

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Meeting
DATE:	Tuesday, 10 September 2019
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bowler, Carr, T. Cave, Felton, Fielding, Frost, Gollick, Green, Daniel Griffin, Higginbottom, W. Johnson, Lodge, Lofts, Makinson, McCarthy, Newing, Phillips, Pickering, Richardson, Smith, Tattersall, Williams and Wraith MBE

4 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

Apologies for absence were received from Ms K Morrith in accordance with Regulation 7(6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

5 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Councillors Makinson, Williams, Tattersall and Carr declared non-pecuniary interests in Minute Nos 9 and 11 due to their membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel; Councillor Tattersall also declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 7 due to her role as Cabinet Support Member (Environment and Transportation) Councillor Newing declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos 8. 9 and 11 as she is employed by the National Health Service (NHS) and Councillor Lodge declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos 9 and 11 due to his involvement with care leavers.

6 Minutes

The minutes of the Full Committee (held on 30th April, 2019); the Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream (held on 4th June 2019); the People Achieving Their Potential Workstream (held on 18th June 2019); the Strong & Resilient Communities Workstream (held on 16th July 2019) and the Special meeting to consider the call in of a Cabinet decision (held on 24th July, 2019) were approved as a true and accurate record.

7 Air Quality Monitoring and Modelling in Barnsley

Members were provided with a briefing report from Regulatory Services within the Public Health Directorate in response to actions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16th July 2019 on Energy Efficiency and Pollution Reduction.

RESOLVED that Members note the report.

8 Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report 2018-19

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

- Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSAB
- Lennie Sahota, Service Director, Adult Social Care & Health, BMBC
- Stephanie Evans, Interim Head of Service, Safeguarding & Quality Assurance, BMBC
- Adrian Hobson, Senior Contracts & Compliance Manager, BMBC
- Cath Erine, Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Manager, BMBC
- Cllr Nicola Sumner, Cabinet Support Member – Adults & Communities
- Deborah Longmore, Safeguarding Adults Lead, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)
- Emma Cox, Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)
- Jo Harrison, Nurse Quality Manager-Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS), Barnsley CCG
- Detective (DCI) Chief Inspector Paul Murphy, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
- Representative from the Safeguarding Adults Forum by Experience (SAFE) Customer Group

Bob Dyson introduced the report, outlining the work of the Board and its local and regional partners over the last 12 months, emphasising the strong commitment to Safeguarding from all agencies as evidenced within the report.

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

The Board now has a sub-committee that leads on 'Learning and Development' with a close oversight of the training and development opportunities available to staff and volunteers along with identifying, and filling, gaps in provision. It is important to recognise that some agencies have their own in-house trainers as well as engaging with multi-agency training. ELearning packages are also available free of charge to everyone, including members of the public.

Although the number of financial abuse cases appears to have fallen significantly, this may be due to under-reporting coupled with a reluctance to report possible abuse by family members. There is an on-going need to raise the profile of this unseen abuse.

There is also a need to make sure all partners are aware of the risk of fire and make referrals to South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR), who have attended a sub-group meeting to deliver a mini training session. The majority of partners are now signed up to the scheme and are making referrals.

The new Barnsley Adult Care Provision Quality Board (BACPQB) will work with privately owned homes with a view to putting measures in place to work alongside partners to drive up quality. Contract officers will be visiting homes on a regular basis to make sure the quality of service is in line with the agreed specification and offering support to bridge any gaps, with regular reports to the Board whilst being

mindful that negative reports can impact on businesses and residents within care homes.

A number of vulnerable adult case studies were outlined which were resolved by agencies working together effectively. Types of issues addressed included physical abuse, fraud, criminal activity and 'cuckooing', whereby vulnerable adults are targeted and befriended by another and involved in organised crime.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw are currently developing an integrated care system and are looking at collaborative working in some areas and functions. Although this is a time of change, Members were reassured that this is *not* a merger between Barnsley and Sheffield CCGs and there would be no adverse effect on vulnerable people in Barnsley as resources would not be concentrated on Sheffield at the detriment of Barnsley.

