

## APPENDIX 1

### Joint Area Review Action Plan

The Joint Area Review (JAR) report on Children and Young People Services in Barnsley was published by Ofsted on 12 December 2006. There were 10 Recommendations and these have been aligned with actions already included in the CYPP. Progress in relation to each recommendation is set out on the table below. Two actions required immediate attention. They have been fully completed thus ensuring that children in need are appropriately allocated to a qualified social worker and quality standards are met.

Good progress is being made in relation to all medium and longer term actions (eight in total). The social care quality assurance system is in place and the senior management team has been appointed. The remaining six actions have clear plans in place and are monitored each quarter. Service plans have been adjusted accordingly. Any outstanding strategic issues will be included in the new Children and Young People's Plan which will be developed from September 2007 onwards.

### Progress towards achieving JAR action plan

For immediate action	Overall position statement	Progress
<p><b>1</b> Ensure that all children and young people who have been assessed as in need of services are allocated a social worker or a lead practitioner as appropriate, to minimise risk and ensure improved provision and outcomes.</p>	<p>Since the Joint Area Review there have been no unallocated Child Protection cases and current arrangements continue to ensure this. All Looked After Children have an allocated Social Worker. Children In Need, who are not on the Child Protection Register or Looked After, are allocated within the Social Work Team or allocated a lead worker from the voluntary or independent sector where appropriate. Qualified Social Work retention and recruitment is challenging but improving.</p>	<p>Completed and ongoing</p>
<p><b>2</b> Improve and monitor the quality and completeness of entries in children's social care files and ensure decisions and actions taken are recorded.</p>	<p>A quality assurance group has been established. A review of all child protection cases has been undertaken to ensure standards were met. A monitoring system is in place for the tracking of cases and completion of key activities pending implementation of the new IT system, Electronic Records in Social Care. This system is now live and will significantly improve recording and management information</p>	<p>Completed and ongoing</p>

<b>For action by June 2007</b>	<b>Overall position statement</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<p><b>3</b> Improve access to the speech and language therapy.</p>	<p>A review of the Speech and Language service began in January 2007. The budget for children's SALT services has been disaggregated from the adult budget. SALT developments will be in place by September 2007. Impact on waiting times will be understood once the developments are implemented and embedded.</p>	<p>Good progress – on-going</p>
<p><b>4</b> Reduce waiting times to specialist CAMHS and improve CAMHS provision for 16 to 17 year olds</p>	<p>Barnsley has achieved all three of the proxy indicators for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). New referral system is being embedded at tier 3 CAMHS to ensure vulnerable groups are targeted. The provision of services for Young People 16+ with a diagnosable MH problem is provided by Adult Mental Health Services (AMH) and the AMH Protocol with CAMHS is being revised. Any change in provider would require a shift in resources from AMH to CAMHS. The YOT Mental Health Service and clinical psychology offer services to young people 16+. The new Primary Mental Health Service will offer full range of services 16+ when at full staffing capacity.</p>	<p>Good progress - ongoing</p>
<p><b>5</b> Review and evaluate systems for assuring quality, especially in relation to social care to ensure that senior managers have detailed information about the level of risk being managed</p>	<p>Robust quality assurance system is in place. Detailed management information is considered by Service Managers and Head of Assessment, Support &amp; Quality Assurance. Reported to AED Children &amp; Families Wellbeing and to Children, Young People and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Evaluated quarterly.</p>	<p>Completed and on-going</p>
<p><b>6</b> Promote awareness of, and access to, recreation and extended learning provision for all groups of children, young people and their families.</p>	<p>Good progress made with more publicity to be undertaken. <a href="http://www.thingstodo.co.uk">www.thingstodo.co.uk</a> website to promote positive activities for children and young people in partnership with Area Forum in 2 wards – Athersley &amp; Grimethorpe, linked to the Promoting Positive Activities legislation for 13-19 age range, 8-13 covered through Extended Schools. Borough wide launch planned for July 2007. Website also linked to Childcare Information Service for 0-8 age range and Service Directory. Allocations in 2006/07 to promote service, with roll out of model across the borough planned for 2007. Longer term issue of website maintenance is being addressed.</p>	<p>Good progress - on going</p>

<b>For action in the longer term</b>	<b>Overall position statement</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<p><b>7</b> Engage more young people in education and training at 16</p>	<p>Strategies and action plans in place. Sustained and continued improvement has been maintained during 2006/7. Range of options for young people increased through successful submissions for the Diploma Gateway.</p>	<p>Good progress - on-going</p>
<p><b>8</b> Progress formal management structures of the children's service</p>	<p>Strong leadership and senior management in place. Integrated sub-structure to be completed by March 2008. 4 Wellbeing Partnerships in place with remaining five to be in place by December 2007.</p>	<p>Good progress - on-going</p>
<p><b>9</b> Ensure skill gaps and competencies for multi-agency working are addressed</p>	<p>Workforce strategy drafted for consideration by CYPSP in July 2007. Successful Social Work recruitment has enabled allocation of qualified social workers to all relevant cases within timescales.</p>	<p>Good progress - on-going</p>
<p><b>10</b> Extend the availability of supported accommodation for vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Effective partnership between BMBC Strategic Housing, Social Services and a range of supported housing providers ensures Barnsley continues to address the accommodation requirements of vulnerable groups including care leavers. Homelessness provision for vulnerable families continues, with no families with dependent children placed in hostel accommodation in 2006/07. Overall, statutory homelessness has decreased by 67% over the period 2003/04 and 2005/06 and by 75% between 2003/04 and 2006/07.</p> <p>The Council has recently approved ongoing investment in the region of £83m covering the planning period 2007/8 to 2009 / 10 that will ensure we are best placed to meet Government decency targets in late 2010. In the private housing sector we aim, by end of 2007/08, to reduce further the proportion of vulnerable households living in non-decent housing to 29.5%; (the Government's national target for this is 30% to be achieved by 2010).</p>	<p>Good progress - ongoing</p>