

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership
Our New Arrangements
Implementing the Requirements
Of
Working Together 2018

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to set out Barnsley's response to Working Together 2018 which changes the arrangements that are required locally to ensure that agencies are working together in partnership to keep children and young people safe. It will set out how Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Board will transition to become the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) with effect from 1st April 2019.

The background to the change is that in 2015, in response to a number of disappointing outcomes of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) inspections, the Government commissioned Alan Wood, a former President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services and ex-Director of Children's Services in Hackney, to lead a review of LSCBs. This review took place between January and March 2016.

In total, the review considered over 600 responses and came to the overall conclusion that LSCBs were not sufficiently effective. Alan Wood recommended the abolition of LSCBs and their replacement by a stronger statutory partnership of the key statutory agencies - police, CCGs and local authorities – who would in turn determine local safeguarding arrangements.

In its May 2016 response, the Government said that it agreed with Alan Wood's analysis, and that "current arrangements are inflexible and too often ineffective. Meetings take place involving large numbers of people, but decision-making leading to effective action on the ground can be all too often lacking" ('Review of the role and functions of local safeguarding children boards: the government response to Alan Wood CBE', Department for Education, May 2016, page 5).

Instead, it proposed a stronger but more flexible statutory framework to support local partners to work together more effectively to protect and safeguard children and young people, embedding improved multiagency behaviours and practices.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent in April 2017. Section 30 of the Act removes the requirement for local areas to have LSCBs. Sections 16 – 23 introduce a duty on 3 key partners (local authorities, police and CCGs) to make arrangements with other partners as locally determined to work together in a local area to protect and safeguard children. These arrangements must identify and respond to the needs of children in the area and also identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area.

Here in Barnsley, we see this as an opportunity to build on the existing strengths of the existing arrangements and to look to reinforce our commitment to keeping children and young people safe.

2. How the plan was developed

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places the responsibility on the three 'Safeguarding Partners', the Police, the Local Authority and Health to formulate the local arrangements for partnership arrangements for Safeguarding Children.

The Independent Chair of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board was asked to prepare a briefing paper setting out the requirements of Working Together 2018 and making recommendations as to how they might be best achieved. That paper was then discussed at a meeting of senior leaders from each of the three Safeguarding Partners.

This was followed by a development day that involved the wider membership of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board and the Children's Trust Executive Group. That development day coincided with 'Take Over Day' which sees local young people working alongside senior leaders and local elected councillors to give them an insight and experience of the roles they shadow for the day. This facilitated involving young people in the debate on the future of local partnership arrangements for Safeguarding Children.

It was agreed, that in common with other LSCBs in South Yorkshire, that we will continue to operate on the same geographical area, that is the borough of Barnsley. This allows a truly local focus that enables partner agencies to be aware of, and to address, issues that concern local children and families.

The Independent Chair of Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board was tasked with writing this document which will describe the local arrangements going forward.

It has been agreed that the BSCP will be constructed in a way that enables the Partnership to meet the 'Components of Successful Partnerships' as identified by Ofsted:-

- An environment in which effective multi agency practice can flourish.
- Wide and active engagement in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements with the right shared priorities.
- Agencies understanding their respective roles and thresholds.
- Support and challenge within the multi-agency system.
- Continuous learning and development.
- Good systems for information sharing, which professionals are confident and knowledgeable about.
- Effective, ambitious child focussed leadership within and across partners.

3. Shared Vision and Priorities

The BSCP vision is that:

Every child and young person should be able to grow up safe from maltreatment, neglect, accidental injury/death, bullying and discrimination, crime and anti-social behaviour. Children are entitled to a strong commitment from the BSCP and its constituent agencies to ensure that they are safeguarded from exploitation and abuse. Where possible, this will be done in partnership with parents and carers, and by engaging the active support of the public. We will do as much as we can within the resources available to us and, with every agency providing services, we can maintain an interagency safeguarding system directed at safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all Barnsley's children. We will endeavour to ensure that every child is safe, well cared for and thereby supported to fulfil their potential to make the transition from childhood to adulthood.

