

Barking & Dagenham

Safeguarding
Children Board

Barking and Dagenham
Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report

2009 - 2010

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Introduction

This is the 4th Annual Report of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board (B&DSCB) and I am pleased to have the opportunity to endorse this overview of the Boards work during 2009/10.

The main purpose of the Annual Report is to comment on the effectiveness of our safeguarding mechanisms within Barking & Dagenham and to set out the progress that has been made to further improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the Borough. The B&DSCB supports the development of local accountability and plays an important role in its relationship with the Local Strategic Partnership and Children's Trust.

The Safeguarding Children Board is a statutory body made up from a number of different organisations in each local area and whose role is to help safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality.

Over the course of the year the Board met on six occasions and continues to enjoy strong support from Partners with good levels of attendance and commitment to the annual programme of work. The Board is also assisted by an energetic network of Sub Committees which provide the impetus for the work programme and represent the 'bridge' between strategic and practice responsibilities.

This year the Board had been sorry to lose the support of some of our members, including, Tolis Vouyioukas, Divisional Director of Safeguarding & Rights; and Dave Reed, Borough Police, both of whom have made valuable contributions. However, we have also welcomed new members to the Board and we look forward to working with them.

During the year the Board has seen good progress made in responding to the Business Plan and is especially pleased to have strengthened engagement through consultation and awareness raising events. The business plan contributes to the Boroughs 'Stay Safe' approach and the Board has been fully consulted and engaged in the development the Young Peoples Plan adopted by the Strategic Partnership.

The Board is very aware of the impact domestic violence can have in families and especially children and young people and is pleased to highlight good progress made by all agencies in raising awareness and the domestic violence advocates in helping reduce incidents of domestic violence.

Inevitably much of the year has been focussed on the Governments response to Lord Lamings recent report and the Board remains well positioned to respond to the revisions expected to statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'. The Board will actively contribute to the recently announced 'Munro Review' commissioned to look into the improvement and development of social work and related practice and will continue its proactive approach in

contributing to Pan London activities through the London Board

For the coming year the Board is aware of the need to ensure that safeguarding has the maximum strategic impact and this Annual Report will be presented to both the Children's Trust and also to the local strategic partnership. The Board has also determined to strengthen arrangements for performance management and audit in an effort to ensure that services are developed in a safe and sustainable way

Additionally the Board will seek to encourage strong and effective support through engaged corporate services covering areas such as safe recruitment, training and development and information management.

Overall 2009/10 has been a productive year for the Board and continued good progress has been made in developing more effective arrangements to both recognise risk and safeguard children and young people who live, work and study in the Borough. However it is equally important to ensure that Barking & Dagenham continues to be a positive and constructive place for people to work and the Board will continue to encourage strategies that support the often volatile work of practitioners and their managers. Of course much remains to be done, but with an increasing emphasis on strong corporate and partnership working we should be confident of maintaining our direction and making Barking & Dagenham a safer place for children, young people and their families to live and thrive in the future.

Simon Hart
Independent Chair
Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding
Children Board

Context of Barking and Dagenham

- Residents have the lowest average level of income in London.
- Unemployment is above the national average.
- The borough has 49487 children and young people under the age of 19 years. This is 28.4% of the total population.
- Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 49% of the total population.
- In January 2010, the proportion of pupils in B&D with English as an additional language was 3.9% (primary) and 3.8% (secondary).
- There were 337 looked after children in March 2010.
- There are 43.2 per 10,000 children subject to child protection plans.
- 396 CAF's were completed with 2009/10.
- B&D has the highest rate of Domestic Violence in London with 293 children were involved in cases discussed at the MARAC in 2009/10.

① Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board (B&DSCB) Annual Report has been written in accordance with The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act (2009) and Working Together (2010), *Chapter 3* (Lord Laming recommendation 53).

Governance and Accountability

Constitution and Governance

The B&DSCB is in the process of formally approving our [Constitution](#). This has been developed through an extensive consultation programme throughout 2009/10 with all Board partners and relevant agencies and clearly sets out the Board's;

- Role & Objectives
- Functions
- Governance Arrangements
- Membership and Responsibilities

Our Constitution clearly defines what the Board expects from all partners and contributors and how it will support the work of partners to ensure that it can be seen to be making improvements on the front line delivery of safeguarding services.

The development of our Constitution and its ratification by the B&DSCB marks a firm commitment by all of our partners to ensure that the work carried out individually across the various agencies comes together to enhance and support our collective approach towards improving safeguarding measures for all our children.

Membership of the Board

The B&DSCB membership is drawn from a wide range of local partner agencies and comprises representatives that have a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their organisation.

