

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board



Annual Report 2017 - 2018

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board



Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board is responsible for bringing local services together to plan and agree how best to keep children and young people in the area safe.

The Board develops shared policies and plans to protect vulnerable children. Their role is to make sure all children are well cared for and able to reach their full potential. They also provide support and training for people who work with children and young people, to make sure that they are fully aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

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Chair's Foreword

Welcome to the annual report of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board.

We have made a conscious decision to have a much briefer annual report that is supplemented by a number of videos that are intended to make the report more accessible to a wider range of people. I hope that you find the changes to be appropriate.

As the Independent Chair of the board, I am pleased to be able to report that the board, and its member agencies, have continued to make progress in its drive to enhance the safeguarding of children and young people here in Barnsley.

The annual report gives details of the work of the board and its sub groups; this includes some of the achievements. We have included a number of case studies that are intended to help illustrate the work of agencies working with vulnerable children and young people.

During the year, I am pleased to report, that we have not had cause to commission any Serious Case Reviews. Such reviews are commissioned when a child who is subject to abuse or neglect either dies or is seriously injured and there is concern that agencies may not have worked together effectively in keeping them safe. On April 3rd 2018 we did publish on the board web site the report from a Serious Case Review arising from the tragic death of a seven year old boy, who was the subject of a multi-agency child protection plan, in July 2015. That report, written by an independent author, found that the decision making of agencies had been appropriate given the information available to them at the time. The report did identify some opportunities for learning; all of those have been implemented.

I am satisfied that the agencies that are represented on the board display a high level of commitment to keeping people safe. This was tested through a self-assessment process which in turn was subject to a challenge process. We recognise that schools have an important role to play in helping to keep our children and young people safe; we achieved a 100% return on the school self-assessment process that demonstrated that they are addressing their safeguarding responsibilities.

Bob Dyson QPM, DL

This is what we do

The Role of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board is to:

Ensure that safeguarding children and young people is at the centre of everything we do

Hold board members to account – are we/they doing enough to keep children and young people safe?

Collect and share information about how well we are keeping children and young people safe and what more we could do

These are our Partners



Produce a 'Plan on a Page'

We have created a 'Plan on a Page' which sets out:

The Statutory Responsibilities of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board

The Role of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board

The Structure of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board

It also outlines our Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority 1 Sharing and Engaging

The Board will continue to monitor service improvement through the Continuous Service Improvement Plan and a schedule of regular audit activity

The Board will continue to seek the views of children and young people

Safeguarding Awareness Week provides an opportunity for all of the partnership and community to come together with the message

“Safeguarding is Everybody’s Business“

Strategic Priority 2 Helping, Empowering and Supporting

Ensure the availability of quality multi-agency child protection training and the provision of quality safeguarding services Supporting children and young people to have a voice

Help shape services and support best practice via the Designated Safeguarding Leads and other Forums

Ensure accessibility of information via the website and other resources

Strategic Priority 3 Prevention

The synergy obtained from strong partnership working remains an essential element of effective safeguarding.

The continuing effectiveness of the work of the Board will continue to be subject to close scrutiny

Ensure partners are kept up to date with emerging themes and key messages

Support learning and development through Serious Case Reviews and Lessons Learned

Strategic Priority 4 Accountability

Continue 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

The Board will continue to strengthen and evidence its own effectiveness through rigorous challenge, participation and engagement

What We Will Do:

Develop and deliver a sustainable Communication and Engagement Plan with the People of Barnsley

Let people know how to get help or report harm

Design and deliver effective training for all staff and volunteers

Provide children and young people and their families who have been harmed with support and information

Evaluate children and young people’s views of safeguarding and demonstrate if we have helped them to reduce risk

Carry out SCR’s and Lessons Learned Reviews to improve the way we keep children safe