The agreed priorities are:

- **Sharing and Engaging:** The Partnership will monitor service improvement through the Continuous Service Improvement Plan and a schedule of regular audit activity. The Partnership will continue to seek the views of children and young people to inform what we do and how we do it. Safeguarding Awareness Week provides an opportunity for all of the partnership and community to come together with the message "Safeguarding is Everybody's Business" This is an important feature in our communication plan aimed at raising the public awareness of Child Safeguarding and providing the workforce with the skills and training they need to deliver the best possible service. There will be active involvement of schools, in recognition of the vital role they play in keeping children safe; we will deliver training to all school designated safeguarding leads.
- **Helping to Empower and Support:** Ensure the availability of quality multi-agency child protection training and the provision of quality safeguarding services. Supporting children and young people to have a voice to help shape services and support best practice. Ensure accessibility of information via the website and other resources. Ensuring that children and families are involved, wherever appropriate, in decision making.
- **Prevention:** Prevention is a primary aim, helping to ensure that children do not suffer neglect or abuse. There is a strong early help offer to provide support to children and families as soon as they come to notice aimed at improving lives and preventing issues escalating. The synergy obtained from strong partnership working remains an essential element of effective safeguarding. The continuing effectiveness of the work of the Partnership will continue to be subject to close scrutiny. Ensure partners are kept up to date with emerging themes and key messages. Support learning and development through Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Lessons Learned Reviews.
- **Accountability:** Continue work to ensure that the thresholds are understood and correctly applied by partner agency staff and that effective use is made of the escalation process in cases where there are concerns about the decision making. The Partnership will continue to strengthen and evidence its own effectiveness through rigorous challenge, participation and engagement

4. Governance and Structure of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership

Safeguarding Partners

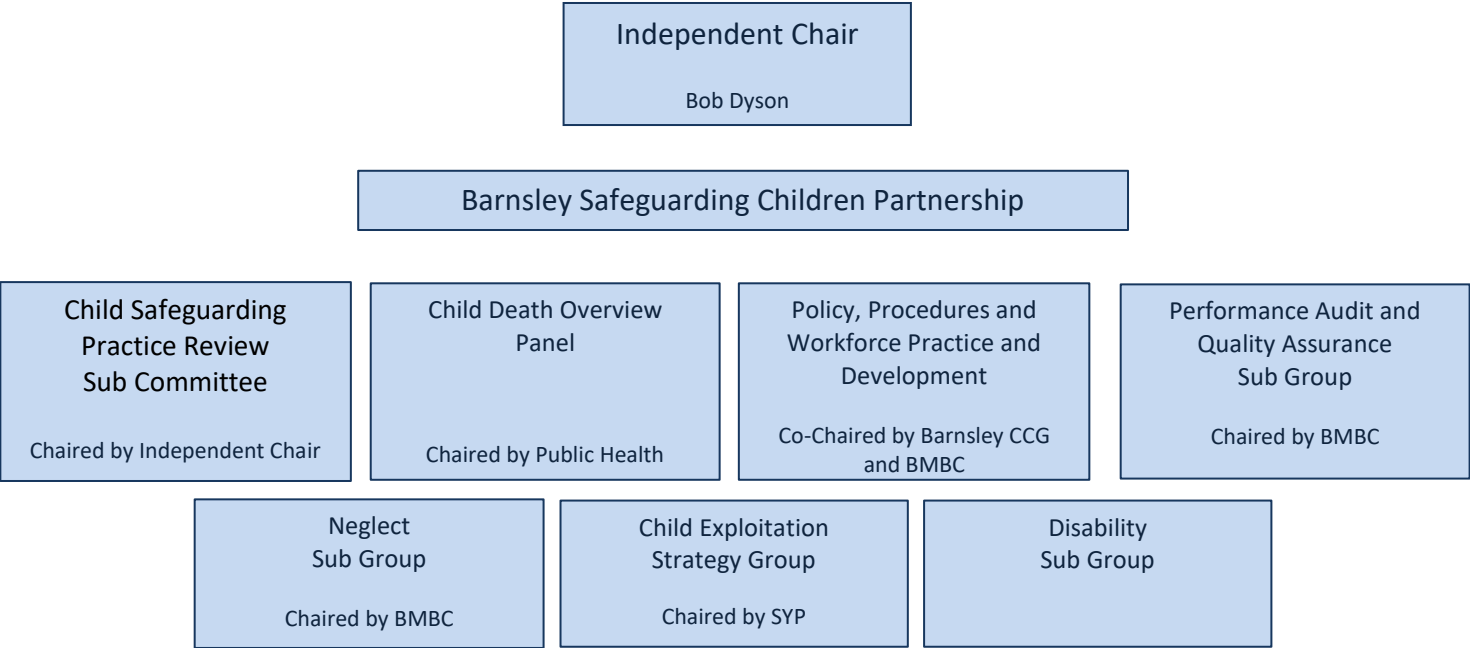
Designation and Names of Accountable Officers

