



THE LONDON BOROUGH
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DATE: 1 November 2021

To: Members of the
CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Nicky Dykes (Chairman)
Councillor Judi Ellis (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Hannah Gray, Christine Harris, Simon Jeal, Robert Mcilveen,
Neil Reddin FCCA, Ryan Thomson and Stephen Wells

Church Representatives with Voting Rights
Reverend Roger Bristow

Parent Governor Members with Voting Rights
Vacancy, Vacancy and Vacant,

Non-Voting Co-opted Members
Penny Osborne, Early Years Representative

A meeting of the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee will be held
Committee Rooms, Bromley Civic Centre on **TUESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2021 AT
7.00 PM**

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at the Civic
Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH. Members of the public can attend the
meeting: you can ask questions submitted in advance (see item 4 on the agenda) or
just observe the meeting. There will be limited space for members of the public to
attend the meeting – if you wish to attend please contact us, before the day of the
meeting if possible, using our web-form:

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/CouncilMeetingNoticeOfAttendanceForm>

Please be prepared to follow the identified social distancing guidance at the meeting,
including wearing a face covering.

TASNIM SHAWKAT

Director of Corporate Services & Governance

**Paper copies of this agenda will not be provided at the meeting. Copies can
be printed off at <http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/>. Any member of the public
requiring a paper copy of the agenda may request one in advance of the
meeting by contacting the Clerk to the Committee, giving 24 hours notice
before the meeting.**

**Items marked for information only will not be debated unless a member of the
Committee requests a discussion be held, in which case please inform the
Clerk 24 hours in advance indicating the aspects of the information item you
wish to discuss**

A G E N D A

PART 1 (PUBLIC) AGENDA

Note for Members: Members are reminded that Officer contact details are shown on each report and Members are welcome to raise questions in advance of the meeting.

STANDARD ITEMS

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION, CHILDREN & FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2021 (Pages 5 - 16)

4 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, questions that are not specific to reports on the agenda must have been received in writing 10 working days before the date of the meeting.

Questions specifically on reports on the agenda should be received within two working days of the normal publication date of the agenda. Please ensure that questions specifically on reports on the agenda are received by the Democratic Services Team by **5pm on 3 November 2021.**

a QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE

b QUESTIONS FOR THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

5 MATTERS OUTSTANDING AND WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 17 - 22)

6 CALL-IN: HARRIS KENT HOUSE FREE SCHOOL INCLUDING ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TRANSACTION (Pages 23 - 36)

HOLDING THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO ACCOUNT

7 PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE

8 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF DECISIONS FOR THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

a BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22 (Pages 37 - 56)

HOLDING THE EXECUTIVE TO ACCOUNT

9 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a DORSET ROAD SITE DISPOSAL** (Pages 57 - 64)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS

- 10 BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT (2020/21)** (Pages 65 - 148)

- 11 0-25 PROGRESS REPORT** (Pages 149 - 188)

12 CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES INFORMATION ITEMS

The items comprise:

- Independent Reviewing Officer 6-Monthly Update
- Local Authority Designated Officer 6-Monthly Update
- Youth Offending Service Update
- CEF Contracts Register
- Risk Register

Members and Co-opted Members have been provided with advance copies of the briefing via e-mail. The briefing is also available on the Council's Website at the following link: <http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=559&Year=0>

Information Items will not be debated at Children, Education & Families PDS Committee unless a member of the Committee requests a discussion be held. 24 hours' notice must be given to the Clerk.

PART 2 (CLOSED) AGENDA

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

The Chairman to move that the Press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business listed below as it is 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.

14 CALL-IN: HARRIS KENT HOUSE FREE SCHOOL INCLUDING ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TRANSACTION - PART 2 APPENDICES FOR INFORMATION (Pages 189 - 214) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

15 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF PART 2 (EXEMPT) PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORTS

a CONTRACT AWARD UNDER EXEMPTION FAMILY DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT SERVICE (FDAC) (Pages 215 - 226) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

16 PART 2 CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES INFORMATION ITEMS

The items comprise:

- Part 2 (Not for Publication) CEF Contracts Register

Members and Co-opted Members have been provided with advance copies of the briefing via e-mail. The briefing is also available on the Council's Website at the following link: <http://cde.bromley.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=559&Year=0>

Information Items will not be debated at Children, Education & Families PDS Committee unless a member of the Committee requests a discussion be held. 24 hours' notice must be given to the Clerk.

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CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 14 September 2021

Present:

Councillor Nicky Dykes (Chairman)
Councillor Judi Ellis (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Hannah Gray, Christine Harris, Simon Jeal,
Robert Mcilveen, Neil Reddin FCCA, Ryan Thomson and
Stephen Wells

Also Present:

Councillor Kate Lymer, Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and
Families
Councillor Kieran Terry, Executive Assistant for the Children, Education
and Families Portfolio

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Rev. Roger Bristow.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no additional declarations of interest.

15 MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION, CHILDREN & FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2021 were agreed, and signed as a correct record.

16 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

Two written questions were received at these are attached at Appendix A.

17 MATTERS OUTSTANDING AND WORK PROGRAMME Report CSD21092

The report set out the proposed programme for scrutiny of reports relating to the Children, Education and Families Portfolio for the 2021/22 municipal year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

18 PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families, Cllr Kate Lymer, attended the meeting to respond to questions from the Committee. The Portfolio Holder gave a brief introduction highlighting the following issues:-

- Ofsted were currently conducting a focused visit on children in care. Bromley had a good story to tell, and the Portfolio Holder had attended an interview with the Lead Inspector on Monday 13 September. Verbal feedback on the outcome of the inspection would be provided during the afternoon of Wednesday 15 September.
- In relation to Covid, many of the restrictions had been lifted and the requirements for schools had changed. Schools were now voluntarily informing Public Health of instances of significant outbreaks of infection in schools. Where these cases came to the attention of the Local Authority relevant Ward Councillors were informed.
- Funding had been received for holiday programs. There had been a good take up of places with the majority of attendees being children in receipt of free school meals.
- The Early Intervention and Family Support Service had run a Baby and Toddler Festival as well as a Fun Day in Mottingham.
- The Portfolio Holder had met with the Chair of Crystal Palace Park Trust; the Trust had arranged a very successful Summer of Play.
- In June, the Portfolio Holder had attended the Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership meeting and would be attending a further meeting on 15 September.
- In addition, the Portfolio Holder had attended meetings of the SEND Governance Board, the YOS Strategic Board, budget meetings and meetings concerning the proposed SEN Free School.
- In partnership with London South East Colleges and Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH), the Council was supporting internships at the PRUH for young people with autism.
- The Portfolio Holder had also informally met with the Living in Care Council and had chaired her first meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board.
- The Annual Care Leavers Celebration would take place at Christmas and the Corporate Parenting Fun Day would be held in October.

Cllr Lymer then responded to questions making the following comments:-

- Regular welfare checks by social workers and the virtual school were undertaken when children in care were required to self-isolate.
- Statistics concerning the number of young people participating in summer activities would be provided following the meeting.

The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for the update. The Chairman suggested that future events such as the Baby and Toddler Festival should be more widely promoted by the Council's Communications Team. The

Chairman highlighted that it had been a fantastic event which could have benefitted many more families had there been more publicity.

19 PERFORMANCE REPORTING - CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY DATASET Report CEF21029A

The report provided the Committee with its regular update on the performance of services for children. The performance index provided in appendix one is as at the end of June 2021. The Committee noted that performance had been strong and the current position was positive with only a small number of red and amber indicators.

In response to a question, the Head of Strategy and Performance confirmed that in response to Covid the requirement to publish statistics concerning absenteeism had been lifted. However, the as part of Covid recover ypublication of the statistics would be reinstated and consequently the line had been retained on the performance dataset.

The Director of Children's Services confirmed that some challenges around social worker caseloads remained however, vacancies would be filled by October and caseloads would fall back in line with the Caseload Promise as a result. The Committee noted that cases were not allocated to unqualified social workers, as such some of the caseloads were allocated to social workers in a supervisory capacity.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

20 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF DECISIONS FOR THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

The Committee considered the following report(s) where the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Holder was recommended to take a decision:

A PROVISIONAL OUTTURN REPORT 2020/21 Report CEF21027

The report provided the provisional outturn position for 2020/21. The Committee noted that the report presented an extract of the report considered by the Executive in June 2021. The provisional outturn position showed an overspend of £125k at the end of the financial year with the budget underpinned by Covid grants.

Members noted that there remained significant pressures in the budget and any emerging pressures would be reviewed and addressed through future mitigation. Members noted that social care placement was a particular area of fluctuation with expenditure fluctuating depending on the specific needs of individual children. It was often difficult to predict specific levels of need, and this impacted on the budget. The Director of Children's Services reported that

there were also currently blockages within the court system which resulted in expenditure which was beyond the control of the Local Authority.

In response to a question, the Head of Finance for Children's Services confirmed that demands on placements and staffing had been particularly adversely impacted by Covid as a result of the requirement to continue with business as usual whilst also providing a robust response to pressures emerging from the pandemic. The Director of Education highlighted that loss of income had been a significant factor which had also impacted services and this had been offset by grant funding.

Turning to the costs around consultancy for the Bromley Safeguarding Children's Board, the Director of Children's Services explained that as part of the original children's service improvement plan Bromley had used the expertise of ex-Ofsted inspectors. The health checks from the consultants had continued as an important part of the Quality Assurance process with the Local Authority able to demonstrate that it was not "marking its own homework" and this practice had been validated by Ofsted. Members noticed that the expenditure had been included in the budget because if not for Covid the department would have been pursuing its improvement exit plan.

RESOLVED: That the Portfolio Holder endorse the 2020/21 provisional outturn position for the Children, Education and Families Portfolio.

**B BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22
Report CEF21026**

The report provided the budget monitoring position for 2021/22 based on activity up to the end of May 2021.

In response to a question regarding the overspend in SEN Transport, the Director of Education confirmed that as part of the Gateway process a range of options were explored including a commissioned service. The outcome of the Gateway process was that a framework contract was deemed to be the best option and subsequently agreed by Members. Members noticed that authorities across London, indeed nationally, were experiencing the same pressures with SEN Transport.

The Committee noted that there would be continuous review of the ongoing budget pressures. Use of grants would be reviewed and there would need to be ongoing flexibility. The use of grants would be agreed as part of the Executive budget setting process. It was acknowledged that it would be difficult to address the budget gap in the future and this would need to be reviewed as part of the Council's medium term financial strategy. As part of the Covid recovery process a prudent approach to financial management would need to be taken and emerging gaps would need to be addressed through the Council's programme of service transformation and through greater efficiencies.

Members noted that additional resources from Covid grants had been directed towards early intervention for mental health services. In order to respond to increasing demand, early intervention services had pivoted, and shortened assessments had been undertaken in order to ensure that contact was made with families.

In response to a question, the Director of Education reported that there were three Education Psychologist vacancies filled by locums, although this did fluctuate. The Department would be bringing forward proposals to secure more Education Psychologist posts although it was important to note that there was a national shortage of this area of expertise and this presented further challenges.

Recognising that the report covered the period up to May 2021, Members noted that there were currently no early indications of anything to suggest a major difference in the position due to be reported in the September monitoring. There may be some changes in response to the work that had undertaken in respect of SEN Transport. The budget for the Children, Education and Families Portfolio would continue to be volatile. The Director of Children's Services reiterated that there were a number of children awaiting decisions from the Courts. It was anticipated that these decisions would lead to better outcomes for the children whilst also easing the pressure on the budget.

RESOLVED: That the Portfolio Holder be recommended to note that the latest projected overspend of £1,706,000 is forecast on the controllable budget, based on information as at May 2021.

**C CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2021/22 QUARTER 1
Report FSD21048**

On 15th July 2021, the Executive received a report summarising the current position on capital expenditure and receipts following the 1st quarter of 2021/22 and agreed a revised Capital Programme for the four-year period 2021/22 to 2024/25. The report highlighted changes agreed by the Executive and the Leader in respect of the Capital Programme for the Children Education, and Families Portfolio. The revised programme for this portfolio was set out in Appendix A of the report, and detailed comments on individual schemes were shown in Appendix B, and details of the 2020/21 outturn position were included in Appendix C.

RESOLVED: That the Portfolio Holder be recommended to note and acknowledge the changes agreed by the Executive on 15 July 2021.

**D EARLY YEARS SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT
Report CEF21035**

The Childcare Act 2006 Section 6 placed duties on local authorities to ensure sufficient childcare for working parents. Local authorities were also required to

report to elected council members on how they are meeting this duty and make a report available to parents.

In opening the discussion, the Chairman thanked Officers for the detailed reported that had been provided.

In response to a question, the Head of Early Years, School Standards and Adult Education reported that during the period of lockdown Early Years Settings had provided a range of home learning both in packs and online. Once settings reopened some vulnerable children continued to shield and settings provided ongoing additional support.

The Director of Education highlighted that throughout the pandemic the Department had continued to provide early years support to settings and by extension to families.

In response to a question concerning how early years provision could be taken into account through planning processes, the Director of Education confirmed that proposals for the Charging Schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) were yet to be determined and the Education Department would propose that Early Years provision was a consideration for capital funding. The Council's role in the provision of early years education was primarily one of stimulator of the market and the Department continued to work with current providers as well as seeking new providers to come forward.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

**E APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT: INDIVIDUAL SHORT
BREAKS SERVICE
Report CEF21036A**

The existing contract for this service was due to terminate on 30 September 2021. Consequently, permission to tender for the service was secured via a Gateway 1 report in February 2021. The tender went live on the 27th April 2021 and the initial phase concluded on 25th May 2021. The new contract for this service was expected to commence on 1st October 2021. The initial proposed contract period was for three years, with an option to extend for two periods of up to one year each. If both extension clauses were utilised the contract would terminate after five years on 30th September 2026.

In response to a question, the Head of Service, Community Living Commissioning confirmed that all commissioned services had undergone an options appraisal and as part of this both outsourcing and bringing services in house had been reviewed. In the case of this contract, even though there was only one provider the proposed contract represented better value for money than bring the service back in house.

The Committee noted that the service had been retendered with reduced management costs and more funds directed to service delivery.

RESOLVED: That the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:

- 1. Award this contract, following a negotiated tender process, to Bromley Mencap for a three year contract commencing October 2021 with an option to extend for up to two years.**
- 2. Delegate the approval of the 2 year extension options to the Chief Officer; subject to agreement with the Assistant Director Governance & Contracts, the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Finance.**

21 SPENDING BY PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND SPECIAL MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN 2020/21
Report CEF21034

The report provided information on all revenue and capital balances held by Primary, Secondary and Special Maintained Schools as at 31 March 2021, and also provided a comparison to the balances held at the same time in the previous year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

22 VIRTUAL SCHOOL 6 MONTH UPDATE REPORT
Report CEF21030

The report provided an update on the performance of the Virtual School for children in care and children previously in care currently adopted or cared for under a Special Guardianship Order.

The Chairman noted that she had met with representative from Bromley Youth Council (BYC) and the Living in Care Council (LinCC) prior to the PDS meeting. The LinCC raised questions seeking updates on the four challenges for 2020/21 whilst BYC had asked about support for attendance. Questions were also raised around support for the mental health of young people in Care in the light of COVID and how pupil premium was being spent to support the young people.

In response to a question around changes to pupil premium, the Committee noted that the aim had been to make it more personalised. The Director of Education reported that schools had welcomed the changes which had had a positive impact.

The Committee noted that managed moves were rarely used for looked after children as often it did not provide a secure base for children to be successful. However, one child had moved school on a managed move basis last academic year and due to the support received from school and Virtual School, this was a success.

Noting the Key Stage 4 outcomes cited in paragraph 3.3.4 of the report, a Member asked whether similar data was available for Year 13 students. Following the meeting the Virtual School Head teacher provided the following equivalent data for post 16. As an update, 7 of the year 13 students who completed a Level 3 qualification were heading to University, one was taking a gap year and one was starting an apprenticeship.

Regarding Past 16 destinations, following the meeting the Virtual School Head Teacher reported that the Virtual School was still working with the cohort and collecting start data to check whether the young people had all moved on to employment / further training. The Virtual School knew that the 7 University starters were all prepared for the start of term although some had not yet started. For those who had gone on to further courses it would not be possible to determine a final figure until all registrations for courses had started which was not until October in some cases.

In response to a question, the Director of Children's Services confirmed that any additional tutoring and support that young people in the care of Bromley may need would be put in through the Virtual Head Teacher.

Members requested that an updated on the four challenges listed in the report be provided following the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

23 ADOPTION 6 MONTH UPDATE REPORTS

The report detailed the work of Bromley Adoption Service from 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021. The Committee thanked the Assistant Director for Specialist services for the detailed reports on Adoption and Private Fostering as well as the informative briefing that had been held in August 2021.

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Director for Specialist Services for the session that was delivered to Members in August concerning the use of virtual reality technologies.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

24 PRIVATE FOSTERING 6-MONTH UPDATE REPORT

The report gave an overview of activities in relation to privately fostered children in the London Borough of Bromley from 1 January 2021 to 1 June 2021 and how the Council had discharged its duties in relation to Private Fostering.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

25 CORPORATE PARENTING MID YEAR REPORT 2021-22
Report CEF21033

The report provided an update of the progress of children in care and care leavers in Bromley and identify progress made against the outcomes identified in the corporate parenting strategy.

In opening the discussion the Chairman thanked the Head of Children Looked After and Care Leavers for the Member Information Session delivered in August.

The Head of Children Looked After and Care Leavers confirmed that more young people over the age of 21 were choosing to remain in contact with the service following the recent change in legislation extending services up to the age of 25.

The Committee noted that Bromley had recently re-entered the voluntary transfer of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and in the last three weeks had taken 2 young people.

Noting that 8% of children did not always feel safe where they lived a Member asked if anything more could be done to reduce the figure. In response, the Head of Children Looked After and Care Leavers confirmed that Bromley's performance compared favourably with other local authorities. Members were reminded that the 8% cohort was likely to include young people who were in custody. The report before the committee reference particularly vulnerable young people, some who had difficult relationships. The Department continued to look at support and there was a great deal of work ongoing including the recent recruitment of a mental health practitioner.

The Head of Children Looked After and Care Leavers confirmed that specific data on gender and sexual orientation was not captured as within this cohort it could be quite fluid. The Department was continually mindful of the young people's identity needs and individual support was put in place where required.

Members noted the good work being done in relation to the recruitment of foster carers and congratulated Officers on the progress being made.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

26 TRANSFORMATION UPDATE
Report CSD21086

At its meeting on 30th June 2021 the Executive considered a report on the Council's Transformation Programme, and referred the report to all PDS Committees and the General Purposes and Licensing Committee.

The Chairman reported that later in the year the Committee would receive a Portfolio specific update on Transformation.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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

The Chairman moved 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.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Robert McIlveen.

Following a brief discussion, the motion was put to the vote and CARRIED. (Councillor Jeal requested that his vote against the motion be recorded)

The Chairman reminded Members of the Committee that, should they have any concerns or questions surrounding either the agenda or specific items these should be raised with the Chair prior to the meeting.

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.

**The following summaries
refer to matters involving exempt information**

**28 PART 2 - PERFORMANCE REPORTING - CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY DATASET
Report CEF21029B**

The Committee noted the Part 2 report and appendices.

29 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF PART 2 (EXEMPT) DECISIONS FOR THE CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

**A APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT: INDIVIDUAL SHORT BREAKS SERVICE - PART 2
Report CEF21036B**

The Committee noted the Part 2 report and made recommendations to the Portfolio Holder.

30 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF PART 2 (EXEMPT) EXECUTIVE REPORTS

The Committee considered the following reports due for consideration at the meeting of the Executive on 22 September 2021:

A SPECIAL FREE SCHOOL

Councillor Terry, as local Ward Member, addressed the Committee in support of the proposals, highlighting the importance of consultation with residents.

The Committee recommended that the Executive approve the recommendations in the report.

B HARRIS KENT HOUSE DEVELOPMENT

The Committee considered the report and recommended the Executive approve the recommendations in the report

The Meeting ended at 8.25 pm

Chairman

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Report No.
CSD21123

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Children, Education and Families PDS Committee

Date: Tuesday 9th November 2021

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **MATTERS OUTSTANDING & WORK PROGRAMME**

Contact Officer: Philippa Gibbs, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 0208 313 4508 E-mail: Philippa.Gibbs@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

This report deals with the Committee's business management including:

- Monitoring progress against actions arising from previous meetings;
- Developing the 2021/22 Forward Work Programme; and

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the PDS Committee reviews and comments on:

1. Progress on matters outstanding from previous meetings; and
2. The 2021/22 work programme, indicating any changes or particular issues that it wishes to scrutinise for the year ahead.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: None
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £359k
 5. Source of funding: Revenue Budget
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 6.67 FTE
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an Executive decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: N/A
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): This report is intended primarily for the benefit of Committee Members.
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

Non-Applicable Sections:	Impact on Vulnerable People and Children/Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel/Procurement
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Minutes of previous meetings

3. COMMENTARY

Matters Outstanding from Previous Meetings

- 3.1. **Appendix 1** provides a progress update on requests made by the Committee at previous meetings. This list is checked after each meeting so that any outstanding issues can be addressed at an early stage and timely progress made.

Work Programme

- 3.2 Each PDS Committee determines its own work programme, balancing the roles of (i) pre-decision scrutiny and holding the Executive to account, (ii) policy development and review and (iii) external scrutiny. E&R PDS Committee has the additional role of providing a lead on scrutiny issues and co-ordinating PDS work.
- 3.3 PDS Committees need to prioritise their key issues. The work programme also needs to allow room for items that arise through the year, including Member requests, call-ins and referrals from other Committees. Committees need to ensure that their workloads are realistic and balanced, allowing sufficient time for important issues to be properly scrutinised. Members also need to consider the most appropriate means to pursue each issue – the current overview and scrutiny arrangements offer a variety of approaches, whether through a report to a meeting, a time-limited working group review, a presentation, a select committee style meeting focused on a single key issue, or another method.
- 3.4 The Committee may wish to consider establishing Task and Finish Groups for specific focused policy development work.
- 3.5 **Appendix 2** sets out the Education, Children and Families PDS Committee Work Programme for 2021/22. The Committee is invited to comment on the proposed schedule and suggest any changes it considers appropriate.
- 3.6 Other reports will be added to the 2021/22 Work Programme as items arise.

Minute Number/Title/Date	Action/PDS Request	Update	Action by	Expected Completion Date
18 Portfolio Holder Update 14 September 2021	That statistics concerning the number of young people participating in summer activities would be provided following the meeting.	The Director is compiling the information requested.	Director of Children's Services	November 2021

Children, Education & Families Work Programme 2021/22

SACRE		1st December 2021
Children, Education & Families Budget Sub-Committee		18th January 2022
Item		Status
Budget Monitoring 2020/21		PH Decision
2021/22 Dedicated Schools Grant	Annual Report	PH Decision
ECF Draft Portfolio Budget 2020/21	Annual Report	PDS Item
Schools' Forum		20th January 2022
Children, Education & Families PDS Committee		25th January 2022
Item		Status
Performance Management 2021/22		PDS Item
Virtual School Annual report 2020/21	Annual Report	PDS Item
Adoption Annual Report 2020/21	Annual Report	PH Decision
Private Fostering Annual Report 2020/21	Annual Report	PH Decision
SACRE		23rd February 2022
Children, Education & Families PDS Committee		15th March 2022
Item		Status
Annual Scrutiny Report 2021/22	Annual Report	PDS Item
Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan Update		Holding PH to Account
Education Outcomes	Information Report	PDS Item
Risk Register	Information Report	Information Item
Capital Programme 2021/22 Q.3		PH Decision
Budget Monitoring 2021/22 Q.3		PH Decision
Basic Need/Capital Programme		Executive Report
IRO Annual Report	Annual Report	PH Decision
LADO Annual Report	Annual Report	PH Decision
Panel Discussion with the Children's Services SLT	Annual Item	PDS Item
Youth Offending Service Update	Annual Report	PH Decision
Early Intervention and Family Support Service Update	Annual Report	PH Decision
Contracts Activity Report (Part 1 and Part 2)		PDS Item

*Items in italics are tentative

To be Scheduled

Bromley Y Contract Performance Review (June 2022)

Family Group Conferencing Contract Performance Review (September 2022)

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Agenda Item 6

Report No.
CSD21121

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 9 November 2021

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: CALL-IN: HARRIS KENT HOUSE FREE SCHOOL INCLUDING ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TRANSACTION

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 0208 461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: Penge and Cator;

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 On 22nd September 2022, the Executive approved the recommendations made in a report on the Harris Kent House Free School.
- 1.2 The decision has been called in by Councillors Simon Jeal, Angela Wilkins, Josh King, Kathy Bance, Ian Dunn and Vanessa Allen. This Committee is requested to consider what action should be taken in response to the call-in of this decision; the options are to refer the decision back to the Executive for re-consideration, or to take no further action on the call-in, in which case the decision stands and can be implemented without any further delay.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to agree one of the following options in response to the call-in:

- (i) to take no further action on the call-in;
- (ii) to refer the decision back to the Executive giving reasons why it should be reconsidered.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The proposals will benefit children and families in the Penge area.
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Education Capital Programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: Not Applicable
 5. Source of funding: DfE School Capital Allocation (SCA)
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Not Applicable
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: See attached report.

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 At this Committee's meeting on 14th September 2021 Members conducted pre-decision scrutiny on a part 2 report entitled "Harris Kent House Free School including Associated Property Transaction." Members supported the recommendations in the report, but there was some concern that the report did not need to be in part 2 and should have been considered in part 1. In response, a part 1 summary version of the report, with part 2 material excluded, was circulated on 16th September 2021 prior to the issue being considered by the Executive. The Executive considered part 1 and part 2 versions of the report at its meeting on 22 September 2021 and decided to approve the recommendations.
- 3.2 The Executive's minutes were published on 7th October 2021 and the decision was called in by Councillors Simon Jeal, Angela Wilkins, Josh King, Kathy Bance, Ian Dunn and Vanessa Allen on 13th October 2021. The reason for the call-in is set out below -

Summary of reasons for call in:

Lack of scrutiny & transparency- insufficient opportunity for local residents and interested parties to view and comment on the proposals.

Lack of opportunity for public scrutiny and comment

No public consultation regarding plans for the secondary school on the Kentwood site took place as part of the Department of Education approval process or subsequently, the plans for a secondary school and sixth form are significantly larger compared to references to the site in the local plan, as part of which significant concerns were raised with the size of the site to accommodate the school.

As only part 2 papers were published, no committee papers were available to the public until after Education & Children's PDS had met and at the Chief Executive's direction, a public paper with details of the plans was published on the evening of Thursday 16th September.

This Committee is requested to consider what action should be taken in response to the call-in of this decision.

- 3.3 The two options before a PDS Committee when considering a call-in are –

- (i) to take no further action on the call-in (in which case the decision may be implemented); or
- (ii) to refer the decision to the Executive giving reasons why it should be re-considered.

In exceptional circumstances, a decision may be referred to full Council for full Council to consider whether to refer it to the Executive, but only where the Committee believes, on appropriate officer advice, that there is an intention by the Executive to take action that is contrary to law or the policy and budget framework of the Council. This does not apply in this case.

- 3.4 Members are requested to note that some of the information relating to this matter is exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 - this should not be discussed in public.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1: Part 1 minutes of the Executive on 22 September 2021

Appendix 2: Part 1 report to the Executive on 22 September 2021

The following appendices are attached in part 2 for Member's information, but are not for publication.

Appendix 3: Part 2 minutes of the Executive on 22 September 2021

Appendix 4: Part 2 report to the Executive on 22 September 2021

Members may also want to consider the minutes from this Committee's meeting on 14th September 2021, attached elsewhere on this agenda.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Impact on vulnerable adults and children/Policy/Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	None

Extract from the minutes of the Executive meeting on 22 September 2021

**296 HARRIS KENT HOUSE FREE SCHOOL INCLUDING
ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TRANSACTION**
Report CEF21038

Harris Kent House had been approved as a new secondary school, entering the Department for Education's Free School programme in Wave 12. The new school would be constructed on the Kentwood site in Penge. In addition to the new secondary school, the project would involve provision of new accommodation for the existing Harris Primary Academy Kent House and the Council's Adult Education and Adult Social Care operations on the site. The Department for Education would act as developer for the Council in constructing new-build Adult Education and Adult Social Care premises, and new leases would need to be provided to the Free School and existing Harris Primary Academy Kent House. The report recommended that the Council enter into a number of agreements with the Department for Education and the Harris Federation – further details were set out in a part 2 report.

Councillor Angela Wilkins recognised that there was a need for the additional school places in the area, but set out concerns about the size of the buildings needed to accommodate the various facilities on the site in relation to the size of the site, the proposal that the new school should be for boys only and the priority given to feeder schools in the Harris admissions criteria. She called for more information to be available and for wider public consultation.

RESOLVED that

(1) The progress of the Harris Kent House Free School Project which will provide a new secondary school and new accommodation for Harris Primary Academy Kent House and the Council's Adult Education and Adult Social Care facilities be noted.

(2) The progress in conversations with the Harris Federation about the organisation of the new school and relationship with Harris Bromley to ensure Harris Kent House meets the Council's future need for school places be noted.

(3) That authority be agreed -

- **To enter into negotiations for the relevant Heads of Terms ("HOTS") the current versions of which are attached to the Part 2 report.**
- **To delegate authority to the Director of Education in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services, the Director of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families to finalise the HOTS, and enter into ancillary legal agreements relating thereto with the Department for Education and Harris Federation (subject to the HOTS being agreed.)**

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Report No.
CEF 21038

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1

Decision Maker: Executive

Date: 22 September 2021

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: HARRIS KENT HOUSE FREE SCHOOL INCLUDING ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TRANSACTION

Contact Officer: Robert Bollen, Head of Strategic Place Planning

Tel: 020 8313 4697

E-mail: robert.bollen@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Education

Ward: Penge and Cator

1. Reason for report

Harris Kent House was approved as a new secondary school, entering the Department for Education's Free School programme in Wave 12. The new school will be constructed on the Kentwood site. In addition to the new secondary school the project will see new accommodation provided for the existing Harris Primary Academy Kent House and the Council's Adult Education and Adult Social Care operations on site. The report seeks agreement for the Council to enter into a number of agreements with the Department for Education and Harris Federation. The Department for Education will act as developer for the Council in constructing the new build Adult Education and Adult Social Care premises, and new academy leases will need to be provided to the Free School and existing Harris Primary Academy Kent House.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **That the Executive notes the progress of the Harris Kent House Free School Project which will provide a new secondary school and new accommodation for Harris Primary Academy Kent House and the Council's Adult Education and Adult Social Care facilities**
- 2.2 **Note the progress in conversations with Harris Federation about the organisation of the new school and relationship with Harris Bromley to ensure Harris Kent House meets the Council's future need for school places.**

2.3 That the Executive authorises:

- **The entering into negotiations of the relevant Heads of Terms (“HOTS”).**
- **a delegated authority for the Director of Education in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services, The Director of Finance and the lead member for Education to finalise the HOTS and enter into any ancillary legal agreements relating thereto with the Department for Education and Harris Federation.**

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The works will benefit approximately 100 children and their families.
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Excellent Council :
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal:
 2. Ongoing costs: None
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Education Capital Programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding: DfE School Capital Allocation (SCA)
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N / A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N / A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 100 children and their parents, up to 150 school staff.
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1.1 In 2017 the Department for Education (DfE) approved Harris Kent House a new secondary school as part of Wave 12 of its free school programme.
- 3.1.2 It is proposed that the school will be based at the Kentwood site in Penge, previously identified for a new secondary school within the Council's Local Plan adopted in 2019. As part of the Local Plan adoption process, consultation was undertaken with residents and all interested parties.
- 3.1.3 The Kentwood site accommodates a number of existing users; Harris Kent House Primary Academy, a school nursery and PVI early years provider, the Kentwood Adult Education Centre and premises for Adult Social Care. Under the current proposals these uses will remain on site and operational throughout the proposed construction works.
- 3.1.4 The project has taken several years to reach the stage where Heads of Terms could be agreed, due to the difficulties finding solutions to various property issues on the site, work to confirm the continued need for the school and awaiting a decision from the DfE on the previous SHaW Futures Academy Free School proposal.
- 3.15 Over the past year high level feasibility work has been undertaken and Heads of Terms developed. If this report is agreed, it will allow detailed feasibility works to commence. The DfE will act as developer for the project and the delivery of the scheme is subject to the receipt planning consent.

3.2 The need for a new secondary school in north west Bromley

- 3.2.1 There is strong evidence to support the need for a new secondary school in northwest Bromley. Currently, although there are some surplus school places in the east of the borough, schools in other parts of the borough are operating at or above their capacities. It is not practicable that children in Penge could access surplus places in the east of the borough. Journeys from Penge to Harris Orpington and Kemnal are over 7 miles based on straight line measurement, require several changes and would not comply with the DfE's home to school travel guidance.
- 3.2.2 Historically NW Bromley has had significantly fewer school places than need, relying on places being available in adjacent areas either in other parts of Bromley or neighbouring boroughs. Additional capacity made available at Eden Park High School has had marginal impact on available places in Penge and Anerley, with less than 15% of the new places added at the school going to children living in SE19/20/26.
- 3.2.3 Admissions preference data for Penge and Anerley differs from other areas of the borough, with fewer applicants getting a high preference and over 60 pupils being directed to a school out of borough in 2020. This number has increased to 103 for September 2021 entry.
- 3.2.4 Whilst the shortage is most acute for boys' places, analysis of the admissions data indicates that both boys and girls are more likely to get a lower preference offer or be directed to a non-preference school compared to other parts of Bromley.
- 3.2.5 Progress in the delivery of Harris Kent House and the need to make sufficient places available in north west Bromley has been a concern of the Council's School Places Working Group that most recently considered this matter in April 2021.

3.3 Ensuring that the new secondary school meets need

- 3.3.1 The Council and Harris Federation are currently working in partnership on the proposals for the new school. Harris would like the new facility to be organised as a boys' only school in years 7 to 11 with a mixed sixth form. The free school proposal approved by the DfE was for a mixed school, and the proposal for a new single sex school would need DfE consent.
- 3.3.2 The Council has communicated its willingness to consider Harris preference for a boys' school, subject to the solution providing additional boys' and girls' places, in line with data on the need for school places as outlined above. There are limited alternative opportunities for the Council to add additional places in Penge and Anerley to meet need. As Harris has had its free school proposal approved and operates the only other local secondary school (Harris Bromley) the Council is seeking to work with the Harris Federation on proposals that cover both schools.

3.3 Next steps

- 3.3.1 Formal sign-off of the Heads of Terms from the Council's Executive and LocatED's board (The Government-owned property company responsible for acquiring and developing sites for new schools) will enable the DfE to progress the project to detailed feasibility. This will allow the development of the design of the facilities to enable the DfE to appoint a contractor and submit planning permission in due course. The detailed proposals of the scheme will be subject to consultation at the appropriate time.
- 3.3.2 The Heads of Terms will set out key considerations with regards the delivery of the project, and in this instance with particular regard to the phasing of the delivery of the project and associated changes to leases and the location of LBB's services on site. However, the property transactions, phasing and construction of the project are complicated and there could be changes to delivery arising from the detailed feasibility.
- 3.3.3 The Heads of Terms will contain commercially sensitive information relating to the proposed property transaction(s) involving the Council, Department for Education and Harris Federation. These along with commercially sensitive terms are included within the Part 2 report.

4 IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 The project will benefit 420 pupils at Harris Primary Academy Kent House, approximately 52 children at the school's nursery and PVI early years provider, vulnerable adult learners at BAEC and an estimated 900 pupils at the new secondary free school.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Bromley Council has an established policy for the review and strategic planning of school places and related school organisation. The need to ensure sufficient school places, the quality of those places and their efficient organisation is a priority within the Council's strategy 'Building a Better Bromley' and contributes to the strategy to achieve the status of An Excellent Council. This policy also contributes to key targets within the Education Portfolio Plan.
- 5.2 The Council is an authority that aspires to managing its assets well.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The free school project is funded by the Department of Education. This includes the cost of re-providing the Adult Education and Adult Social Care facilities on site. However, funding

does not cover the cost of loose furniture, or IT equipment. If either service is planning to update either furniture or IT equipment, they will need to make specific budgetary provision.

