

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board



Annual Report 2018 - 2019

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board



Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board is responsible for bringing local services together to plan and agree how best to keep children and young people in the area safe.

The Board develops shared policies and plans to protect vulnerable children. Their role is to make sure all children are well cared for and able to reach their full potential. They also provide support and training for people who work with children and young people, to make sure that they are fully aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

Contents

Page

Chair's Foreword	3
Our Partners	5
Our Plan on a Page and Our Strategic Priorities	6
Governance Structure	7
Performance Audit and Quality Assurance Sub Group	8
Policy, Procedure and Workforce Practice and Development	9
Child Death Overview Panel	10
Neglect Sub Group	11
Serious Case Review Sub Committee	12
Safeguarding Children with a Disability or Complex Health Need	13
Child Exploitation Strategy Group	14
The Safeguarding Landscape	15
BSCB Budget 2018 - 19	16

Foreword from the Independent Chair

Thank you for taking an interest in the work of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board. We are always keen to raise public awareness of Safeguarding Children as we firmly believe that keeping children safe is everyone's business. I hope that this report plays a part in reassuring the public of Barnsley that agencies are working effectively together to keep our children safe and increases their understanding of Safeguarding.

A highlight of the last year was the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care Services which took place in October 2018. To quote from the report:

“Services for children in Barnsley are good and there has been steady improvement at successive inspections since 2012. Children are at the heart of strategic thinking, decision-making, and operational practice, which leads to good-quality services from a skilled and motivated workforce. The resolute focus on improving outcomes for children is shared across the partnership and is underpinned by political commitment and financial investment and a self-evaluation that shows that leaders know their services well.”

I believe that opening statement in the report gives an independent verification of the commitment shown by all those who work with children, and their families, to ensure that they are doing their best to keep children safe and are focussed on continuing to drive forward improvements.

This will be the last annual report of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board as on the 1st of April 2019 we made adjustments to our partnership arrangements in order to be compliant with the Government guidance document: Working Together 2018. As a result of a national review of Safeguarding Boards, the Government decided that they would remove the statutory requirement for each local authority area to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board and replaced that by placing a duty on the three safeguarding partners,

the Local Authority, the Police and Health, to ensure that there are effective local arrangements to keep children safe. A decision was made to move to becoming the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership which retains the strengths of the Safeguarding Board but continues to look for opportunities to improve.

We have always been prepared to make changes in order to respond to emerging issues. A good example is that during the period covered by this report the Child Sexual Exploitation sub group widened its remit to cover such issues as County Lines and Contextual Safeguarding. This led to a change in its action plan and a change of name to the Child Exploitation Strategy Group to reflect its increased role.

As the Independent Chair, I am pleased to be able to say that I have confidence in the commitment and focus of agencies working with Children, Young People and their families.

Bob Dyson QPM, DL

This is what we do

The Role of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board is to:

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

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

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

These are our Partners



Produce a 'Plan on a Page'

We have created a 'Plan on a Page' which sets out:

The Statutory Responsibilities of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board

The Role of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board

The Structure of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board

It also outlines our Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority 1

Sharing and Engaging

The Board will continue to 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, 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

Serious Case Reviews and 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 Board will continue to strengthen and evidence its own effectiveness through rigorous challenge, participation and engagement

What We Will Do:

Let people know how to get help or report harm

Design and deliver effective training for all staff and volunteers

Provide children and young people and their families who have been harmed with support and information

Evaluate children and young people's views of safeguarding and demonstrate if we have helped them to reduce risk

Carry out Serious Case Reviews and Lessons Learned Reviews to improve the way we keep children safe
Continue to provide Performance Information to the Board to assure the Board that we are working together to prevent harm

Regularly challenge processes and performance at Board level to show all organisations are being held to account for the safety of children in Barnsley

Identify any gaps for young people moving from children's to adult services that may leave them at risk of harm

Ensure synergy and a joint response to shared themes such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)/Honour Based Violence /Forced Marriage (FM) and Prevent

Governance Structure of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board

Independent Chair

Bob Dyson

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board

Performance Audit and
Quality Assurance
Sub Group

Mel John-Ross

Child Exploitation
Strategy Group

Paul Murphy

Policy, Procedures and
Workforce Practice and
Development
Angela Fawcett &
Stephanie Evans

Child Death
Overview
Panel

Alicia Marcroft

Neglect
Sub Group

Debbie Mercer

Serious Case
Review Sub
Group

Bob Dyson

Disability Sub
Group

Debbie Mercer

The priorities of the Board as identified by the partners are the responsibility of seven sub groups who ensure that the work of the Board is carried forward. Each of the sub groups has a work plan which focuses on a particular area of the Board's priorities.