Relationship with the Children's Trust and Strategic Boards

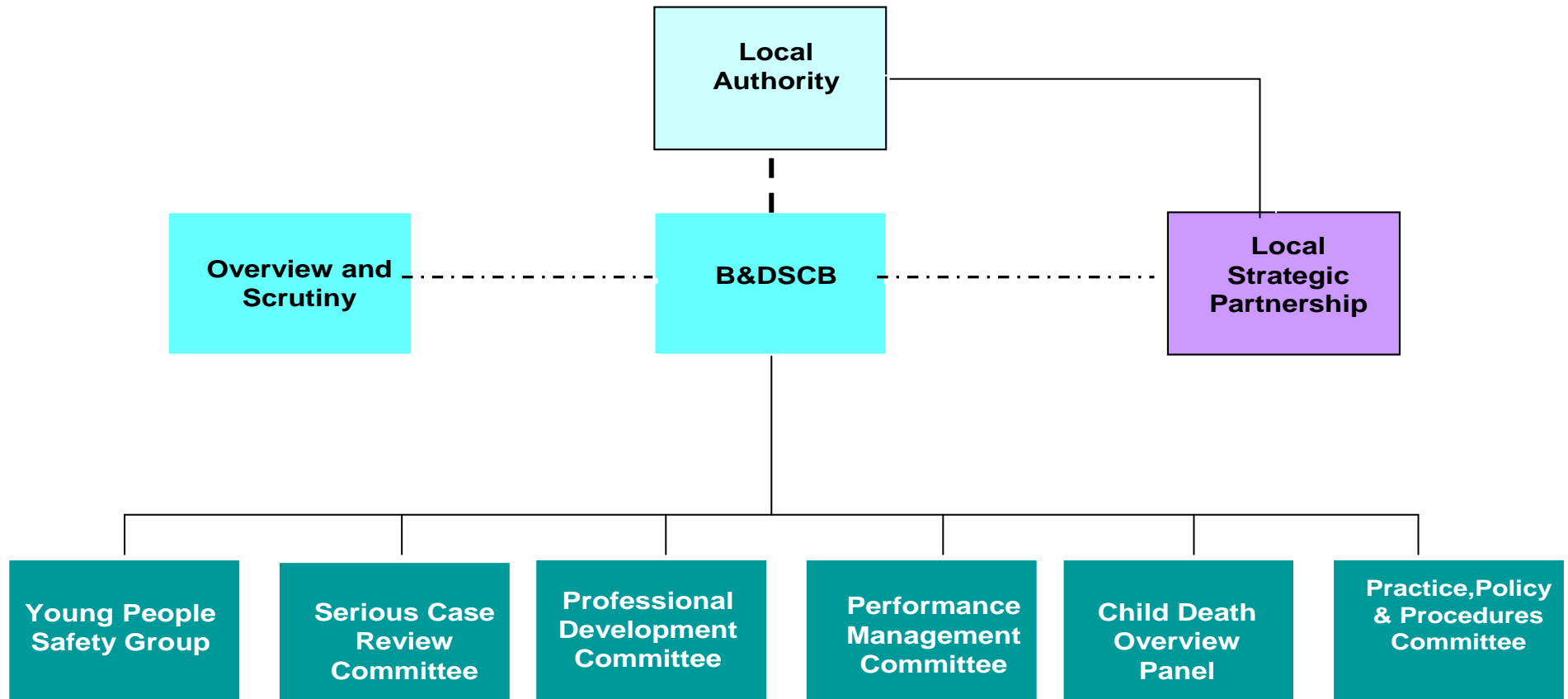
Statutory requirements deriving from Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010) and the Apprenticeship, Learning, Children and Skills Act (2009), stipulate a requirement for LSCB's and Children's Trust Board's to develop and implement an ongoing and direct relationship and scrutiny function in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The function of both Boards includes responsibility and accountability for keeping children and young people safe. Whilst their roles in this regard are complementary, they are also distinct.

Barking and Dagenham's Children's Trust and B&DSCB have established a clear protocol established within our Constitution (including governance and scrutiny arrangements) between the two bodies.

The B&DSCB is also directly linked to local Strategic Partnership Boards such as the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safer Barking and Dagenham Partnership, through the Independent Chair and Safeguarding Board Representatives who sit on these Boards and hold responsibility for maintaining the communication flow.

① More information about the Board can be found on the B&DSCB website:
www.bardag-lscb.co.uk

Local Governance Arrangements



Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board

In 2009/10, the B&DSCB has continued to develop and further strengthen its position within the borough, ensuring that strategic and operational policies and plans aimed at safeguarding children remain in place and are implemented and monitored effectively.

During the year the Board has met on four occasions and held a further two Developmental Days.

Our Independent Chair has continued to provide effective leadership and direction for the Board and maintained a clear focus on progress being made against the priorities set by the B&DSCB.

During 2009/10, the following key areas of work were undertaken by the Board;

The development of clear Constitutional arrangements including Governance arrangements across the Board. This has included strengthening our governance arrangements in relation to the Children's Trust and Local Strategic Partnerships.

Supported and enhanced the B&DSCB Training Programme; that has seen more practitioners receiving multi agency training year on year with stronger evaluation mechanisms and more positive feedback being received.

Further strengthened our links with Adult Safeguarding Board, Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Strategy Group and the Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospital Trust Safeguarding Board.

Continued to support the operation of the Young People's Safety Group and formally aligned this as part of the B&DSCB structure; one of the first of its kind in the UK.

Overseen two Serious Case Reviews and developed, implemented and monitored subsequent action plans.



If you have any questions or would like to find out more information about the B&DSCB please contact lscb@lbbd.gov.uk or visit our website www.bardag-lscb.co.uk

Measuring Our Performance

Priorities for 2009/10	Our Progress
A review of the current B&DSCB Business Plan and Constitution for 2009 – 2012.	We have developed a separate and clear Constitution and Governance document that outlines the Board's Roles and Responsibilities. We have continued to review and update our Business Plan ensuring current priorities are reflected in the work-plan for the year.
The evaluation of the impact of Section 11 assessment process and multi agency systematic audits.	<p>The first year of the Section 11 process has helped improve agencies awareness of safeguarding measures and provided a positive tool in assisting organisations assess their own internal procedures.</p> <p>100% of Section 11 audits were received from Education and Schools, Early Years and Childcare, and Connexions, whilst 75% were received from the National Health Service and Local Authority departments.</p> <p>Our engagement around Section 11 has been less successful than we had hoped with the Faith, Voluntary and Community Sector, Police, and Probation Services, but it is intended that this will be addressed in a new consultation, prior to a re-launch of the 2010/11 Section 11 Audit roll-out.</p>
Responding to external inspection: CAA and Laming Recommendations	The Board has ensured that a clear plan of action was developed and implemented in response to the external inspection conducted within Children's Services in November 2009. It has also continued to monitor and receive progress reports on the implementation of this action plan and continued to ensure that the Borough and it's partners continue to conduct their work in line with current Government recommendations. The Board continues to conduct a robust monitoring and evaluation function holding partners to account where necessary.
A response to the launch of the new Independent Safeguarding Authority	The Board commenced working on its response to the Independent Safeguarding Authority and was further into developing its response when the new Coalition Government placed a freeze on the implementation of the initiative. This has remained on hold pending the final decision to be made by the new Coalition.
Focus on child safety and well being in respect to DV and parental mental health	The B&DSCB Training coordinator and Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Manager reviewed the Domestic Violence training delivered via B&DSCB and amended the training for financial year 2010/11 to ensure that delegates attending the training are appropriately briefed on Borough protocols including use of the MARF, CAF and DV Risk Identification Checklist adopted by the borough DV Strategic Group for

use by employees within the partnership where DV is prevalent to assist in identifying levels of risk and ensure referrals to specialist borough DV services. The training also includes a briefing on the MARAC and pathways to refer victims; adults and children appropriately.