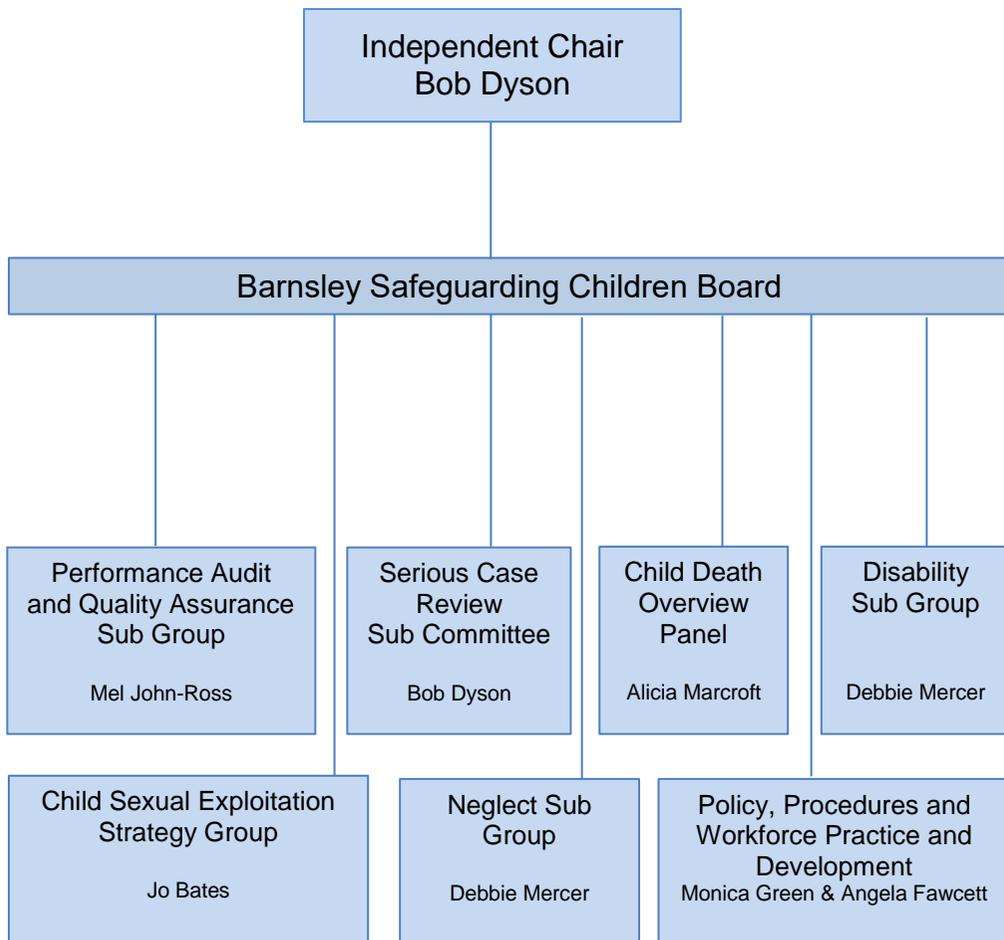
Continue to provide Performance Information to the Board to assure the Board that we are working together to prevent harm

Regularly challenge processes and performance at Board level to show all organisations are being held to account for the safety of children in Barnsley

Identify any gaps for young people moving from children’s to adult services that may leave them at risk of harm

Ensure synergy and a joint response to shared themes such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)/Honour Based Violence /Forced Marriage (FM) and Prevent

Governance Structure of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board



The main priorities of the Board as identified by the partners are the responsibility of seven sub groups who ensure that the work of the Board is carried forward. Each of the sub groups has a work plan which focuses on a particular area of the Board's priorities.

