

# Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2023 - Quarterly Summary Highlight Report: Jan 2020

## Introduction

The report provides a summary of the key activities that have taken place in Q3 of 19/20 against the six outcomes set out in the Children and Young People's Plan. The updates are provided by a range of partners. A summary of these updates will be going to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee in March.

## Update by outcome

### **FAMILY AND BELONGING - Families and children can be together and be a part of a community that encourages resilience**

- In response to one of the recommendations in the Family Services OFSTED ILAC inspection in 2019, The Placements Team are working to ensure that young people in care are aware of how to access advocacy services. A notification has gone to all providers with a leaflet about the advocacy services. Moving forward, this information will be sent out to all new providers with the Individual Child Agreement.
- A new Autism Strategy is being developed. Data and feedback is currently being gathered from practitioners, parent-carers and young people, as to the experience and reach of services currently, and where we need to be in the future. A draft strategy will be available in early 2020 and will be shared with partners and service users for review and comment.
- Short breaks are part of a range of services offered by Barnet Council to children and young people with disabilities living within the borough. The services enable children and young people to take a break from their normal routine and try new experiences, giving them the opportunity to learn new skills, develop their confidence and have fun. The services give children and young people positive experiences, whilst, at the same time, giving a break to their primary carers. They are designed to contribute to the children's personal and social development, reducing social isolation and preventing family breakdown. Changes to Short breaks from 2019:
  - New offer of 15 days/ 90 hours commissioned service or £1200 personal budget to allow flexibility and choice of provision
  - 8 providers on a new approved provider list
  - Possibility of discretionary (additional support) – application process via Disability resource panel
  - Over 525 families taking up SB in Barnet (previously 460 in 2018-19)
  - We have seen a big increase in the % taking up personal budgets, now 223 families (42% of all SB families) – this includes 100 new families applying to have

budgets since 1 April 2019 and 123 families switching from commissioned services to personal budgets to benefit from more flexibility.

- Improved application process and existing users do not need to reapply
- The Council through Opendoor Homes has completed 38 properties as part of its family sized affordable housing schemes.
- Alexandra Road – 4 x 2 bedroom houses – completed May 2019
- Westbrook Crescent – 2 x 2 bedroom houses – completed July 2019
- Perry Court – 6 x 2 bedroom flats – completed August 2019
- West Close – 3 x 2 bedroom houses – completed September 2019
- Spicer Close – 2 x 2 bedroom houses

2 x 2 bedroom bungalows – completed October 2019

The draft Local Plan is due to go to Committee for consideration later this year which includes requirements for developing family sized accommodation.

- Over 24,000 residents have signed up for a Fit & Active Barnet (FAB) Card – c.50% of whom are Jr members (5 – 16 years). Focused campaign due in spring to promote FAB card benefits to CYP
- Two new leisure centres opened New Barnet Leisure Centre (30 Aug 2019) and Barnet Copthall Leisure Centre (1 Sep 2019). Both facilities offer a diverse mix of facilities and programming and have collectively achieved over 250,000 attendances YTD
- 21,970 children are members of Barnet libraries as at 31 Dec 2019
  - The number of child attendances between January-December 2019 was 20,083.
  - 75,319 children's items (books, audiobooks and DVDs) were borrowed Jan-Dec 2019
  - 2550 children joined the Summer Reading Challenge, 1000 read at least 6 books to complete the Challenge

#### **SAFE AND SECURE - Children and young people are safe and protected from harm**

- In response to a finding from the Ofsted ILACs inspection report, Practice Development Workshops have been completed with Social Workers and Team Managers in Duty & Assessment and Intervention & Planning to ensure that staff have a good understanding of the expectations in providing information to MARAC and how actions are fed back into the system. More work is planned to align quality assurance activity with MARAC outcomes and actions, and a Quality Assurance Officer will lead on this, along with Team Manager representatives from the service areas.
- In response to recommendations from the Ofsted ILAC inspection, we have developed the Practice Standards and audit template to reflect practice expectations for the timely integration of actions arising from VARP and SEAM Strategy Meetings and MARAC actions into children's Plans. This has been complemented by redesigning some of our IT pathways to facilitate improved case recording for this cohort of children, and this will be subject to audit during February 2020.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING - Children are supported to achieve a healthy start in life, enjoy a healthy lifestyle and to build resilience