Further, Women's Trust counselling provision is commissioned by NHS B&D for victims of DV and briefings to highlight DV and service provision have been provided to all NELFT teams. DV briefings have also been completed within Children's Services; Children's Centres, YOS, Head Teachers; PSHE Leads; Safeguarding leads; Pastoral Deputies; School Nurses; Health Advisers; Learning Mentors; Parent Support Advisers; MPS School Police Officers and extended schools.

Action Against Violence and Abuse afforded four local partnership employees trainers training on the endorsed Children's Treatment Programme model and the programme will be mainstreamed as part of local delivery.

Committees:

- Young Peoples Safety Group
- Professional Development Committee
- Practice, Policies and Procedures Committee
- Performance Management Committee
- Serious Case Review Committee
- Child Death Overview Panel

Young People Safety Group

The Young People's Safety Group embeds the Boards' commitment to engage young people in the work of the B&DSCB and provides an opportunity for them to give their views on safety and the safeguarding issues facing them living and schooling in the borough.

The forum is chaired by a young person and is held once a term. The work and views of the Young People's Safety Group are presented to the B&DSCB and are commissioned within the Boards business plan.

On average 40 young people attend, representing seven secondary schools and other youth groups across the borough. The young people attend workshops to give their views on key issues such as child protection, e-safety, knife crime and gangs. The group have been informed on how the borough is responding to the findings arising from the Baby Peter case and what we are doing to prevent and reduce the fear of crime.

Some of the key areas of work undertaken with 2009/10 are as follows;

- The potential pitfalls and dangers of the internet and look at how best to warn of these dangers to other young people
- E-Safety sessions, lead by one of only 3 E-Safety co-ordinators in the country
- Involved in the design of a safeguarding marketing campaign to raise awareness of safeguarding issues across the borough and presented their ideas on safeguarding to the Pan London LSCB Chairs Network.

The young people from the group have been instrumental in pushing for policies that have had a substantial impact on raising awareness of safeguarding amongst young people.

For instance, they helped in commissioning Spark2life to hold talks at assemblies in our local secondary schools and deliver a workshop tailored at those who were potentially heading down the wrong path. Spark2Life were commissioned as the young people from this group wanted an organisation that delivered the message of youth crime from those who'd had first hand experience of committing crime, and, had since reformed and used their experiences to mentor young people to follow a better, safer path. The assemblies have been well received by both pupils and teachers.



If you have any questions or would like to find out more information about the Young People Safety Group, please contact Kevin Donovan: Kevin.donovan@lbbd.gov.uk

Professional Development Committee (PDC)

The Professional Development Committee met on seven occasions in this period with the purpose of ensuring that the B&DSCB discharges its duties under Chapter 4 of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010). For a full agency break down of attendance to the B&DSCB programme 2009/10, please see Appendix 3 on page 34.

During 2009/10, the PDC has focused on the following priorities:

- Preparation for the implementation of the training framework within the revision of Chapter 4 of Working Together (2010);
- Provided and reinforced awareness amongst staff and volunteers of child protection issues and met training needs within the wider safeguarding agenda;
- Identified workforce learning needs in relation to safeguarding and contributed to the Barking and Dagenham Workforce Development Strategy;
- Assisted staff to develop and progress in their professional capacity;
- Developed a Continuous Professional Development programme for B&DSCB Members;
- Further developed quality assurance processes to optimise training effectiveness.

Priorities for 2010/11

- **Further basic and intermediate courses on Safeguarding and Child Protection.**
- **To increase the skills of many more people from all sectors.**
- **To continue with professional development in safeguarding and child protection**

- To include courses to explore particular areas of interest such as 'E-Safety'.

Annual Conference 2009/10

In February 2010, the PDC led the Board's Annual Conference. The purpose was to provide an opportunity for front line managers and operational practitioners to engage with other stakeholders across the workforce, receive briefings on emerging safeguarding priorities, local policies and the tools required to effectively undertake their Safeguarding responsibilities.

174 delegates from a cross section of adult and children's statutory and third sector agencies attended the conference.

Overall the Conference was very successful as feedback and outcomes were positive. The day included Central Government presentation on embedding the Think Family Approach to all work with adult and child service users, The Young Peoples Safety Group's presentation on E-safety, the launching of the new Barking and Dagenham Multi-Agency Locality Teams, to highlight issues relating to Domestic Violence and to promote a Safe Workforce.



If you have any questions or would like to find out more information about B&DSCB multi-agency training please contact Tessa McNally, Training Co-ordinator:
lscb@lbbd.gov.uk

Serious Case Review Committee (SCR)

The Serious Case Review (SCR) Committee continued to meet on a quarterly basis and in addition to any SCR Panels that were specifically tasked with ongoing Reviews

In 2009/10 B&DSCB commissioned two SCR's and oversaw the action plans of three Internal Agency Review's that had been commissioned during 2008/09.

The following provides an update on the processes and lessons learned in respect of the 2 SCR cases mentioned above. Both SCR's undertaken in 2009/10 involved the commissioning of Independent Chairs and Independent Overview Writers.

Case 1

This case was commissioned in November 2009 following the tragic death of a baby girl aged 6 weeks. Whilst there was no evidence that abuse and neglect had caused the death, there was significant historical information and involvement of agencies to warrant carrying out an SCR to consider issues of long term neglect and to consider the impact on safeguarding arrangements that might be enhanced through effective early intervention service provision via the Common Assessment Framework.

This SCR is now complete and is due to be signed off by B&DSCB later in May 2010, within timescale. The [Executive Summary](#) is available on the B&DSCB website

Lessons learned have been built into an Action Plan that will be subject to monitoring by the SCR Working Group during 2010/11. The impact will be reported in the 2010/11 Annual Report. The headline lessons included;

- Challenge to professionals working with pervasive neglect in families perceived as 'caring';

- Safeguarding needs of adolescents;
- Support to children in transition to adulthood;
- Threshold for assessment and for referral;
- Holistic multi-agency assessment;
- Communication: within and between agencies;
- Training & supervision of agency staff.

Case 2

This case was commissioned by the B&DSCB in March 2010 following the death of a 12 year old boy. This will be reported in the 2010/11 Annual Report.

