

# annual report 2016-17



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## Chair's foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board for 2016/17.

Whilst there have been inevitable changes in some of the representatives of partner agencies at the board, I am pleased to be able to report that there has been no change in the commitment being shown to keeping children and young people safe in Barnsley.

The board continues to play a leading role in ensuring that continuous improvement takes place to improve partnership working and to hold partners to account. The Continuous Service Improvement Plan is a standing item at every board meeting with the plan having been refreshed to reflect the progress that has been made and to identify new actions.

The main body of this report provides more detail of the work of the board and its individual sub-committees but just to highlight a few notable achievements from the last year:

- The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was established. This brings together front line staff from a range of agencies including Children Social Care, Health, Education and the Police working together in the same offices at one location. This is a step forward in close partnership working.
- There has been a marked increase in the number of Early Help Assessments being completed. (From 1047 in 2015/16 to 1752 in 2016/17) This is welcomed as it evidences that agencies are identifying families and children at an early stage; this allows support to be given aimed at improving their situation before their circumstances become more chronic.
- There has been a reduction in the number of children on Child Protection Plans. (257 at the end of March 2017)
- A task and finish group was established to review and refresh the Anti Bullying Strategy. This is an important piece of work that will come to the board in the summer of 2017.
- For the second year in a row there has been a 100% return of Section 175 self assessments on safeguarding in schools. The board recognises the important role that schools play in keeping children safe; the self assessment is a tool that

gives considerable information to the board on the safeguarding procedures in schools.

- For the first time, the self assessment process was extended into early years settings, an example being nurseries. I consider this to be a strengthening of the board's role in ensuring that children are being kept safe.
- The board continues to have a high quality training programme. A day conference on domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse (often referred to as the toxic trio) was oversubscribed and saw over 100 staff attend the event.
- Work has been commissioned to improve the Board's web site. The new web site went live on 16 May 2017. We know that the web site is an important source of information for both professionals working with children and the public. The new web site will be much more user friendly and accessible.

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

- The first Safeguarding Awareness Week was held. This saw partners commit to running events across the borough to raise public awareness of safeguarding issues. It is being repeated again this year; more details of this year's programme of events can be found on the recently updated Barnsley Safeguarding Website

There is much more that I could add to that list but it gives a flavour of the work of the board over the last 12 months and evidences that we continue to commit ourselves to improving the services being provided to children and their families.

Looking ahead, I would like to see the board offering more information on how children and young people can stay safe when using the internet; this would include advice for parents and carers.

In conclusion, I am satisfied that the board and its member organisations consistently demonstrate their commitment to keeping children and young people safe.

**Bob Dyson QPM, DL**  
**Independent Chair, Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board**

## Introduction and local safeguarding context

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board comprises of representatives from a range of statutory partners, who are passionate about promoting the safeguarding and welfare of local children, young people and families in Barnsley.

Our vision is that:

*Every child and young person should be able to grow up safe from maltreatment, neglect, accidental injury/death, bullying and discrimination, crime and anti-social behaviour.*

*Children are entitled to a strong commitment from the BSCB and its constituent agencies to ensure that they are safeguarded. Where possible, this will be done in partnership with parents and carers, and by engaging the active support of the public. We will do as much as we can within the resources available to us and, with every agency providing services, we can maintain an inter-agency safeguarding system directed at safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all Barnsley's children.*

*We will endeavour to ensure that every child is safe, well cared for and thereby supported to fulfil their potential to make the transition from childhood to adulthood.*

### The board's prime responsibilities are:

To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area, and "To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body for that purpose".

The board oversees work undertaken by partners to provide integrated services for children and families, with particular focus on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

### This Annual Report provides:

- An outline of the main activities and achievements of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board during 2016 and 2017.
- An assessment of the effectiveness of safeguarding activity in Barnsley.
- An overview of how well children are safeguarded in Barnsley.
- Ambitions for future service developments and identification of key priorities.

## Local relationships

The board is strongly committed to further strengthening its relationship with other strategic partners, including the Children and Young People's Trust Board, the Health

and Wellbeing Board, the Safer Communities Partnership and the Barnsley Safeguarding Adult Board.

The board articulates clear improvement priorities in its Business Plan, with actions to accomplish improved outcomes.

A chart of the structural relationship between the BSCB and its strategic partners is shown on page 25 Appendix 1.

To ensure effective safeguarding and child protection, the BSCB operates under an up-to-date information sharing agreement to which all partners are signatories.

## Local Demographic Context

Barnsley is part of a broad South Yorkshire conurbation located around traditional community bases of former mining and market towns. The latest data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) (2015) shows the population of those under 18 years is approximately 21% of the total population at 49,700 (ONS Mid-Year Estimates 2015) and is expected to increase by approximately 4% by 2020 to 51,700. The predicted population increase has implications for increased demands on all services, including those providing child and family support. The School Census (January 2017) shows that 8.6% of primary school pupils and 6.7% of secondary school pupils are from minority ethnic origins.

Growing Up in the UK report (2013) recognises a link between infant mortality and deprivation; those born to the most deprived parents have a higher infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births compared to babies born to the least deprived. The Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013-15 data shows the Barnsley infant mortality rate at 4.0 deaths per 1,000 live births. This is slightly lower than the regional average 4.3 but slightly higher than the England average 3.9. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 ranks Barnsley as the 39th most deprived local authority in England out of 326 where '1' is the most deprived.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON A PLAN IN BARNSLEY		
	2015 – 16*	2016 – 17*
Number of Children on CiN Plan	1628 (CiN at 31/3/16)	1550 (CiN at 31/3/17)
Number of Children on CP Plan	409 (CPP at 31/3/16)	257 (CPP at 31/3/17 – monthly social care report [May])
Number of Children Looked After	280 (LAC at 31/3/16)	288 (LAC at 31/3/17 – monthly social care report [May])
The number of children on a Plan varies. Therefore the reference date for the above Table is the same as the reference date for any other data reported in the BSCB Annual Report. The reference date for data in the BSCB Annual Report is annually on the <b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> . (Unless otherwise stated – ONS for example)		

## Coordinating local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

### Governance and accountability

The Board has six planned business meetings each year, together with additional sessions, to allow time for member development and reflection on specific issues. Special meetings are convened when required, for example to receive the findings from Serious Case Reviews or discuss key member financial contributions.

To promote optimum focus on priority issues, the board retains its sub-committee structure as in 2016-17 ensuring it continues to be sighted on emerging priorities. The terms of reference and the membership for each subcommittee will however be reviewed over the course of the year and task and finish groups will be established to help progress some subgroup priorities, for example, one completed piece of work is the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Strategy.

The current sub-committee structure, as depicted in Appendix 2, provides for focus on our priorities and promotes activities aligned to the board's statutory functions. The functions of the sub-committee and sub-groups, all meet at least six times a year.

### Update from Sub Committees:

#### Performance, Audit and Quality Assurance Sub-committee

This is the key forum through which the Board examines and verifies the quality of individual agency safeguarding practice. It oversees performance management, scrutinises a developing suite of key performance indicators (KPIs) and secures quality assurance through findings from single and multi-agency audit activity.

#### Performance management and quality assurance framework

##### Remit

- Implement an effective strategy to monitor quality & effectiveness through analysis of relevant safeguarding performance information from partner agencies including, where appropriate, service users' views.
- Develop and oversee a planned programme of single and multi-agency audit review and

quality assurance in relation to safeguarding activities.

- Secure quality assurance and performance management through receipt of reported audit activity arising from agencies and Sub-Committees.
- Co-ordinate Section 11 self-assessment audits and analysis, monitoring agency action plans by reviewing summary data and determining response in respect of non-compliance
- Oversee the Section 175 and 157 audit process relating to schools and outcomes
- Undertake reviewing activity and performance data analysis, providing regular updates/recommendations to the BSCB to mitigate risk, highlight trends, areas of concern and recommendations for further activity / monitoring designed to improve quality and promote good practice.
- Commission specific audits, thematic reviews or case management reviews at the request of the Safeguarding Children Board.
- Ensure that findings from case audits and other enquiries are communicated effectively to frontline staff and managers
- Ensure that messages from inspection, case reviews, audit and quality assurance are acted upon to address inspectorate recommendations and improve practice, through regular learning events.
- Embed performance issues into other Sub-Committees to evaluate and monitor the work of single agencies and reflect the Sub-Committee's role as an external quality check.
- Highlight and disseminate required improvements and areas of good practice through the Policy, Procedures and Practice Developments and Workforce Management and Development Sub-Committees

A Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework is in place and has been endorsed by the Board. This confirms the need for continuous service improvement and delivery to be driven through quality standards, monitoring of improvement targets and focus on a suite of selected KPIs.

The Board and sub-committee have held development sessions to determine the data to be received by the Board and sub-committee. Respective scorecards of multi-agency KPIs have been identified for regular reporting. The sub-committee will escalate any issues of concern to the Board. The Board has developed a more effective performance management culture through increasing focus on performance and

quality assurance. More valid data with contextual information will enable constructive challenge and provide proper reassurance about safeguarding from partner agencies.

The Board's own set of KPIs, framed around the child's journey from early intervention through to Tier 4 and looked after status includes:

### Early Intervention

1. Number of Early Help assessments

### Contacts, Referrals and Assessments

2. Number of contacts received
3. % of contacts to referral
4. Numbers of referrals
5. % of referrals to assessment under S17 and S47
6. % of Section 47 Investigations converting to initial child protection conference
7. % of assessments completed within 20 days
8. % of assessments completed within 45 days and those out of timescale

### Child Protection

9. % of children becoming the subject of a CP Plan for the second or subsequent time within 2 years
10. % of open CP Plans lasting 2 years or more

### Children in Care

11. Looked after children missing from care incidents (episodes)
12. Police Data. In May 2015 new police measures and safeguarding performance data was provided by South Yorkshire Police (SYP) across a range of categories
13. During 2016/17 the numbers of unallocated assessments to Children's Social Care have been reported.

