



Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)



Annual Report 2013-2014



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Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Bromley Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for 2013 – 14. This year has seen many new developments and positive changes in the organisation and delivery of the Board's work.

The purpose of this report is to assess the effectiveness of local services in keeping children safe. The key question is 'are we making a difference?' I would argue that we are, and this report will provide plenty of evidence of commitment and determination among professionals and volunteers resulting in real improvement for children. The report also examines where there are weaknesses in the system and how the LSCB holds partners to account to ensure improvement.

Key achievements in 2013-14 include:

- Multi agency audit to support continuous improvement
- Missing and Child Sexual Exploitation processes established
- Increase in number of children and families engaged in early help
- Delivery and impact of the BSCB training programme
- Setting up a new Education Safeguarding Advisory Committee to improve involvement of schools and other education settings
- Greater participation of young people

Our progress has been made possible through the commitment and enthusiasm for providing high quality services from a range of organisations. I would like to thank all those who have been involved in meeting our challenges this year. I hope you find this report of interest.



Helen Davies

Chair
Bromley Safeguarding
Children Board



Section 1: Executive Summary

- 1.1 This annual report covers the period from April 2013 to March 2014. It is the seventh annual report of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) which builds upon the previous annual reports. The report highlights a number of identified achievements and other areas where further improvement is needed.
- 1.2 An effective LSCB is one where all partner agencies feel able to fully participate and engage in the business of the BSCB. BSCB continues to achieve a high level of attendance at meetings which has enabled BSCB to deliver against the business plan and key priorities.
- 1.3 This year has seen a significant number of organisational changes since the last annual report. The responsibility for commissioning local health services changed from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) at the beginning of the year. The Metropolitan Police have implemented the Local Policing Model. The Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) has transferred from the South London Healthcare Trust (SLHT) to Kings College Hospital Trust and there are changes to the Probation Service
- which will take hold in 2014-15. In addition, all public bodies have faced significant resource pressures throughout the year. The challenge for BSCB has been to remain focused on achieving good outcomes for children in spite of these pressures. Through its scrutiny arrangements this year, BSCB is confident that agencies are compliant with their duties under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and in fact striving to enhance their services and practices through improvements. Where concerns or challenges have been raised through the year, these have been closely monitored to ensure improvements take place.
- 1.4 LSCB's now have the responsibility to scrutinise the availability of early help for children and their parents. BSCB believes that early support for families in Bromley is good. The re-launch of a more simplified Common Assessment Framework (CAF) for practitioners leading to record numbers of CAF completions, record levels of attendance at Children and Family Centres and the success of the Tackling Troubled Families programme are all good examples of this. BSCB will continue to monitor early support through 2014-15.



1.5 During this year BSCB has commissioned one Serious Case Review (SCR). The SCR was commissioned at the end of March 2014 and so will continue into 2014-15. Addressing the findings of this review will be a major part of the work during the next year.

1.6 Despite the challenges faced, BSCB remains confident that the foundations of good safeguarding practice are in place. The following is a summary of the key achievements of BSCB during 2013-14:

- Significant progress has been made in supporting a strategic and operational response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Bromley with the development of a local protocol, multi-agency training and the establishment of Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) and Multi Agency Planning (MAP) meetings;
- Annual Conference held in October 2012 focusing on Child Sexual Exploitation attended by over 100 delegates;
- An extensive multi-agency training programme delivered covering 17 courses attended by over 700 people;
- The completion of a gap analysis against the new Working Together 2013 which provided assurances that operational practice accords with the statutory guidance;
- Setting up a Safeguarding Network for front line staff to promote multi agency learning and engagement;
- The development of multi agency protocols for children missing from home and care and children missing from education;
- Completion of the two year rolling programme of Section 11 Audits where

each agency has completed a safeguarding self-assessment which has been scrutinised by the Quality Assurance & Performance Monitoring Committee;

- Undertaking three multi agency audits focusing on child protection arrangements, missing children and early intervention arrangements, sharing the learning and implementing action plans;
- Development of a Learning and Improvement Framework to support improvement in the quality of safeguarding practice;
- Setting up a new Education Safeguarding Advisory Committee (ESAC) and Safeguarding Education Forums to improve the involvement of the wider education sector alongside appointing Head teacher representatives to the Board.



Section 2: Governance and Accountability

2.1 Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) has been set up under the requirements of the Children Act 2004. BSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in Bromley will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Bromley and for assuring the effectiveness of what they do.

2.2 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) clearly details the responsibilities of LSCB's which include:

- developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures ;
- communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children ;
- monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve ;

- participating in the planning of services for children in the area of authority; and
- undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their board partners on lessons to be learned.

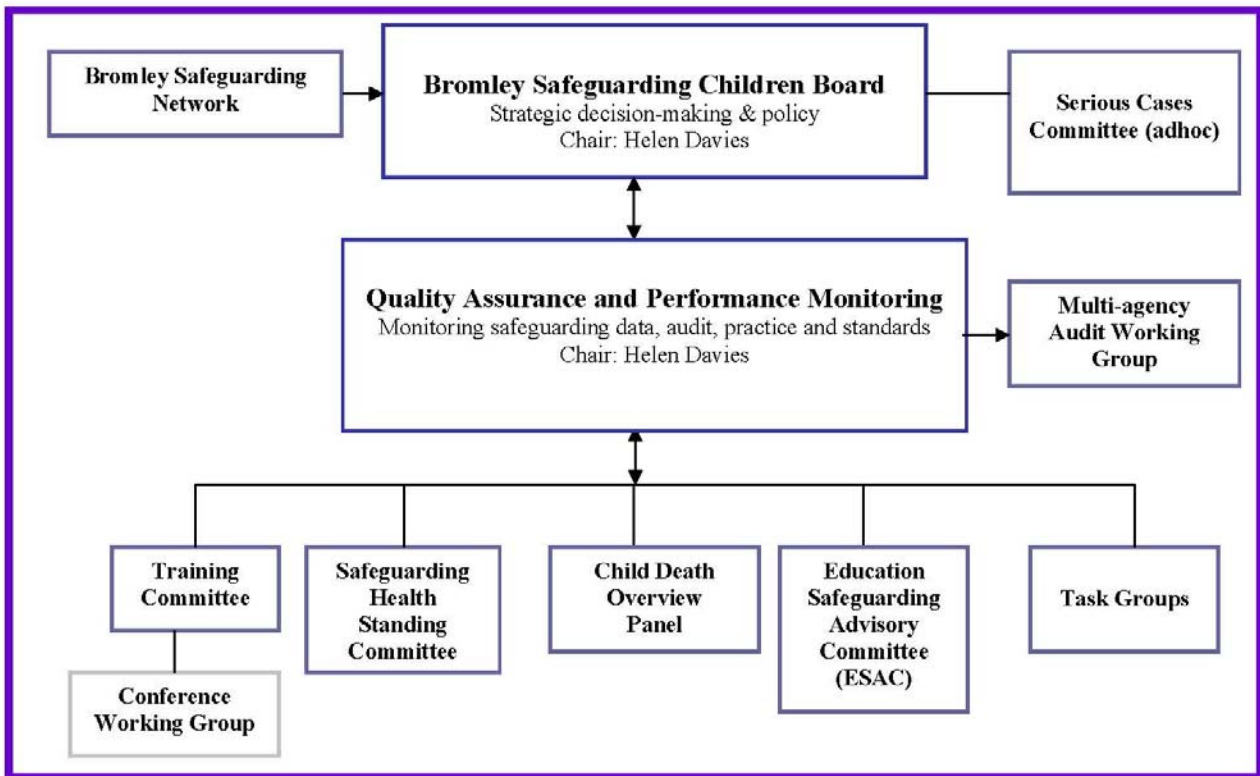
2.3 The key organisational mechanism for delivering the statutory requirements of the BSCB are the meetings of the Board (four times a year) and the Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring Sub Committee (six times a year). Further information about the Committees is available below.