Performance Audit and Quality Assurance Sub Group

Mel John Ross Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding

What We Do:

On behalf of the Board we carry out regular checks of individual agency safeguarding practice. We also keep a very close eye on a number of key performance indicators. We secure quality assurance through findings from single and multi agency audits

What We Did:

Responsible to the Board for overseeing the Quarterly Performance Management Report and Quarterly Themed Audit Schedule

Co ordinate single agency safeguarding Section 11 self assessment audits and analysis, monitoring agency action plans by reviewing summary data and determining response in respect of non compliance and oversee the Section 175 and 157 audit process relating to schools and outcomes

In 2018 – 19 we undertook four Multi Agency Themed Audits and ongoing monitoring of Action Plans

In April 2018 we carried out an Audit to assess the effectiveness of the Pre Birth Assessment Pathway.

In September 2018 we carried out an Audit to assess the effectiveness of the Person Posing Risk to Children Assessment.

In October 2018 we carried out an Audit to assess the cumulative impact on children of Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

In February 2019 we carried out an Audit to assess the impact on children living with Mental Health Issues.

What We Will Do:

In 2019 – 20 we will continue to carry out multi agency audits to give the Board assurance that partners are doing everything they can to keep children and young people safe in Barnsley

Policy, Procedure and Workforce Practice and Development

Stephanie Evans, Interim Head of Service, Safeguarding Unit and Quality Assurance and
Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children, CCG

What We Do:

We aim to ensure we have a workforce that is supported to safeguard children in Barnsley
We strive to ensure staff are well supported and feel confident and competent to undertake their safeguarding role

This is achieved through the provision of a comprehensive training offer and assurance that staff are attending relevant training and achieving required competency

Additionally, that this is underpinned by clear, comprehensive policies which are readily available for all staff to access

Moreover, that staff have access to safeguarding supervision to support them and the caseloads they manage

The role of the PPWPD is to ensure the above structures are in place and maintain oversight of these to ensure they remain relevant and we are aware of emerging issues and learning

What we did:

Continued to offer a comprehensive training offer

Developed a training strategy and action plan for the group

Strengthened the training offer by adding in courses on contextual safeguarding and trauma informed approach

Reviewed all current policies and procedures to ensure they remain relevant and are up-to-date

Updated the procedures for bruising to non-mobile babies and developed an accompanying leaflet for parents

Introduced a quality assurance framework for the training programme

Continued to develop a successful programme of learning for safeguarding leads

Generated a substantial amount of income to reinvest in the training offer

Organised several successful conferences/masterclasses



On behalf of the BSCB, the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Multi Agency Training Programme represents one of the most comprehensive safeguarding training offers in the country with over 100 training courses, conferences and seminars

What We Will Do:

In 2019 - 20 we will do more to measure the impact of training on workforce practice. Does the training we deliver have a positive effect on the way people go about their day job and help to safeguard and improve the welfare of children and young people?

Child Death Overview Panel

Alicia Marcroft Head of Public Health (Children and Young People)
Head of Service Public Health Nursing

What We Do:

It is the role of one of the sub groups of the Board to look at all deaths of children and young people in Barnsley, whatever the reason, to see if there is anything that we can learn from them and anything that might help us avoid such deaths happening in the future. This is the role of the Child Death Overview Panel.

What We Did:

On behalf of the Partnership we met to consider all deaths of all children and young people in Barnsley, whatever the reason. We also met regularly with our colleagues from across the region to see if there are any identifiable themes or trends in child deaths, particularly, for example around issues to do with child health.

What We Will Do:

We will continue to work as a multi agency partnership, to review all deaths of all children and young people in Barnsley and ensure that any lessons that can be learned are shared with colleagues in a timely way to make Barnsley as safe a place as possible.