### Assurance from audit activity

The sub-committee promotes practice improvement through review of audit outcomes, drawn from an evolving programme of planned single and multi-agency audits. For 2016 – 17 the sub-committee considered the following findings from partner and multi-agency audits:

- PAQA Scorecard of Indicators (at every meeting)
- Monthly Social Care Scorecard (at every meeting)

- Education Data Performance Reports (children missing, excluded, elected home educated)
- Youth Offending Data Performance Report
- SY Police Performance Information

### The following audits were considered and completed:

- Multi Agency audit of agency reports to Child Protection Case Conference for children who had who had been on CP Plans for 18 months+
- Following the above audit PAQA led a review of Child Protection Case Conference Reports & Templates to improve the quality of reports to Child Protection Case Conferences Audit
- Children's Social Care Cultural Diversity Audit
- Multi Agency audit of Children with Substance Misuse difficulties
- Multi Agency dip sampling of children where a S. 47 has been completed with an outcome NOT progressed to an Initial CP Case Conference
- Multi Agency Self-Assessment & Audit of Children Living with Domestic Abuse

### Overview of vulnerable groups:

In fulfilling its objective to review the welfare of vulnerable groups of children, the sub-committee questioned information on the following during the year:

- Children not in Education: This relates to children of compulsory school age, not on school roll or educated otherwise, who have been out of any educational provision for at least four weeks. The sub-committee sought information on local numbers and how the children were monitored to ensure they receive suitable education and are safeguarded. Although potential complications relate to school transfer and relocation to another area, the EWS request a safe and well visit to ensure a child's welfare as soon as relocation is known. The sub-group have also looked at performance information and safeguarding arrangements for children who are excluded from school and children who are home educated
- Looked After Children (LAC): The sub-committee continue to closely review performance indicator data relating to looked after children.
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): Quarterly multi agency audits are undertaken by the CSE

Strategic Group and reported in to PAQA. Audits are showing an improvement in joined up responses to young people.

### Priorities for 2017 – 2018

- Improve a systematic reporting of single and multi-agency practice in terms of identifying key themes for learning and improvement, informing priority areas and promoting multi-agency contribution
- Continue to develop an analysis of Police data to better understand and inform priority areas for multi-agency contribution
- Continue to undertake quarterly multi agency audits:
  - Children where a S. 47 has been completed but have NOT progressed to an Initial CP Case Conference
  - Neglected Children – CiN and CP
  - Missing LAC and the Return to Care Interviews
  - Multi Agency Audit of Child Sexual Abuse Cases including harmful sexual behaviour

### Policy, Procedures and Practice Development Sub-committee

This Sub Group ensures that policy and procedures are current, implemented, embedded and reflective of best practice.

The PPPD sub group oversees a range of areas of safeguarding practice and has continued to benefit from the work across the People directorate with adults to:

- Develop and consult on new multi-agency protocols, policies and procedures on specific safeguarding issues or in response to Serious Case Review findings.
- Ensure relevant communications to frontline staff.
- Identify any gaps in safeguarding practice that need to be addressed through development of new safeguarding policies/procedures across both the children and adult boards.
- Respond to national and local policy changes and advise the Board of the implications of relevant publications and safeguarding developments.
- Maintain oversights of interagency arrangements to protect young people who are vulnerable/exposed to risk of harm through multiple vulnerabilities and complex abuse (MVCA). Receive reports from the

Missing and MVCA Forum. Report on specific areas of unmet need to advise the Board of potential and necessary resources/services to meet these needs.

- Strengthen engagement of young people with the Board through maintenance of links with relevant forums, such as the Care 4 Us Council, to secure the voice of the young person.
- Continue to promote better awareness of the impact of adult mental health, learning difficulties, substance misuse and domestic abuse (Toxic trio).
- Ensure that work relating to anti bullying policies and strategies reflects a zero tolerance approach and ensures that any hate or harassment related behaviour is appropriately recorded and responded to.

### Development of new policies and procedures

The Board's web enabled policies and procedures were revised and updated in September 2016 and March 2017. In response to identified needs or recommendations from SCRs/learning events, the Board approved the following new policies and procedures, developed with multi-agency consultation:

- Missing from Home or Care and Runaways - Multi-agency protocol - April 2017
- Revised arrangements and TOR for the weekly overview of cases involving children missing from home, education and care
- Developed missing and MVCA oversight arrangements through the development of CSE Forum to include children at risk of MVCA or missing
- Anti Bullying Policy - Task & Finish Group has been established to strengthen links with schools to report incidents of hate and harassment, to update policy in summer 2017
- Developed a new Sexual Harmful Behaviour policy and procedure underpinned by specialist training and delivery
- Re-written and developed a combined FGM /Honour Based Abuse/ Forced Marriage – to ensure consistency across both children and adult boards

## Serious Case Review Sub-committee

The Serious Case Review (SCR) sub- committee has members from a range of partner organisations including Children Social Care, Health, the Police and the voluntary sector. It is chaired by the Independent Chair of the BSCB.

Serious Case Reviews are commissioned in circumstances which are detailed in the Department for Education guidance document 'Working Together'

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/592101/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children\\_20170213.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592101/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children_20170213.pdf)

**It defines a Serious Case as one where:**

- (a) Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
- (b) Either — (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

The sub-committee monitors and drives the progress of actions that have arisen from SCRs and Learning Events. An Independent Author is commissioned for all SCRs and Learning Events to ensure that Barnsley benefits from the reports being prepared by someone who has had no involvement in the case and is not employed by any of the agencies that work to safeguard children in Barnsley.

The information and findings from SCRs and Learning Events are used to ensure that we continue to improve practice in Barnsley to Safeguard Children and Young People.

It has also examined SCR reports from other areas with a view to identifying and implementing any transferable lessons for Barnsley. We have also been able to use information collated, by the NSPCC, from Serious Case Reviews elsewhere in the country to provide check sheets for some of the agencies represented on the board so that they can ensure they are addressing the issues identified.

During 2016/17 no new Serious Case Reviews were commissioned and none were published. At the time of writing this report there is one Serious Case Review that is awaiting publication but cannot be published until a Coroner's Inquest has been held.

During 2016/17 one action plan, arising from a Learning the Lessons review, was monitored to completion and sign off by the full BSCB. The primary learning point from this review was around the discharge procedure from the Paediatric Unit of

Barnsley Hospital. The relevant procedures were changed and compliance with the revised procedure has been monitored through case audits.

## Serious Case Review Panel

The Serious Case Review Panel is convened to bring together agencies where there is a case to be considered to establish whether or not it meets the criteria for a Serious Case Review to be commissioned.

During 2016/17, the SCR Panel did not meet to consider any new cases as there were no cases that had the potential to meet the criteria for a Serious Case Review. The panel did meet to assist in the enquiry into the ongoing Serious Case Review which will be concluded later this year (2017).

## Child Death Overview Panel

Following the death of Victoria Climbé in 2000, national guidance was produced in the form of Working Together to Safeguard Children. This Guidance states that that all agencies who have a responsibility towards children should work together to look at ways to keep children safe. This led to the formation of Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) who are accountable to the Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

The child death review process is not about apportioning blame but aims to learn lessons in order to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of children and to seek to reduce the number of deaths.

Compared to national data, Barnsley has relatively few child deaths. However, the circumstances surrounding the death of each child are considered on an individual basis in order that any modifiable factors identified may form the basis of recommendations to the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB). Consideration is given to how local services can work together to mitigate future harm to children and young people. The findings from all child deaths inform local strategic planning, including the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, on how to best safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Barnsley.

The Graphs referred to in the following report are to be found at **Appendix 3**

### **Number of child deaths notified**

From 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 there were 10 deaths notified to Barnsley CDOP.

**Figure 1**

Shows the number of Barnsley child deaths by year, 2008-09 to 2016-17

**Figure 2**

Shows the number of these that were expected and unexpected

**Figure 3**

Illustrates the number of deaths by month

**Figure 4**

Shows the breakdown of child deaths reviewed by CDOP by age over the period 2008-09 to 2016-17

**Figure 5**

Shows the percentage of child deaths reviewed by cause category over the period 2008-09 to 2016-17 (this does not include the cases that have not yet been reviewed)

**Cases Reviewed**

The panel met 4 times (quarterly) and 14 reviews were completed during the April 2016 - March 2017 reporting period. Due to the small numbers of deaths that occur each year in Barnsley, identifying trends and patterns is difficult. However, we are currently working with the South Yorkshire region to enable us to identify trends and patterns regionally and co-ordinate actions. Additionally analysis has been undertaken of the child death information held on the CDOP database over the period 2008/09 to 2016/17 to provide a picture of what is happening over a longer time period.

The findings show that the pattern of child deaths seen locally reflect those identified in national findings with approximately a third of deaths being associated with premature birth.

**Progress against recommendations**

In accordance with the previous year's proposed service developments, the following have been successfully completed:

- Participation with South Yorkshire CDOPs in a peer audit review around decision making for modifiable factors.

In addition to the above:

- A training session relating to the CDOP procedures was delivered specifically to Public Health Officers to ensure business continuity; this provided an understanding of the CDOP procedure and what actions are required in the event of receiving a notification.

**Recommendations for 2017-18**

The National Wood Review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards made a number of recommendations for Child Death Overview Panels; as a result the statutory basis of Child Death Overview Panels is changing with responsibility passing from the Department for Education (DfE) to the Department of Health (DH). NHS England and DH are preparing new statutory guidance for child death reviews, when published we will review local arrangements as required.