Ongoing lessons learned from Internal Agency Reviews (IARs)

In addition to the cases cited above, the SCR Committee presented the B&DSCB with 3 completed Individual Agency Reviews. These cases had been commissioned by the B&DSCB during 2008/09 and were completed in 2009/10. The SCR Committee has been monitoring the progress of the action plans from these IARS.

Priorities for 2010/2011:

The SCR Committee will be involved in ensuring that lessons are learned from the SCR's through;

- briefing events;
- implementation of quality assurance audits that incorporate lessons learned;
- continuous review of action plans.

Performance Management Committee (PMC)

The Performance Management Committee met on a quarterly basis throughout 2009/10 and a Performance Management Core working group, whose work stream feeds into the Sub-committee, met on a monthly basis. A key function of the Performance Management Committee is to review and scrutinise the safeguarding children performance of all agencies constituent to the Board and to advise on ways to improve. Individual agency performance is monitored through the review of management information systems including;

- S11 audits
- Pan London and Local Dataset
- SCR Action Plans.

The Performance Management Committee shares the findings with the full Board through a six-monthly report to the Board.

During 2009 /10 the Committee provided a series of half hour timetabled challenge sessions where partner agencies presented the it with an update on their own agencies safeguarding children performance and identified good practice areas, challenges and areas for development.

When agencies were unable to attend their scheduled session they were invited to submit a written response which was then subject to quality assurance. If the written return was considered unsatisfactory, the agency was further issued with an invitation to attend the Committee to undertake further scrutiny.

During 2009/10 a number of partner agencies were subject to challenge sessions, including:

- Youth Offending Service
- Primary Care Trust

- Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospital Trust
- North East London Foundation Trust
- Children's Services Information Sharing and Assessment Team

Key achievements for 2009/10 included;

- Implementation of the Pan London Dataset;
- Monitoring and reporting on National Indicator Set;
- Monitoring and implementation of Action Plans emerging out of two Serious Case Reviews and three Internal Agency Reviews;
- Monitoring and update of Project SAFE;
- Overseeing of Section 11 compliance audits.

Priorities for 2010/11

- **To support and monitor compliance with Project SAFE;**
- **To ensure compliance with recommendations from external inspections reviews;**
- **To monitor the completion of Peer Audit of agency S11 Self Assessments;**
- **To respond to patterns and trends emerging from performance data.**



If you have any questions or would like to find out more information about our audit processes, please contact Meena Kishinani:
Meena.kishinani@lbbd.gov.uk

Practice, Policies and Procedures Committee (PPP)

The Practices, Policies and Procedures Committee met on a monthly basis with the purpose of ensuring that the B&DSCB discharges its duties under Chapter 3 of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010). Some of the key areas of work undertaken by the Committee during the year includes:

- The development and monitoring of the B&DSCB Business Plan;
- The development of B&DSCB Governance arrangements and Constitution;
- The review of membership of the Board and Committees;
- The development of a FGM strategy.

Priorities for 2010/11:

- To develop and monitor the B&DSCB Communication Strategy;
- To continue to review and monitor B&DSCB Business Plan to measure compliance with national and local requirements and responses to local needs.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

November 2009 saw the launch of the cross government strategy, "***Together we can end violence towards women and girls***".

This formally acknowledged FGM as a form of violence against women and girls on a national level. During 2009/10 key agencies in Barking & Dagenham have been working closely together to develop and implement the Borough's response to this and ensure we were able to effectively deal with issues associated with FGM. This has been passed through consultation with the Practice, Policies and Procedures Committee and the B&DSCB Board.

With this support, 2009/10 saw the development of an FGM specific multi agency sub-group set up to address these issues. The Group met monthly for a period of seven months and undertook the following activities:

- Mapping activity to identify local organisations providing existing FGM support and existing single/multi agency protocols and procedures;
- Identified existing multi and single agency training and awareness raising;
- Developed a reporting method for health services to record FGM related activity;
- Development of a local Multi Agency FGM Strategy for 2010/11.

The strategy incorporates the findings and recommendations of the Government's taskforce and strengthens our local response by setting out the Board's vision for raising awareness, and improving our response to FGM. The work will be conducted in partnership with community and faith groups and will be incorporated into a borough Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy when the current borough DV Strategy is reviewed in 2011.

The strategic principles and aims are based on the agreed principles that FGM are:

- A violation of human rights
- A form of violence against women and girls
- Child abuse.

This strategy will be reviewed within 2010/11 through a Task and Finish group and the PPP Committee.



If you have any questions or would like to find out more information please contact Nanette Higgins, Connexions Area Manager:
nanette.higgins@prospects.co.uk

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The Joint Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), a collaborative arrangement between B&D and Havering, took the decision to cease these joint arrangements and instead establish an individual CDOP each.

In Barking and Dagenham, 2009-10 we achieved :

- Recommendations were made to support the reduction of potentially preventable deaths and to further develop the CDOP processes;
- The Single Point of Contact has been notified of all deaths. This was partly due to the training, imparting knowledge and attaining close working relationships with the multi-agencies;
- Links have been developed with the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths;

- Working relationships have been developed with neighbouring boroughs to identify trends and patterns; and to achieve best practice.

Priorities for 2010-2011:

- Identifying any contributing factors relating to the number of child deaths categorised as perinatal/neonatal events;
- Developing and launching a safe sleeping campaign;
- Developing the processes to identify any trends in associated factors, such as
 - Domestic violence
 - Substance misuse
 - Prenatal care
 - Age of mothers, particularly teenage mothers;
- Identifying a professional to inform and involve parents, carers and family members of the CDOP process;
- Continue to strengthen the working relationship with the Coroner and the Registrar.