- 6.2 Other costs arising from the delivery of this project that are the Council's responsibility will be funded from the secondary bulge classes budget, agreed by the Executive as part of the Basic Need Capital Programme on 31 March 2021.

7. PROPERTY COMMENTS

- 7.1 The project is being delivered by the DfE. The Council is facilitating the project by making its freehold land available and once works are completed, granting new leases to the Harris Federation.
- 7.2 As is pointed out above, the project is at a reasonably early stage with a second phase of feasibility needing to be undertaken by the DfE and its appointed advisors. Therefore, the Heads of Terms finally agreed will be subject to change when further detailed information is received for each phase of the scheme including whether it is delivered in two or three phases.
- 7.3 In granting leases to the Harris Federation for longer than 7 years, we anticipate the best value considerations set out in S123 of the Local Government Act 1972 will apply. The Council will therefore need to take into account best consideration in effecting these disposals which are proposed on the basis of the DfE's Academy model lease i.e., for a term of 125 years at a peppercorn rent in line with the Government's "Land Transfer Advice" (April 2013).

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Local authorities have powers under s.123 of the Local Government Act 1972 to dispose of land for best consideration that can reasonably be obtained (usually based on open market value). S.123 of the Local Government Act 1982 confers powers to the Secretary of State to give general consent for the purposes of land disposals by local authorities carried out under their powers in Part 7 of the 1972 Act.

The Local Government Act 1972: General Disposal Consent 2003 removes the requirement to seek specific consent from the Secretary for any disposal of land where the local authority considers that the purpose for which the land is to be disposed is likely to contribute to the achievement of any one or more of the well-being criteria in the Local Government Act 2000:

- i) the promotion of improvement of economic well-being,
- ii) the promotion of improvement of social wellbeing,
- iii) the promotion of improvement of environmental wellbeing; and the "under-value" (i.e. the difference between the unrestricted value of the interest to be disposed of and the consideration accepted) is £2,000,000 or less.

Applications for specific consent if appropriate, should be sent to the DCLG and include the following information:

- Written description of the land and buildings, the location
- Written description of how the land is currently held by the Council
- Details of any leases, encumbrances such as easements

- Summary of the proposed disposal/transaction
- Detailed valuation report signed by a qualified member of RICS. Ideally valuation should be done no earlier than 6 months before application for consent.

This only applies to land held as general fund land. It does not apply to land sold under 2.233 TCPA 1990.

8.2 Disposal of Land Considered as Open Space

Section 123 (2A) states that on any disposal of land considered as open space (and land, enclosed or not, on which there are no buildings, and the whole of the remainder which is laid out as garden or is used for recreational purposes or lies waste and unoccupied) requires the local authority to give notice of its intention to dispose of the land for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the land is situated, and they must consider any objections to the proposed disposal which may be made to them.

8.3 Disposal of School Land

- 8.3.1 The requirement for the Secretary of State's consent to disposal of school land and playing fields applies to all maintained schools and academies. Applications will need to be made to the Education Funding Agency ("EFA") of any intended transaction to dispose of any playing field land.

There are three general consents which do not require consent and these are set out below, however if the consents are applied local authorities will also need to apply to or notify the Education Funding Agency ("EFA") of any intended transaction to dispose of any playing field land.

The Secretary of State will consider all applications and make a decision that balances the benefit to the school (or other local schools) against the loss of the playing field land.

8.3.2 Power to Dispose of school land

Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010 (AA 2010). This applies to academies (which include Studio Schools, University Technical Colleges, Free Schools and Special Schools) seeking consent to dispose of any publicly funded land, including playing field land. It also applies to (among others) academy trusts, local authorities, governing bodies, and foundation trusts that hold land for academies.

Local authorities wanting to dispose of school land previously needed consent under Schedule 35A to the Education Act 1996. On 1st February 2012, Schedule 35A was repealed by Schedule 14 to the Education Act 2011.

Schedule 14 also substituted a new Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010 which extends the requirement to ask for Secretary of State consent to dispose of community school land to include all land in which a freehold or leasehold interest is held by the local authority and which has been used for any school (including any academy) in the last 8 years.

8.3.3 Application for consent

When applying for consent under the new Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010, the following details must be provided:

- details of the location (School name and full postal address) and exact area (in square metres) of the land to be disposed of or appropriated (provide maps and aerial/satellite imagery with the land in question clearly marked);
- details of the total site area of the school or former school (in square metres);
- the date (or proposed date) of the disposal or appropriation;

- iv) the reasons for the disposal or appropriation of the land and why the local authority does not think that it is covered by 'general consent';
- v) the educational history of the land in question - when was it last used for the purpose of a school? Will a school remain on adjacent land?
- vi) the planned future use of the site?
- vii) if any potential Academy, Free School, University Technical College or Studio School proposer has approached the local authority about using this land or other land in the area?

8.4 Officers are seeking external lawyers' legal advice as to whether in the present case the Secretary of State's formal consent will apply.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Procurement Implications Personnel Considerations
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	

Report No.
CEF21055

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 9th November 2021

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22

Contact Officer: David Bradshaw, Head of Finance, Children, Education and Families
Tel: 020 8313 4807 E-mail: David.Bradshaw@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director, Children, Education and Families

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report provides the budget monitoring position for 2021/22 based on activity up to the end of September 2021.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 **The Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee are invited to:**

- (i) Note that the latest projected overspend of £1,806,000 is forecast on the controllable budget, based on information as at September 2021;
- (ii) Note the full year effect cost pressures of £5,417,000 in 2022/23 as set out in section 4;
- (iii) Note the COVID expenditure as detailed in section 5;
- (iv) Note the comments of the Department in section 8 of this report; and,
- (v) Refer the report to the Portfolio Holder for approval.

2.2 **The Portfolio Holder is asked to:**

- (i) Note that the latest projected overspend of £1,806,000 is forecast on the controllable budget, based on information as at September 2021;
- (ii) Agree the use of the £500k Education Risk Reserve and forward to the Executive for their approval as set out in paragraph 3.7.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
 2. BBB Priority: Health and Integration
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: CEF Portfolio
 4. Total current budget for this head: £46,163k
 5. Source of funding: CEF approved budget
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 1,154 Full time equivalent
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The 2021/22 budget reflects the financial impact of the Council's strategies, service plans etc which impact on all of the Council's customers (including council tax payers) and users of the services
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The 2021/22 projected outturn for the Children, Education and Families Portfolio is detailed in Appendix 1a, broken down over each division within the service. Appendix 1b gives explanatory notes on the movements in each service. The current position is an overspend of £1,706k. This position assumes that further management action will be taken for the remainder of the year to at least maintain the current position. If this does not take place, then the position may change. Some of the main variances are highlighted below.
- 3.2 Senior officers meet on a regular basis to scrutinise and challenge the expenditure position and formulate management action to address any issues.

Education - £1,078k overspend

- 3.3 Overall the position for Education is a predicted £1,078k overspend. The main areas of movement are as follows: -
- 3.4 SEN Transport - £1,804k overspent - This is due in the main to:-
- a) The number of children requiring transport has increased by circa 17%.
 - b) Unavailability of drivers has resulted in more expensive providers having to be used from the call off framework.
 - c) During the pandemic single transport was required for those vulnerable children attending schools and this further impacted on the cost.
- 3.5 Immediate management action has been taken on the notification of the forecast budget overspend position. A specialist external transport provider has been commissioned to undertake a review of SEN transport, including benchmarking analysis and a full review of processes and eligibility criteria to identify potential savings. Potential areas of mitigation are being explored which may have an impact on future years. These will be reported back to the committee in due course.
- 3.6 There are also overspends due to the under collection of income in Adult Education, Education Welfare Service and Education Psychology. This has been partially offset by underspends in running costs and staffing across the division
- 3.7 The Education Risk Reserve of £500k (ERR) was set aside by the Executive in January 2020 to cover pressures in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) which could be called upon if there were gaps in funding that cannot be funded elsewhere. The use of the funding would be subject to Executive approval. Considering the position of SEN Transport and the overspend manifesting itself in this particular area it is proposed to utilise this funding as a one off for 2021/22. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder agree to the usage of the reserve and that this is forwarded to the Executive for their formal approval.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - £3,832k overspend

- 3.8 An element of the Education Budget is classed as Schools' Budget and is funded by the dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Grant conditions require that any over or under spend should be carried forward to the next financial year.
- 3.9 There is a current projected in year overspend in Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) of £3,832k. This will be added to the £1,139k deficit that was carried forward from 2020/21. There has also been an in year increase of DSG of £1,115k. This would give a total DSG deficit of £3,856k going forward. It should be noted that the DSG can fluctuate due to pupils requiring additional services or being placed in expensive placements. Due to COVID-19 the prior year adjustment

to the Early Years Block that is normally announced in July will be announced later in the year - it is currently expected in December.

- 3.10 The unsustainability of the SEN system is a national issue and there are high expectations being set for the DfE's SEND Review which has just been pushed back to Autumn 2021. Nevertheless, officers are seeking to further reduce costs, within the tight constraints of the legal framework. Officers are working on a deficit recovery plan ahead of this being required by the DfE.
- 3.11 A summary of the main variations is provided in the table below, and further details of the variations can be found within Appendix 1B.

	Variations £'000
Primary Support Team	-52
Bulge classes	25
Home & Hospital	151
Behaviour Support	-58
Admissions Service	-18
Other Small Balances	1
SEN:	
- Placements, Top up and AP	4,069
- Complex Needs Team	-51
- High Needs Pre-school Service	-13
- Sensory Support	-39
- Darrick Wood Hearing Unit	-84
- Outreach & Inclusion Service	-80
- Pupil Support Services	-20
- Other Small SEN Balances	1
Total	<u><u>3,832</u></u>

- 3.12 There has been a significant increase in EHCPs issued, all of which have a varying cost attached. The number of EHC Plans as at 30th September 2021 is 3,198, compared to 3,053 in May 2021 (increase of 145). In total the level of EHCP's has risen by 214 since the beginning of the 2021/22 financial year.
- 3.13 There continues to be an increase in the number of CYP who have complex SEMH needs, some of which requiring high-cost placements with significant packages of support

Children's Social Care (CSC) - £728k overspend

- 3.14 The Children's Social Care division is currently overspending by £728k. The main areas of over/underspend are highlighted in the paragraphs below and in Appendix 1B.
- 3.15 These figures include the contribution from Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) of £2.35m for 2021/22.
- 3.16 The budgeted number of children looked after was set at 320 at the start of the financial year rising to 327 (excluding UASC) by the end of 2021/22. The average number has been 325 in the current financial year to the end of September 2021, more than budgeted.
- 3.17 Placements are overspending by £977k. The profile is slightly different than budgeted with a few more children in residential than expected and more in IFA's leading to an overspend.
- 3.18 Leaving care is another area with a significant overspend, currently projected at £563k. There are 3 or 4 placements that are particularly expensive costing £4k per week each which accounts for the majority of the overspend.

- 3.19 These figures are offset by a one off contribution of £1.5m from the COVID Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF).
- 3.20 The other main area of risk is staffing. The budget was set on the basis of 85% permanency across all staff in CSC in 2021/22. Levels are currently around the 84% permanent staff, including the 'in the pipeline' appointments. There is an allowance for agency staff within the budget, but this may result in a significant overspend if this continues to be lower than expected. As mentioned above there are staff in pipeline to take the figure to 84%, but this figure will also depend on the level of those leaving the organisation.
- 3.22 Full details of all the over and underspends are contained in Appendix 1.

4. FULL YEAR EFFECT GOING INTO 2022/23

- 4.1 The cost pressures identified in section 3 above will impact in 2022/23 by £5,417k. Management action is assumed and contained within this figure. Management action will continue to need to be taken to ensure that this does not impact on future years.
- 4.2 Given the significant financial savings that the Council will need to make over the next four years, it is important that all future cost pressures are contained, and that savings are identified early to mitigate these pressures. However, the continuation of the impact from Covid is a further factor in relation to these financial pressures. Whether there is an easing of measures in the foreseeable future, the increase in referrals and the complexity is likely to continue over the next year.
- 4.3 Further details are contained within Appendix 1.

5 COVID EXPENDITURE

- 5.1 A report went to the E&R PDS on the 13th October 2021 outlining details of the COVID-19 grants. It was requested that further details be passed to the relevant PDS committees and the Executive.
- 5.2 Appendix 3 gives details of the relevant grant and expenditure in the CEF Portfolio for the 2020/21 and the 2021/22 financial years.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Resources Portfolio Plan includes the aim of effective monitoring and control of expenditure within budget and includes the target that each service department will spend within its own budget.
- 6.2 Bromley's Best Value Performance Plan "Making a Difference" refers to the Council's intention to remain amongst the lowest Council Tax levels in outer London and the importance of greater focus on priorities.
- 6.3 The four year financial forecast report highlights the financial pressures facing the Council. It remains imperative that strict budgetary control continues to be exercised in 2021/22 to minimise the risk of compounding financial pressures in future years.
- 6.4 Chief Officers and Departmental Heads of Finance are continuing to place emphasis on the need for strict compliance with the Council's budgetary control and monitoring arrangements.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A detailed breakdown of the projected outturn by service area is shown in appendix 1(a) with explanatory notes in appendix 1(b). Appendix 1 (c) shows the latest full year effects. Appendix 2

gives the analysis of the latest approved budget. Appendix 3 gives details of the COVID expenditure for the Portfolio in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years. Other financial implications are contained in the body of this report and Appendix 1b provides more detailed notes on the major services.

- 7.2 Overall the current overspend position stands at £1,806k (£5.417k overspend full year effect). The full year effect will need to be addressed in 2021/22 and 2022/23 in due course.
- 7.3 Costs attributable to individual services have been classified as “controllable” and “noncontrollable” in Appendix 1. Budget holders have full responsibility for those budgets classified as “controllable” as any variations relate to those factors over which the budget holder has, in general, direct control. “Non-controllable” budgets are those which are managed outside of individual budget holder’s service and, as such, cannot be directly influenced by the budget holder in the shorter term. These include, for example, building maintenance costs and property rents which are managed by the Property Division but are allocated within individual departmental/portfolio budgets to reflect the full cost of the service. As such, any variations arising are shown as “non-controllable” within services but “controllable” within the Resources Portfolio. Other examples include cross departmental recharges and capital financing costs. This approach, which is reflected in financial monitoring reports to budget holders, should ensure clearer accountability by identifying variations within the service that controls financial performance. Members should specifically refer to the “controllable” budget variations relating to portfolios in considering financial performance.

8. DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS

- 8.1 The Children, Education and Families Portfolio has an overspend of £1,806,000 for the year.
- 8.2 The Education Division has an underspend of £1,078k. This is mainly to do with SEN transport.
- 8.3 Initial analysis indicates that there are two main causal factors resulting in the forecast overspend position on transport:
- 8.4 Increase in number and complexity of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities - The national increase in EHCPs is widely acknowledged as unsustainable and the rate of increase is accelerating across the country. In Bromley, despite gatekeeping measures, the increase in EHCPs has now reached 17%, higher than the projected increase of 14% used to produce Growth funding assumptions. Additionally, the complexity of children and young people’s needs is increasing, particularly Covid-related acute social, emotional and mental health needs, which require specialist provision which is typically costly independent provision outside of Bromley. Transport is often required and although officers seek to minimise costs, transport is often required to meet children’s needs.
- 8.5 Transport provider pressures arising from the Covid-19 pandemic - The number of children requiring transport has increased by circa 17%, but this only accounts for part of the increase in costs. The outgoing Transport Manager reports that the unavailability of drivers has resulted in more expensive providers having to be used from the call off framework. Anecdotally, there are reports from across the UK and in Bromley that a large number of former minicab drivers have moved to delivering parcels and takeaway deliveries which were a significant growth area in the pandemic, resulting in drivers and smaller vehicles not being available. In addition, during the pandemic single transport was required for those vulnerable children attending schools and shared cross-Borough arrangements ceased and this further impacted on the cost. Whilst children are now expected to be in school settings post the lockdown the number of drivers available to pick this up has reduced and forced costs up.

- 8.6 Immediate management action was taken on the notification of the forecast budget overspend position. A specialist external transport adviser has undertaken a review of SEN transport arrangements, including benchmarking analysis and a full review of processes and eligibility criteria to identify potential savings. This has enabled significant mitigation proposals to be identified as part of the MTFS process, which would offset the forecast pressures on SEN Transport. In addition work has been undertaken by our AD Strategic Performance resulting in predictive work for the next few years. This work will feature in the regular budget challenge with the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance. This is an area of complexities involving children transitioning from pre-school to primary schools and from primary to secondary schools and onward to colleges. Route planning can only take place in September once school places have been confirmed hence the reporting timetable of November.
- 8.7 There is a current projected overspend in DSG of £2,717k. This will be added to the £1,139k carried forward from 2020/21. This gives us an estimated DSG deficit balance of £3,856k into the new financial year.
- 8.8 The impact of additional legal duties from the SEND Reforms, has led to unsustainable financial pressures on High Needs costs within the DSG. An increase in Government funding (>£5m in 2021/22) is not sufficient to meet the increased costs. We understand that Bromley is one of the last London Boroughs to incur a deficit in the DSG, with some local authorities having deficits in excess of £20m. The legal framework is heavily weighted in favour of parental preference, which is often for independent day and residential provision. Outcomes from Tribunals on the basis of cost are often successful, incurring further legal additional costs to the Local Authority. A further review will be undertaken over the next few months to look at the panel decisions; quality of assessments and consideration of what successful challenges the Local Authority may make to the tribunals.
- 8.9 Despite extensive attempts to gatekeep and reduce the use of independent provision, Bromley had a deficit position of £1,139k in 2020/21, which is forecast to increase by £2.7m in 2021/22. It should be noted that the DSG can fluctuate due to pupils requiring additional services or being placed in expensive placements.
- 8.10 The number of children and young people requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan and the increase in the complexity of needs is the key driver for increased cost pressures in the SEN placement budget. At 17%, the current growth in EHCPs exceeds the forecast used to project growth funding. In the 2020 calendar year, 453 new EHCPs were issued, up from 274 in 2018 and 352 in 2019. We have sought to commission additional local specialist provision, including a new special free school due to open in 2023, but the needs and tribunal challenges are such that we have no choice but to continue placing children in more costly provision to ensure we are not in default of our legal statutory duties.
- 8.11 The unsustainability of the SEN system is a national issue and there are high expectations being set for the DfE's SEND Review which has continually been delayed and has again now been pushed back to Autumn 2021. Nevertheless, officers are seeking to further reduce costs, within the tight constraints of the legal framework. Officers are working on a deficit recovery plan ahead of this being required by the DfE.
- 8.12 A review of High Needs Funding Bands has commenced, with oversight from the SEND Governance Board and CEF PDS. This will consider how the funding bands can be simplified and to identify where any savings can be made. We continue to work on increases to local specialist provision, including the special free school and increases in Additionally Resourced Provisions, which are specialist classes within mainstream schools.

- 8.13 In Children's Social Care the overspend is £728k. This figure has partially been offset by using one off COVID COMF funding to reduce the in year overspend by £1,500k.
- 8.14 The ongoing impact of C19 on Children Services continues especially in respect of contacts into our MASH – these continue to remain consistently around 1,000 contacts per month with little sign of a reduction. This compares to around 600 in April 2020 and it is the complexity of the families and children that have an added dimension. The courts are still suffering with the backlog and final hearings now being scheduled for 2022 resulting in children remaining in the care system until that decision is made. The courts are only now returning to face to face tribunals since the pandemic but with little court space and Judges there is still pressure to reduce the backlog. The courts continue to be risk averse in making supervision orders even for those Special Guardianship orders, in usual circumstances no order would be expected to be made if an assessment was completed. Such moves result in social work time and increased caseloads restricting the flow as we have done pre pandemic. There are currently 92 children waiting outcomes which is slight reduction from 102 previously. Many of these children's final care plans for permanency are either SGO or Adoption resulting in around 28 children who should come out of the system and would be closed to the LA. The fallout from this pandemic will continue for some considerable time to come particularly in relation to the increasing referral rate and complexity of the children coming into care and we have seen an increase in care for children with disabilities resulting in double the number to 29 which is included in the total number of CLA. The increase in mental health and wellbeing amongst young people has resulted nationally in an increase in suicide and suicidal ideation and with the lack of CAMHS and adult mental health services the risk and support is falling to the Local Authority. To ameliorate this because the Local Authority has no option, we have used the Covid funding to recruit two mental health practitioners to support our children.
- 8.15 We continue to see the significant impact on the most vulnerable families and our efforts to safeguard them but the cost of supporting them through the last year and what will inevitably be the ripple effect in 2021/22. We continue to concentrate on ensuring that children are safeguarded throughout the current crisis and as we move forward over the next year to 12 - 18 months. Of course, if children come into the system and are unable to be reunified within 6 months the likelihood is that these young people will remain long term and move through to increase the numbers and cost as care leavers up until the age of 25 years.
- 8.16 We have returned to for some while now to visiting families face to face unless exceptional circumstances occur Social workers are identifying how fragile families are and how their networks have fallen away resulting in an increase in Child In Need cases. Our Early intervention service for the first time ever has seen waiting lists of 60 plus and as such have pivoted to develop a light touch assessment for some families to ensure that they are supported, preventing crisis and routes into the statutory services.
- 8.17 We are still experience families referred who have not been known to the Local Authority before and is an indication of the impact of Covid where prior they would be reliant on families, friends, networks and community – such referrals are not light touch and have resulted in immediate escalation through to the courts particularly where immobile babies and young children are being harmed. CLA numbers remain high and are at higher levels than were budgeted.
- 8.18 There has been increased requests for support particularly in CWD and whilst our short break provision has now opened the demand for this service has increased and has a limited number of nights available for the number of families requiring this. This has a cumulative effect of increased demand on additional support packages to try and prevent children with complex disabilities entering the care system. A recent example of a placement for one child

with complex needs has resulted in 10K per week for all the add on support required in a specialist residential placement resulting in over 500K per year. Whilst the LA will review this weekly to consider if the support can be reduced it is an indication of complexity and severity of children who have substantial disabilities. As stated, we have doubled our looked after population in CWD despite the innovative and expensive care packages put in to support with health provision short breaks. Families resilience has been impacted and particularly children with profound and complex health and challenging sometimes aggressive behaviour. We review annually the contribution from the CCG and will be doing this exercise in November to ensure that we obtain contribution from partners.

- 8.19 During the height of the pandemic we were cautious in relation to closing cases which was acknowledged as good practice by Ofsted, and where children in ordinary circumstances may have been removed from plans multi agency professionals and families have a heightened anxiety requesting the LA to remain involved. We continue to review all CIN cases open over 9 months via our CIN Panel to ensure that we are either able to close or step down. However stepping down to EIS causes increase in the already waiting list.
- 8.20 We are witnessing a higher number of positive cases within the younger generation and whilst the increasing numbers of infection do not necessarily warrant hospitalisation it continues to place strain on families. With the roll out of the vaccine to children 12 years and above it is hoped this will stem some of the issues.
- 8.21 The risks in the Children, Education & Families Portfolio are:-
- i) Recruitment and retention of permanent staff/ability to recruit skilled staff for the posts vacant and competitive salaries being paid at this time.
 - ii) Limited supply and increasing costs of residential placements – including the specialist placements for very complex young people. For example Bromley has had in the last 2 years reduced its use of residential mother and baby placements but we have seen an increase in this area with the courts directing such placements which impacts on the cost of our placements budget. The cost of such placements is high and then with the delay to final hearing families are being retained in these placements beyond the assessment.
 - iii) Increase in the Looked After Population due to the aftermath of C19 and families being unable to cope.
 - iv) Increased complexity of children (SEND).
 - v) Impact of Social Work Act 2017 implementation.
 - vi) Whilst we have seen partner agencies returning to their usual practice there is still high anxiety amongst them in relation to referrals and hesitancy in ownership around cases being closed to the statutory services and the universal services being responsible.
 - vii) Long term closure of short breaks throughout 2020/21 resulting in demand and cost pressures.
 - viii) Shortage of local school places.
 - ix) Increasing High Needs Block expenditure not matched by a commensurate increase in Government Grant
 - x) Continuing impact of 2014 Children and Families Act extending the age range to 25 for Education, Health and Care Plans.
 - xi) Responsibility of Virtual School (VS) in relation to supporting any child adopted living within Bromley entitled to support – this support can be requested from families and schools and with the Covid this has increased significantly stretching the VS team. We will not know the impact of this change for up to 12 months.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal Implications Personnel Implications Customer Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	2021/22 Budget Monitoring files in CEF Finance Section

Children, Education and Families Portfolio Budget Monitoring Summary

2020/21 Actuals £'000	Service Areas	2021/22 Original Budget £'000	2021/22 Latest Approved £'000	2021/22 Projected Outturn £'000	Variation £'000	Notes	Variation Last Reported £'000	Full Year Effect £'000
EDUCATION CARE & HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT								
Education Division								
Cr 423	Adult Education Centres	Cr 448	Cr 448	Cr 406	42	1	10	0
644	Schools and Early Years Commissioning & QA	735	735	617	Cr 118	2	Cr 42	0
6,827	SEN and Inclusion	7,707	7,707	9,322	1,615	3	1,234	2,057
126	Strategic Place Planning	103	103	103	0		0	0
Cr 30	Workforce Development & Governor Services	Cr 27	Cr 27	Cr 27	0		0	0
202	Access & Inclusion	184	184	223	39	4	85	0
Cr 1,416	Schools Budgets	Cr 1,482	Cr 1,482	Cr 1,482	0	5	0	0
146	Other Strategic Functions	777	816	816	0		0	0
0	Release of Education Risk Reserve	0	0	Cr 500	Cr 500		0	0
6,076		7,549	7,588	8,666	1,078		1,287	2,057
Children's Social Care								
1,313	Bromley Youth Support Programme	1,657	1,657	1,772	115	6	0	0
856	Early Intervention and Family Support	1,236	1,236	1,138	Cr 98		0	0
6,379	CLA and Care Leavers	6,839	6,918	7,481	563		1,022	617
16,919	Fostering, Adoption and Resources	17,778	17,778	19,232	1,454		756	2,743
0	Management Action	0	0	Cr 477	Cr 477		0	0
3,377	Referral and Assessment Service	3,598	3,598	3,694	96		38	0
2,956	Safeguarding and Care Planning East	2,869	2,869	3,052	183		103	0
5,377	Safeguarding and Care Planning West	5,503	5,503	5,803	300		0	0
Cr 889	Safeguarding and Quality Improvement	Cr 984	Cr 984	Cr 892	92		0	0
0	COVID grants	0	0	Cr 1,500	Cr 1,500		Cr 1,500	0
36,288		38,496	38,575	39,303	728		419	3,360
42,364	TOTAL CONTROLLABLE FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES	46,045	46,163	47,969	1,806		1,706	5,417
8,893	Total Non-Controllable	1,582	1,580	1,580	0		0	0
8,531	Total Excluded Recharges	9,000	9,000	9,000	0		0	0
59,788	TOTAL CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES PORTFOLIO	56,627	56,743	58,549	1,806		1,706	5,417
Memorandum Item								
Sold Services								
Cr 35	Education Psychology Service (RSG Funded)	Cr 113	Cr 113	206	319	7	372	0
Cr 28	Education Welfare Service (RSG Funded)	Cr 22	Cr 22	34	56		54	0
Cr 30	Workforce Development (DSG/RSG Funded)	Cr 30	Cr 30	Cr 30	0		0	0
61	Community Vision Nursery (RSG Funded)	67	67	28	Cr 39		0	0
92	Blenheim Nursery (RSG Funded)	98	98	98	0		0	0
60	Total Sold Services	0	0	336	336		426	0

REASONS FOR VARIATIONS**1. Adult Education - Dr £42k**

The Adult Education service is currently projecting to overspend by £42k. This is due to £68k under collection of income this year. This is then being offset by a £17k underspend on staffing and a £9k underspend on running costs.

2. Schools and Early Years Commissioning & QA - Cr £118k

There is currently expected to be an overspend of £118k in this area that is mainly due to staff vacancies (£109k), with the remaining underspend due to running costs (£9k).

3. SEN and Inclusion - Dr £1,615k

The staffing in this area is currently forecasting an underspend by £228k.

The Education Psychologists are currently in the process of recruiting to the vacant posts in their team. This is causing the statutory service they are required to provide to be underspent by £232k and the Trading Service they offer to the Schools to be overspent by £271k due to the use of expensive agency staff used to provide the service. This is a net overspend of £39k.

SEN Transport is currently forecast to overspend by £1,804k due to increased volumes of children receiving the service follow COVID and other demands on the service. This figure may change during the year as route rationalisation occurs regularly and a complete review takes place as part of the design of the routes at the start of an academic year.

4. Access & Inclusion - Dr £39k

The Education Welfare Service Trading Account is currently expected to under collect on its income by £55k due to the loss of a number of school contracts.

There is currently expected to be an underspend of £28k in this area on staffing.

There are small overspends on running costs of £12k.

5. Schools Budgets (no impact on General Fund)

Expenditure on Schools is funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) provided by the Department for Education (DfE). DSG is ring fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget. Any overspend or underspend must be carried forward to the following years Schools Budget.

There is a current projected overspend in DSG of £3,832k. This will be added to the £1,139k deficit that was carried forward from 2020/21. There is also an increase in the DSG allocation of £1,115k. This would give an overall total DSG deficit of £3,856k. It should be noted that the DSG can fluctuate due to pupils requiring additional services or being placed in expensive placements. Due to COVID-19 the prior year adjustment to the Early Years Block that is normally announced in July will be announced later in the year - it is currently expected in December.

The in-year overspend is broken down as follows:-

There is an overspend of £25k relating to the hire of classrooms while building work is carried out at the school(s) in question.

There is an underspend of £52k in the Primary Support Team, due to vacant posts and the under use of agency and consultancy costs to provide the service.

The Home and Hospital service has a pressure of £151k due to an overspend on agency and staffing of £180k and running cost underspend of £29k.

The Behaviour Support service is currently expected to underspend by £58k this is mainly due to underspends on staffing.

The Admissions service is currently forecasting an underspend of £18k this is mainly due to staffing that is offset by a small underspend on running costs.

SEN placements service is projected to overspend by a total of £4,069k. These overspends are split as follows:-

Residential Placements - DR £2,054k (Dr £1,736k)

Top-Up Funding - DR £1,492k (Dr £1,281k)

Alternative Provisions and Direct Payments - Dr £642k (Dr £473k)

These overspends are offset by projected underspends in running costs of £101k and new grants announced during the year where some of the allocation is for independent schools of £18k.

The Hearing Unit, Sensory Support, Complex Needs Team, Outreach & Inclusion Services, Pre-School Services and Pupil Support Service are all currently projected to underspend. Most of the underspend relates to lower than expected staffing costs, but there is also a small amount that relates to running costs that are not expected to be incurred during the year. The total of all of these underspends is a £287k.

There is also a total small balance of overspends of £2k.

	Variations £'000	High Needs £'000	Schools £'000	Early Years £'000	Central £'000
Bulge Classes / Classroom Hire		25	0	25	0
Primary Support Team	Cr	52	0	0	0 Cr 52
Home & Hospital		151	151	0	0
Behaviour Support	Cr	58	58	0	0
Admissions Service	Cr	18	0	0	0 Cr 18

Other Small Balances		1	0	0	0	1
SEN:						
- Placements		4,069	4,069	0	0	0
- Darrick Wood Hearing Unit	Cr	84	Cr 84	0	0	0
- Sensory Support	Cr	39	Cr 39	0	0	0
- Complex Needs Team	Cr	51	Cr 51	0	0	0
- Outreach & Inclusion Service	Cr	80	Cr 80	0	0	0
- High Needs Pre-school Service	Cr	13	Cr 13	0	0	0
- Pupil Support Services	Cr	20	Cr 20	0	0	0
- Other Small SEN Balances		1	1	0	0	0
Total		3,832	3,876	25	0 Cr	69

7. Children's Social Care - Dr £728k

The current budget variation for the Children's Social Care Division is projected to be an overspend of £2,228k. Despite additional funding being secured in the 2021/22 budget, continued increases in the number of children being looked after together with the cost of placements has continued to put considerable strain on the budget. This overspend has been offset by a £1,500k of COVID Grant funding, reducing the overall overspend down to £728k.

Bromley Youth Support Programme - Dr £115k

The overspend in this area is due to £29k staffing related overspends and £86k worth of unachievable income.

Early Intervention and Family Support - Cr £98k

The overspend in this area is due to an underspend of £90k on staffing, with the remaining £8k relating to various underspends in running costs.

CLA and Care Leavers - Dr £563k

The overspend in this area relates accommodation and support costs in relation to the Children Looked After placement of £563k.

Fostering, Adoption and Resources - £977k

This area is projected to overspend by £977k (after management actions). £919k of this overspend relates to placements and is detailed below, the remaining £58k relates to overspending in the staffing budgets.

The budget for children's placements is currently projected to overspend by £919k this year (after management actions). This amount is analysed by placement type below.

- Community Home's / Community Home's with Education - Dr £876k (Dr £159k)
- Boarding Schools - Cr £30k (Cr £117k)
- Fostering services (IFA's) - Dr £271k (Dr £973k)
- Fostering services (In-house, including SGO's and Kinship) Cr £192k - (Cr £256k)
- Adoption placements - Cr £6k (Cr £3k)

Referral and Assessment Service - Dr £96k

The projected variance relates to services to people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), which is currently projecting an overspend of £38k, an overspend on staffing of £38k and an overspend of £20k on running costs.

Safeguarding and Care Planning East - Dr £183k

The budget currently projected to overspend by £183k. This is due to staffing pressures (£22k) and £21k relating to running costs. Additionally, the community and residential parenting assessments is forecast to overspend by £140k.

Safeguarding and Care Planning West - Dr £300k

The budget currently projected to overspend by £300k. This is due to a forecasted staffing underspend of £7k that is offsetting the pressures relating to the running costs of £29k and the community and residential parenting assessments is forecast of £278k.

Safeguarding and Quality Improvement - Dr 92k

The budget is currently projected to overspend by £92k. This is due to a staffing overspend of £11k, with other staff related costs of £117k. These are offset by a projected underspend of £36k on running costs.

8. Sold Services (net budgets)

Services sold to schools are separately identified in this report to provide clarity in terms of what is being provided. These accounts are shown as memorandum items as the figures are included in the appropriate Service Area in the main report.

Waiver of Financial Regulations

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules state that where the value of a contract exceeds £50k and is to be exempt from the normal requirement to obtain competitive quotations the Chief Officer has to obtain the agreement of the Director of Corporate Services, the Director of Finance and the Director of Commissioning and (where over £100,000) approval of the Portfolio Holder and report use of this exemption to Audit Sub-Committee bi-annually. Since the last report to the Executive, there has been no waivers in the Education area. In Children's Social Care there were 5 waivers agreed for placements of between £50k and £100k, 1 between £100k and £150k, 2 between £150k and £200k and 12 over £200k.

Virements Approved to date under Director's Delegated Powers

Details of virements actioned by Chief Officers under delegated authority under the Financial Regulations "Scheme of Virement" will be included in financial monitoring reports to the Portfolio Holder. Since the last report to Executive, there have been 0 virements.

Description	2021/22 Latest Approved Budget £'000	Variation To 2021/22 Budget £'000	Potential Impact in 2022/23
Children's Social Care	38,575	728	The overall full year effect of the Children's Social Care overspend is a net £3,360k, analysed as Residential Care, Fostering and Adoption Dr £2,743k and Leaving Care costs of £617k.
SEN Transport	5,623	1,804	The current full year effect for SEN Transport - based on the current routes - is £2,057k.