**Further references**

Barnsley Joint Strategic Needs Assessment:  
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/public-health/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-jsna>

Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Wood report: Review of the role and functions of local safeguarding children boards 2016:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wood-review-of-local-safeguarding-children-boards>

### Workforce Management and Development Sub Committee

The Workforce Management and Development Sub-Committee's remit is to oversee and manage the planning, design, delivery and evaluation of Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) multi-agency safeguarding children training, within the wider context of workforce development, including training relating to adults at risk. To ensure that all training in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk, creates an ethos of working collaboratively with others, respects diversity (including culture, race and disability) upholds equality, is child/ adult at risk centred and promotes the participation of children and families in safeguarding processes. To ensure that all partner agencies of the BSCB can evidence compliance with Chapter 3 requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015. The Sub-committee also oversee local standards for safer recruitment, retention and supervision of those working with children (in conjunction with Adult Services and the Section 11 Audit). Links are maintained with other BSCB Sub - Committees in order to inform safeguarding policies, procedures and practice developments and ensure the voice of the child is demonstrated to inform training and recruitment.

During 2016-2017 there has been continued high demand for multi-agency training, an extensive programme of training, lunchtime seminars and events were attended by a total of 2319 practitioners from across partner agencies. Attendance at training is prioritised by agencies despite budget cuts and a reduction in staff numbers, this is an excellent example of partnership working and learning together.

There are strong links with the adult workforce training and efforts are made to take a whole family approach to safeguarding training.

The training programme has been developed and delivered in response to statutory requirements, local and national Serious Case Reviews, current research, report findings and local audits.

The need to provide early help, remain alert to child sexual exploitation, neglect and the recognition of how the co-existence of key issues such as domestic abuse, parental mental illness and parental substance misuse can significantly contribute to the abuse and neglect of children has remained a priority for 2016-2017.

In addition to the variety of multi-agency courses and popular lunchtime seminars, further new topics have been added to the programme.

#### **These include:-**

- More Than Just Attention Seeking?  
Responding to Self-Harm in Young People
- Awareness Raising of the Safeguarding Adult Process
- Understanding Multi-Systemic Therapy
- Sudden Unexpected Infant Death – How You and Your Agency Can Help To Reduce This
- Communicating Effectively with Children – Hearing the Voice of the Child
- Neglect Awareness Workshops
- Engaging Families and Young People in Interventions
- Understanding the Toxic Trio and the Impact on Children
- Recognising and Responding to Harmful Sexual Behaviour and the Brook Traffic Light Tool
- Recovery Awareness Workshop
- \* An extensive programme of E-learning is also available.

#### **Contribution from partner agencies**

Many of the courses benefit from partner agency colleagues co-delivering training with the Multi-Agency Trainer or sole delivery, this and the use of

free venues, helps to gain maximum benefit from the training budget. Partners that help deliver training are: Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation trust, Barnsley College, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Independent Domestic Abuse Service (IDAS), Lifeline, Targeted Youth Support and South Yorkshire Police.

#### **Key achievements**

The sub committee agreed to undertake a piece of work on behalf of the Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group with the aim to improve the children's workforce skills to deliver quality services to children and young people:

- Induction programmes for all agencies were reviewed and refined to ensure that the purpose, vision and strategic priorities of Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust are clearly defined and that common core skills, attitudes and behaviours for the children's workforce are clearly outlined.
- A vision and strategic priorities leaflet was developed to be used by all agencies as part of staff induction.
- Children and young people have a voice and input into the recruitment to key posts within the children's workforce.

The Safeguarding Children Board training Policy and Course Attendance confirmation letter were both reviewed and updated to ensure that agencies are charged for staff that book a course then do not attend and for staff leaving the course after a few hours (unless an emergency arises). Also the policy outlines the charging system for agencies that do not contribute to the safeguarding Children Board budget. Hopefully this will generate income that can be used to fund future courses.

Early years settings safeguarding audits (similar to a section 11 audit) commenced reporting into the BSCB although this is not a requirement it is viewed as good practice by Board members.

An audit was undertaken to evidence the impact of safeguarding children training.

A full day conference on the Toxic Trio and Neglect was held 13 October 2016, which was oversubscribed. The conference is being repeated in July 2017.

#### **Evaluation of multi-agency training**

All training is evaluated by participants following each course and courses amended accordingly as required.

It is important that BSCB can demonstrate that the Safeguarding Children training it provides is improving the outcomes for children. A variety of methods are employed across agencies to evidence this via Professional Development Review's, Supervision and audits, this evidence is tested using the Section 11 audit challenge meeting.

## Future Plans

To repeat the audit to demonstrate that training impacts on the practitioners safeguarding practice and improves outcomes for children.

Develop storyboards detailing anonymised cases to evidence good outcomes for children as a result of staff attending Safeguarding Children training.

The second presentation of the Toxic Trio Conference will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at The Core in Barnsley.

## Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs Sub- Committee

The remit of this sub committee is to provide multi-agency oversight and assurance in relation to the arrangements for safeguarding children and young people with disabilities and complex needs in the borough. To drive the continuous improvement of safeguarding services for this group of children and provide effective multi-agency representation and collaboration for this purpose.

Work undertaken:

- Terms of Reference Reviewed and Agenda Setting
- Multi Agency Themed Audits have been established
- Definition of 'Disabled' for the purposes of this sub group agreed
- Reviewed the Safeguarding Disabled Children in England Report to strengthen safeguarding arrangements for this group.
- The Sub group regularly reviews the data from the Disabled Children's Team against the whole data for Children's Social Care and this has supported action to increase the number of section 47's and CP plans for this vulnerable group of children and young people.

## Partner agency contributions to safeguarding

The Board values the contributions of all partner agencies in promoting and monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding in the area. An

effective Board requires all partner agencies to participate fully, engage in the Board's business and transfer the safeguarding ideology into their own sphere of activity.

## Children and Family Social Care (BMBC)

Children's social care works closely with partner agencies to ensure appropriate measures are in place to safeguard children and young people. We recognise that by working together we are a stronger force for improving outcomes for children young people and families. A key focus of our work is ensuring that children and families are appropriately helped and protected at the right time by the right agency thus avoiding drift and delay which can be harmful to children and young people. The importance of working together cannot be overstated and to that aim we are committed to developing, building and maintaining relationships.

## Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)

BHNFT continues to meet the requirements of an ever challenging safeguarding agenda. The Safeguarding Team supports staff through the provision of training, supervision and by offering advice and support. Practice is underpinned by appropriate policies/guidance and an audit programme is in place to ensure adherence to standards. The Trust has a combined adult and children safeguarding steering group. This has appropriate membership from across the Trust and oversees the work and governance of safeguarding. The Safeguarding Team are active members of the Safeguarding Board, its subgroups and various work streams.

## NHS Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group

In addition to safeguarding requirements incorporated into closely monitored contracts with health care providers, the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, the Designated Nurse for Adults and the Named Doctor have developed a Safeguarding Vulnerable People Section 11 Audit to inform the forthcoming 'safeguarding stock take' of primary care.

The issue of children failing to attend health appointments has featured in national and local child deaths and remains of concern to the Safeguarding Board. Steps have been taken to address this issue and the Board has received assurance that health providers are monitoring failure to attend medical appointments and poor engagement with services more effectively to assess risk to children.

We have a Commissioning Strategy which includes meeting the needs of children and young people in Barnsley and reflects our vision and values which are fair and equitable access to reduce known inequalities. Furthermore as part of the Executive Commissioning Group for the Children and Young People Trust we are committed to partnership working to achieve the Trust's aims e.g. we are leading on developing the offer for emotional wellbeing

### South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT) covers four local authorities and eight Safeguarding Boards, both children and adults, across the region.

The strength within this spread is that the learning experience and confidence around safeguarding can be shared across the service for the benefit of children, young people and their carers.

Services provided for children in Barnsley include, speech and language, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, vaccination and immunisation, audiology, epilepsy, health integration team, children's disability, child and adolescent mental health services and early intervention in psychosis for young people from age 14.

The teams also promote the think family agenda, as was identified by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) 2016/2017 inspection, and offer services across health and wellbeing and mental health. The recent CQC Inspection rated the Trust as 'Good' and identified that comprehensive governance systems remained in place to safeguarding adults and children. Additionally, the CQC found that staff had good knowledge of how to identify safeguarding concerns and the procedures to follow.

#### Key achievements last year have been:

- The Safeguarding team have been an active member of the Safeguarding Board, its subgroups and various work streams
- Successful and supported transfer of the 0-19 service during the financial year
- The service has met the Section 11 challenge and continues to strive towards demonstrating improved outcomes for children and young people who have contact with SWYPFT services
- A proactive response which seeks to offer an extensive programme of training for all staff groups as identified within the RCPCH Intercollegiate Document (2014). The Trust has

continuously achieved above the mandatory 80% requirement for safeguarding children training. Additionally, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Domestic Abuse and Neglect training has been delivered to the Barnsley BDU and staff attendance at the BSCB multi-agency training has been encouraged

- The CQC have rated the organisation as 'Good' and have made particular reference to the robust safeguarding arrangement in place

SWYPFT provides the following messages to its staff in relation to safeguarding:

- Assessment should be thorough and utilise all information available; systematic risk assessment should look at all aspects of the child's journey and adults involved in the delivery of care. The wishes, feelings and the voice of the child need to be heard throughout our assessments and interventions.
- To be aware of the importance of Early Help Assessments and the instrumental role for health as the lead professional where appropriate within this arena
- The rule of optimism should be understood by all staff and objective assessment of the facts should take place taking account if all interrelated dynamics, a holistic picture, always ask is the child safe and healthy
- Compliance with supervision supports staff to develop professional resilience and is instrumental in improving outcomes for children and young people
- Non-attendance at appointments should always be assertively challenged and risk-assessed
- Children should not be invisible
- Be professionally curious, always. Be observant and ask key questions, if unsure seek advice from the line manager, safeguarding children link professional, safeguarding team or supervisor
- Share information – understand the NHS code of confidentiality and when it is important to share information
- Good record keeping is essential to facilitate high quality care
- Families can be vulnerable – Think Family

### South Yorkshire Police

Protecting Vulnerable People is a priority within the Police and Crime Plan 2013/2017. The Barnsley located Police Public Protection Units fall under the central control of Specialist Crime Services, reporting to an Assistant Chief Constable who holds responsibility for all areas of Protecting Vulnerable People.

