

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Committee - available on https://barnsley.public-i.tv/
DATE:	Tuesday, 8 September 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Carr, T. Cave, Clarke, Gollick, Daniel Griffin, Hayward, Higginbottom, Hunt, W. Johnson, Leech, Lodge, Lofts, Makinson, Newing, Noble, Phillips, Richardson, Smith, Tattersall, Williams and Wraith MBE together with co-opted member Ms. G Carter

24 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.

25 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

The following declarations of non-pecuniary interests were received:

Councillors Tattersall and Williams are members of the Corporate Parenting Panel and are Virtual School Governors; Councillor Newing works for the NHS, Councillor Lodge is a Virtual School Governor; Councillors Makinson and Carr are members of the Corporate Parenting Panel; Councillor Hayward is a member of the Fostering Panel and Gemma Carter is a Director of Alternative Education Provision.

26 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meetings held on 12th May (Full Committee Meeting), 9th June (Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream), 9th July (People Achieving Their Potential Workstream) and 21st July (Strong and Resilient Communities Workstream) were approved as a true and accurate record.

Councillor Johnson requested that promised feedback with regard to concerns raised by Members regarding speeding in the Borough be shared with Members as soon as possible. Member were informed that this issue has been added to the scrutiny work programme and will be discussed in the meeting scheduled to take place on 1st December 2020.

27 Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report 2019-20

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSAB
Wendy Lowder, Executive Director – Adults & Communities, BMBC
Julie Chapman, Service Director – Adult Social Care & Health, BMBC
Cath Erine, Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Manager, BMBC
Cllr Jenny Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson – Adults & Communities, BMBC

Susan Brook, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Adults, Barnsley CCG
Becky Hoskins, Deputy Director of Nursing & Quality, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)
Emma Cox, Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, SWYPFT
Chief Superintendent Sarah Poolman, Barnsley District Commander, South Yorkshire Police (SYP) attempted to join the meeting; however, was unable to due to technical issues

Cllr Platts 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:

It was acknowledged that substance misuse was having a great impact on vulnerable adults and the wider community. Substance abuse can often lead to other issues such as self-neglect and hoarding. There has been a lot of preventative work to keep people who are misusing substances and their family members safe. Substance abusers often present with a cocktail of issues and partnership working is essential, as evidenced by the work done by the organisation Humankind in terms of behaviour change and housing issues. There are specific challenges in some communities and an offer was made to discuss such specific issues outside of the meeting with individual members. Substance issue may be an area for Scrutiny to consider as part of its work programme.

It was reported that there are more safeguarding referrals from care homes than anywhere else although this has reduced from last year. Many of the issues do not require further action but are reported by care home providers in order to demonstrate that they take safeguarding seriously. Reassurances have been given to providers that if incidents and concerns are dealt with appropriately (i.e. using the decision support guidance and keeping records of concerns not shared with adult social care) they will meet the requirements set out by the CQC. Care homes are monitored and the training offer to care homes is to be increased, and the appointment of a multi-agency trainer will assist with this.

There is a regular programme of announced and unannounced visits to care homes carried out by BMBC, partners and the CQC to raise standards and offer challenge. A multi-agency Quality Improvement Panel is to be set up shortly and will use information from a variety of sources to pull together an analysis of issues and actions. All care homes have a Visitor's Book which is often well used. A member felt that care home workers should be commended for the work they do, particularly throughout the pandemic, and for their vocation and commitment to the role. It was acknowledged that there is a challenge in recruiting and retaining nurses

and carers in the private sector, particularly when pay rates for providing nursing care in private nursing homes are below those provided in the public sector.

Lessons have been learned from the case studies within the report and practice is shared across the whole system. The Adult Multi Agency Trainer will bring the case studies to life and will be used as a training tool. The post has gone out to advert and it is hoped the postholder will start work within the next couple of months. A quarterly newsletter is also produced for wider circulation. It was pointed out that all agencies have responsibilities towards their staff and there is always room for improvement.

Barnsley is at the forefront of work around self-neglect and hoarding and its policies and procedures have been adopted by others. It appears that the pandemic has helped to raise awareness of people living within the community with these issues, which have to be tackled tactfully as often people have lived this way for some time. Actual numbers relating to hoarding will be provided after the meeting.

Anecdotal information indicates that levels of domestic abuse have increased. Members were reassured that the lines of communication and liaison processes are robust between the hospital, the community and services, particularly emergency duty teams. Patients are subject to facilitated conversations and are signposted to services or can make a formal referral if they want to do that. The Violence Reduction plan is due to be brought to Cabinet shortly and Members will have the opportunity to contribute to it. The MARAC meets fortnightly and works closely with all partners including probation, adult and children's social care using a case management approach. IDAS has recently been received from the Ministry of Justice which will help with this work.