Reconciliation of Latest Approved Budget	£'000
Original Budget 2021/22	56,627
Contingency:	
Role of Virtual School Heads to children with a social worker Implementation Grant	100
- expenditure	Cr 100
- income	
Reducing Parental Conflict Workforce Development Grant	
- expenditure	22
- income	Cr 22
Domestic Abuse - Support for Victims	
- expenditure	35
- income	Cr 35
Tackling Troubled Families	
- expenditure	324
- income	Cr 324
Carry forwards:	
Holiday activities and Food Grant	
- expenditure	81
- income	Cr 81
Deed Settlement for Hawes Down Site	
- expenditure	12
- income	Cr 12
NHS England on training for staff	
- expenditure	90
- income	Cr 90
Tackling Troubled Families	
- expenditure	567
- income	Cr 567
Probation Service Grant	
- expenditure	5
- income	Cr 5
Wellbeing for Education	39
North Lodge	79
Items Requested this Cycle:	
COVID Recovery Grant	
- expenditure	69
- income	Cr 69
Other:	
Repairs and Maintenance	Cr 2
Latest Approved Budget for 2021/22	56,743
	0

COVID Grants Commentary for CEF PDS

1. General Grant - £4,405k 2020/21/£TBC 2021/22

During 2020/21, the Government provided 4 tranches of emergency funding to support local authorities through Covid-19, with the Council receiving £22,877k. An additional amount of £7,795k was also allocated for 2021/22 to further address ongoing financial pressures, resulting in a total amount received of £30,672k.

This grant is not ringfenced and local authorities have discretion as to how this grant is allocated to address Covid-19 pressures that they identify in their boroughs. In 2020/21, a total of £16,371k was applied across all portfolio where the financial impacts of Covid were not met from other ringfenced Covid grants.

CEF £4,405k in 2020/21 across all the portfolio covering additional staffing, equipment and activities that were not covered by other specific COVID grants. The allocation for 2021/22 for CEF has yet to be confirmed, but is likely to be a reduced amount from 2020/21

2. Income Loss Compensation Grant - £254k/£TBC 2021/22

In addition to the general grant, the Government provided for a grant scheme designed to compensate for irrecoverable losses of qualifying transactional income from sales, fees and charges. The schemes provided for the whole of 2020/21 but only first quarter of 2021/22. The amount of grant does not meet eligible income losses in full, and local authorities have been required to meet the first 5% of budgeted losses, with grant then paid at 75% of the resultant net loss.

Based on this formula, CEF were able to tap into £254k of this grant in 2020/21 in areas such as Adult Education, Youth Service, Nursery provision, Education Welfare and Education Psychologists.

There is also grant available for 2021/22 but this has yet to be confirmed and finalised.

3. Contain Outbreak Management Fund - £1,977k 2020/21/£3,034k 2021/22 provisional

The Contain Outbreak Management Fund is another un-ringfenced grant intended to provide support in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19.

The 2020/21 allocation was spent on increased costs in Home and Hospital placements, cost of individual placement breakdowns, additional placement and the associated costs and costs of staff used for contract tracing/volunteering.

Provisionally there has been £3,034k allocated to CEF in 2021/22. This expenditure includes additional temporary cost of staffing in areas such as the RAS, MASH and safeguarding teams, additional placements costs, additional short break packages in CWD and removing the waiting list in the early intervention service.

An initial allocation of £3,731k was agreed under delegated authority to cover various pressures across all departments arising as a result of the pandemic as set out in the table below:

4. Covid Local Support Grant – 2021/22 - £887k

This grant was introduced on the 17th April 2021 and continued to the 30th September 2021 to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford food and utility bills (heating, cooking, lighting) and water for household purposes (including drinking, washing, cooking, central heating, sewerage and sanitary purposes), or other related essentials. There were certain criteria that Bromley had to meet which were:

- a) at least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to support households with children, with up to 20% of the total funding to other households experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, poverty during the pandemic. This may include households not currently in receipt of DWP welfare benefits.
- b) at least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to provide support with food, energy and water bills for household purposes (including drinking, washing, cooking, central heating, and sanitary purposes) and sewerage. Within this condition there is flexibility about the proportion of support allocated to food and to bills.
- c) up to 20% of the total funding can be used to provide support with other essentials clearly linked to the scheme conditions (including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, boiler service/repair, purchase of equipment including fridges, freezers, ovens, etc.), in recognition that a range of costs may arise which directly affect a household's ability to afford or access food, energy and water.

The majority of the grant was spent on food vouchers that were distributed through schools during the school holidays targeted at children eligible for Pupil Premium and Children in Need (including children subject to a child protection plan), with the remaining amount used by Housing through the Welfare fund for food, utilities and other essentials to support families.

The total allocation of grant was £887k. However £14k of this was spent in the Housing Portfolio so the CEF spend was £873k on food vouchers.

5. Holiday Activities and Food Programme - £881k – 2021/22

The grant announced in November 2020, provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children. The programme covers the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021. 10% of the total funding allocated could be associated with running the programme, with the remaining 90% to be used to fund places for FSM eligible children.

As Bromley could evidence that they were offering the programme comprehensively across the full geographical area and were fully meeting demand from free school meal eligible children in the area, 15% of the funding could be used to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals but who are considered by the local authority as vulnerable or in need of this provision. For example, this may include children assessed as being in need,

looked-after children, children with an EHC plan (education, health and care), children assessed as otherwise vulnerable, or children living in areas of high deprivation. Activities have taken place during the holidays such as football coaching, arts and craft and musical activities. 10,382 individual places were taken up in the summer holidays, reaching nearly 2,000 individual children.

Expenditure is ongoing and there will be a final reconciliation of spend in due course. Current estimates are that £365k has been spent on this grant to date.

In July 2021 there was an announcement of an additional contingency provision of £72k making the total grant £881k.

On the 27th October 2021 in the budget, it was announced that this funding stream would continue into 2022/23 financial year. Further announcements on the detailed funding levels will be sent by government in due course.

6. Covid Winter Grant Scheme – 2020/21 - £754k

The grant began in December 2020 to support those most in need with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking, lighting), water bills (including sewerage) and other essentials. There were certain criteria that Bromley had to meet which were:

- a) at least 80% of the total funding was ring-fenced to support families with children, with up to 20% of the total funding to other types of households, including individuals.
- b) at least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to provide support with food, energy and water bills (including sewerage), with up to 20% on other items.

The grant was for the period of the 1st December to the 31st March. The majority of the grant was spent on food vouchers that were distributed through schools during the school holidays targeted at children eligible for Pupil Premium and Children in Need (including children subject to a child protection plan), with the remaining amount used by Housing through the Welfare fund for food, utilities and other essentials to support families.

7. Covid Winter Grant Scheme Extension – 2021/22 - £262k

This grant was an extension of the COVID Winter grant to the 16th April 2021. The same criteria were applied as above with the same outcomes and expenditure.

The total grant allocation for numbers 6 and 7 was £1,016k. Overall the CEF portfolio spent £689k on this grant. The Housing portfolio spent £286k. £41k was not claimed.

8. Emergency Assistance Grant - £279k – 2020/21

The Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies was for local authorities in England to use to support people who were struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19. The expectation was that spend against the grant should be within 12 weeks of the receipt of the grant. This meant valid expenditure to the end of October 2020.

The expenditure was split into two parts. £115k was allocated to food banks for food distribution. The remaining £164k was allocated to CSC and funded activities for care leavers, youth activities, short breaks and activities for looked after children.

9. Wellbeing for Education – 2020/21 - £39k

On 4th August 2020 the DfE announced funding and resources to train and support education settings to respond to the wellbeing and mental health needs of pupils and students. The allocation for Bromley was £39k and although unringfenced, the expectation was that the grant be utilised in 2020/21 financial year under the following conditions:

- a) Adapt the DfE's Wellbeing for Education Return training package, to include local context and information about local services
- b) Provide ongoing support to all state-funded settings in their area, on promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing

The grant was used to enhance and complement the existing initiatives for mental health and wellbeing for children within Bromley, working with other organisations including Bromley Y and CAMHS. This included self-harm workshops for schools and other settings and multi-media resources included within the Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit.

10. Household Support Fund - £1,868k

In October 2021 the Government announced the ringfenced Household Support Fund to support those most in need this winter. At least 50% of the total funding must be spent on families with children. The expectation is that the funding should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. It can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.

The Council's allocation is £1,868k and officers are currently finalising the plans for the utilisation of this funding. The likelihood is that there will be a similar arrangement to that of the COVID Local Support Grant with a combination of CEF and Housing portfolios controlling the expenditure

Report No.
CEF21048

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Executive with pre decision scrutiny from Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 24 November 2021

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: DISPOSAL OF DORSET ROAD INFANT SCHOOL

Contact Officer: Robert Bollen, Head of Strategic Place Planning

Tel: 020 8313 4697 E-mail: robert.bollen@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Education

Ward: Mottingham and Chislehurst

1. Reason for report

The Executive is asked to approve and agree to the property transaction for the disposal of the Dorset Road Infant School following the amalgamation of the school with Castlecombe Primary School.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 That the Executive notes that the amalgamation of the Dorset Infant School and Castlecombe Primary School academies, operated by The Spring Partnership Trust, has been approved by the Department for Education. The new amalgamated school will be called Elmstead Wood Primary School and will be based at the Castlecombe Primary School site.
- 2.2 To authorise the Director of Education to apply and obtain formal consent from the Secretary of State for Education to dispose of the Dorset Road Infant School site.
- 2.3 To authorise the Council disposing of the Dorset Road Infant School once the 125-year academy lease has been terminated, and the land has reverted to the Council and subject to obtaining the requisite consent and approval of the Secretary of State for Education.
- 2.4 To authorise the reinvestment of the capital receipt obtained from a disposal of the property at Dorset Road, estimated at £500,000, to improve the facilities at Castlecombe Primary School site in accordance with Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010.

- 2.5 To authorise that the Council's contribution to support the amalgamation of the schools be capped at the value of the capital receipt achieved from the disposal of the Dorset Road Infants School site.**
- 2.6 To delegate authority for the Director of Education, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services, Director of Finance and Director of Housing, Planning, Property and Regeneration, and the Portfolio Holder for Children Education and Families, to agree and settle the commercial terms of the disposal and to enter into all relevant legal agreements and any other ancillary legal documentation relating thereto and to deal with publicising, if appropriate, any Open Space Notices and considering representations received**
- 2.7 That the Executive notes that Secretary of State for Education's consent to dispose of Dorset Road Infants School does not change the Local Plan designation of the site for education use and that any planning application relating to the site will have to demonstrate how relevant Development Plan polices, notably Local Plan Policy 27 Education and Policy 20 Community Facilities, have been addressed.**

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The proposals will benefit over 420 children and their families.
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Excellent Council :
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal:
 2. Ongoing costs: None
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Education Capital Programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding:
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N / A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N / A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 420 children and their parents.
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

Ward Members are supportive of the amalgamation of Dorset Road Infant School and Castlecombe Primary School and to the proposal that the proceeds from the disposal of the Dorset Road Infant School site fund the works at Castlecombe Primary School required to admit the cohort of the larger amalgamated school.

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1.1 The Council has worked with the Department for Education (DfE) and The Spring Partnership Trust to support the trust's request to amalgamate the Dorset Road Infants School and Castlecombe Primary School.
- 3.1.2 As a result of the amalgamation the Dorset Road Infants School site, currently leased to the Spring Partnership Trust on a 125-year academy lease, will be surplus to the requirements of the trust and revert to the Council. The future use of the site and the proceeds from any disposal is governed by legislation protecting school land and any change requires Secretary of State for Education consent. The approval of the amalgamation was conditional on proceeds from the sale of the Dorset Road Infant School being allocated to support capital works required implement the amalgamation.
- 3.1.3 In June 2020 the DfE's Regional Schools Commissioner for South East England and South London's Head Teacher Board (HTB) approved 'in principle' the amalgamation of the schools subject to conditions relating to the capital works required at Castlecombe Primary School. Following the trust providing information on the capital works, the RSC formally approved the amalgamation in February 2021. The new amalgamated 2 form of entry (FE) primary school will be named Elmstead Wood Primary School.
- 3.1.4 The DfE approval to the amalgamation was made on condition that the Trust could access funding to deliver the required works. This funding would be obtained through a combination of the capital receipt from the disposal of the Dorset Road Infant School site and through trust reserves, without any additional funds being provided by the DfE.
- 3.1.5 On 20 October 2021 the DfE confirmed in writing to the Spring Partnership Trust that the Secretary of State for Education does not intend to make a direction in relation to the land under Schedule 1, Part 3 of the Academies Act 2010 and provided consent to the Trust surrender the lease. Dorset Road Infant School site will return to the Council 30 days after the lease is surrendered by the Trust.
- 3.1.6 The Council needs to make an application under section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Schedule 1, Part 1 of the Academies Act 2010 to dispose of the freehold of Dorset Road Infants School site and to direct any proceeds from the disposal of the land to expansion works at Castlecombe Primary School.
- 3.1.5 The Council has communicated to the Spring Partnership Trust that its contribution would be capped at the value obtained through disposal of the Dorset Road Infants School site.

3.2 Background

- 3.2.1 Dorset Road Infant School and Castlecombe Primary School are both academies controlled by the Spring Partnership Trust. The trust is responsible for consulting and taking decisions on proposals to change the organisation of its schools. For significant decisions, such as amalgamations, trusts are required to seek the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner following determination and before changes can be implemented.
- 3.2.2 The Council retains the freehold for both the Dorset Road Infant School and Castlecombe Primary School sites, which are leased to The Spring Partnership Trust on standard 125-year academy leases.
- 3.2.3 There are linked admissions arrangements in place between Dorset Road Infant School and Castlecombe Primary school, introduced following consultation by the trust in Spring 2016, to ensure that every pupil leaving Year 2 at Dorset Road Infant School had a guaranteed Key Stage 2 place at Castlecombe Primary School.

- 3.2.4 The introduction of an admissions link between the schools was supported by the Council. As the Council is statutorily responsible for ensuring sufficient school places are available, it funded and delivered the required physical expansion of Castlecombe Primary School by 120 places in Key Stage 2.
- 3.2.5 Planning consent for the expansion of Castlecombe Primary School was granted on 17 November 2016 and the capital scheme was included in the Basic Need Capital Programme approved by the Executive on the 23 March 2016. The Executive approved the award of contract for the associated capital works on 8 February 2017.
- 3.2.6 Following receipt of a site survey undertaken on behalf of the trust by a structural surveyor that identified significant structural issues with the Dorset Road Infant School hall, the Spring Partnership took the decision in October 2019 to temporarily move the operation of the school to Castlecombe Primary School for health and safety reasons.
- 3.2.7 Following a consideration of options available, including available support from the DfE and the outstanding, health and safety, condition and suitability issues at the Dorset Road site, the trust decided to formally consult on the amalgamation of Dorset Road Infant School and Castlecombe Primary School.
- 3.2.8 The trust consultation on the proposed amalgamation of the schools took place early in 2020 and closed on 8 March 2020. The Director of Education wrote to the trust to support the proposal. The formal decision to amalgamate the two schools was approved by the RSC on 16 February 2021.
- 3.2.9 The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) placed conditions on the Trust to ensure that the school was able to accommodate the children from Dorset Road Infant School in a building that met the DfE BB103 standards for a 2 form of entry (FE) school. The plans for the school were reviewed and a cost-effective option of internal remodelling was identified that met the DfE requirements, was affordable and could be delivered from combination of the trust's contribution and the estimated proceeds from the sale of the Dorset Road Infant School site.
- 3.2.10 The works have been costed at circa £750k with the estimated LB Bromley contribution circa £500k being realised from the sale of Dorset Road and the remainder funded by the Trust. Two separate valuations were undertaken by LB Bromley and LocatED, the DfE's property company at c.£500k in 2018. The full capital receipt realised from the sale is to be reinvested in the Castlecombe remodelling per the agreement with DfE, less disbursements. No additional capital funding is being provided from the council's budgets.
- 3.2.11 Following final checks, the DfE has now confirmed that the Trust can implement the amalgamation. This will result in the Trust's funding agreement for Dorset Road Infant School being terminated and the Trust will enter into a new funding agreement with the DfE for the newly amalgamated school on the Castlecombe Primary School site. The Trust are naming the new amalgamated school as Elmstead Woods Primary School. This will end the 125-year academy lease on the Dorset Road Infant School which will revert to the Council on completion of a Deed of Surrender by both parties.
- 3.2.12 Once the Dorset Road site returns to the Property Division of the Council, on condition that the Secretary of State consents to the disposal of education land at the school, the site will need to be disposed.
- 3.2.13 The Council's Regeneration Team has considered the possibility of utilising the site for the self-delivery of affordable homes via the Council's Housing Revenue Account. However, given the capital receipt required from the disposal of the site, the timing of that receipt, and the requirement to use that receipt to part fund the school improvements, this route is not a viable option and has therefore been discounted.

- 3.2.14 To obtain Ministerial Consent for the proposed disposal the Council will need to complete a S77 Schools Standards and Frameworks Act 1998 application relating to the outdoor space and apply to DfE for a disposal consent of the site.

4 IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 The project will directly benefit up to 90 pupils who formerly attended the infant school as the facilities at the Castlecombe Primary school are superior to the Dorset Road site that had only limited outdoor space and was in disrepair. The new improved facilities will benefit the whole school community of 420 pupils and their parents.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Bromley Council has an established policy for the review and strategic planning of school places and related school organisation. The need to ensure sufficient school places, the quality of those places and their efficient organisation is a priority within the Council's strategy 'Building a Better Bromley' and contributes to the strategy to achieve the status of An Excellent Council. This policy also contributes to key targets within the Education Portfolio Plan.
- 5.2 The Council is an authority that aspires to managing its assets well.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.2 The cost of developing the Castlecombe Primary School site will be met by both the Spring Partnership Trust and the Council. The Council's contribution is capped at the value obtained from the capital receipt from the sale of Dorset Road Infant School site. Any legal and valuation costs associated with the property transaction will be funded from monies realised from this disposal.

7. PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 It is noted that this disposal is required as part of a wider transaction and the proceeds of the sales (less disposal costs) will be payable to the Spring Partnership Trust to help fund improvements to the Castlecombe Primary School.
- 7.2.1 The Education Department will need to complete a S77 Schools Standards and Frameworks Act 1998 application relating to the outdoor space and apply to DfE for agreement to disposal of the site by the Secretary of State. The Property Team advises that these processes are undertaken and timescales for completion crystallised before any marketing campaign commences.
- 7.3 The Council's Estates & Asset Management Team will need to be formally instructed by the Education Team to manage the disposal on their behalf.
- 7.4 The Property Team will advise the Education Department on the most appropriate marketing strategy to achieve the required objectives with reference to the Council's statutory obligations under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to Best Value and subsequently instruct agents to act on the Council's behalf via the Council's Professional Estates Services Framework.
- 7.5 It is noted that the outcome of any marketing process will be reported to the Director of Education and Director of Housing, Planning, Property and Regeneration as noted in of the

recommendations within section 2.2 of this report for their approval to proceed with the recommended preferred party and the terms of the transaction.

- 7.6 The associated professional fees and marketing costs will be deducted from the capital receipt. These fees are estimated to be in the region of 1.5% of the sales receipt.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Council has power under s.123 of the Local Government Act 1972 to dispose of land for the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained (usually based on open market value).

S.123 of the Local Government Act 1972 confers powers to the Secretary of State to give general consent for the purposes of land disposals by local authorities carried out under their powers in Part 7 of the 1972 Act.

The Local Government Act 1972: General Disposal Consent 2003 removes the requirement to seek specific consent from the Secretary for any disposal of land where the local authority considers that the purpose for which the land is to be disposed is likely to contribute to the achievement of any one or more of the well-being criteria in the Local Government Act 2000:

- i) the promotion of improvement of economic well-being.
- ii) the promotion of improvement of social well-being.
- iii) the promotion of improvement of environmental well-being; and the “under-value” (i.e. the difference between the unrestricted value of the interest to be disposed of and the consideration accepted) is £2,000,000 or less.

Applications for specific consent, if appropriate, should be sent to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (“DLUHC”) and include the following information:

- Written description of the land and buildings, the location
- Written description of how the land is currently held by the Council
- Details of any leases, encumbrances such as easements
- Summary of the proposed disposal/transaction
- Detailed valuation report signed by a qualified member of RICS. Ideally valuation should be done no earlier than 6 months before application for consent.

This only applies to land held as general fund land. It does not apply to land sold under 2.233 TCPA 1990.

8.2 Disposal of Land Considered as Open Space

If there is an Open Space, Section 123 (2A) states that on any disposal of land considered as open space (and land, enclosed or not, on which there are no buildings, and the whole of the remainder which is laid out as garden or is used for recreational purposes or lies waste and unoccupied) requires the local authority to give notice of its intention to dispose of the land for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the land is situated, and they must consider any objections to the proposed disposal which may be made to them.

8.3 Disposal of School Land:

8.3.1 The requirement for the Secretary of State's consent to disposal of school land and playing fields applies to all maintained schools and academies.

Applications need to be made to the Education Funding Agency ("EFA") of any intended transaction to dispose of any playing field land.

There are three general consents which do not require consent and these are set out below, however if the consents are applied local authorities will also need to apply to or notify the Education Funding Agency ("EFA") of any intended transaction to dispose of any playing field land.

The Secretary of State will consider all applications and make a decision that balances the benefit to the school (or other local schools) against the loss of the playing field land.

8.3.2 Power to Dispose of school land

Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010 (AA 2010).

This applies to academies (which include Studio Schools, University Technical Colleges, Free Schools and Special Schools) seeking consent to dispose of any publicly funded land, including playing field land. It also applies to (among others) academy trusts, local authorities, governing bodies, and foundation trusts that hold land for academies.

Schedule 14 also substituted a new Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010 which extends the requirement to ask for Secretary of State consent to dispose of community school land to include all land in which a freehold or leasehold interest is held by the local authority and which has been used for any school (including any academy) in the last 8 years.

8.3.3 Application for consent

When applying for consent under the new Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010, the following details must be provided:

- i) details of the location (School name and full postal address) and exact area (in square metres) of the land to be disposed of or appropriated (provide maps and aerial/satellite imagery with the land in question clearly marked);
- ii) details of the total site area of the school or former school (in square metres);
- iii) the date (or proposed date) of the disposal or appropriation.
- iv) the reasons for the disposal or appropriation of the land and why the local authority does not think that it is covered by 'general consent';
- v) the educational history of the land in question - when was it last used for the purpose of a school Will a school remain on adjacent land.
- vi) the planned future use of the site.
- vii) if any potential Academy, Free School, University Technical College or Studio School proposer has approached the local authority about using this land or other land in the area.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Procurement Implications Personnel Considerations
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	

Report No.
CEF21042

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 9 November 2021

Decision Type: Non-Urgent

Title: BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP
ANNUAL REPORT (2020/21)

Contact Officer: Joanna Gambhir, Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager
Tel: 020 8461 7041 E-mail: Joanna.Gambhir@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Assistant Director of Children's Social Care

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

The annual report of the Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP) covers the period from April 2020 to March 2021. It is a statutory requirement for safeguarding partnerships to publish this report under Working Together 2018. In line with statutory guidance and best practice, this report will be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the PDS Committee notes the content of this report and in particular the BSCP's focus on co-ordinating the safeguarding work of agencies and to ensuring that this work is effective

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: n/a
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People:
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre:
 4. Total current budget for this head: £
 5. Source of funding:
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: n/a
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): n/a
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

The annual report of the Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP) covers the period from April 2020 to March 2021. This report is a transparent assessment of the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare in Bromley.

This year has been the first full year of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) under new multi-agency partnership arrangements. This was put in place in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 and replaced Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB). Our safeguarding partnership arrangements have been improved to form the BSCP and its subgroups.

The work of the partnership this year has inevitably been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, Partnership Board and Executive meetings have concentrated on the direct and indirect safeguarding impact of the pandemic. In order to do so they have focused on the health and wellbeing of children and young people, their families and the partnership workforce, as well as emerging safeguarding themes, individual and collective practice and how to develop and support innovative responses.

The Chair's Foreword highlights the achievements and challenges of the year. The detail of the report sets out:

- the governance and accountability arrangements for the BSCP. This provides information about the structures in place that support the BSCP to do its work effectively, as well as the roles of our partners, including Designated Professionals and lay members.
- the context for safeguarding children and young people in Bromley. It highlights progress made by the partnership across a range of areas (e.g. Early Help, Private Fostering, child exploitation and the work of the Local Authority Designated Officer), as well as the challenges going forward.
- the lessons that the BSCP has identified through its Learning & Improvement Framework, including Learning Reviews and multi agency audits. This section also details the actions taken to improve child safeguarding and welfare as a result of this activity.
- the range and impact of the multi-agency safeguarding training delivered by the BSCP (this year all virtual training due to the pandemic)
- progress against the BSCP pledge four key area: health and wellbeing of the workforce; understanding vulnerability; a focus on getting the basics right; continuous improvement.

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

n/a

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

n/a

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

n/a

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

n/a

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

n/a

9. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

n/a

Non-Applicable Sections:	[List non-applicable sections here]
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]



Bromley
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership

Annual Report
2020 - 2021



Foreword by the Independent Chair

It would be wrong to begin an introduction covering the last annual reporting period without acknowledging the extraordinary times that we are in and the challenging period we have just come through. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns and dramatic changes to working practices have tested every part of our system and safeguarding partnership. I am proud to report that in these unprecedented circumstances Bromley's safeguarding partners demonstrated not only their professional commitment but an ability to adapt and flex to do whatever it took to keep our children and young people as safe as we could.

In anticipation of the first lockdown, we reviewed our meetings framework and adapted our partnership priorities to focus on how best to maintain services in a rapidly changing environment. We scaled back some meetings and introduced a more frequent Contingency Oversight Group (COG) meeting on a three weekly cycle. The COG ensured that partners could collectively address issues linked to the health and well-being of the workforce, identify emerging safeguarding trends, not least those linked to our line of sight with the young and vulnerable, and early critical interoperability issues, including interagency communication pathways and strategies as we pivoted to the use of online platforms. This frequent and routine approach facilitated early learning, enabled the production of a lessons learned paper and informed the construct of our 'preparedness survey'. This ensured that partners tested themselves against new or adapted requirements gleaned from COG.

Our understanding of the additional pressures being applied during the pandemic resulted in an increased focus on mental health services and their delivery and the need for enhanced cross partnership insight. To this end, we established a new Children's Scrutiny Board and a MASH Strategic Group; The latter resulting in a review of capacity and capability across the partnership. The day to day work continued unabated and included audits of Strategy Meetings and the construction of a new Strategy Protocol, the adaptation of our Thresholds to take account of the reluctance of some to come forward during periods of lockdown, the development of a protocol where bruising or injury occurs in non-mobile infants, and the revision and relaunch of our escalation process.





In response to the increased threat of online harms highlighted by national agencies, the Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership rolled out the Safer Schools App to schools, parents and carers. This builds on our commitment to utilise innovative technology to ensure the information people need to stay safe is always at hand.

Each year, I highlight that the body of the annual report reflects the work done, areas for improvement and our plans as we move forward. I have also mentioned the fact that the timing of the report does not always assist those in leadership roles to make decisions based on the nature of immediate, contemporary and emerging safeguarding threats. To this end we made a commitment to supplement the Annual Report with more concise contemporary safeguarding assessments. Despite the challenges, we have managed to do just that and during the last year have been able to provide members with snapshot overviews to help them consider the safeguarding issues that fall within their portfolios. We intend to continue with this commitment.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work of Janet Bailey. At the time of writing she is preparing to step down from the Director of Children's Services role at London Borough of Bromley. She has been a key partner and critical friend to many, including myself. She is a professional who always puts the needs of children and their families first and I am in no doubt is someone without whom Bromley would not be in the better place it is today. She will be missed throughout the partnership but she leaves a legacy of striving for excellence and always putting children first.

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Jim Gamble QPM
Independent Chair



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The BSCP Annual Report 2020-21 is a transparent assessment of the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare in Bromley

Pages 12 to 22 set out the governance and accountability arrangements for the BSCP. They provide information about the structures in place that support the BSCP to do its work effectively.

Pages 23 to 56 set the context for safeguarding children and young people in Bromley, highlighting the progress made by the partnership over the last year and the challenges going forward.

Pages 57 to 62 highlight the lessons that the BSCP has identified through its Learning & Improvement Framework and the actions taken to improve child safeguarding and welfare as a result of this activity.

Pages 65 to 67 describe the range and impact of the multi-agency safeguarding training and briefings delivered by the BSCP.

Pages 68 to 71 set out the priorities going forward and the key messages from the Independent Chair of the BSCP to key people involved in the safeguarding of children and young people.

In line with statutory requirements and best practice, the BSCP annual report 2020-21 has been sent to the following:

- Chief Executive LBB
- The Lead Member for Children's Services
- The Director of Children's Services
- The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Chair of the Safer Bromley Partnership
- The Independent Chair of the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board
- Bromley Youth Council
- The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
- What Works Centre for Children's Social Care

This Annual Report covers and reports on activity between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021



Glossary of Terms



ABH	Actual Bodily Harm	LA	Local Authority
AS/R&A	Referral & Assessment Service	LAC	Looked After Child
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic	LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
BCU	Basic Command Unit	LBB	London Borough of Bromley
BSCP	Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership	LSCP	Local Safeguarding Children Partnership
CAF	Common Assessment Framework	MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
CAIT	Child Abuse Investigation Team	MACE	Multi Agency Child Exploitation
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group	MEGA	Missing Exploitation and Gang Affiliation Panel
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel	MISPER	Missing Person
CHIN	Child in Need	NHS	National Health Service
CLA	Child Looked After (child in care)	NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
CME	Children Missing Education	OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services & Skills
CP	Child Protection	PF	Private Fostering
CPP	Child Protection Plan	PCI	Performance, Challenge & Impact Subgroup
CRIS	Crime Reporting Information System	PPU	Public Protection Unit
CSC	Children's Social Care	PRUH	Princess Royal University Hospital
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation	PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service	PSP	Pupil Support Plans
DfE	Department for Education	RHI	Return Home Interviews
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead	SCR	Serious Case Review
DVIP	Domestic Violence Intervention Project	SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
ECHS	Education, Care and Health Services	SELCCG	South East London Clinical Commissioning Group
ED	Emergency Department	SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability
EWS	Education Welfare Service	SPR	Safeguarding Practice Review
EHE	Elective Home Education	SRE	Sex and Relationship Education
EIFS	Early Intervention and Family Support	TAC	Team Around the Child
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
GP	General Practitioner	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference	YOS	Youth Offending Service
IHA	Initial Health Assessment		



Context



MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

This year has been the first full year of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) under new multi-agency partnership arrangements. This was put in place in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 and replaced Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB). Our safeguarding partnership arrangements have been improved to form the BSCP and its subgroups.

The new safeguarding arrangements support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children.
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively.
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats.
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

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The safeguarding partnership is held accountable by the Safeguarding Children's Partnership Executive (BSCPE) which is formed of the three statutory safeguarding partners: the Police; the Local Authority; and the Clinical Commissioning Group. In November 2020, the [multi-agency arrangements](#) were reviewed and it was agreed that an Education representative would be co-opted as a member of the Executive.

Executive leads and Partnership members have signed up to the [BSCP Pledge 2020/21](#). Partners have agreed four priorities: the health and wellbeing of the workforce; understanding vulnerability; a focus on getting the basics right; and continuous improvement.





COVID-19

IMPACT

During the first phase of the pandemic, the BSCP carried out a COVID-19 Preparedness Survey of key safeguarding partners to provide oversight and scrutiny of partners' safeguarding responses. The standards covered in the survey were Health and Wellbeing of Staff, Communication, Service Support and Contingency Plans. The BSCP team analysed and disseminated themes and learning across the partnership, in preparation for further waves of the pandemic. The BSCP team also wrote to all partners who had not provided sufficient evidence in support of their self-assessment against the standards, requesting further narrative and evidence.

The work of the partnership this year has inevitably been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, Partnership Board and Executive meetings have concentrated on the direct and indirect safeguarding impact of the pandemic. In order to do so they have focused on the health and wellbeing of children and young people, their families and the partnership workforce, as well as emerging safeguarding themes, individual and collective practice and how to develop and support innovative responses.

To this end Partnership meetings and subgroups have pivoted successfully to digital engagement. Since March 2020, meetings have included a Contingency Oversight Group (COG) to review the partnership risk assessment and multi-agency responses.

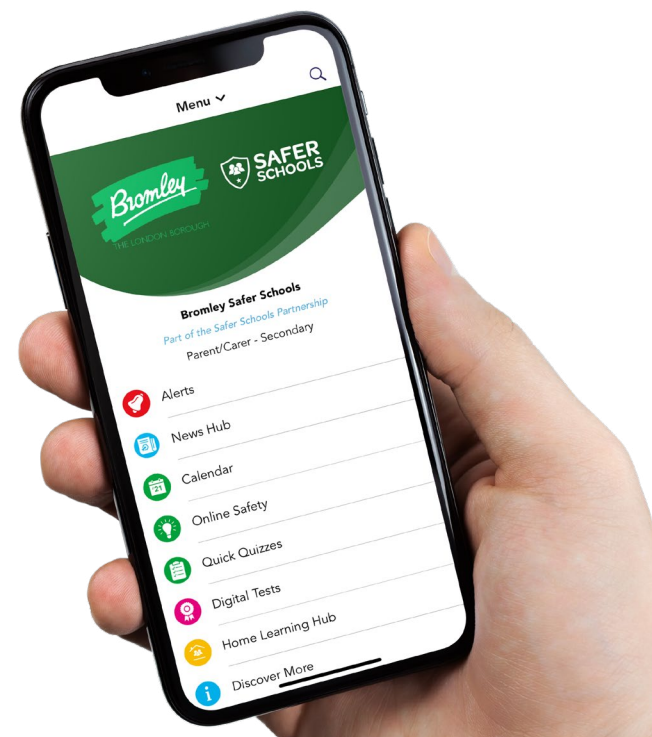
These meetings have been held every three weeks during lockdowns to ensure regular updates and collaboration.

From this work the partnership published a focused 'lessons learned paper' and drew up a COVID-19 Preparedness Survey, in anticipation of further waves. This was done to raise awareness of good practice and to audit partners' readiness. The BSCP has also produced its first six monthly Strategic Threat Assessment, which provides a high-level strategic overview of contemporary safeguarding trends, and any associated Strategic Intelligence Requirements.

The BSCP has addressed wider communication issues via a Bromley Safer Schools App for educators, parents, carers and young people. This keeps them up to date with LBB/BSCP advice re COVID-19, the use of digital technology and how to help keep young people safer online. The Partnership's current focus is on managing risk and forward planning as social restrictions are reduced.

IMPACT

The Partnership identified concerns about an increase in online harms during the pandemic lockdown period. The BSCP therefore rolled out the Safer Schools App at no cost to all Bromley schools and parents/carers in May 2020.





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KEY ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS

THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR AND THE BSCP TEAM

Jim Gamble QPM is the Independent Chair of the BSCP. The role of the BSCP Independent Chair is set out in our [Multi-Agency Arrangements to Safeguard Children](#). In short, the Independent Chair provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the extent to which appropriate and effective systems and processes are in place in all partner agencies so as to fulfil their statutory duties and ensure that children are protected and that appropriate safeguarding strategies are developed and embedded. Key to this is the facilitation of a working culture of transparency, challenge and improvement across all partners with regards to their safeguarding arrangements. The Chair is accountable to the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Bromley, Chief Officer of NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group and the Borough Commander of the Metropolitan Police Service. He has retained a 'right to roam', challenging the statutory safeguarding partners and all relevant partners and agencies listed in our multi-agency arrangements.

The BSCP is supported by one Partnership Manager (job share) and one full time Business Support Officer. They ensure the smooth running of the Partnership's day to day business.

Whilst being unable to direct organisations, the BSCP does have the power to influence and hold agencies to account for their role in safeguarding. This influence can touch on matters relating to both local and national arrangements that impact directly on the welfare of children and young people.

DESIGNATED PROFESSIONALS

The Designated Doctor and Nurse take a strategic and professional lead on all aspects of the health service contribution to safeguarding children. Designated professionals are a vital source of professional expertise. The Designated Dr and Nurse have continued to demonstrate their value by offering challenge and support to partners.

This includes the escalation of cases as recommendations for learning review, development of the Health Economy Dataset and leading on health contributions to the BSCP dataset.

During 2020/2021, the Designated Professionals responded to requirements as the COVID-19 pandemic unavoidably dominated the work of health providers, however, they continued to attend all partnership and health safeguarding meetings, ensuring Safeguarding remained a priority across the health economy. They also ensured that Health Economy Safeguarding Children Forum members were kept up to date with local partnership work, for example, the escalation policy and the protocol on assessment of bruising and injuries in non-mobile babies.

