

# **Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership**

## **Our New Arrangements**

### **Implementing the Requirements**

**Of**

### **Working Together 2018**

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## **Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to set out Barnsley's response to Working Together 2018 which changes the arrangements that are required locally to ensure that agencies are working together in partnership to keep children and young people safe. It will set out how Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Board will transition to become the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

The background to the change is that in 2015, in response to a number of disappointing outcomes of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) inspections, the Government commissioned Alan Wood, a former President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services and ex-Director of Children's Services in Hackney, to lead a review of LSCBs. This review took place between January and March 2016.

In total, the review considered over 600 responses and came to the overall conclusion that LSCBs were not sufficiently effective. Alan Wood recommended the abolition of LSCBs and their replacement by a stronger statutory partnership of the key statutory agencies - police, CCGs and local authorities – who would in turn determine local safeguarding arrangements.

In its May 2016 response, the Government said that it agreed with Alan Wood's analysis, and that "current arrangements are inflexible and too often ineffective. Meetings take place involving large numbers of people, but decision-making leading to effective action on the ground can be all too often lacking" ('Review of the role and functions of local safeguarding children boards: the government response to Alan Wood CBE', Department for Education, May 2016, page 5).

Instead, it proposed a stronger but more flexible statutory framework to support local partners to work together more effectively to protect and safeguard children and young people, embedding improved multiagency behaviours and practices.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent in April 2017. Section 30 of the Act removes the requirement for local areas to have LSCBs. Sections 16 – 23 introduce a duty on 3 key partners (local authorities, police and CCGs) to make arrangements with other partners as locally determined to work together in a local area to protect and safeguard children. These arrangements must identify and respond to the needs of children in the area and also identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area.

Here in Barnsley, we see this as an opportunity to build on the existing strengths of the existing arrangements and to look to reinforce our commitment to keeping children and young people safe.

## How the plan was developed

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places the responsibility on the three 'Safeguarding Partners', the Police, the Local Authority and Health to formulate the local arrangements for partnership arrangements for Safeguarding Children.

The Independent Chair of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board was asked to prepare a briefing paper setting out the requirements of Working Together 2018 and making recommendations as to how they might be best achieved. That paper was then discussed at a meeting of senior leaders from each of the three Safeguarding Partners.

This was followed by a development day that involved the wider membership of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board and the Children's Trust Executive Group. That development day coincided with 'Take Over Day' which sees local young people working alongside senior leaders and local elected councillors to give them an insight and experience of the roles they shadow for the day. This facilitated involving young people in the debate on the future of local partnership arrangements for Safeguarding Children.

It was agreed, that in common with other LSCBs in South Yorkshire, that we will continue to operate on the same geographical area, that is the borough of Barnsley. This allows a truly local focus that enables partner agencies to be aware of, and to address, issues that concern local children and families.

The Independent Chair of Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board was tasked with writing this document which will describe the local arrangements going forward.

It has been agreed that the BSCP will be constructed in a way that enables the Partnership to meet the 'Components of Successful Partnerships' as identified by Ofsted:-

- An environment in which effective multi agency practice can flourish.
- Wide and active engagement in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements with the right shared priorities.
- Agencies understanding their respective roles and thresholds.
- Support and challenge within the multi-agency system.
- Continuous learning and development.
- Good systems for information sharing, which professionals are confident and knowledgeable about.
- Effective, ambitious child focussed leadership within and across partners.

## Shared Vision and Priorities

The BSCP vision is that:

