quality Assurance (PQA) sub-group of the BSCB oversees audits, and reviews and scrutinises single-agency audits and data to ensure the BSCB is sighted on, and can take proactive steps to respond to emerging issues by shaping the planning, commissioning and delivery of services.

Audit activity this year has included an audit of CSE cases. The learning from these was used to inform the action plan and the work of the Co-ordinator. Within the Council, quality assurance activity is linked to a wider programme of improvement work to support social work practice standards and ensure high quality. This is delivered by the Practice Standards Manager who is also Barnet's Principal Social Worker. Social work practice standards have been developed and a staff booklet is due to be launched soon. The Practice Standards Manager recently co-ordinated a multi-agency audit exercise on behalf of BSCB and arranged an audit of 6 child protection and child in need cases by multi-agency partners. The PQA will continue to scrutinise an audit each quarter, with a focus on the BSCB's priority areas as well as the Section 11 audit.

The PQA will continue to monitor the new multi-agency dashboard which contains indicators on safeguarding with a specific focus on the four priorities of the Board (CSE, neglect, domestic violence and e-safety). At quarterly meetings each agency, including the Council, will provide the narrative behind the indicators to help draw out key trends across the partnership and identify areas for challenge and collaborative action.

Going forward there will be a focus on strengthening links between the PQA sub-group and the other sub-groups and task and finish groups.

### **3. Challenge from the Board**

The Council welcomes and responds to challenge from the BSCB and works in partnership with the other agencies. The Chairman of the Board meets with both the Commissioning Director for Children and Young People (DCS) and the Family Services Director regularly to discuss progress on key issues and to escalate any concerns about progress within the partnership. The BSCB responds well to emerging issues which are a challenge for the Council, and where the Board's input is required.

### **4. Voice of the Child**

The BSCB report outlined the vision that in Barnet all children and young people will have the opportunity to participate in decisions which affect their lives. Since the publication of the BSCB Annual Report, work to embed the voice of the child has continued.

Barnet Youth Board (BYB) has expanded upon and continued its important role in developing safeguarding strategies as outlined within the BSCB Annual Report. Following the successful delivery of this year's Takeover Challenge and Barnet's Youth Convention this year at the RAF Museum, Barnet has recently been awarded a Gold commendation by the Children's Commissioner for on-going commitment to engaging children and young people in our work and hearing their voices.

Almost 200 young people from across the borough attended an event to give the Council their views on what should be included in the forthcoming new Charter for Children and Young People and what the Council's key priorities should be over the

next five years, including for keeping children and young people safe. Priorities identified at the convention will be incorporated into the Council's new Children and Young People's Plan, due to be published in March 2016 alongside the new Charter.

Progress will continue to be progressed and monitored through the Voice of the Child Strategy Action Plan 2015-17.

## **5. Board Priorities**

The Council fully supports the BSCB's four priorities which are: CSE, Neglect, Domestic Violence, and e-Safety. They are key areas of focus within the service and formed the basis for Safeguarding Month, 2015. The Council is commissioning and delivering training in all four priority areas.

The Council has dedicated officers who are leading on delivering action plans around CSE (including Missing) and Neglect. This includes contributing insight and research capacity and chairing the BSCB neglect task and finish group. This group is developing a multi-agency approach to neglect which will include a strategy approved by the BSCB, agreeing the use of a tool for identifying and working with children and young people and families where neglect is identified, and developing guidance and training to support the implementation across a pilot area of the borough.

The multi-agency e-safety group of the BSCB has used national and local insight to design an e-safety programme for primary schools in Barnet. The programme has been rolled out across the borough and schools can gain the Gold, Silver or Bronze Barnet Mark for e-safety. Links are being made with the CSE, Gangs, Missing, and Radicalisation agenda given the relevance of e-safety to these areas.

In respect of Domestic Violence Abuse (DVA) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) the Council has a three year strategy and an action plan. It provides front line services for victims and perpetrators, both men and women, 16 years and over. The aim of these programmes is to stop the escalation of homicide and repeat victimisation.