PARTNER AGENCIES

All partner agencies across Bromley are committed to ensuring the effective operation of the BSCP. This is supported by a Constitution that defines the fundamental principles through which the BSCP is governed. Members of the Partnership hold a strategic role within their organisations and are able to speak with authority, commit to matters of policy and hold their organisation to account.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER STRATEGIC BOARDS

The Independent Chair of the BSCP is a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board and has developed links between the two boards with regard to the strategic use of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and more recently the Strategic Threat Assessment. The BSCP Manager is also a member of CSC's Practice Improvement Board to ensure that the BSCP is part of the ongoing improvement journey.

The BSCP Chair chairs an Inter Board Chairs Group which brings together the Chairs of the BSCP, the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board, the Community Safety Partnership (Safer Bromley Partnership) and the Health and Wellbeing Board. This meeting is responsible for the coordination of leadership, collective awareness, and the coherence of respective plans when reporting back to individual Boards and will consider the strategic risks and key issues across safeguarding including children, young people, families, adults, those leaving care, and communities.



GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

BSCP EXECUTIVE

The children's safeguarding partnership is held accountable by the Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership Executive (BSCPE) which was put in place in June 2019 as part of new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The Executive meetings are chaired by the Independent Chair. The Executive is attended by the three statutory safeguarding partners as defined in Working Together 2018. Locally the three are:

- Metropolitan Police (South BCU) – represented by the Borough Commander.
- South East London Clinical Commissioning Group - represented by the Borough (Bromley) Managing Director.
- Bromley Council (Children's Services) – represented by the Director of Children's Social Care.

Between March 2020 and March 2021, the BSCPE met four times. The Executive's purpose is to:

- hold the Partnership to account for the performance in ensuring vulnerable children and young people are safe.
- allow discussion of priorities and commitment of resource amongst partners to promote safeguarding.
- identify any major concerns or areas for further investigation by the Partnership
- agree funding arrangements and budgets for the BSCP.

Extraordinary meetings take place as and when required.

BSCP BOARD

The Partnership Board met four times during 2020-21. It is held accountable by the BSCP Executive and has a membership made up of representatives from all statutory partners as well as a range of key health, probation, education and community representatives. A list of current Board Members is set out at the back of this report. The Board oversees the work of the subgroups which meet between the





quarterly board meetings and scrutinises agency reports from across the Partnership. The agenda offers opportunities for information sharing and discussion, but also encourages questioning and challenge. The BSCP captures all challenges raised by the Independent Chair and partners inside and outside of Board meetings in an Impact Log.

The BSCP now regularly reviews performance through reference to its risk register, self-assessment process and partner agency updates submitted to each Board meeting. During 2020-21, key risks identified as having the potential to impact on the BSCP's ability to carry out its statutory objectives included COVID-19 pandemic, as well as national restructuring of partners agencies including the CCG and Probation.

There were some fluctuations around attendance rates sometimes associated with changes of staff changes within agencies. Attendance rates remain subject to ongoing monitoring and agencies are robustly challenged if attendance decreases. This has been a key area of focus for the Chair. The attendance rates by agency for 2020-21 to the four main Board meetings are set out below.

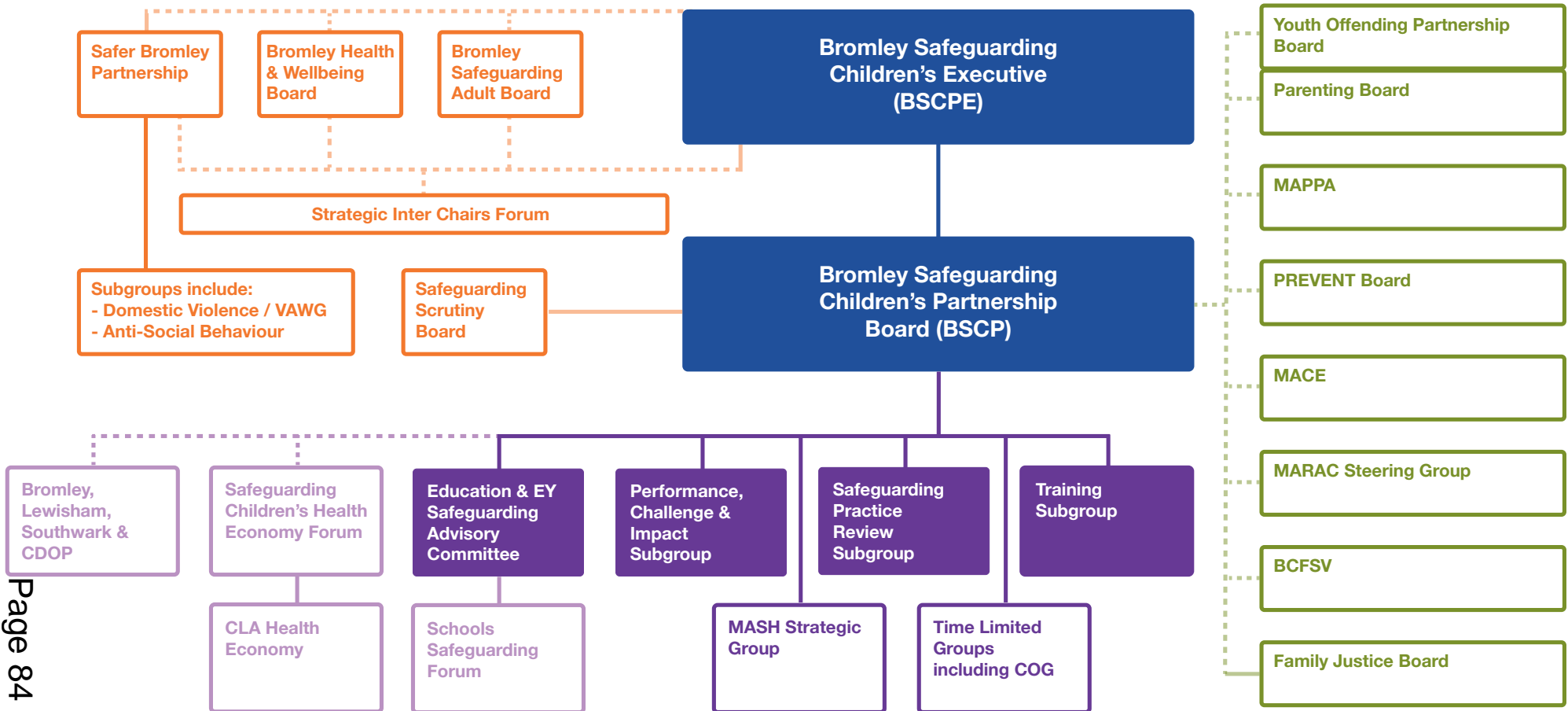
PARTNERSHIP BOARD ATTENDANCE – APRIL 2020 TO MARCH 2021

	Attendance	Number of seats per organisation
Independent Chair	100%	1
London Borough of Bromley, Children's Social Care	100%	3
London Borough of Bromley, Education	100%	1
London Borough of Bromley, Youth Offending Service	75%	1
London Borough of Bromley, Public Health	100%	1
London Borough of Bromley, Housing	75%	1
National Probation Service	75%	1
London Community Rehabilitation Company	100%	1
Lay Members	100%	1
Children & Family Court Advisory & Support Service	25%	1
Bromley Secondary School Representative	75%	1
Bromley Primary School Representative	50%	1
South East London Clinical Commissioning Group	100%	3
Kings College Hospital	100%	1
Metropolitan Police Service – Bromley Borough BCU	100%	1
Bromley Healthcare	100%	1
Oxleas NHS Trust	100%	1
Children & Family Voluntary Sector Forum	75%	1
Change, Grow, Live	50%	1





BSCP STRUCTURE – MARCH 2021



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BSCP SUBGROUPS

Below is an outline of each subgroup, its priorities, and its achievements over the last year.

CONTINGENCY OVERSIGHT GROUP

IMPACT

To respond effectively to a rapidly changing safeguarding landscape during the pandemic, the BSCP put in place a Contingency Oversight Group meeting every three weeks during lockdowns, with key safeguarding partners from Health, CSC, Education and Police. This facilitated the sharing of emerging risks and trends and identification of solutions. Example outcomes from the group include challenges by the Independent Chair of the BSCP:

- to ensure he was provided with information relating to COVID-19 outbreaks in specific schools in Bromley so that he had oversight of the impact on the health of children and young people.
- to seek assurance that possible delays in EHCPs during the pandemic were being addressed. This analysis resulted in some process issues being identified in the sharing of advice between Health and SEN services. Weekly reporting is now in place and shared among service leads to track timescales.
- to seek assurance that CSC and Health Visiting were working together effectively to facilitate effective line of sight of vulnerable children without causing unnecessary anxiety to families
- to establish London Ambulance's process of ensuring children are safeguarded when their parent/carer has COVID and requires emergency care.

In March 2020, as a result of the first COVID-19 lockdown, the BSCP pivoted to holding Contingency Oversight Group (COG) meetings every three weeks. These meetings brought together senior representatives of partner agencies to review the partnership risk assessment and multi-agency responses to the pandemic. The agenda considered the health and well-being of the workforce, including COVID fatigue and vaccine hesitancy and reluctance, insights into emerging safeguarding themes and matters related to interoperability. Issues considered included: lack of line of sight on vulnerable children and their families, responses to abusive relationships, anticipation of increased online harms, issues related to vulnerable children no longer in school and the increase in need for and access to mental health services.

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY BOARD

IMPACT

The BSCP has put in place a Children's Scrutiny Board which brings together senior professionals from the statutory partners to facilitate the joining up of scrutiny functions across the children's safeguarding partnership. This improves accountability.

This year, the BSCP has strengthened the independent scrutiny of quality and impact of children's safeguarding by establishing a Bi-annual Scrutiny Panel, chaired by the BSCP Independent Chair. This started in December 2020. The panel includes the independent chair of the Practice Improvement Board, the elected Member who chairs the Local Authority's Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee, and quality assurance leads from the LA, the police and the CCG. The purpose of the Board is to map scrutiny functions across the safeguarding partnership to ensure scrutiny activity is not duplicated. The Board is bringing together scrutiny activity to strengthen the improvement journey across Bromley. This will inform the quarterly Strategic Threat Assessment.



PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE AND IMPACT SUBGROUP

The Performance Challenge and Impact (PCI) Subgroup is central to the effective functioning of the BSCP. The subgroup met 4 times during 2020-21. The subgroup is chaired by the BSCP Partnership Manager. The PCI subgroup takes responsibility for monitoring standards in safeguarding arrangements and other operational aspects of local safeguarding. It checks how well single agency safeguarding arrangements are working and is able to provide robust challenge to improve practice and outcomes for children and young people.

This year the work of the PCI subgroup included:

- An audit of Strategy Discussions/ Meetings looking at quoracy, the appropriateness and seniority of the attendees, timeliness, quality of the discussion and thinking, application of thresholds, decision-making and meeting outcomes. This resulted in a new Bromley Strategy Protocol being developed by a multi-agency group.
- Scrutiny of single agency audits, including safeguarding supervision, mitigation by General Practice when children or adults with safeguarding concerns Were Not Brought/DNA appointments, GP interaction with Children Looked After teams, health input into MASH cases, recording of the children of adult patients admitted to local in-patient mental health unit, YOS file audits and CSC Practice Assurance Stocktake audits.
- Scrutiny of the multi-agency dataset every quarter with subsequent challenges. There was additional focus on MASH data, probation, CAF data and mental health and wellbeing data at front door and tiers 1/2.
- Challenge, escalation and resolution of operational issues such as CRC safeguarding assessments, communications between partners at initial stage of concern, procedures for bruising and fractures in non-mobile children.
- Revision of the BSCP Escalation Procedure.
- Scrutiny of regional datasets, including the London Safeguarding Children Board dataset.
- Learning lessons from neighbouring borough where two child deaths had occurred due to parents' sudden escalation in mental ill-health during the pandemic.

IMPACT

The safeguarding partnership has historically had a lack of strategic analysis. We are almost overwhelmed with data, much of it coming too late to be of use, commenting on what has been as opposed to what might be. The BSCP has been successful in securing DfE funding to pilot the role of a dedicated safeguarding children analyst.

The analyst will provide a richer interpretation of intelligence to safeguarding partners by way of producing threat assessments that strengthen decision making, improve the scrutiny of front-line safeguarding practice and enhance tactical decision making, which will in turn impact on front line practice. Recruitment will take place in April 2021.





TRAINING SUBGROUP

The BSCP Training Subgroup is chaired by the Head of Workforce Development at LBB and it met twice this year. The Training Subgroup consists of a multi-agency mix of managers who commission the BSCP multi-agency training programme and monitor the quality of said programme, which usually consists of formal classroom-based training, online learning and less formal briefings, seminars and workshops throughout the year. This year all learning was delivered online using a mixture of live webinars and recorded interactive training modules.

A detailed summary of training is provided in the Training and Development section. In brief, the main tasks of the Subgroup this year were:

- Moving the entire classroom-based programme to a virtual offer and recommissioning where existing trainers were unable to provide their courses online. Content, delivery, and costs were all revised.
- Commissioning new external trainers following the tragic death of one of BSCP's main trainers in July 2020.
- Bolstering the existing online learning offer with additional modules as emerging safeguarding risks were identified during the pandemic.
- Rolling out a new Learning Management System, called EVOLVE, from January 2021. Evolve is the self-service portal for all BSCP bookings and attendees can submit their evaluations and access CPD certificates directly.
- Identifying training needs of the children's workforce, in particular new needs as a result of the pandemic and lockdowns. These included needing more training on the impact of domestic abuse on children; coercive control in relationships; non-accidental injuries; online harm; and adolescent mental health.

cross-partner investigation. The purpose of the subgroup is to: consider instances of significant harm to, or the death of a child that may meet the criteria for a statutory review; to agree how learning can best be captured, distilled and shared; to act as the core group when a SPR is initiated and to maintain critical oversight of action plans resulting from SPRs and learning reviews.

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) now reports directly to the SPR Subgroup. CDOP and Rapid Response/JAR updates are a standing item of the SPR Subgroup.

During 2020/21, the SPR Subgroup:

- Completed a Learning Review regarding a suspected fictitious illness.
- Completed a Learning Review with learning about cross borough working for children with disabilities.
- Contributed to a joint local Domestic Homicide Review / Learning Review where the children suffered significant harm.
- Contributed to a DHR about a teenage girl resident in a neighbouring borough but who had previously lived in Bromley.

Multi agency action plans have been agreed for all completed Serious Case Reviews and Learning Reviews and these are monitored by the PCI subgroup.

Learning from these reviews is detailed in the 'Reviews of Practice' section.

SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW SUBGROUP (PREVIOUSLY SERIOUS CASE REVIEW SUBGROUP)

The Safeguarding Practice Review (SPR) Subgroup is chaired by the Independent Chair of the BSCP and meets quarterly. In addition, extraordinary meetings are held when the unexpected death/significant harm of a child requires further enquiry and



MASH STRATEGIC GROUP

IMPACT

There has been an increase in demand placed on the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) pre COVID and then exacerbated by the pandemic, with fewer contacts converting to assessment. The BSCP therefore put in place a MASH Strategic Group and undertook a review of capacity and capability across the partnership.

In November 2020, the BSCP set up a MASH Strategic Group, attended by strategic leads across the partnership. It provides a forum to ensure partnership oversight, accountability, engagement and support. Its aims to:

- Ensure the formal Partnership agreement is delivered and regularly reviewed.
- Agree and advise sufficient operational resources to ensure that MASH activity is responsive to the changing needs of vulnerable children and families.
- Agree and monitor key performance indicators and develop analysis of the impact of the MASH Partnership.
- Respond to local and national policy and legislative change to ensure partnership practice is aligned.

An initial task was to undertake a review of capacity and capability of the MASH. This was informed by interviews and a survey of a range of MASH staff, as well as comparisons with national and local data. The Review has found that the MASH is safe but it is under significant pressure - both the system and on particular individuals. The volume through the MASH has increased significantly since its inception but staffing levels have not increased to match this. The findings include recommendations relating to filtering and pathways, training, resourcing, systems and analysis. The full report will be shared with the partnership in the next reporting year.

EDUCATION SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Education Safeguarding Advisory Committee (ESAC) is a subgroup that reports to the BSCP and is led by schools' Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and Early Years Professionals. The subgroup is chaired by a Secondary School DSL.

The purpose of ESAC is to:

- Champion safeguarding across all education settings in Bromley, by promoting understanding of the need to safeguard the welfare of children.
- Provide a communication channel between education settings and BSCP to share information and as a source of peer support in meeting safeguarding responsibilities, making it clear this is two-way communication.
- Respond to and act on learning from safeguarding practice reviews and BSCP audits.

ESAC priorities are:

- Shared resources, guidance and advice.
- Model safeguarding policies, that are endorsed by ESAC / BSCP.
- Support implementation of revised Keeping Children Safe in Education government guidance.
- Learning from safeguarding practice reviews.





ESAC has been developing an online Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audit Tool with the BSCP team which will be launched in Summer 2021. These audits enable education establishments to determine whether there are any gaps in their practice and identify where they may need further support. Additionally, it enables the education establishments to evidence a good standard of safeguarding.

Throughout the pandemic, ESAC has continued to meet virtually and to continue work on the identified priorities. Mental Health of children in schools has been a significant concern to education professionals. ESAC has therefore developed a mental health subgroup, to promote Mental Health and Wellbeing and to look at the best ways we can support children in schools. The Local Authority has produced a Mental Health and Wellbeing Tool Kit and schools have been provided with a single point of contact from Bromley Wellbeing. Due to the pandemic there have been no Schools Safeguarding Forums (SSF) but it is hoped that meetings will restart in the new academic year.

Over the last year and throughout the pandemic, the Education Safeguarding Officer (ESO) has provided support to DSLs. The ESO has provided consultations to DSLs, headteachers and education staff. This involves providing advice and support around safeguarding policies and procedures and advice on safeguarding thresholds in relation to LADO allegations where a staff member is believed to have harmed a child.

The ESO has carried out briefings to education professionals including: guidance on referrals to children's services in accordance with Bromley's Threshold of Need document; 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'; LADO processes; and different themes relevant to the borough, such as mental health, gangs, child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, traits of children going missing, and children missing education.

HEALTH ECONOMY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN FORUM

The Health Economy Safeguarding Children Forum is chaired by the Bromley Designated Nurse and Designated Doctor for Children.

The Health Forum provides a professional network for Named Safeguarding Professionals (Nurses and Doctors) across the NHS and Private Sector. The Forum

helps support these professionals to link the work of South East London CCG, Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership, NHS England and the National Network of Designated Professionals and informs work plans, training, supervision and Provider Boards. The Safeguarding Health Forum is tasked with reviewing practice through policy, audit, feedback and sharing of learning.

During 2020/21, the Health Forum concentrated on COVID-19 and its interface with safeguarding. Topics for discussion included health and wellbeing, contingency and recovery planning, emerging themes and trends, whilst responding to the ever-changing situation. The Health Forum invited Children Social Care (CSC) legal team and Head of Service and Quality Improvement Lead to deliver a presentation, on legal processes in line with the Children Act 1989. Presentations were delivered by KOOTH (an online mental health and wellbeing service for children and young people) and Bromley Changes (Drug and Alcohol services for Young People in the Borough).

The CLA Health Forum has continued to meet quarterly over the past year with excellent engagement from Health and other partners. The Designated Nurse also chairs the Health and Wellbeing subgroup within the Corporate Parenting Board.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A range of partner agencies from the local authority, health, police and probation services continued to contribute to the BSCP's budget for 2020-21, in addition to providing a variety of resources, such as their staff time and support for the BSCP Team (HR, IT and legal). Agency financial contributions totalled £193,775.

Income from training was greatly reduced this year. In part due to the changed nature of our delivery (we charged less for shorter webinars compared with our usual full day classroom-based courses) but also due to administrative delays with charging in late 2020 and 2021. This will be reflected in the income for training for next year. Many of our annual costs were averted or delayed this year due to the COVID pandemic. BSCP did not run an annual conference and fewer training courses ran. The training offer for 2021-22 will be increased and higher costs will once again be incurred.



INCOME

	£
London Borough of Bromley	93,180
Bromley CCG	23,601
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	23,193
Bromley Healthcare CIC	23,193
Kings College Hospital NHS Trust	23,193
Metropolitan Police Service/MOPAC	5,000
Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital School	615
CAFCASS	0
National Probation Service	800
Community Rehabilitation Company	1,000
London Fire Brigade	0
Training income	3520
TOTAL INCOME	197,295

EXPENDITURE

	£
BSCP SALARIES, including Independent Chair, lay members expenses, MASH review* and BSCP 2.2fte staff	£168,741
TRAINING COSTS, including e-learning and external trainers**	£14,307
OTHER costs, including software licences, website costs, general office expenses, publication design	£2,103
Child Safeguarding Practice Review carry forward to 21-22	£12,000
TOTAL SPEND	£197,151

*The MASH review costs will continue into the next financial year.

**The costs for some late training invoices will be paid in 2021-22.



PARTNER SAFEGUARDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES 2020-21

The reporting year ended in March 2021 approximately a full year after the pandemic erupted. The impact upon children and their families has been and remains significant. As a partnership we adapted and remained flexible as to how we managed ourselves, our workforce, services, and partnerships to ensure we safeguarded children and supported the children and families needing our support and intervention. Partners met frequently and contingency planning was a key focus throughout the year.

CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE

Children's Social Care (CSC) has continued to demonstrate its considerable strengths throughout 2020-21 despite the pandemic. There has been a continued focus upon the quality of social work. There was a change of Principal Social Worker in August 2020 which has led to further embedding and training of the workforce in the Bromley Relationship Model (BRM). Many of the compliments received evidence the BRM modelling displayed by social workers in their engagement with children and their families.

The Bromley Relationship Model emphasises the importance of practitioners' relationships with children and parents/carers as the vehicle through which CSC's intervention is delivered. The BRM vision is: 'By working together with agency partners, we will ensure that every child in Bromley has the right help at the right time to keep them safe, and to meet their needs, so that they achieve, thrive and reach their full potential'. This approach leads to better and timely outcomes for children when quality relationships are formed with families.

During the pandemic, CSC reflected on what was realistically achievable, whilst never losing sight of its strategic vision to provide excellent services at all times to Bromley residents. It was necessary to pause some forums including the Getting to Excellence Seminars. This allowed staff who were adapting and adjusting to working virtually from home to focus on the core business of safeguarding day to day. CSC made a considered decision to continue with its Practice Review Cycle where each service is





'audited'. These are followed by Practice Assurance Stocktakes which have continued to enhance the line of sight by senior managers; all services are programmed to have the scrutiny this process brings throughout the year. The Practice Improvement Board (PIB) has continued to meet quarterly where senior managers are regularly challenged on the progress of different service areas and recommendations that have been made. The Independent Chair of the PIB considers data ahead of the board and sets a data challenge for senior leaders as a discussion point.

The most common reasons that children are identified as needing a social care service continues to be concerned around the impact on children of domestic abuse, parental mental ill health, neglect and substance misuse. During the pandemic CSC has seen an increase in domestic abuse within families and an increase in young people as well as adults suffering from mental ill health. During the pandemic CSC lowered its thresholds in order to ensure children received the right support at the right time.

CSC continues to invest in the safeguarding skill set of its social workers and their managers, providing a comprehensive and high-quality training and development offer that is considered within the Social Work Academy. The academy has approved a new programme for Group Managers commencing in September 2021. The offer of training and personal development for Senior Leaders is also embedded as part of the overarching programme.

The evidence from the ongoing cycle of practice reviews and assurance stocktakes gives confidence that threshold decisions by managers are safe for children from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 'front door' onwards. CSC has also continued to regularly review the effectiveness of MASH through its bi-annual MASH health checks with the most recent undertaken during the lockdown period. MASH health checks provide external scrutiny and challenge to support CSC's continuous improvement journey. MASH enquiries have increased over the last year and has had an impact on the capacity of partners. These challenges were presented to the BSCP for consideration. Partners have reaffirmed a commitment to their capacity and contribution to MASH, following the BSCP's Review of Capacity and Capability. The support and scrutiny from the BSCP ensures that the MASH remains effective and continues to change in line with needs.





IMPACT

Following a number of escalations between partners regarding interoperability of partners in the MASH, the BSCP undertook a review of capacity and capability of the MASH. Recommendations were shared across the partnership and included areas for development such as resourcing and training.

CSC is aware of the limitations of its recording system and therefore in July 2021 will be transferring to a new recording system, improving the experience of social workers in evidencing the quality of their work.

The Quality Assurance Framework findings support that threshold is being well applied in decisions to undertake Section 47 enquiries and to convene Initial Child Protection Conferences. There is confidence that the right children continue to be identified from assessment to receive this level of intervention. CSC has seen a rise in children subject to Child Protection Plan. There were 283 children subject to a child protection plan at 31st March 2021, representing 38 per 10,000 Under 18 population, an increase from last year. 370 children were the subject of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) in 2020-21. This is a 7% decrease from 2019-20.

CSC introduced a Child Protection Scrutiny Panel in the last year that is chaired by the Head of Service for Quality Improvement. The panel considers children that are on child protection plans in terms of case direction and assists in challenging progress as to whether matters should be stepped up or down in order to ensure a positive and definitive outcome for children in a reasonable timescale.

CSC also introduced Final Care Planning meetings which are chaired by respective heads of service responsible for overseeing the proposed outcome for the child. This is a final scrutiny meeting prior to evidence being submitted to the court to ensure Local Authority professionals are agreed upon the care plan for the child.

The legal gateway panel applies robust decision making to ensure that children whose safety requires escalating further than a Child Protection Plan is addressed in a timely way for children. The panel process has been commended by the local judiciary for

the benefits it achieves in supporting timely outcomes of care applications to the Court. CSC continues to achieve timescales of care proceedings that compare well in the London and national context. That said the judiciary has not been unaffected by the pandemic and are experiencing a back log of hearings that are causing delays for some children.

The Staying Together team has expanded by one more worker and continues to work intensively with families to prevent young people becoming looked after by improving family relationships and young people's safety.

CSC's Thrive service sits within the Permanency service and was created as an in house offer of therapeutic support to Bromley Foster carers, adopters, connected carers and Special Guardians caring for children. The feedback is fantastic and is assisting these carers in caring for children and keeping placements stable. The number of children in Bromley placed with their family through Special Guardianship during 2020/21 was 33 (28%), above the previous year and 2020 national average of 13%. These are good outcomes for children.

A challenge for CSC is managing caseloads through all of its services at levels that give the best opportunity for social workers and their managers to demonstrate excellence consistently in their work with children and families. Referrals have increased by 24% during the pandemic.

The increase in the complexity of issues children and their families are presenting gives challenges to train and develop social workers to be better skilled in their assessments and knowledge base in supporting families. Ensuring social workers feel empowered in being clear in their professional authority and having a good knowledge of the legislative framework and statutory guidance that informs decisions. CSC always continues to strive to enhance and build its collaborative working with its partners and is challenged to improve its strategy meeting practices. CSC has increased staff levels to meet the volume of demand. The police and health partners are struggling with capacity in order to attend strategy meetings. Joint decision making is crucial in the partnership when making safeguarding decisions.



EDUCATION

At the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Education department prioritised providing assurance of effective support and safeguarding for vulnerable children not being seen by professionals and a specific focus on mental health and wellbeing of children, young people, families and staff.

From the first lockdown, the Education department worked with partner agencies to identify 1,900 potentially vulnerable children below statutory children's social care thresholds, whose families may require additional support. A multi-agency team was seconded to ensure timely contact with identified families, to offer support and signpost to services and support. A small number of safeguarding concerns were referred to MASH, with the majority of identified needs met through non-statutory support and advice, including financial assistance. Cases were closed to the multi-agency team following confirmation that support was not required or following signposting to other agencies.

School attendance of vulnerable children remained a key focus throughout the year. A reporting system was implemented to monitor and alert Children's Social Care when children with a social worker did not attend school during lockdown periods. Following the wider reopening, support continues to be provided to all schools in increasing

attendance, managing COVID-19 outbreaks and continuing to support vulnerable children.

Following Ofsted's Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges, there is a requirement for safeguarding partners to review how LBB works with Bromley schools and colleges (including academies and independent schools) and to set out its offer of support to schools and colleges. This will be an area of focus moving forward.

POLICE

Operation Aegis continued to run since its conception in October 2019 to improve the outcome of safeguarding investigations. Information sharing has improved between departments as a result of the daily whiteboard used at the daily morning safeguarding meetings. Increased attendance is planned to include school officers at daily risk meetings and social care colleagues will be invited to offer input and to improve the urgency around information sharing and risk management.

The Every Child Every Time programme continued in custody suites at Bromley and Croydon. This has been running since June 2020, to improve awareness to officers who are dealing with children in custody as a reminder that officers need to understand their vulnerabilities as children and to encourage "the voice of the child".





Prompt cards are provided and this is further supported by posters in and around police stations and in custody, with further support from staff working within the custody suite. Performance of this programme is monitored at the daily safeguarding meetings and weekly SLT meetings.

The “one front door” team was set up in February 2021 in response to the increased demand for multi-agency meetings regarding contextual safeguarding issues that affect children who may be drawn into criminality, risk of exploitation, gangs, missing episodes and living with domestic violence within their home setting. The CAIT team, who have expertise in child safeguarding referrals, triage the requests from social care and then allocate to the best placed police team to take part in the strategy discussions. This model is still being perfected and enhanced so it can best serve safeguarding partners. Additional strategy discussion and child safeguarding training has been delivered to Police teams and supervisors across Bromley. This process will be reviewed every six months, with engagement with partners to discuss any improvements required.

The Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation team continues to hold regular operations with the British Transport Police and Safer Neighbourhood team, other agencies and surrounding forces particularly around transport hubs. Recent successes include high police presence at Penge and other stations which identified and safeguarded children who may be subject to exploitation and the seizure of drugs and weapons. These multi-agency operations will continue monthly in the coming year.

Performance data shows that Bromley Police attendance and reviews over the last six months for child protection conferences is one of the highest rates across London.

OXLEAS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST (PROVIDER OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE AND 0-4 HEALTH VISITING SERVICE IN BROMLEY)

Reflective of Oxleas’ safeguarding strategy and in line with the latest Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework (NHS England and NHS Improvement,

2019), the Safeguarding Adults and Children teams were integrated to embed the Think Family approach to safeguarding in Oxleas, effective from 1 April 2020.

The team members have benefited from new learning opportunities and increased peer support creating a culture-shift through actively applying the Think Family approach, rather than dealing with children or adults in isolation. The team introduced a single point of access for telephone and email advice, offering staff timely response to enquiries.

The start of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns gave rise to new safeguarding challenges across all ages. Local trends mirrored the national picture of increasing Domestic Abuse and risk of harm to young babies, deteriorating mental health of adults and young people, rise in online and exploitation risk, concern for children who were ‘unseen’ by professionals and those with disabilities.

The Safeguarding team took a proactive approach of collating any emerging themes to assist staff with identification and response to abuse and neglect through development of new support tools and ways of working. Safeguarding supervision was swiftly adapted to using virtual means resulting in more focused work by introducing flexibility around sessions while allowing much valued preparation time. The importance of promoting the ‘Think Family safeguarding’ message, considering wellbeing and safety of all family members when visiting homes during a time of restricted services, came to the fore. Oxleas further focused on ensuring good communication with partners to promote understanding of the rapidly changing service offers in response to evolving COVID-19 national mandate and guidance.

KINGS COLLEGE HOSPITAL NHS TRUST (ACUTE SETTING: PRINCESS ROYAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND SOUTH SITES)

King’s College Hospital (KCH) has robust processes and procedures in place to safeguard children and young people accessing services and works closely with statutory partners. This year they have strengthened the working relationships between Adult and Paediatric teams by combining the teams into one safeguarding



hub. This lends itself to a team approach of “Think Child, Think Family”. It has reinforced the importance of the working relationships between adult and children safeguarding, which underpins the culture that safeguarding children and adults is everyone’s responsibility across teams and services in the Trust with clear governance structure in place for safeguarding.

Safeguarding staff at KCH have adapted like everyone across the NHS to provide continued support and services during an unprecedented time within the NHS during the COVID pandemic. Staff adopted a hybrid model of remote and onsite working as well as adapting to a virtual platform for ongoing education and learning with regards to safeguarding.

There have been significant challenges within the team with regards to turnover, recruitment and sickness, however the team is now at full establishment. A practice development post has been added to the joint adult and children’s services and are currently recruiting to a children and young people’s Learning Disability post. These additions will strengthen KCH’s work with statutory partners and enhance the support and care it gives to patients and their families.

BROMLEY HEALTHCARE (COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES)

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, clinical and service prioritisation and assessment to manage demand and risk took place and due to the increased demand for some services, there was a requirement to work in new ways. A wide range of staff groups were mobilised to ensure capacity could meet increased demand.

Bromley Healthcare established a service continuation strategy across the organisation to ensure that services experienced as little disruption as possible.

Bromley Healthcare were critically aware of the potential adversity that may be experienced or exacerbated by children, young people and their families due to the restrictions in place and as such continued to ensure that services were delivered in a safe and effective way without compromise to the quality of care delivered. Bromley

Healthcare have continued face to face visits for vulnerable children and young people and their families either within homes or the clinic setting in a COVID-secure way.

Bromley Healthcare also recognise that across the health economy, organisations and practitioners have faced unprecedented challenge to support and safeguard vulnerable children and families even as restrictions are eased. Key themes and concerns have involved the increase in domestic abuse, poor mental health, hidden harm, injuries in non-mobile babies and non-accidental injury.

LBB commissioned Bromley Healthcare to deliver the Bromley 0-19 Public Health Service which launched on the 1st October 2020. The service is a consolidation of Health Visiting, Family Nurse Partnership, School Nursing and Primary School Screening Programmes. The service is based on the Department of Health’s Healthy Child Programme 0-19 years and includes universal access and early identification and support of additional and/or complex needs. Vulnerable families are prioritised and where risk is identified, local and national safeguarding guidance is followed.

In November 2020, the CQC carried out a focussed inspection of the 0-4 element of Bromley and Bexley 0-19 services. This inspection covered some aspects of the safe, effective, responsive and well-led key questions. The circumstances around which the inspection was undertaken were challenging as it was at the start of the second wave and the Bromley 0-19 service had only transferred over 5 weeks previously. In the report, Bromley Healthcare was notified of a breach of regulation, following the submission of a late notification to the CQC. This was an administrative error and resulted in the well-led element being limited to ‘requires improvement’. However, positive feedback was received with areas of good practice that the team showcased as part of their inspection.

The importance of health and wellbeing of staff has also been a key priority for Bromley Healthcare in the last year and the well-being hub established Schwartz Rounds, Mental Health First Aiders, Freedom to Speak Up Guardians as well all the other wellbeing initiatives in place.



CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

The Designated Professionals are represented on a number of Bromley based multi-agency forums, providing assurance and health oversight to safeguarding children, young people and children looked after. A centralised decision was made early in the pandemic that Safeguarding would continue to be a business critical area of South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (SEL CCG). The Bromley Borough Based Safeguarding team continued to be fully staffed and functional, albeit the overriding priority has been to support the NHS response to the greatest challenge the NHS has ever faced.

In response to the pandemic, the Designated Nurse initiated and organised regular meetings with senior members of the CCG, CSC and partners. The purpose of these meetings was to communicate swiftly and respond whilst reviewing emerging safeguarding themes, patterns, trends, risks, review continuity, recovery plans and plan a multi-agency response.

At the start of the pandemic the Designated Nurse coordinated the Health Providers Safeguarding continuity plans which were shared with the Safeguarding Partnership in order to communicate rapidly in an ever-changing landscape.

The Designated Professionals within SEL CCG continued to meet to continue to share learning, benchmark, ensuring best practice was applied across the system and communicate that safeguarding remained a priority.

Challenges over the year include: the transition of the six CCGs merging into one to form the South East London CCG; aligning processes whilst responding to a pandemic; the challenge of CCGs moving into an Integrated Care System; and the ongoing demands of the pandemic, continuation of providing services, recovery, restoration planning and continuing with the vaccination programme.

