

JOINT CARE SERVICES AND EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 25 February 2015

Present:

Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe (Chairman,
Care Services PDS Committee)
Councillor David Jefferys (Vice-Chairman,
Care Services PDS Committee)

Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P.
(Chairman, Education PDS Committee)
Councillor Neil Reddin FCCA (Vice-
Chairman, Education PDS Committee)

Councillors Ruth Bennett, Kevin Brooks,
Mary Cooke, Judi Ellis, Hannah Gray and
Terence Nathan

Councillors Teresa Ball, Kathy Bance
MBE, Alan Collins, Mary Cooke, Judi Ellis
and Alexa Michael

Linda Gabriel

Darren Jenkins, Joan McConnell, Alison
Regester and Mylene Williams

Also Present:

Councillor Stephen Carr, Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Children's Services
Councillor Diane Smith, Executive Assistant to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services
Councillor Stephen Wells, Portfolio Holder for Education

Councillors Graham Arthur and Peter Fookes

71 CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP was confirmed as the Chairman for the joint meeting of Care Services and Education PDS Committees.

72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Robert Evans, Councillor Keith Onslow, Councillor Charles Rideout, Councillor Melanie Stevens and Councillor Tim Stevens.

Apologies were also received from Mary Capon, Joanna Frizelle, Adil Ghani, Justine Godbeer, Catherine Osborn and Tony Wright-Jones.

73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Declarations of Interest made at previous meetings of Care Services and Education PDS Committees were taken as read.

Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe declared that she was a Governor of Burwood School.

Mrs Alison Regester, Pre-School Settings and Early Years representative, declared that she ran a private day nursery in the Borough.

**74 QUESTIONS TO THE CARE SERVICES PDS CHAIRMAN OR
EDUCATION PDS CHAIRMAN FROM MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING**

No questions had been received.

**75 QUESTIONS TO THE CARE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER
OR EDUCATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER FROM MEMBERS OF
THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING**

No questions had been received.

76 INFORMATION ITEMS

The Information Briefing comprised a number of reports.

1. Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB):
 - a. Terms of Reference
 - b. Membership List
 - c. Structure Chart
 - d. Policies and Procedures
 - e. The Child's Journey in Bromley – A Partnership Model for providing services to support children and families in Bromley
 - f. Business Plan 2014/15
 - g. Inter-Agency Training Brochure 2014/15
 - h. Annual Report 2013/14
2. Child sexual exploitation – the Bromley view
3. Children missing education

RESOLVED that the Information Briefing be noted.

77 PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Members agreed the purpose of the joint meeting of Care Services and Education PDS Committees as:

“To scrutinise the arrangements, organisational structures, and procedures and processes of the Council and partner organisations with regard to child safeguarding to ensure there is clear cooperation, no unnecessary duplication and effective management and supervision of frontline staff.”

**78 OVERVIEW OF THE BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
BOARD**

Helen Davies, Independent Chair, Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) outlined the operation and the statutory functions of the Board.

The main objective of the Board was to coordinate the effective involvement of a wide range of agencies, including the Local Authority, Police, Health and voluntary organisations around child safeguarding. There were four meetings of the Board held each year, which had also established a Quality Assurance Group and Sub-Committees for Training, Health Safeguarding and Education Safeguarding. Task and Finish Groups were convened as needed to consider identified issues in depth.

There had been a high degree of organisational change across the Local Authority and partner agencies in recent years which had resulted in a changing membership of the Board, but Bromley benefitted from a strong ethos of close partnership working, which reflected the commitment of partner agencies to protect children and young people in the Borough. Over the past three years, the Board had focused on a range of issues, including children who were missing and child sexual exploitation. The Board had also worked to build stronger links with children and young people through organisations such as the Bromley Youth Council.

The issue of how Looked After Children were tracked as they moved between local authorities had been raised at the Joint Care Services and Education PDS Committees meeting held on 7th May 2013. The Association of Directors of Children's Services had worked closely with the Department for Education on this issue, and a database had now been developed which specified the point of contact in every local authority for Looked After Children and supported local authorities to identify Looked After Children who had moved into their areas.

The Chairman noted that Helen Davies would shortly be standing down as the Independent Chair of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board and the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board and led the Members of the Care Services and Education PDS Committees in thanking her for the excellent contribution she had made to the London Borough of Bromley over the past three years.

