

Barnet Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17

Introduction

The Barnet Children's Safeguarding Board (BSCB) is a partnership of statutory and voluntary agencies, whose activities impact the lives of children and young people in Barnet.

This report details our activities in 2016-7 and looks forward to the next two years as well.

The recent Ofsted report into the BSCB while endorsing some of the work we have done in relation to serious case reviews, child sexual exploitation and Prevent has also told us that our overall approach as a partnership was inadequate.

We were not as a partnership able to identify and bring about appropriate change to some of the critical performance issues highlighted by Ofsted in their joint inspection of the BSCB and the Local Authority. As a result children did not receive the support and services that they are entitled to. This is clearly a situation that cannot continue.

Our response to the Ofsted judgment is, I believe, an appropriate one. We want as a partnership to undergo the significant development and change that is required to deliver a real improvement in performance. We are prepared to commit strategic

oversight and proper resource our new approach. This is explained more fully in the report.

The relatively recent passing of the Children and Social Work Act changes the statutory nature of local safeguarding partnerships and offers opportunities for different structures and governance arrangements. Barnet will use these new opportunities (for structural change) to ensure that in the future our arrangements to protect children and enhance their welfare are founded on good partnership practice, committed strategic leadership and insightful professional curiosity informed by rigorous audit and performance review.

We had in fact already begun the journey in early 2017 prior to Ofsted's inspection when we commissioned a review of how the BSCB operated. We had ourselves identified a need to move to a new level and over the next few months that is what we intend to do

Chris Miller: Independent Chair

There is a huge commitment to improve outcomes for Barnet Children across local public sector and voluntary sector organisations.

The need never to lose sight of this has led to the creation of a leadership forum (May 2017) where the Council Chief Executive, Director of Children's Services, Borough Police Commander and local NHS Chief Officer can convene and ensure that all necessary support

is being given to safeguarding activity and work to improve quality of services for local children across all of our organisations.

Effective leadership and partnership is vital to ensure we are doing the best possible job for children in Barnet, and we committed to making sure that happens.

John Hooton, Kay Matthews, Simon Rose, Chris Munday.

Section One: About the BSCB

Our vision

At the heart of our vision for the Barnet safeguarding children partnership is the concept of Resilient Families and Resilient Children. Our ambition is to drive forward a strong partnership that enables children and families to thrive and achieve

Barnet Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004. It has been independently chaired, by Chris Miller, since December 2013, and consists of senior representatives of all the principal stakeholders who work together to safeguard children and young people.

Our Responsibilities

To co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Barnet. We aim to do this by:

Co-ordinating local work through:

- Developing robust policies and procedures both locally and with Pan London LSCBs.
- Participating in the planning of services for children in Barnet.
- Deliver multi-agency training in the protection and care of children ensuring that it is effective and evaluated regularly for impact on management and practice
- Communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and explaining how this can be done.

- Ensuring that the lived experience of children is central to developing safeguarding priorities

Ensuring the effectiveness of that work through:

- Listening to children, families and practitioners in the effectiveness of service provision
- Monitoring what is done by partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews and other multi-agency case reviews and sharing learning opportunities
- Evaluating the impact of multiagency training and other learning emerging from the safeguarding partnership activities
- Collecting and analysing information about child deaths
- Publishing an annual report on the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements in Barnet.

Ofsted July 2017

In July 2017 the Barnet Safeguarding Children's Board was graded as inadequate by Ofsted. The key reason for this judgement was that the Board has been ineffective in discharging all of its statutory functions as identified above. In particular it had not assessed the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and their families, quality assured practice or comprehensively monitored and evaluated the quality and impact of safeguarding training for multi-agency practitioners.

There were five key recommendations:

1. Ensure that a programme of quality assurance is established to monitor the quality of frontline practice across statutory work and early help.
2. Ensure that all partner agencies and their staff are aware of thresholds for intervention.
3. Increase scrutiny and challenge of practice for privately fostered children and raise awareness of the notification process.
4. Ensure that the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding training is monitored and evaluated.
5. Review the function of the child sexual exploitation and missing sub-group, and align this with other strategic forums to incorporate children at risk of youth violence and gang affiliation.

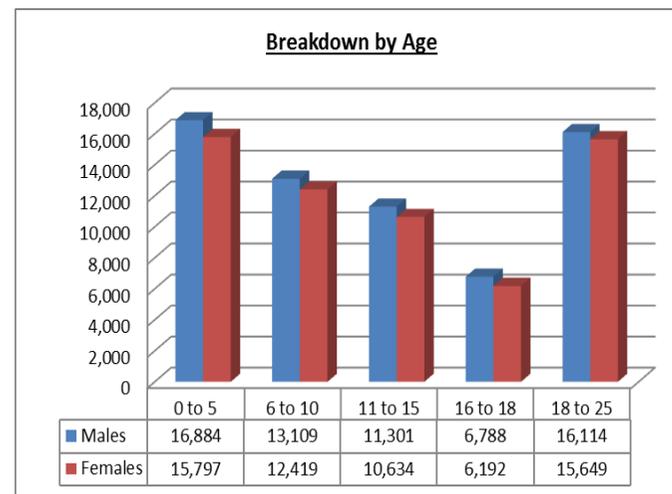
The following report provides an overview of safeguarding activity undertaken by the Partnership and the activity undertaken by the Board during 2016/17.

Section Two: Children and young people in Barnet ¹

Barnet is home to a richly diverse and changing population; the borough is forecast to have the largest child population in London by 2020. The majority of children and young people in Barnet achieve good outcomes, however there is a small percentage (2%) of children and young people who require targeted or specialist support to achieve better outcomes.

¹ All data and analysis provided by London Borough of Barnet Family Services Division

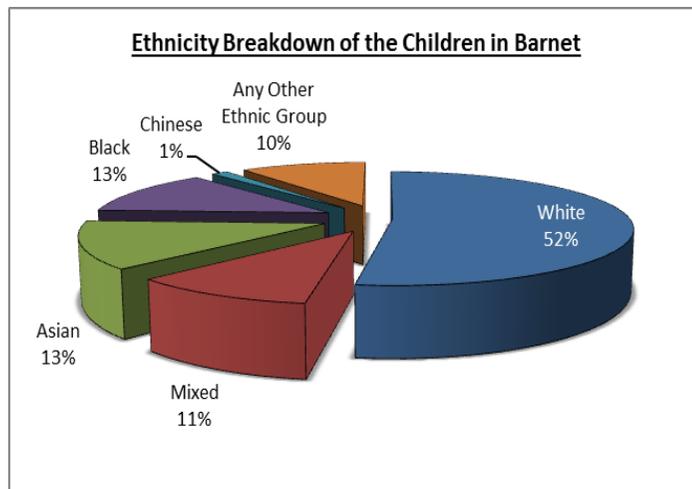
- There are approximately 93,590 children and young people under the age of 19 years living in Barnet representing 25% of the borough’s total population. Barnet’s population is estimated to reach 98,914 by 2020; representing a growth of 6%.
- **Number of children living in poverty (21.2%)**