Rachel Dickinson	Executive Director - People Directorate Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Scott Green	Chief Superintendent South Yorkshire Police
Lesley Jayne Smith	Chief Officer Barnsley Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group

Independent Chair

Robert (Bob) Dyson

The structure chart below sets out the BSCP and its sub committees.



The BSCP will set the strategic direction for local arrangements with the sub committees being responsible for driving forward their specific areas of responsibility in line with the BSCP priorities. The active involvement of the three Safeguarding Partners is evidenced by their involvement in providing the chairs of some of the sub committees.

The BSCP cannot act in isolation; it will have a strong and clearly defined relationship with other strategic partnership boards including the Barnsley Community Safety Partnership and the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board. A partnership protocol has been developed that sets out the responsibilities of individual boards and how they interact.

This is supported by a meeting structure that brings together the chairs of the respective boards to discuss priorities and cross cutting issues. The purpose of the protocol and meetings is to ensure clarity of purpose, to prevent any gaps in approach and to eliminate any duplication of effort. Where appropriate, we have been looking to more closely align the work of the BSCB with the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board, an example being the Safeguarding Awareness Week, and will continue to do so when we transition to the BSCP.

The changes, prompted by WTG 2018, are being implemented across the country. A number of Local Safeguarding Children Boards volunteered to act as early adopters. We will continue to look to learn from outside of Barnsley by participating in regional meeting structures and looking to learn from the early adopter sites. WE will commit to reviewing our arrangements annually.

The BSCP will produce an annual report that will be public facing.

5. Independent Scrutiny

Barnsley recognises and welcomes the added value that Independent Scrutiny brings to ensuring that local arrangements are effective. Independent Scrutiny is a strong feature in WTG 2018.

The Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership will have the following aspects of Independent Scrutiny:

- It will retain the services of an Independent Chair, Robert Dyson. It is considered that there is benefit in having Partnership meetings chaired by an individual who is not the representative of any single agency and is able to bring their experience of acting as a critical friend, who encourages appropriate challenge, and plays an important role in holding agencies to account.
- It will have an annual programme of independent case file audits. This will take the form of both single agency and multi-agency audits targeted at specific issues, for example Neglect and Child Sexual Exploitation, which will review cases against agreed criteria to independently assess if contact with children and families was in accordance with policies and procedures and that it was appropriate to the circumstances thereby producing the right outcomes.
- The BSCP commits to an active involvement in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Scrutiny arrangements.
- The BSCP is committed to involving children and young people in having an active role in local arrangements. This includes the continued development of a young advisors panel that draws upon young people from across the borough to advise the BSCP on how policies and procedures impact on young people.
- The BSCP will welcome observers at meetings who will be able to give direct feedback.
- Local elected members will attend the BSCP as part of ensuring that local people are involved and have a voice.
- The BSCP will commission Independent Authors to conduct Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews in appropriate cases that meet the criteria set out in WTG 2018.
- The Partnership will take part in Peer Reviews when appropriate

6. Arrangements for Commissioning and Publication of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LSCPRs)

The Safeguarding Partners will make arrangements to identify and review Serious Child Safeguarding Cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley, being the geographical boundary of the BSCP. They will commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken, supported in this by the fully constituted, independently chaired, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Sub Committee, which considers learning from Reports published by other authorities and further supports the Partnership in the event of the need for a Rapid Review Meeting. In the event of the need for the commissioning of a local child safeguarding practice review, the Independent Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Sub Committee will support and inform the Safeguarding Partners and the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel on the need to commission a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review, the likely Terms of Reference for such a review and support the sourcing and commissioning of an independent author to undertake the review. The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Sub Committee – which is a multi-agency subcommittee also undertakes and seeks to gain assurance for and on behalf of the BSCP, arrangements for embedding learning across organisations and agencies within Barnsley MBC.