Reporting

2.4 BSCB submits its annual report to the Joint Education and Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board. In addition, in March 2014 the BSCB Chair presented to the Children and Young People Services Stakeholder Conference.



Figure 1—BSCB Committee Structure



Independent Chair

2.5 Helen Davies was appointed Chair of the BSCB and took up post in April 2012. She chairs both the Board and the Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring Sub-Committee.

those from health and education now provide professional advice in the role of Professional Advisers. In addition, during 2013-14 the Board agreed to appoint two Head teacher representatives to the Board representing primary and secondary schools in Bromley. They will take up their roles during 2014-15. The Board met quarterly during 2013-14 to provide the strategic direction for the BSCB.

Committees

2.6 Following changes to the committee structure in January 2013, BSCB has maintained a similar structure throughout 2013-14 with the only change being that the Education Reference Group has been replaced by the Education Safeguarding Advisory Committee (ESAC).

2.8 The Board agenda offers opportunities for information sharing and discussion, but also encourages questioning and challenge. The Board continues to have lay member representation which adds value to the BSCB. The two current lay members challenge thinking through active contribution at the Board meetings. The role and accountabilities of lay members will be reviewed in 2014-15. The Board also has representation from the Portfolio Holder for Care Services, a local Councillor.

Board

2.7 The Board is the key strategic decision making group with representation from agencies at Director and Assistant Director level. Designated professionals such as

2.9 In 2013-2014 the Board’s work included:



- monitoring of and setting the BSCB budget for 2014-15;
 - Development of the BSCB Business Plan for 2014-15;
 - Delivery of an annual conference on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and briefing sessions covering early intervention and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF);
 - Setting up a Safeguarding Network for front line staff to promote multi-agency learning and engagement;
 - Scrutiny of agency annual safeguarding reports;
 - Agreement of multi-agency protocols for children missing from care and home, children missing education and children at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation;
 - Undertaking a gap analysis against the new Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 which provided assurances that operational practice accords with the statutory guidance;
 - Monitoring of the safeguarding arrangements in place for the takeover of the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) by Kings College Hospital Trust from the South London Healthcare Trust (SLHT).
- 2.11 This year the work of the Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring sub-committee included:
- Development of a Learning and Improvement Framework to support improvement in the quality of safeguarding practice;
 - Completing three multi-agency audits focusing on child protection arrangements, missing children and early intervention arrangements and learning from the audits has been shared and action plans implemented;
 - Completion of the two year rolling programme of Section 11 audits;
 - Review of the BSCB safeguarding dataset;
 - Monitoring of safeguarding arrangements in place in a mental health hospital for children and young people in Bromley through requesting the completion of a Section 11 audit.

Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring Sub-Committee (QAPM)

- 2.10 The Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring Sub-Committee is central to the effective functioning of the BSCB. The sub-committee met six times during 2013-14. Since January 2013, the committee has been chaired by the Board's Independent Chair and 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 as it is chaired by the Board's Independent Chair it is able to provide robust challenge to improve practice and outcomes for children and young people.

Bromley Safeguarding Network

- 2.12 The Bromley Safeguarding Network is not formally constituted. The focus of the Safeguarding Network is to share key messages through the facilitation of seminars, briefings and forums. BSCB held its first forum for the Bromley Safeguarding Network in March 2014 and will continue to provide opportunities to promote multi-agency learning and encourage engagement between practitioners and BSCB.

Training Sub-Committee

- 2.13 The BSCB Training Sub-Committee meets twice a year to evaluate the BSCB training provided in the previous six months and to agree the training programme for the following year. This year it achieved the following:
- Multi-agency training attended by over 700



people, a 20% increase from 2012-13;

- Agreeing the training programme for 2014-15 which will include 17 separate courses run over 46 sessions and the addition of new training on supervision;
- Increased the number of people completing Group 1 and Group 2 E-learning courses;
- Organised briefings on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) attended by over 150 people;
- Development of a more rigorous evaluation framework for multi-agency training to include a three month follow up evaluation to monitor impact.

Child Death Overview Panel

2.14 This statutory multi-agency panel has a core membership of police, social care, and health professionals. The panel meets at least four times a year to discuss the circumstances of all child deaths in Bromley and to identify any issues or trends. The Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report is presented annually to the BSCB Board.

Serious Case Review Committee

2.15 This committee meets ad hoc to consider cases where a serious child protection incident has occurred. The committee may determine that either an Individual Management Review (IMR) is obtained from an agency or, in a case involving several agencies and that meet the criteria in Working Together, that a Serious Case Review (SCR) is commissioned. The committee did not meet in the previous year, however, in March 2014, the committee met twice to consider two separate cases. The committee determined one case should be subject to a root cause analysis review. In respect of the other case the committee commissioned a SCR which will be completed during 2014-15.

2.16 Membership of the Serious Case Review Committee during 2013-14 includes:

Independent Chair	Independent
Designated Dr	Bromley CCG
Assistant Director	Legal & Support Services, London Borough of Bromley
Assistant Director	Children's Social Care, London Borough of Bromley
Head of Service	Quality Assurance, London Borough of Bromley
Lead Officer Education Safeguarding	London Borough of Bromley
Consultant Public Health Medicine	Public Health
DCI Child Abuse Investigation Team	Metropolitan Police Service
Designated Nurse	Bromley CCG

Education Safeguarding Advisory Committee (ESAC)

2.17 In February 2014 the Education Safeguarding Advisory Committee (ESAC) was set up to replace the Safeguarding Education Reference Group. The overall aim of ESAC is to ensure that all children and young people are safeguarded in their place of learning. The Education Safeguarding Advisory Committee is chaired by the Assistant Director, Education, LB Bromley. The Vice Chair is the Lead Officer for Education Safeguarding, LB Bromley. The Committee meets quarterly in advance of BSCB Board meetings.

2.18 During this year ESAC has also set up termly Safeguarding Education Forums attended by safeguarding leads for the different educational settings to facilitate the effective dissemination of key safeguarding messages and learning.

Safeguarding Health Standing Committee

2.19 The overall aim of the Health Committee is



to ensure consistent and robust safeguarding practice across the health agencies in Bromley. The committee meets quarterly and is chaired by the Designated Doctor for Child Protection, the Vice Chair is the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children. The forum is made up of the safeguarding leads from all health agencies across Bromley.