However, the provision of services in terms of safeguarding children is locally delivered, with strong ties to the Barnsley district command who has responsibility for local children's safeguarding.

In recognition of the importance of effective, locally based partnership working, the force is disbanding the Central Referral Unit and introducing Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs. The Barnsley M.A.S.H. is based within Barnsley District and incorporates partners from Police, Social Care and Health, working together to safeguard children. This means that all child protection referrals will be received and actioned by a dedicated team of professionals within the M.A.S.H., who are also able to progress joint investigations and ensure services required by children and families are signposted to the relevant partner agency without delay.

Over the last year, Barnsley PPU has gradually increased in size as a result of increased funding provision from the Police and Crime Commissioner. The team now has additional staff across all areas, with increased capacity available for child abuse and child sexual exploitation investigations. In Barnsley there is also a new team dedicated to vulnerable adult investigations, which includes all high-risk domestic abuse cases. It is acknowledged that the impact on children living in families where domestic abuse features can be immense and negatively affect a child's quality of life. This team has strong links to child protection colleagues and partners within the M.A.S.H., which means that the risk to any children is identified and managed at the earliest opportunity.

This strengthened approach to partnership working in Barnsley will enable a more timely and effective response to safeguarding which will provide greater reassurance to victims and families.

### **Barnsley College**

Barnsley College is committed to safeguarding the total college community, including learners, staff and visitors. In 2016 - 17, the College continued to embed safeguarding across all College activity by:

- A robust safeguarding structure led by the Assistant Principal (Access to Learning), operationally led by the Head of ALS, Counselling & Safeguarding. The College continues to provide dedicated frontline support through the work of the Safeguarding Team Leader, Safeguarding Officer, Safeguarding Advisors and Departmental Safeguarding Representatives. These staff provide a range of advice, guidance and safeguarding support to learners, staff and visitors

- Linking up with secondary schools and other key agencies to support the transition of learners into College
- CPD for staff to improve skills and knowledge and excellent partnership working arrangements, so the workforce is able to safeguard the college community. College delivers safeguarding awareness training in-house so that the training can be tailored towards how best to safeguard the College community

The college will continue with its approach to embedding safeguarding throughout College activity in 2017 - 18, with a particular focus on:

- further CPD for staff, in particular in key safeguarding roles, leading to a recognised safeguarding qualification
- reviewing and refreshing the College's safeguarding policy to ensure that it reflects recent legislative and statutory guidance updates
- ensuring that the Prevent agenda is fully embedded into College policies and procedures and that staff are suitably trained to meet their statutory duties.

### **Berneslai Homes**

Berneslai Homes' primary contribution to Safeguarding is via its established Vulnerability Strategy: 'Something Doesn't Look Right'. Through this approach, they provide practical support and interventions to address identified issues to prevent progression to other services for example social care or the police. Their strategy aims to ensure the early intervention of risks during routine visits to thousands of homes within the Borough, at the start of tenancies and at various times throughout them. For example, they are able to provide practical support, make referrals to other appropriate support providers and carry out housing application assessments as part of their response to the early identification and intervention with tenants in need.

Berneslai Homes continues to undertake proactive visits to Council properties specifically to identify any support or vulnerability issues early.

During the last year they carried out over 4, 500 support visits, with nearly 2,500 resulting in supportive interventions. This included a number of cases where there were safeguarding concerns around the safety of children and adults. During the year we have also continued to visit vulnerable individuals affected through Universal Credit although this is still to be fully rolled out across the borough and we continue to support those affected by welfare reform.

Berneslai Homes Family Intervention Service (FIS) provides cross tenure family support and interventions to families across the Borough, often with multiple and complex needs. The FIS continues to make significant progress in achieving positive outcomes for families under the Troubled Families Programme; supporting over 270 families ranging from those requiring early intervention to those requiring intensive support during the last year.

The primary aim of this work is to secure and sustain clear behavioural change, thus reducing the effect of a family on the surrounding community. Positive changes are evidenced through reduced antisocial behaviour and criminality, addressing worklessness and improving progress to work, and improved opportunities for children through better school attendance. Families are allocated dedicated keyworkers, delivering an evidence based approach of early intervention/prevention, non-negotiable support and enforcement in order to provide families with a positive incentive to change.

### **Progress on key priorities and achievements in 2016-2017**

Last year's key priorities relating to the coordination of local safeguarding activity and promotion of children's welfare are set out below, with commentary on the extent to which they were achieved. More detail and examples of specific activities relating to each priority is contained in the sections of this report which outline the work of the subcommittees throughout the year.

### **Continue to promote activities to mitigate the risks to children arising from neglect, domestic abuse, adult mental health, substance misuse and digital technology**

These areas of safeguarding are progressed by the PPPD Sub-Committee by monitoring emerging trends and ensuring partners are supported with updated policies and procedures to help keep sight of the changing child protection landscape. It is important to maintain oversight of all these vital areas, together with other emerging themes such as bullying, and promoting activities to mitigate the risks.

### **Maintaining a strong commitment to continuous improvement and challenge through oversight and taking forward relevant actions from the Continuous Service Improvement Plan**

The board has maintained oversight of activity under the Improvement Programme through regular updates, Section 11 interviews, individual reports on particular areas of concern, and evidence from specific audit activity. The board has sought to encourage more open challenge during debates in order to secure service improvement and embraces its role in monitoring the Continuous Service Improvement Plan under the direction of the Executive Director for People.

### **Oversight of Children who are Missing from Home, Care and Education**

A weekly Multiagency meeting has been developed since the new CSE arrangements came into place to ensure there is scrutiny of all the episodes and circumstances where a child is reported as being missing to the police.

This is chaired by the Service Manager, Safeguarding and attended by the Police, Missing from Home Co-ordinator, Targeted Youth/Early Help and Youth Offending Team representative, Education Welfare Service, CSE Social Worker and LAC health colleague.

The purpose of the meeting is to ensure the effectiveness and robustness of response to any child who is reported as missing, to prevent any further missing episode and ensure that the South Yorkshire Missing Protocol and Safeguarding Procedures are being followed and to alert and escalate cases inappropriate.

The group track each case and will identify any emerging themes and feedback to the CSE Strategic Group, Corporate Parenting Panel and Children at high risk of Multiple Violence and Complex Abuse (MVCA) Panel

The MVCA Panel meeting is chaired by the Head of Service to identify and track the most challenging Child Protection/LAC cases. This allows for the development of a central list and tracking process that can ensure a focus and effort into ensuring that high risk and complex cases are identified and considered to strengthen safeguarding arrangements for those children who are often placed from out of the area.

This group reports into the CSE Strategic Group, Corporate Parenting Panel and Senior Safeguarding leadership group.

### **Accelerate joint working arrangements with the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board where this could be mutually beneficial**

The Safeguarding Adults Board is represented on the BSCB and its sub-committees to facilitate joined up working around those issues that both affect adults, but also impact on children. The focus on joint practice needs to be maintained in order to ensure a whole family approach to policy, practice and assessment around issues to do with, for example, HBV, FM, Domestic Abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

### **Continue to develop and refine our Performance Management Framework**

The board is able to secure systematic reporting of valid and useful KPIs, with sufficient contextual analysis to understand and identify improved performance across all partner organisations.

### **Address the increasingly high profile risk relating to Child Sexual Exploitation, (CSE) in conjunction with relevant partners**

The current problem profile for CSE supports the position that there is little evidence of organised CSE criminality in Barnsley; this is not to say that we do not remain alert to the possibility and monitor trends and events. Trends continue to be monitored and managed through partnership working.

A further profile is currently being produced to inform future delivery and response to CSE and child abuse.

A full children's integrated front door and MASH has been introduced which houses the multi-agency CSE team ensuring effective information sharing, multiagency investigations, safeguarding and support.

Work continues with the private sector to raise awareness of CSE.

The multiple vulnerability and complex abuse group continues to monitor those cases where the risk is highest whether it be due to CSE or wider vulnerability. This group ensures appropriate intervention across the agencies and reports to the CSE sub group.

Regular Deep Dive Audits are undertaken in relation to CSE investigations.

Ongoing training specific to CSE continues to be delivered.

Funding continues to provide therapeutic support to those who have been subject to CSE.

Work has been undertaken to introduce an assessment tool to consider those posing a risk in relation to CSE and to ensure appropriate interventions and activity to prevent harm and prosecute offenders.

### **Going Forward:**

- Continue to work as a partnership to support victims reporting CSE and to pursue and prosecute offenders.
- Undertake a review of the problem profile to ensure that the CSE picture is up to date to ensure appropriate response and allow for planned preventative work.
- Continue to work with the private sector to raise awareness of CSE.
- Improve links with minority ethnic communities to raise awareness of CSE.

### **Integrated working with partners**

Integrated and partnership working is a particular local strength and all the individual partner agency contributions to safeguarding are valued. The Board maintains links with partners and contributes to local initiatives on a variety of safeguarding themes, through representation on a range of multi-agency working groups.