RESOLVED that the overview be noted

79 MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS

The Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services outlined the role of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services and the responsibilities and arrangements for Children's Social Care and Education (attached at **Appendix A**).

Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Clarke gave a presentation outlining the responsibilities and arrangements of the Bromley Metropolitan Police Services (attached at **Appendix B**).

Sonia Colwill, Director of Quality, Governance and Patient Safety gave a presentation outlining the responsibilities and arrangements of the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (attached at **Appendix C**).

RESOLVED that the presentations around multi-agency responsibilities and arrangements be noted.

80 QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

Members and Co-opted Members asked the presenters a range of questions around multi-agency responsibilities and arrangements for child safeguarding in Bromley.

How does the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board engage with other strategic boards in Bromley?

Helen Davies, Independent Chair, Bromley Safeguarding Children Board confirmed that the appointment of a joint Independent Chair for both the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board and the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board supported strong cross-working between the Boards, and that it had recently been agreed that the Independent Chair would also sit on the Health and Wellbeing Board. A number of key representatives were members of several partnership boards including the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board and the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board. Cross-working was also undertaken between different partnership boards as needed, with a representative of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board recently speaking at a meeting of the Children's Partnership

How does the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board engage with schools?

Helen Davies, Independent Chair, Bromley Safeguarding Children Board advised Members that the membership of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board now included two Head teachers. The remit and purpose of the Education Safeguarding Sub-Committee had been reviewed in 2014, and work had been undertaken to improve links with schools, including the establishment of a Safeguarding Forum for Safeguarding Leads at schools across the Borough.

How does the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board ensure consistent multi-agency attendance for Board and Sub-Committee meetings?

Helen Davies, Independent Chair, Bromley Safeguarding Children Board underlined that multi-agency attendance for Board and Sub-Committee meetings was consistently at or above 75%. The high degree of organisational change across the Local Authority and partner agencies in recent years had resulted in a changing membership of the Board, but an induction was provided to new members who also received ongoing support to ensure they were able to contribute effectively to the Board.

Who can access the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board training programme?

Helen Davies, Independent Chair, Bromley Safeguarding Children Board advised Members that the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board training programme was available to any agency working to safeguard children and young people in Bromley. Participants were required to have received basic single agency child protection training through their own agencies or previous employment before attending any course in the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board training programme.

What is the cause of the recent increase in child protection allegations made against professionals working with children?

The Assistant Director: Safeguarding and Social Care confirmed that any concerns raised around the behaviour of professionals were referred to the Local Designated Officer in the Safeguarding Quality Assurance service, and that immediate action was taken in all cases where allegations against professionals were substantiated.

The Head of Quality Assurance and Principal Social Worker noted that there was a growing awareness of the role of the local designated officer in the Safeguarding Quality Assurance service, which might have led to an increase in the number of allegations made. There was also greater public awareness of inappropriate behaviour by professionals, such as the use of mobile phones in early years settings, which could be addressed through training and increased supervision.

What is the responsibility of the Regional Schools Inspector around child safeguarding?

The Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services informed Members that the Regional Schools Inspector had responsibility for standards and performance of academies across South East region. The Local Authority retained full responsibility for child safeguarding in all schools across the Borough.

How are Governors supported to deliver their safeguarding role effectively?

The Assistant Director: Education confirmed that the Governor Training Programme offered a range of courses through which Governors could develop their skills. A review of governance could also be commissioned by schools, which included a review of safeguarding practice.

The Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services underlined that Ofsted had responsibility for quality assurance in schools.

Helen Davies, Independent Chair, Bromley Safeguarding Children Board advised Members that two Lay Members had recently been appointed to the

Bromley Safeguarding Children Board, and that one of these was a Chair of Governors in the Borough.

What is the source of the referrals made to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and how many are received each year?

The Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services informed Members that there had been 9,928 contacts with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub in 2013/14, but this represented contacts rather than individual children and young people. Approximately 55% of referrals to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub come from the Police, 16% from health services, 11% from Local Authority services and 6% from schools. The remaining 12% came from a range of other sources.