BSCB attendance at meetings

- 2.20 Key to the effectiveness of BSCB is regular attendance by members. The BSCB membership in terms of agencies represented has remained stable this year although there have been some personnel changes, which has sometimes led to non-attendance as people started new in role. The Board monitors attendance at meetings and organisations with poor or no attendance are challenged by the Chair to ensure improved attendance.



Section 3: Achievements and Challenges

3.1 A summary of the Board's achievements against priorities are set out in Section 1, but this section provides further information about the achievements of BSCB over the last year and key challenges looking forward to next year.

DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

3.2 The statutory guidance on safeguarding, Working Together to Safeguard Children published March 2013, set out an expectation for LSCBs and its partners to foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement. It required LSCBs to have a Learning and Improvement Framework in place. Prior to the publication of Working Together 2013 BSCB already had in place a Performance & Improvement Framework. During 2013-14, BSCB has updated the Framework to develop it into a Learning and Improvement Framework in line with statutory guidance. The Learning and Improvement Framework was approved by the Board in February 2014.

3.3 The framework supports BSCB and its partners to:

- Conduct regular reviews/audits of cases, both statutory reviews and cases that can provide insight and understanding into the way organisations are working together to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in order to enhance practice.
 - Review cases rigorously and in detail showing what happened, how things went wrong, or well and why, accompanied by actions that show the learning from the review.
 - Ensure lasting improvements to services to safeguard children and families result from the actions from reviews and audits
 - Foster transparency about issues and actions arising from reviews and audits.
- 3.4 The purpose is to identify improvements which are needed and to consolidate good practice.
- 3.5 The different types of reviews covered by the framework are:
- Serious Case Reviews
 - Child Death review



- Review of a child protection incident which falls below the threshold for an SCR
 - A review or audit of practice in one or more agencies.
- 3.6 The Framework is not dependent on the learning from reviews alone. Other data and information also usefully informs practice:
- Performance data on safeguarding and child protection
 - Agency inspection reports
 - Agency annual safeguarding reports
 - Single agency audits and Section 11 Safeguarding Self-Assessment
 - Feedback on services from children and young people

IMPROVING SAFEGUARDING THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

BSCB Annual Conference

3.7 BSCB hosts an annual conference, bringing together staff at all levels to raise awareness about a current safeguarding theme. The Annual Conference 2013 titled “I thought I was the only one, the only one in the world” was held on 23 October 2013 and focused on Child Sexual Exploitation.

3.8 The Annual Conference focused on tackling some of the key issues around Child Sexual Exploitation and provided an opportunity to discuss key national themes and find out about the multi-agency approach in Bromley to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation. The conference was attended by over 100 people.

Listening to Front Line Practitioners - Network Forum

3.9 In March 2014, BSCB held its first Safeguarding Network Forum. BSCB will continue to hold Network Forums during 2014-15 and the aim of the Forums is to share key safeguarding messages, promote multi-agency learning and to encourage

engagement between practitioners and BSCB.

3.10 The half day forum in March 2014 was attended by over 75 practitioners from a wide range of agencies. Interest in the Forum was very high and there was a waiting list for places. Feedback from the Forum was very positive. The first half of the Forum included a number of short presentations covering:

- Safeguarding Children Missing from Care and Home
- Safeguarding Children Missing from Education
- Children who Self Harm
- Lessons learnt from recent multi-agency audits undertaken
- Key Learning from three recent high profile Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) – Daniel Pelka (Coventry LSCB), Keanu Williams (Birmingham LSCB) and Hamzah Khan (Bradford LSCB)

3.11 The second half of the Forum enabled practitioners to engage in group discussions focusing on embedding the key learning from audits and SCR's and thinking about BSCB priorities for 2014-15. The feedback was fed back to the Board and incorporated into the BSCB Business Plan 2014-15.

The Voice of Children & Young People

3.12 BSCB recognises the importance of listening to and responding to the voice of the child in undertaking its work in relation to safeguarding. During 2013-14, the BSCB has developed links with the Bromley Youth Council and the Living in Care Council (LinCC). The Youth Council considered the BSCB priorities in the Business Plan and young people identified areas they would like BSCB to focus on in 2014-15. Young people felt there was a need to extend the BSCB priority around safeguarding young people living with parental mental health to include Safeguarding Children and young people dealing with personal mental health issues and as a result this will be the subject of the 2014 BSCB Annual Conference.



3.13 In addition, throughout the year evidence was provided on the voice of the child being heard across agencies in terms of consultation through Section 11 audits.

3.14 BSCB recognises that there is room for improvement with regards to listening to and responding to the voice of the child. This area is crucial for BSCB to operate effectively and has been identified as a priority for 2014-15.

TRAINING

3.15 During 2013-14 BSCB provided local multi-agency training through 17 courses and 46 sessions attended by 733 people. The number of people attending BSCB training has increased by nearly 20% from 617 in 2012-13. A table showing the training courses is provided below. BSCB aims to have a multi-agency mix of professionals at every training course and a breakdown of agencies attending training for the year is below.

3.16 In addition, two BSCB Briefing sessions were held on Early help for vulnerable children: The CAF and beyond. These half day briefing sessions focused on the launch of the new shortened Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Form; Children Social Care thresholds and the role of the Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH). 155 people attended the briefings over the two days on 2 July and 11 July.

3.17 The BSCB consistently provides training of a high standard, with course participants agreeing that courses are useful and relevant to their needs. Each course is subject to **user evaluation**. Overall feedback across all courses showed that 70% of the attendees judged the courses to be Excellent, 27% Good and just 2% Satisfactory.

3.18 From early 2014, attendees at the Group 3 training courses have been asked to complete a pre-assessment form to be used as a benchmark for the participants' knowledge before attending the training. In addition, attendees of the Group 3 training were asked to complete an evaluation 3