### **Early Help and Early Years**

The emphasis of the work undertaken by the board and partners continues to move towards effective early intervention and prevention. Early Help services in Barnsley form part of the continuum of help and support to respond to the different levels of need of children and families aged 0-25. The way practitioners work together, share information, put the child and family at the centre, move swiftly to provide effective support to help them solve their problems and find solutions at an early stage is at the heart of a strong Early Help approach.

It is recognised that Early Help is everyone's responsibility across the partnership. There is commitment at all levels to work more closely together to build upon what we do for and offer to children and families. The focus of the work over the last period has been to strengthen understanding of the approach across the partnership ensuring that the shift to Early Help is embedded and is sustainable. Barnsley's whole family approach to working with families continues with the further embedding of the implementation of the Early Help approach.

Early help services are co-ordinated and delivered through the Early Start & Families Service and the focus this year has been on:

- Continuing to roll out workforce development through a programme of tiered Early help training for the Children’s Workforce.
- Refreshing key documents including the threshold guidance in relation to early help
- Developing other formats to promote the benefits of early help to families and providers e.g. Early Help video
- Developing and strengthening consultation and referral mechanisms with Social Care and other partners

The early years sector has also been supported and challenged by the service to respond to the requirements of the safeguarding audit. This has been strengthened and built into the funding agreement as a contractual requirement for early years funding. This in turn has resulted in a higher than ever before response rate. Key findings are that the childcare sector understand safer recruitment and have single central records in place; have a Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer who has recently accessed specifically designed early years and childcare sector safeguarding training and are also aware of the multi agency safeguarding training available through the Safeguarding Board; have procedures in place for staff to disclose their association with others who may not be suitable to have access to children, and have procedures in place to monitor employee medication changes .

### Focus on priorities

Each year, the board reviews its current Business Plan to identify success in achieving objectives and identify new priorities for next year. The BSCB Chair and the Sub Committee Chairs meet before each meeting of the Safeguarding Board, to review progress and ensure that workload is managed and implemented effectively. These meetings also consider emerging issues of interest or concern in light of the board’s priorities.

When testing effectiveness the BSCB draws on both performance data and quality assurance activity that examines in detail the quality and effectiveness of front line practice ensuring a ‘line of sight’ to practice at the front line. All board members and specialist advisors have a strategic safeguarding role in relation to their own agencies. Accountability to local communities is promoted through the two lay representatives.

The BSCB provides a forum to hold partners to account and test effectiveness of multi-agency working to safeguard children. The BSCB ‘holds the ring’ on challenging performance providing a forum for partners to challenge across the piece.

### Effective partnership working and relationships with strategic partners

The board’s functions and responsibilities complement those of the Children and Young People’s Trust and provide for leadership and ownership of safeguarding at all levels in the council and partners.

The Children and Young People’s Trust, chaired by the Executive Director for People, secures the cooperation of partners to strategically plan and align service commissioning to improve children’s outcomes. These arrangements encompass all strategic partners, with a focus on working together to improve the wellbeing, life chances and outcomes of every local child.

The BSCB refers to the Children and Young People’s Trust matters that have commissioning implications. The chair of the BSCB escalates matters to the governance structures of partners and / or the Health and Well-Being Board where it is considered that agencies are failing to discharge responsibilities under ‘Working Together’ (2015).

Our high aspirations for children and young people, relating to their ability to secure optimum health, safety, educational attainment and contribution to their communities, recognises that families need support across the whole spectrum of services, including social care, education, health, police, voluntary organisations, safeguarding and other stakeholders.

Responsibility for establishing a secure continuous service improvement approach for children, young people and families rests with the Children and Young People’s Trust and the BSCB.

The shared ambition of the Barnsley Children and Young People’s Trust and BSCB is to go beyond Ofsted’s judgement of ‘requires improvement’ and to deliver the best possible outcomes for local children, young people and families. This means collectively working together to deliver services which are judged to be at least good. In order to achieve this ambition services for children, young people and families will use the Continuous Service Improvement Framework.

The framework is made up of a number of dynamic elements. It is understood that it is the people

(officers, elected members, non-executive officer, independent chairs) operating at different levels with different functions in their organisations who will make the children's system work effectively. This requires everyone operating within the system to discharge their responsibilities effectively and to be held to account.

These elements include:

- The Children and Young People's Trust
- The Safeguarding Children Board
- Elected Member led challenge
- A Continuous Service Improvement Officers Group
- A Continuous Service Improvement Plan
- External Review and Challenge
- Culture of Respectful Challenge
- The Voice of the child
- Joint review of the framework.

At the annual joint meeting of the BSCB and the Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group (CYP TEG) held on 18 November 2016 key areas for discussion included: An understanding of the responsibility of both boards; the Continuous Service Improvement Plan; the combined risk register; further consideration of the ways in which both boards could work more effectively together in future to achieve improved outcomes, and enabled shared priorities.

The group identified the following key areas for joint development and focus:

- Keeping the needs of children at the centre of all activities.
- Keeping children safe.
- Early Help
- Improving Education, Achievement and Employability
- Tackling Child Poverty and Improving Family Life
- Membership roles and responsibilities
- Supporting all children, young people and families to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Encouraging positive relationships and strengthening emotional health
- Improving staff skills to deliver quality services

The Children and Young People's Trust Children and Young People's Plan 2016 – 19 continues to recognise the nature and value of its relationship with the BSCB through its three main safeguarding priorities:

- Improving the safety of children by developing the engagement and focus of all partners via the BSCB.

- Increasing confidence and understanding of referral processes and thresholds
- Developing data use, information and quality assurance.

During the year, these priorities were progressed as the BSCB continued to hold individual agencies to account in discharging their responsibilities to keep children safe.

The Children and Young People's Trust and partners identify the following as continuing priorities:

- maintain oversight of and take forward actions from the Continuous Service Improvement Plan relevant to the BSCB
- To continue to improve performance management and quality assurance systems to ensure robust and continuous service improvement, supported by workforce development programmes to secure safe practice.
- Ensure that the board maintains a comprehensive overview of the work of partner agencies involved with safeguarding, including the voluntary sector.
- Ensure the implementation of actions within the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy.
- Ensure all board members are up-to-date with changes in policies, guidance and practice to provide strategic direction and scrutiny of core safeguarding and child protection processes and data, and provide effective challenge.

These were addressed as major priorities in the BSCB Business Plan 2016 - 17 and will continue to be in the BSCB Business Plan 2017 - 18.

## Safeguarding vulnerable children and young people

### Children in Care

The Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board's oversight of children and young people in care is maintained through membership of the Care4Us Council and receipt of individual reports, including the Children in Care KPI Scorecard. The Care4Us Council, which comprises of young people in care, board members and relevant council officers, meets regularly to address issues which are important to this group. During 2016-17, the council, led and chaired by young people:

- A new Full time dedicated Participation Worker was employed on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to drive the CICC

forward and work with Care Leavers. This post enables, develops and delivers a participation service. It furthers the work of the children in care council to ensure it continues to impact on service design and delivery within the Local Authority, especially Corporate Parenting. It enables time to work directly with children, young people and care leavers to empower them to share their views and build resilience and to improve outcomes for these children more effectively.

- Children in Care took part in take over Challenge and were awarded 'silver' commendation from the Children's Commissioners Office. This was a great success and is a yearly event.
- The Pledge has been revised through consultation and now used within the Review process by the IRO's. The Participation worker has sent a copy to all LAC placed out of the Local Authority and also taken some out personally to meet the Young People. The Participation Worker will also take a copy of the Pledge out to Children who become Looked After when aged 10 or above when appropriate.
- Apprentices at Council have been very successful securing 2 young people's places to continue for a further period of time.
- CICC are attended the Yorkshire & Humber Children's Social Work Matters Conference. The conference celebrates and promotes good social work practice. Some of the Young People participated in some one minute film clip interviews to talk about their positive care experiences.
- LAC attended a Summer School at Sheffield University as part as the Go Further, Go Higher campaign looking at LAW to raise aspirations to further their education and give them a different experience other than school.
- Care Leavers have produced a White Goods Catalogue to help with independence and provides information of where to go for the best priced essential items when moving into their own property and contact details of services they may need.

### Health of Children in Care

Work is continuing to build on the substantial improvements already achieved in terms of performance and health outcomes for children in care. Data collection and audits of LAC health assessments show that 96.6% of review health assessments are completed within timescale and 100% of LAC have access to dental care. This is better than our statistical neighbours and the national average. 99.2% have up to date vaccination status

which is excellent but at present there is no data available for comparison. The Timeliness of Initial health assessments has improved month on month since the appointment of a new Designated Doctor for Looked after Children.

The delays are usually as a result of a delay in notification from an outside placing authority when a child is placed in by a Local Authority outside Barnsley. To improve notification quarterly meetings are held with Private providers and this has improved notification of Children in Care placed in Barnsley by outside authorities. The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has also written to every CCG in the country requesting that they encourage notification of children placed in Barnsley.

Children and young people in care in Barnsley receive consensual and holistic health assessments. Assessments are carried out at times and in venues that minimise disruption to the child and their education. All our children in care have excellent access to and use primary care to promote their health and development. Older children and young people are given the opportunity to be seen alone, this has recently been identified as key to empowering LAC to speak freely and honestly about their health and care.

There is a monthly meeting between the Designated Doctor and Service Managers for Children in Care to ensure actions related to the health of Children in Care are implemented. This includes the need to improve waiting times for the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) for Children in Care and that the improvement in timescales for health assessments and dental checks are maintained.

The Health and Wellbeing of Children in Care and Care Leavers Steering Group, reporting to the CCG Quality and Patient Safety meeting, meets every six weeks to identify service improvements to address the health needs of this group and to ensure ongoing improvement. In addition to this CQC made some recommendations that would improve practice and lessons were learned from a serious case review.