- The proportion of children entitled to free school meals:
 - in primary schools is 16.7% (the national average is 14.5%)
 - in secondary schools is 13.1% (the national average is 13.2%)
- 19% of children under five (5,000 children) live in low income families and the west of the Borough has the highest

concentration of more deprived LSOAs, with the highest levels of deprivation in Colindale, West Hendon and Burnt Oak

- Of all children and young people aged under 19 years old in Barnet, 14% are aged 16 – 17 years old. Despite the small population, this cohort represents some of our highest demand as 36% of our children in care are 16 -17 years old as at June 2017.
- Barnet’s population is diverse and is projected to become increasingly diverse. The overall Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population is projected to increase from 39% to 44% of the total Barnet population.
- This diversity is amplified for children and young people, with those from ethnic groups accounting for 52% of all children living in the area, compared with 30% in the country as a whole.



- The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Indian and Black African.

- The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language:
 - in primary schools is 48.7% (the national average is 20.1%).
 - in secondary schools is 38.8% (the national average is 15.7%).
- Christianity is the largest faith community in Barnet accounting for 41% of the total population.
- 1 in 5 of all Jewish people in England and Wales live in Barnet. This equates to 15% of Barnet’s population being Jewish, compared to an average of 0.4% of the population within our 7 statistical neighbours.
- An in-depth analysis of Barnet’s rates of demand per 10,000 population for social care services highlighted an underrepresentation of Jewish children in Barnet’s social care services. Senior officers from Family Services met with key stakeholders in the local Jewish community, including Norwood, a UK Jewish charity who delivers family support and social work services locally.
- Middlesex University is undertaking a needs assessment with the Jewish community aimed at informing how we can improve accessibility of services for the community. The final report is due in August 2017.

We know we have a large universal population that is doing well, but a small percentage (2%) need a targeted and specialist service to meet their needs and improve their outcomes in line with their peers.

- Barnet schools are among the best in the country and Barnet’s education offer is critical to the borough’s plans to grow.

- As at April 2017, 93.3% of pupils in Barnet primary and secondary pupils attended a good or outstanding school, compared to a London average of 92%.

Inclusive and appropriate provision for vulnerable pupils

- The Pavilion Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) is rated 'good' and Northgate PRU is 'outstanding'.
- No primary aged pupils have been permanently excluded from a Barnet school in 2016/17. Children's needs are addressed through managed moves or targeted programmes.
- As of July 2017, 44 students were recorded as Children Missing from Education (CME) and 170 students were registered as being Electively Home Educated (EHE). These students are tracked and monitored fortnightly through the multi-disciplinary, Pupil Placement Panel (PPP) alongside those students that have been identified as at risk of becoming CME. This panel also ensures the 6th day provision of education following a permanent exclusion and the reintegration of students from the PRU back into mainstream education.
- The Virtual School strives to ensure children in care attend good or outstanding mainstream or special schools and it closely tracks the progress of all children in care, including those in alternative provisions.

As at June 2017:

- 99.5% of children in care (Reception to Y11) are in school.
- 18% of children in care have an Education, Health and Care Plan (or a statement of Special Educational Needs) (SEN), this is lower than the average of

Barnet's statistical neighbours. 22% of children in care have an EHCP plan/statement.

- 97% of children in care (Reception to Y11) are in Good or Outstanding Schools,

Outcomes for children and young people

- Overall, most children and young people achieve well through school and beyond, with low levels of NEET and high levels of participation post-16.
- In 2016, Barnet was ranked 4th nationally in relation to the headline measure of 'progress 8', reflecting pupils' progress across 8 subjects from their key stage 2 baseline.
- The registration rate for families with children under five engaging in early years Children Centre setting is 83% of all families. Of these registrations 69% of families with children under five attend a Children's Centre at least once in their child's first five years. The figures are higher in deprived areas, with a 99% registration rate and 87% of families with children under five attending a Children's Centre at least once (June 2017).
- The take up of free two year old places achieved is 60% for the 2016/17 academic year.
- Foundation stage results in Barnet for the 2016/17 academic year are just below the national average (Barnet 68.9% – National 69.3%), which is an increase on the previous year.
- In 2016, the proportion of pupils achieving a good level of development by the end of Reception in Barnet is in line with the national average (as above) (ranked 87th nationally). Barnet's inequality gap between 2015 and 2016 increased by 2.1 percentage points (whilst the inequality gap reduced for

national statistical neighbours). Barnet's inequality gap is now ranked 86th nationally

Local Safeguarding priorities

Children in Need of Help and Protection: Key Statistics:

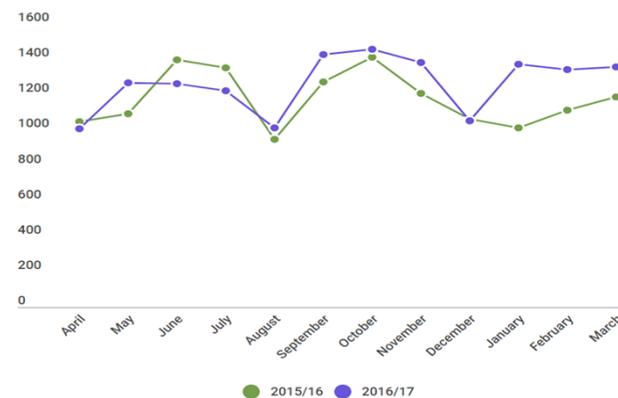
- At 31 June 2017, 1,818 children had been identified as children in need of statutory social work intervention. This is a reduction from 2,028 at 31 June 2016.
- At 30 June 2017, 143 children and young people were the subject of a child protection plan (a rate of 15.6 per 10,000 children). This is a reduction from 285 (31.1 per 10,000 children) at 31 March 2016.
- One serious case review into the death of Child A was published
- There are 2 serious case reviews being finalised
- The development of a 0-25 service is bringing together a range of services to work together to meet the needs and improve outcomes for children and young adults with disabilities. The service model enables a seamless transition of support into adulthood and facilitates longer term (semi-) independence through joint working with Adult Services.
- Barnet senior children's services managers meet with Family Court judges on an annual basis which has fostered good relationships with the Court and is driving improved practice. CAF/CASS are members of the Safeguarding Children Board and no issues have been raised by them regarding concerns about practice.
- Robust efforts have been made to recruit good quality social workers and reduce reliance on agency staff. As a result the use of agency staff has reduced from 30% in June 2016 to 10.9% in

June 2017. The turnover rate of social work staff is projected to reduce from 12.8% to 7.6% in the next year.