Training within Primary Care: This year all training has been virtual due to the pandemic and social distancing requirements. Practices are offered a training visit by the Named GP every 3 years to provide level 1 and 2 training. Ten virtual 'Practice visits' have been made this year.

Level 3 training has been provided to Bromley GPs via one Academic Half Day (split into 5 sections) and three Practice Leads training afternoons. Training included Safeguarding and Mental Health, Domestic Abuse, Female Genital Mutilation, basic Safeguarding referral practice and the impact of the pandemic on Safeguarding. There was also one training afternoon particularly focusing on the work of the Drug and Alcohol services and emerging trends and needs.

The CCG has instigated regular meetings with the CAMHS Associate Director, as well as the Associate Director of Integrated Commissioning to improve understanding of the CAMHS offer for all Children Looked After in Bromley and to ensure that CLA and Care Leavers are considered within the increased mental health funding commitments as indicated within the NHS Long Term Plan.

Quality assuring health assessments on out of Borough CLA children has continued throughout the past year and the CCG has also ensured that its CLA nursing team has continued in post during the pandemic without any redeployment.

YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE (YOS)

In response to the pandemic the YOS has continued to offer a service using digital media and the YOS office remained open throughout to ensure that the service was available for the most vulnerable children, many of whom attend the office without appointments. The changes to how YOS contacted and worked with children has been significant. Regular contact has been maintained with vulnerable and high-risk children as well as others in contact with the justice system using digital engagement. There have been issues regarding isolation as a direct result of restrictions in place caused by the lockdown, but staff have tried to increase contact with young people via telephone and other media.

The numbers of children and young people entering the youth justice system has decreased as a result of the pandemic. This is partially due to the prioritisation of adult criminal justice work that has seen many children's cases being delayed that would normally have progressed through the system.



Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is recognised as a major factor in crime that targets vulnerable children and leaves them at high risk of harm through their involvement. The oversight of practice is managed within the service via the YOS Risk and Safeguarding Panel (RASP) and a wider tracking of high-risk children involved in missing and exploitation (sexual and criminal) are tracked via the Missing, Exploitation and Gang Affiliation (MEGA) panel. There are currently 13 YOS children on MEGA representing around 20% of YOS caseload and 25% managed under RASP. YOS works closely with partners in terms of information sharing, support and identifying leaders and perpetrators in such incidents.

The level of youth violence in London continues to rise with concerns heightened by a small number of tragic incidents in which young people have been killed and by the wider impact on some cohorts of young people and neighbourhoods of gangs, knife crime and anti-social behaviour. Serious youth violence is also a significant safeguarding issue and a strategic priority in London.

Bromley's Mentoring service has been funded by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to deliver support to the siblings of those involved or affiliated to serious offending or gangs. In July direct contact was made with Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in schools to introduce and offer a mentor to a student in their school. To date, YOS have made 40 offers to schools, 6 young people are matched with a mentor and 1 young person declined.

Page 98 **PROBATION**

During the period of 2020/21, the Probation Service remained structured as two separate organisations with similar aims and objectives, namely the London Community Rehabilitation Service (LCRC) and the National Probation Service (NPS). Each provider was allocated cases based on an assessment of risk of reoffending and harm presented by the service user. Due to the challenges presented during subsequent lockdowns, both organisations had to adopt exceptional delivery models (EDMs), resulting in changes to service delivery. This included an increase in remote working, which following appropriate assessment and oversight included a proportion of people on probation being





engaged via remote working. This enabled a more robust focus to be given to those individuals who presented a greater risk of serious harm within the context of domestic abuse and child safeguarding. Both organisations were appropriately held to account by HM Prison and Probation Services (HMPPS) for ensuring the frequency and methodology of contact with service users. This enabled an uplift in the number of assessments that were completed and the frequency to which these assessments were reviewed.

Probation practitioners also adapted their attendance to key operational and multi-agency partnership meetings, enabling safeguarding conferences to progress unhindered and for appropriate information to be shared between services. The planning and preparation for a move towards a unified Probation Service gained increased traction in mid-2020. All probation practitioners were required to evidence the completion of mandatory training units, relating to elements such as safeguarding. Both organisations also sought to implement learning at a local level, drawing from lessons learnt across broader geographical areas in relation to domestic homicide reviews, safeguarding practice reviews and serious further offences reviews.

The operational context of Probation's work was also challenged during 2020, leading to an increased focus and urgency towards practice around culture, competence and disproportionality. As a criminal justice provider, it is noted that there remains disproportionate outcomes for specific groups. Although Probation Services work solely with an adult offending population, there remains clear evidence of a direct and indirect impact upon children when sentences are not delivered in a proportionate and appropriate manner.

The reporting year 2021/22 will result in Probation Services once again being a unified service. This structural change will improve service delivery at a local level and hopefully ensure the organisation is central to key decisions and supports around the welfare of children.

CHANGE, GROW, LIVE (BROMLEY CHANGES DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)

Bromley Changes remained open through the whole of the pandemic, providing face to face interventions to those where there were safeguarding or clinical concerns. The service also increased the number of safe, lockable storage boxes provided to service users in receipt of opiate substitution therapy (from 18% to 71% of the caseload). This meant medication could be kept safely away from children and vulnerable adults.

The service supported Bromley Sexual Health to deliver Your Choice, Your Voice to 323 pupils. Partners were upskilled in children and young people's services to be 'drugs aware' with an offer of topical and engaging learning on substance use and hidden harm; 33 sessions were delivered over the year. Bromley Changes also supported social care to keep families together with offer on early intervention hidden harm support, helping 40 children and young People where family substance use was a concern. Challenges this year included:

- Children and young people who previously would have been referred for low level drug and/or alcohol use were not, so Bromley Changes have worked hard to develop its training offer to support professionals in spotting the signs and making referrals.
- Complexity of the caseload has increased, particularly with regards to mental health.
- Managing tolerance levels and risk with children and young people who were using sporadically during the pandemic due to a reduction in supply as well as a reduction in opportunities for use.



Communication

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What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



BSCP communicates with partner agencies and Bromley residents via the BSCP website, BSCP App and Twitter account. We also produce briefings for the children’s workforce in Bromley and have a series of short videos explaining our work and priorities.

THE BSCP WEBSITE

www.bromleysafeguarding.org

The BSCP website includes separate sections for people working with children, for parents and carers, and for children and young people. Issues including Exploitation, Online Harm, Gangs and CCE, Harmful Practices, Radicalisation, Emotional Health and Wellbeing; Domestic Abuse, Bullying, Substance and Alcohol Misuse and Sexual Health have their own sections of the website with advice, signposting to resources, tips and information tailored to the specific audience. There are specific pages for young carers, children in care, licensed premises, and educational establishments. We have videos embedded, a news section and a live Twitter feed. The BSCP multi-agency training programme is accessed through the website and the Training and Resources section is a rich source of learning from audits, reviews and partnership events.

TWITTER

[@BromleyLSCP](https://twitter.com/BromleyLSCP)

BSCP’s Twitter account was launched in January 2017 and has been steadily increasing its number of followers. BSCP uses Twitter to share information about local and national safeguarding campaigns and promote local learning events and BSCP products to the children’s workforce in Bromley as well as children, young people and families in the Borough. BSCP has supported the following campaigns through Twitter and our website this year: Child Exploitation Awareness Day, Fabricated or Induced Illness, Bromley GP Alliance COVID Vaccine scheme, Safer Internet Day, how to access meals, COVID Winter Grant Scheme, Bromley Wellbeing leaflets for refugees and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, Autism Awareness Week, Young Minds,

Papyrus – breaking the silence around self-harm and suicide, London Fire Brigade Fire Safety at Home, Child Safety Week, Fostering Fortnight, Talk Together Bromley, Maternal Mental Health Month, and Operation Encompass.





Safeguarding Context in Bromley



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BROMLEY DEMOGRAPHICS SNAPSHOT



Approximately **80,000** children and young people are under 18. Of these, around **21,000** are aged less than five years.

0-18 year olds make up **24%** of the total population in Bromley.

Bromley's largest ethnic group is white British. Our other ethnic groups are Black African (7%), White and Black Caribbean (3%) and Black Caribbean (3%). Other White group, which include Gypsy or Irish Travellers, is 6%. Although only around 19% of Bromley's population are from BAME, for our school population the percentage of BAME is much higher at 35%.

The level of child poverty is better than the England average with **15.5%** of children aged under 16 years living in poverty..

The children and young people JSNA 2018 was published in July 2018:



Children and Young People Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2018





BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

MASH ENQUIRIES AND REFERRALS

The number of monthly MASH enquiries received during 2020-21 has fluctuated throughout the year peaking at a high of 1023 in March 2021.

The three biggest sources of enquiries to the MASH in this period were:

- Police - 48%
- Health - 18%
- Schools - 11%

37% of all children with MASH enquiries in 2020-21 were referred to Children's Social Care (CSC) for an assessment. This conversion rate is lower than in 2019-20; although there has been an improved awareness of safeguarding and we continue to work with partners on their understanding of the threshold. The pandemic resulted in an increase in enquiries not requiring CSC intervention. The highest conversion happened in January 2021 (46%); with the lowest (28%) in May and June 2020.

SOCIAL WORK ASSESSMENTS

In 2020-21, 3373 Social Work Assessments (SWAs) were completed; compared to 3588 in 2019-20. 85% of SWAs were completed within 45 days, slightly below the previous year's outturn of 87% and the annual 2020-21 target of 87%. The 3 most common factors identified at SWA were:

- Domestic Abuse (of parent/carer)
- Mental Health (of parent/carer)
- Emotional Abuse (of child)

CHILDREN IN NEED

A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health or development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services, or where the child is disabled.

The Department for Education Child in Need Census includes all children referred to CSC and any that are currently open cases, except cases where children have reached successful permanence and are being monitored for funding purposes. Locally, our Child in Need cohort is those children who have been assessed as being in need by a completed Social Work Assessment (excluding Children Looked After, Care Leavers, Child Protection and Private Fostering). Children with a disability are categorised into further subcategories of Child in Need.

In 2020/21, 5347 children were open to Children's Social Care at some point. At 31st March there were 2364 children in need. This is 315 per 10,000 children in the Bromley population, below the 2019/20 national average of 344 per 10,000.

SECTION 47 INVESTIGATIONS AND INITIAL CONFERENCES

1564 Strategy Discussions were held in 2020-21 and 969 Section 47 enquiries commenced. This is an increase from 2019-20.





370 children were the subject of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) in 2020-21. This is a 7% decrease from 2019-20. The average monthly number for 2020-21 was 30, ranging from the lowest number of 11 in August 20 and the highest of 44 in February 21. Per 10,000 children in Bromley, 55 children had an ICPC, this is below last year and below the national average of 64.

95% of ICPCs have resulted in the child becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan.

In 2020-21, compared to 87% nationally, 90% of ICPCs were conducted within 15 days of S47. This is significantly higher than the previous year's outturn and above the national average.

CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

There were 283 children subject to a child protection plan at 31st March 2021. This represents 38 per 10,000 population and is an increase from last year but below the national average rate of 43.

The highest category of abuse for Child Protection Plans is Neglect (138, 49%); followed by Emotional Abuse (119, 42%).

In 2020-21, 4 children have ceased to be subject to a Child Protection Plan that was longer than 2 years. This is 6 less than the previous year and is lower than the national average of 4%.

50 children (14%) were subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time in 2020-21. This is lower than the national average of 22%.

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

At the end of March 2021, there were 341 Children Looked After (CLA). This is an increase of 10 children compared to the end of 2019-20. This amounts to 45 per 10,000 population and is significantly below the national average rate of 67 per 10,000.

51% of the CLA cases were held in the CLA team and 10% in the Leaving Care Team (LCT). The remaining children were spread across 5 other Children's Social Care teams.

At 31st March 2021, 18% of children were looked after under Section 20. This is a decrease from the previous year and can largely be explained by the reduction in unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children under 18 which has decreased from 22 to 3 at 31st March (2020 to 2021).

24 (7.0%) children were in 3 or more placements during 2020-21. This is lower than in 2019-20 and the national average of 11%.

66% of Children Looked After under the age of 16 have been in care for 2.5 years and in the same placement for 2 years. This is slightly below the National average of 68%.

At 31st March 2021:

- 75% of CLA were in foster placements. Of these, 44% with in-house carers, 31% with IFAs, 13% in connected persons placements
- 20% in residential placements
- 0% in independent living
- 2% in adoptive placements
- 5% placed at home





17% of children are placed outside of Bromley and more than 20 miles from where they used to live. This is slightly above the national average of 16%.

Of the 58 care leavers aged 17 and 18, 57 were in touch, and of this, 91% were in suitable accommodation. 60% were in EET. Of those aged 19-21, 11% of the 165 care leavers were no longer in touch on their birthday compared to 7% nationally. 86% were in suitable accommodation, compared to 78% nationally. 42% were in EET.

Of those children continuously looked after for 12 months at 31st March 2021:

- 100% of under 5s had up to date health checks completed within the statutory timeframe
- 95% of children had a health assessment completed within the statutory timeframe
- 45% of children had a dental check completed within the statutory timeframe
- 98% of children were up to date with their immunisations

Due to the pandemic there were difficulties in obtaining dental appointments.



ADOPTION

10 children were adopted from care in 2020-21. This is 9% of children ceasing to be looked after – just below last year (9.5%) and below the national average of 12%.

9 children have been newly placed for adoption in the year, below the 12 in 2019-20. At the end of 2020-21 there were 8 children placed for adoption and a further 16 had an ADM decision for adoption and were waiting to be placed.

33 CLA (28%) ceased to be looked after due to a Special Guardianship Order in 2020-21. This is an increase on the number from 2019-20.

The average number of days between a child entering care and moving in with an adoptive family in 2020-21 was 287. This is lower than the national threshold of 426 days.

The average number of days between Bromley receiving court authority to place a child, and matching the child with an adoptive family, was 152 days in 2020-21. This is longer than the national threshold of 121 days. The 3-year average is also above this at 177 days.

The percentage of children waiting less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family was significantly lower at 44%; slightly above the national average of 43%, however this is no longer published as an indicator. The published scorecard looks at data over the last 3 years.

At the end of 2020-21, there were 132 approved foster carer households (including respite and connected persons). This is an increase from 110 at the end of 2019-20. There have been 10 newly approved mainstream foster carer households in 2020-21, 3 more than the previous year.



YOUTH OFFENDING

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) has three key performance indicators (KPIs) which are reported on a quarterly basis to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and Ministry of Justice. These are: Reducing First Time Entrants; Reducing offending and reoffending; and Reducing the use of custody. Performance against these indicators is set out below:

First time entrants (FTE)

The latest published data in relation to this measure covers the period of January to December 2020. Bromley YOS has continued to reduce its level of FTE to the criminal justice system.

- 48 young people became first time entrants into the criminal justice system during January 20 – December 20.
- This is a 2% reduction (from 49 down to 48) in the actual number of first time entrants compared with the previous year.
- Bromley's rate of first time entrants has reduced annually by 3% and is 33% lower than the average for London and is 27% below the national average. FTEs are 1% higher than our statistical neighbours.
- Bromley has the 7th lowest FTE rate in London and is ranked 77th out of the 154 YOS in the country.

Bromley YOS triage an average of 100 cases a year which is having a direct impact on keeping the number of first time entrants low. The reductions in the number of children entering the criminal justice system is supported in Bromley by continued pre-emptive prevention and diversionary activities. A review of local trends shows that young people who are most likely to offend are also most likely to have complex needs with in some cases little prior opportunity for the YOS to help prevent the majority from entering the criminal justice system. Bromley YOS offers a range of support to help effect positive lifestyle changes.



Reducing offending

The YOS tracks a cohort of offenders who received a pre-court, court disposal or were released from custody in a 12 month period. The reoffending performance for the latest period available are for a 12 month period (October 18 - September 19. Tracked until the end of September 2020).

- 105 Young people were sentenced between October 18 - September 19.
- 32 (30%) reoffended within a 1 year tracking period. Bromley YOS have achieved a 7% reduction in the rate of reoffending compared with the previous year (October 17 – September 18).
- This cohort of young people being tracked has reduced over the past 4 years where 234 young people were supported by interventions by the YOS at the end of September 2015. This is a 55% (129 cases) reduction over a 4 year period.
- Bromley YOS reoffending rate is 10% lower than the average for London and 5% lower than national average. Bromley's rate of reoffending is 3% lower than statistical neighbours.
- Bromley has the **lowest reoffending rate in London** and is ranked 42 out of the 154 YOS in the country.

Bromley rates are the lowest in London for the first time and below the national average. The reducing re-offending rate is supported by offence focused work that the YOS deliver. The oversight and management of risk is via the YOS Risk and Safeguarding Panel (RASP) and Children's Social Care Missing, Exploitation and Gang Affiliation (MEGA) monitoring and tracking of offending. YOS are also embedding CAMHS support to support staff working with a range of complexities as well as improved coordination on information sharing and safety planning to reduce risk.

Custody

The rate of custody in Bromley is low with small numbers of children locked up in the secure estate. This is an annual reduction of 7% in the rate per 1000 of custodial sentences, compared with the same period last year (5 custodial sentences). Bromley's rate of custodial sentences is 10% below the average for London and is 4% below the national rate. Bromley's custody rate is 2% higher than the statistical neighbours.

There has also been an overall reduction in those children being remanded into custody in Bromley, but the gravity and seriousness of the offending leaves no choice for the Courts but to impose custodial sentences. Where appropriate, the YOS continues to provide the court with robust community sentences as an alternative to custody.

Local analysis of the cohort of children who offend are predominately those with complex needs and vulnerabilities. This can make it more of a challenge in effecting change, however, Bromley's Child First approach considers them as vulnerable children in need of support and protection. The majority of these children are known to professionals and are receiving specialist multi-agency support that can improve their lives. There are still many unknowns for professionals to explore to ascertain whether trauma, grief and anger is impacting on offending.





DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Domestic Abuse Strategy Lead role sits within the Early Intervention and Family Support Services which aids the early intervention approach we want to take in Bromley in addressing and tackling domestic abuse.

The 2021/24 Domestic Abuse Strategy ‘An intergenerational domestic abuse strategy, making domestic abuse everyone’s business’ was published this year. Key stakeholders have signed up to the commitment, within the Strategy, to tackle domestic abuse.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy sets out the five key priorities adopted by the London Borough of Bromley. The priorities and associated workplans are:

1. To promote the message that tackling DA is everyone’s and every agency’s responsibility.

A Domestic Abuse Strategic Board and an Operational Forum has been developed and are in place to help guide, develop and monitor the domestic abuse need and services across the borough. Both the Board and Forum have a strong engagement from services across the borough ensuring a multi-agency approach of early intervention.

The Bromley MARAC is currently being reviewed. The MARAC is the multi-agency risk assessment conference for domestic abuse. The DA Strategic Lead has been working closely with SafeLives to identify how to review and improve the MARAC in Bromley. The steering group is progressing and reviewing the action plan, raising its profile, and ensuring all services understand the MARAC process and that multi-agencies are equally represented at MARAC meetings.

Over 10,000 discreet wallet sized cards have been disseminated to partner agencies for front line practitioners to give to people who may be experiencing domestic abuse. The cards contain contact numbers and websites for local and national services and helplines.

The Strategic Domestic Abuse Lead has developed:

- A language document to support professionals in using the correct domestic abuse terminology which is currently with the Operational Forum for review
- A factsheet on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- A range of presentations for focussed services
- A data collection and service mapping tool which is currently with the Operational Forum for review



2. To commission effective services to support victims of Domestic Abuse

Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid (BCWA) are the commissioned domestic abuse victim survivor service in Bromley.

The services that they provide are:

- Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates (IDVAs)
- One Stop Shop
- Freedom /Keys to Freedom Programme
- Hosting DRIVE IDVA

The referrals into BCWA for their services have increased since last year. This was impacted by COVID-19 (both in Bromley and nationally).

- Total of new referrals into IDVA services has doubled; 466 in 2019-2020 to 943 in 2020-2021
- Total number of people supported through the One Stop Shop has increased; 358 in 2019-2020 to 403 in 2020- 2021 an increase of 45 people
- The Freedom/Keys to Freedom Programme was adapted for online learning and 244 places offered

3. To challenge perpetrators and explore interventions that measure change in their behaviour.

For the majority of this reporting year, Bromley commissioned DVIP intervention programme. However, due to COVID, this service was suspended by the provider. This was an opportunity for Bromley to join with Croydon and Sutton Local Authorities and the London South BCU (Police) to be part of a new perpetrator intervention: DRIVE perpetrator service.

DRIVE is a perpetrator service that works to challenge and change behaviour of high-risk high harm perpetrators and/or disrupt behaviours to reduce risk. This service went live on the 01 March 2021.

4. To increase and develop existing training offer on Domestic Abuse to improve local responses to victim survivors.

The Strategic Lead Officer has worked closely with both the BSCP and Bromley Safeguarding Adult Board (BSAB) to ensure that Bromley is developing and delivering a good training model to support understanding of Domestic Abuse issues.

Due to COVID there was reduced access to the core domestic abuse training programmes as the provider was unable to deliver online, however, the Domestic Abuse Lead Officer identified and brought into Bromley several specialist DA training events covering:

- Domestic Abuse and the impact on children
- Coercive control
- DRIVE DAPP panel training (for panel members only)

5. To introduce Domestic Abuse Ambassadors to support staff in the workplace.

The Strategic Domestic Abuse lead has been working closely with Bromley Human Resources to develop and implement a staff domestic abuse strategy policy to support all Bromley staff and to raise awareness and give guidance to managers. As part of this guidance, there are plans to develop a team of trained Domestic Abuse Ambassadors in Bromley. The staff Domestic Abuse Policy is currently in draft.





Data from the Mayor’s Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) shows that in Bromley, between June 2020 and June 2021, there were:

- 2750 domestic abuse offences- a decrease from 2019-20 data of 3052 offences (where a crime has been committed and recorded)
- 4,410 domestic abuse incidents - a decrease from 2019-20 data of 4777 incidents (where a crime has not been committed but is recorded for intelligence purposes –i.e. a verbal argument)
- 514 sexual offences an increase from 2019-20 data of 489 sexual offences

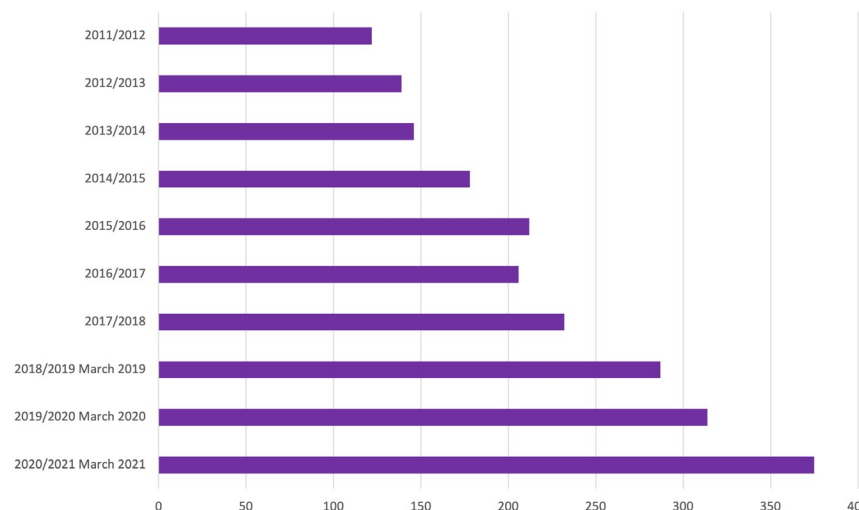
Reports of domestic abuse decreased during the initial lockdown phase of the pandemic due to victims not having access to Police when they were at home with the perpetrator. This falls within the reporting period of this annual report and may account for the decrease in offences. Conversely, referrals to domestic abuse commissioned services in Bromley have more than doubled since pre-COVID and referrals to the MARAC have continued to rise: 151 (2018/19), 220 (2019/20), 278 (2020/21). Data continues to be monitored.

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

The graph below shows the number of children known to be Electively Home Educated (EHE) in Bromley since 2011/12. It should be noted that these figures are based on academic years as opposed to financial years.

Number of EHE Declared in Bromley Since 2011

As of March 2021, the total number of young people registered as electively home educated was 375. (See chart below)

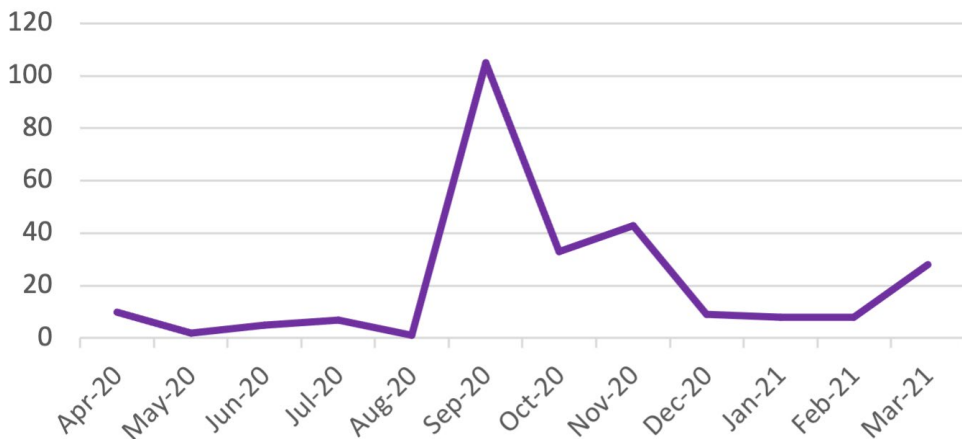


There is no doubt that the past year has been challenging. The pandemic and parental fears appear to have led to an increase in new declarations from families particularly in September 2020. That said, many parents were not explicit in citing this as a reason. The increase of EHE declarations was not just confined to Bromley, as nationally there was a steep increase in parents deregistering their children. However, as the year (between April 2020 and March 2021) progressed, the numbers continued to be higher than in previous years, spiking when schools fully re-opened for face-to-face learning in September 2020. Similarly, there was a slight upturn in numbers in March 2021, as schools fully re-opened following the third lockdown.



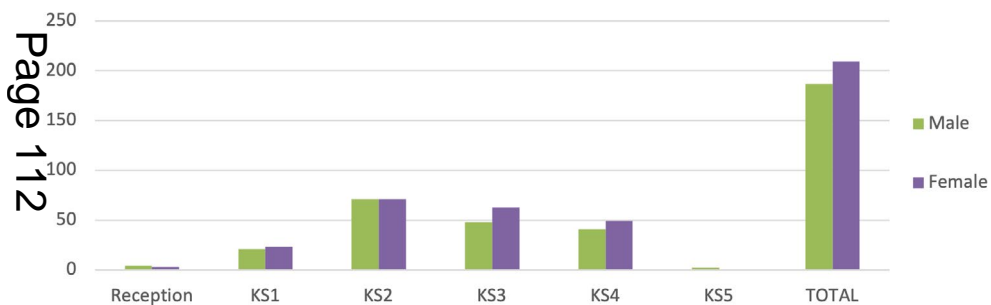


Numbers of Newly Declared EHE April 2020 to March 2021



It is recognised that EHE numbers are fluid, with families returning to mainstream education during the academic year. Between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021 there were a total of 51 young people who returned to their original school or a new school. The graph below demonstrates the spread of declarations across the Key Stages and how slightly more girls than boys are home educated.

EHE Cases by Key Stage and Gender for May 2021



Whilst Bromley has seen an increase in declarations, this needs to be seen in context of the approximate number of children and young people living in Bromley aged

between 0-17 years old. Current data shows there are 76,000 young people, meaning as a percentage, the EHE cohort that we are aware of accounts for approximately 0.49% of that population.

The increase in the number of declarations impacted on services. The result being a need to increase staffing within the EHE Team and this in turn led to a review of practice to ensure contact was made in a timely way. This has been a beneficial outcome for the team, bringing long needed administrative support and added capacity of officers to focus on reaching out to families, conducting reviews, and building relationships with the EHE families in Bromley. Changes made were communicated to all the families, both established home educators and those new to EHE. This ensured everyone was informed of how Bromley would engage going forward.

EHE reviews during the last year, where lockdowns prevented home visits, have been conducted via email, telephone conversations and online meetings. Most families have been open and engaged with the EHE Team. The LA recognises that the pandemic has impacted on the EHE community, as the lockdowns stifled contact with tutors or the ability of many of the young people to take part in their outdoor social pursuits.

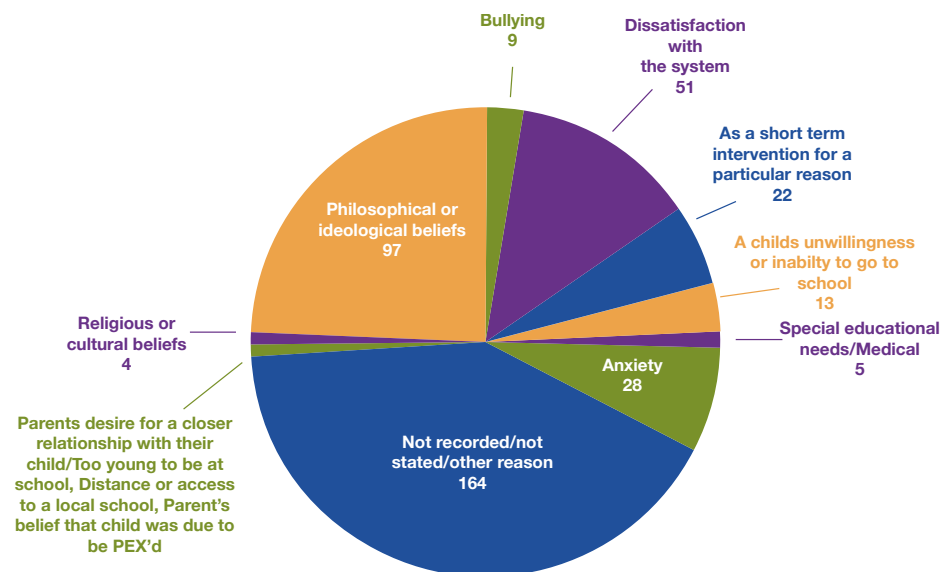




During the last year, Education services have worked together to support the EHE Team when some families proved harder to reach. The impact of this resulted in an increase of engagement with 82% of families willingly working with the EHE Team. The EHE Team and Education services will continue to work with the EHE community to appropriately support parents with their choice to home educate their children.

The Local Authority has a good understanding of the reasons why parents choose to home educate their child. The graph to the right confirms that philosophical preference continues to be the biggest reason for parents choosing to declare EHE, however in the last year the gap between this reason and dissatisfaction with the school appears to have narrowed. Whilst we suspect the pandemic has been the reason for the rise, this has not been shared by parents as a reason. However, the numbers choosing to return to school indicates the fear of COVID-19 was at the heart of some families' decision.

Reasons Given for Choosing EHE May 2021



The ethnic breakdown of students whose family declare EHE appears to be representative of the demographic mix of the population of Bromley. The data demonstrates 24% of declarations of EHE are made by families from a white British background compared to the previous year of 40.75%. 10.4% were from a minority ethnic background compared to 22.9% the previous year. However, this is tempered by the number of families who did not wish to disclose their ethnicity which stands at 70%.

A clear protocol exists between Bromley CSC, the EHE Team and the Education Welfare Service to manage EHE arrangements. These arrangements remain subject to on-going and robust scrutiny by Senior Leadership Team and Portfolio holders.

Partnership working within Education and with other teams across the Local Authority continues to be important. This is seen as a way partners can take a more preventative approach to decisions on Elective Home Education, as well as providing children and families with appropriate support.





Private Fostering

The Private Fostering Regulations apply when children or young people, under the age of 16 years (18 if they have a disability) live with a person who is not a close relative for 28 days or more.

The Local Authority where the arrangement takes place needs to assess the suitability of this arrangement and review it under the Private Fostering (PF) Regulations to ensure the placement can safeguard and promote the child's welfare. The BSCP monitors the arrangements in place for privately fostered children in Bromley. The PCI Subgroup considers the quarterly data on private fostering and scrutinises the PF annual report regarding the arrangements the LA has in place to discharge its duties.

The PF Service was reviewed and inspected in November 2018 and underwent a Practice Assurance Stocktake by the LA in February 2019 and September 2019 respectively. In all three inspections the service received positive and encouraging feedback. They concluded that assessments were child centred, placements were appropriate, arrangements were made within required timescales and all statutory checks are completed.

The data on the right illustrates the private fostering activity for the year 2020-2021.

1.Number of active/open PF arrangements at 31st March 2020	8
2.Number of new notifications received 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021	17*
3.Source of new notifications	
International school	10
Social Care departments (Bromley, Lambeth, Cornwall, Nottinghamshire)	5
Primary school	1
Community / Parents	1
4.Number of children in PF arrangements 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021	25 (17 new and 8 from previous year)
5.Number of PF arrangements closed 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021	21
6.Outcome / Reason for closure	
Section 20 / Transfer to other teams in Bromley	3
Child returned to parents or close relative in the UK	5
Child returned to parents or close relative overseas	3
Child turned 16	2
Child returned to Boarding school after lockdown	6
Criteria not met as child living with close relative	1
Care transferred to another Local Authority	1
7.Number of active/open PF arrangements at 31st March 2021	4

*15 of the 17 notifications were made retrospectively, 3 of them being for PF arrangements that had already started in the previous financial year.

This is compared to 29 notifications in 2019/20 and 25 in the previous year. The number of notifications has



reduced in Bromley in the last year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Anecdotal information suggests that this trend is mirrored in other local authority areas. There has been a decrease in the number of referrals from educational partners due to the fact that young people from other counties did not travel within this period.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)

Children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and their parents and carers, have faced additional challenges as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Supporting families, particularly those facing specific vulnerabilities has continued to be a key focus, together with learning reflections so that Bromley can improve services moving forward.

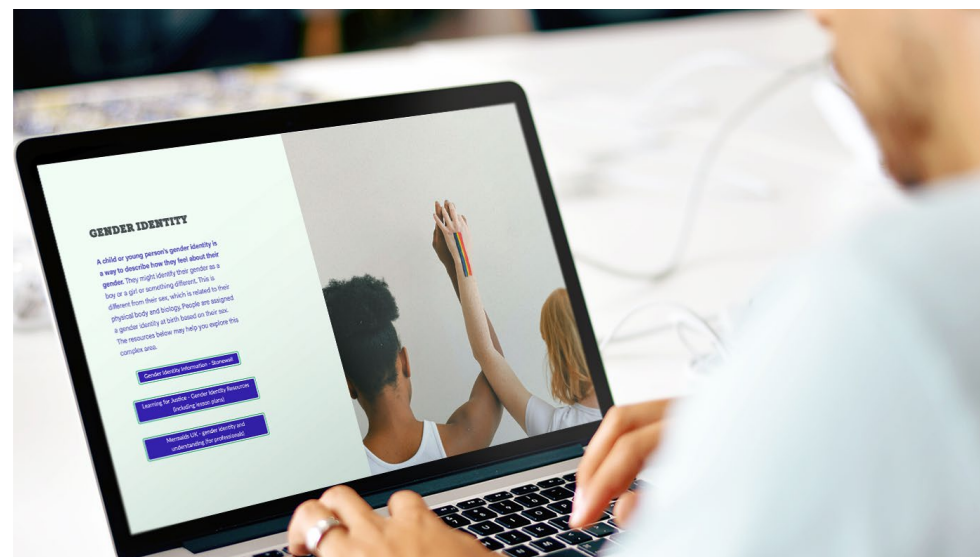
Services quickly mobilised to be innovative, creative and responsive to the needs of families and redesigned provision so that it can be available remotely where appropriate. Many providers delivered services online, providing virtual support in creative and imaginative ways. The needs of children and young people who have SEND have, in some cases, become more complex due to lockdown and there is recognition that those who were already vulnerable have been most affected. The local authority, working with partners, has led on a number of key initiatives to provide vital support during this period:

Collaborative Risk Assessments – Schools and settings, following government guidance, carried out their own risk assessments in order to determine who they can make provision for, ensuring that children and young people are supported. The local authority provided a strong framework within which to carry out the risk assessments and provided facilitation across education health and social care to ensure that, where there was a difference of opinion between a setting and a family, this was resolved collaboratively.