### Together all these are or have:

- Ensured that the completion and use of Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ) continue to be embedded into practice and inform a wider assessment of emotional health and wellbeing.
- Prompted the Designated and Named Nurse for LAC to provide revised training to health professionals undertaking health assessments to further increase awareness of the health needs of LAC and quality of health assessments.

- Developed a process for gaining consent from young people age 16 years and over to release GP summary records.
- Incorporated processes for ensuring GPs and CAMHS contribute to health assessments.
- Initiated the Named Nurse to undertake live audit of Review Health Assessments of children placed both in and out of Barnsley. This allows for timely challenge of assessments that don't meet the required standard, and feedback to health professionals to support continuous improvement.
- Instigated a process of follow up and monitoring of Barnsley LAC who are placed out of area to ensure their health needs are met by the receiving area.
- Ensured that the CCG have reviewed the Service Specification for Children in Care and Care Leavers, to ensure it remains appropriate in light of new statutory guidance. They have also liaised with Public health to ensure LAC provision is considered within the new commissioning arrangements for 0-19 children's community services.

#### What difference have these made?

- Better use of the SDQ both within individual health assessments and data collection to identify themes and trends.
- Health professionals that undertake LAC health assessments have received training to support competency requirements recommended in the Looked after Children: Knowledge, skills and competences of health care staff

#### (Intercollegiate Role Framework March 2015)

- Young people's right to consent or dissent is supported and upheld.
- Information from a wider range of health provision is used to inform health assessments.
- There is closer timely monitoring of health assessments by provider agencies, and any problems are escalated including to the CCG when appropriate.
- Children and young people placed out of Barnsley are not disadvantaged in terms of their health needs.

#### Continuous Improvement

There is a commitment to constantly challenge and improve practice and services to LAC. Areas of focus for the coming year are:

- Ensure that consideration of ethnicity, faith and identity is incorporated and documented in health assessments.
- Strengthen the voice of LAC and use feedback to influence service improvement.
- Work with LAC to improve information for them regarding health assessments.
- Reinforce the use of existing health screening tools to support and enhance health assessments, particularly in terms of emerging issues such as child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and radicalisation.
- Continue to develop systems and processes to ensure significant health information is chronicled and follows the child.

#### Arrangements for Private Fostering Support in Barnsley

The Board oversees local arrangements to safeguard privately fostered children and young people and monitors the extent to which the local authority undertakes its responsibilities. A private fostering arrangement is one made without the involvement of a local authority for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) with someone other than a parent or close relative for 28 days or more. Anyone involved in, or knowing about, such an arrangement must notify the local authority at least six weeks before it begins and the fostering service takes active steps to advertise this responsibility through a range of measures:

- information disseminated via specific information sessions and training
- distribution of an updated Statement on Private Fostering to key stakeholders, including schools, school nurses, health visitors, GPs, children's social care teams, housing and voluntary sector professionals, setting out notification requirements, the local authority's duties and the role of local professional agencies
- distribution of a private fostering flyer to the same stakeholders

Specific awareness raising activity, supported by the board, has continued throughout the year, including local advertising. Information leaflets are available for carers, parents, children and young people and professionals. Leaflets, posters and business cards are displayed in major public buildings and information is available on the board and council websites.

Parents, carers, children and young people can receive advice and support, including training opportunities, from the private fostering social worker.

The requirements on a local authority under private fostering span both child and carer focussed services. The service in Barnsley is currently based with the Fostering Service and the balance is more towards ensuring this is a suitable placement for the child. The needs of the child/young person remain very much to the fore while the suitability of the placement is assessed. However, should the child need more support through services for children in need or children in need of protection the Private Fostering Worker will liaise with Assessment and Safeguarding Services.

The Board funds this publicity as private fostering still remains a priority of the Board. Work to ensure assessments are child-focussed as well as addressing the carer's needs is taking place alongside a focus on involving birth parents more within the process.

Above all assessments need to be timely to ensure children do not drift in unsuitable home conditions or emotionally unsupportive environments. Improvements are being made but this is still work in progress and work will continue around all aspects of private fostering in 2017/18.

### Children with disabilities, complex needs and/or special educational needs

The Children with Disabilities and Complex Health service has continued to work with a range of partner agencies, children, young people and the Barnsley Parents and Carers Forum to develop and improve services for children and young people with disabilities and complex health needs.

The key areas of work undertaken during 2016/17 have included:

- Continued review and development of services around short breaks and use of direct payments
- The continued development of Education, Health and Care Plans and the Local Offer outlining all local service.
- The development of a Disability Register
- The extension of person centered planning, transition planning the development of the Autism pathway and Strategy.

### Education Welfare Service (EWS)

The Education Welfare Service works in partnership with schools to support and advise on attendance and safeguarding issues. School attendance is tracked, including vulnerable groups such as children in care, children subject to a child protection plan or child in need, those at risk of child sexual exploitation, children who have special educational

needs (SEND) and children who are involved or at risk of criminal activity.

The EWS also oversees children missing education (CME) and those whose parents elect to provide education at home (EHE). Since 2014 a central record keeping system has been used which schools complete and return on a half termly basis to the LA. This identifies pupils who are not in full time education provision with a focus on the most vulnerable groups. This became an Ofsted requirement following the publication of "Pupils missing out on education" published in November 2013. The service also contributes to a number of the board's sub-committees and related multi-agency safeguarding forums, including child sexual exploitation and missing forum.

As part of the Education Welfare Service on-going attendance strategies, the service continued to raise the importance of school attendance throughout the summer holiday period. A number of initiatives took place they included;

- Attendance sweeps to parents whose children's attendance was less than the schools attendance target,
- Home visits and contact with families who were open cased to the EWS, identified as vulnerable (needing additional support throughout the summer holidays) or whom required a safe and well visit.
- Year 6 to Year 7 transition
- Monitoring and tracking of children missing education
- Elective home education monitoring
- Visits for pupils without an identified school place in September for both primary and secondary schools
- Support with Springwell Special School summer school

### Dealing with allegations against professionals

The Ofsted Inspection Report published on 8 August, 2014, identified that:

*"There are very good arrangements in place to make sure that children are protected when allegations of abuse are made against professionals."*

This indicates that practice has remained consistently good from the previous inspection findings.

Dealing with allegations against professionals, carers and volunteers

During the period April 2016 to March 2017 the LADO was consulted about 222 matters, compared with 171 during the previous year. This represents an increase of 23% and is in contrast to a decrease of 27% reported for the period April 2015 to March 2016. The previous report noted a need to ensure that the role of the LADO continued to be highlighted at times of staff and organisational changes and the activity during 2016-2017 would seem to provide reassurance that this continues.

Of the 222 issues discussed with the LADO 74 were judged to meet the criteria of indication a risk of harm to children or possible criminal offence committed against or related to a child. This figure is consistent with the previous year, when 73 matters were deemed to meet the criteria.

A significant majority (57%) of concerns related to possible physical assault, including occasions where restraints had been used. This compares with 44% of cases in 2015-16. Allegations of sexual abuse, including historical allegations, made up 22% of the total, a slight decrease from 24% in the previous period. Emotional abuse (15%) and neglect (7%) remain relatively low in number.

As in previous years referrals were made from a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies, with the education sector (schools and colleges) accounting for 39% of the total, which is comparable to the figure for last year and reflects the proportion of contact between this sector and children and young people. Foster care and residential care combined to account for 28% of referrals.

Records provide evidence that referrals are made promptly and therefore can receive a timely and robust initial response, which in turn ensures that children and young people are protected. Almost half (47%) of cases involved police investigation, whether as a single agency or jointly with Social Care, with other cases being investigated either by management or regulatory bodies. 4 cases have led to criminal charges being brought and a further 4 cases have led to dismissals.

73% of cases had been concluded by 31 March 2017, a small improvement on the 69% reported for the previous year. The outcomes as recorded as follows: 13 cases have been substantiated, 21 were regarded as unsubstantiated, 8 unfounded and 5 malicious. 7 matters originally referred in Barnsley were dealt with either by another authority or another organisation by agreement.

Although the LADO role focuses on children and young people, there is some crossover into the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and a number of instances have been brought to light where parents whose care of their children has been found wanting in some way have been employed in a caring capacity for vulnerable adults. Given the range of

care providers within the borough and the projected continuing increase in the elderly population, this is likely to remain an issue requiring attention.

In addition, the LADO monitors and tracks notifications of concerns received from Ofsted and in some cases liaise with schools and other settings to prepare responses to them.

In promoting the role and activity of the LADO as part of wider safeguarding activities, monthly training sessions have been delivered to licensed and prospective taxi drivers as well as a bespoke one-off event for BMBC Transport managers. The LADO continues to contribute to training around Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups, training for new and continuing Designated Safeguarding Leads as well as the termly Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum.

## Equality, diversity and participation

The board is strongly committed to promoting equality of opportunity and ensuring that all safeguarding activities take account of the diverse needs of all children and young people in the borough.

### Equality objectives for children and young people include:

- providing support to schools and settings to meet their public sector equality duty
- helping schools and settings identify, record and deal with bullying and harassment in schools
- narrowing the gap between different sections of the community, including where different levels of achievement are related to disability, gender, ethnicity or economic background
- challenging the barriers faced by looked after young people
- fulfilling the 'Pledge' to children in care.
- meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs, learning difficulties, disability and complex health needs
- implementing/reviewing the One Path One Door strategy
- continuing to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training and address the needs of specific groups
- undertaking work to improve transition of vulnerable groups, particularly those with learning difficulties

All newly developed strategies, policies and procedures are subject to an equality impact assessment. Active steps taken to facilitate inclusion include the provision of appropriate support for families to enable them to participate fully in child

protection conferences and representation of young people's views at the board's sub-committees. Where necessary, specialist support, for example, interpretation and translation services are engaged to support families.