Performance Audit and Quality Assurance Sub Group

Mel John Ross Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding

What We Do:

On behalf of the Board we carry out regular checks of individual agency safeguarding practice. We also keep a very close eye on a number of key performance indicators. We secure quality assurance through findings from single and multi-agency audits

What We Did

Responsible to the Board for overseeing the Quarterly Performance Management Report and the Quarterly Themed Audit Schedule

Co-ordinate single agency safeguarding Section 11 self-assessment audits and analysis, monitoring agency action plans by reviewing summary data and determining response in respect of non-compliance and oversee the Section 175 and 157 audit process relating to schools and outcomes

In 2017 – 18 we undertook five Multi Agency Themed Audits and ongoing monitoring of Action Plans

In February 2017 we carried out an audit of Children where a S.47 has been completed but has not progressed to an Initial Child Protection Case Conference. This is to ensure all appropriate measures are being taken to make sure children are as safe as possible.

In April 2017 we carried out an audit of 'Children who have been on a Child Protection Plan for Neglect'. We have a lot of children living in Barnsley suffering neglect and this audit was to ensure the more serious cases are receiving all the support they need.

In September 2017 we carried out an audit of Children where there have been concerns about sexual abuse or harmful sexual behaviour. This is to ensure that where children have suffered sexual abuse, appropriate plans are in place to help keep them safe and where children and young people are engaging in harmful sexual behaviour they are receiving appropriate advice and guidance to help to keep them safe

In July 2017 we carried out an audit of 'Return to Care Interviews'. All children who 'go missing from home' are offered a 'Return to Care Interview'

In December 2017 we carried out an audit of Children on a Special Guardianship Order to ensure that the children and those looking after them are receiving all the help and support they

What We Will Do:

In 2018 – 19 we will continue to carry out multi-agency audits to give the Board assurance that partners are doing everything they can to keep children and young people safe in Barnsley

Policy, Procedure and Workforce Practice and Development

Monica Green, Head of Service, Safeguarding Unit and Quality Assurance and
Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children

What We Do:

The PPWPD sub group oversees a range of areas of safeguarding practice and continues to benefit from the work across the People Directorate with Adults Safeguarding

Make sure our workers and volunteers get the training they need to provide safe services and to share concerns if they think a child or young person is being hurt or abused

Review our policies and guidance to make sure we are constantly improving. This year we have checked and updated ten different policies, procedures and action plans to ensure they say what we need them to say and do what we need them to do, as well as keeping a check on all the National Safeguarding Policies that are updated on a special platform called Tri-X

We are also constantly developing new policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the Borough

What We Did

In 2017 – 18 the policies we reviewed and signed off included:

Anti-Bullying, Hate and Harassment Strategy and Action Plan

Private Fostering Awareness Raising Campaign

Barnsley Child Death Notification Process Revised

Fabricated and Induced Illness Training, Policy and Flowchart

Children Missing Education Guidance and Procedures for Early Years Settings, Schools and Academies

Bruising to Non-Mobile Children Protocol, Guidance and Flowchart Revised

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Policy for Children and Young People

0 – 19 Guidelines for non-compliance where young children are not brought for important medical appointments

Multi-Agency Child Protection Training Delivered 2017-18

123 Courses were delivered
to **2293** delegates

11 Different Virtual College Courses
Delivered to **2916** delegates

What We Will Do:

In 2018 – 19 one thing we want to do more about is measuring the impact of training on workforce practice. Does the training we deliver have a positive effect on the way people go about their day job and the way they inter-act with members of the public?

Neglect Sub Group

Debbie Mercer Head of Service, Children and Family Social Care

What We Did:

In 2017 we established a new sub group of the Safeguarding Board, specifically to try and help tackle Neglect. We recognise that neglect is a serious problem in Barnsley and so we have worked together with the NSPCC to launch a new Neglect Strategy and developed documents with guidance to support professionals and families in recognising neglect and what they can do to help sort the problem out.