Figure 2 – Agency attendance at BSCB Training

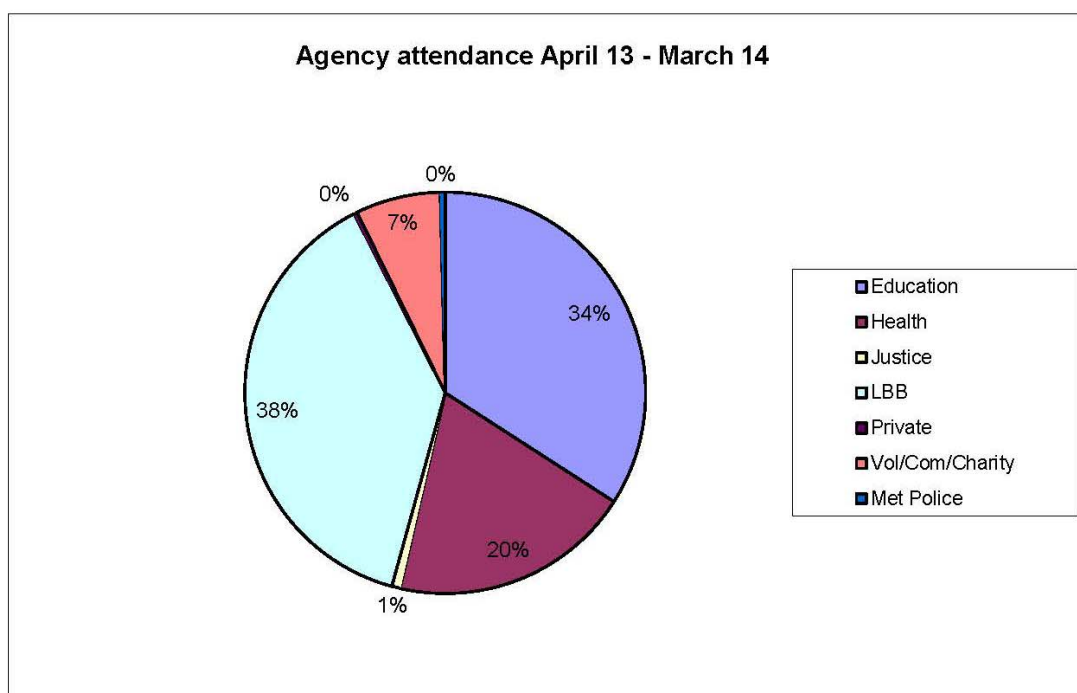




Figure 3 – Breakdown of attendance at BSCB multi-agency training courses from April 2013 – March 2014

Course Title	No. of courses run	TOTAL
Group 4 & 5 Safeguarding	5	82
Group 4 & 5 Refresher	5	66
Group 3	7	107
Group 3 Refresher	2	31
CAF	5	67
CAF Refresher	2	29
CAF–How to Chair Effective TAC Meet	2	15
Impact Parental Substance Misuse	2	30
Domestic Abuse & Safeguarding Children	2	28
Safeguarding Disabled Children	2	19
Safeguarding Neglected Children	3	45
Safeguarding and Parental Mental Health	1	25
Child Sexual Exploitation	3	46
Using A Child History to Analyse Risk	2	36
Signs of Safety	1	18
BME Families & CP	1	17
Basic Child Protection	1	72
TOTAL	46	733

months after attending the training. The purpose of this level of evaluation is to identify the impact of the training and whether it has led to changes in practice.

evaluation process which will include pre and post training evaluation as well as a three month follow up evaluation with attendees for all courses to identify the impact of training BSCB provides.

3.19 All of the respondents reported that since the training they felt **very** confident about how they can help to ensure children are safeguarded. One respondent reported the following:

“...Very soon after the training I came across a situation of a child at risk of harm, and because of the training I think I recognised that there was a potential problem sooner, and was therefore in contact with supervisor/safeguarding professional for advice straight away...”

3.20 The BSCB Training Committee has updated its evaluation forms for attendees of the training and in June 2014 will be introducing a much more comprehensive

3.21 In September 2012 the BSCB Training Committee introduced free e-learning courses for Groups 1 and 2. The e-learning includes fourteen courses which make up the Group 1 and 2 courses. The advantage of online training is that delegates can learn at a time and pace that suits them. A breakdown of the number of people taking the BSCB e-learning courses between April 2013 and March 2014 is below. In total 466 people have completed the Group 1 course and 45 the Group 2 courses. Evaluation sheets to enable BSCB to evaluate the effectiveness of the E-learning courses will be introduced when the system is upgraded in 2014-15.



Figure 4 – Breakdown of number of people who have completed the Children’s Safeguarding Group 1 & 2 courses April 2013 – March 2014

No. who completed	Apr 13	May 13	Jun 13	Jul 13	Aug 13	Sep 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	TOTAL
Group 1	17	13	19	25	5	25	77	33	21	36	37	158	466
Group 2	3	2	7	3	1	1	6	0	0	5	6	11	45

TACKLING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

3.22 Following the development of a BSCB multi-agency task group on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in 2011, this year BSCB signed up to the Pan London CSE Protocol and developed a local multi-agency protocol. The BSCB protocol for safeguarding children who are abused or at risk of abuse through child sexual exploitation follows on from Bromley’s Strategy to Safeguard Children & Young People at Risk of or Experiencing Sexual Exploitation which was published in March 2012.

3.23 The CSE protocol outlines the local procedures for safeguarding children and young people who are at risk of or experiencing child sexual exploitation in the London Borough of Bromley.

3.24 The procedures aim to prevent and protect children and young people in Bromley from sexual exploitation and wherever possible prosecute those who are perpetrators of child sexual exploitation.

3.25 BSCB has ensured that all trainers currently facilitating multi-agency safeguarding training programmes are notified of the need to integrate the signs and symptoms of CSE and how to respond to it into their existing courses. These training programmes include basic, intermediate and advanced levels of safeguarding training as well as training around working with specific groups where the young people would be deemed particularly

vulnerable to CSE such as Domestic Abuse, Mental Ill Health and Parental Substance Misuse.

3.26 BSCB has commissioned a series of one day training programmes around child sexual exploitation to be delivered over the next two years by specialist trainers from Barnardo’s. This multi-agency training has been designed specifically for those professionals who will be working with children and young people who are at a low, medium or high risk of child sexual exploitation.

3.27 Specialist CSE intervention can be of enormous benefit in helping those young people who as victims of CSE have suffered emotional, psychological or physical harm. With the aim of achieving the best possible long-term outcomes for the victims of CSE in Bromley, Children’s Social Care has commissioned the specialist sexual exploitation service provided by Barnardo’s. This specialist recovery service will provide victims aged 11 to 18 years with an intensive 6 month programme of one to one support and intervention.

3.28 During the year the task group considered the seven essential principles, eight recommendations and the See me, Hear me framework recommended in the Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s (OCC) final report on CSE. BSCB is confident that the protocol and processes in place address these recommendations.

3.29 Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE)



and Multi Agency Planning (MAP) meetings have been established in Bromley and Bromley was one of the first boroughs to set up MASE meetings. The MASE meetings are monthly and they have had 12 referrals since Christmas, approximately 25 in total. All relevant agencies attend and play their part in MASE and in February 2014 the Board agreed that the CSE Task Group had completed its work and that the strategic role would be undertaken by the MASE Panel which will report regularly back to the Board. The MASE meetings:

- identify new cases
- monitor progress and agency participation
- identify and set actions against trends/ locations
- address cross border issues
- monitor children placed outside borough
- ensure CSE is integrated with other child protection procedures

CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE AND HOME

3.30 Children running away and going missing from care and home is a key safeguarding issue for BSCB. An audit of arrangements for safeguarding children who are missing from home or care for more than 24 hours was undertaken in May 2013.