The Head of Quality Assurance and Principal Social Worker advised Members that a new initiative had been introduced in 2014 where a letter was provided to referring agencies, excluding the Police, to advise them of the outcome of a referral.

What is the definition of children missing education?

The Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services noted that children missing education was defined as all children of compulsory school age who were not on a school roll, nor being educated otherwise, and who had been out of any educational provision for a substantial period of time. Ofsted had broadened the definition of children missing education to include those young people who were attending alternative provision, been permanently excluded, in receipt of home tuition due to medical needs, receiving elective home education or were looked after by the Local Authority when inspecting local authorities as these were children most at risk of missing education.

The Assistant Director: Education confirmed that there was a dedicated member of the Education Welfare Service who dealt with children missing education referrals, but that a number of other Education Welfare Officers worked alongside this officer and were able to assist with this work as required.

The Assistant Director: Education reported that work continued to be undertaken by the Education Service to ensure that children received their entitlement to education. This included working closely with the Bromley Education Trust, which had taken over the former Pupil Referral Units at Kingswood and Grovelands from 1st September 2014 and hoped to be approved as academy sponsor for Burwood School as it moved to delivering a new alternative provision for young people with social, emotional and mental health needs at Beacon House.

How is elective home education monitored by the Local Authority?

The Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services advised Members that the Local Authority no longer had the statutory right to inspect

home education provision, but continued to be responsible for the safeguarding of all children and young people, including those receiving elective home education. The Local Authority and a range of partner agencies worked closely with parents and carers in the Borough who had chosen home education for their children. The Local Authority had taken a lead role in forming the Association of Elective Home Education Professionals, a national organisation which would be launched on 26th February 2015 and aimed to support local authorities to work together on elective home education issues.

What is the Local Authority doing to target truancy and encourage children and young people to attend their education provision?

The Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services underlined the benefit that achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs had on the outcomes of children and young people, and noted the importance of ensuring that children and young people were able to access an appropriate education provision. The Education Welfare service worked closely with children and young people and their families where attendance had been identified as an issue and where necessary, penalty notices and court action could be undertaken and had significantly improved attendance in a number of cases across the Borough.

Are academies and free schools required to notify the Local Authority of any child that they intend to remove from their school roll prior to removal?

The Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services highlighted that all schools including academies and free schools were required to notify the Local Authority of any child that they intended to remove from their school roll prior to removal as well as notifying the Local Authority of any child that had failed to attend school for 10 days and that they had been unable to trace

The Assistant Director: Education noted that work was undertaken with schools to identify an alternative provision for children and young people at risk of exclusion to give them an opportunity to attend a new setting and avoid exclusion. Work was also undertaken to mediate between families and schools in cases where it was felt to be beneficial for a pupil to remain in their existing provision.

Does the Local Authority have an adequate number of high quality children's social workers?

The Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services confirmed that Bromley offered a competitive recruitment and retention package which had an emphasis on ongoing professional development and support for social workers. The Local Authority was able to recruit high quality newly qualified social workers, but was not able to compete with the salaries available for more experience children's social workers through locum work. The need to compete with other London Boroughs for social workers was an issue but Human Resources services from across London maintained a good working relationship.

The Assistant Director: Safeguarding and Social Care reported that vacancy rates had improved dramatically across Children's Social Care services over the past four years. There was currently an average vacancy rate of approximately 17.5% across Children's Social Care services, but vacancy rates tended to be higher in frontline teams such as the Referral and Assessment and Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams. Recruitment was an ongoing process and vacancy levels continued to be monitored.

Why was there a significant increase in the number of children subject to a child protection plan in March 2014 from the previous year?

The Assistant Director: Safeguarding and Social Care explained that there were 262 children subject to a child protection plan in the Borough in March 2014, which was an increase of 78 children on the previous year. The number of children subject to a child protection plan had increased significantly following a number of high profile cases in the media and, whilst the total number varied from year to year, it tended to range between 150 and 300 children.

How are General Practitioners and medical professionals supported to report cases of potential child sexual exploitation?

Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Clarke informed Members that patient confidentiality was an issue for General Practitioners and medical professionals, but that the Police would shortly be writing to all GP practices to outline the responsibilities of General Practitioners around child sexual exploitation.

