

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Committee
DATE:	Tuesday 13 September 2022
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bellamy, Bowser, Denton, Eastwood, W. Fielding, Green, Hayward, Lodge, Lowe-Fiello, Markham, Mitchell, Moyes, Newing, Osborne, Peace, Sumner, Webster, Williams, Wilson and Wray

15 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

No apologies for absence were received in accordance with Regulation 7(6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

16 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Lodge declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos. 18, 19, 20 and 22 as he is Chair of the Central Area Early Help Delivery Group, a member of the Virtual School Governance Group and an employee of an organisation which supports vulnerable adults and young people.

Councillor Webster declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos. 18 and 19 as he has family members who have used adolescent mental health services.

Councillor Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minutes Nos. 19, 20 and 22 due to his membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Virtual School Governance Group.

Councillor Eastwood declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 18 due to being the Cabinet Support Member for Place Health and Adult Social Care.

Councillor Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minutes Nos. 19, 20 and 22 due to his membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Virtual School Governance Group.

Councillor Moyes declared a non-pecuniary interest in 19, 20 and 22 due to her membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel and School Panel.

Cllr Newing was present for Minute No 18 but then vacated the meeting for Minute Nos. 19, 20 and 22 due to being Cabinet Support Member for Children's Services.

17 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the following meetings were received and approved by Members as a true and accurate record:

Full Committee – 26 April 2022

Sustainable Barnsley Workstream – 31 May 2022

Growing Barnsley Workstream – 28 June 2022

Health Barnsley Workstream – 19 July 2022

18 Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report 2021-22

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSAB

Wendy Lowder, Executive Director – Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Julie Chapman, Service Director – Adult Social Care & Health, Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Cath Erine, Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Manager, Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Cllr Jenny Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson, Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Superintendent Emma Wheatcroft, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)

Dawn Gibbon, Head of Safeguarding, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)

Becky Hoskins, Deputy Director of Nursing & Quality, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)

Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

Andrew Osborn, Interim Service Director Commissioning & Integration, Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Emma Cox, Associate Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT), was also in attendance virtually to answer Members detailed questions.

Members were invited to consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services (Item 4a) and the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021 – 2022 (Item 4b).

Councillor Platts and B Dyson introduced the report, which outlined the achievements of the Board in 2021-22 and the ambitions of the Board for the following year. Achievements included the multi-agency training offer, work around self-neglect and hoarding, Safeguarding Awareness Week which was led by Barnsley across the county and a peer review which found various strengths and areas of development that the Board were already aware of.

In the ensuing discussion, and in response to detailed questioning and challenge the following matters were highlighted:

Berneslai Homes were not represented at the meeting, but Members were assured that Berneslai Homes had good policies in place in regards to concerns about

vulnerable adults and children. Berneslai Homes had their own safeguarding team so they might not need to refer every case to the front door of Adult Social Care. In addition, Berneslai Homes provide the Board with quarterly data evidencing the prevention work undertaken to keep tenants safe. It was highlighted that staff working on new 'Front Door' for Adult Social Care now acknowledge if service users are Berneslai Homes tenants, and the ambition moving forward is to have Berneslai Homes as a partner in the 'Front Door' to strengthen links with officers.

It is a priority for the Board that people who need safeguarding are involved and in control of the process. The Board had focused on making safeguarding personal and use advocacy to embed positive outcomes. It was noted that there are some individuals who are hard to engage with and some who lacked capacity, therefore it was difficult to ascertain what their experience of accessing support had been. The Board had looked at introducing family conferences to support all adults to design solutions centred around the individuals along with their families and friends. Training and supervision for staff also focused on working with those individuals who are more difficult to engage with.

The board had worked closely with the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership to improve transitions into Adulthood, as this had been a concern historically. It was highlighted that a task and finish group was implemented to drive this work forward. A multi-agency Directions Panel was used to provide early intervention for young people. Working together with Children's Services more closely would save intervention down the line with Adult Social Care or Mental Health Services. CAMHS were currently negating with children and young people to map out the services up to the age of 25 and a permanent offer will be available from April 2023. There is partnership working with INSPYRE to provide support to all waiting in CAMHS and to support a seamless transition to Adult Services for young people.

The recent peer review found two areas of improvement which focus on the tightening of agenda planning and working with other Boards to ascertain where agenda items would be best placed. As a result of the peer review the Board would look at data collection, such as reviewing the quarterly dashboard and the end of year data set so that data could be studied not just on a macro level but on an area-by-area basis or by group of individuals etc. Peer Reviews had been less frequent due to the pandemic, but this is now recommencing across the regions and the Board would be sharing their peer review with colleagues across ADASS. Engagement with other Authorities is important, and the Board regularly shared best practice via regional and national forums such as ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services), County and National Safeguarding Forums.