3.31 The audit was particularly concerned with use of procedures, quality of assessment and whether the needs of young people were being identified, and the quality of partnership work including impact on outcomes and challenge to other professionals. It also considered management and supervision of cases; views of children and young people being taken into account; and that timely and appropriate interventions were made. The audit highlighted areas of concern which were acted on immediately by BSCB and a multi-agency action plan was developed to implement the recommendations. The following actions were taken immediately:

- Staff reminded to follow the procedure for missing children, including use of the indicators to identify vulnerabilities and use of risk assessment forms;
- Agencies continue to raise awareness among staff and managers on the identification of sexual exploitation risk indicators such as the importance of a focus on welfare concerns; and that boys are as much at risk of sexual exploitation as girls;
- A working group was set up to review and simplify the procedure for the Board to sign off;
- Updated risk assessment form to be included within foster carer handbook, and shared with other agencies for inclusion in their electronic records, to be distributed at BSCB conference;
- Behaviour service completed a review of cases to determine the appropriateness of alternative school provision, home tuition and set clear plans for some of the young people audited.

3.32 Following the audit in May 2013, BSCB set up a Working Group on Missing Children to review and update the Multi-agency protocol. The BSCB Multi-agency protocol for children missing from home and care was approved by the BSCB Board at its meeting on 12 November 2013. The protocol is designed to support an effective collaborative safeguarding response from all agencies involved when a child goes missing. Since the approval of the protocol, DfE published their Statutory Guidance on 'Children who run away or go missing from home or care' and BSCB responded by reissuing the protocol to take account of the changes in the statutory guidance. BSCB used its annual conference to raise awareness of the needs of missing children and the Network Forum in March 2014 to brief practitioners on the vulnerability of missing children and the revised referral pathways.

3.33 From January 2014, children who have gone missing more than once are considered for review at the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Panel. The role



of the panel is primarily a strategic one and helps to identify trends and patterns of missing children in Bromley, for example whether children are going missing in a particular part of the borough. It will consider whether the support put in place to prevent the child going missing in the future and prevent any risk of sexual exploitation is adequate. Plans are also in place to ensure return home interviews are carried out. During 2014-15 BSCB will scrutinise regular reports from the local authority analysing data on children missing from home and care. Data on missing children from home and care will be included in the BSCB quarterly dataset reviewed by the BSCB Quality Assurance & Performance Monitoring Committee. This will include reviewing analysis of return interviews. BSCB will also review annual reports from children's homes used by the local authority or within the local authority area on the effectiveness of their measures to prevent children from going missing.

SAFEGUARDING IN EDUCATION

3.34 In February 2014 the Education Safeguarding Advisory Committee (ESAC) was set up to replace the Safeguarding Education Reference Group. In addition agreement was made to appoint two head teacher representatives to the Board.

3.35 The changes were introduced as a way to improve the involvement of the wider education sector engaging all education settings. The previous Safeguarding Reference Group, although representative of different sectors, did not have a role sharing and feeding back information to the different educational settings. The changes have also led to a more clearly defined relationship between ESAC and the Board, enabling the Board to question, challenge and hold ESAC to account.

3.36 The Safeguarding Education Forums will help to engage education settings and ensure effective dissemination of key safeguarding messages to education

settings. As a forum attended by safeguarding leads from the different educational settings, it will enable learning from colleagues and peers and joint problem solving as well as training delivered by specialists. The Safeguarding in Bromley Schools Section 11 undertaken in 2013 identified that different methods of informing schools of information should be explored and the Safeguarding Education Forums have been set up to help to address this.

3.37 The first meeting of ESAC in 2014 focused on establishing a clear brief for the committee. Previously the Education Reference Group discussed and considered relevant issues but members were not able to disseminate information and advice to the groups that they were there to represent. ESAC exists to continue to raise key strategic issues as well as report any concerns or issues. In terms of getting information and advice out to stakeholder groups there are to be a number of forums each year, hosted by the education safeguarding lead and existing for the purpose of ensuring that safeguarding leads from all educational settings are kept up to date with any local or national changes. ESAC will also:

- update policies and identify gaps in training;
- identify items for future forum agendas;
- take a regular report from the educational welfare team on children missing from education (CME) and those on elective home education (EHE);
- Include raising awareness of private fostering arrangements and their implications with schools and other settings via the education safeguarding forum.

3.38 During 2013-14 BSCB scrutinised the arrangements for children missing from education and those being home educated. As part of this work, in early 2014 the Board approved the BSCB Children Missing from Education Policy and Procedure. This multi-agency Policy sets out the responsibilities of agencies for identifying children missing



from education and outlines Bromley Local Authority's (LA) systems for identifying and maintaining contact with children missing education and current procedures for identifying those at risk of going missing from education. The Policy and Procedure was launched at the BSCB Safeguarding Network Forum in March 2014.

- 3.39 Key challenges for ESAC moving in to 2014-15 include ensuring that all settings attend the forums and implement policies effectively and addressing the high number of children on EHE.

SAFEGUARDING IN HEALTH

- 3.40 There has been an unprecedented level of organisational change across the local health economy during 2013-14 including the establishment of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the transfer of responsibility of acute service provision from South London Healthcare Trust (SLHT) to King's College Hospital Foundation Trust. The CCG which was established in April 2013 has achieved significant improvements in embedding safeguarding children within commissioning over the past year.

- 3.41 Safeguarding arrangements are in place in all local NHS organisations, both commissioning and provider. Assurance data from providers is monitored via the CCG's Safeguarding Children Commissioning Group, which is chaired by the CCG executive lead for safeguarding children. In addition designated professionals meet regularly with named professionals and executive leads for safeguarding children within provider organisations and attend the safeguarding committees of the main NHS providers, to provide challenge and support development.

- 3.42 Health organisations from within the NHS and private sector, working within Bromley, meet quarterly at the Safeguarding Health

Committee. The committee is jointly chaired by the designated doctor and the designated nurse for Safeguarding Children in Bromley and brings together work and developments in safeguarding children across the Borough. The committee reports to the Safeguarding Children Commissioning Group of the CCG as well as the Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring group of the BSCB.

- 3.43 Strategic links to the BSCB are well developed with executive leads, designated and named professionals for safeguarding children regularly forming part of development and audit groups, as well as sitting on relevant committees. Health organisations are also represented within multi-agency forums across the borough including MARAC and MAPPA, domestic abuse forum and steering group, MASH steering and operational groups, CSE strategic group and multi-agency panel.

- 3.44 The Francis Inquiry into the failures in care at Mid Staffs Hospital (published 2013) and subsequent government responses has placed a renewed and strengthened emphasis on the importance of listening to patients and carers and seeking their views and feedback on services. The CCG is working with providers to ensure that patient voices are heard and responded to, as well as ensuring that there is engagement at all stages of service redesign.

- 3.45 King's College Hospital Foundation Trust took over the management of the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) in October 2013. Level 2 safeguarding training sessions are being offered to nurses and midwives when they join the Trust during their induction and training sessions for established staff are available every week. The Trust has been attending BSCB board meetings and sub-committees. Good progress had been made in establishing positive working relationships, however, there have been a number of changes in the safeguarding teams in Bromley so



establishing strong relationships will be a priority for 2015.

