

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**Briefing for Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 12 November 2013**

**FOLLOW UP ACTIONS FROM JOINT CARE SERVICES AND
EDUCATION PDS MEETING**

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1. Summary

- 1.1 The two PDS committees that oversee the work of the children and young people services came together on the 7th May 2013 to scrutinise the arrangements, organisational structures, and procedures and processes of the Council and partner organisations with regard to child safeguarding to ensure there is clear cooperation, no unnecessary duplication and effective management and supervision of frontline staff.
- 1.2 At the meeting there were presentations from the Chair of the Bromley Safeguarding Children's Board, AD for LBB Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, AD for LBB Education Division, Child Protection Leads from the Police and Bromley CCG and the Director of Children's Services followed by questions to the panel of presenters from the committee. The full minutes are attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.3 In addition to the questions answered on the night the committee asked for additional information on the following:
 - staffing and finance to be provided by each presenting agency on their child protection services;
 - placement of Looked After Children in other Boroughs and requirements of Local Authorities to notify relevant agencies;
 - a breakdown of 2148 referrals to social care in 2012-13 by reason for referral and agency that had referred them ;
- 1.4 Both PDS committees continue to receive reports including the Bromley Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) annual report as part of the regular meeting work programme. The main BSCB continues to meet 4 times a year and the Quality Assurance Sub Group meets six times per year to ensure that all agencies are held to account.

2. THE BRIEFING

- 2.1 ECHS Children's Social Care teams that provide child protection services has a budget of £8,950,000 with 233 fte staff. In 2013/14 the BSCB will receive £50k in contributions from agency members; LB Bromley contributes £40k in addition to this.
- 2.2 At the end of October 2013 there are 148 looked after children not living in Bromley (50.7%). With over 86% with them placed in another London Borough or within the south east of England. The table below provides a breakdown of LAC placed out of borough as at the end of May and the end of October:

BOROUGH/COUNTY	May 13I	Oct 13
London Boroughs	67	71
CROYDON	23	23
BEXLEY	4	5
GREENWICH	12	9
HACKNEY	1	1
HOUNSLOW	0	1
KINGSTON	0	1
LAMBETH	2	5
LEWISHAM	21	20
MERTON	1	1
SOUTHWARK	3	4
WANDSWORTH	0	1
South East	52	56
ESSEX	7	7
SURREY	12	9
E. SUSSEX	5	7
KENT	19	23
MEDWAY	9	10
Other	23	21
BATH & NE SOMERSET	2	1
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	2	0
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	1	2
COUNTY DURHAM	0	2
CUMBRIA	1	2
DORSET	2	2
EAST HERTFORSHIRE	0	1
GREATER MANCHESTER	1	0
HAMPSHIRE	4	4
MIDDLESEX	1	0
NORFOLK	1	1
NORTHUMBERLAND	1	0
REDCAR & CLEVELAND, MIDDLESBOROUGH	1	1
SANDWELL, W. MIDLANDS	1	0
SOMERSET	1	0
STAFFORDSHIRE	1	1
SUFFOLK	1	1
WEST MIDLANDS	0	1
WOVERHAMPTON	2	2
Total placed out of borough	142	148

- 2.3 At the meeting placing of looked after children in other local authority areas was raised this is covered in the “*The Arrangements for Placement of Children (General) Regulations 1991*”

Reference: *Regulation 5* - Where a looked-after child is placed in the area of another local authority (regardless of the type of placement), notification **MUST** be made by the placing authority to the host authority i.e. the local authority's where the child is living. The Education Service and the relevant Health Trust for the area in which the looked-after child is placed must also be notified. The notification should include the address where the child is placed.

As discussed at the meeting this process of notification is less than robust, meaning that often notification of the placement start is received. However, the host borough may not always be informed when the placement ends. As at the end of October 86 children have been placed in Bromley by another authority (during this financial year); of these 77 have been placed by another London Borough.

At the Minister’s Round Table on 14th May the Minister discussed the work and finish group on a number of key issues for Looked After Children including this area. At this time there findings are still awaited.

- 2.4 The tables below show a breakdown of the referring agency and referral reason for the 2148 referrals outlined in the presentation made by the AD for Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding.

Referring Agency	No
00 - Police	593
01A - Family member/relative/carer	153
01B - Acquaintance (neighbours/child minders)	23
01C - Self	37
02A - Education Welfare Officer	2
02B - Teacher	312
03A - GP	29
03B - District Nurse	13
03C - Health Visitor	34
03D - Midwife	90
03E - Other Primary Health	72
03F - A & E	118
03G - Drugs and Alcohol Services	11
03H - Adult Health Services	31
03I – CAMHS	62
03J - Health Other	19
04 - Voluntary Organisations	34
05 - Housing	16
06A - Local Auth Services Internal	163
06B - Local Auth Services External	76
07 - Probation	33
08 - Prison	9
09 - Immigration	14
10 - CAF/CASS	8
11 - Legal/courts	33
12 - Unknown/anonymous	80
13 - Other	83
Grand Total	2148

Referral Reason	No
00 -Domestic Violence	317
01 - Child missing	9
02 - Suspected Abuse or Neglect (CP issues)	237
03 - Child Welfare Concerns	1059
04 - Concerns about child's disability or illness	77
05B - Alcohol misuse - Parent	23
06A - Drug misuse - Child	4
06B - Drug misuse - Parent	26
07A - Mental Health Concerns - Child	19
07B - Mental Health Concerns - Parent	85
08A - Criminal Behaviour - Child	27
08B - Criminal Behaviour - Parent	12
09A - Unacceptable Behaviour - Child	48
09B - Unacceptable Behaviour - Parent	30
10 - Accommodation Concerns	57
11 - Self harm	3
13 - Not stated	1
14 - Other	114
Grand Total	2148