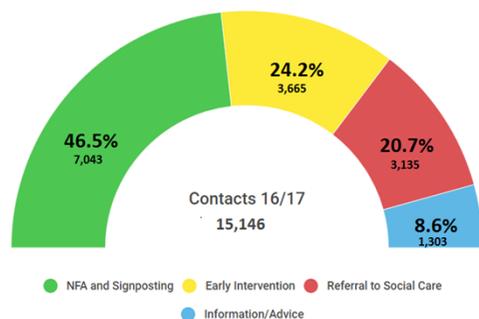
Children in Need of Help and Protection

- Barnet established a MASH in August 2013; it operates as a single front door for children's services, including Early Help. The MASH hosts a good range of co-located professionals including hidden harm workers and domestic abuse advisers. The MASH steering group was reconvened in November 2016 to engage the partnership in improving the scrutiny of our data and activity and effectiveness.

- **Number of annual contacts to MASH (2015/16: 14,097 2016/17: 15,146)**

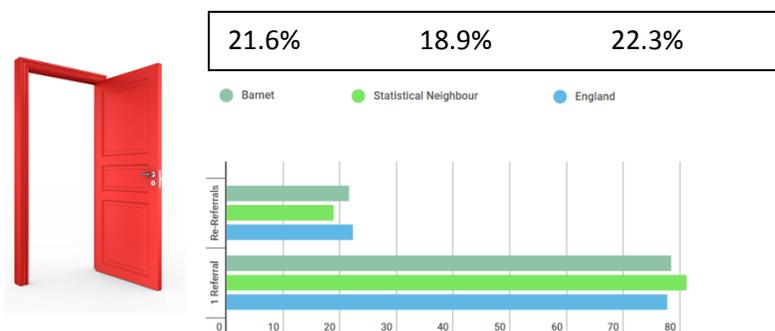


Number and % of Contacts to referrals



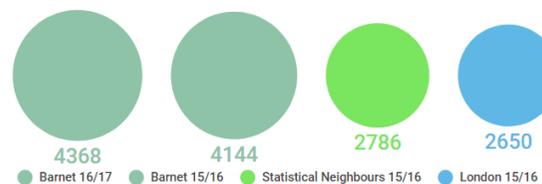
- The multi-agency partnership of the Safeguarding Children Board agreed a threshold document in March 2017 which professionals within the MASH use as a tool to aid decision making which will be revised to ensure it addresses thresholds across Social Care as well as Early Help. A full evaluation of the thresholds will be undertaken in 2017/18 as part of the overall review of policies and procedures operating across the Barnet safeguarding partnership.

% re-referrals



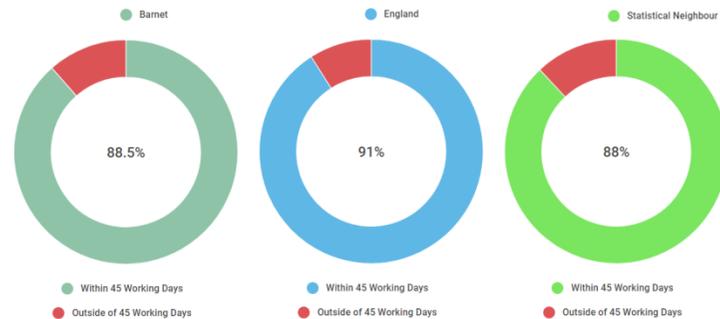
- Barnet has a good range of Early Help services which comprises early years, Children Centres, Family Support, Common Assessment Framework (CAF)² caseworkers and the Youth Service. The Early Help partnership has produced
 - a joint needs analysis
 - an approach to the joint commissioning of early intervention services (i.e. health coaches),
 - an overarching pathway
 - the production of a common set of principles,
 - an impact measurement mechanism across the partnership and a partnership ‘menu of interventions’.
- Although there is good representation of services from staff across the partnership, work is underway to further improve service integration. This will ensure that seamless support is provided to families. In September 2017 the first of three integrated locality hubs will be piloted. The other two localities will begin operations in 2018. The intention is to have an Integrated delivery model. This will join referral and decision making pathways for all children aged 0-19 who need early help. It will also promote seamless delivery and joined up assessment and intervention.

Number of assessments completed by children’s social care



² The Common Assessment Framework is a national standardised approach to the assessment of the additional needs of children and young people and how to meet them.

- **Average timeliness of assessments – number of days**



- The volume of assessments completed within 45 days³ is 89% in June 2017. There is a visible management ‘footprint’ on all assessments whether or not they are completed within the appropriate timeframe.
- Regular feedback is collected from children and their families attending child protection conferences. Of the conferences which were held between January and March 2017 feedback shows children and parents felt listened to and that what was discussed was a fair and balanced view. However the number of children who provide feedback needs to be improved.

Children in Care, Permanence and Transitions: Key Statistics:

At 30 June 2017, 347 children are being looked after by the local authority (a rate of 37.9 per 10,000 children). This is an increase from 318 (35.8 per 10,000 children) at 30 June 2016.

- Of this number, 221 (or 63%) live outside the local authority area

³ When a child is being assessed as to what should be done to protect them of provide for additional support it needs to be completed within 45 days.

- 39 live in residential children’s homes; 12 in Barnet homes and 27 elsewhere.
- 8 live in residential special schools, all outside of Barnet.
- 207 live with foster families, of whom ,99 (48%) are in Barnet and the rest in other local authority areas.
- 5 live with parents outside of Barnet.
- 62 children are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). The number of UASC account for a sixth of our care population, this has been a changing demographic which is addressed in the Placements Commissioning Strategy.

In the past 12 months:

- there have been 10 adoptions
- 163 children ceased to be looked after, of whom 9 children subsequently returned to be looked after
- 45 children and young people ceased to be looked after and moved on to independent living

During 2016/17:

- 30 children became subject of special guardianship orders

The Corporate Parenting Board provides strategic oversight of the outcomes for children in care, care leavers and adopted children. However, the Barnet Safeguarding Children’s Board (BSCB) monitors the effectiveness of provision to safeguard these children.

Children at risk of Radicalisation and Extremism

- Barnet is applying a proportionate and evidenced based approach to radicalisation and extremism. The Prevent programme is overseen by the council’s Prevent co-ordinator.
- Channel (which is part of the Prevent Strategy is a multi agency approach to identify and support individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism) is well understood and used in Barnet. There were 12 referrals to the Channel Panel in 2016/17 and an additional 21

referrals managed by the partnership pre panel receiving specialist advice and support.

