

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

REPORT

Title: Contextual Safeguarding & Exploitation Subgroup Update

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1. Brief Update

- 1.1 The Contextual Safeguarding and exploitation sub-group is in place to ensure coordinated multi-agency responses to reduce experiences of significant harm such as child criminal & sexual exploitation and serious youth violence that tends to happen in contexts outside the family home i.e. within peer groups, schools settings, online and neighbourhoods. The Partnership meeting in July was postponed due to Social care having its ILACS Ofsted inspection .
- 1.2 MASE (Missing and sexual exploitation group) and CEG(Criminal exploitation group) have continued to meet on a monthly basis . These tactical and strategic meetings continue to be well attended by most partners. Senior police presence has been missed particularly as they should be fulfilling the role of co-chair. An issue that requires escalating is the ongoing lack of an analyst that can provide the borough wide intelligence to support targeted disruption activity reducing risk of exploitation and serious youth violence. The data and analysis at both meetings are social care led only.
- 1.3 The LGA undertook a Peer review of our Safeguarding children’s partnership arrangements between 6-9 June 2023 . The review focussed on: governance arrangements, progress against priorities ,effectiveness of subgroups , resources to deliver on statutory duties , performance and qualitative arrangements and inclusion of the voice of the young person . It is positive to note they recognised LBBDD is a community with high levels of deprivation and need and a very diverse population with a growing number of children and young people aged 0 to 17 living and moving into the borough. The challenges faced by statutory partners to meet the needs of the local community are significant in an environment where resources are limited and under pressure. Relationships in the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Partnership (B&D SCP) are strong and senior leaders demonstrate ambition and commitment to improving services and outcomes for children, young people, and their families. The review offered a comprehensive diagnostic with concrete recommendations which once delivered on will only enhance the impact of the partnership and the interface between the various Council Boards (hence the relevance of bringing it to CSP members attention) . The report has yet to be shared at the Childrens Partnership Executive Board as such fuller details cannot be shared at this time
- 1.4 Of significance in the last quarter is Children’s Social care receiving it’s ILACS inspection . The 3-week inspection undertaken by our regulatory body – Ofsted runs on a 3-4 year cycle and is a comprehensive inspection of services working to protect children from Early help through to adoption There is a keen focus on partnerships and strategic leadership and their effectiveness. The Inspection letter was published on 5/9/23 (Appendix 1) and cites an overall positive direction of travel in terms of improvements . Particular strength was noted in their judgments on the quality of safeguarding work for children who experience exploitation and serious young violence and those who go missing. There is much here for the partnership to be proud of

They wrote the following :

- There is a strong multi-agency approach to contextual safeguarding for children, whether they live at home or are in care.
- Information from partners adds to an understanding of locality 'hot spots' and community risks.
- Schools respond quickly to ensure that appropriate education is in place, so that exploitation risks for children are reduced.
- Careful collation of information and accurate risk analysis guide planned disruption work, which supports the safety of children who are experiencing exploitation or are on the periphery of serious youth violence.
- When children go missing, timely strategy meetings result in comprehensive multi-agency risk assessment and safety planning.
- Practitioners keep the wider network around children informed so that the activities, movements and risks to children are acted on.
- Intervention benefits individual children and provides opportunities to reduce community risks.
- Return home interviews are offered routinely when children have been missing. These interviews seek to find out where children have been and any associated risks. This information informs risk
- 'grab pack' assessments which are shared with police and carers, with information shared across and between boroughs where necessary. This helps professionals to understand children's networks and contexts, and to reduce risk of harm.

1.5 Last Board I reported an interim Lead for Adolescents had been appointed to review , scope out and deliver on a LBBD Youth offer following a review highlighting gaps in provision , participation , training and co-ordination and continuum of services. The Lead, Sharon White reports that : work is underway to shape a locality based youth offer so that it can provide much needed services, provision and interventions when and where it is needed the most. A B&D Young people's action group is being set up with children and young people aged 16-24 with living experience of services affecting the most vulnerable .There is a call out to hear from CYP especially those who have been excluded or marginalised from current youth provision and want to make a positive change for future generations .(See Appendix 2)

1.6 Support required from the Board

Note the report content and acknowledge the good outcome of the Ofsted inspection to Operational staff in your organisation who are involved with children who have been exploited

1.7 Appendices

- I. [Barking and Dagenham Inspection of local authority childrens services Jul23 \(002\).pdf](#)
- II. [BD YPAG campaign 1 \(6\).pdf](#)

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