Summary of Child Death Review Process activities 2009 – 2010	
Number of B&DSCB CDOP meetings	2
The number of child deaths where the review of the child's death has been completed by BDCDOP.	21
Number of child deaths notified to CDOP 2009/10	24
Number of child deaths notified to CDOP 2008/09	32
Of the deaths where the review was completed, the number the panel assessed as being preventable .	0
Of the deaths where the review was completed, the number the panel assessed as being potentially preventable	6
Of the deaths where the review was completed, the number the panel assessed as being not preventable	14
Of the deaths where the review was completed, the number identified as unexpected.	48%
Of the deaths where the review was completed, the number identified as expected.	52%
Child Deaths judged related to Perinatal / Neonatal events	10
Number of Rapid Response meetings	15

Key Developments and Other Areas of Work Undertaken

Safeguarding Children in Education

Section 175 of the Education Act (2002) states that everyone in the education service shares a duty to have arrangements in place to ensure that children are adequately safeguarded and their welfare is promoted, this includes:

- Providing a safe environment for children and young people to learn in education setting: and
- Identifying children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both at home and in the education setting.

In November 2009, the B&DSCB appointed a Safeguarding Lead for Education to contribute to these requirements by way of progressing and developing a range of activities and initiatives within the education establishment.

Achievements made by the Safeguarding Lead for Education in 2009/ 10 include;

Refresher training for schools and Child protection Leads around child protection & safeguarding:

- 21 schools participated in refresher training (required every three years) with a further five to follow
- 26 Child Protection Leads participated training events and were issued certificates on completion of

- the required twelve hours engagement. A further event is
- scheduled to take place in autumn 2010.
- Presentation at the Child Protection awareness briefing at the Quality and School Improvement service professional development day, a total of 34 participants were in attendance, they commented that the briefing was very informative and timely.
- A one day child protection and safeguarding children and young people event for Barking and Dagenham College Safeguarding Management team

Consultation Forums:

- Practice Consultation: The Safeguarding Lead for Education facilitates a monthly consultation session for practitioners based at Ripple Road. The purpose of these sessions is to assist in bridging the gaps between education and children social care by way of exploring issues with particular reference to challenges experienced between agencies.
- Consultation, support and advice is readily available to all professionals within the education establishment.

SPECIFIC PROJECTS:

- **Barnardos Sexual Exploitation project:** Following a presentation at the B&DSCB Practice, Policy and Procedures Committee in July 2009 it was agreed that Barnardos will deliver a programme of preventative work in Barking and Dagenham. The safeguarding lead for education continues to work alongside the project with a particular focus on the recovery service which aims to identify and work with up to six children at risk of experiencing sexual exploitation.
- **Section 11 Submissions:** In 2009/10 all Section 11 audits for education establishments were completed and submitted, and rated by the unit. An annual submission is required and education establishments will be provided with feedback of their rating. Appropriate support will be offered to address the identified areas of further development.
- **B&DSCB Committees:** The Safeguarding Lead for Education attends the Board's Performance Management Committee, the Practice, Policy & Procedures Committee and the Professional Development Committee. Information, issues and updates, from the education settings are reflected and represented at committee level.

Priorities for 2010/2011:

- **Under the auspices of the PHSE curriculum the safeguarding lead for education has been invited to contribute to the July 2010 awareness raising of year 8 pupils by way of delivering nine sessions in three secondary schools**

focussing on materials and information pertaining to the safeguarding and staying safe agenda;

- **School Governor Training.** A child protection and safeguarding programme was designed and will be delivered for school governors in March and April 2010. 40 governors have expressed an interest to attend;
- **The Child Protection Leads for Education Consultation forum** will be formally established in May 2010. The purpose of the forum is to support, share good practice experiences and development opportunities across network;
- **Managing Sexual Behaviour / incidences in Schools:** Following the identified increase in concerns around the management of sexual incidents and behaviour in schools a series of multi-agency development workshops and seminars have taken place. In May 2010 and June 2010 we will deliver a two day workshop focussing on the identification, intervention and management of sexual behaviour in education settings specifically targeting primary and secondary professionals. Fifteen schools have expressed an interest in taking part.



If you have any questions or would like to find out more information please contact Elaine Ryan, Safeguarding Lead for Education:
lscb@lbbd.gov.uk

Health

Key areas of progress/achievements during 2009 / 2010:

Following the establishment of NHS Barking and Dagenham as a commissioning only organisation, a new Directorate of Nursing was formed with the Executive Director of Nursing as the Board Lead for Safeguarding. The Designated Professionals and the Strategic Leads for Domestic Violence and Adult Safeguarding along with the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) were brought together within the Nursing Directorate, forming a sound structure for safeguarding within the commissioning organisation.

In its first year as a commissioning organisation, NHS Barking and Dagenham has made good progress in setting out a clear service specification for safeguarding and identifying key safeguarding metrics and outcomes for providers.

A peer review by the Safeguarding Improvement Team of NHS London which included an interview with our Independent Chair, highlighted a number of areas of positive practice in Safeguarding, including partnership working by GPs, commitment of senior officers in the organisation to safeguarding, investment in the safeguarding service and effective partnership working through the B&DSCB and Children's Trust.

There has been positive progress on addressing the issue of DV as a key safeguarding issue in the last year. In acknowledgement that Barking and Dagenham has the highest reported rate of DV in London, NHS Barking and Dagenham led the Boroughs response to the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy consultation and has taken a lead in commissioning DV Advocacy support specifically for users of maternity services. Awareness raising on domestic violence

amongst service users and health staff was also a key area of achievement in the last year with health taking a lead role in events like the White Ribbon Campaign, Female Genital Mutilation awareness training and domestic violence publicity campaigns targeting perpetrators and family and friends. Following a successful bid for funding from Government Office for London, specialist training was commissioned for key health staff involved in the multi agency response to domestic violence.

The Safeguarding Manual for Community Health Services, independent healthcare contractors was reviewed and updated in line with Working Together to Safeguard (2010) and The London Procedures 3rd edition. The NHS Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Policy and Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Children Policy was revised and approved by the Governance Committee.

Prevention and Early Intervention:

The last year has seen an increased focus on prevention and early intervention. Capacity within health visiting and school health services was identified as an area of concern and much work was done with Community Health Services (CHS NELFT) via their recruitment and retention strategy to address this so that a vacancy factor which is in line with the London average is on track for achievement by October 2010. Improved capacity will support the increased initiation of Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs) by universal services Staff – a quality measure within the service specification.

NHS Barking and Dagenham have jointly commissioned the Family Nurse Partnership with Children's Services. This project will focus on providing intensive support to young first time parents, proactively supporting this very vulnerable group. Other partnership initiatives which have

commenced this year include the Think Family initiative which introduced a new way of supporting families with wide ranging and complex needs.