Private Fostering

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, for 28 days or more. Children and young people identified as privately fostered are allocated a social worker dedicated to private fostering. This is to ensure robust private fostering assessments that address risk and quality of care, and for practice to reflect this. Whilst the numbers of referrals are increasing there are plans to increase awareness of private fostering within Barnet.



● March 31st 2017

Local Authority Designated officer (LADO)

Allegations of abuse, mistreatment or poor practice by professionals and carers are taken seriously. Steps are taken to protect children and young people and the management of allegations is robust and effective. Referrals to the Designated Officer have risen by 28% from 218 in 15/16 to 280 in 2016/17 following increased awareness raising activity with partners and proactive work with specific groups including independent schools and faith groups.

Section Three: BSCB Priorities 2016/17

The BSCB's **strategic priorities** for 2016-17 were identified as areas for development over the course of 2014-16. The priorities were:

Priority 1: Child and Adolescent Mental Health / Self-Harm

Priority 2: Neglect

Priority 3: Domestic Abuse

Priority 4: E-Safety

Priority 5: Information Sharing

Priority 6: Resilience Based Practice

In addition to these six priorities the BSCB have maintained oversight on the coordination and effectiveness of services for children at risk or victims of child sexual exploitation, missing from home or care and gangs.

Our achievements

Child Mental Ill Health

A significant achievement for the BSCB has been in the championing of the transformation of CAMH services. As a consequence of the recommendations arising from an Serious Case Review(SCR), a full review of the CAMHs pathway has been undertaken during 2016/17 and the Joint Commissioning Unit are now in the process of re-commissioning the new CAMH service for Barnet.

Future provision will include support for the following:

- Led by Public Health a Peri-Natal Mental Ill-health provision which has not been previously available within the sector.
- Development of a Resilient Schools Programme (3 year roll out-to July 2020) based on a model developed by the Anna Freud Centre (Thrive)⁴
- Piloting and development of new local services including Youth Offending Service, a New Children's Wellbeing Team, KOOTH (online counselling and support) and MACK-UK street based therapy for hard to engage young people, expansion of counselling capacity within Youth Services and extension of hospital based crisis service to 7 days per week.
- A series of specialist services developed through the North Central London (NCL) Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) including
 - Out of Hours CAMHS Crisis Service,
 - Perinatal Mental Health,
 - The whole system Child House providing end to end services for children who have experienced sexual abuse and
 - a return to local management of CAMHS Hospital Beds by 2019.
- A suicide prevention strategy has been developed by Public Health and training emerging from the strategy will be a key feature of the multiagency workforce development strategy going forward

⁴ <http://www.implementingthrive.org/about-us/the-thrive-framework/>

Neglect

Neglect affects many children in Barnet as elsewhere. It is often difficult however for professionals to assess the extent of neglect because some judgements as to what is neglectful care can be subjective. However, as part of Barnet's approach to neglect we have adopted The Graded Care Profile Tool 2. This is a practice tool which gives an objective measure of the quality of care in terms of a parent/carer's commitment

The Barnet Neglect Strategy was approved at the BSCB in January 2016. Since then work has been underway to roll out the Graded Care Profile Tool 2 (GCP2). An NSPCC team delivered a workshop on 'Implementation Science' to key Stakeholders to ensure a successful roll out of the GCP2 in Barnet. Seven GCP2 practitioners nominated themselves across the partnership to be champions.

These include staff from Central London Community Health (CLCH), Family Services, Home Start (voluntary sector organisation) and Norwood (faith based voluntary sector organisation).

Training was delivered to Champions by the NSPCC in Autumn 2016. The Champion role is to promote the proper use of GCP2 in their agency and to deliver multi agency training to local partnership practitioners. As at May 2017, a total of 55 practitioners have been trained.

Communication has been shared about the GCP2 in the Family Services newsletter 'The Grapevine', a leaflet was also created and has been disseminated at various partner events, such as the Resilience Workshops.

In 2016/17 32% of children on a child protection plan had neglect as the primary category of need identified. Using this as our baseline we will monitor the impact of training and implementation of the GCP2 tool on the numbers of children identified on child protection plans.



Number of children being managed with neglect as the main category of need

In the future the BSCB will be implementing a new performance framework and we will use the Joint targeted Inspection framework in Autumn 2017 and again in March 2018 to understand how the partnership is responding to the issue of neglect.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

Domestic violence continues to be a significant factor for children in Barnet. In 2016 an analysis of random samples of CAFs in Barnet found DV featured in 90% of the cases. Since April 2014 nearly a quarter of contacts were identified as having domestic violence present in the family. Of these domestic violence cases, 13% progressed under the social care threshold to CAF whereas over

double that amount progressed over the threshold to social care (28%).

By working closely with the Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls sub group (DV & VAWG) of the Community Safety Partnership Board the BSCB has worked with our partners to raise awareness about impact of DV on children and young people, intervene and secure the right help and support.

Family Services has commissioned a domestic violence service RISE CIC Mutual to conduct risk assessments on vulnerable women and perpetrators of violence.

The CCG in conjunction with NHS England have provided funding for an IRIS project to support General Practice in the delivery of services to women who have reported experiencing domestic violence. This project is currently being commissioned by London Borough of Barnet Community Safety Services.

Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust has been successful in securing funding from NHS England to pilot a domestic abuse project which aims to demonstrate the need for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors in mental health settings.

Online safety

The BSCB recognises that as the use of digital communications technology has grown, so too have the benefits and the risks that children now come into contact with on a daily basis. The online world has become firmly integrated into the lives of young people with most not making any distinction between their online and real lives. It is no longer enough to consider child safety in a purely 'real world' focus. We need children and young people to understand that their online behaviour may have offline consequences.

Achievements to date include:

- Work to evaluate the use of digital safeguarding package
- Promoting safe and responsible behaviour online
- Support to primary schools participating in the online e-safety mark. This is an online safety award developed through the ConnectED group.

Going forward the online safety activity will be linked to the CAMHs transformation programme and the new Adolescent Risk group of the BSCB. For school specific activity the professional network of Designated Safeguarding Leads will be supported by the Education and Skills service (Barnet with Cambridge Education) Schools Safeguarding and Exclusions Officer where the work for the e-safety quality mark will be continued.

Information sharing

Information sharing is key to delivering better, more efficient services that are coordinated around the needs of children and young people. A consistent message resulting from inquiries and Serious Case Reviews is the need for agencies to do better in recording and sharing the information they hold about children and young people. The SCR we have recently published in Barnet is no different.

Resilience Based Practice

The safeguarding partnership has adopted Resilience as a strategic approach to delivering the best outcomes for children and young people. An approach based on resilience involves looking for strengths and opportunities that can be built on, rather than for issues or problems to treat. There is a growing body of evidence which outlines ways that can support parents and families to be

more resilient. We are working as a partnership to incorporate resilience into practice across the Borough. Multiagency workshops have been held to support the awareness of all partner agencies. In addition multiagency training has been delivered on signs of safety.