BSCP will commission LSCPRs with the firm intention of the review being capable of being published without any redaction. The intention to publish will be included in the terms of reference agreed with the Independent Author commissioned to complete the review. We will agree the most appropriate methodology for the review based on the individual circumstances of the case to be reviewed. Publication will take the form of posting the completed review on the web site of the BSCP; copies will be provided to OFSTED and the National Panel prior to publication. We will accord with the guidance issued by the National Panel and that within Working Together 2018.

7. Relevant Agencies

In Barnsley we are very fortunate to have very strong, effective multi-agency arrangements in place in respect of working with and supporting children, young people and families. We ensure that all organisations and agencies that work with children, young people and families work in a collaborative way to provide targeted support to children and families as appropriate.

The organisations and agencies we work with to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, is set out at Appendix 1. In Barnsley we consider all agencies and organisations that work with children, young people and families as 'relevant'.

Agencies and organisations that work with children, young people and families and that are represented on the Safeguarding Partnership act in accordance with the Safeguarding Arrangements of the BSCP and receive an Induction Pack which further outlines the expectation both on the agency and organisation and also on the individual appointed by the

agency or organisation to be their representative (taking account of an agency's structure and statutory obligations) to the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Relevant Agencies are represented at and are actively involved in the work of the sub committees. They also take part in multi-agency audits of case files.

As mentioned above, here in Barnsley, we see this as an opportunity to build on the existing strengths of the existing arrangements and to look to reinforce our commitment to keeping children and young people safe. Local Governance, Partnership and Cross-Board arrangements in Barnsley MBC means that colleagues from Early Years, Youth Justice and Residential Homes have senior representation either directly or indirectly on the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership and either directly or indirectly through membership of the sub committees of the BSCP.

Barnsley has a high number of Children's Homes for the size of the borough; the vast majority are private homes which accommodate young people in care from outside the borough. There is a meeting structure that brings together the representatives from all homes to meet with representatives from the Local Authority and the Police to discuss any current issues such as reports of young people being missing from home.

8. Early Years Settings

The BSCP fully appreciates the very important role that early year's settings and schools play in keeping children and young people safe.

Schools, both primary and secondary, are represented at the BSCP meetings and are also represented at relevant sub committees as is the local college. We work closely with schools in the development of relevant policies, for example anti bullying.

We are proud of the fact that in recent years we have consistently achieved a 100% return rates from schools on their Section 175 self-assessment on safeguarding. Last year the BSCB extended the self-assessment process to preschool settings. We will continue to run that process.

An important aspect of our close working relationship with schools is the fact that the BSCP Partnership Manager and Multi-Agency Trainer deliver regular safeguarding training to all school safeguarding leads. This ensures a consistency of message to schools whilst generating an income stream for the partnership.

The BSCB frequently held its meetings in secondary schools where school representatives were welcome to observe the board in action. This continues under our new arrangements. After meetings we take the opportunity to meet with a focus group of students to listen to what they consider to be the issues facing young people growing up in Barnsley and establishing where we can take action to increase their sense of being safe.

9. Residential Children's Homes

The partnership is very aware of the fact that Barnsley has a high number of privately operated residential children's homes that largely provide accommodation for Looked After Children placed into Barnsley by outside Local Authorities. The partnership has a close oversight of associated issues such as missing from home episodes.

There are scheduled meetings with the managers of residential homes with representatives of Children Social Care and the police to discuss any matters of concern and where support might be needed. This includes ensuring that they have care plans for all children placed with them.

There are no youth custody facilities in Barnsley.