- 3.46 During this year Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust has continued to make excellent progress in the provision of learning and development opportunities to enable staff compliance with mandatory training and updating expectations, which are aligned to the requirements of the Intercollegiate Document (2014). An audit of the effectiveness of Oxleas level 3 training found very good retention of knowledge gained at training and there has been excellent evaluation feedback from attenders. The year also saw an increase in case file audit activity together with an ongoing commitment by Oxleas to the BSCB multi-agency audit programme. In addition, further work in Oxleas has led to a growth in the number of safeguarding children champions embedded within clinical teams. Champions have been supported and gained knowledge through regular local borough based forums and an annual Trust wide forum.
- 3.47 Bromley Healthcare continues to work closely with BSCB to deliver high quality and effective safeguarding of children and young people living in Bromley. This has been achieved by developing good working relationships, attendance at relevant meetings, supporting with recruitment for key personnel for BSCB and participation in joint training events and audits.
- 3.48 Bromley Healthcare Safeguarding Children training compliance between 2013-2014 has fluctuated for levels 2 and 3. The Named Nurse who was in post in 2013 left early in 2014 and the post was unfilled until August 2014. The gap in training has been addressed since the new Named Nurse came into post. More sessions are available and are in line with the Intercollegiate Document March 2014. Future plans have been made for regular joint workshops in the coming year; this will be educative but will also support better understanding and communication between health

practitioners and social workers.

Priorities

- 3.49 The priorities for 2014-15 will be to ensure that safeguarding children remains a priority across all health agencies. Health agencies have identified the following specific priorities for the year:
- 3.50 Bromley CCG
- The CCG will ensure that new staff appointed to the safeguarding team are supported as required to develop competencies at the required level, including specific knowledge and skills such as safer recruitment.
 - There have been a number of personnel changes within specialist safeguarding teams within Kings and Bromley Healthcare. CCG Designated professionals will continue to provide support to these staff and to ensure that they are able to effectively provide assurance on safeguarding arrangements.
 - The CCG will review and strengthen engagement of commissioning staff within the safeguarding children commissioning engagement.
 - The updated Intercollegiate Guidance, which informs safeguarding children training across health, was published in April 2014. The CCG will work with providers to review the implications of this.
 - The CCG supports development within primary care and this includes safeguarding children training. In 2014-15 the CCG intends to increase training available to practice nurses above the requirement set out in the intercollegiate Document (Level 2). Practice nurses will be invited to participate in the annual academic half day provided to GPs during January 2015 (Level 3 training). This will support the development of additional skills and competencies within primary care teams.
 - The CCG will review data collection for safeguarding and work with providers to provide additional data as required. This includes new quality schedule monitoring



for Kings, new providers using the safeguarding scorecard.

3.51 King’s College Hospital Trust Foundation

- Recruitment to ensure the safeguarding team was staffed to appropriate levels.
- Training to ensure that the safeguarding training provided to staff was of a high standard and that sufficient training sessions were available to achieve an 80% compliance rate.
- Introducing and embedding the Trusts safeguarding policies and procedures at the Princess Royal.
- Establishing relationships with the Bromley board and safeguarding professionals across the Bromley health economy.

3.52 Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

- Increasing awareness and understanding of domestic abuse, MARAC and increasing referrals to MARAC
- Increasing identification, support and referrals for Young Carers
- The progress against and embedding of action plans arising from audits and continue to embed the outcomes of previous audits and reviews
- The need for staff to engage, together with partners, with the Early Help agenda including the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process

3.53 Bromley Healthcare

- To actively participate in a joint audit on Neglect, looking at learning from case studies and improving outcomes for children living in long term neglect.
- To actively participate in a joint audit of selected cases that have been referred to the MASE Panel to ensure services are being directed and offered to vulnerable exploited young people
- To deliver Level 3 training to BHC staff on FGM, CSE, Honour Based Violence and Witchcraft, the MASH, MARAC and MASE

- To ensure all BHC staff are compliant with identified training needs
- To offer a weekday 9-5pm consultation service for all BHC staff on all safeguarding children matters
- To undertake an audit on supervision of staff, to identify any gaps in record keeping and practice and also to assess the quality of the supervision from the supervisees perspective

POLICING

3.52 The Local Policing Model has now been established since September 2013. This saw an increase in the number of staff in the missing person unit by two detective constables. In addition a review will be undertaken in 2014-15 into how safeguarding for children is managed looking at the borough based systems and the centrally based child protection teams.

3.53 In June 2013, the Sapphire Command (SC02) and the child Abuse Investigation merged to form the Sexual offences, Exploitation and Child Abuse Command (SOECA). This does not affect the investigation on child abuse allegations but has resulted in police officers joining the command from Sapphire and Homicide (SC01).

3.54 During 2013-14, the Chair of BSCB requested a report from LB Bromley regarding the appropriate adult service, emergency accommodation for young people who have been arrested and detained overnight and the recording of overnight detention. BSCB is satisfied that the arrangements for the appropriate adult service are effective but the Board has requested a multi agency audit of the safeguarding implications of the current arrangements for detaining young people overnight in Bromley. The audit will be scrutinised by BSCB in 2014-15.

CHILDREN’S SOCIAL CARE



Audits

3.55 Bromley Children's Social Care carried out a full programme of audits in 2013-14 which were reported to the BSCB QA& PM Committee and helped to identify a number of key areas where the service could make improvements. The majority of these recommendations have been put in place and those which remain to be actioned have been added to the appropriate work plan. The 2013-14 programme included:

- Child Protection thresholds for children with disabilities;
- Leaving Care Team;
- Children in Need/Teenage and Parent Support Service (TAPSS);
- Step up/step down in safeguarding; and
- Child Protection strengthening families Continuous assessment

3.56 The 2014-15 programme for audits is ongoing and future areas for development have been identified.

Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH)

3.57 MASH is now fully implemented within the Referral and Assessment Service and the continuous assessment framework (Social Work Assessment) will be used for all cases starting in July 2014. Police and Health are co-located within the MASH team. Bespoke software, MASH Protects, has been purchased and implemented to support the management of data. Performance data is being collected and will be regularly recorded within the Performance Digest.

3.58 The recent co-location of agencies in Bromley is at an early stage and it is too early to tell the impact on numbers of referrals to Children's Social Care. There does however appear to be anecdotal evidence of closer working relationships. For instance in cases involving children where there is a health visitor involved and

issues have been raised that do not meet the criteria for Children's Social Care, discussions with the MASH health colleague has meant a greater focus or extra visits by the health visitor.

Early Help

3.59 The Early Intervention Performance Digest has been fully developed and is able to provide data on vulnerable families, facilitating future service improvement recommendations. It specifically shows step up and step down data to enable Children's Social Care to measure how well it is targeting children in need. It clearly shows there is a year on year increase in the take up of Children's Centres activities. Health visitors have also been co-located to two Children's Centres.

3.60 The Tackling Troubled Families Programme has hit its targets for payments by results and achieved full funding drawdown. The funding is used to employ a team of eight Family Practitioners who work closely with families to achieve outcomes. A plan is currently being developed to employ a further four practitioners to specialise in working specifically with Children in Need and subject to a plan. Specific links are being made with Bromley's behaviour units and Tackling Troubled Families support workers as part of targeting vulnerable children's groups.