CSE, Missing and Gangs

Children and Young People who are subject to child sexual exploitation, who go missing and who get involved with gangs are a very vulnerable group, who require excellent multi agency cooperation to ensure their safety. The BSCB focuses a lot on what happens to them and how partners respond.

Number of children and young people at risk of CSE



Number of young people who went missing from home/number of episodes



Number of young people who went missing from care/missing episodes

- The Missing Children Protocol has been updated in partnership with police, education and health partners, creating an improved framework for identifying and responding to children at risk of harm or exploitation. With the integration of a CSE/Missing Coordinator in the MASH, the recording, tracking, monitoring of children missing from home and care has improved, however, there are further improvements to be made, especially with regards to out of borough missing children to ensure that risk is assessed, understood and effectively responded to.
- There is a well-established multi agency Missing and Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel and a Gangs & Serious Youth Violence

Panel. These enable information to be shared and risk management plans to develop as risks change or emerge.

- Family Services have driven forward the investment in the development of a new multiagency team, REACH, to provide a wrap-around service to work with those young people who are most at risk of suffering CSE, gang-involvement and who go missing from home. The work of the team is subject to evaluation undertaken in partnership with Research in Practice. .
- The Keeping Young People Safe (KYPS) project works with children and young people at risk of gang-involvement serious youth violence. In 2016/17, 54.2% of the year's cohort had either successfully completed the project (3 months of positive engagement and no offending) or are still actively engaged. 62.5% of young people achieved a reduction in the individual's future risk of offending or serious anti-social behaviour and impacts such as returning to mainstream education and engaging in traineeship programmes
- In 2016, there were 3 fatal victims of Gangs and Serious Youth Violence. There is a serious incident response protocol in place between the Youth Offending Team (YOT) and Children's Social Care, which is proving to be effective in ensuring a joined up and robust response to incidents of concern
- A Sexual Exploitation and Missing (SEAM) risk assessment tool is being developed and embedded into the IT system to support risk assessment for this vulnerable cohort. From 2017/18 a Vulnerable Adolescents sub-group to the BSCB will be gathering, tracking, analysing and strategically responding to patterns and trends relative to the children who are at the greatest risk of exploitation, gang involvement or going missing.

Partners contributions to safeguarding priorities

The BSCB comprises a large range of statutory and other partners. Partners need to ensure that safeguarding is embedded in their service delivery, and they contribute to the Board through their attendance, supply of information and participation in a range of sub groups. They also make financial contributions to the running of the BSCB. In addition to the activities captured in other places in this report, the following is a snapshot of the activity undertaken by some of the partners to ensure the safeguarding and wellbeing of children in Barnet.

Family Services (London Borough of Barnet) Alongside the BSCB, the Local Authority was judged inadequate in June 2017. However it was noted in the Ofsted report that the drive for improvement had begun in 2016 with a wholesale review of frontline practice and how Family Services and the partnership ensure a positive experience and improved outcomes for children who access services. Through the development of the resilience methodology the DCS has steered the implementation of a whole partnership approach towards how professionals work with children and their families. This includes significant investment in rolling out signs of safety training across the partnership. Senior leaders from the London Borough of Barnet have led on key initiatives including the development of the neglect strategy, the thresholds of need and the improvement programme for the MASH and delivery of the statutory assessments.

Our **health partners** comprise the Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) with three provider agencies Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust,(CLCH), Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental

Health Trust (BEH) and the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust. (Royal Free)

The CCG Safeguarding Children's Team has disseminated the recommendations from the BSCB Serious Case Review published in March 2016, and actively contributed to the two further Serious Case Reviews that have taken place during the year, and which, it is anticipated, are shortly to be finalised. As a result of issues highlighted in one of the active Serious Case Reviews, the CCG Safeguarding Children's Team has discussed with Barnet GPs how the registration procedures of children at surgeries can optimally have regard to safeguarding best practice.

The CCG Safeguarding Children Team will continue to provide teaching sessions for GPs.

Joint commissioning Unit CCG/London Borough of Barnet: The performance of initial health assessments being completed within statutory timescales was extremely poor during this period. The Joint Commissioning Team facilitated work with key stakeholders (GPs, social care and child in care nurse team) to make improvements to the pathway and as a result performance improved significantly. In addition the CCG provided an increased resource for a child in care designated doctor.

The focused work with GPs and the initial health assessments also led to an improvement in the timely response to identifying the health and development needs and support required by children and young people who have experienced neglect and become looked after. The pathway review also supported improved information sharing between children's social care and GPs.

Going forward the Joint commissioning Unit will be focused on the transformation of public health nursing.

Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH)

CLCH provides public health nursing for Barnet. CLCH has a nurse-led Safeguarding Children Service in Barnet, providing advice, support, in-house safeguarding training and mandatory safeguarding supervision. Safeguarding performance metrics include; attendance by CLCH Health Practitioners at child protection case conferences, level of compliance with regard to child protection supervision, safeguarding training compliance, and attendance at multi-agency panels - MARAC/MASE. They had by the end of March 2017 had 97 % attendance at Review Case conference and 100% attendance at Barnet Initial Case Conference meetings.

Additionally they have achieved 95-100% compliance with safeguarding supervision. They have also had positive involvement with LSCB regarding SCR processes in relation to two statutory SCR Enquiries resulting in changes in practice and school nurse questionnaire.

The Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust developed joint working between maternity service and the liaison nurses for patients with learning disability. This has increased the midwives' understanding of and confidence in working with parents who have a learning disability or parents who have a child with a learning disability. Additionally the Royal Free have implemented the national child protection information sharing system (CP-IS) in unscheduled care settings at Chase Farm hospital, the Royal Free

hospital and Barnet hospital to enable staff to identify all children who attend who are subject to a child protection plan or who are a looked after child. The first RFL integrated safeguarding team newsletter was published in early 2017. Subsequent editions will be published twice a year and feature relevant practice updates and local and national priorities

Barnet Public Health provides the leads for the BSCB and partner organisations on the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The Consultant in Public Health chairs the Child Death Overview Panel. Public health also has responsibility for ensuring the safeguarding processes and pathways are in place as part of the weight management service in schools. As noted above they have also established the Resilient Schools Programme which is an innovative programme to support prevention and early identification of children's mental health condition. They have also developed a Perinatal Mental Health Pathway for mild to moderate conditions with safeguarding built into each step of the pathway

In Barnet the **Education and Skills service is** delivered by **Barnet with Cambridge Education** – a partnership between the council, Cambridge Education and schools. The service works closely with further education colleges and private and voluntary sector early years providers. The early years sector is very well embedded in the Early Help partnership. Whilst take up for 'free for two' has only been at 60%, it is expected that a strengthened partnership will drive up participation over 2017/18.