10. Training

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership has a comprehensive training offer, funded through the Partnership and available to the whole workforce. Strategic oversight of the commissioning, delivery, evaluation and impact assessment of training delivered by and/or on behalf of the BSCP sits with the PPWPD Sub Committee, which is a fully constituted subcommittee of the BSCP. There are number of evaluation methodologies used to test the effectiveness of training; these include completion of evaluation assessments immediately after the training, follow up with individual attendees some months after the training to see how it has impacted on their working practices and individual relevant agencies conducting their own evaluations which they share with the partnership.

Training takes a number of forms including formal training courses, lunchtime seminars, e-learning and conferences.

As mentioned above, we deliver training to the Safeguarding Leads from all schools in the borough. This generates income that helps to fund board activities.

11. Use of data to improve outcomes for children

The BSCP has a subcommittee, Performance and Quality Assurance that leads on monitoring performance data from partners. The subcommittee submits a report to the Partnership board to highlight any areas that may need further attention or escalation for action.

A quarterly performance report based on a smaller suite of performance indicators that reflect the journey of a child is received by the BSCP. There are many examples where the partnership's focus on specific issues has led to improved performance that in turn improves the outcomes for children. One example would be a focus on the timeliness of assessments which has led to sustained improvements in timeliness.

Over time the BSCB was able to improve its approach to performance management by the introduction of audits of cases to assess the quality of the work being undertaken by agencies. We have a structured programme of multi-agency and single agency audits which are presented to the BSCP.

In addition the BSCP plays an important role in oversight of the Barnsley Continuous Service Improvement Plan

12. Funding Arrangements

The BSCP runs a balanced budget.

Funding arrangements for the BSCP will be maintained in line with those in place for the BSCB.

The three Safeguarding Partners provide the funding for the Partnership. The budget is also supplemented by income generated by our multi agency training programme.

Funding arrangements are the subject of ongoing review.

13. Voice of the Child

The BSCP has several ways of ensuring it hears the Voice of the Child. The meetings of the BSCP are often held out in the community, at local colleges and academies and after the meeting of the BSCP, colleagues meet with and listen to young people from the college or academy. Further, every year we hold a multi-agency Safeguarding Awareness Week. Young people feature strongly in the Launch Event either through video or speaking in person on safeguarding issues that concern them. The week also includes several 'public facing' events which give children, young people and families the opportunity to meet and interact with colleagues from across the Partnership.

The BSCP works closely with the Children Trust Executive Group which has responsibility for developing and actioning the Children Plan, a priority of which is 'Keeping Safe'. That plan was developed with the active involvement of local Young People including representatives of the Youth Parliament.

The BSCP runs an annual Development Day with the Children Trust Executive Group which is scheduled to happen on Take Over Day so that a number of Young People, including Care Leavers, can be involved and lead on aspects of the day which help to shape the future plans of both meeting structures.

Ensuring that the voice of the child is heard is a feature of our multi-agency audit programme and a feature of the Child Protection Conference model employed in Barnsley.

Schools and the College are represented at the Partnership meeting and in its sub groups so they are able to share their first-hand experience of working with young people.

Young People play an important role in the Safeguarding Awareness Week that we run annually. This year a group of young students from a local secondary school spoke at the launch and gave their experience of keeping safe on line.

14. Threshold Document

The Partnership in collaboration with colleagues in Early Help and Children's Social Care, maintain a Thresholds Document – available via the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership website. The document is reviewed regularly and updated as required. The thresholds document is a regular feature in the work of the Partnership including monitoring the associated performance indicators and receiving reports from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub that incorporates the front door and applies the thresholds document in their work.

15. Timetable

The previous version of this document was presented for consideration at the BSCB meeting held on 15 February 2019. It was approved by members representing the relevant agencies.

The BSCB ceased to exist on 31.3.2019 and the BSCP arrangements commenced on 1.4.2019.

A separate plan was created to ensure that we completed the necessary administrative actions, including amending the web site, policies and procedures and to publish the plan to the public of Barnsley.

BARNSELY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

PLAN ON A PAGE

The Roles and Responsibilities of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership are:

Ensure that safeguarding children and young people is at the centre of everything we do.

Hold members to account are we/they doing enough to keep children and young people safe?

The co ordination of what is done by each Member for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within the Borough and to ensure the effectiveness of multi agency working and what is done by each Member for those purposes, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

Collect and share information about how well we are keeping children and young people safe and what more we could do.