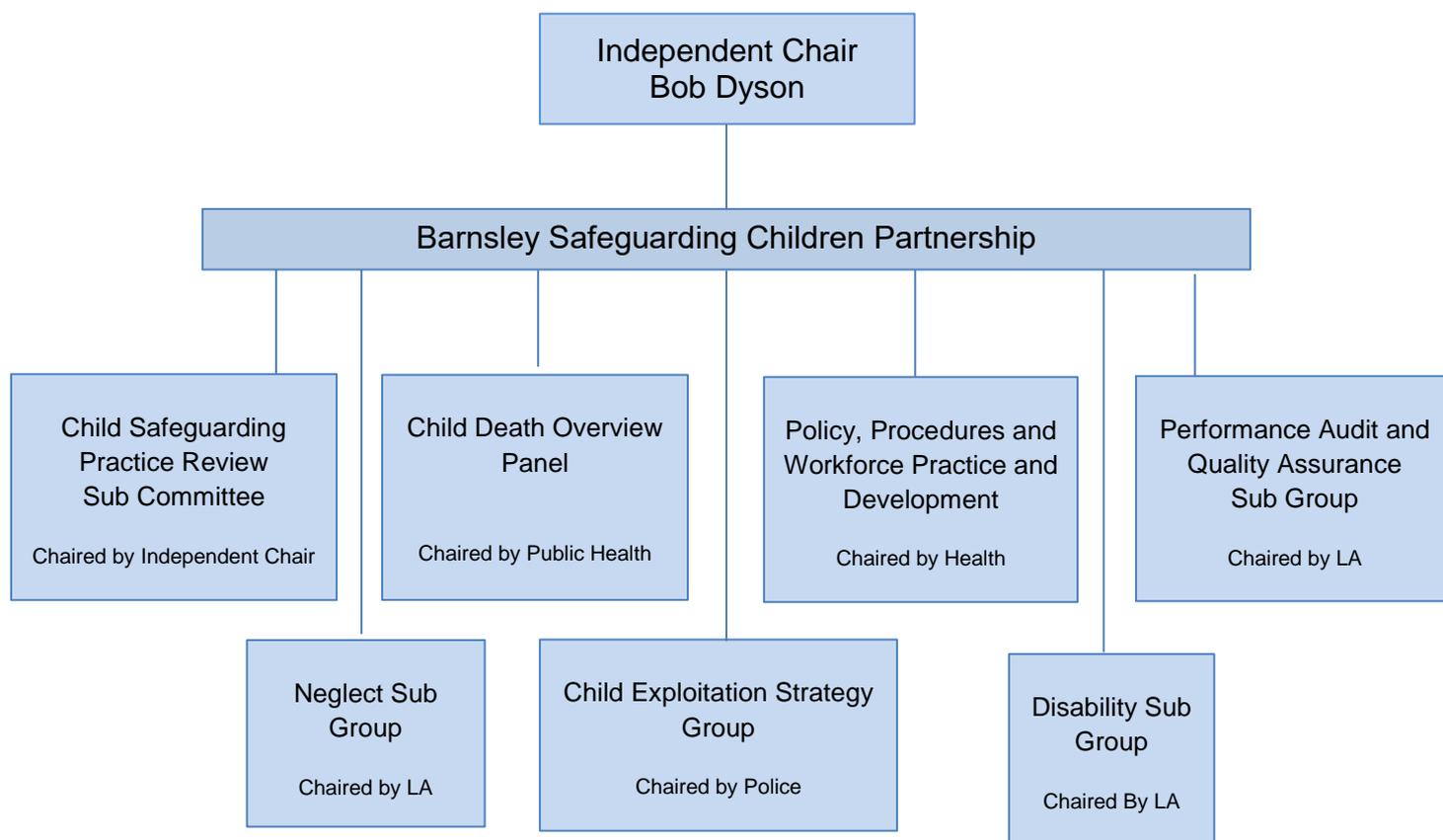
Every child and young person should be able to grow up safe from maltreatment, neglect, accidental injury/death, bullying and discrimination, crime and anti-social behaviour. Children are entitled to a strong commitment from the BSCP and its constituent agencies to ensure that they are safeguarded from exploitation and abuse. 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 interagency 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 agreed priorities are:

- **Sharing and Engaging**, The Partnership will monitor service improvement through the Continuous Service Improvement Plan and a schedule of regular audit activity. The Partnership will continue to seek the views of children and young people to inform what we do and how we do it. **Safeguarding Awareness Week** provides an opportunity for all of the partnership and community to come together with the message **"Safeguarding is Everybody's Business"** This is an important feature in our communication plan aimed at raising the public awareness of Child Safeguarding and providing the workforce with the skills and training they need to deliver the best possible service. There will be active involvement of schools, in recognition of the vital role they play in keeping children safe; we will deliver training to all school designated safeguarding leads.
- **Helping to Empower and Support**: 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 to help shape services and support best practice. Ensure accessibility of information via the website and other resources. Ensuring that children and families are involved, wherever appropriate, in decision making.
- **Prevention**: Prevention is a primary aim, helping to ensure that children do not suffer neglect or abuse. There is a strong early help offer to provide support to children and families as soon as they come to notice aimed at improving lives and preventing issues escalating. The synergy obtained from strong partnership working remains an essential element of effective safeguarding. The continuing effectiveness of the work of the Partnership 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 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Lessons Learned Reviews.
- **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 Partnership will continue to strengthen and evidence its own effectiveness through rigorous challenge, participation and engagement

## Governance

The structure chart below sets out the BSCP and its sub committees.



The BSCP will set the strategic direction for local arrangements with the sub committees being responsible for driving forward their specific areas of responsibility in line with the BSCP priorities. The active involvement of the three Safeguarding Partners is evidenced by their involvement in providing the chairs of some of the sub committees.

The BSCP cannot act in isolation, it will have a strong and clearly defined relationship with other strategic partnership boards including the Barnsley Community Safety Partnership and the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board. A partnership protocol has been developed that sets out the responsibilities of individual boards and how they interact. This is supported by a meeting structure that brings together the chairs of the respective boards to discuss priorities and cross cutting issues. The purpose of the protocol and meetings is to ensure clarity of purpose, to prevent any gaps in approach and to eliminate any duplication of effort. Where appropriate, we have been looking to more closely align the work of the BSCB with the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board, an example being the Safeguarding Awareness Week, and will continue to do so when we transition to the BSCP.