Neglect Sub Group

Debbie Mercer Head of Service, Children and Family Social Care

What We Do:

The Neglect Sub Group was established in 2017 to help tackle Neglect. We recognise that neglect is a serious problem in Barnsley and so we have worked together with the NSPCC to launch a new Neglect Strategy and developed documents with guidance to support professionals and families in recognising neglect and what they can do to help sort the problem out.

What We Did:



We aim to reduce the impact and prevalence of neglect in Barnsley over time To raise everyone's awareness about the signs, symptoms and impact of neglect for children and young people 0 18 years.

To ensure that neglect is identified at an early stage and that it is responded to consistently, confidently and appropriately at the right threshold of need with a timely response

We developed a strategy for referral pathways and management of neglect cases in Barnsley so that the impacts upon children and young people are minimised

We developed consistent multi agency practice and approaches to neglect through training and development and report to the BSCB on progress against these objectives

We have produced documents to help people understand and recognise Neglect, including a guide for parents, young people and professionals called 'Neglect Matters'



What We Will Do:

We will continue to work with partners, including the delivery of the Graded Care Profile training, to help them recognise neglect and support families in deciding how best to tackle neglect and improve outcomes for children, young people and families

Serious Case Review Sub Committee

Bob Dyson QPM, DL

What We Do:

Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to commission an independent author to conduct a serious case review (SCR) in circumstances where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and either the child has died or been seriously injured and there is cause for concern as to the way in which agencies worked together to safeguard the child. The SCR subcommittee is chaired by the independent chair of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board; it forms a panel to consider any case which may meet the criteria for an SCR to be commissioned. During the time covered by this annual report, there were no cases that needed to be considered. On 3 April 2018 the board published an SCR into the tragic death of a seven year old boy that occurred in 2015. The Independent Author did not find any fundamental failings by agencies but did identify six learning opportunities all of which have been addressed. That report, entitled Child R, is available to read on the Barnsley LSCB website.

What We Did:

Over the past twelve months, in the absence of any new cases in Barnsley, the subcommittee has considered SCR reports from other parts of the country to see if there are lessons that we can learn here in Barnsley. That has led to the board taking a greater interest in some subjects, an example being Special Guardianship Orders, to ensure that they are being effectively managed in Barnsley.

In March 2019 we commissioned a Serious Case Review to look at the case of a baby death that is the subject of an ongoing police investigation. That SCR has not yet been finalised.

What We Will Do:

We will continue to work with our colleagues across the partnership to ensure we all do everything we can to learn from any incidents or accidents to children and young people both locally and nationally and that we comply with the new requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

Safeguarding Children with a Disability or Complex Health Needs Sub Committee

Debbie Mercer Head of Service, Children and Family Social Care

What We Do:

One of the more vulnerable groups in society is those who either have a disability and/or complex health needs. The Board considers it very important that it continues to have oversight of this group of children and young people and that the needs of this vulnerable group are being met.

The role of the Safeguarding Children with Disabilities or Complex Health Needs subcommittee is to make sure that partners are working together to ensure the support needed is available for this group of vulnerable children and young people and to work alongside colleagues and partners of the Adult Safeguarding Board to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for when these young people transition into adulthood, particularly with regard to relevant training.

What We Did:

We carried out quarterly themed audits to give the Safeguarding Children Board assurance that children with disabilities and or complex health needs receive the support they need and that appropriate plans are in place to keep them safe. We worked with colleagues across the partnership to ensure that transition protocols are in place to support children and young people when they transition from receiving help and support from children's services to accessing help and support from adult services



What We Will Do:

We will continue to work alongside partners in both children's and adult services to ensure colleagues are aware of their responsibilities towards this group of children and young people and that appropriate services are available

Child Exploitation Strategy Group

DCI Paul Murphy, South Yorkshire Police

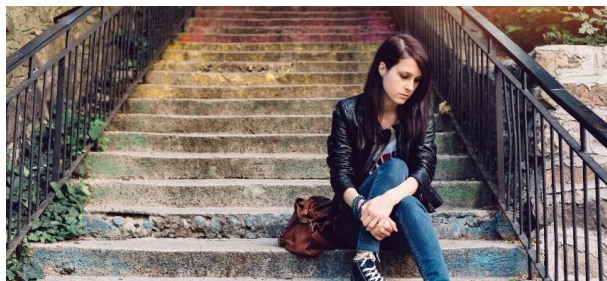
What We Do:

The Child Exploitation (CE) Strategy Group is responsible to the Safeguarding Children Board for overview of inter agency working in all areas of CE including Contextual Safeguarding and County Lines. The Strategy Group is also responsible for the development and implementation of the Safeguarding Children Board CE Strategy and Work Plan.