We aim to reduce the impact and prevalence of neglect in Barnsley over time
To raise everyone's awareness about the signs, symptoms and impact of neglect for children and young people 0-18 years.
To ensure that neglect is identified at an early stage and that it is responded to consistently, confidently and appropriately at the right threshold of need with a timely response
To develop a strategy for referral pathways and management of neglect cases in Barnsley so that the impacts upon children and young people are minimised
To develop consistent multi agency practice and approaches to neglect through training and development and report to the BSCB on progress against these objectives



We have also produced documents to help people understand and recognise Neglect, including a guide for parents, young people and professionals called 'Neglect Matters'

What We Will Do:

We will continue to work with partners, including the delivery of the Graded Care Profile training, to help them recognise neglect and support families in deciding how best to tackle neglect and improve outcomes for children, young people and families

Serious Case Review Sub Committee

Bob Dyson QPM, DL

What We Do:

Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to commission an independent author to conduct a serious case review (SCR) in circumstances where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and either the child has died or been seriously injured and there is cause for concern as to the way in which agencies worked together to safeguard the child. The SCR subcommittee is chaired by the independent chair of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board; it forms a panel to consider any case which may meet the criteria for an SCR to be commissioned. During the time covered by this annual report, there were no cases that needed to be considered. On 3 April 2018 the board published an SCR into the tragic death of a seven year old boy that occurred in 2015. The Independent Author did not find any fundamental failings by agencies but did identify six learning opportunities all of which have been addressed. That report, entitled Child R, is available to read on the Barnsley LSCB website.

In the absence of any new cases in Barnsley, the subcommittee has considered SCR reports from other parts of the country to see if there are lessons that we can learn here in Barnsley. That has led to the board taking a greater interest in some subjects, an example being Special Guardianship Orders, to ensure that they are being effectively managed in Barnsley.

Child Death Overview Panel

Alicia Marcroft

Head of Public Health (Children and Young People)

Head of Service Public Health Nursing

What We Do:

It is the role of one of the sub groups of the Board to look at all deaths of children and young people in Barnsley, whatever the reason, to see if there is anything that we can learn from them and anything that might help us avoid such deaths happening in the future. This is the role of the Child Death Overview Panel.

What We Will Do:

We will continue to work as a multi-agency partnership, to review all deaths of all children and young people in Barnsley and ensure that any lessons that can be learned are shared with colleagues in a timely way to make Barnsley as safe a place as possible.

Safeguarding Children with a Disability or Complex Health Needs Sub Committee

Debbie Mercer Head of Service, Children and Family Social Care

What We Do:

One of the more vulnerable groups in society is those who either have a disability and/or complex health needs. The Board considers it very important that it continues to have oversight of this group of children and young people and that the needs of this vulnerable group are being met.

The role of the Safeguarding Children with Disabilities or Complex Health Needs subcommittee is to make sure that partners are working together to ensure the support needed is available for this group of vulnerable children and young people and to work alongside colleagues and partners of the Adult Safeguarding Board to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for when these young people transition into adulthood, particularly with regard to relevant training.

What We Will Do:

We will continue to work alongside partners in both children's and adult services to ensure colleagues are aware of their responsibilities towards this group of children and young people and that appropriate services are available



Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy Group

DCI Jo Bates, South Yorkshire Police

What We Do:

The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy Group is responsible to the Safeguarding Children Board for overview of inter-agency working in the area of CSE. The Strategy Group is also responsible for the development and implementation of the Safeguarding Children Board CSE Strategy and Action Plan.

What We Did:

In 2017-18 we carried out four multi-agency audits so that we are able to assure the Board that our partners are fully aware of the risks facing our children and young people from those wishing to try and harm them through CSE. This includes on-line grooming and pressures they may face from their peers in engaging in risk taking behaviours that might further expose them to harm.

As well as making sure the BSCB CSE Strategy and Action Plan is kept up to date, the CSE Strategy Group received regular reports and updates from the Multiple Vulnerabilities and Complex Abuse Panel, which considers some of our most at risk children and young people and reports from the Missing Panel, that meets regularly to consider children and young people who go missing from home, the reasons why they go missing and what we can do to try and keep them safe.