The Education and Skills service is working with schools to enable them to meet the Keeping Children Safe in Education duty. Breakfast briefings for DSLs and termly newsletters to DSLs and

Headteachers have covered some of the Board's priorities such as on-line safety and mental health and also recommendations from SCRs such as informing schools of the work of the Anti-bullying Alliance.

Closer Liaison with the LADO has facilitated the School Improvement Team being able to give our schools the best support and challenge to ensure that there is the highest quality safeguarding provision in schools.

The Schools Safeguarding Officer supported the Police Safer Schools Sergeant to secure information sharing agreements with all but two secondary schools. This is a two way agreement which enables police to alert DSLs of safeguarding issues pertaining to children in their schools. This information sharing also supports schools' information on vulnerable students and enables schools to anticipate and respond to children's needs.

The 'Thrive' pilot has involved six schools (primary, secondary and PRU). This work has included:

- Establishing a joint education and health Resilience Working Group
- Raising the profile and understanding of Resilience based approach in Education and Skills, and in schools this is being reflected in strategies and practice. Schools identified who can be used as "Champions" of the Resilience based approach and in the future support schools embarking on the project. .
- CAMHS, Tier 2 (HEWS project) working more closely with schools.

Barnet and Southgate Further Education College

In September 2016 safeguarding meetings with teachers and welfare support advisers were introduced. This is a good practice measure This provides a formal opportunity to ensure safeguarding and the PREVENT agenda are met as well as exploring cases where young people are missing from education and reviewing on-going cases. A direct consequence of this has been an increased number of referrals to the safeguarding team for support and intervention. 354 referrals were made to the Safeguarding and Equality Team in 2016-17 which is a 30% increase on 2015-16 data. Additionally the College has established a Mental Health Strategy Group to ensure a whole college approach to the needs of learners with mental health difficulties. This was in response to the significant increase in referrals of individuals with this as the presenting issue. Working to the Board priorities, the College has allocated staff champions for each of the priorities: to attend training; cascade at college; to keep up to date with guidance and legislation;undertaking resilience training delivered by London Borough of Barnet which is being cascaded to relevant staff;resilience tutorials are being delivered to learners.

Community and Voluntary Sector organisations have been engaged via the Board and over 2016/17 **Community Barnet** has been commissioned to both deliver the Youth Shield initiative and support the capacity to of the VCS to improve its safeguarding. Youth Shield is a youth forum focused on safeguarding activity. Young people were engaged in BSCB activity via a video link. After receiving level 1 safeguarding training, young people from Youth Shield also delivered 30 healthy relationships sessions to 294 young people in secondary schools in Barnet. They developed a mental Wellbeing podcast and focus group.

The Metropolitan Police is an active member of the BSCB. In 2016 the borough commander established a Gangs Unit consisting of 1 sergeant and 9 constables. The Gangs Unit work closely with the safeguarding partnership with an officer collocated in the MASH and in the REACH team. The Unit focuses on direct engagement with victims and perpetrators and their families/social group to reduce reoffending and prevent young siblings / associates following the same routes to gang membership and violence. The Unit offers support and routes to diversionary activity (and has referred 20 Barnet gang members to the London Gang Exit Strategy) coupled with rigorous enforcement against gang members and violent young people who refuse to engage and continue to commit serious crime.

The joint Serious Incident Response Protocol (SIRP) by the LA and police has been established to ensure that with 24 hours of a serious incident involving young people. Both the local police and local authority have adopted the position that serious youth violence is a child protection issue not just a criminal justice one. The Police chair the CSE and Missing sub group for the Board and going into 2017/18 a senior officer will chair the new Adolescent Risk strategic group. There is a close working relationship between local Barnet police and the central Specialist Unit (SET Team) in managing CSE cases with a culture of early intervention, engagement with parents and a proactive use of police and Local Authority powers. In 2016, Barnet police merged their Missing Persons and CSE investigators under one team, recognising the link between the two cohorts. This has ensured early identification and continuous risk management of those at risk of CSE. Barnet Police have been active in issuing Child Abduction Warning Notices

(CAWN). These are a valuable tool in preventing adults who may abuse a child from claiming that they did not know that the child was under 16. They prevent adults from escaping the consequences of their actions and operate as an intelligent prevention tool in exploitation cases.

Following two domestic homicide reviews in 2016, all officers received further Domestic Abuse training focussing on ensuring children affected by DA were properly identified and flagged to the MASH.

Dedicated schools officers are involved in the Junior Citizenship programme which takes place for 18 junior Schools this year commencing 5/6/17 to 30/6/17 and will include E-Safety as well as other crime prevention messages on how to stay safe. Going forward the local police are committed to driving a culture change so children are seen as victims not simply offenders; continuing the focus of work on risk and vulnerability with children and young people. They will also be embedding multi skilled teams on Boroughs including CAIT and CSU. Amongst other things Operation Encompass is being rolled out to ensure schools are informed of children who may be witnessing domestic abuse at home. This will allow schools to better understand and support children's' needs and be alert to safeguarding issues for specific children.

London Fire Brigade have developed partnerships with the Metropolitan Police and London Ambulance Service that have enabled LFB central youth engagement/ youth intervention personnel to undertake PREVENT training in 2016 and improved

information sharing with individuals living in hoarded properties, including children. .

A new online reporting and recording system being implemented across LFB will improve the efficiency of internal safeguarding referring process, enabling monitoring of our safeguarding referrals at both local and organisational levels.

Safeguarding referrals are audited by the organisational safeguarding lead on a daily basis, at which point any poor practice is identified and addressed.

Section Four: Learning and Improvement

Auditing Activity

Alongside section 11 audits, single agency audits have provided the main auditing activity over the last 12 months. The following provides a snapshot of activity underway across the partnership. Family Services has led practice weeks that have included partners from across the safeguarding partnership. Partners engaged in this activity included the Head of Safeguarding from CLCH. Over 2016-2017 Family Services worked with the Essex Improvement Team and senior children's services advisors, undertook a root and branch review of frontline practice. Each part of the system was thoroughly analysed to identify where improvements were needed to ensure the children had a positive experience and improved outcomes. The local authority also increased their auditing activity to 40 audits per month thereby ensuring the relentless focus on improved practice. In addition, Family Services has driven forward multiagency quality assurance audits within the MASH.