Sonia Colwill, Director of Quality, Governance and Patient Safety reported that all GP practices had a named safeguarding lead and that there was a comprehensive training and awareness programme for General Practitioners, which included visits to GP practices by a designated professional. There was a named General Practitioner for child safeguarding in the Borough.

What measures are in place to stop children and young people sharing explicit personal photographs via the internet?

Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Clarke explained that all secondary schools across the Borough had been visited by the Police to advise young people that the posting of explicit personal photographs of other young people was a criminal offence, and three pupils at schools in the Borough had recently been arrested for committing this offence. Schools were working to educate pupils about this issue.

Dr Jenny Selway, Consultant in Public Health Medicine reported that Rape Crisis offered free training sessions to schools around this issue.

What processes are in place to protect children from domestic violence?

Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Clarke confirmed that there was a pan-London Domestic Violence policy under which a MERLIN PAC form was

created where any child or young person under the age of 18 years was present at an incident of domestic violence. All cases which triggered the creation of a MERLIN PAC form were referred to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), and where there was sufficient concern, a referral was made to Children's Social Care. The Police also had the power to take children and young people immediately into police protection where it was identified that they were in an unsafe situation.

Following recent high profiles case in the media, what action is being taken to protect children and young people in Bromley from violent extremism?

Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Clarke confirmed that Bromley Police worked to safeguard children and young people across the Borough from violent extremism. Any information suggesting that children and young people were seeking to travel to such places as Syria was immediately referred to the Counter Terrorism Command of the Metropolitan Police.

Helen Davies, Independent Chair, Bromley Safeguarding Children Board noted that safeguarding issues related to violent extremism would be considered by the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board over the coming year.

Sonia Colwill, Director of Quality, Governance and Patient Safety highlighted that a 'Prevent' programme and activity was in place to raise awareness of the issues around violent extremism.

What action is being taken to target any incidence of Female Genital Mutilation in the Borough?

Helen Davies, Independent Chair, Bromley Safeguarding Children Board confirmed that the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board had established a Task and Finish Group in 2014 to explore issues of Female Genital Mutilation, which had included representation from communities with historic links to Female Genital Mutilation. The outcomes of this Task and Finish Group would be reported to the next meeting of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board where consideration would be given to action to be taken.

What measures are in place to stop children and young people at risk of self-harming?

Dr Jenny Selway, Consultant in Public Health Medicine confirmed that the Bromley Wellbeing Service had recently been established to support children and young people who were experiencing a range of emotional health issues, including self-harming. Schools took a key role in addressing issues around self-harming, including work by teachers to help pupils develop skills of mindfulness and resilience. Very little statistical data was currently available around the levels of self-harming amongst children and young people in Bromley, but as the Bromley Wellbeing Service continued to operate, it was expected that more detailed information would become available in due course.

What processes are in place to investigate child deaths in the Borough?

Dr Jenny Selway, Consultant in Public Health Medicine advised Members that the Bromley Child Death Overview Panel was a multi-agency panel convened several times a year to undertake the investigation and review process into all child deaths in the Borough, with the aim of identifying any patterns and potential improvements in services to prevent future deaths. The Bromley Child Death Overview Panel was accountable to the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board which ensured any recommendations made by the Panel were provided to those with responsibility for taking them forward. The Panel's recommendations were also considered by the Quality Assurance Group.

What is the status of gang activity in the Borough?

Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Clarke informed Members that Operation Trident supported the Police to address gang activity identified in Bromley. There were currently 13 gang nominals resident in the Borough, and the Police were working with the Local Authority in an operation where gang nominals who were Housing Association tenants had been advised that their tenancies would be at risk if gang activity was undertaken.

Are children and young people put at risk through the supply of drugs through the post?

Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Clarke advised Members that it was not common for drugs to be delivered through the post for personal use, but that HM Revenue and Customs had procedures in place to identify drugs supplied through the post and ensure those in receipt of these drugs were taken into custody.

What progress has been made through Bromley's Tackling Troubled Families Programme?

The Assistant Director: Safeguarding and Social Care reported that the Tackling Troubled Families Programme was now reaching the end of its first three year programme, and that Bromley had supported 454 families to significantly improve their outcomes, which was a 94% success rate. Bromley had been chosen as an early starter for Phase 2 of the programme which had enabled the Local Authority to contribute towards the development of the programme criteria. The Tackling Troubled Families Programme Phase 2 was expected to be available to a wider range of families and would place an emphasis on supporting vulnerable groups.