The changes, prompted by WTG 2018, are being implemented across the country. A number of Local Safeguarding Children Boards volunteered to act as early adopters. We will continue to look to learn from outside of Barnsley by participating in regional meeting structures and looking to learn from the early adopter sites. WE will commit to reviewing our arrangements annually.

The BSCP will produce an annual report that will be public facing.

## **Independent Scrutiny**

Barnsley recognises and welcomes the added value that Independent Scrutiny brings to ensuring that local arrangements are effective. Independent Scrutiny is a strong feature in Working Together 2018.

The Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership will have the following aspects of Independent Scrutiny:

- It will retain the services of an Independent Chair. It is considered that there is benefit in having Partnership Board meetings chaired by an individual who is not the representative of any single agency and is able to bring their experience of acting as a critical friend, who encourages appropriate challenge, and plays an important role in holding agencies to account.
- It will have an annual programme of independent case file audits. This will take the form of both single agency and multi-agency audits targeted at specific issues, for example Neglect and Child Sexual Exploitation, which will review cases against agreed criteria to independently assess if contact with children and families was in accordance with policies and procedures and that it was appropriate to the circumstances thereby producing the right outcomes.
- The BSCP commits to an active involvement in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Scrutiny arrangements.
- The BSCP is committed to involving children and young people in having an active role in local arrangements. This includes the continued development of a young advisors panel that draws upon young people from across the borough to advise the BSCP on how policies and procedures impact on young people.
- The BSCP will welcome observers at meetings who will be able to give direct feedback.
- Local elected members will attend the BSCP as part of ensuring that local people are involved and have a voice.
- The BSCP will commission Independent Authors to conduct Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews in appropriate cases that meet the criteria set out in WTG 2018.
- The Partnership will take part in Peer Reviews when appropriate.

## **Timetable**

This document will be presented for consideration at the BSCB meeting scheduled for 15 February 2019. Any feedback or amendments can be incorporated before the document is submitted to the DFE.

It is intended that the BSCB will cease to exist on 31.3.2019 and that the BSCP will arrangements will commence on 1.4.2019.

A separate plan will be created to ensure that we complete the necessary administrative actions, including amending the web site, policies and procedures and to publish the plan to the public of Barnsley.

# Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership

## The Roles and Responsibilities of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership are:

Ensure that safeguarding children and young people is at the centre of everything we do.  
 Hold members to account – are we/they doing enough to keep children and young people safe?  
 The co-ordination of what is done by each Member for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within the Borough and to ensure the effectiveness of multi-agency working and what is done by each Member for those purposes, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.  
 Collect and share information about how well we are keeping children and young people safe and what more we could do.

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.  
 Publish a Strategic Plan – what we will achieve Publish an Annual Report – detailing what we have done to keep children and young people safe  
 Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the Borough

## The Structure of The Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership

Safeguarding Partnership Board with Independent Chair  
 Performance Audit and Quality Assurance Sub Group  
 Child Death Overview Panel  
 Child Safeguarding Practice Review Sub Group  
 Policies, Procedures and Workforce Practice Development Sub Group  
 Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs Sub Group  
 Child Exploitation Strategic Sub Group  
 Neglect Sub Group

## The priorities of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership for 2019 – 20 are:

### Strategic Priority 1 Sharing and Engaging

The Partnership will 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 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Lessons Learned

### Strategic Priority 4 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 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Lessons Learned

## Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership Strategic Plan 2019-20

### What we will do:

1. Raise public and workers awareness of Child Safeguarding through the Communication and Engagement Plan.
2. Let people know how to get help or report harm
3. Design and deliver effective training for all staff and volunteers
4. Provide children and young people and their families who have been harmed with support and information
5. Evaluate children and young people’s views of safeguarding and demonstrate if we have helped them to reduce risk
6. Carry out Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Lessons Learned Reviews to improve the way we keep children safe
7. Continue to provide Performance Information to the Partnership Board to evidence that we are working together to prevent harm
8. Regularly challenge processes and performance at Partnership Board level to show all organisations are being held to account for the safety of children in Barnsley
9. Identify any gaps for young people moving from children’s to adult services that may leave them at risk of harm
10. Ensure synergy and a joint response to shared themes such as Contextual Safeguarding, Child Exploitation, Bullying etc

## **Appendix 1**

### **Membership of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**

**Independent Chair**

**Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC)**

**Barnsley CCG**

**South Yorkshire Police**

**South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust**

**NHS England**

**National Probation Service**

**CAFCASS**

**Barnardo's**

**South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company**

**South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue**

**IDAS**

**Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

**Berneslai Homes**

**Legal Services – BMBC**

**Children's Social Care – BMBC**

**Public Health - BMBC**

**Youth Offending Team – BMBC**

**Barnsley College**

**Voluntary Action Barnsley**

**Healthwatch Barnsley**

**Head Teacher Representative – Barnsley Primary Schools**

**Head Teacher Representative – Barnsley Senior Schools**

**Barnsley Council - Cabinet Spokesperson (Participant Observer)**