As an active participant on the B&DSCB FGM working group, NHS Barking and Dagenham contributed to the development of the FGM Strategy, securing a borough best practice example in the resource manual and contributing to successful launch of the FGM Strategy in Barking and Dagenham.

Information Sharing and Transparency

Following concerns which emerged from a serious case (though it did not warrant a Serious Case Review) there were indications of a level of mismatch between LEA records on school aged children and school health records. Work was undertaken between the NHS and the LEA to agree a process of data sharing between the two organisations. This data sharing process was set up in May 2010 and should substantially reduce the risk of vulnerable children falling through the support network.

Governance and Accountability Arrangements

A report on the key issues for safeguarding is completed for the Clinical Assurance Committee in the Nursing Directorate on a bi monthly basis. Regular reports on key quality issues go to the Governance Committee for NHS Barking and Dagenham. Risk issues and incidents related to safeguarding are monitored regularly via the Risk Register and monthly update reports are part of the Board Assurance Framework.

Audit

Audit in relation to safeguarding has over the last year been mainly in response to Serious Case Review

All provider organisations are compliant with CRB checking and having an Executive Lead for Safeguarding. Due to a re-allocation of roles the Designated Doctor has taken over the Named Doctor role in Community Health Services and NHS Barking and Dagenham is currently in the process of recruiting to the Designated Doctor post.



If you have any questions please contact Liz Doherty, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding:
elizabeth.doherty@nhs.net

Barking and Dagenham's Police & Public Protection Desk

During 2008, as part of the 'Every Child Matters' ECM programme and responsibility under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, Barking and Dagenham police officers received training specifically about improving the life chances of children, young people and families and the five key outcomes.

In April 2008, a specialist unit, the Public Protection Desk PPD was formed with a specific remit to deal locally with reports of children and young persons (under 18 years and pre-birth) that come to Police notice with respect to safeguarding.

As an organisation, the Metropolitan Police Service has a responsibility to ensure that it is able to meet the needs of children. Officers must understand that, no matter what areas of policing they are engaged in, from dealing with a child at the front counter of a police station to investigating offences of terrorism, that they have the training, knowledge and skills to identify concerns that may affect a child's well-being and safety.

Ongoing ECM training is delivered to Police Core Teams, Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the Metropolitan Police Special Constables by PDD officer's in conjunction with LBBB Children's Safeguarding Teams

The Public Protection Desk manages referrals of children and young persons who come to notice of police in their everyday business as well as referrals from outside agencies. Officers complete a report concerning the individual child and the circumstances of the events on the MERLIN System. This document, known as a Pre Assessment Check (PAC), is forwarded to the Public Protection Desk where it is quality assured and disseminated to appropriate

members of the Partnership for action. This is in addition to any frontline immediate action that officers may need to initiate to safeguard a child in an emergency.

Since its accreditation in October 2008, the Public Protection Desk PPD has dealt with over 6000 referrals.

The Police CAIT team have dealt with over 650 child protection cases and there were 250 case conferences. They have increased their capacity to attend child protection case conferences and from Jan 2010 all types of case conference are attended by Police Conference Liaison Officers.

A key challenge for the future will be the increasing volume of business and early identification and management of risk.

A full review of the structure and procedures within the PPD was conducted. It was agreed that to increase effectiveness, expertise and experience staff from key partnership agencies will work together at one site with local police on the Public Protection Desk PPD, thus reflecting a true Partnership Unit. This will be in operation in June 10.



If you have any questions or would like to find out more information please contact Andy Keen, Detective Sergeant CAIT: Andy.keen@met.police.uk

Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Prevention and early intervention is vital to safeguarding children and young people. In Barking and Dagenham, our prevention and early intervention work has been strengthened by continuing to embed the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) across all agencies and Multi-Agency Locality Teams (MALT).

The CAF is used to trigger interventions for children and young people with additional needs. It provides effective inter-agency working through a holistic assessment, improved coordination and cooperation and effective information sharing between agencies through the Team Alongside the Family (TAF) approach.

In 2009/10, CAF usage has progressed significantly. The CAF is now in place for 1,000 children, young people and their families in Barking and Dagenham, and has become increasingly embedded in local services. This figure represents an overall increase of just under 370% in the use of CAF since the last B&DSCB Annual Report 2008-09, when 272 CAFs were in place.

Following a formal unannounced inspection by OFSTED in November 2009, the following strengths were identified:

- Children and carers are regularly and appropriately consulted about service provision. In particular, this has impacted positively on the use of the CAF
- Multi-agency partnerships led by the Children's Trust are successful, particularly in relation to the implementation of the CAF. Effective inter-agency working also ensures children receive timely support from appropriate agencies.

The Children's Trust commissioned a qualitative research study of parents' experiences of the CAF in Barking and Dagenham. This took place between July and October 2009. The purpose of the research was to gather evidence of the impact of the CAF on improving outcomes from the views of parents and children and young people experiencing CAF.

In depth semi-structured interviews were carried out with 28 parents. Their views were analysed to identify commonalities and differences. Key themes that emerged were:

- Parents are overall very pleased with the service provided by the CAF;
- The CAF plan was highlighted as a key strength by parents;
- Parents felt that another key strength of the CAF was the role of the lead professional;
- Parents felt that CAF had been beneficial to both themselves and their children; they described a positive change in their journey as a family.

Although parents were consistently very happy with improvements made to their families' journeys and weaknesses were rarely discussed, parents did put forward suggestions on how CAF could be improved:

- They felt that more time could have been taken at the start to explain what the CAF was;
- They would like the CAF to be advertised more widely using brochures and leaflets for families, so parents who they think they need help could request it
- They would like more help with regard to housing;
- Parents of children with medical needs felt the CAF could have been undertaken earlier to help their children be diagnosed;

- Parents also felt services engaged because of the CAF were often only short term, describing services that had stopped due to lack of funds or staff changes.

In 2010/11, we plan to undertake further research involving children and young people to ensure their views are gathered and analysed in the measurement of outcomes. We also plan to implement longitudinal research to monitor change over time: 6 months, 12 months, 18 months and 24 months. This would allow the full impact of the CAF to be assessed. We will continue to implement and embed the London wide CAF Quality Assurance Framework across the partnership.