What requirement is there to monitor child safeguarding in private fostering arrangements?

The Assistant Director: Safeguarding and Social Care confirmed that there was no obligation for private foster carers to advise the Local Authority of their arrangements and that existing legislation relied on self-referral by private

foster carers. In addition to self-referral by private foster carers, the Local Authority was notified of private foster caring arrangements through schools and a range of agencies, such as health services in some cases, and work was being undertaken with private foster carers and with schools and a range of agencies to promote the need for foster carers to advise the Local Authority of their arrangements.

How do the Police record any instance where concerns are raised around a child's wellbeing or safety?

Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Clarke underlined that any instance where a Police Officer or frontline police staff member had concerns about a child's wellbeing or safety was recorded onto a MERLIN PAC form. All cases which had triggered the creation of a MERLIN PAC form were referred to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). A debriefing system had been put in place to speak with children and young people who had gone missing to help identify any causative factors, and where children and young people had been identified as going missing on more than one occasion, a referral was made to Children's Social Care. Independent Advocates were appointed to undertake return home interviews for Looked After Children who went missing.

How is the Lead Member for Children's Services supported to deliver this role?

Councillor Stephen Carr, Lead Member for Children's Services confirmed that day-to-day responsibility for children and young people was shared primarily by the Portfolio Holders for Care Services and Education, who worked to ensure the delivery of the outcomes specified in the Local Authority's agreed priorities and plans. Council committees, including the Care Services and Education PDS Committees, provided a high level of scrutiny to the decision making process relating to the provision of services and safeguarding of children and young people. The Children's Board had also been established as a high level strategic board which supported the Lead Member for Children's Services in monitoring the current service provision and identifying key issues around the safeguarding of children and young people in Bromley. Regular meetings were held with the Executive Director of Education, Care and Health Services and the Chief Executive, and a wide range of statistical information was reported.

The Chairman thanked the presenters for their excellent presentations and for providing such a comprehensive outline of current multi-agency responsibilities and arrangements for child safeguarding in Bromley for Members and Co-opted Members of the Care Services and Education PDS Committees.

RESOLVED that Members' comments and questions be noted.

**81 ASSURANCE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEAD MEMBER FOR
CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN BROMLEY**

Report JPDS 15001

The Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services outlined the arrangements in place to fulfil the statutory roles of the Director of Children's services and Lead Member for Children's Services in Bromley relating to the safeguarding of children.

All top tier authorities in England had the responsibility of overseeing the local arrangements for the safeguarding of children, and were required to appoint a Director of Children's services and a Lead Member for Children's Services to discharge the education and children's social services functions of the Local Authority. Individual local authorities were able to determine their own organisational arrangements within the legal framework, but it was a requirement that an assurance process be put in place where either the Director of Children's Services or the Lead Member for Children's Services undertook more than one role, as was the case in Bromley, to ensure local authorities were able to fulfil their statutory duties effectively, be transparent about responsibilities and accountabilities, and support effective inter-agency and partnership working.

A number of systems had been established by the Local Authority to ensure that there was a strong focus on outcomes for children and young people. This included strategic systems, including the work of the Children's Board and Executive Working Party on Child Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting, scrutiny by the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board and the Independent Chair, and an annual business plan approved by the respective Portfolio Holders. Operational systems in place included robust supervision from the Chief Executive to the Director of Children's Services and from the Director of Children's Services to his Officers, a designated principal social worker with a clear professional development programme for qualified social workers, and a Departmental balanced scorecard reviewed bi-monthly and supported by monthly performance data to service managers, Assistant Directors and the Director of Children's Services. Children's services in Bromley were committed to sector-led improvement with the Director of Children's Services a former Ofsted inspector and a trained sector-led (peer) reviewer, and a number of staff from second and third tier roles had been trained as peer reviewers and as present and former Ofsted inspectors.

It was proposed that in future, the Portfolio Holders for Care Services and Education and the Chairmen of Care Services and Education PDS Committees consider the outcome of the biennial review of the assurance arrangements at a joint meeting of the Care Services and Education PDS Committees. Members were also invited to provide their comments on the organisational arrangements both through the formal assurance process and outside of it.