Make sure our workers and volunteers get the training they need to provide safe services and to share concerns if they think a child or young person is being hurt or abused

Review our policies and guidance to make sure we are constantly improving.

Publish a Strategic Plan what we will achieve Publish an Annual Report detailing what we have done to keep children and young people safe

Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the Borough

The Structure of The Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership

Safeguarding Partnership Board with Independent Chair

Performance Audit and Quality Assurance Sub Group

Child Death Overview Panel

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Sub Group

Policies, Procedures and Workforce Practice Development Sub Group

Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs Sub Group

Child Exploitation Strategic Sub Group

Neglect Sub Group

THE PRIORITIES OF THE BARNSELY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP 2019 – 20 ARE

Strategic Priority 1

Sharing and Engaging

The Partnership will monitor service improvement through the Continuous Service Improvement Plan and a schedule of regular audit activity

The Board will continue to seek the views of children and young people.

Safeguarding Awareness Week provides an opportunity for all of the partnership and community to come together with the message

Safeguarding is Everybody's Business

Strategic Priority 2

Helping, empowering and supporting

Ensure the availability of quality multi agency child protection training and the provision of quality safeguarding services

Supporting children and young people to have a voice

Help shape services and support best practice via the Designated Safeguarding Leads and other Forums

Ensure accessibility of information via the website and other resources

Strategic Priority 3

Prevention

The synergy obtained from strong partnership working remains an essential element of effective safeguarding.

The continuing effectiveness of the work of the Board will continue to be subject to close scrutiny

Ensure partners are kept up to date with emerging themes and key messages

Support learning and development through

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Lessons Learned

Strategic Priority 4

Accountability

Continue work to ensure that the thresholds are understood and correctly applied by partner agency staff and that effective use is made of the escalation process in cases where there are concerns about the decision making The Partnership will continue to strengthen and evidence its own effectiveness through rigorous challenge, participation and engagement

BARNSELY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2022

What we will do:

1. Develop and deliver a sustainable Communication and Engagement Plan with the People of Barnsley
2. Let people know how to get help or report harm
3. Design and deliver effective training for all staff and volunteers
4. Provide children and young people and their families who have been harmed with support and information
5. Evaluate children and young people's views of safeguarding and demonstrate if we have helped them to reduce risk
6. Carry out LSCPRs and Lessons Learned Reviews to improve the way we keep children safe
7. Continue to provide Performance Information to the Board to assure the Board that we are working together to prevent harm
8. Regularly challenge processes and performance at Board level to show all organisations are being held to account for the safety of children in Barnsley
9. Identify any gaps for young people moving from children's to adult services that may leave them at risk of harm
10. Ensure synergy and a joint response to shared themes such as FGM/HBV/Prevent and FM, Contextual Safeguarding and Child Exploitation

Safeguarding Partners

Rachel Dickinson

Executive Director - People Directorate

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Dickinson".

Signature:

Scott Green

Chief Superintendent

South Yorkshire Police

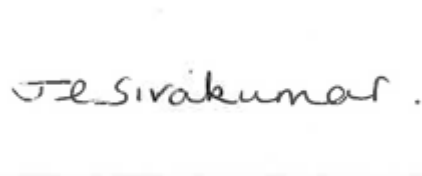
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "S. Green", enclosed in a light blue oval.

Signature:

Jayne Sivakumar

Chief Nurse Barnsley

Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Sivakumar", positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature:

Appendix 1:

**Partners, Membership and Relevant Agencies of the
Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership 1st April 2019**

Independent Chair

Safeguarding Partners

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC)

Barnsley CCG

South Yorkshire Police

Relevant Agencies

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

NHS England

National Probation Service

CAFCASS

Barnardos

South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

IDAS

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Berneslai Homes

Legal Services – BMBC

Children’s Social Care – BMBC

Public Health - BMBC

Youth Offending Team – BMBC

Barnsley College

Voluntary Action Barnsley

Healthwatch Barnsley

Head Teacher Representative – Barnsley Primary Schools

Head Teacher Representative – Barnsley Senior Schools

Barnsley Council - Cabinet Spokesperson (Participant Observer