What We Did:

In 2018/19 we carried out four multi agency audits so that we are able to assure the Board that our partners are fully aware of the risks facing our children and young people from those wishing to try and harm them through CE. This includes on line grooming and pressures they may face from their peers in engaging in risk taking behaviours that might further expose them to harm.

As well as making sure the BSCB CE Strategy and Work Plan is kept up to date, the CE Strategy Group received regular reports and updates from the Multiple Vulnerabilities and Complex Abuse Panel, which considers some of our most at risk children and young people and reports from the Missing Panel, that meets regularly to consider children and young people who go missing from home, the reasons why they go missing and what we can do to try and keep them safe.

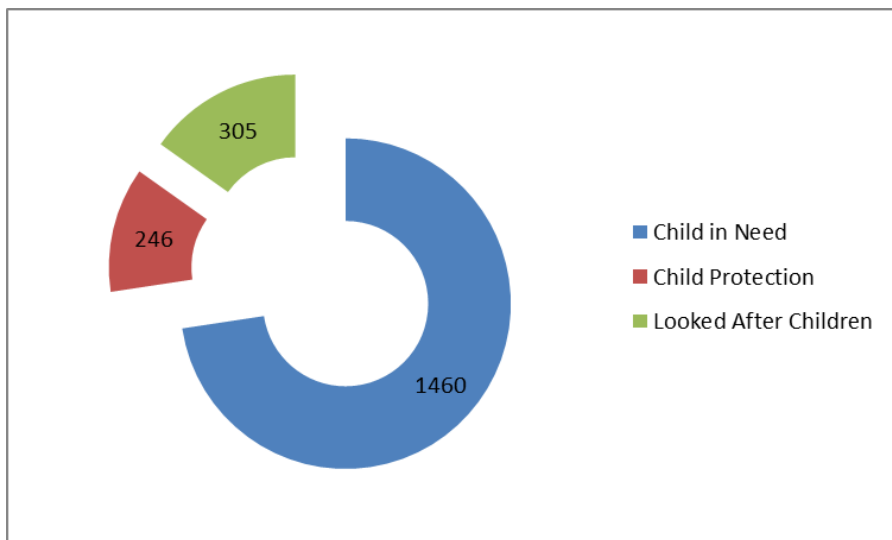


What We Will Do:

In 2019/20 we will continue to conduct regular audits of cases where children and young people have been exposed to or at risk of CE. We will continue to assess the local risks that our children and young people are facing, including harmful sexual behaviour and we will make sure all our partners and people that work for them are aware of what CE is and for them to be constantly vigilant so that we can keep our children and young people as safe as possible

The Safeguarding Landscape in Barnsley

The below graph shows the number of children on a plan in Barnsley as at 31 March 2019. There are also c. 2,890 children receiving support through early help on an Early Help Assessment.



What to do if you are worried about a child

If the child is in danger

Call the police on 999 or (01142) 202020.

If the child is not at risk of immediate harm

If you're concerned about a child, but they're not in immediate danger, it's still important to share the information with us as soon as possible.

If your call is not urgent contact the Assessment Service on (01226) 772423. Our offices are open between Monday and Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Out of hours emergencies

If you want to report your concern urgently and our offices are closed you can contact our Emergency Duty Team on 01226 787789. They work on weekends and bank holidays and deal with issues that can't wait until usual office opening hours.

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/safeguarding-families-in-barnsley/safeguarding-children-in-barnsley/worried-about-a-child/>

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Budget

Year End 2018/19

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Final Position 2018/19			
Income		Expenditure	
£		£	
Partner Contributions			
Barnsley MBC	£51,115	Staffing	£108,090
NHS Barnsley CCG	£49,000	Professional Fees, Supplies and Services	£35,086
PCC	£12,024		
NPS	£1,037		
Training Income	£30,000		
TOTAL	£143,176	TOTAL	£143,176