In considering the assurance arrangements in Bromley, Members agreed that the arrangements were satisfactory, but noted that some agencies on the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board were not represented for several meetings as a result of staff turnover, and that where a representative was

provided, they were sometimes not of sufficient seniority. The Joint Care Services and Education PDS Committees requested that this be addressed as soon as practicable.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The Care Services and Education PDS Committees agree that the arrangements to discharge the statutory role of Director of Children's Services are satisfactory, but request that issues identified with the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board around a lack of representation from some agencies, or representation which was not at a sufficiently senior level be addressed as soon as practicable, and that the assurance test be repeated and reported biennially; and,
- 2) That this agreement should be communicated through the minutes of the meeting to the Chief Executive of London Borough of Bromley in his role as Head of the service.

82 SUGGESTIONS FOR AREAS OF SCRUTINY FOR CARE SERVICES AND EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEES FOR 2015/16

Members considered future areas for scrutiny relating to child protection by the Care Services and Education PDS Committees for 2015/16.

RESOLVED that areas of scrutiny relating to child protection be considered by Care Services and Education PDS Committees for 2015/16 as appropriate.

83 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006 AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business listed below as it was likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

84 EXEMPT (PART 2) INFORMATION ITEMS

The Exempt (Part 2) Information Briefing comprised one report.

1. Minutes of the BSCB Meeting held on 18th November 2014

RESOLVED that the Exempt (Part 2) Information Briefing be noted.

The Meeting ended at 10.07pm

Chairman

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Director of Children's Services

Terry Parkin

The effective discharge of statutory responsibilities
with regard to the safeguarding of children

London Borough of Bromley



How do we ensure effective services to children?

**Highly effective teams, strongly led and
externally monitored and evaluated by Ofsted.**

Two strands:

Children's Social Care – Kay Weiss

Education Services – Jane Bailey





Safeguarding in the Community



Children's Act 1989

Every Local Authority has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in need if:

- (He) is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health and development
- (His) health or development is likely to be significantly impaired
- (He) is disabled



Level of Need 2013-14 as at 31 March

Snap shot of situation as at year end:

- 9,928 Contacts
- 2,138 Referrals
- 1,774 Initial Assessments
- 1,284 Core Assessments
- 160 Social Work Assessments
- 716 Child Protection Investigations
- 262 Child Protection Plans
- 91 Children Subject to Care Proceedings
- 270 Children in Care of the Council
- 1,669 Open Allocated Cases



Capacity and Management Oversight

We ensure we can deliver against agreed national thresholds and outcomes:

- Sufficient Qualified Social Work Posts including professional lead
- Manageable Caseloads
- All CP and LAC are allocated ie have a named worker
- Audited supervision arrangements
- Training – Confident, Competent Staff (Munro) against professional outcome framework
- Performance Information - Data - Children's Digest
- Quality Assurance Framework - Case Audits





MASH

Multi-agency safeguarding hub including health and police

Receives all referrals – 55% or so from police, 16% from health, 11% from LA services, 6% from schools (four most significant referrers)

Filter-out 85% prior to formal assessment

Effective step-down arrangements through Bromley Children's Project (BCP)

SW filter-out further 10%

Majority of cases that get to assessment stage require action so very good use of resources



External Inspections by Ofsted

Date	Service	Grading
2009	Adoption	Good
2010	Safeguarding and Looked After Children	Adequate
2011	Fostering	Good
2011	Unannounced Referral & Assessment	No Priority Actions
2012	Child Protection	Adequate





Safeguarding in Bromley Schools



Safeguarding in Bromley Schools

- Complexities and diversity of the modern sector present a challenge but responsibilities include children in all schools, including those in independent settings
- Legal Requirement to Safeguarding:-
 - Working Together 2013
 - Section 175 of the Education Act 2002
 - Section 11 of the Children Act 2004
 - Every Child Matters (2003) with its focus on outcomes has never been repealed and so still drives practice.





Key Areas that Ensure Safeguarding

- Policies and Procedures, including LADO support to headteachers
- Senior manager and governor in every school with responsibility for safeguarding
- Role of Governors
- Listening to Pupils – School Councils
- Training
- Early Identification of Need / CAF
- Safer Recruitment
- School Attendance and Exclusions

Child Sexual Exploitation

Presented by
DCI Kevin Clarke



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

TOTAL POLICING



What is CSE?