Key points of development within the Continuous Service Improvement Plan for the BSCB are:

- The needs arising out of ethnicity, faith and identity should be consistently considered and reflected within assessments.
- The introduction of systematic use of cultural competence tool
- Review BSCB training to ensure ethnicity, faith and identity are included in all relevant training.
- Monitor impact and outcomes through multi and single agency case file auditing and S11 audit process

### **Planned future developments and key priorities for 2017 - 18**

Barnsley Safeguarding Board's strong commitment to continuous service improvement and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people is evidenced through the objectives in our 2017 - 18 Business Plan. Future aims and priorities are identified in the context of significant change, nationally and locally, particularly in the light of continuing budgetary pressures. The continuing effectiveness of the Board's work will continue to be subject to close scrutiny. The synergy obtained from strong partnership working remains an essential element of effective safeguarding. The objectives of the Board and sub-committees/groups for the coming year have been determined with multi-agency input and will be subject to regular review throughout the year to measure their achievement and impact.

### **Oversight and progress of actions from the Continuous Improvement Framework**

The Board will assume responsibility for driving forward and monitoring practice to secure mainstreamed continuous service improvement. It will assimilate learning from the Improvement Framework and use it to inform future safeguarding developments through partner agency participation. The Board will also require regularly updated reports of specific case file thematic audit and general audit activity.

### **Encourage challenge**

The Board will seek to strengthen and evidence its own effectiveness through rigorous challenge,

participation and engagement. This will include challenge sessions for each refresh of the Section 11 self assessment, encouraging challenge at Board debates, monitoring use of the escalation policy and promoting participation and engagement of stakeholders wherever possible. The Section 11 challenge will also seek evidence that current austerity measures and budget reductions are not having an adverse effect on the ability of partner agencies to fulfil their responsibilities.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

Although the Board has an approved strategic approach in relation to CSE there is a need for continuous focus which will include a strategy refresh and procedure update. The development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) will support the early identification and intervention for children at risk of CSE.

### **Promote understanding on thresholds and monitor pressures on the front door**

Continued 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.

To encourage agencies to ensure that non urgent referrals and contacts into social care are quality assured and discussed with agency safeguarding leads prior to children's social care.

Developments in relation to Early Help and the Early Help Offer are supported and monitored.

### **Strengthening work with partners**

The Board will seek to improve its overview of the work of partner agencies involved with safeguarding children, including the voluntary and community sector and local faith groups through issues reported and escalated by the sub-committees. It will actively seek to strengthen existing links with the VCS and associated groups and continue to explore the benefits of closer co-operation through multi-agency working, building on establishment of the Joint Investigation Team and the MASH.

### **Performance management and quality assurance**

Development of the Board's Performance Management Framework and routine reporting of key indicators has continued to be refined. The Board is able to scrutinise performance in an informed and systematic way and challenge areas where it appears

that improvements are required. This approach continues to evolve to ensure the Board receives the necessary information to be assured about the safety and quality of frontline services. Responsibility for regular mainstream scrutiny rests with the PAQA Sub-Committee, who will escalate areas of concern to the Board through exception reporting.

Through oversight of a comprehensive audit programme, the PAQA Sub-Committee continues to scrutinise findings from commissioned single and multi-agency audits to ensure actions are embedded through practice changes. The Board has also agreed to receive themed presentations on performance from partners for challenge at Board meetings. The Board are keen to retain a key focus in relation to CAMHS and monitor improvements within this service.

### **Developing stronger means of engaging with young people and their families to be clear about how they feel safe in the borough**

Securing the voice of children and young people to inform strategic and service planning has developed over the year. There are examples of engagement with young people for specific activities and the Board maintains participative links to the views of young people through membership of the Care4Us Council and the Youth Council which is represented on the Policy, Procedures and Practice Developments Sub-Committee. The Board also holds meetings in schools, and enters into dialogue with young people about their priorities and views on safeguarding.

In 2017 – 18 it is planned for a young person to become a Board member.

### **Learning from serious case and other reviews to inform practice**

Continue to assimilate and act on the learning and improvements derived from Serious Case Reviews, the CDOP, and other learning events in order to improve practice and service delivery. The SCR Sub-Committee will continue to inform local practice through examining findings from SCRs held elsewhere to identify lessons with local resonance for dissemination to agency practitioners.

### **Member attendance at Safeguarding Children Board meetings in 2016 - 17**

From March 2016 until March 2017 there were six ordinary meetings and a joint meeting with the Children's Trust Executive Group (TEG).

The Board maintains regular oversight of attendance to promote regular and consistent participation. Analysis shows that attendance and participation is generally very good, especially by key stakeholder representatives from the local authority, health services, secondary schools, Barnsley College, the police and the voluntary and community sector.

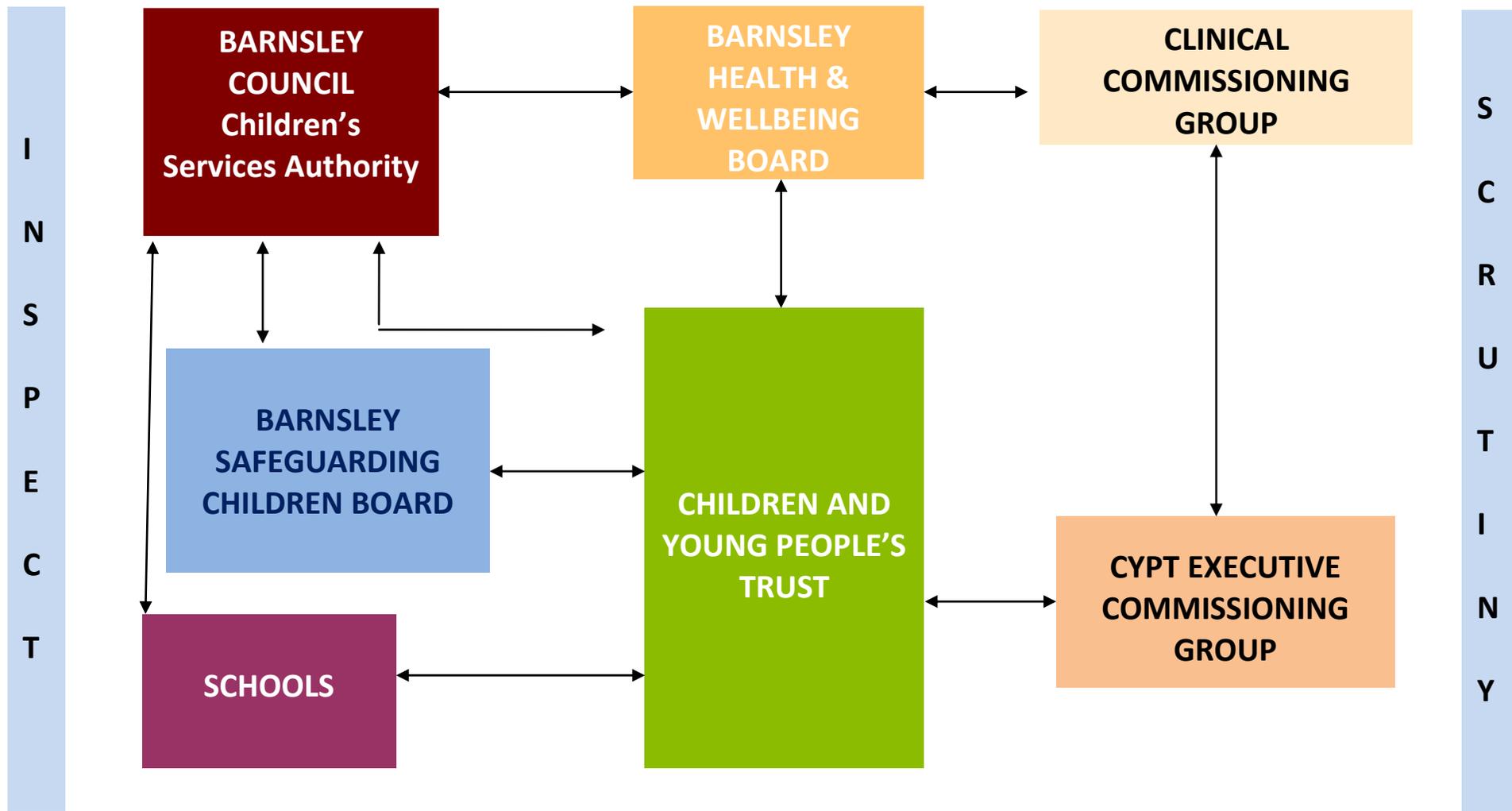
### **The BSCB Budget 2016 - 17**

The Board is funded by contributions from partner agencies, in accordance with a locally agreed formula. The budget breakdown and contributions made by member organisations for the 2016 - 17 year are shown at Appendix 3.