Children in Care

3.61 BSCB continues to monitor the safeguarding arrangements for children in care. The Board scrutinises the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service and the QA&PM Committee regularly reviews data on children in care through the safeguarding dataset.

3.62 The Living In Care Council (LinCC) website was successfully launched at the celebration of achievement awards ceremony in November 2013 and is a useful resource for Bromley looked after



children. A Film workshop is being held in August 2014 as part of the Children in Care summer programmes and will provide participants with the opportunity to make a series of short films for the publication on this website. During 2013, the LinCC supported the development of training and recruitment DVDs for foster carers. In July/August 2013 the 'welcome packs' for children in care were updated and distributed by social workers. These packs include the DVD produced by LinCC members. These will be regularly updated and are provided to all children and young people.

- 3.63 Children in Care were also offered the opportunity to be involved with the recruitment process for members of staff. Training sessions were held in October 2013 and also in February 2014 and have been attended by a small group of young people who have actively participated in interviews.
- 3.64 The Foster Carers Handbook has been fully updated and was re-launched this year. This online resource which is available for all Bromley Foster Carers offers advice, guidance and access to relevant information. The feedback received back from foster carers has been very positive.
- 3.65 The training programme for foster carers has been reviewed and updated and an annual foster carer conference was introduced in 2013 attended by foster carers, social workers and supervising social workers.
- 3.66 The Independent Reviewing Service (IRO) carried out a stakeholder consultation in March 2014. The response rates varied between stakeholder groups, 40% for foster carers, 21% for social workers and 12% for children's guardians. In all groups, the majority of recipients rated the service they received as either excellent or good. The IRO service have been developed during 2013-14 to strengthen their role and function in driving up the quality of care

plans. Mid way monitoring of care plans has also been introduced.

- 3.67 Independent advocates have been engaged to undertake return home interviews for looked after children who go missing and feedback will be included in contract monitoring meetings from July 2014.

Care Proceedings and Court Pilot

- 3.68 The Bromley and Bexley Court Pilot concluded on 31 March 2014. The Pilot ran for 14 months with a Case Manager tracking and monitoring all court work and outcomes for cases in care proceedings across both boroughs and reported to the Chair of the Court Pilot Project Board. The Project Board had representation from each borough, the Judiciary, CAFCASS, Lawyers and other stakeholders. The focus was to support partners to work together to implement the new Public Law Outline in time for the introduction of the Children and Families Act 2014, which has made the conclusion of care proceedings within 26 weeks a legal requirement. Under the Pilot Bromley issued **53** sets of proceedings which concerned **91** Children. Bromley's average number of weeks for concluding care proceedings at the start of the pilot was 42 weeks against a national average of 45 weeks and by the end of the Pilot Bromley's average for concluding care proceedings was **24** weeks. In September 2013 CAFCASS, in its Second Quarter Heat Map reported Bromley as being ahead of the curve for London and was scored as Green alongside only two other London Boroughs, which was an excellent achievement.

Private Fostering

- 3.69 BSCB monitors the arrangements in place for privately fostered children in Bromley. The Quality Assurance & Performance Monitoring Committee (QA&PM) considers the quarterly data on private fostering and BSCB receives the local authority annual report to scrutinise the arrangements the local authority has in place to discharge its



duties in relation to private fostering. At the beginning of 2013-14, Bromley already had **3** children subject to Private Fostering arrangements. During the 12 month reporting period, the Local Authority was notified of **10** new children subject to Private Fostering arrangements; **8** of which were deemed to be long-term arrangements for on-going monitoring and support and the remaining **two** cases were monitored and ceased as both young people became sixteen in July and September 2013. Two other private fostering arrangements were ended in April and July 2013.

- 3.70 All private fostering notifications have been acted in accordance with the local authorities policies and procedures. The local authority has a Lead Officer for Private Fostering who has been working with partner agencies such as language school and other professionals to raise awareness and to ensure the safety and well-being of privately fostered children. Robust oversight and monitoring of performance is being undertaken by Children's Social Care Senior Management Team. Bromley is now a member of the Private Fostering Specialist interest Group (PFSIG) run by BAAF and this has been helpful to determine areas Bromley can improve its performance regarding Private Fostering.
- 3.71 Statutory visits were completed within the timescale except where some of the foreign language students were out of the country due to school half term or summer school holiday.
- 3.72 Awareness raising activities has made no differences in increasing notifications during the reporting year. Research and good practice suggest the most effective awareness campaign should focus primarily on the local authorities own staff, GP's, School admissions and language colleges. As a result, the private fostering communication strategies have been reviewed in line with the existing evidence of good practice.

- 3.73 The Private Fostering policies and procedures are currently being reviewed. The Bromley Council and BSCB websites will be updated with private fostering information and new leaflets will be developed for privately fostered children, their parents and carers as well as professionals and members of the public. The leaflets will be available both online and hard copy by the end of November 2014.

CHALLENGES

Embedding the Learning and Improvement Framework

- 3.74 Now that the BSCB Learning and Improvement Framework is in place, the challenge is to ensure that agencies learn from the findings and take appropriate action to improve outcomes for children and young people in Bromley. The QA&PM committee has put measures in place for 2014-15 to ensure that there is regular follow up and monitoring of actions arising from audits and case reviews.
- 3.75 In addition, the revised BSCB quarterly dataset will be available in 2014-15, supporting members in identifying changes in the key areas of safeguarding children and promoting an ethos of continuous improvement. The challenge will be to ensure that the dataset is fully embedded.

Domestic Abuse

- 3.76 Domestic abuse is a consistent feature of child protection cases and serious case reviews nationally. In February 2014, CAADA (Co-ordinated action against domestic abuse) published its second national policy report 'In Plain Sight: Effective help for children exposed to domestic abuse' highlighting the harm experienced by children exposed to domestic abuse. Domestic abuse continues to be a priority for BSCB and following a multi-agency case review carried out in February 2014, BSCB is proposing to set up a Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group. The BSCB Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group will work with



the Bromley Domestic Abuse and VAWG Forum and focus specifically on the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.

3.77 The overall aims of the Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group are:

- To make recommendations to the BSCB Board to ensure that children living with domestic abuse are safeguarded;
- To raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.

Voice of Children & Young People

3.78 A key theme in the BSCB Business Plan 2014-15 is to listen to children, young people and their families to enable BSCB to understand the impact of safeguarding work and ensure their views are reflected in the work of BSCB. In addition, all agencies will continue to develop work to ensure that young people's views are evidenced and it can be seen how they contribute to decisions being made about them. Throughout the next year BSCB will look to build on the work undertaken in 2013-14.

Listening to Frontline Practitioners – planned Survey

3.79 In February 2014, the Board agreed to introduce an annual survey for frontline practitioners. Evidence from the Munro review on child protection systems and practice in England informs us that a confident and involved workforce, who feel heard and responded to, and a workforce that believes it is suitably resourced to do its job, leads to effective safeguarding practice.