....engaging in sexual
activities for money, profit
or any other
consideration, due to
coercion or influence by
any adult, syndicate or
group”

Rotherham child sexual exploitation scandal.

An independent inquiry into child sexual abuse in the town, was established in 2013 for Rotherham Council.

Findings. 1400 children Sexual abused between 1997 and 2013.

The crimes now reported included abduction, rape , torture and sex trafficking of children.

The report is very critical of the Police, Council and agencies involved.

The Metropolitan Police Service, Partner agencies and Local Councils responded.

Pan London Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol is now in place.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub - MASH

Staffed by:

Three Police officers.

Two Police researchers (Civilians).

Three Children's social care researchers.

Three Children's Social Services Decision Makers.

One Probation officer.

One social worker referral officer.

One Specialist safeguarding Health Visitor.

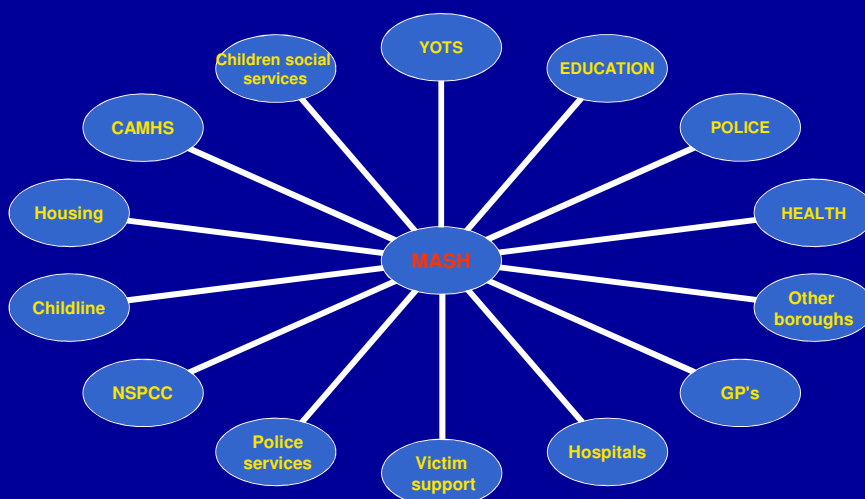


**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING



REFERRALS INTO MASH



What happens with MASH referrals

When a referral is made, the information is assessed. The team may decide that further information is needed in order to make an informed decision. They will then communicate directly with partner agencies and request the information based on a Safe Guarding issue. This allows that agency to share information.

The information gathered from partners within MASH will be assessed by Children's Social care (CSC) and appropriate partner agencies, on a case by case basis.

If CSE is identified as a risk the relevant information will be passed to an operational team to progress.

If there is sufficient evidence that a crime has been committed then this will be recorded and investigated either by the Local Borough Criminal Investigation Department or by the Central Child Sexual Exploitation Team.

MASE and MAP Meetings

MASE Meeting

Where child sexual exploitation is identified a Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation meeting is held. (MASE)

The MASE meeting is held once a month to discuss the children at risk of CSE. This is attended by multi agencies partners and chaired by police. The other partners that attend include children's health, education, social services, teenage and parents support team (TAPS), Child mental health services (CAMHS).

MAP meeting

- Once a child has been discussed within the MASE and it is felt that the risk of CSE or the child is being exploited each child can be referred into the MAP meeting (multi agencies panel) this is where the child's individual multi agencies partners attend, their social worker, their YOT's worker, a representative from education, their parent/guardian and any other agencies that is linked to that child.
- Actions will be decided at the MAP for on going strategies to safeguard that child ensuring that all parties involved share information and the strategies are in place.
- All agencies will work in partnership to ensure that the risk of CSE is ultimately reduced and the child is safeguarded against further risk of CSE.