RESOLVED that:

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

28 Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Annual Report 2019-20

The following witnesses were invited to the meeting:

Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSCP
Mel John-Ross, Executive Director, Children's Services, BMBC
Debbie Mercer, Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC
Nigel Leeder, Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager, BMBC
Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson – Children's Services
Tracy-Ann Taylor, Named Nurse Safeguarding Children, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)
Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Emma Cox, Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)

Chief Superintendent Sarah Poolman, Barnsley District Commander, South Yorkshire Police (SYP) attempted to join the meeting; however, was unable to due to technical issues.

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

Bob Dyson introduced the report, explaining that this is the first report of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) which replaced the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) from the beginning of April 2019, bringing together senior representatives from the statutory, voluntary, and community sectors with a responsibility for delivering services to children and young people. Managers and the BMBC design team were thanked for their contributions to the report.

Members were informed that the Partnership works in a similar way to the Board, with similar sub groups and working in a similar way. When the Board changed to a Partnership, the biggest change was that safeguarding was no longer the sole responsibility of the Council but is now a shared responsibility between the Council, Health and the Police. These three partners have stepped up to the mark with joint governance responsibility. The work of the partnership is constantly evolving in response to new threats, risks and guidance. The safeguarding of vulnerable children remains a priority and whilst there have been no cuts to funding, there is a need to ensure that partners continue to resource the partnership sufficiently to keep people safe. The Barnsley safeguarding partnerships (Adults and Children) have the smallest budgets in South Yorkshire and the lowest staffing levels, thus representing value for money, albeit with a smaller population. The Board Manager and Trainer have developed an innovative income stream for the partnership through providing training for the Safeguarding Lead Officers in schools. Although the Board Manager is very busy, the partnership is not looking for more money to support the partnership.

In terms of the 17-25 age group and transition arrangements, there are a number of children who will not meet the criteria for services but are nonetheless vulnerable. A new multi-agency panel is being developed and will meet later this month (having been impacted by Covid and the summer period). Terms of Reference have been agreed and the panel will look at young people who may have been involved with social care as younger children and who may find the transition to adulthood difficult. The Panel will bring together services such as work, training and college to ensure a seamless positive move into adulthood.

Although there appear to be no specific cases of children in Barnsley being exploited through online gambling, online exploitation of children does happen in Barnsley and is always addressed, primarily through schools and through the PREVENT officer. Where Members are aware of any type of exploitation of children, whether online or in the community, they should contact social care. A Member highlighted that the online gambling market equates to £14bn annually and can impact on the whole family. The PREVENT Officer can provide Members with an update in terms of what is being done on internet safety, which has become more of an issue during Covid-19 when children aren't at school. The difficulty is that apps change so quickly and move to different platforms, which leads to difficulty in providing up to date advice. CEOP keep up to date with changes and give very helpful advice on their site and

are the professionals in this field. It was acknowledged that social media in particular is difficult to police and although they may be made aware of the risks, some people will always be prepared to take that risk.

The Independent Chair is confident that all organisations are committed to keeping vulnerable people safe but that does not prevent incidents from taking place. It is not possible to keep every child safe. There may be an incident which cannot be predicted and could happen in a family not engaged in services. Cases are audited which raises issues and learning which is then picked up in training.

The Central Area Council has commissioned the Youth Association to work with young people in the area on a variety of issues. Whilst the Partnership itself is not operational, individual agencies within the partnership may be interested in working together on these types of issues. The audit of cases has included those where a decision has been made not to progress as a safeguarding issue. The audit showed that appropriate decisions are being made.

Although there have been some changes to staffing, many of the staff in the Police and Social Care are the same, which ensures continuity, whilst in other areas (such as the hospital) new people are around to look at things with a fresh pair of eyes and bring about new energy and perspective.

The Children in Care Council have raised an issue around bullying in schools. The Partnership has a strategy and action plan in place which is currently being revised and will be shared with young people at the Partnership/TEG awayday in November. It was highlighted that every school carries out a section 175 self-assessment every year and is provided with a checklist of areas which should be covered. All schools have an anti-bullying policy in place which fits with their own circumstances and plans are in place to ensure that the voices of all children are heard.

RESOLVED that:

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

29 Children's Social Care Performance

Members of the Committee were provided with a redacted copy of the children's social care report for the month of July, which contains an overview of the major performance indicators for children's safeguarding and social care, has been provided to place the document in the public domain.

RESOLVED that the summary report be noted

30 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 by Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

31 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.

Specific topics discussed included: Early Help Assessments; Social Worker vacancies, caseloads, recruitment and retention; the Mockingbird Programme and the impact of Covid-19. Social Workers in attendance responded to questions about their work and spoke about their experiences during Covid-19. It was highlighted that social workers have continued with their work during lockdown, although home working and other challenges presented themselves which necessitated a flexibility of approach and different ways of working in order to reach out to children and their families.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the update and
- (ii) Front-line workers be thanked for the work they continue to do in difficult circumstances, particularly throughout the pandemic.

Chair