CLCH also undertook 'patient stories' regarding service user experience when a child subject to a child protection plan which has informed the need to audit aspects of service. For the Royal Free the key safeguarding children audits for the year included: domestic violence and FGM screening for pregnant women on discharge; the quality of case management for children admitted to the ward due to suspected inflicted harm; the standard of reports provided to the court for care proceedings; the quality of documentation for vulnerable children accessing the

emergency departments; Information sharing with partners about care provided for children subject to child protection plans. Following the inspection of the Metropolitan Police, the Borough commander has led an Internal Barnet Police CSE Review. Learning was identified and a renewed focus on perpetrators was shared with CSE investigators. This has resulted in Barnet being identified as best performing MPS borough in terms of disruption tactics (CAWNs). Barnet Police also conducted a thematic review in February 2017 on how it dealt with missing person investigations, which included children. Learning was identified around improving the initial investigation and transferring of information and intelligence across recording platforms. As a result, training was delivered at police Response Team supervisor workshops to ensure greater compliance with recording standards. In September 2016 the MPS Trident Partnership conducted a peer review of Barnet Gangs Unit resulting in recommendations to refresh the Gangs Strategy.

Section 11 audits

Section 11 audits are the BSCB primary audit to examine the safeguarding arrangements within agencies and provides the Board with reassurance that agencies are doing what they can to ensure the safety and welfare of children. Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key agencies and bodies to make arrangements to promote the safeguarding and welfare of children. The BSCB operates a biannual S11 process, with organisations attending challenge panels to discuss the arrangements in place. In 2016/17 there were 18 self-assessments submitted including four schools, the CCG and the three health providers, police,

Westminster Drug Project, Barnet and Southgate College, LAS, LFB, NPS and Barnet Homes. LBB submitted for the YOT, Libraries and the Education Partnership. Four challenge panels were held. Key trends emerging from these panels included:

- Agencies undertaking a training and policies impact audit
- Attendance at team around the child meetings and lead professional roles
- Commissioners undertaking safeguarding reviews
- How partner agencies ensure they have captured and are listening to the child.

These themes feature within the priorities of the 2017-2019 (see section five)

Multiagency Training

A coordinated multiagency programme was delivered during safeguarding week in November 2016 with workshops on self-harm and e-safety.

Whilst we were refreshing our approach to multiagency training partner agencies continued with delivering single agency training. This included **CCG** led sessions with GPs.

The Royal Free safeguarding training agenda for the level 3 has acknowledged and reflected the national and local priorities. During 2016/17 they delivered thirty three safeguarding children Level 3 update seminars in house covering a wide range of topics:

- 9 seminars on safeguarding children living with domestic abuse/violence with the help of our Independent and Sexual Violence Advisors

- 8 seminars on child sexual exploitation one of which was delivered by Safer London
- 7 seminars on safeguarding children who experience harm online
- 4 seminars Girls in Gangs delivered by Abianda young trainers, three young women who had exited gangs
- 3 seminars on Female Genital Mutilation
- 1 seminar on lethal highs (new psychoactive substances) with Camden Training Standards and the Child Sexual Exploitation Analyst
- 1 seminar on young people and alcohol misuse

Since January 2017 the Royal Free has audited the responses to this question for all Child sexual exploitation, domestic violence and Harm Online seminars. The responses ranged from the lowest 4.72 to the highest 5.66 (out of 1 – 6) and thus were clearly positive in having improved the participant's confidence and ability to recognising and responding to the safeguarding concerns discussed in the seminar

Within **CLCH**:

- 88% CLCH clinical staff in Barnet have completed WRAP training
- Engaged in multiagency panel meetings e.g. MASE, MARAC, MAPPA and REACH to work in partnership to identify risk and need in relation to the most vulnerable children and families.
- Signs of safety training is underway
- 90% -96% compliance with Level 1 and Level 2 Safeguarding Children training

Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust has been successful in securing funding from NHS England to pilot a domestic abuse project which aims to demonstrate the need for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors in mental health settings. Level 1 and 2 safeguarding children training has consistently remained at a compliance rate of 85% or above, with specialist training in domestic abuse, PREVENT, FGM and CSE champions training. As a consequence of a SCR in Barnet, the Trust has delivered specialist training in complex issues such as self-harm.

The Barnet Partnership for School Improvement (BPSI)

commissioned 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' training (Level 3) for Designated Safeguarding Leads and Designated Governors. Schools can access a range of safeguarding training packages through BPSI as well as being signposted to on-line training packages provided by Barnet Family Services and the Home Office. A rolling programme of Raising Awareness Safeguarding Training (level 1) for all Education and Skills service staff has been established and delivered.

The Metropolitan Police continue to ensure that all police officers are trained at level 1 as do the LAS and LFB.

Child Death

The death of any child is a serious matter and it is vital that all child deaths are carefully reviewed to see whether any lessons can be learnt, trends established or patterns identified- so as to prevent other similar deaths. All deaths of children under 18 are reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) on behalf of the BSCB.

During 2016-17 there were 18 child deaths in Barnet. CDOP meet on a quarterly basis to review these deaths.

The panel has a duty to identify any trend or themes and to make recommendations to the BSCB on learning from the reviews and how to prevent and reduce child deaths. The panel is chaired by the consultant in public health who provides regular updates to the BSCB. The panel produces an annual report that summarise the key themes arising from child deaths, progress against actions and priorities for the coming year.

In 2016 we established smarter working practices including introduction of pre-CDOP meetings to plan cases and ensure correct attendance by partner organisations

Going forward we will begin to get ready for implementing e-CDOP in Barnet. We will also ensure that the administrative base is strengthened and undertake an audit of processes against the London processes. We will also ensure that serious incident data is reviewed quarterly at CDOP; and review our bereavement guidance and our assurance processes around support offered to bereaved parents in Barnet.

Serious case reviews

Serious case reviews are undertaken to learn lessons and improve the way in which local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The BSCB must undertake a serious case review where the following criteria are met under Regulation 5 of the 2006 LSCB regulations;

- a) Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
- b) Either (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or relevant

persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

Where the SCR criteria is not met, the BSCB can also undertake a smaller-scale multiagency case review. These reviews have the same aim as an SCR, to identify good practice and establish key lessons to improve safeguarding arrangements.

Agencies proactively engage in serious case reviews, recognising the importance of understanding what could have prevented an incident occurring, identifying what went well and any recommendations for improving practice to ensure improved outcomes for children. As a consequence, and where relevant, partners have been keen to ensure that lessons emerging from serious case reviews are responded to with pace.

The report into the death of Child A was published on 23rd May 2016 and has nine recommendations which have been developed as an action plan. Teenage mental ill health was a significant issue that arose in this SCR and influenced the choice of child and adolescent mental health as a priority for 2016/17. Two training events were arranged in safeguarding month where the SCR author led 95 staff through the key issues of the report and facilitated an understanding of what its findings mean for Barnet's children's workforce. A Breakfast Briefing for DSLs in schools was held on the theme of school anti-bully policies, sharing resources and best practice. The outcome of this event was schools being focused on their anti-bullying policies and effective application of them.