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

TOTAL POLICING



Bromley CSE data

- *Bromley's CSE Data from 07/05/13 is :-*

MASE Referrals	Crime	Intervention/disruption	Charges
54	12	39	7

Operation Makesafe

- Operation Makesafe is a Pan London Operation designed to identify possible premises where perpetrators could operate from. Bromley have identified those premises within the borough and will start a leaflet campaign to raise awareness of CSE.
- As seen from the statistics CSE is not a vast issue on Bromley borough. However there is always potential risk. One of the issues faced when trying to decide if Child Exploitation has taken place is the abused person does not always believe they are the victim. They therefore do not report or disclose what is happening. It is the responsibility of the police and their multi agencies partners to ensure they continue to safeguard Children and Young people against CSE.
- Bromley have a dedicating single point of contact (SPOC) that helps to educate other agencies around their responsibilities to share information to safeguard against CSE.

Thank you for your time and attention.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING



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NHS
Bromley
Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS responsibilities and arrangements for safeguarding children

Sonia Colwill

**Director of Quality and Governance
Bromley CCG**

helping the people of Bromley live longer, healthier, happier lives

Safeguarding in the NHS

Safeguarding the welfare of children and young people who receive NHS health care means:

- Protecting child patients from abuse and exploitation (physical injury, neglect, emotional or sexual abuse)
- Preventing impairment of child patients' health or development.
- Ensuring children and young people grow up with safe and consistent NHS care
- Taking action to enable all child patients to have the best health outcomes.

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25th February 2015

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Safeguarding Children

- CCGs have a statutory responsibility to ensure that the organisations from which they commission services, provide safe systems to safeguard children at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Bromley has a Designated Nurse and Designated Doctor who take the strategic professional lead for safeguarding children across the local health economy.
- In addition the CCG has a designated Dr for LAC and a designated Dr for unexpected child death
- In 2014, Bromley CCG strengthened arrangements for Looked After Children by securing a Designated Nurse for Looked After Children.
- We are currently working with providers to review the arrangements for Looked After Children including Looked After Children Health Assessments.

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Services Commissioned by Bromley CCG

- **Hospital Services** - The majority of hospital services in Bromley are provided by Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.
- **Urgent and emergency care** - The accident and emergency department at the PRUH is run by King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. In addition to this, we commission two urgent care centres delivered by Greenbrook Healthcare.
- **Community health services** are provided by Bromley Healthcare.
- **Mental health and learning disability services** are provided by Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust


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Universal Services

- The key aim for NHS services is the early identification by staff of families who need support or who have risk indicators (MH, DV, drugs and alcohol etc.).
- Universal services are key (GPs, HVs, SNs)
- Training in our frontline providers is therefore a crucial indicator in achieving the aim of early intervention before the child is 3 years old

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 Bromley
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Safeguarding Assurance

Quality improvement in Safeguarding for Bromley is developed in a number of ways including:

- Reviewing Section 11 Audits by NHS Providers to ensure that they meet statutory responsibilities
- Designated Professionals attend the Safeguarding Children Board and relevant sub-committees
- Providing supervision and expert advice to Named Nurses within provider organisations
- Leading on the Safeguarding Children Health Forum
- Gaining assurance from providers e.g. training, supervision and safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Attending Provider Safeguarding Committees to challenge, support and seek assurance on safeguarding issues


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CCG activity

- CCG increased designated professional establishment
- Enhanced working with Southwark around KCH
- Commissioning of "CQUINs" in providers e.g. completion of CAFs (PRUH) and identification of children out of education (BHC)
- Funding of health post within MASH
- Training of GPs – quarterly with named GP and designated nurse
- Quality Framework in all provider contracts: safeguarding KPIs

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"Comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons."

World Health Organisation


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Bromley Approach

- Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Task & Finish Group convened
- Services scoped and gap analysis undertaken against the current FGM practice guidelines (2011)
- Bromley Multiagency FGM Risk Assessment Tool in draft
- FGM to be included in health economy safeguarding dataset
- Consider multiagency strategic work taken forward through Bromley Violence against Women and Girls Forum
- Report and recommendations to be shared at the March BSCB meeting.

HSCIC Newly Identified Cases

Table 2.0: Newly identified cases of FGM in England and its four Commissioning Regions.

Newly identified		Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	TOTAL
Commissioning Region	London	252	217	219	227	915
	Midlands and East of England	66	100	90	189	445
	North of England	75	83	110	93	361
	South of England	74	55	47	49	225
National	England	467	455	466	558	1946

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