Members were informed that the Board had an underspend, and this would be invested into a safeguarding post that sits outside the Council. This new post would focus on reaching out the public and customer groups around safeguarding, and the hope is that this would increase the number of public referrals.

The increase in referrals is seen as a positive impact of the Board's communication and training plan. Partners from the Hospital and the Police agreed that the increase in referrals showed that front line staff are more effective at detecting safeguarding concerns which is testament to the training offer of the Board. The Police now have a member of staff in 'Front Door' leading to a reduction in the number of concerns that

would not progress beyond the Police. The Board would like to work more closely with the Borough's care homes as a significant proportion of referrals are made via care home staff. Care Homes provide their own safeguarding training, and the board is working with commissioners to determine the quality of this training.

Members have an important role to play in the safeguarding of Barnsley residents, and Members had been invited to complete safeguarding training in person or virtually. Members could undertake training ranging from beginner to advanced and could also do joint training focusing on both Children's and Adult's Safeguarding. It was noted that the email inviting Members to undertake this training should be sent again.

There are staff working with private sector housing colleagues. The Board had increased links with both the Safer Neighbourhoods team and private tenancy team, with a strong focus on identifying self-neglect and hoarding and recognising those who would benefit from early intervention. Joint working had actively been engaged in, such as the self-neglect and hoarding webpage and the D'Clutter club.

The Board had anticipated an increase of safeguarding concerns due to the Cost-of-Living Crisis. A regional approach had been underway, with a Yorkshire & Humber group working on actions that could be taken. The Board had undertaken work to understand the fabric of the local community and who is at risk. Campaigns such as More Money in Your Pocket had been implemented and further communication plans had been discussed to inform local residents of support available.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution and for the excellent work of the BSAB, and;
- (ii) Members be provided with Safeguarding training information to increase uptake.

19 Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2021-22

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Carly Speechley, Executive Director, Children's Services, BMBC
Keeley Boud, Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance, Children's Services, BMBC
Annette Carey, Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Manager, Children's Services, BMBC
Cllr Trevor Cave, Cabinet Spokesperson – Children's Services
Superintendent Emma Wheatcroft, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
Dawn Gibbon, Head of Safeguarding, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)
Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
Becky Hoskins, Deputy Director of Nursing & Quality, Barnsley Hospital NHS

Foundation Trust (BHNFT)

Emma Cox, Associate Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT) and Jean Imray, Independent Scrutineer, BMBC were also in attendance virtually to answer Members detailed questions.

Members were invited to consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services (Item 5a) and the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2021-22 (Item 5b).

C Speechley introduced the report, in which it was highlighted that 2021- 22 was a period of challenging circumstances for both families and the workforce. The report summarised the key achievements of the Board, and also set out the priorities for the following year.

In the ensuing discussion, and in response to detailed questioning and challenge the following matters were highlighted:

Members discussed concerns surrounding digital exclusion that the borough's young people faced, such as lack of access to Wi-Fi and mobile devices. The service undertook a piece of work during the pandemic to provide equipment to vulnerable young people and informed families that they could use Family Hubs to access free Wi-Fi. It was noted that this was an area of work that could be explored in more depth.

Online harms and bullying are a key concern for the Board. One of the most significant areas of contextual safeguarding is online harms, and this was contextualised in the Section 175 Audits. The service had implemented a range of training for both young people and parents which surrounded this. In Safeguarding Awareness Week, workshops with parents which focused on online harm and bullying took place. Students are not allowed to use mobile phones in lesson time at school, but concerns were raised about students accessing mobile phones in downtime, and also smartwatches in lessons, which meant they could experience online harms and bullying whilst in school. Members were assured that work would be undertaken with schools to ascertain policies around mobile phone and smartwatch use. Young people in the Borough had a keen interest in tackling online harms and bullying. The Tackling Bullying Commitment had been implemented by schools with check and challenge provided by young people acting as peer inspectors. These check and challenge inspections by young people would help inform the Board on how well the bullying commitment was being implemented.

Members suggested that the Partnership would benefit from engaging with the Area Councils. Area Councils had specific funds that the Partnership could utilise in specific localities. This would be picked up, with the suggestion that the Executive Director should attend the Area Council Chairs Forum.

The Cost-Of-Living crisis would be a key issue for the Partnership over the coming months. The Partnership provided support for families, such as Family Centres in every locality, and should receive £3 Million of additional Family Hub funding for their early help offer . More parents and carers parenting in adverse circumstances could

mean there is a potential saturation point where demand outstrips level of services. The service would be looking at alternative funding solutions and efficiency and integration to combat this.

