

ASSEMBLY

2 March 2022

Title: Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Partnership (BDSCP) Annual Report 2020/21	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Elaine Allegretti, Strategic Director, Children and Adults	
Summary <p>Guidance set out in <i>Working Together 2018</i> places a statutory duty on three key agencies to hold local responsibility for safeguarding; the Local Authority, the Police and Health (through the Clinical Commissioning Groups — CCGs) which form the Safeguarding Children Partnership (replacing the LSCB which was abolished in 2019).</p> <p>The Safeguarding Children Partnerships are required to publish an Annual Report, detailing their work over the preceding year. The attached Annual Report (Appendix 1) describes the work and priorities of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (BDSCP) from April 2020 to March 2021. It sets out the key achievements, work of the partners, information around the priorities and how the BDSCP has worked to improve the safeguarding and protection of children across Barking and Dagenham in that period.</p> <p>The Annual Report contains contributions from a range of organisations and subgroups involved in safeguarding children in Barking and Dagenham. Joint work has been effective over the past year, and the membership of the Board and its subgroups have strengthened. The statutory partners have provided financial resources to support the BDSCP a to fulfil their functions. A workshop was held on the 18 October 2021 for BDSCP Delivery Group members, whereby the work of 2020-21 period could be reflected upon including work of the subgroups, how actions from the 19-20 Annual report have been addressed as well as detailed discussions on the priorities for the BDSCP.</p> <p>The Assembly is invited to note the report and draw out any issues that Members would like the Safeguarding Children Partnership to consider as part of its routine business or the Strategic Plan.</p>	

Recommendation

The Assembly is recommended to note the Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 2020/21, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Reason(s)

Safeguarding children is one of the most important statutory duties that falls upon the Council. Collaborating with our statutory and with other important partners is mandated by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together guidance 2018. It is important that all Members of the Council are aware of the work of the Council in improving the systems to safeguard children and young people, and have the opportunity to shape that work.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Working Together 2018 requires that local partners must work together to safeguard children and young people.
- 1.2 The Safeguarding Children Partnership is made up of three statutory partners who are the Local Authority, the Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Partnership also includes representation from other key local partner organisations and these are Barking Havering Redbridge University Trust (BHRUT), North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT), the Probation Service, the Voluntary Sector, Schools and Colleges, the chairs of the BDSCP Subgroups and other key officer advisors.
- 1.3 All Safeguarding Children Partnerships are required to produce an Annual Report. The Barking and Dagenham SCP has produced the Annual Report attached with contributions from all partners of the Board.
- 1.4 The report highlights what the data tells us, key achievements, and priorities of the BDSCP and its subgroups and partner agencies in 2020-21, arrangements for governance and Independent Scrutiny, and the BDSCP priorities for 2021-22.
- 1.5 Included in the report are the BDSCP Priorities for the year 2020-21. As well as overarching principles such as listening to the 'voice of the child' and 'getting the basics right' the BDSCP had six priority areas to focus on in 20/21:
 1. Strengthen multi-agency working to protect and safeguard vulnerable children and young people from all forms of exploitation.
 2. Strengthen multi-agency working in the early identification and support for children at risk of suffering from harm resulting from neglect and domestic violence.
 3. Safeguard children with additional needs and promote their welfare.
 4. Protect vulnerable children and young people from sexual abuse.
 5. Embed our Safeguarding structure and Independent Scrutiny arrangements.
 6. Respond and Recovery to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Proposal and Issues