Members expressed concern that the number of nursing beds in care homes was diminishing and that patients discharged from hospital may not be adequately monitored – for example, monitoring of bed sores. It was stated that monitoring of skin integrity and other nursing care needs are taken account of when assessing clients. Individuals are free to choose the care home they wish to live in, but there must be a nurse on site for nursing care. All placements are reviewed within 6 weeks and at least annually thereafter to ensure needs are being met appropriately. There are no incidences of 'bed blocking' in Barnsley despite the reduction in beds.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the registration and inspection authority which oversees the quality of provision. Recruitment and retention of staff is a key challenge within the care sector with providers often competing with the retail sector for staff due to the low wages paid. It is not possible to dictate to providers what they should be paying staff, or the terms and conditions etc.

In the past, care homes have tended to over-report safeguarding cases but following new guidance and training are now only referring when necessary as some issues can be dealt with internally and are not appropriate for a safeguarding referral. It should also be remembered that vulnerable people living in their own homes may be subject to abuse, particularly financial and 'cuckooing'. Support to victims of this type of abuse depends on their willingness to engage and whether or not they have mental capacity. The SAFE group is working hard to raise awareness of abuse and is a very important forum for this work.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the update and
- (ii) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution

9 Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report 2018-19

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting in addition to those who were in attendance for the previous item:

- Nigel Leeder, Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Manager, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson – Children’s Services (formerly People - Safeguarding)
- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding, BMBC
- Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children, Barnsley CCG

Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB), introduced this item and explained that this is the last annual report which will be produced in its current form, as the Government has changed the way safeguarding is organised. The new partnership arrangements mean that the group is now known as the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP), retaining the strengths of the BSCB whilst looking for opportunities to improve. It was highlighted that Barnsley’s journey has progressed from ‘inadequate’ to ‘requires improvement’ to ‘good’ via Ofsted inspections. This provides independent verification that Barnsley has moved a long way, with a continuous service improvement plan and ambition to improve.

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

The BSCP has a partnership protocol to ensure that the work of the partnership is effectively shared across agencies, which is particularly relevant in the case of cross cutting issues. It is also important that there is no duplication across sub-groups and any gaps which are identified are addressed. Some work is escalated to other boards/partnerships as appropriate. Regular meetings take place with other bodies such as Cabinet, TEG etc. It was noted that Berneslai Homes is represented on both the Adults’ and Children Boards and in respective sub-groups.

Concern was expressed that staff may not have the time and skills to be curious and persistent with children who are ‘hard to reach’. Members were reassured that a structured multi-agency audit programme is in place to enable staff to do what they should, with systems and processes to ensure staff are curious. Social Workers meet with managers regularly and have the tools to deal with issues – e.g. the Neglect Toolkit. Child Protection conferences have also improved. It isn’t possible to know about every child across the Borough, there will always be hidden and vulnerable children, but once they are known about, staff across all agencies are persistent.

A strong Early Help offer is in place, with a targeted youth service and good partnerships in place. All schools have a designated safeguarding lead who deals with safeguarding, drug abuse, vaping and cyber bullying in schools, with any referrals going through MASH. Such issues are addressed through a borough-wide approach, with Safeguarding lead officers attending training. All agencies monitor workloads, skills and experience of staff and ensure they are supported in their jobs. More resources are always useful but the best use is made of existing resources.

The remit of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) sub-group has been widened to incorporate issues such as County Lines and Contextual Safeguarding and it is now known as the Child Exploitation (CE) Sub Committee. The remit of the group also

includes cyber bullying and social media, online safety and awareness raising through schools. However, it must be acknowledged that the latter is resource intensive because of the rapidly changing nature of the apps used by young people. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (CEOP) raise awareness and offer advice to parents, carers and other organisations and signpost to other agencies.

On behalf of the BSCB the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Multi Agency Training Programme represents one of the most comprehensive safeguarding training offers in the country with over 100 training courses, conferences and seminars available. Training is provided to volunteers and voluntary organisations at nil cost.

The Neglect sub-group was established in 2017 and continues to develop. Neglect is now the most likely reason for a child to come in to care.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the update and
- (ii) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution

10 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined b Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

11 Children's Social Care Performance

Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, introduced this item and provided Members with the monthly children's social care report, which contained an overview of the major performance indicators for children's safeguarding and social care for Quarter 1 (2019/20); a management performance analysis; a summary of performance, using RAG (Red, Amber, Green) ratings; the direction of travel for most indicators together with Barnsley's historical performance and comparisons with other local authorities. Areas of performance considered good and areas where improvement is required were also highlighted.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the update and
- (ii) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution

Chair