What We Will Do:

In 2018-19 we will continue to conduct regular audits of cases where children and young people have been exposed to or at risk of CSE. We will continue to assess the local risks that our children and young people are facing, including harmful sexual behaviour and we will make sure all our partners and people that work for them are aware of what CSE is and for them to be constantly vigilant so that we can keep our children and young people as safe as possible



Good News Stories

We are pleased to be able to tell you of some very positive stories from 2017-18

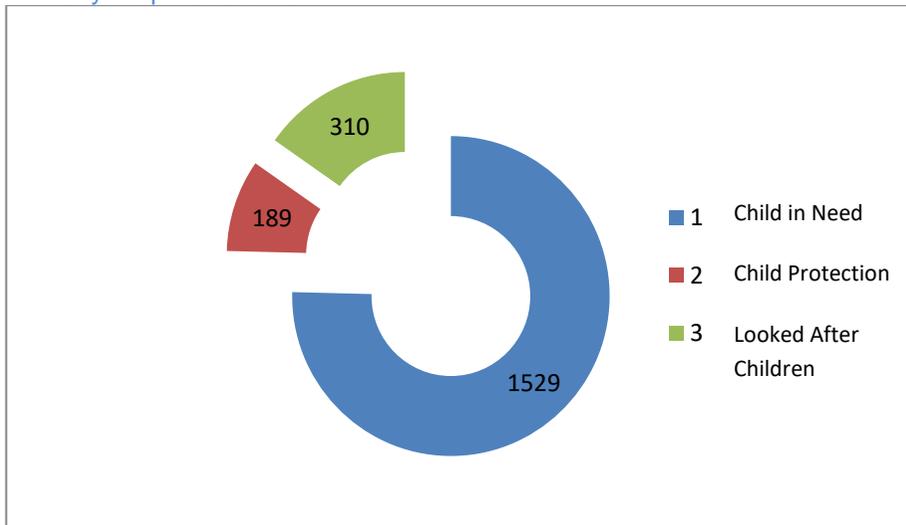
One story is as a result of training we have delivered to colleagues who work in Barnsley. The training is to help workers recognise situations where children and young people may be particularly at risk. As a result of the training delivered, two colleagues spotted a situation where a young person was putting themselves at risk of serious harm. They spoke about this to other colleagues and as a result the young person received the help they needed to better understand the risks they were exposing themselves to and how to better keep themselves safe in future. Other steps were also taken to ensure that harmful situation could not happen again to any other children or young people in Barnsley.

Another 'Good News Story' is all about multi-agency working and how much more we can achieve when we all work together. It involves two children on a Child Protection Plan because of parent's inability to care for them properly, mostly because of the parent's alcohol misuse. Through very effective multi-agency working, involving school, the school nurse, social workers, workers from Barnardo's and the love and care of an aunt and uncle, who were prepared to take the children into their home, this story has a very happy ending. It shows just what can be achieved when we all work together to make Barnsley as safe a place as possible for our children, young people and families!



The Safeguarding Landscape in Barnsley

The below graph shows the number of children on a plan in Barnsley. There are also c. 4,500 children receiving support through early help on an Early Help Assessment.



What to do if you are worried about a child

If the child is in danger

Call the police on 999 or (01142) 202020.

If the child is not at risk of immediate harm

If you're concerned about a child, but they're not in immediate danger, it's still important to share the information with us as soon as possible.

If your call is not urgent contact the Assessment Service on (01226) 772423. Our offices are open between Monday and Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Out of hours emergencies

If you want to report your concern urgently and our offices are closed you can contact our Emergency Duty Team on 0844 9841800. They work on weekends and bank holidays and deal with issues that can't wait until usual office opening hours.

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

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Budget

Year End 2017/18

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Final Position 2017/18			
Income £		Expenditure £	
Partner Contributions			
Barnsley MBC	£62,622	Staffing	£100,004
NHS Barnsley CCG	£49,000	Professional Fees, Supplies and Services	£24,192
PCC	£12,024		
Cafcass	£550		
TOTAL	£124,196	TOTAL	£124,196