- Children and Young People Mental Health Transformation Plan was submitted in November 2019; this includes the system mapped against THRIVE and our ambitions to transform services in line with the THRIVE principles for system change
- Children and Young People Mapping exercise, which included providers, commissioners, the voluntary sector and a parent, took place on 14th January 2020 to map access to services with the aim of improving access and equity across provision for CYP and families in Barnet. Actions are being taken forward, overseen by the CYP Transformation Board
- For 2019/20 there are now 57 schools participating in the Resilient Schools campaign, which exceeds 2019/20 target.
- Currently 74 schools in Barnet have at least one trained mental health first aider. In total the Resilient Schools programme has trained 90 mental health first aiders, with a further 12 due to complete their training by the end of this month.
- The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has committed to the expansion of the (Acute Care Team) ACT (delivered by Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust) with two further clinicians to expand to Royal Free Hospital and enable the service to support GPs and schools in a preventative capacity
- In order to ensure and promote the mental and emotional wellbeing of Children in Care, Kooth online counselling is promoted through the Children in Care website. All foster carers receive information on service. Information is accessible at Woodhouse Road centre and at the two Barnet children's homes. Promotion of and consultation on this service will be incorporated in the work plan for January of the CiC participation officer as part of the new VOTC working arrangements.
- Stats reported to CAMHS transformation board Oct 2019:
  - Contributed 107 unique young people to Barnet's MHSDS access total April-July 2019 (validated)  
Of the 1869 registrations in 2018-2019:
    - Majority aged 12-16, 68% female
    - 74% of use is out of hours
    - 435 people using counselling chat service
    - Average number of counselling sessions increase from 37 to 65 per month
      - On average 71 young people are viewing advice articles per month (559 per year)
    - Per month 207 counsellor hours are being delivered
- Improving crisis response for Children and Young People is a key priority in our local transformation plan as well as the NHS Long Term Plan
- Currently 67 schools in Barnet have registered for a bronze Healthy Schools award, 43 for silver, and 24 for gold.

- The healthy weight programme run by GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited) has initiated their Xplore programme for this year, focussing on promoting a healthy weight and lifestyle among children of primary school age. We are currently undertaking a service evaluation of the Xplore programme to inform service improvements.
- The Healthy Child Programme transformation is now complete with a few elements in phase 2 e.g. group education staff training on anaphylaxis and epipen and one to one antenatal assessments for universal clients.
- The actions from the immunisation action plan are being taken forward and the plan presented to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- The new sexual health promotion service commenced in November 2019 and is now initiating the C-card scheme and staff training.
- Low number require onward referral

### **EDUCATION AND LEARNING - Children and young people can learn about the world around them**

- 4 schools in Barnet remain not Good or Outstanding. One school moved from Requiring Improvement to Good but another from Good to Requiring Improvement
- Barnet ranked 6th best Local Authority (out of 151 LAs) for percentage of Good and Outstanding schools
- The attainment of disadvantaged pupils (those eligible for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years and/or children looked after) is in the top 10% of local authorities in the country for the proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined (9<sup>th</sup>).
- Progress for Disadvantaged pupils in Barnet is ranked within the top 10% of local authorities for Reading (8<sup>th</sup>) and Maths (6<sup>th</sup>).
- Educational attainment in 2019 at KS2 for children with SEN Support for Reading, Writing and Maths combined is in the top 10% (7<sup>th</sup>) and the proportion of Children with an EHC Plan for the same measure is in the top 20% - narrowly outside the top 10% (19<sup>th</sup>). Progress for children with SEN Support in 2019 is in the top 10% for Reading (10<sup>th</sup>) and Maths (14<sup>th</sup>). Progress for children with an EHC plan in 2019 is in the top 10% for Maths (14<sup>th</sup>) and in the top 20% for Reading.
- The Risk of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) programme has identified over 130 young people enrolled in Barnet schools who have a range of factors or characteristics that make them more prone to being NEET at Post 16. This includes fixed term exclusions, being looked after or having Special Educational Needs (SEN) support, for example. The programme has worked with schools in Barnet including Oak The programme deploys highly experienced and trained mentors to work with young people intensively. The impact of the programme has resulted in improvements in attendance and behaviour at school. hill, Pavillion, Christ College, Totteridge, Compton School, Hendon and Whitefield.
- Two new dedicated 'zones' for young people, SENCo Zone and Young People Zone, have been established. Data analytics show that the SENCo Zone is particularly well used.