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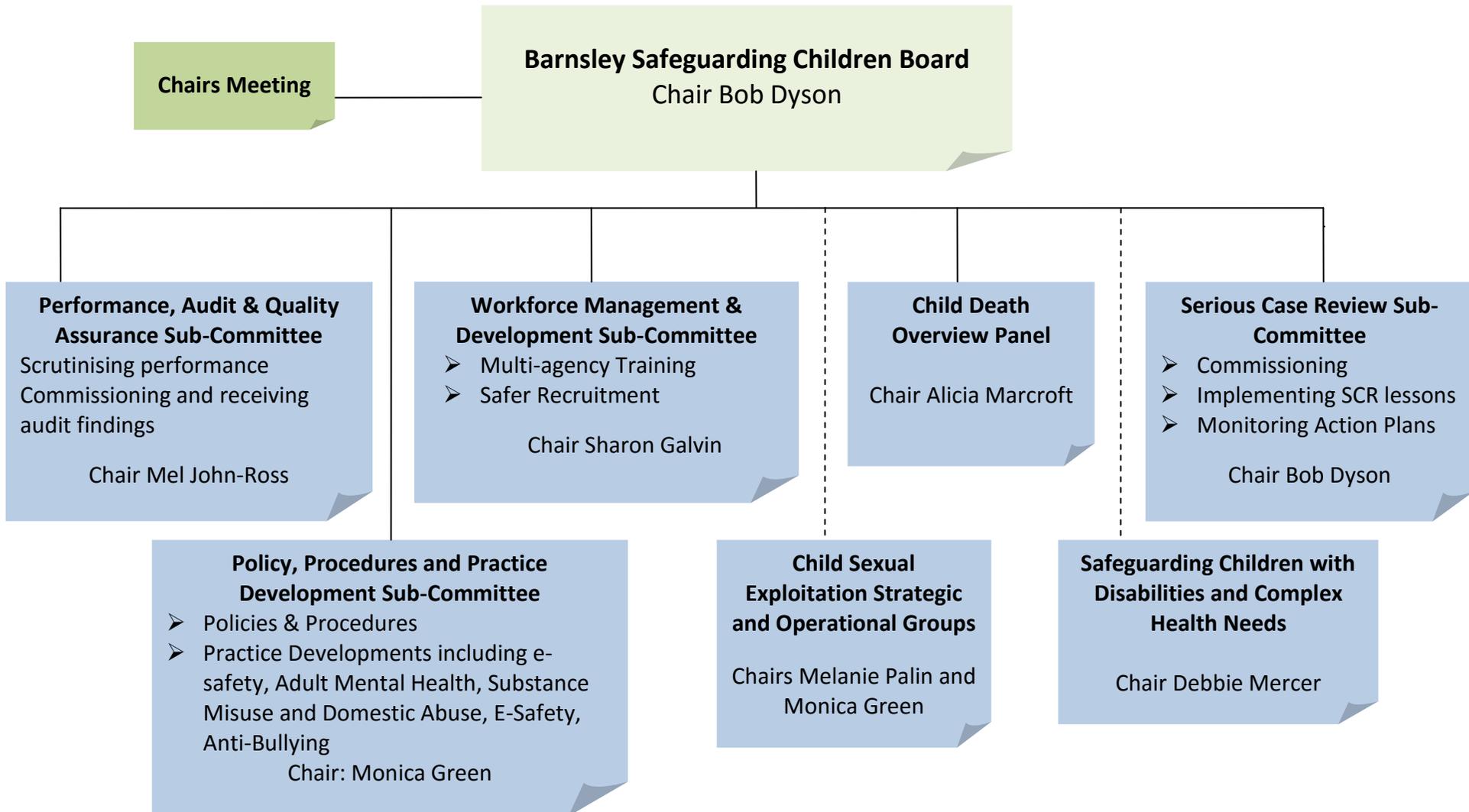
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**WORKING TOGETHER PARTNERSHIP GROUPS**



## BARNSELY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

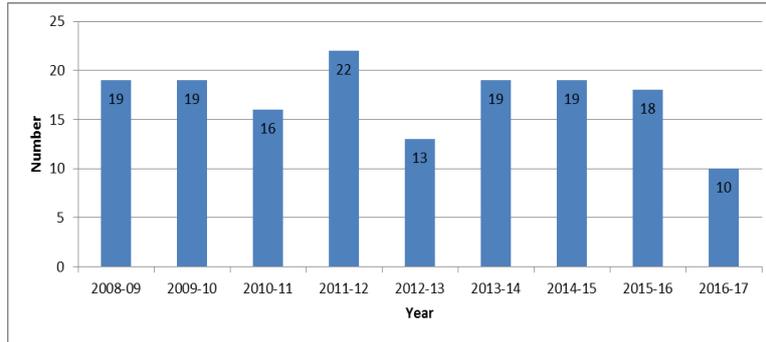
Appendix 2



Graphs Accompanying Child Death Overview Panel Update (Page 8) Appendix 3

**Figure 1**

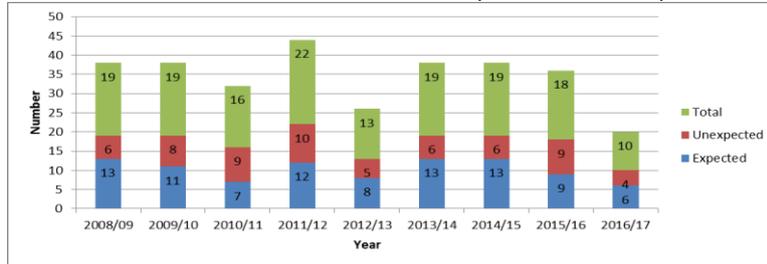
The number of Barnsley child deaths by year, 2008-09 to 2016-17



Source: Barnsley CDOP Database

**Figure 2**

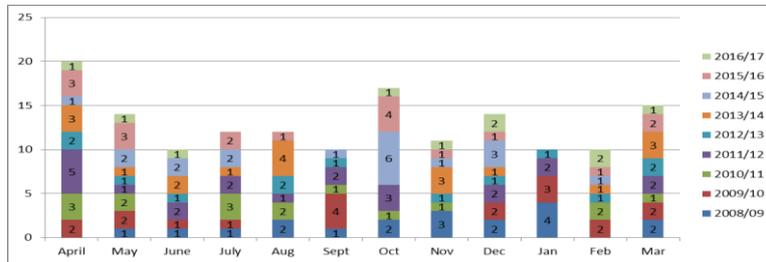
The number of Child Deaths that were expected and unexpected



Source: Barnsley CDOP Database

**Figure 3**

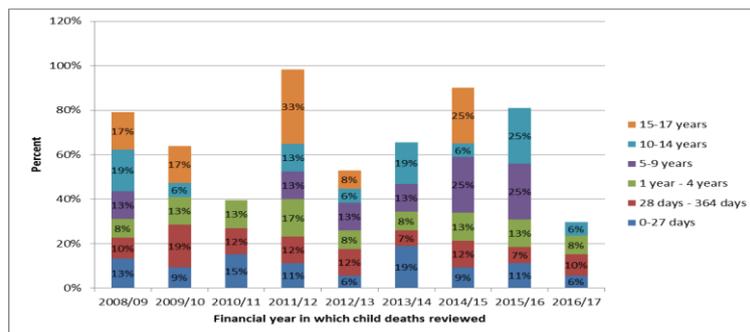
The number of Child Deaths by month (1 April to 31 March)



Source: Barnsley CDOP Database

**Figure 4**

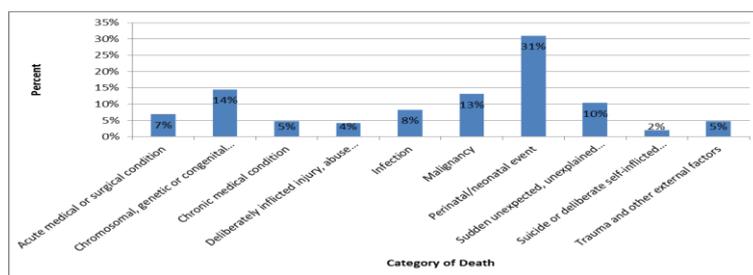
The breakdown of child deaths reviewed by CDOP by age over the period 2008-09 to 2016-17



Source: Barnsley CDOP Database

**Figure 5**

The percentage of child deaths reviewed by cause category over the period 2008-09 to 2016-17



Source: Barnsley CDOP Database

**MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE**

The list of members and advisors to the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board, as at 3 May 2017, is set out below.

<b>Members</b>	<b>Representative Agency</b>
Bob Dyson	Independent Chair
Rachel Dickinson	Executive Director People, BMBC
Susan Barnett	Barnardos/Voluntary and Community Sector representative
Tim Breedon	Director of Nursing, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Scott Green	Chief Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police
Heather McNair	Chief Nurse Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Brigid Reid	Chief Nurse, NHS Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group
Alicia Marcroft	Head of Public Health, BMBC
Ben Finley	Service Manager Barnsley Youth Offending Team,
Ann Powell	Director of Probation , Barnsley
Stephen Carroll	Deputy Director, SYCRC
Susan Barnett	Children's Service Manager, Barnardo's
Pat Sokell	Lay Member
Pat Armitage	CAFCASS
Phil Briscoe	Assistant Principal, Barnsley College
Dan Foster	Headteacher representative, Greenacre School
Judith Wild	Sub Regional Senior Nurse NHS England (Yorkshire & The Humber)
<b>Advisors</b>	<b>Representative Agency</b>
Cath Erine	Service Manager, Safeguarding Adults, BMBC
Sharon Galvin	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Barnsley CCG
Pete Horner	Head of Public Protection Unit South Yorkshire Police
Mel John-Ross	Assistant Executive Director of Children's Services, Safeguarding, Health and Social Care, BMBC
Dr Saqib Iqbal	Designated Doctor, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Dave Fullen	Director of Housing Management Berneslai Homes
Kathryn Padgett	Assistant Director of Children's Health Improvements, SWYPFT
Dawn Peet	Safeguarding Officer South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
Cllr Margaret Bruff	Cabinet Spokesperson
Monica Green	Head of Service for Safeguarding
Nigel Leeder	Safeguarding Children Board Manager

<b>Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Final Position 2016/17</b>			
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	
<b>Partner Contributions</b>			
Barnsley MBC	£94,524	Staffing	£117,637
NHS Barnsley CCG	£49,000	Professional Fees including SCR	£40,567
PCC	£24,048	Running Costs	£9,918
Cafcass	£550		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£168,122</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£168,122</b>