Vulnerable Children and Young People Programme – During the first two weeks of the coronavirus lockdown, a programme of support was established to ensure the most vulnerable families were being contacted, offered support and consistently signposted to universal and targeted support, with a mechanism to escalate

safeguarding concerns. The programme had a strong focus on children and young people who have SEND and provided reassurance that vulnerable families had appropriate professional contact and were being supported as effectively as possible.

Mental Health Strategy – alongside the themes that emerged through the Vulnerable Children and Young People Programme, intelligence across a variety of other work was collected. One of the key themes both locally and nationally has been the significant impact that the coronavirus pandemic is having on children and young people who have existing or have developed mental health issues. This has had a significant impact on children and young people who have SEND. There were significant concerns about children and young people transitioning back to school and a particular focus on those identified (or with a trajectory) of school refusing. The local authority put in place a team around each school, which provides a single point of contact across a range of support services. In addition, the Bromley Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit was launched, which is the product of extensive partnership working with Bromley Y and Oxleas CAMHS and builds on the recent collaborative workshops led by the Anna Freud Centre. The Toolkit is designed to be a one-stop shop for wellbeing concerns arising from staff or children and young people.





EHC Plans

As at March 2021, there are 2,984 children and young people who have an Education Health and Care Plan, a 17% increase on the same period in 2020.

The January 2021 school census indicates that: 2,195 children with either SEN Support or an EHCP are eligible for free school meals, 797 speak English as an additional language and 21 are identified as being from the traveller population:

SEN Provision	Travellers	EAL	FSM
SEN Support	18	599	1,553
EHC Plan	3	198	642
Total	21	797	2,195

Bromley schools have a higher percentage than London or nationally of pupils with the following needs:

- Hearing Impairment
- Other Difficulty/Disability
- Physical Disability
- Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty
- Severe Learning Difficulty
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Specific Learning Difficulty
- Speech, Language and Communications needs
- Visual Impairment

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

At the beginning of September 2021, there were 412 children open to the Children's Disability Service. These are children with a severe or profound disability. Children who require social care support who have a mild or moderate disability can be supported

by colleagues across other social care teams. Within the 412 children, there are presently 110 children open via a self-assessment. These are children with a severe or profound disability, whom benefit from the provision of short breaks, although do not require a social work visit or increased intervention from social care. This supports children with disabilities and their families to receive a service through a more proportionate assessment.

The team is presently responsible for 29 looked after children and 2 children who are subject to a child protection plan. All children known to the Children's Disability Service are classed as 'children in need'. There are currently 27 children on child in need plans, requiring the highest level of support with 4 weekly visits and 6 weekly meetings. These children may be at risk of coming into care or there may be safeguarding issues requiring a high level of monitoring.

The Children's Disability Service continue to complete their own strategy discussions and subsequent Section 47 enquiries and recommend for Child Protection Conferences if applicable. This has strengthened the safeguarding of disabled children; having practitioners with knowledge of the child, family, and the child's communication needs, therefore aiding in making appropriate decisions to safeguard the child, whilst also recognising the pressures and complexity of caring for a severely disabled child. The team also leads on cases that need presenting to the courts. This ownership of the child's situation has improved the skills of practitioners and consistency of support for children with disabilities. The service continues to support the children within the service if they meet the criteria from initial assessment through to adulthood, which offers consistent support to the child and family and embraces the 'relationship model' within Bromley.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Bromley has a single point of access for children and young people experiencing emotional or mental health issues. This is provided by the Community Wellbeing Service (Bromley Y). Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is provided by Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust in Bromley. It is based at two sites – Stepping Stones House and Phoenix Centre.



The number of children's social care referrals made in 2020/2021 by Oxleas services (Bromley CAMHS, Adult Mental Health and Health Visiting) was 43, compared to 86 during the previous year. This is partly because Health Visiting is no longer delivered by Oxleas in Bromley. The Safeguarding team continues to monitor and quality assure the referral process.

The number of children seen by Bromley CAMHS in 2020/2021 was 1082, compared to 1030 in 2019/20.

IMPACT

Partners raised concern that young people were waiting too long in hospital Emergency Departments (ED) when presenting in mental health crisis. The BSCP facilitated a meeting of CAMHS managers, Kings College Hospital Emergency Department and safeguarding staff, resulting in new joint training, shared logging documentation and improved communication between CAMHS and ED when delays anticipated.

MAPPA

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 provided for the establishment of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in England and Wales.

These are designed to protect the public, including previous victims of crime, from serious harm by sexual and violent offenders. They require the local criminal justice agencies and other bodies dealing with offenders to work together in partnership in dealing with these offenders. The Police, Prison and Probation Services (Responsible Authority) have a duty to ensure that the risks posed by specified sexual and violent offenders are assessed and managed appropriately. Other bodies (Duty to Co-operate agencies) have a duty to co-operate with the Responsible Authority in this task.

Duty to Co-operate agencies are YOS, Ministers of the Crown e.g. Job Centre Plus, local education authority, local housing authority, local social services authority, local health authority, CCG, NHS Trust, providers of electronic monitoring and Home Office Immigration Enforcement.

As of August 2021 there were 64 Category 1 (Registered Sex Offenders), 139 Category 2 (Violent Offenders) and 2 Category 3 (Other violent Offender) in the community supervised by NPS Bromley subject to MAPPA scrutiny.





ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

In 2020/21, Change Grow Live (CGL) Bromley Changes (children’s drug and alcohol misuse service) received a total of 106 referrals into the service, compared to 221 the previous year. This reduction was due to a combination of factors:

- A reduction in the number of inappropriate referrals
- Some key partners, e.g. schools and social care, were not routinely seeing children and young people face-to-face, making it challenging to spot the signs of substance misuse
- Anecdotal evidence and feedback from children and young people indicates a lot of children and young people’s drug and alcohol use actually reduced with the lockdown due to reduction in supply and the absence of peer pressure as socialising was limited

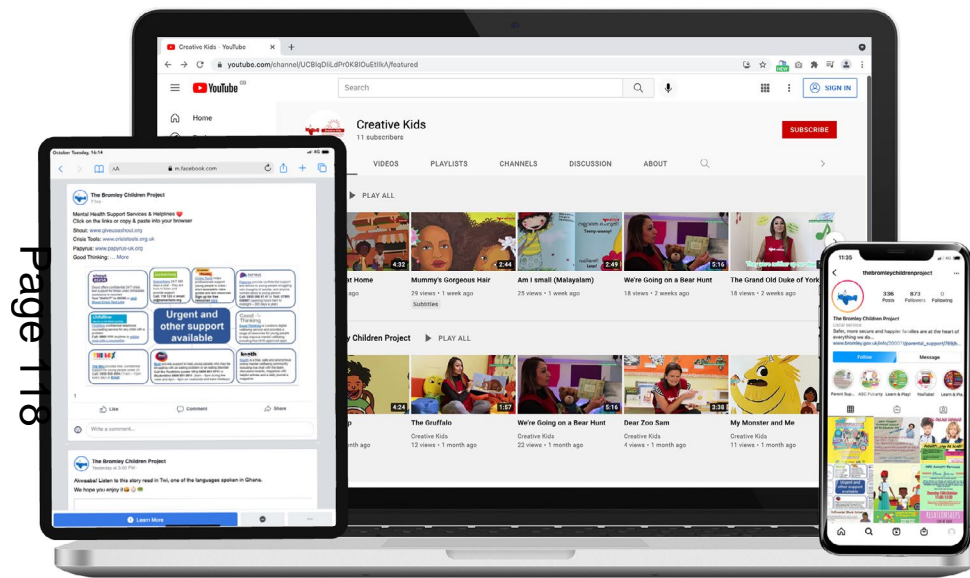
EARLY HELP

Early Intervention and Family Support Services (EIFS) comprise of the Bromley Children Project (BCP) which includes Children and Family Centres, Family Support and Parenting Practitioners under Sure Start Children and Family Centres and the Tackling Troubled Families agenda, now re-branded as Supporting Families, as well as the Information Advice and Support Service, the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Team, and the Family Contact Centres.

The strong focus on effective early intervention is so that children and their families can receive the help they need at the best time for them. When children and their families need to receive a service, the focus is on understanding their needs and their context well so that help is purposeful and achieves the best outcomes for them. This is reviewed closely so that intervention is no longer than is necessary. Practitioners work holistically with the family to help them take back control by supporting them to build their self-efficacy and resilience in order to make changes to improve their lives and leave them with the skills to tackle future challenges.

The Bromley Children Project Facebook and Instagram account presence continues to grow in popularity and BCP has now also launched its own YouTube Channel ‘Creative Kids’. During the COVID pandemic we have posted numerous videos, story readings, singing, activities, and information to keep families informed and connected. In addition, a Parenting Hotline was launched, and parenting courses were converted into Webinars supporting hundreds of parents.

EIFS continues to host the monthly MAPE (Multi Agency Partnership Event) ‘Safeguarding is Everyone’s Business’ training event. Alongside this, EIFS has continued to run the monthly EIFS Information Sessions. During 2020/21, 182 partners registered attendance on our sessions. This has been well attended and feedback has been excellent.



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Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Bromley maintains a centralised Common Assessment Framework (CAF) service within EIFS, providing support, training and a central repository for all CAF (also known as early help assessments) completed by any professional working with families in Bromley.

The CAF team works with any agency working with children, providing bespoke training as requested, as well as the training published through the BSCP.

Unfortunately, during the COVID pandemic there was a reduction in CAF logged with the CAF Team, as partners in education and health had to adapt their practice and move staff to cover key operational areas. During the pandemic the biggest author of CAF was with Children’s Social Care including the Bromley Children Project.

Data shows that Early Years Settings and Health services continue to log very few CAF. Despite work undertaken with partners to increase their knowledge and understanding of both the process of CAF and benefits of it to families, this has not translated into an increase in the number of CAF being logged. This continues to be a key focus for the service during the coming year.

Family Support and Parenting Work

The EIFS continued to deliver a range of evidence based accredited parenting programmes using online Webinars in both short courses and one-off sessions.

Feedback has been excellent and there was an increase in the number of families where both parents attended the sessions. We will continue to offer on-line webinars alongside face-to-face courses in the six Children and Family Centres moving forward to maintain improved accessibility.

The range of programmes delivered cover parents of children and young people of all ages (0-25, including SEND) and include self-reported before and after measures in relation to confidence, learnt strategies and family cohesion. During the pandemic the service developed a range of new parenting events.

All Family Support and Parenting Practitioners are trained to deliver these programmes which ensures consistency of practice and advice / support for families including in their one-to-one case work. Previously there has been a year-on-year increase in the number of evidence-based parenting programmes, however, during the pandemic the service adapted to webinars in order to ensure COVID safety restrictions were not breached. During the pandemic in 2020/21 40 parenting sessions were delivered and reached 393 parents.

Feedback continues to demonstrate the positive impact of attending any of these evidence-based parenting programmes with other parents who are struggling. The positive impact reflects improved parenting abilities, improved wellbeing, reduced isolation and generally happier families.





Children and Family Centres

The Children and Family Centres were unable to operate as 'normal' during the pandemic but remained open for appointment only sessions with health partners and its own staff delivering play sessions. COVID safety measures were in place and reported effective as the service did not have to close its doors due to COVID contact.

Whilst the number of visits to the Children and Family Centres was far below normal operating standards, they still managed to support 6,663 visits during this challenging period.

Due to COVID, the Children and Family Centres ceased all group activities in March 2020. The commissioning process for services for the coming year 2021/22 has been completed and the ambition is to re-open doors as soon as COVID restrictions allow and it is safe to do so.

Tackling Troubled Families

EIFS continues to lead on the Tackling Troubled Families (TTF) agenda within Bromley. The number of families referred to BCP for support continues to grow. A referral for Bromley Children Project relates to a whole family rather than an individual child or children, and EIFS have received an all-time high this year.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) set Bromley a target of 170 families to support during 2020/21 and as at 31 March 2021, Bromley had attached 890 families, exceeding the target by 720 families. All of the Troubled Family Programme milestones agreed with the MHCLG had been achieved.

Bromley also succeeded in achieving the target of 285 families set by the MHCLG in relation to claims for families who have been successfully 'turned round'. In order to do so, officers have to submit evidence to Internal Audit to evidence that the changes made by the family are both 'significant and sustained'.

Child Exploitation

In Bromley all children and young people at risk of extra familial harm, including those who go missing from home and care, those who are at risk of child sexual exploitation

(CSE), child criminal exploitation (CCE), gang affiliation, serious youth violence, radicalisation and trafficking are tracked through the Atlas team.

The Atlas team was set up in 2017, initially to track and respond to young people who go missing and those who were at risk of CSE. Since then, the team's remit has expanded to respond to wider contextual safeguarding concerns. The team comprises of a team manager, three return home interview (RHI) officers, a data analyst and a business support officer. A CSE intervention worker from the Asphaleia service, commissioned by Bromley, is also based alongside the team. The team works closely with the Youth Offending Service, Police (Gangs, Missing, CSE, CCE and Rescue and Response Project). The Atlas team manager also sits on Bromley's Channel (PREVENT) panel, the YOS Risk and Safeguarding Panel and the Out of Court Disposals Panel.

The Atlas team functions as an intelligence hub, supporting the MASH and all CSC Teams. The team manager and data analyst attend strategy meetings and collate information in relation to risk assessments and safety planning for young people. This allows for a rich intelligence picture both in relation to young people, their friendship groups, the locations in which they live, learn, and grow as well as the identification of local hotspots, emerging trends / risks and people and places of concern. Having this information allows the social work teams and the wider professional network to identify the most appropriate services to support and address the needs to the young people and their families.

Children and young people who go missing from home and care:

The Atlas team has 3 dedicated RHI workers who offer return home interviews to young people who go missing. This includes Children Looked After who are placed outside of Bromley. Where young people have frequent missing episodes, the team maintains the consistency of the same worker undertaking the return interview. RHI workers provide feedback to allocated social workers. Where young people are not known to a social work team, consideration is given to where an assessment needs to be undertaken by the Referral and Assessment teams. All young people who go missing are discussed in the daily MASH meetings.



It is recognised that children and young people rarely go missing in isolation of “**push and pull**” factors. The Atlas manager reviews all RHIs to ensure that any concerns / indicators around possible exploitation and/or extra familial harm are identified and responded to.

Missing, Exploitations and Gang Affiliation (MEGA) Panel:

Where concerns arise, in relation to extra familial harm, social workers undertake exploitation risk assessments and safety plans. All young people who are considered medium or high risk are tracked through the multi-agency MEGA panel. The MEGA panel supports risk management and risk reduction through strategic and operational oversight. The shared intelligence and partnership arrangements support joined up planning and interventions and also offer opportunities for challenge, creative thinking and building a local picture of trends, patterns and themes. In addition to tracking and monitoring risk and safety plans for young people, all partner agencies provide general contextual updates at each MEGA panel e.g. new drugs available, emerging county line activity, hotspots, etc. The information shared at MEGA Panels, ensures that all partner agencies have the most contemporary intelligence in relation to the Bromley context. The panel meets fortnightly and is well attended by all relevant partner agencies. Strategic challenges and emerging trends are shared with senior leadership via the quarterly MACE Panel and through the BSCP.

Over the past 12 months (April 2020 – March 2021) both the Atlas Team and MEGA have increased scrutiny and oversight of young people known to the team and panel.

It is recognised that vulnerable adolescents found the COVID restrictions particularly difficult and as restrictions eased, missing episodes and risks around exploitation were likely to increase. There was also an increased focus on online exploitation during periods of the national lockdown. Social workers, managers and partner agencies were mindful of increased risk and these were considered in all safety plans.

Key performance information (2020/21):

Missing:

- The ATLAS Team logged a total of 875 missing episodes.
- 717 RHIs offered and 437 were taken up (in 82% of missing episodes a RHI was offered).

- Of the RHIs offered, 61% were taken up /accepted.
- 77% of RHIs accepted took place within 72 hours of the missing episode.

Exploitation:

- In 2020/21 a total of 65 young people were tracked at MEGA. The risk level of 39 young people was sufficiently reduced and they were closed to the panel.
- 12 young people were referred to the National Referral Mechanism. 3 young people had a positive reasonable grounds decision and one young person had a conclusive grounds decision.
- 22 young people received interventions from Asphaleia regarding CSE.
- Atlas Team delivered briefing sessions to 9 schools.

Missing From Education

The Education Welfare Service (EWS) through their Children Missing Education Officer (CME) continues to ensure that Bromley Council is meeting its statutory responsibilities regarding the identification, monitoring, and tracking of children missing or not receiving a suitable education. This includes liaison with MASH where there are safeguarding concerns.

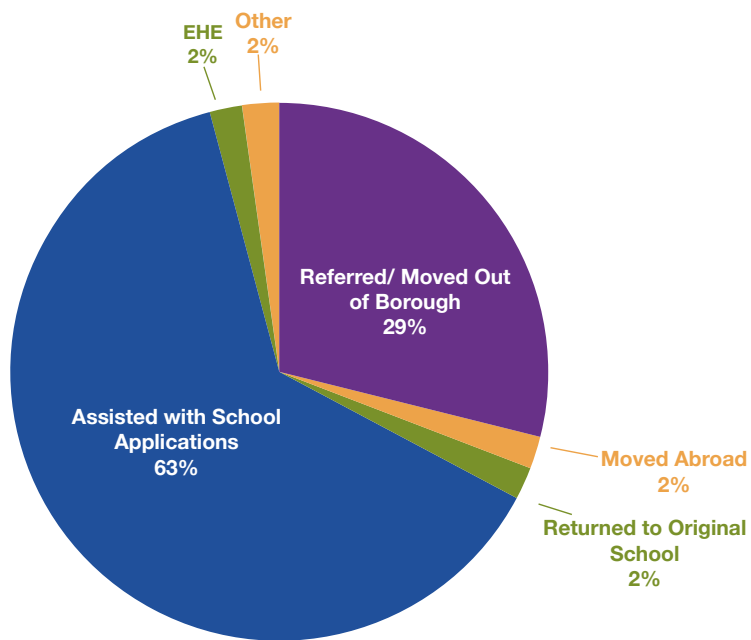
The work of the EWS team fits closely with other strands of work to support vulnerable pupils including supporting schools and families to prevent poor school attendance, truancy, exclusions and supporting schools and families to get children back to school once absence has occurred. The team liaises closely with Social Care Partners and Admissions services. In addition, the Director of Education has monthly oversight of CME and Children Missing out on Education (CMOE). This ensures there is continued rigour in the tracing and tracking of young people to confirm their safety and ensure measures are in place to secure schooling.

All referral forms for EWS are online and this provides a secure central access point for all schools and other agencies to use. All submissions from schools and partner agencies are received into a central mailbox which is monitored throughout the day. Cases are allocated swiftly to officers to begin enquiries.



Whilst robust referral and tracking procedures are in place, children continue to leave the borough without a known destination. These cases are tracked and traced by the Education Welfare Service and Child Missing Education Officer.

From April 2020 to March 2021, the EWS received 48 CME referrals from outside agencies and the chart below demonstrates the outcome of the enquiries undertaken by the CME Officer.

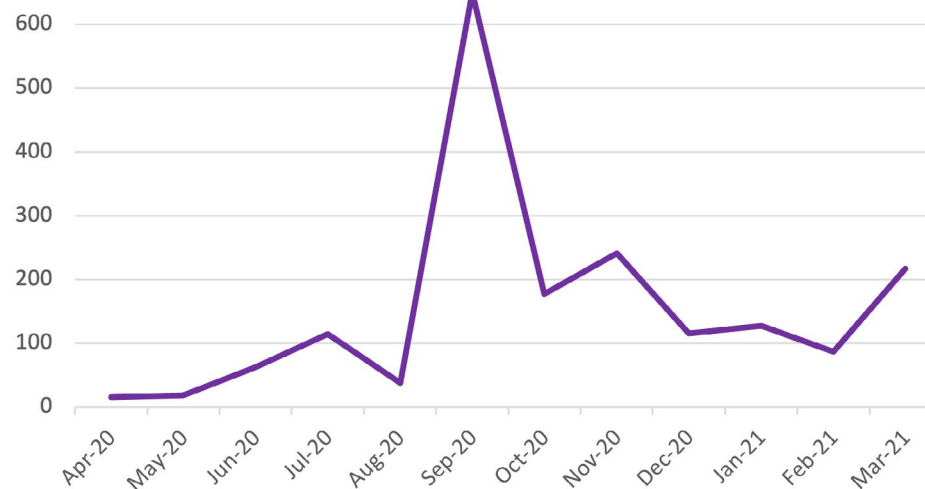


Outcomes for CME Referrals from Outside Agencies

During the pandemic EWS has continued to ensure any family who moved into borough prior to lockdowns was supported with their schooling applications. In addition, EWS officers have contacted other Local Authorities to inform them when families had moved into their area and supported parents with information to apply for schooling in the new area.

The Education Welfare Service received 1,863 'Intention to Delete from School Roll' notifications between 1/4/2020 and 31/03/2021. The following chart plots this data showing totals of notification each month.

Off Roll Notifications received

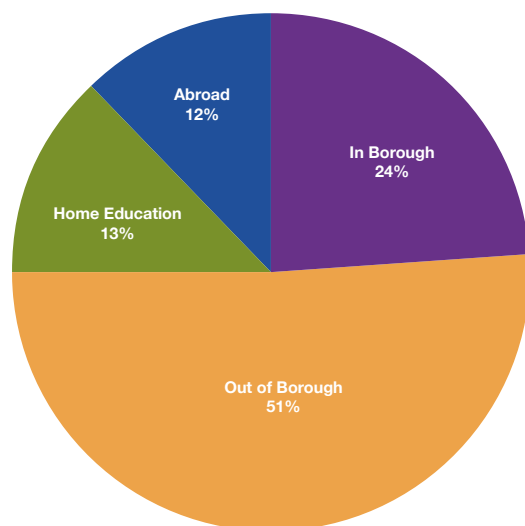


The data shows that when schools fully re-opened in September, there was a big increase in requests to Off Roll. Also, following the full opening of schools in March, a small number of families, who had gone abroad in December were struggling to return to the UK. Schools were encouraged to maintain contact with the family and check for evidence of flights being cancelled and to not remove the child from roll. Most of these families have since returned and the children are back in school.

All notifications are tracked and verified before deletion is confirmed with the school and records updated. The chart overleaf indicates the outcomes of enquiries following receipt of requests to remove a child from a school roll.



Outcomes of Intention to Off Roll Notifications April 2020 - March 2021



Occasionally, it can take time for confirmation to be received but officers remain tenacious and through monthly supervision of casework, the service continues to ensure the young person and their family are located.

Modern Day Slavery

The Adult Safeguarding Board continues to lead the Modern Day Slavery Pathway group with input from BSCP to ensure the policy and pathways are also appropriate for under 18s. Publicity material has been circulated and online training commissioned which is suitable for the entire workforce.

London currently has the highest recorded rates of modern slavery in the UK according to the National Referral Mechanism.

It is a common misconception amongst the public that modern slavery only affects foreign nationals or illegal migrants in the UK or only occurs abroad. In fact, figures from the National Referral Mechanism show that UK nationals are the most exposed to modern slavery in the UK, particularly where child exploitation is concerned. Amongst adults and children in the UK, the foreign nationalities most likely to be

victims of modern slavery are Albanian and Vietnamese; other nationalities with a high prevalence slaves in the UK include Nigerian, Chinese, Sudanese and Indian. Whilst there was a slightly higher prevalence of slavery amongst adults and males, the rates of exploitation amongst females and children are also high and it is important that we work towards eradicating slavery for all people.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

In accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children, the London Borough of Bromley, like all Local Authorities, has a designated officer with overall responsibility for managing and co-ordinating allegations made against staff who work with children. This role is undertaken by a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The LADO should be informed of all allegations and should provide advice and guidance to ensure cases are dealt with and resolved in a timely manner.

The LADO continues to develop close working relationships with some of the most experienced LADOs in the London region and keeps abreast of themes, issues and challenges which are shared across the London wide LADO network.

Considerable improvements in reporting and capturing data have been possible in this reporting period following the appointment of a LADO Business Support Officer. This appointment has enabled the implementation of a number of essential strategies, including an effective LADO tracker, which is now used to capture, chase and report the number of referrals and consultations to ensure timely responses and outcomes are maintained. This appointment has also ensured that the LADO is better able to give the most timely responses and Allegations against Staff and Volunteers (ASV) Meeting Minutes are drafted for approval within 24 hours.

Referrals to the LADO have slightly increased this reporting period with 228: Referrals (116) and Consultations (112). Out of the Referrals there have been a total of 148 Allegations against Staff and Volunteers Meetings (ASVs): 66 Initial and 82 reviews. This is a significant increase of ASV Meetings compared to last year's reporting period, also with an increase of attendees due to virtual meetings being easier to access. There have been 2 Convictions and 3 DBS and TRA (Teaching Regulatory Agency) Referrals advised.

The LADO has worked closely with regulatory agencies namely Ofsted, NHS England, Church Diocese and Sporting regulatory bodies.

The LADO has continued to seek to provide information and learning to all partners with virtual quarterly training sessions through the Workforce Development Team, to raise the profile of the LADO along with advice around what constitutes a referral to the LADO and LADO processes.

The LADO line manages the Education Safeguarding Officer (ESO) and continues to be instrumental in supporting the development of the ESO role during the year, providing a link between social care and education. The ESO role has identified an increase in concerns around bullying of children, inappropriate online activity, and transferrable risk cases which often lead to LADO referrals, for behaviour in a professional's personal life. Connections with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) have improved throughout the year, with the ESO now attending the MASH daily briefing meetings twice weekly to support the triangulation of information about young people and schools being reported to the MASH, while bespoke training is now under development for Education staff who visit children and families in their homes. This aims to improve their awareness, curiosity and impact in supporting professional networks with the safeguarding of vulnerable students.





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THE CHILD'S VOICE

BSCP Business Plan Principle: At the core of our safeguarding and child protection work is the commitment to ensuring that children and young people are seen in the context of their lives, heard through professionals taking time to listen and helped by remaining professionally curious.

To understand the quality of a child's individual experience in the unique context of their lives in Bromley.

Children's Social Care's (CSC) Active Involvement team now has a team manager and four workers. This has expanded the offer of group work and support for children and young people to collaborate with Children's Social Care.

Children and young people continue to be involved in CSC service design by sitting on staff recruitment panels and participating in the Corporate Parenting Board. This has been hugely successful as young people co-chair a session of the Board and have a challenge session called 'Strive' to hold Children's Social Care and partners to delivering against Living in Care Council (LinCC) priorities and ensure that the Board is delivering the Bromley Pledge. Senior leaders also meet with the Bromley Youth Council which is facilitated by the Head of Service for Youth Offending and Youth Services; this year they met with Bromley Young Council to hear about their experiences of managing the impact of the pandemic.

Other projects include:

- A survey of the experience of the lockdown period for children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities
- A survey of families who are using the Bromley Local Offer website
- A survey of those using the borough's mental and emotional health services
- The 'Your life beyond care' Brightspots surveys of care experienced children and young families in Bromley
- The Living in Care Council (LinCC) delivery of projects such as Girl Power and Race & Identity

- The Living in Care Council participating in Money Works finance training programmes
- Change for Care Leavers – attending the New Beginnings sessions for those not in education, employment or training
- Change for Care Leavers – delivering a new policy for financial support for care experienced young parents

Bromley Healthcare School Nurses continue to use "It's All About Me" questionnaire for all vulnerable children and young people they know about. This includes children and young people referred for an initial case conference and vulnerable young people in the YOS, Pupil Referral Units or Electively Home Educated.

Bromley Drug and Alcohol Service ran consultation opportunities with young service users throughout the pandemic. They conducted local and national surveys and small workshops with the aim of identifying new and emerging needs for children and young people accessing drugs and alcohol support. The service also offered young people their say about how Bromley Changes services are delivered. They hosted focus groups for these individuals to help develop better, more relatable, and effective harm reduction messaging within the service.





REVIEWS OF PRACTICE

Safeguarding Practice Reviews (SPR) are undertaken to learn lessons and improve the way in which local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. These reviews were previously known as Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) but were transitioned to a new SPR structure from July 2019 in accordance with Working Together 2018. Responsibility for learning lessons lies with a new national panel – the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) – and with local safeguarding partners. The Panel and local partners help to identify serious child safeguarding cases that may raise issues of national importance. They commission a review that involves all practitioners who may be relevant or have information that will help to provide learning for future practice. At the time of writing, the BSCP has not commenced any SPRs. This report includes reviews that followed the SCR structure. A serious child safeguarding case is one in which:

- abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected
- the child has died or been seriously harmed

Where the SPR criteria has not been met for national learning, the BSCP can also undertake smaller-scale multi-agency case reviews. Whatever the type of review, the principles are still the same with the aim being to share information, identify good practice and establish the key lessons that will help to improve practice.

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- During 2020/21, the SPR Subgroup:
- Completed a Learning Review regarding a suspected fictitious illness
 - Completed a Learning Review with learning about cross-borough working for children with disabilities
 - Contributed to a joint local Domestic Homicide Review / Learning Review where the children suffered significant harm
 - Contributed to a DHR about a teenage girl resident in a neighbouring borough but who had previously lived in Bromley

IMPACT

The BSCP identified that there was no established mechanism for the partnership receiving notification of suicides in young people over 18 years old because it falls outside of the statutory CDOP process. The BSCP Partnership Manager has now been granted access to the THRIVE database which reports suicides in London. This will enable the BSCP to identify trends, themes and patterns in young people aged between 18 and 25, particularly where the young person has significant vulnerabilities.

This year the SPR Subgroup has also considered safeguarding cases which did not meet the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review, however, there were common themes relating to vulnerable adolescents. A table top review was agreed with the aim of seeking assurance that there is not significant additional learning in these cases which we are not already enacting from other completed reviews (e.g. Learning Review Leo).

The table top review took place in March 2021 and whilst the majority of findings were in common with existing review findings, in some cases the Bromley actions could be strengthened with some additionality. This has been added to the BSCP audit action plan which is monitored by the PCI Subgroup. Some findings will also require further investigation through audit of thematic review to analyse how widespread some issues were.

As part of our commitment to transparency and the need to learn from case reviews, we include the following overview of cases below with key learning. Access to published serious case and learning reviews can be found at:

www.bromleysafeguarding.org (Training & Resources)

At the time of writing, the learning from the two DHRs have not been published.



LEARNING REVIEW MATTHEW

Matthew was just under six years old when he sadly died. Matthew had complex health needs, having been diagnosed with Global Developmental Delay and Cerebral Palsy. Neither abuse nor neglect were factors in Matthew's death, which was both sudden and unexpected. BSCP commissioned a learning review to review the practice of the large number of professionals, both within Bromley and neighbouring boroughs, involved in the care and support of Matthew and his family.

Key learning for the Partnership includes:

- how the voice of the child is heard when they have significant communication difficulties, the importance of routinely offering interpreters for parents/carers whose first language is not English and recording this;
- the importance of a strong response when children are not brought to appointments; the particular importance of good information sharing and routine professional curiosity in complex cases;
- the importance of keeping fathers and siblings in mind throughout the course of our work;
- the sufficiency of processes in place to provide equipment for children with disabilities and complex health needs, with a particular focus on children in shared care arrangements;
- clarity regarding timeliness for the transfer of Child In Need cases between local authority areas where there is shared care.

This was a complex case, spanning many years, where George presented with 'perplexing presentations', some very serious. Despite a great many tests, there has been no medical explanation for the majority of his conditions. George has an unusually close and enmeshed relationship with this mother and is very isolated from the outside world. Professionals found it difficult to challenge George's mother consistently. There was no multi-agency view-point and decision made, therefore the behaviour and enmeshed relationship went effectively unchallenged. During assessment, Mother provided just enough information to satisfy, but not enough to gain a picture of George's lived experience.

Learning for the Partnership includes the importance of co-ordinated professional curiosity, tenacity and the confidence to challenge using formal escalation where appropriate; the importance of clear and detailed recording and the sharing of information; the importance of following statutory guidance for suspected FII cases.



LEARNING REVIEW GEORGE

In 2017, the Designated Doctor shared her concern of a case at the Case Review Subgroup. Although now an adult, there was concern that 'George' may have suffered significant harm as a child and that the Statutory Guidance Safeguarding Children in Whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced (DCSF 2008) had not been followed fully by professionals. The Independent Chair liaised with the Adult Safeguarding Board and a learning review was commissioned using the established Serious Case Review processes.



IMPACT

The BSCP Partnership Manager was a member of a DHR panel regarding a teenage girl in a neighbouring borough, who had previously lived in Bromley. Following scrutiny of the report and recommendations, the BSCP Chair wrote to the Met Police requiring evidence where Police stated there had already been improvements. This evidence has been reviewed and followed up via the SPR Subgroup.

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS LEARNING REVIEWS

The BSCP has continued to monitor the implementation of Learning Review action plans. The following has been achieved as a result of, or linked to, the Serious Case Review recommendations:

SCR Child K

National Probation Service and CRCs to be brought back together under new public sector 'Probation Service' service from June 2021. In the detailed narrative conclusion, the jury of the 2019 [Coronial Inquest](#) identified a series of failures by the National Probation Service (NPS), as well as system defects following major changes to probation services under 'Transforming Rehabilitation', contributed to the child's death. The vast majority of learning points in the SCR were for National Probation Service.

Locally, the following has been achieved:

- Regular multi-agency training on professional curiosity added to BSCP training programme.
- Domestic Abuse training strengthened with additional information about MARAC and Clare's Law (DVDS). New course on impact on children of DA added to BSCP Training programme.
- Multi-agency audit of Strategy Discussions/Meetings and subsequent revision of local protocol for Strategy Discussions.

SCR Hannah

- Regular multi-agency training on chronologies and the importance of recording added to BSCP training programme.
- BSCP training resources and single agency training checked to ensure signs and symptoms of Child Sexual Abuse is sufficient.
- BSCP Escalation Procedure revised and relaunched.
- CSC reviewed role of CP Conference Chairs in 2019 and subsequently revised the role.
- Regular multi-agency training on professional curiosity added to BSCP training programme and 'professional curiosity/respectful uncertainty' is assessed as part of routine CSC internal case audits.
- Out of hours contact for police in urgent cases established and shared with CSC. Will be added to revised BSCP Strategy Protocol.
- Was Not Brought (to appointments) policies reviewed and republished across the health economy.
- Programme of training with health professionals following up on specific recommendations in the SCR, including on secondary enuresis, recurrent UTIs with no known cause, perinatal and postnatal mental health.





AUDITING

AUDIT OF MULTI AGENCY STRATEGY MEETINGS

This year the BSCP audited Strategy Discussions/Meetings for assurance over agency representation, timeliness, the quality of information sharing and planning, and outputs.

Key learning from the audit was:

- Further emphasis is needed to ensure attendance is at the appropriate level, but;
- We need to make sure that health representatives are always included.
- Although there were multi agency meetings held which brought staff together from different organisations to discuss concerns, those meetings that did not include a Social Worker, police and a health representative as a minimum were not in line with child protection procedures and therefore not quorate as a Strategy Discussion.
- The majority of Strategy Discussions take place within 3 working days in line with London Child Protection Procedures.
- Social Workers need to ensure clear rationale, analysis and hypothesis are recorded from the meeting and shared with partners in line with the practice standards.
- The purpose of the meeting being to decide whether Section 47 enquiries should be initiated is not consistently set out in meeting records with a clear rationale for decision making.
- It is important to remember that at the end of the meeting when the multi-agency plan is devised, part of this may be to convene an Initial Child Protection Case Conference but this is not the central purpose of the meeting and plan.
- Actions agreed during the Strategy Discussion should be allocated to specific people, with a date for completion, otherwise the meeting will be unclear about who should deal with the actions or questions identified for a Section 47 enquiry, no timescales will be set and subsequently the actions may not be completed. Recording of these actions must be improved.

IMPACT

Following a multi-agency audit of Strategy discussions and Section 47 investigations, the Partnership agreed to address the recommendation to review and update the multi-agency protocol on Strategy Meetings. A working group was set up and aims to have fully revised and relaunched the Strategy Protocol by the end of 2021.





The Child Death Overview Panel

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The overall purpose of the Child Death Review process is to understand why children die and put in place interventions to protect children and prevent future deaths. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is accountable to the Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Executive via the Safeguarding Practice Review Subgroup.