ContactPoint

ContactPoint, the national on-line directory of all children up to the age of 18 residing in England, will be decommissioned and closed, by the Government, on 6 August 2010. The Government is continuing to consider the feasibility of a more proportionate approach to supporting frontline professionals to help protect vulnerable children from harm.

Voluntary Sector

As a Voluntary Sector Rep, this year has been a very busy one. There have been many changes to Safeguarding Legislation.

My role has been to make sure the Voluntary & Community Sector were equipped with the knowledge and information they needed in relation to safeguarding children.

We provided Training for over 70 Individual Groups around Section 11 Compliance, Criminal Record Bureau and ISA.

Staff at the Volunteer Bureau helped me in this role by helping with Training needs. This has enabled us to make sure all the 300 groups registered were aware of their obligations in ensuring that Safeguarding is an important part of their organisation.

We also contacted everyone who needed to have a new CRB check to inform them and help them get this done.

The Voluntary Sector has been represented at all Board Meetings with 2 Voluntary / Community Reps being members of the Board.

As an organisation, we meet regularly and report to the Community through Newsletters, Forums and Borough wide events.

Working in Barking and Dagenham on the B&DSCB with Partners from all Sectors has opened us to the vast expertise that is keeping Barking and Dagenham Children's Safeguarding top of the Agenda.



For more information about the role of the voluntary sector please contact Joan Brandon
bardagvb@hotmail.co.uk

Audits, Monitoring & Evaluation

Inspection and Internal Audit

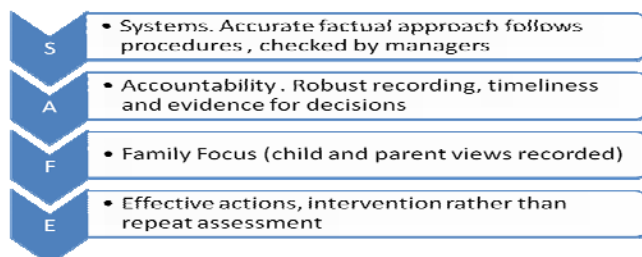
In September 2009 B&DSCB, in partnership with the Local Authority Chief Executive, commissioned an independent audit of safeguarding measures across the local authority.

Further to that, in November 2009, Barking and Dagenham Children's Services were subject to an unannounced OFSTED inspection of the Borough's Initial Contact, Referral and Assessment arrangements. The inspection identified a number of areas of good practice along with some areas for further development.

Project SAFE

In response to the outcomes of the inspection and audit outlined above, B&D Children's Services in conjunction with the Board launched Project SAFE, an action plan that incorporates a number of actions required across the entire partnership to ensure a consistently SAFE service for Barking and Dagenham's most vulnerable children.

The project incorporates 4 main work strands . These strands are as follows:



Under each work strand are a number of priority actions that will be addressed by all

relevant agencies across the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

Partnership. While the main focus has been on driving forward improvements within the Assessment Service following the inspection in that area, successful implementation of the action plan is dependent upon the involvement and co-operation of all partners.

The Project continues to be monitored and reviewed by the Performance Management Committee reporting to the Board on a quarterly basis along with any identified issues.

Quality Assurance Activity for 2009/10

Quality Assurance activity within the Boards work streams is driven by Safeguarding and Rights Quality Assurance Plan, designed to promote continuous improvement in performance and outcomes in the areas of greatest concern. A number of audits and quality assurance mechanisms were carried out across partner agencies to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of work being delivered. These included:

- s11
- compliance audits,
- auditing of front line social work practices

We have continued to collect and analyse relevant performance data that has helped the Board monitor and evaluate safeguarding measures across the partners. This includes;

- Child Protection Statistics outlining patterns and trends for children made subject of Child Protection Plans
- LAC reviews / CP Conferences compliance with national and local guidance
- S11 Compliance
- London Safeguarding Board Data Set

The Board is committed to use the Quality Assurance process as more than just a 'box ticking' exercise, but instead to have a real impact upon outcomes. Within the past year this commitment can be seen through the improvements made of the following:

- Regular briefing and feedback sessions with frontline professionals;
- The strengthening the Front Door assessment processes;
- The improvement of Management Oversight
- The development of an early Troubleshooting process

The Quality Assurance process in B&D has demonstrated many areas of strengths including:

- An effective audit strategy that drives the process and is able to evidence achievements and progress being made;
- Independent auditing process that offers off line insight into areas for further development;
- A pro-active approach for the BDSCB in being able to identify patterns and trends within our practices early on, and establishing clear lines of accountability within any subsequent action plans

Areas for further development

2010/2011 we will aim to:

- **Strengthen our audit activity across all partner agencies, both statutory and voluntary**
- **Provide analysis to the data gathered and publish findings on our website**
- **Provided targeted auditing to specific areas of practice and support agencies within this process**



For more information about our auditing strategy please contact:
 Meena kishinani,
Meena.kishinani@lbbd.gov.uk

Board Priorities for 2010-2011

The BDSCB remains committed to ensuring that children and young people within Barking and Dagenham remain safe and the professionals who work to protect those children have the necessary support, training and supervision to do so. We want to continue making sure that our children are able to perform to the best of their ability.

The B&DSCB is pro-active in looking forward and anticipating the challenges ahead and we are able to adjust our focus accordingly in light of new challenges that emerge.

For 2010/11, having consulted with our young people and those working with them, we have been able to identify, a set of key priorities that we feel will help us continue to offer a safe and responsive approach to issues affecting their lives.