Access to schools was more difficult than it had been historically. The Service hold regular meetings with designated safeguarding leads in schools to share information and identify training needs. It was noted that children who had access to family support workers had regular direct contact with practitioners who would speak to them alone and share feedback. It was hoped Front Door services would work towards better connections with schools and a pilot has been undertaken with social workers linked in with schools to improve communication. Health colleagues noted that pre-Covid Partnership meetings took place in schools on occasion, and met with young people after, which provided invaluable insight to the Partnership. Training in schools was provided on issues such as self-harm and bullying, supported by Compass.

Availability of CAMHS services for young people is a national problem, with an increase in the volume and complexity of referrals. To reduce waiting times further, CAMHS had engaged in partnership working with organisations such as Compass who provided support in schools. There had been an increase in EHCPs surrounding children who were unable to go to school or had a fear of school. The service had been working closely with both CAMHS and Compass to bridge the gap in service in this area. This had led to an increase in Elective Home Education across the borough, which was regularly audited by the Partnership.

The Partnership had engaged in a vast amount of work in relation to safe sleeping arrangements. The Partnership reported no deaths since last year's update. The Partnership had undertaken significant work to reduce deaths related to unsafe sleeping and abusive head trauma via the roll out of the ICON programme. Both of these had been significant pieces of multi-agency work, with staff being trained to provide brief interventions and champions appointed to keep the good work of the programme going. The Partnership produced a radio campaign which had been replicated across the country and developed risk assessment tools so practitioners feel confident in having conversations with parents and carers around this risk.

The Partnership collated feedback through various mechanisms. The Council operates various forums such as the Youth Council and SEND Youth Group, which are established groups of young people who regularly feedback into services. Audits, observations of practice, and walk the floor exercises with the Cabinet support Member for Children's Services provided quality assurance for the service. The Council also has a feedback and improvement service in which families could submit feedback and complaints.

Staffing in Children's Social Care services is a national issue. The Council had vacancies in Front Door services, which could lead to sickness and absence due to additional capacity pressures on staff. The service had developed a recruitment and retention strategy, with various communications such as a micro site developed jointly with the Communications and HR teams.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution and the report be noted
- (ii) Members to be provided with information on mobile device usage policies in schools
- (iii) Witnesses, including SYP, investigate the possibility of working with Area Councils
- (iv) Members to be provided with information on self-harm training and education in schools
- (v) Witnesses to further investigate the impact of digital exclusion; including progress against the South Yorkshire Broadband project
- (vi) Witnesses to increase the promotion of good partnership working in annual reports, e.g., the safe sleep project
- (vii) Members to promote the Children's Services recruitment offer
- (viii) Members to consider the added value of the partnership as a whole at future scrutiny sessions, not just focusing on the performance of individual services
- (ix) Witnesses should be cognisant of those living in private rented accommodation and whether they are disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis; and
- (x) Executive Director to inform the Chair of the Committee of the outcome of the bid to provide support through Family Centres.

20 REDACTED Children's Social Care Performance Report (For Information Only)

Members were invited to consider a cover report relating to Children's Social Care Performance. The redacted report was provided for information only.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

21 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the items so marked because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, subject to the public interest test.

22 Children's Social Care Performance Report Private Member Briefing

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Carly Speechley, Executive Director-Children's Services, BMBC

Keeley Boud, Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance, Children's Services,
BMBC
Cllr Trevor Cave, Cabinet Spokesperson Children's Services, BMBC

Members were invited to consider a cover report relating to Children's Social Care Performance (Item 8a) in relation to the Data Report (Item 8b) and the Explanatory Document (Item 8c).

A strong performance was noted overall despite challenges with staffing. It is anticipated that the Cost-of-Living crisis could create further significant pressures for the service.

The needs of care leavers are under constant review via the Sufficiency Strategy, and areas such as the number of care leavers in suitable accommodation are a key focus for the service.

Challenges in recruiting and retaining staff remain a national issue for the profession. There have been issues with recruiting both permanent and agency staff, particularly experienced social workers. Additional benefits are advertised within the job description, such as the welcome bonus and Local Government Pension benefits. The service had explored adding additional admin capacity to remove pressure from front line staff, however there were also issues in recruiting admin staff. Various options to combat recruitment issues would be explored, such as visibility at local universities and the relaunch of the microsite.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members note the report; and
- (ii) Witnesses explore working with Job Centres to recruit admin staff

Chair