- There were sufficient school places in primary and secondary schools for all Barnet children and young people who needed one. Additional secondary places at the newly-opened Ark Pioneer Academy and the expanded St.James Catholic High School enabled growing secondary demand to be met, whilst other schools that were not full increased their intake.
- 2019 figures demonstrate Barnet's attendance at all stages is above London and National. Attendance overall (primary and secondary combined) is in the 13th percentile. Primary attendance is Ranked 27th best Local Authority (out of 151) and secondary attendance is ranked 7th best LA (out of 151).
- 2017/18 data shows:
  - At primary: no permanent exclusions (ranked joint 1st LA out of 151), 7% fixed term exclusions (ranked 7th) and 0.2% 1+ fixed term exclusions (ranked 4th)
  - At secondary: 0.1% permanent exclusions (ranked 11th LA out of 151), 5.5% fixed term exclusions (ranked 19th) and 3.6% 1+ fixed term exclusions

#### **CULTURE - Our attitude and behaviours enhance the way we work with and for children and young people**

- Barnet's Long-Term Transport Strategy has been produced and the draft was presented to Environment Committee on 20th January. This strategy outlines what Barnet is planning to do to deliver the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy including the Healthy Streets approach where appropriate.
- In addition, the Council has also launched electric vehicle chargers on lamp columns to encourage the take up of electric vehicles and improve air quality. 67 of the planned 80 street lighting column electric vehicle chargers are now live. The remaining units will become live within the next month.
- UNICEF staff survey has been promoted through internal and external channels. The survey ended 31 January 2020 with results to follow.
- UNICEF training plan for Executive Members is currently being discussed with Governance
- Barnet currently deliver Civic Awards which includes youth award. This has been running for 3 years, however more promotion needed to ensure young people are nominated.
- Youth Board views fed into the new Barnet Poverty Strategy which also references the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child UNCRC and child poverty.

#### **CO-OPERATION AND LEADERSHIP - We include children and young people in decision making**

- The new safeguarding partnership arrangements, which place a shared and equal duty on the local authority, the police and the Clinical Commissioning Group to safeguard and promote the welfare of children have been published and were implemented in September 2019.

- A Professional & Young People’s Forum was held in October 2019, focusing on knife crime in partnership with Unitas, Art Against Knives, Growing Against Violence, 4Front and 0-19 services.
- The Young People’s Perception Survey took place throughout November and December 2019 with face-to-face interviews conducted with 500 young people. The results will be available beginning of February 2020.
- Discussions held with Commissioning team and agreement reached for young people to be involved in commissioning activity via current participation platforms and not to re-establish a new forum.

**COMMUNICATION - Information is shared effectively with children and young people and families across the borough**

- There has been an increased focus on mental health campaign planning as priority with research conducted on pressing Children and Young People mental health issues. A new strategy has been developed to provide a communications solution
- Coalition of collaborating services has been formed with Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to ensure services are joined up
- Mental health campaign strategy developed with guidance from evidence base provided by Public Health on priority mental health issues
- Awaiting opportunity to work with Young People and other Children and Young People on ‘sense checking’ approach, as well as joining up activity – Family Services and Voice of the Child to facilitate