This is the first full year in which the changes to CDOPs have taken effect. All of the meetings are joint meetings with Bromley, Lambeth and Southwark. The meetings are split into deaths of infants under 1 month (Neonatal Death Overview Panel, NDOP) and older children over 1 month (Child Death Overview Panel, CDOP).

In 20/21 there were 7 NDOP and 4 CDOP meetings. 6 cases from 2019/20 were discussed signed off. 1 case each from 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 remain open for various reasons. The 6 cases from 2019/20 that were signed off have been included in the analysis of child deaths.

CDOP FACTS AND FIGURES

- The number of deaths in the first month of life was 7 in 2020/21. This is similar to previous years.
- There are currently no deaths categorised as SUDI in 2020/21 although not all cases have been completed in CDOP.
- There were 2 unexpected deaths in 2020/21 and 2 Joint Agency Response meetings.

There were 12 expected deaths in 2020/21.

- Analysis of data 2008-2019 shows that overall 57% of child deaths in Bromley are boys, which is similar to the England rate of 56%.
- The Bromley numbers are very small, even with aggregated data, but analysis of 7 years of Bromley data shows possible over-representation of deaths in children of ethnicity other than White British.
- All perinatal mortality rates are still lower than England and London rates.
- The trend in deaths of older children is downward, again mirroring the rates in London and England.

CDOP RECOMMENDATIONS 2019/20

Recommendation	Action to be taken
Refining prescribing processes when shared care arrangements in place	Issue to be taken to CDOP Chairs, London
Palliative care teams to link with GPs more effectively	Training for GPs by palliative care team



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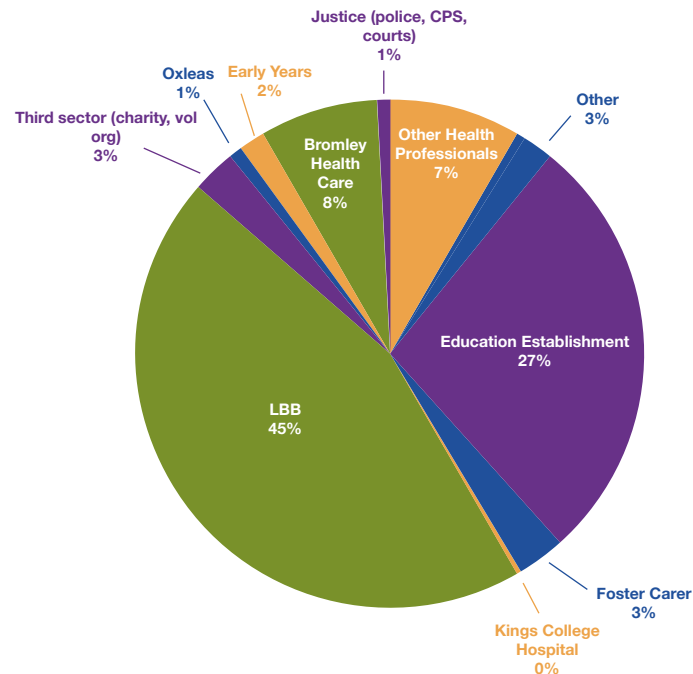
The BSCP Training Programme was significantly impacted by the pandemic; No face-to-face learning has taken place this year. All classroom-based courses were cancelled in March 2020 and the majority have run as webinars this year. Tragically our main trainer died in July 2020; She ran safeguarding courses in Bromley and neighbouring boroughs for many years and her death is a huge loss to our workforce. Some of our other external trainers could not deliver online training to the specification we required so some recommissioning took place. This resulted in delays to some courses and fewer live courses running this year. In total, we ran 40 live webinar training sessions this year and 604 people attended. This compares to 59 sessions last year which 967 people attended.

We monitor attendance by agency at every course as it is important that training is multi-agency to improve the learning experience. Attendance this year follows the same pattern we see each year with staff from the Local Authority and educational establishments dominating. It is fitting that these sectors account for the majority of attendees given the high numbers of the children’s workforce they include. It is pleasing that Local Authority staff from departments such as housing and Adult Services are regularly attending safeguarding children training.

Very similarly to last year, approximately 17% of attendees are from the health sector, with a very small percentage from the criminal justice sector. It is encouraging that an increased number of foster carers attended multi-agency BSCP training this year; This is likely to be as a result of the shorter webinar format. The Training Subgroup will continue to analyse attendance data in detail and amend our specifications (including delivery) for training courses accordingly.



ATTENDANCE AT 'LIVE LEARNING' COURSES 2020-21 - BY AGENCY



We bolstered our learning opportunities by increasing the number of e-learning modules available for free to the entire workforce to 26 different courses. 7831 people completed a relevant course on our e-learning platform, Me Learning. This compares to 3197 completing 17 different courses last year. New courses included Unconscious Bias, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage, Domestic Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence as well as some pandemic focussed courses such as Coronavirus Awareness and Loneliness and Isolation.

In response to emerging risks and intelligence from our partner agencies, we recognised the increase in domestic abuse during the pandemic, and particularly in periods of lockdown. To better equip practitioners, we spot purchased two new 'live' webinar courses – Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control, and Domestic Abuse and the Impact on Children. Both courses were extremely well received, and attendees

stated they felt more able to spot the signs, be professionally curious, support children and families and know what services were available. We have committed, alongside the Bromley Adult Safeguarding Board, to continue to provide an enhanced domestic abuse training offer in 2021-22 with seven different courses at a variety of levels.

A detailed analysis of training, learning and development can be found in the Training Evaluation Report 20-21 which is available from the [BSCP Team](#) or members of the Training Subgroup.

 **Email: BSCP Team**





Progress against the Bromley Pledge

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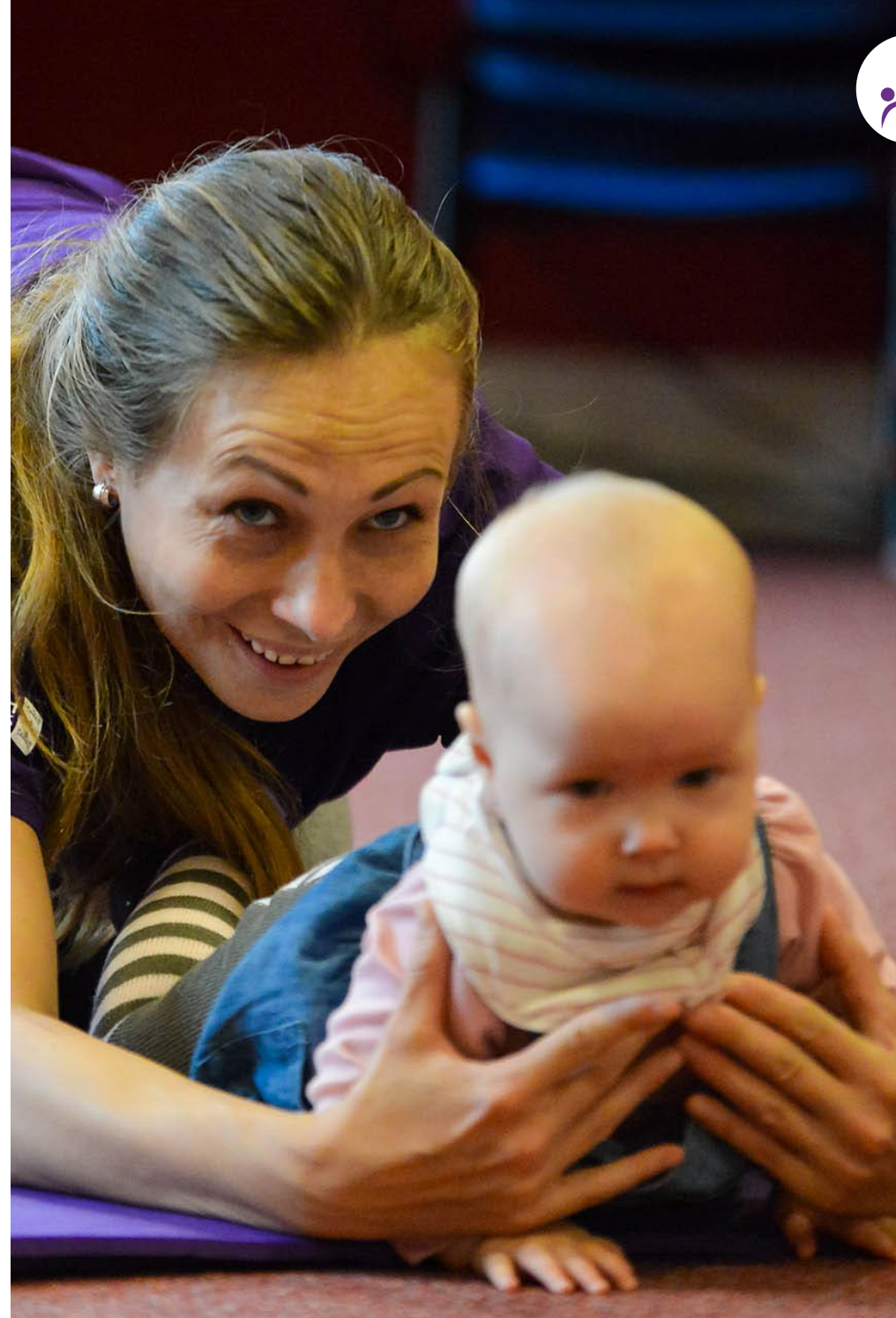
BSCP Vision: “Children and young people in Bromley are seen, heard and helped; they are effectively safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together.”

The Executive of the BSCP is dedicated to building on the solid foundations set by the former Local Safeguarding Children Board and to capitalise on the opportunities that the new safeguarding arrangements represent. To that end, the Executive has reviewed Bromley’s safeguarding children landscape, refreshed and agreed their philosophy and priorities and commit their organisations, wherever and whenever possible, to support and improve the lives of our children and their families and carers. This forms a key part of that commitment and comprises of the follow four areas:

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF WORKFORCE

What did we do in 2020-21?

- Health and wellbeing of workforce was a standing item at 3 weekly Contingency Oversight meetings and also at quarterly Board meetings for oversight, identification of risks and solutions across the partnership and sharing of good practice.
- Drew up a COVID-19 Preparedness Survey to help staff prepare for future waves of the pandemic.
- Issued a ‘lessons learned’ paper following the first lockdown in order to prepare partners for further waves of the pandemic.
- Included health and wellbeing of workforce in the first (six monthly) Strategic Threat Assessment.
- Following concerns around the number of school staff self-isolating or testing positive, the BSCP sought assurance that teaching staff were not adversely effected, compared to other professions. The BSCP scrutinised the ONS report on death by occupation which showed a low rate among school staff. This did not bear out concerns about disproportionate levels of exposure and was corroborated with local Bromley data regarding education settings.
- The BSCP requested regular updates on vaccine hesitancy and reluctance amongst staff to inform briefings by Public Health addressing concerns and emphasising the positive impact of vaccination.





UNDERSTANDING VULNERABILITY

What did we do in 2020-21?

- Secured DfE funding to pilot the role of a dedicated safeguarding children analyst. The analyst will provide a richer interpretation of intelligence to safeguarding partners by way of producing threat assessments that strengthen decision making, improve the scrutiny of front-line safeguarding practice and enhance tactical decision making.
- Line of sight of children, emerging risk and mitigation was a standing item at the 3 weekly Contingency Oversight meetings during lockdowns.
- Identified current pathways to harm, risks and recommendations were included in the first Strategic Threat Assessment.
- Requested that agency updates focus on Child Criminal Exploitation and Disproportionality in December 2020 to identify common themes across the partnership and inform the update of the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy which will be updated in 2021/22.
- Undertook focussed scrutiny of the mental health of young people during the pandemic, with input from CAMHS, at the September 2020 board meeting.
- Hosted a partnership briefing on 'Protecting Children at a Distance', a report by Kings College, presented by the Designated Dr from Greenwich. This study aimed to investigate and strengthen child safeguarding and protection responses consequent upon COVID-19 lockdown and supported the partnership to identify risk and mitigation strategies.

- Facilitated partner buy in and signing of the new Bromley Intergenerational Domestic Violence Abuse Strategy in March 2021.
- Reviewed and revised the BSCP Escalation Procedure, with multi agency input.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

What did we do in 2020-21?

- Further roll out of the Bromley Safer Schools App to help educators, carers and young people keep up to date with advice on COVID-19 and keeping young people safe online.
- Undertook a table-top review relating to vulnerable adolescents, considered by the SPR Subgroup, who had not reached the threshold for a local learning review but required partners to seek assurance that there was not significant additional learning from the cases that had not already been enacted from completed reviews.
- Implemented a Children's Scrutiny Board to map scrutiny functions across the partnership and strengthen the improvement journey across Bromley.



A FOCUS ON GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT

What did we do in 2020-21?

- Implemented a multi-agency MASH Strategic Group and undertook a review of capacity and capability of the MASH.
- Audited Strategy Discussions and Section 47 investigations to assure the partnership that partner representation was adequate in contributing to safeguarding children in Bromley. Subsequently set up a working group to rewrite the Strategy Protocol.



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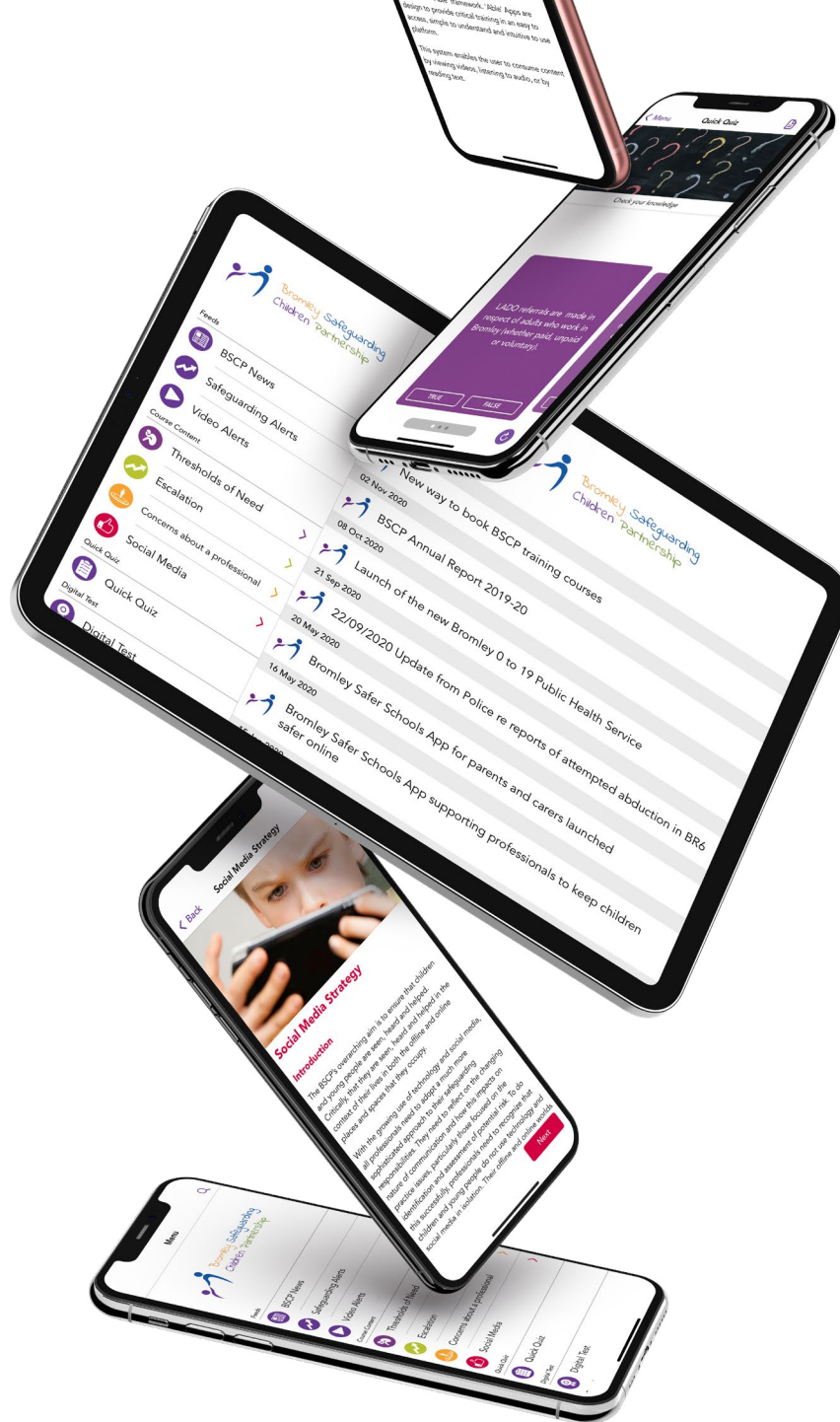
BSCP
Membership



The BSCP business plan aims to develop and deliver services that meet the needs of the children they seek to safeguard. This in the context of children's lives; at home, in care, in education and health, with family and friends and in all the offline and online spaces they frequent. The BSCP recognises that children's access to technology and use of social media is not novel and distinct; rather it is fundamentally integrated in the lives of young people. We further recognise that the context within a child's offline life; neglect, emotional or physical abuse or living in the shadow of abusive relationships is often reflected in the online 'digital footprint' children, young people and many adults now create.

We have therefore discarded the development of an e-safety strategy on the basis of its singular focus on technology and have instead, developed a strategy and suite of supporting documents focused on safeguarding children and young people within the context of their real lives and their access and use of technology. In the toolkit supporting this strategy, professionals are provided with policy, guidance and checklists that will assist safeguarding professionals identify and support children and young people in need of help and protection. This is available on the [BSCP website](#).

In addition, the BSCP has developed Apps to support professionals so that they have immediate access to the guidance they need. The BSCP App includes information on subjects such as thresholds of needs, escalation, what to do if you are concerned about a professional and how to get help if you are concerned about a child. The BSCP Private Fostering App has been downloaded around 18,382 times, the BSCP Safeguarding App has been downloaded around 16,381 times and the FGM App has been downloaded 723 times. Short videos on a number of topics, including exploitation, are also available for professionals on the [BSCP website](#).





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THE BSCP WEBSITE

 www.bromleysafeguarding.org

 www.twitter.com/BromleyLSCP

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Nothing is more important than making sure you are safe and well cared for
- As adults, sometimes we think we always know best... we don't... and that's why your voice is so important
- This is about you and we want to know more about how you think children and young people can be better protected
- We want to talk to you more often and we want to know the best way to do this... please help
- If you are worried about your own safety or that of a friend, speak to a professional you trust or speak to Childline on **0800 1111**

PARENTS AND CARERS

- Public agencies are there to support you and prevent any problems you are having getting worse... Don't be afraid to ask for help
- Tell us what works and what doesn't when professionals are trying to help you and your children
- Make sure you know about the best way to protect your child and take time to understand some of the risks they can face
- You'll never get ahead of your child when it comes to understanding social media and IT – but make yourself aware of the risks that children and young people can face

THE COMMUNITY

- You are in the best place to look out for children and young people and to raise the alarm if something is going wrong for them
- We all share responsibility for protecting children. Don't turn a blind eye. **If you see something, say something**
- If the child lives in Bromley, call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on **0208 461 7373/7379 7026** during working hours
- If you need to speak to someone out of office hours contact the Out of Hours Duty Service on **030 0303 8671**
- You can also call the NSPCC Child Protection helpline on **0808 800 5000**

FRONT-LINE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN OR ADULTS

- Make sure children and young people are seen, heard and helped... whatever your role
- Your professional judgement is what ultimately makes a difference and you must invest in developing the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to effectively safeguard children and young people. Attend all training required for your role
- Understand the importance of talking with colleagues and don't be afraid to share information. If in doubt, speak to your manager
- Escalate your concerns if you do not believe a child or young person is being safeguarded
- Use your representative on the BSCP to make sure that your voice and that of the children and young people you work with are heard
- If your work is mainly with adults, make sure you consider the needs of any children if those adults are parents/carers



LOCAL POLITICIANS

- You are leaders in your local area. Do not underestimate the importance of your role in advocating for the most vulnerable children and making sure everyone takes their safeguarding responsibilities seriously
- Councillor Kate Lymer is the Portfolio Holder for Education and Children and Families and has a key role in children's safeguarding - so does every other councillor
- You can be the eyes and ears of vulnerable children and families... Keep the protection of children at the front of your mind

CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND DIRECTORS

- You set the tone for the culture of your organisation. When you talk, people listen - talk about children and young people
- Your leadership is vital if children and young people are to be safeguarded
- Understand the capability and capacity of your front-line services to protect children and young people - make sure both are robust
- Ensure your workforce attend relevant BSCP training courses and learning events
- Ensure your agency contributes to the work of BSCP and give this the highest priority. Be Section 11 compliant
- Advise the BSCP of any organisational restructures and how these might affect your capacity to safeguard children and young people
- Keep engaged with the safeguarding process and continue to identify children who need early help and protection

THE POLICE

- Robustly pursue offenders and disrupt their attempts to abuse children
- Ensure officers and police staff have the opportunity to train with their colleagues in partner agencies
- Ensure that the voices of all child victims are heard, particularly in relation to listening to evidence where children disclose abuse
- Ensure a strong focus on MACE, MAPPA and MARAC arrangements

HEAD TEACHERS AND GOVERNORS OF SCHOOLS

- Ensure that your school / academy / educational establishment is compliant with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (DfE 2021)
- You see children more than any other profession and develop some of the most meaningful relationships with them

CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS

- CCGs in the health service have a key role in scrutinising the governance and planning across a range of organisations
- Discharge your safeguarding duties effectively and ensure that services are commissioned for the most vulnerable children

THE LOCAL MEDIA

- Safeguarding children and young people is a tough job
- Communicating the message that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility is crucial - you can help do this positively
- Hundreds of children and young people are effectively safeguarded every year across the borough of Bromley



BSCCP Membership 2020-2021

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INDEPENDENT CHAIR

Jim Gamble QPM

BSCP TEAM

Kerry Davies

Partnership Manager (Job Share)

Joanna Gambhir

Partnership Manager (Job Share)

Hazel Blackman

Business Support Officer

BOARD MEMBERS

Felicity Akers

Asst Director of Operations, Bromley Healthcare

Gill Allen

Director, Bromley Y

Janet Bailey

Interim Director Children's Social Care, LBB

Eric Beckford

Interim Head of Service, National Probation Service London

Angela Bhan

Borough Director (Bromley), South East London CCG

Hannah Brice

Manager, Change, Grow, Live

Kim Carey

Interim Director, Adult Social Care, LBB

Lynnette Chamielec

Deputy Director Housing, LBB

Jane Clegg

Director of Nursing, NHS England (once a year attendance only)

David Dare

Assistant Director Children's Social Care, LBB

Helen Dyer

Bromley CFVSF Chair (third sector)

Peter Fortune

Portfolio Holder, Education, Children and Families Services

Julia Hale

Designated Dr, (Bromley), SEL Clinical Commissioning Group

Stuart Hills

Head of Service Quality Assurance, LBB

Debbie Hutchinson

Deputy Director Nursing, Kings College Hospital

Louise Jones

Service Manager, Cafcass

Marina Laurie

Lay Member

Betty McDonald

Head of Youth Offending Service, LBB

Karen Moorey

Deputy Headteacher, Eden Park High School

Jared Nehra

Director of Education, LBB

Finola O'Driscoll

Senior Strategist, Public Health, LBB

Rebecca Saunders

Designated Nurse (Bromley), SEL Clinical Commissioning Group

Geraldine Shackleton

Primary Education Director, Aquinas Trust

Mark Smith

Head of Service 0 -25 Project

Lucien Spencer

Area Manager, London CRC

Antoinette Thorne

Learning and Development Manager, LBB and chair of BSCP Training Subgroup

Jane Wells

Director of Nursing and Safeguarding, Oxleas NHS Trust



FEEDBACK

Please take 3 minutes to complete our short feedback survey so we can keep improving the BSCP Annual Report each year. The survey is anonymous.

<https://fs4.formsite.com/BSCP21/0a1sbdyeoq/index.html>

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Bromley
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership

Seen | Heard | Helped

www.bromleysafeguarding.org

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Report No.
CEF21047

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 9 November 2021

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: 0-25 PROGRESS REPORT

Contact Officer: Mark Smith, Head of Service: 0-25 Project
E-mail: Mark.Smith@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Children's Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. REASON FOR REPORT

To update the CEF PDS and Adults PDS of the scoping and progress of 0-25 Project.

The Council's [Transforming Bromley roadmap for 2019 to 2023](#) sets out the Children's Services and Education workstream but is cross cutting with Adults, Housing and Health and Commissioning.

This includes the following statements:

Statement 5 - Review transition plans and service pathways and Statement 6 - Explore opportunities for developing an integrated 0 – 25 service offer for children and young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

An initial scoping report was completed in early 2021 for the transformation board which outlined initial findings some of which will be summarised within this report to update Children and Adult PDS.

This report provides a summary of initial key findings, present progress and next steps.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee and the Adult, Care and Health PDS Committee consider the report and endorse the direction of the project.

Following the ongoing consultation and feedback from young people, families and the local area, the viable options will be presented at a later date.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact:

The project has a significant impact on supporting young people with SEND – the local offer and support and transitioning into adult services.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable:

2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Supporting Independence Healthy Bromley:

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A:

2. Ongoing costs:

3. Budget head/performance centre:

4. Total current budget for this head: £

5. Source of funding:

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A

2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: Further Details

2. Call-in: Applicable Not Applicable: Further Details

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications:

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A

2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

Project Focus:

The project's key focus is the consideration of how young people transition from children to adult services and how this offer can be improved. Within this focus, how services are managed/integrated is to be reviewed and the development of services provided for young people of 14-25 is also part of the project scope.

It is widely acknowledged both nationally and locally, that the transition from children to adult services can be a 'cliff edge'¹. In Bromley through collaborative working, we try to ensure that pathways are understood, and families and young people's anxieties are minimised. However, we also recognise that we can do more to improve this. We wish to improve transition with a 'smooth pathway'.

The changes in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 where the Local Authority is responsible for young people up to the age of 25 and the Children and Families Act 2014 establishing the responsibility to support young people with SEND up to 25, together with the improvement journey of children education and families and the realignment of adult services provides an opportunity to shine a light on what we can do better and/or differently.

Within children services, there is a collaborative approach with parent/carers and the child. However, when a young person reaches the age of 18 and accessing adult services the focus rightly moves to the young adult. The project will be considering how this cultural change can be owned by all departments and agencies as the children of today become tomorrow's adults. Planning needs to be developed earlier on in a child's journey collaboratively with adult and commissioning services. It is paramount that we ensure parent/carers are part of this process and work together to support this change, prior to the young person acquiring adulthood status.

Vision:

Our vision is set out in our [SEND Strategic Vision and Priorities for 2019 to 2022](#):

'That our children and young people have their needs met locally, as far as possible, growing up alongside their peers and able to live, learn and work in their local community'.

The agreed collective vision for this project was agreed at the 0-25 governance board:

- To recognise the vulnerabilities of our children and young people who have SEND and consider the safeguarding issues when reviewing all aspects of this project.
- To develop meaningful relationships with our children and young people, their parents and carers, our colleagues, and the wider community.
- To have a strength-based approach, identifying the positive contribution our children and young people who have SEND offer to society.
- To be aspirational and to support our children and young people to take appropriate risks to reach their full potential.
- To achieve excellence.
- To embrace the 'Preparing for Adulthood Pathways (PfA)² which are Employment, Independent Living, Community Inclusion and Health.

¹ <https://cerebra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/transition-in-england.pdf>

² <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/SiteAssets/Downloads/y1fzx4tn636398691202503873.jpg>

- To address all forms of discrimination and disproportionality, recognising that children and young people with a SEND are likely to need support and empowerment to achieve, without having to deal further with prejudice and discrimination. The project will need to embrace the nine protected characteristics of the [Equality Act 2010](#).

The voice of children, young people and their parents are at the centre of [Children and Families Act 2014](#), clearly set out in the principles in [Section 19](#). This dictates that children, young people and their families should be involved in decision making at every level of the system. These values and requirements are key to the project.

Project Cohort:

The project's priority will be those young people who will meet 'Care Act' criteria. In April 2021, the numbers of young people open to either the Children's Disability Service or one of the 3 adult service areas (Learning Disability, Physical Disability and Mental Health) from 18-25 was 539. As a Local Authority we know the young people in the system, although the exact numbers are difficult to predict due to the following reasons,

- There are our children looked after who will go on to need services via adult social care. It can be difficult to fully determine if these young people will require adult services, often identifying future 'care and support' needs in late adolescence due to their complex and mixed presentation due to the impact of social issues and sometimes an organic disability. These young people will not neatly fit into the learning, physical or mental health adult teams but have a combination of needs.
- A recent demand management exercise highlighted there are only a very small number of children who access adult services (18-25) who did not receive statutory social care support as a child. The conclusion for those who did not access children's services is surmised that either these young people/families choose to manage without additional support, did not meet the eligibility criteria for a short break or have moved in from other boroughs near to/or post 18.
- In addition, there will be a small number who do not meet the 'Care Act' criteria, but received services from the Children's Disability Services, which might be due to there being family support issues which required children's services to be involved, as well as those young people who move out of borough prior to the age of 18.

In order to have effective planning for young people and strategically commission for future need, an improved system is required. We have systems in place, including previously developing an 'Integrated Transition Register'. However, despite this positive accumulation of information which has supported commissioning, it was a time onerous task to update this manual spreadsheet and difficult for reporting. Therefore, consideration at the time of writing is to use Liquidlogic to predict future need. A new 'transition plan' could be recorded on the system and information updated annually in line with a young person's annual review of Education Health and Care (EHC plan), which would support operational and strategic planning.

The project will also work with the local area to support a second cohort of young people who have SEND, but not meet the criteria for adult services. In August 2021, there were 3144 children and young people with an EHC plan. From our initial demand management work, approximately 539 of these young people are presently known to either the Children's Disability Service or adult services up to the age of 25. There is a third cohort who do not meet the threshold for an EHC plan - but might also be vulnerable adults - who do not meet

'Care Act' criteria, some of whom will be previously looked after children. Many of these young people will need signposting and practical support due to their vulnerabilities.

Commissioners are currently retendering the Primary and Secondary Intervention Services contract which identifies those not meeting 'Care Act' criteria which will benefit these two cohorts. Other projects within the local area are ensuring these young people are supported, such as work through the [Bromley All-Age Autism Partnership Board](#). Although the focus is on individuals with autism, many of the actions are likely to have a positive impact on all children and young people who have SEND.

There are currently 319 children looked after (as of September 2021) of whom approximately 40% will have an EHC plan. Some of these will go on to require adult services, although further work is required to anticipate how many will require support above that of leaving care responsibilities. As corporate parents the project will consider 'Children Looked After (CLA)' who also meet 'Care Act' criteria and how the Local Authority supports these young people appropriately, recognising both responsibilities under the 'Care Act' and 'Leaving Care Act'.

Joint Working/Service Developments:

There is a 0-25 Governance board in place, established on 28th June 2021. Three board meetings have occurred approximately on a monthly basis to track progress. This is jointly chaired by the Director of Children, Education and Families and Director of Adult Social Care Services.

The Council, in partnership with the CCG, is already driving forward developments and improvements for children and young people who have SEND.

A key area is the 'SEND Action Plan' which is scrutinised by the SEND Governance Board. In addition, services, departments and partners have their own action and improvement plans. Some of these have a primary focus on support for children and young people who have SEND, whilst others will also have impact. For example, there will be action plans in place for CLA, which will include the needs of those who have SEND.

Lead officers are also required to respond where necessary to need, expired contracts and changes in legislation. Many of these projects, initiatives and plans will have their own timescale and have obviously not halted with the initiation of the 0-25 project. An understanding of their roles, and work has been key in order to provide input as and when required, but to ensure that the approach is integrated in its thinking as this project overarches a number of services.

There has been recent realignment of the EHC caseworkers, with caseworkers now specialising in working with young people from 14-25 years of age. Workers will therefore have a focus on developing independence and specialist knowledge of provision, services, and common issues for a young person of this age. Consideration will need to be given as to how to further develop the joint working with both children and adult social care teams.

There has been a recent retendering of adult service respite, supported living, day opportunities and day centre provision. Although led by strategic learning disability commissioners, the 0-25 project lead has been on the Learning Disability Partnership Board and visited new provisions to ensure they are considering the needs of younger adults. It is essential that these services reflect the future young people transitioning into adult services and are able to meet their needs to prevent those with the most complex needs requiring

out of borough provision. This is ongoing and immediate work is a working protocol to be agreed between Hollybank short break overnight provision and 118 Widmore Road adult overnight provision.

[Liberty Protection Safeguards](#) (LPS) will change the processes for when a young person who is 16 or over, who are or who need to be deprived of their liberty in order to enable their care or treatment and lack the mental capacity to consent to their arrangements. Following a rescheduling, the government have stated its aim is for these regulations to come into force in April 2022. The 0-25 project lead will be part of the LPS Working Group, led by Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Service Manager and Head of Service Safeguarding, Practice and Quality Improvement to consider how the Council implement these reforms.

The Local authority have completed an initial audit through using a readiness tool in co-operation with the Council for Disabled Children (CDC). An action plan is now to be developed to ensure compliance with the legislation. The Local Authority have been reviewing children and young people where there is a DoLS and establishing what action is required to have the DoLS authorised. We have prioritised those young people who are looked after. In the coming months children in care below the age of 16 are also to be reviewed. We will then be considering those young people who are in residential placements, but solely funded through SEN.

Core to the project is the provision of information and early planning. It is viewed that informing young people and families early will lead to more young people's needs being met locally. We have our inaugural transition event booked for Tuesday 26th October, where we have local providers marketing their services, as well as workshops on key topics. Our aim is that these events will be held on a biannual basis. Alongside this, work has been completed by colleagues to improve the information on the Local Offer. This can be further enhanced by the introduction of the Bromley website being on a new platform. We are also in the initial stages of reviewing an app that can be focussed on transition - to keep young people and their families informed of our services and developments in Bromley.

The project lead is part of a national group, facilitated by the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) reviewing eligibility criteria and thresholds for access to short breaks and considering the links with adult services. This work will build on previous work completed with the CDC, where the Local Authority were part of a social care innovation project which developed an on-line assessment. The aim is to build on this previous work, supporting more streamline access to short breaks, supporting social care professionals to focus on children and families where more support/safeguarding is required.

Children with SEND, especially those young people with a more severe/profound disability, will often have additional health needs - both physical and mental health - which requires productive multi agency work. Work has now been initiated on a keyworking scheme for young people and adults with autism and/or learning disabilities who are at risk of becoming an inpatient in an Assessment and Treatment Unit (ATU) led by South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (SELCCG). The project lead and local area will work closely with SELCCG to identify these young people at risk, who will need to be placed on a 'Dynamic Support Register' and thereafter work together to prevent admission.

The project will also work with the CCG and local providers - Oxleas and Bromley Healthcare - to support a smooth transition into adult services. We are working together with the adult learning disability nursing team to have a better system for identifying young people from 14+ with a learning disability who are entitled to an annual review of their health, due to the increased likelihood of suffering poor health and early death.

The project, as detailed in the 0-25 action plan, will have oversight on many areas that have an impact on these important transition years and will be monitored via the 0-25 governance board.

Co-Production and Next Steps:

From discussions with other Local Authorities who have moved to a 0-25 service, the majority do support the continuation of their service spanning both children and adult services, although do voice caution, i.e. difficulties in recruiting skilled social workers with the right knowledge and skills to work between children and adult services, understanding the legal changes from Children's Act 1989 to the Care Act 2014. In addition, the changing focus in adolescence, from the work with parents to being more young person-centered. Positive feedback is that a service spanning the transition years, leads to workers and managers having more of a vested interest and commitment to the young person and their family during these important years. This in turn leads to better outcomes and there are less inter-departmental issues to overcome.

Integral to the vision of this project is that co-production as the driving force in developing a new offer. We will listen to the young people and their families to produce a new offer which meets their needs. We are now in this process and gaining valuable information from families and their experience where transition has worked well, as well as areas for development. Further feedback will be obtained at our forthcoming transition event on the 26th October 2021.