Priorities for the coming year include:

- **Reviewing and Strengthening our Governance and Leadership;**
- **Ensuring a Communication Strategy is implemented;**
- **Ensuring that our Children & Families Workforce (including strategic leads) are confident, competent & equipped to undertake their safeguarding responsibilities;**
- **Ensuring full compliance with Section 11 and external inspections for all partner agencies;**

- **Improving inter-agency collaboration on the front-line Embedding the “Think Family” approach to all our work with children and young people;**
- **To reduce the risk through Early Intervention and Prevention.**
- **Support and implement the findings of the Munroe Report in relation to social work practice and development**
- **Remain committed to the work of the London Safeguarding Children Board and support their work in keeping children safe**
- **Appoint Lay Members to our Board in line with statutory guidance**
- **Maintain a continued focus on performance triggers within all our partners**



Access the full B&DCSB Business Plan from our website
www.bardag-lscb.co.uk

Appendix 1: Executive Board Membership

Independent Chair

Simon Hart

Elected Member

Lead member

Councillor Rocky Gill

Children's Services

Corporate Director of Children's Services
Helen Jenner

Divisional Director of Safeguarding and Rights
(Chair of Performance Management
Sub-committee)
Chris Pelham

Group Manager: Safeguarding, Quality & Reviews
(Part Chair of Practice, Policies and Procedures
Sub-Committee)
Alison Crowe

Group Manager: Engagement
Chris O'Connor

Interim B&DSCB Safeguarding and QA Manager
(Chair of Professional Development Committee)

Kellie Ann Fitzgerald

Education

Head Teacher, Warren Junior School
Gary Wilder

Head Teacher, Sydney Russell Secondary School
Roger Leighton

Police

Borough Commander Metropolitan Police
DCI Ellie O'Connor

Metropolitan Police (Child Abuse Investigation
Team)

Detective Inspector Andy Keen

Probation

Assistant Chief Officer
Carina Heckroodt

Housing

Divisional Director of Housing Services
Stephen Clarke

Adult and Community Services

Head of Community Safety and Preventative
Service

Glynis Rogers

Connexions

Area Manager

Nanette Higgins

Leisure, Arts & Olympics

Head of Service

Paul Hogan

Health

Interim Chief Executive PCT

Stephen Langford

Interim Director for LBBB North East London
Foundation Trust (NELFT)

Jacquie Mowbray

Managing Director: Community Health

Jacqui Van Rossum

Nurse Consultant Child Protection (BHRUHT)

Leila Francis

Designated Nurse, Safeguarding
(Part Chair of Practise, Policies and Procedures
Sub-Committee)

Liz Doherty

Director B&D PCT

(Chair of the Child Death Overview Panel)

Justin Varney

CAFCASS

Services Manager

Richard Walker / Pauline Poyser

Faith Sector

Reverend Jean Halliday

Community and Voluntary Sector

Karen West Whyllie

Keith Smith

Joan Brandon

Legal Services

Melanie Field

Legal Practice Partner:

Appendix 2: B&DSCB Attendance Data

Agency	No of seats at Board	% of meetings attended by an agency representative
Independent Chair	1	100
Lead Member	1	50
Children's Services- Local Authority	3	100
Children's Services- Secondary School (Vice Chair)	1	50
Children's Services- Junior Schools	1	75
Children's Services- Participation Lead	1	?
Police	2	80
NHS B&D	1	60
Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust (BHRUHT)	1	60
North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT)	1	80
Voluntary Sector	2	60
Legal Services- Local Authority	1	75
Connexions	1	80
Probation	1	20
Faith Groups	1	0
Leisure Services	1	0
Adults and Community Services (ACS)	2	100
Child and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)	1	60
Housing	1	25
Business Support: Children's Services	1	100

Appendix 3: Agency Breakdown of Attendance of B&DSCB Training Programme 2009/10

Course	Customer Services	Safeguarding & Rights	Education and Schools	Integrated Family Services	Voluntary Sector	NELFT	PCT	BHRUT	Youth Offending Service	Policy and Trust Commissioning	Housing	B&DNHS	Havering College	DAAT	Connexions	CAFCASS	Not Known	TOTAL
Key Legislation and the knowledge to Safeguard (10 Courses)	1	11	8	33	48	17	1	2	7	4	2	0	8	2	1	0	3	148
Yourself as a Tool in Safeguarding (10 Courses)	4	10	8	35	42	17	1	4	3	2	2	2	5	1	0	0	0	136
Child/Young Person as Part of Intervention (8 Courses)	0	11	12	34	41	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	105
Safeguarding and Domestic Violence (3 courses)	2	5	0	5	2	8	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	28
Safer Recruitment (3 Courses)	0	0	28	14	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	46
Basic Safeguarding and Referral Processes (2 Courses)	0	2	1	6	11	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	25
Safeguarding Responsibilities (1 Course)	0	0	0	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Serious Case Reviews and Child Deaths (1 Course)	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	9
Fabricated Illness (1 Course)	0	13	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Parents who Misuse Substances (1 Course)	0	3	1	2	5	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Managing Challenging Situations with Families	0	4	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Attending Multi-Agency Meetings (1 course)	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Total number attended from each agency	7	61	64	137	163	52	6	10	15	13	4	7	16	3	2	0	3	563

Appendix 4: Attendance Data - B&DSCB Annual Conference

Agency	Number
Local Authority	
Adult and Community Services	3
ACS (YOS)	3
Adult and Community Services Other	5
Children's Services	5
Customer Services	2
Education	12
Integrated Family Services	22
Policy & Trust Commissioning	8
Quality & School Improvement	3
Resources	1
Safeguarding & Rights	21
Health	
B&D CHS	3
BHRUHT	1
Mental Health (Adult)	2
Mental Health (Children)	1
NELFT	9
NHS B&D	18
Other	
CAFCASS	3
Connexions	2
Faith	4
Not LA	3
Other and Private	5
Police	2
Total	153

Appendix 5: BDSCB Financial Statement

Income	
Agency Contribution	
Council - Safeguarding & Rights	94,453
Council - Housing	8,888
Council - Leisure	8,888
Council - Community Safety	1,077
Council - Youth Offending Team (YOT)	1,077
council - Drug & Alcohol Abuse Team (DAAT)	1,077
Primary Care Trust	14,813
BHRT	3,231
NELMHT	3,231
CAFCASS	550
Metropolitan Police	5,385
Probation	1,077
London Councils	5,000
Total Contribution	148,746
Local Safeguarding Children Board	148,746
Under spend carried over	98,859
Total	247,605
Expenditure	
Independent Chair	21,485
Development Worker	13,929
Training Administrator	14,916
Recruitment	0,000
Training	35,153
Policy and Procedures	6,640
Serious Case Reviews	21,618
Child Death Overview Panel	0
B&DSCB Conference	4,248
Business Support	12,770
Young people's safety group	5,000
Total	135,759
Over/under spend	111,846