As a result of issues highlighted in one of the active Serious Case Reviews, the CCG Safeguarding Children's Team has discussed with Barnet GPs how the registration procedures of children at surgeries can optimally have regard to safeguarding best practice.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 establishes a new approach to delivering Safeguarding Boards including CDOP and SCRs. Statutory Guidance is expected in spring 2018.

Section Five: BSCB 2017-2019

Ofsted July 2017

In July 2017 the Local Authority and Barnet Safeguarding Children's Board, were both judged as inadequate by Ofsted. The key reason for this judgement was that the Board has been ineffective in discharging all of its statutory functions. In particular it has not assessed the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and their families, quality assured practice or comprehensively monitored and evaluated the quality and impact of safeguarding training for multi-agency practitioners.

Going forward

Our approach to improvement will ensure that the Barnet Safeguarding Board is able to demonstrate how it is effectively delivering its statutory duties as a safeguarding partnership and how it is supporting the Local Authority to improve safeguarding services to children and young people.

Governance

Our new constitution (2017-2019) outlines our revisions to the Board and the way in which the Board operates. In order to ensure the efficacy of the BSCB, as detailed in Working Together 2015, the BSCB will be used to describe the following partnership structure from August 2017, ensuring that all S13 partners are engaged across the safeguarding partnership arrangements and effectively preparing Barnet to meet the new duties:

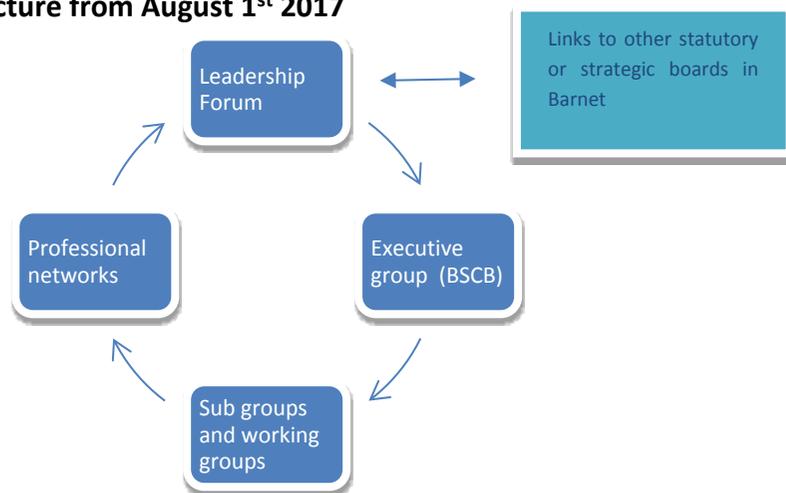
- Leadership Forum
- Executive Group⁵
- Professional Networks
- CDOP
- Learning and Improvement Group

We have placed the voice of Barnet Children, Young People and Families at the centre of our improvement journey. Their experience of our safeguarding partnership and their expectations of the partners will be critical to shaping priorities and understanding how well the partners have delivered safeguarding arrangements. The Learning and Improvements framework details how we will communicate with children, young people and families and how we will ensure their voice is at the heart of what we do.

The current Board structure will cease to exist from August 1st 2017.

⁵ Please note until the new Working Together guidance is in place the Executive Group will be badged as the BSCB and twice a year the membership will be expanded to ensure engagement with a wider cross section of S13 members. A full Board meeting will be called if required.

Structure from August 1st 2017



- Be clear how agencies work together
- Be clear about what we are measuring and what impact we have made
- Enable our service users to be involved in assessing our effectiveness
- Equip our staff to deliver good services

Accountability: improving frontline multiagency practice and the voice of children, young people and families in our work.

The BSCB Learning and Improvement Framework provides a system wide approach for the safeguarding partnership to monitor the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements in Barnet. Our learning and improvement model will enable the partnership to reflect on priorities, assess partnership performance against the priorities, change and review practice accordingly.

If we are to demonstrate that we are an effective partnership we will need to:

- Be clear about what we believe good looks like

Annex 1
Budget 2016/17

London Borough of Barnet	109400
Metropolitan Police (MOPAC)	5000
Barnet CCG	12500
CLCH	12500
BEHMHT	12500
Royal Free NHS FT	12500
National Probation Service	1000
London Community Rehabilitation	1000
East London Foundation Trusts NHS	550
CafCASS	550
London Fire Brigade	500
	168,000

Budget 2017/18

London Borough of Barnet	211,658
Metropolitan Police (MOPAC)	5000
Barnet CCG	37500
CLCH	12500
BEHMHT	12500
Royal Free NHS FT	12500
National Probation Service	1000
London Community Rehabilitation	1000
East London Foundation Trusts NHS	550
CafCASS	550
London Fire Brigade	500
	295,258

Annex 2 Membership 2016/17

Agency/Department	Date: 21.04.16	Date: 21.07.16	Date: 20.10.16	Date: 02.02.17
Head of School Improvement, Education and Skills Service (Barnet with Cambridge Education)	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Clinical Commissioning Group Designated doctor	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Clinical Commissioning Group Named GP	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Director of Education & Skills - (Barnet with Cambridge Education)			Attended	Attended
Head of Safeguarding Royal Free NHSFT	Attended	Attended		Attended
Metropolitan Police CAIT		Attended		Attended
Metropolitan Police Strategic Safeguarding and Vulnerable Persons Lead Barnet				Attended
Voice of the Child Manager London Borough of Barnet		Attended	Attended	
Operational Director Family Services London Borough of Barnet			Attended	
Strategic Director for Children's Services - London Borough of Barnet	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
CommUnity Barnet	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Head of Safeguarding Barnet, Enfield and Haringey -Mental Health Trust	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Associate Director Safeguarding Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Lead Member for Safeguarding- London Borough of Barnet	Attended		Attended	Attended
Head of Safeguarding Central London Community Health Trust	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Strategic Lead-Safer Communities London Borough of Barnet				Attended
London Ambulance Service		Attended	Attended	
Barnet & Harrow Joint Public Health Service		Attended		Attended
Safeguarding Board-Chair	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Head Teacher –Primary School	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Head Teacher - Primary School		Attended	Attended	
Lay member				Attended
Virtual School- London Borough of Barnet	Attended	Attended		
Lay member	Attended		Attended	
Legal- London Borough of Barnet		Attended	Attended	Attended
Norwood VCS	Attended	Attended		Attended
London Fire Brigade	Attended	Attended		
Barnet Southgate College –	Attended	Attended	Attended	

London Probation Service	Attended			
CAFCASS	Attended	Attended		
CAFCASS		Attended		
National Probation Service				Attended