Work with young people will also be completed through our young person and parent lead, which is being arranged. Not only do we hope this directs our new offer, but also supports what services need to offer going forward.

Since January the project lead has met with all key partners on multiple occasions and shared progress of the ongoing project developments. However, key teams will be offered sessions to share their views on how the transition offer can be improved for the young people in Bromley, which will support any future developments. In addition, there will be a survey to gain professional opinion across the local area.

In November 2021 the feedback will be reviewed, which will be used to consider what design is needed to deliver better outcomes for the young people of Bromley. The project lead views from their experience within the Children's Disability Service, and feedback from all stakeholders, it is clearly evident that a new offer is required, in conjunction with better planning from 14 years of age. It is viewed that planning from 14 is a minimum and that the four Bromley life pathways should be considered from early years. These are;

- Education, Employment and Training
- Health and Wellbeing
- Developing Independence
- Friendships and Community

Any decisions that need to be made will be with the focus of supporting young people locally and achieving the desired outcomes shared through the co-production work.

Consideration will be given as to whether training, development of systems, improved processes and some cultural change will lead to these improvements, or if more significant restructuring is required to meet these outcomes.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children, Policy Implications, Financial Implications, Personnel Implications, Legal Implications, Procurement Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	

A large version of the 0-25 PROJECT logo, featuring the numbers '0', '2', and '5' in white on a green background, with 'TO' in yellow. Below the graphic, the word 'PROJECT' is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

Initial scoping report to Transformation Board

Mark Smith

Head of Service: 0-25 Project Lead

23rd April 2021

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Section 1: Introduction

The Council's [Transforming Bromley roadmap for 2019 to 2023](#) sets out the Children's Services and Education workstream. This includes the following statements:

Statement 5 -

Review transition plans and service pathways

Statement 6 -

Explore opportunities for developing an integrated 0 – 25 service offer for children and young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)

I have been seconded to lead on these two workstreams, initially for 1 year with scope to extend. The transformation agenda runs from 2019 to 2023. A transition period was required from 1st December 2020 to handover from my substantive position of Group Manager, Children's Disability Service. I commenced full time on the project scoping from 11th January 2021.

The context of this report is to provide an overview to the Transformation Board on the findings from my initial 12 weeks and current recommendations for the next steps.

Within this scoping period, I have reviewed relevant legislation, practice guidance, referred to action plans (which are working documents), inspections and reports by Bromley services. The documents referred to within this initial report are referenced, within the bibliography and detailed within the Project Action Plan. Given the broad nature of the project, the list is not exhaustive. However, as part of the ongoing project, I will work with partners to understand the key documents, relevant action plans and research that needs to be considered.

Section 2: Vision

Our vision is set out in our [SEND Strategic Vision and Priorities for 2019 to 2022](#):



It is imperative that there are core values which are stated for this project. These have been agreed with Janet Bailey, Project Sponsor, as:

- To recognise the vulnerabilities of our children and young people who have SEND and consider the safeguarding issues when reviewing all aspects of this project.
- To develop meaningful relationships with our children and young people, their parents and carers, our colleagues, and the wider community.
- To have a strength-based approach, identifying the positive contribution our children and young people who have SEND offer to society.
- To be aspirational and to support our children and young people to take appropriate risks to reach their full potential.
- To achieve excellence.
- To embrace the 'Preparing for Adulthood Pathways (PfA)¹ which are Employment, Independent Living, Community Inclusion and Health.
- To address all forms of discrimination and disproportionality, recognising that children and young people with a SEND are likely to need support and empowerment to achieve, without having to deal further with prejudice and discrimination. The project will need to embrace the nine protected characteristics of the [Equality Act 2010](#).

¹ <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/SiteAssets/Downloads/y1fzx4tn636398691202503873.jpg>

The voice of children, young people and their parents are at the centre of [Children and Families Act 2014](#), clearly set out in the principles in [Section 19](#). This dictates that children, young people and their families should be involved in decision making at every level of the system. These values and requirements will be initiated with a period of co-production.

Section 3: Methodology

I have worked in my substantive position as Group Manager since 2009 and prior to then in different roles within the Council's Disability Service, including the Community Adolescent Transition Service in November 1999. I therefore have had the opportunity to work with colleagues in SEND services and therefore have insight into their role and responsibilities. However, I have taken this opportunity to meet with colleagues to discuss the project, whilst also meeting with new colleagues.

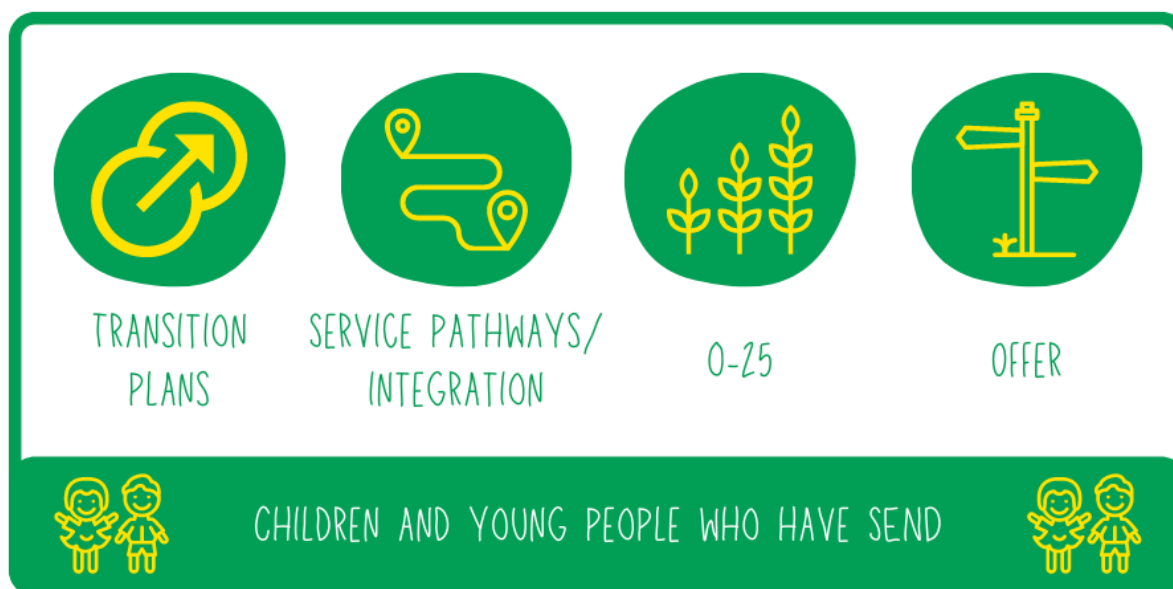
I met with relevant Assistant Directors and Directors in the Council (including Education, Commissioning, Housing, Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care) and the NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), as near as possible to the beginning of the scoping exercise to gain their support and their view on the direction of the project.

The process has included meeting on a 1:1 basis, small groups, attending meetings or boards and relevant workshops (detailed in Appendix 1) to further develop my understanding of core issues and recommend key areas for review.

Due to the government restrictions in place most of the meetings have been virtual. On one level this has been of some benefit with reduced travel times. However, this has not provided the opportunity to meet in person, which would give a greater likelihood of developing working relationships. Due to working from home there has not been the opportunity for impromptu meetings which occur when there is shared office space. The pandemic clearly has placed significant pressure on colleagues and services which has affected some people's abilities to meet due to present work demands. It has also meant there has been no opportunity to visit other local areas, provisions or facilities in person and gain an insight from seeing people and environments in person, therefore I have adapted to a digital virtual platform. Following easements, it is my intention to visit in person certain facilities and other Local Authorities as the project moves forward.

Section 4: Scope of project

An essential starting point was quantifying the scope of this project and the priorities. This was defined by the transformation statements detailed within the introduction.



Transition Plans

It is widely acknowledged both nationally and locally, that the transition from children to adult services can be a ‘cliff edge’². We wish to prevent this and support our young people to transition with a ‘smooth pathway’. There are changes in legislation, teams, as well as the approach between children and adult services. Within children services, there is a collaborative approach with parent/carers, however once in adult services the focus moves to the young person/young adult. The project will be considering how this cultural change can be owned by all departments and agencies as the children of today are tomorrow’s adults. Planning needs to be developed earlier on in a child’s journey collaboratively with adult and commissioning services. It is paramount that we ensure parent/carers are part of this process and work together to support this change prior to the young person acquiring adulthood status.

² <https://cerebra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/transition-in-england.pdf>

Service Pathways/Integration

The project will focus on how we can better *integrate* pathways individuals, teams, services, departments, and agencies to benefit our children and young people. We need to consider if there are overlaps or gaps in provisions which need addressing. The project is not about necessarily changing what is in place; however, if through the project timeframe and/or co-production fundamental issues with the system are identified, that change will result in better outcomes and/or efficiencies, the project would need to consider such developments.

0-25

The project will consider the journey for our children and young people, and their families. Although a key focus is the transition into adulthood, it is imperative we consider the journey for our children and young people, and their families, starting with birth and through their childhood, which will impact on their adult life and their decision making as an adult. Within our [SEND Strategic Vision and Priorities for 2019 to 2022](#) it states:

That we have a strong commitment to early intervention and prevention so that help is provided in a timely way and children and young people's needs do not increase unnecessarily

For example, if a young person is experiencing difficulties with their communication which is impacting on their behaviour, the need to address this early on is imperative, as opposed to trying to manage the impact of the behaviour as an adult.

Offer

The project will be reviewing what the present *offer is* and considering if this best supports our children and young people. Whether this will lead to changes in services is dependent on the findings and the co-production outcomes.

Children and Young People who have SEND

This project is focussed on all children and young people who have SEND. This clearly is an extensive cohort and therefore this report will further detail where the project will focus, which is detailed in section 5.

Any offer/future developments will need to ensure that relevant legislation and guidelines are adhered to. The Children and Families Act is core legislation which provides the

framework to the project identifying the importance of working collaboratively from 0 to 25 years of age. Other key legislation includes:

- [Children's Act 1989](#)
- [Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970](#)
- [Care Act 2014](#)

There are many other acts and guidance which will need considering in any future offer, which will be discussed further in subsequent reports.

Within the SEND Strategic Vision and Priorities are the following statements:

We know we will have been successful when:

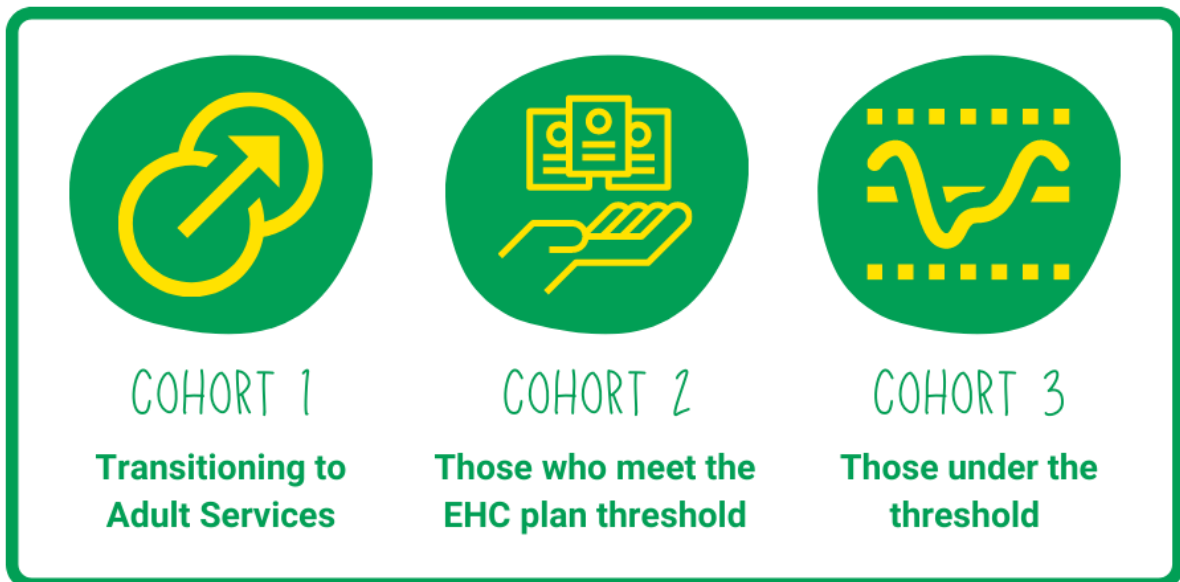
- *All services that work with children and young people who have SEND have a consistent understanding of our principles and processes.*
- *All projects for children and young people across the Council and the CCG make reference to our SEND cohort and clearly demonstrate outcomes for children and young people.*
- *The commissioning of SEND provision across the borough is based on clear evaluations and a robust dataset.*

The project will need to recognise this success criteria.

Section 5: Our SEND Cohort

The present numbers of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan are 2981 as detailed within the Education Performance Digest, February 2021.

The project has a responsibility to consider all children who have SEND; however, it is recognised that present services in situ are of a good standard across education, health and social care. The [Local Area Review of SEND by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in 2019](#) praised many aspects of the Local Area and there was no formal letter of action. As and when developments are required within teams and services, this will be led by the relevant officers responsible for their service.



Cohort 1 – Transitioning to Adult Services

A key focus will be on those children and young people who have a severe or profound disability and those that will meet the criteria for care and support from adult services through the Care Act 2014. The reason for the focus on this cohort is that they will have more professional involvement, access more services and will have more transitions in life which could be difficult to navigate and, therefore, there is increased work to be completed in ensuring services are integrated and young people and their families receive support when needed.

As of April 2021 the approximate number of children and young people open to the following services are as follows:

- Children’s Disability Service 384 children (aged 0 to 18th birthday)
- Adult Learning Disability Team 105 (aged 18 to and including age 25)
- Adult Mental Health Teams 22 (aged 18 to and including age 25)
- Assessment and Care Management 28 (aged 18 to and including age 25)

In addition to these numbers, there will be many young people who choose not to be known to these services, which the project will need to establish.

This group would also include reviewing the present 30 children and young people (aged 0 to 25) who are subject to continuing care funding through the NHS, who are likely to be included within the above numbers.

Cohort 2 - Those who meet the EHC plan threshold

The second cohort are those children and young people who have met the threshold for an EHC plan. Within the first cohort, the majority will have an EHC plan.

It remains essential that for those with an EHC plan, the process and support provided is integrated. This will include a significant number of Children Looked After (CLA) with 41% of the 334 (137) CLA having an EHC plan, where it is essential we recognise our corporate parenting responsibilities for these children and young people up to and including 25 years of age, many of whom would not meet the Care Act criteria, but as an organisation these are our sons and daughters .

The work on EHC planning was initiated when Bromley were a ‘pathfinder’ and ‘pathfinder champion’ for the introduction of the Children and Families Act. The council continue to work to ensure that education, health and social care work are integrated in

supporting children and young people who have SEND. This cohort will be reviewed to consider if there are any areas which require more focussed integration. However, it is recognised that Debi Christie, Head of SEN and Liz Lake, SEND Reforms Manager are already leading on this area of work and supporting significant developments and improvements, which is reported to the SEND Governance Board.

Cohort 3 – Those under the threshold

The third cohort is those that do not fit neatly into the two initial groups. This includes those who do not meet the criteria for an EHC plan or Care Act criteria; however, who still have SEND.

There will be a particular focus on these children and young people who will remain vulnerable if support is not provided, ensuring that they have appropriate signposting or consideration is given as to how they can be supported by the Council, especially critical for our previously looked after children that our ownership and the whole council continues in the corporate parenting role up to 25 years. As with our own children we do not automatically cease to care following their 25th birthday.

Section 6: Summary of Initial Findings

The Council, in partnership with the CCG, is already driving forward developments and improvements for children and young people who have SEND.

A key area is the SEND Action Plan which is scrutinised by the SEND Governance Board. In addition, services, departments and partners have their own action and improvement plans. Some of these have a primary focus on support for children and young people who have SEND, whilst others will also have impact. For example, there will be action plans in place for CLA, which will include the needs of those who have SEND.

There are many developments as part of the [Bromley All-Age Autism Partnership Board](#). Although the action plan is in relation to developments and supporting children and adults with autism, many of the actions are likely to have a positive impact on all children and young people who have SEND.

Lead officers are required to respond where necessary to need, expired contracts and have their own improvement plans for which they will manage. Many of these projects, initiatives and plans will have their own timescale and have obviously not halted with the initiation of the 0-25 project. I have therefore needed to understand their work and, where possible, work alongside colleagues and provide my input as and when required. For example, retendering of adult service respite/short breaks has been necessary. I have therefore been kept abreast of changes through the Learning Disability Partnership Board and have started work with colleagues to ensure any future services meet the project visions.

I have had initial discussions with other local authorities, including the London Boroughs of Barnet, Barking & Dagenham and Brent.

- Their SEND services are working in line with the Children and Families Act by working with children and young people whilst they have an EHC plan (with 25 years of age being a maximum).
- The Local Authorities have a 0-25 social care service (Barking and Dagenham a lifelong disability service) which they have feedback has been of benefit to have a social care service covering children and adults social care, although it is apparent there is often a transition between workers. However, given the management is in one place this does improve the transition and supports a cultural change from an earlier age.

Further discussions are required with these and other Local Authorities to understand the pros and cons of different structures and thereafter consider the options for Bromley, alongside co-production. Appendix 2 highlights some potential learning in any future development of a 0-25 offer/service.

Section 7: Key Review Areas

The Project Action Plan incorporates aspects of other service and department action plans that I will be taking responsibility for, or working on, with colleagues. Three significant areas of work covering SEND include,

- SEND Reforms Action Plan
- Bromley All Age Autism Action Plan
- SEND Annual Review Action Plan

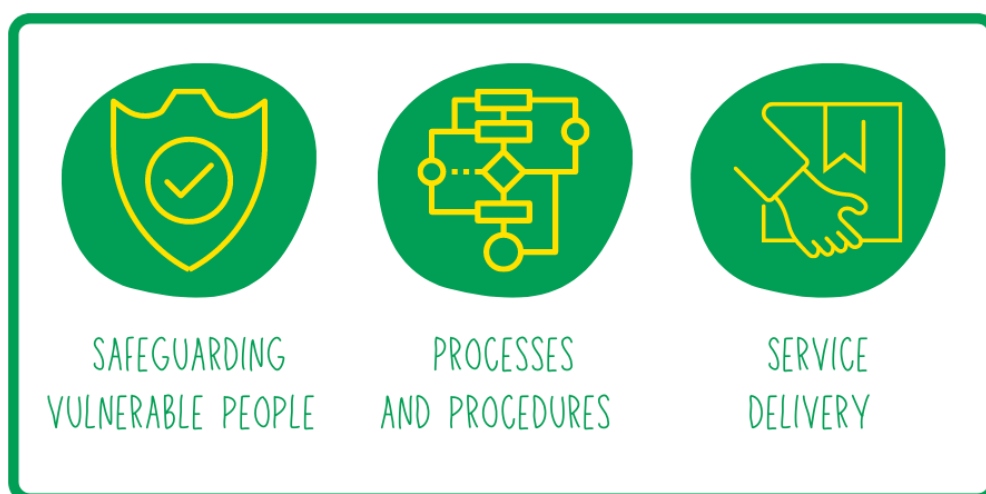
Detailed within this section are key priorities which I am recommending should be prioritised.

A key focus of the project is to:

- improve the present transitional arrangements in place between children and adult services
- review and develop the information and advice provided for young people and their parents/carers from year 9 (14 years of age) jointly from Children Education and Families, Adult Services and Health services
- support young people and parent/carers in making informed decisions
- developing localised services

This will require co-production to agree on what are the priorities and views from young people, families and the Local Area to decide on how this will be progressed.

Initial key recommend areas for review are categorised as follows.



Safeguarding Vulnerable People

Through discussion with the safeguarding lead in adults, attendance at Transition Panel and the thematic review of children deaths, there are identified gaps in safeguarding vulnerable young adults and the service pathways for these young people where they fall between adult services.

This is an **urgent** piece of work with colleagues in both children and adult services to ensure that children do not fall between services and there is a service for young vulnerable adults and our Care Leavers have a rites of passage for support in adults even though they may fall below the Care Act criteria. Our care leavers are our children and young people for whom we are responsible as a corporate parent. There has been an increase in the suicide of young people nationally and Bromley is not untouched by this and this area will need addressing if we are not have young lives lost following the pandemic .

Processes and Procedures

Liberty Protection Safeguards

[Liberty Protection Safeguards](#) (LPS) will change the processes for when a young person who is 16 or over, who are or who need to be deprived of their liberty in order to enable their care or treatment and lack the mental capacity to consent to their arrangements. Following a rescheduling, the present plan is for these regulations to come into force in April 2022.

I will be part of the LPS Working Group, led by Ade Suliman, under the supervision of Dirk Holtshausen, to consider how the Council implement these reforms.

The Government has announced that they plan to provide a Code of Practice in the spring of 2021. These legislative changes will have a significant impact as to how we work with young people of 16 and 17, and from a younger age.

Integrated Transition Register

There is a priority to quantify numbers of young people that will transition into adulthood and meet Care Act criteria. The Council's Integrated Transition Register (ITR) includes all the names and key details of those with an EHC plan, as well as additional data regarding their future need for support. This register has not been updated for the past year as the original postholder has moved to a different post (EHC Caseworker). The funding stream for this is to be re-visited. The need to have a clear understanding of our future cohort is critical in order to plan on an individual basis, as well as future strategic commissioning for adult services, including housing. If a similar format is viewed as being

required we will need to decide how this information is updated, maintained and who is the responsible officer for this work.

Client Database

Social Care are implementing a new client database (Liquidlogic). The plan is for this system to be implemented in June 2021 for children's services. This is an important opportunity to ensure that there are clear processes in place to support the transition from children to adult services.

Further in the year, planned for October 2021, adult services will transition to Liquidlogic from CareFirst.

Consideration also needs to be given to the practicalities of communication between the SEND and social care systems.

Online Assessments and Reviews

The Children's Disability Service were previously involved with the DfE and Council for Disabled Children in a social care innovation project starting in 2013³. The key area developed was the implementation of an online assessment, which has provided a more seamless and less onerous access to short breaks.

The aim is to develop this further, with the implementation of a review on-line assessment. This supports the philosophy of families telling their story once and supporting social care staff to focus on supporting the most vulnerable children and their families. This will be considered, alongside the Liquidlogic implementation.

Service Delivery

Short Breaks for Children and Young People

Regular anecdotal feedback, parent surveys, consultation events and professional viewpoints state there is a need for a wider breadth of short breaks, for those with varying levels of SEND, a more far ranging level of activities on offer and that they are available across the borough.

Initial work has been completed during the pandemic with the provision of additional short breaks within longer holiday periods. However, a long-term strategy on a boroughwide short break offer is required. The aim is to be part of a project supported by the

³ <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/our-work/social-care/policy/transforming-culture-and-practice-social-care>

Department for Education (DfE) and Council for Disabled Children to develop these services.

Consideration will also be given as to how this meets the need of young people from 14-25.

Short Breaks/Respite for Adults

There is a need to work in partnership with strategic commissioners in adult learning disability services, who are reviewing adult day opportunities, respite and supported living arrangements to meet needs of young people from 14-25. Currently young adults access the same short breaks as older people which does not always benefit either age group and raises anxiety in terms of carers for both groups.

There is a present change of providers and therefore an opportune time to work with them to support them in meeting the PfA pathways and improve the transition arrangements.

Domiciliary Care Services

There is a domiciliary care tendering in process, which includes domiciliary support for children and young people. It is important that as the project lead for 0-25 I ensure new providers can meet the needs of children and young people.

Children Coming into Care

The pandemic has had a significant impact on children and young people with disabilities and the pressures experienced by families in supporting them, resulting in increased children coming into care and further requests through the Children's Disability Service. A more joined up approach to preventing children requiring expensive out of borough placements and/or becoming a 'child looked after' is required. Consideration is required as to how some of the difficulties experienced can be managed at an earlier stage through multi-agency pro-active work and utilising where possible Early Intervention Services.

Commissioning of placements

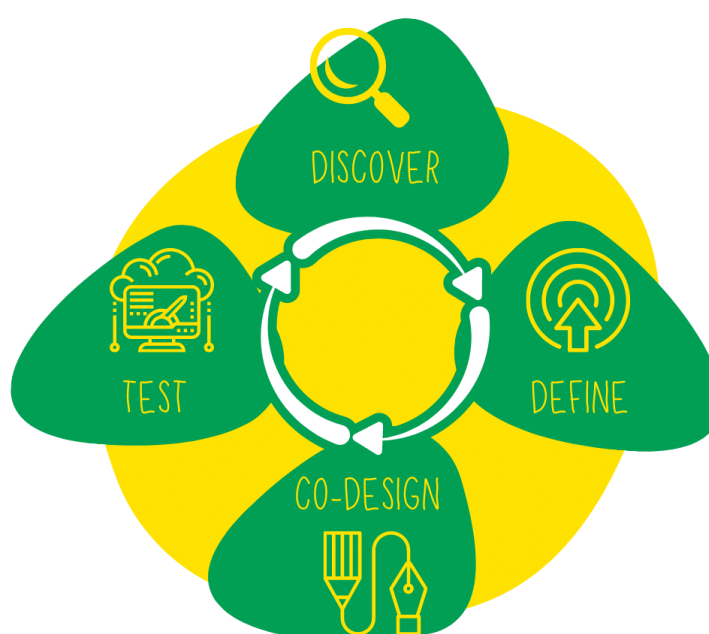
When a child is placed out of borough within an independent provision this often results in a significant increase in spend and not always better outcomes. These costs have been previously identified in the SEND 4Change review and reviewed regularly at

Placement Panel every week. Departments are working hard to decrease this spend and gain better value when commissioning such placements, however a more joined up strategy across commissioning, social care, education and adult learning disability is recommended to consider the most successful approach to this commissioning process.

Section 8: Co-production

The aim for this project is to ensure that any developments are born out of the community and Local Area. The aim is to listen and respond to the people who the service is for and key to that is the voice and aspirations of young people. To do this, there needs to be a period of co-production.

There are four key phases to co-production as follows:



Discover Learn as much as possible about the current system and how it works

Define Analyse the learning from the discovery phase to clearly define challenges and barriers to achieving the aims of the programme in practice and to identify the key opportunities for change

Co-design Work in partnership with children, young people, their families and professionals to generate ideas and develop new approaches to test

Test Trial the co-produced ideas with children, young people, families and professionals

Four key principles

When Bromley were previously involved in social care innovation the work in each phase has been underpinned by four key principles that was developed by the participating local authorities involved, including Bromley:

1. Meaningful co-production with disabled children and young people, parent carers, and professionals
2. Creative person-centred approaches
3. A seamless service experience
4. Prevention is best

Framework and Approach

The Council's [User Voice Framework](#) and [Better Together](#) details the key principles of Bromley's commitment to engaging with our children and young, and their families, which will form the basis of our co-production.

I will be working with Kay Moore, Children, Young Persons and Parent SEND Lead, to aid in co-ordinating the co-production with children and young people, and their parents, carers and families.

Hearing Directly from Children and Young People

It will be essential to talk with children and young people who are yet to make the move into adult services, those experiencing transition and those that have been through the transition, both with positive and negative experiences. We will work with local organisations such as [Advocacy for All](#) and [Bromley Experts By Experience](#) to ensure we hear the voice of the young person.

In line with current Government restrictions and the additional vulnerability of children and young adults who have SEND, many of the activity and respite provisions have been closed for periods during the pandemic. On the reopening of the provisions, I will visit to gain a 'real life' insight into how they run and talk with those accessing the provision and the teams supporting the young people. Although I have significant experience in working with children and adults with disabilities, in their home, community and residential settings, it is critical to understand all the options available within Bromley and surrounding boroughs and how this can be improved upon.

Hearing Directly from Parents and Carers

The Council has, and continues to, consult with the parent/carers of children and young people who have SEND on many different aspects relating to Council services.

Therefore, it is imperative that any co-production is co-ordinated and that recognition is given to previous surveys and information previously shared. For example, there were two consultation meetings held in November 2020 to discuss short break developments. There is also a present SEND survey which has been launched for parents. The outcome of this will aid in future planning.

We will look to work in partnership with [Your Voice in Health and Social Care](#) (YVHSC) who have been commissioned to actively involve parents and carers of children and young people who have SEND through the [Bromley Parent Engagement SEND Service](#) (BPRESS).

We will also seek to work in co-operation with [Bromley Parent Voice](#) to build on their significant experience of working with parents and carers in Bromley.

There is an informal group for parents of adults who have disabilities who are represented on the Learning Disability Partnership Board. Links will be developed with this group to ensure they are included in any co-production work.

Hearing Directly from Professionals

It is paramount that we also include teams who are responsible for delivering the services for our children and young people and their families. They have a wealth of knowledge that needs to be gathered and will influence any offer that is considered in the future.

We will be working with our partners in the Local Area, including education provisions, short break providers, health partners, the voluntary and private sector to learn from their experience in working with our children young people and their families.

Section 9: Governance

Project Governance Board

There will be a 0-25 Governance Board which will review the project. The board will agree terms or reference, the project visions (as detailed in section 2) and decide how outcomes can be measured, presently this is through the attached action plan.

The board is required as the project covers multiple service areas of the Council including social care, both children and adults, SEN, housing, commissioning, as well as colleagues within the CCG.

The intention for inauguration of the Board will May 2021

Project sponsor

Janet Bailey
Director of Children, Education and Families

Project Lead

Mark Smith
Head of Service: 0-25 Project Lead

Board Members

The present suggested members of the board are:

- Janet Bailey, Director of Children, Education and Families (Chair)
- Mark Smith, Head of Service: 0-25 Project Lead
- David Dare, Assistant Director: Children's Social Care
- Jared Nehra, Director of Education
- Debi Christie, Head of Service: SEND
- Kim Carey, Director of Adult Services
- Sean Rafferty, Assistant Director for Integrated Commissioning
- Head of Assessment and Care Management
- John Harrison, Head of Adult Learning Disability Services
- Mental Health representative
- James Postgate, Associate Director of Integrated Commissioning (South East London CCG)
- Parent representative
- Voluntary sector representative

- Representative from special schools
- Young person(s)
- Housing representative

Bibliography

This list is by no means exhaustive; however some key documents referred to for the initial scoping exercise.

Care Act 2014

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted

Children Act 1989

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents

Children and Families Act 2014

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted

Chronically Sick and Disabled Person's Act 1970

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1970/44/contents

Closing the gap: Priorities for essential change in mental health

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281250/Closing_the_gap_V2_-_17_Feb_2014.pdf

Equality Act 2010

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents

Katie Price: Harvey and me

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02r6yqw/episodes/downloads

Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2019/18/enacted

National Development Team for Inclusion

www.ndti.org.uk/

National Network of Parent carer Forums C.I.C

<https://nnpf.org.uk/>

Safeguarding Disabled Children in England (2016) A report of the National working Group on Safeguarding Disabled Children

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1200/safeguarding-disabled-children-england.pdf>

Safeguarding disabled children: Practice Guidance (2009) Department for Children's Schools and Families

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190544/00374-2009DOM-EN.pdf

Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf

Special Needs Jungle

www.specialneedsjungle.com/

[The Short Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011](#)

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/1530/contents/made

The Special Educational Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2014/9780111114056

Transition Information Network: Sharing information and good practice for disabled young people, families & professionals

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/transition-information-network>

Transition into adult services

www.mencap.org.uk/advice-and-support/children-and-young-people/transition-adult-services

Transition to Adulthood in England for parents/carers of children with a learning disability

<https://cerebra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/transition-in-england.pdf>

Transition to Adult Services Pathway

<https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/resource/transition-adult-services-pathway/>

Appendix 1 – Consultation exercise

Director Meetings to Review Project

- Janet Bailey, Director of Children, Education and Families
- Jared Nehra, Director Education
- Kim Carey, Director Adult Social Care
- Sean Rafferty, Assistant Director for Integrated Commissioning
- David Dare, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
- Lynnette Chamielec, Assistant Director, Housing
- James Postgate, Associate Director of Integrated Commissioning, NHS South East London CCG (Bromley)

Officers meetings to Review Project

- Nick Fripp, Transformation Programme Manager
- Debi Christie, Head of Service SEND
- Liz Lake, SEND Reforms Programme Manager
- Kay Moore, Children, Young Person and Parent SEND Lead
- Andrew Royle, Strategic Commissioner
- Dan Manns, Integrated Strategic Commissioner
- Andrew Tredigo, Integrated Strategic Commissioner
- Phillip White, Children's Commissioner
- Fiona Atkinson, DP Lead
- Cathy Lloyd-Williams, Head of Service CLA
- Tom Schaub-Jones, Group Manager, Leaving Care
- Sally Kelly, Head of Service, Virtual School
- Vicky West, Head of Service, Permanency and Disability
- Rachel Dunley, Head of Service Early Intervention and Family Support
- Senior Managers, Adult Complex Care
- John Harrison, Head of Service, Learning Disability
- Ade Suleman, Group Manager, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- Dirk Holtzhausen, Head of Service, Safeguarding, Practice and Quality Improvement Complex Advisory Team
- Caroline Coady, Assistant Director, Council for Disabled Children
- Ambient Care -118 Widmore Road Providers
- Visit To 6 Children and Family Centres

Board Meetings

- Learning Disability Partnership Board – exploring future commissioning of adult services, ensuring that young people are considered in this process
- SEND Governance Board – Reviewing key strategic issues regarding SEND and reviewing SEND Action Plan
- Direct Payments Board – Strategic oversight of DP, considering the transitional phase from children to adult services
- Domiciliary Care Board – Reviewing the tendering process for new providers of domiciliary care for children and adults
- Children’s Safeguarding Board – Strategic oversight of safeguarding across the borough
- Bromley All Age Autism Board – Strategic oversight of all aspects of supporting children and adults with autism.
- Children Executive Board

Workshops/Training

- Role of Designated Social Care Officer – Council for Disabled Children
- DfE EHC Annual Review Workshop
- Short break consultation with Providers
- EHC portal training
- Unconscious/Conscious Bias Training
- Political training
- Presenting at Bromley Healthcare Safeguarding Board
- Liberty Protection Safeguards Workshop – Council for Disabled Children
- Child Death Children Safeguarding Review - Table Top Review

Local authorities

- London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
- London Borough of Barnet
- London Borough of Bexley
- London Borough of Brent

Operational meetings

- Bromley Mencap – Review short break contracts
- Review of Social Care Occupational Therapy Staffing

- Liquidlogic Development
- BAAB All Age Working groups
- Outcomes Availability Framework
- SEND Network Champions meeting
- Learning Disability Working Group
- Domiciliary Care Tender
- Transitional Operational Panel
- Multi Agency Team Children (Continuing Care Criteria)
- Transition Meeting with Adult Learning Disability team
- Riverside Scheme Development
- Senior Management Team Social Care
- Extended Senior Management Team - Education
- Bromley Mencap Contract review
- Riverside Review
- Post 16 Specialist panel
- Family Vased Short Breaks Review

Appendix 2 – Feedback from other Local Authorities

- Positives outweigh any negatives in pulling together social care colleagues from 0-25.
- Need to plan for growth of increased referrals into adults with broadened remit of Care Act 2014 criteria. Importance of knowing the cohort coming through the system. Recommendation to track children coming through CAMHS and if they will require a service into adulthood.
- Define eligibility criteria for social care post 18 years, (including children previously looked after), as to whether this will include all those where EHC plan has continued post 18.
- Plan for those young people who do not meet criteria for adult services, however they remain vulnerable adults, which includes those with higher functioning autism.
- Strategic join up with children and adult social care is required.
- Training of different legislation and practice is required for social care professionals.
- Commissioning needed to be developed for 14+ age group. Can be difficulties in adult social care in identifying providers to work with those with complex needs.
- Recommendation for workers to specifically work on short breaks, allowing social workers to focus on high priority cases, including safeguarding.
- Consider commissioning specialist workers/agencies to work with young people with autism who display behaviour which challenges. This was raised by all Local Authorities as a key area, in relation to cost saving, outcomes for young people and pressure on families, therefore the need to develop effective joint working and innovation to support change – Resources for Autism were recommended.
- Raising the importance of early intervention/consider greater links with health visiting.
- To develop links and forward planning with housing department.
- Planning and training required on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Liberty Protection Safeguards.

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