- 2.1 The Annual Report includes information about the Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure and the work of its subgroups, requisite safeguarding data, the activity of the Partnership and of its partner agencies, what the priorities were during the 2020-21 period and what we have done to address the actions and issues highlighted in 2019-20 Annual Report. There is also a section that covers the 2021-22 Partnership priorities, governance, and details on Independent Scrutiny of which it is important to note that the Independent Scrutineer was appointed outside the scope of this Annual Report – in May 2021.
- 2.2. The key achievements of the Safeguarding Children Partnership in 2020/21 include the establishment of the new structure and arrangements in Barking and Dagenham as outlined in *Working Together 2018*. This includes the new BDSCP Delivery group (which replaces the LSCB) and the Neglect and Early Help Thematic Subgroup, the refresh of the Young People's Safety Group into the Young People's Summit where sessions are able to tackle topical and priority issues of safety and safeguarding locally. Terms of Reference and increased partner membership were established for all Partnership groups and the Practice, Learning and Development subgroup was instrumental in establishing of a new multi-agency BDSCP Training Coordinator who will build a robust training plan to be taken forward. Independent Scrutiny arrangements were not underway before the close of this Annual Report with the appointment being made just outside of that in May 2021.
- 2.3 We now have a Neglect and Early Help Thematic Subgroup, which meets monthly and oversees the implementation of the Early Help improvement programme. This programme has resulted in the Targeted Early Help service transferring from Community Solutions into the Social Care directorate, under the Strategic Director for People and Resilience. The findings from an Early Help, Safe and Seen exercise, that dip-sampled over 300 Targeted Early Help cases, informed the practice improvement workstream of the programme, and the Council commissioned a practice improvement partner, Innovate CYP, to support and drive forward improved practice in getting the basic's right. Further work has commenced embedding improved practice standards, Lead Professional (LP) and Team around the Family (TAF) guidance, including more robust step up and step-down procedures between Targeted Early Help and MASH, Child in Need (CiN) and Assessment services. The Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) neglect training was rolled out across the service.
- 2.4 There has been excellent Partnership working to strengthen the Child Death Review procedures in line with the guidance, establishing a strong interface with BHR CDOP. This includes the BHR CDOP Manager attending and reporting in to into the BDSCP Executive group on a quarterly basis to ensure clear and joint oversight.
- 2.5 The Safeguarding Children Partnership, alongside the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), has continued to work relentlessly to tackle serious youth violence and child exploitation in all its forms. The Contextual Safeguarding and Exploitation Strategic Group with its strong multi agency buy-in continues to drive and hold single oversight of the cross partnership vulnerable adolescent offer, ensuring better identification, prevention and interventions where exploitation or serious youth violence is an issue A key aim of the group is to promote the embedding of a contextual safeguarding approach across the council and its

partners – and in doing so have continued to work with the University of Bedfordshire piloting contextual safeguarding approaches, tools and procedures.

3. Financial Implications

Implications completed by Philippa Farrell – Head of Service Finance

- 3.1 This report is for information only and for cabinet to approve/agree and does not have any direct financial implications, however the success or failure of this board in its duties in safeguarding children can have significant financial impact on council budgets and hold significant reputational risk.
- 3.2 The Children Partnership received financial contributions of £30,000 from the CCG, £5k from the Police/MOPAC, £41k from Schools Forum and £21k from Schools in 2020/21.
- 3.3 The Council also provided the sum of £21k towards the running of the Board in the same year. The running costs include practice learning reviews, training and development needs and administration costs.

4. Legal Implications

Implications completed by Lindsey Marks, Deputy Head of Law

- 4.1 Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires the local authority to make arrangements to promote co-operation between itself and organisations and agencies to improve the wellbeing of local children. This co-operation should exist and be effective at all levels of an organisation, from strategic level through to operational delivery.
- 4.2 The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, strengthens this already important relationship by placing new duties on key agencies in a local area. The police, clinical commissioning groups and the local authority are under a duty to make arrangements to work together, and with other partners locally.
- 4.3 Section 16G of the Children Act 2004 requires the safeguarding partners to prepare and publish a report at least once in every 12 month period on what the safeguarding partners have done as a result of the safeguarding partnership arrangements, and how effective the arrangements have been. Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018) and explains the detail that should go into the annual report.

5. Other Implications

5.1 Risk Management

- 5.1.1 The BDSCP manages risks by having joint oversight through the Executive group which meets monthly and includes the three Leads from the three Statutory partners. Terms of reference are established for all subgroups under the Executive and Strategic plan is being developed.

5.2 Corporate Policy and Equality Impact

- 5.2.1 The SCP is a statutory function under the Working Together 2018 which requires that the Council, CCG and Police must jointly work together to safeguard children and young people.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

[Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2020/21