3.80 The view of staff is important to our understanding of how well local safeguarding practice is working. An on-line practitioner survey of the view of frontline staff has been developed and it is proposed that this is repeated on an annual basis. The first survey will be undertaken between July – September 2014.

3.81 In addition, BSCB will continue to host Safeguarding Network Forums to share key learning and encourage engagement between BSCB and practitioners.

Changes in Probation

3.82 The Board has received regular updates on the changes the Ministry of Justice are making to Probation including the creation of a new national Probation Service to manage the high risk offenders and undertake all initial assessments and the creation of 21 Competed Package Areas (CPAs) to manage all medium and low risk offenders. The Board will continue to monitor the safeguarding implications of the changes throughout 2014-15 and considers it a priority to ensure that Probation continues to be represented on the Board and other committees to ensure that the new probation Service and CPA are held to account.

Self harm in young people

3.83 Self harm appears to be an increasing issue for young people in Bromley, and there is some evidence that rates of presentation to services with self harm are higher in Bromley than in most London boroughs.

3.84 In Bromley, most of the attendees presented due to self-cutting as opposed to self-poisoning suggesting a possible shift in self-harming behaviours. Of particular note were the common 'triggers' of a new episode of self-harm that presented to A&E, which included family arguments, bullying and already being an inpatient on a mental health unit.

3.85 The evidence that self harm may be reduced by psychological well-being programmes for young people and gatekeeper training for those who they may present to is being taken forward in secondary schools, A&E at the PRUH and CAMHs services in the borough.



Section 4: Sufficiency of arrangements to safeguard children and young people in Bromley

4.1 BSCB monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of what is done by partner agencies individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It does this through its business plan and evaluates the effectiveness and accountability of partners through Section 11 audits, multi-agency audits, a quarterly dataset and monitoring of action plans.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

4.2 In Bromley, partners acknowledge the importance of regularly receiving multi-agency information on safeguarding as an essential element of holding agencies to account. A quarterly dataset is produced to support this role. It focuses on the core areas of child protection and the information can identify the need for improvements in service or enhanced joint work to minimise safeguarding risks. For the first time this year, the quarterly dataset has included data from a range of agencies including children's social care, health, the police and probation. The dataset has been widened to report on child sexual

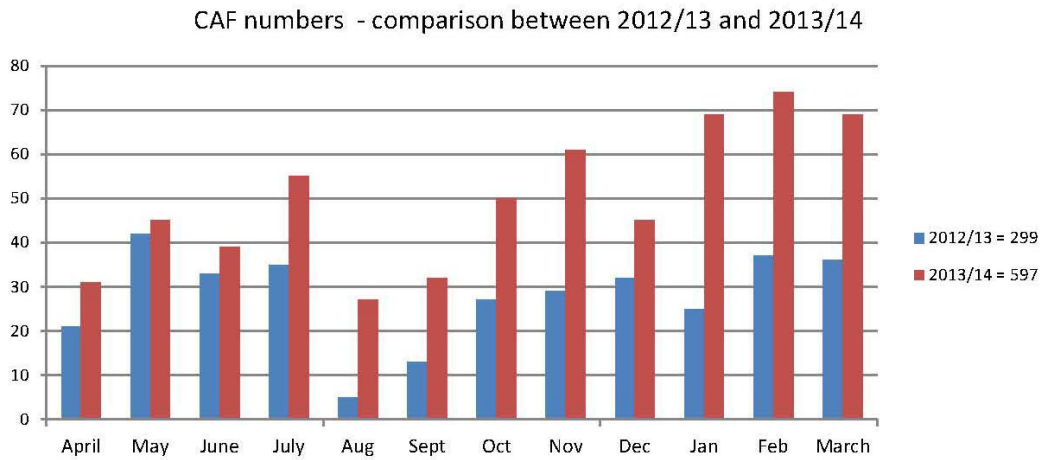
exploitation, children missing from home and care, and children missing from education. A summary of some of the key data is below.

Prevention and Early Intervention Services

4.3 Within Bromley the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is used as a holistic assessment of need, leading to a co-ordinated provision of services, involving a Lead Professional and 'Team Around the Child/Family' approach where appropriate. The total number of CAFs for 2013/14 is **597**. This represents a significant increase compared to last year's total of 335 and is in fact the highest annual number since the CAF was launched in Bromley.



Figure 5 – Common Assessment Framework (CAF) numbers comparison between 2012-13 and 2013-14



4.4 There are several contributory reasons for the increase:-

- A targeted piece of work with schools
- The launch of a new CAF form
- A greater focus on stepping cases down from Social Care
- The offer of individual CAF training

4.5 Work with schools - Last year's CAF figures showed a significant drop from both primary and secondary schools compared to previous years. The CAF Team undertook a targeted piece of work focussing on schools that were completing a high number of

CAFs but had reduced their output and schools who had completed few or no CAFs but are located in areas of deprivation. Individual meetings were set up with a number of these schools.

4.6 The launch of a new CAF form - the new CAF form was launched in July 2013 with two launch events hosted by BSCB attended by 160 participants. The form was devised to encourage greater use of the CAF process within Bromley. It has been simplified from the original version and can be used as a family CAF in that more than one child can be included in the assessment.

Figure 6 – Breakdown of CAF numbers from schools over the past 3 years

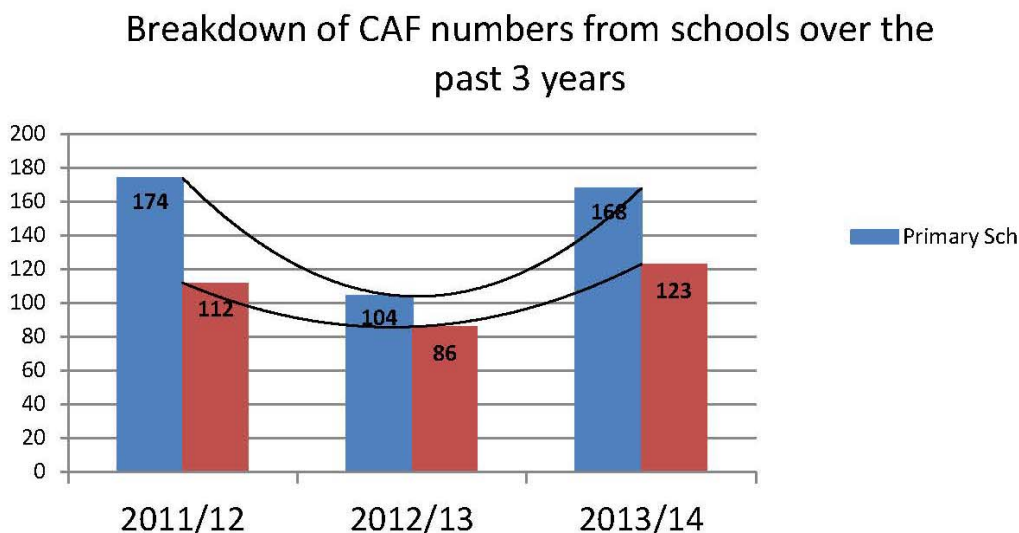
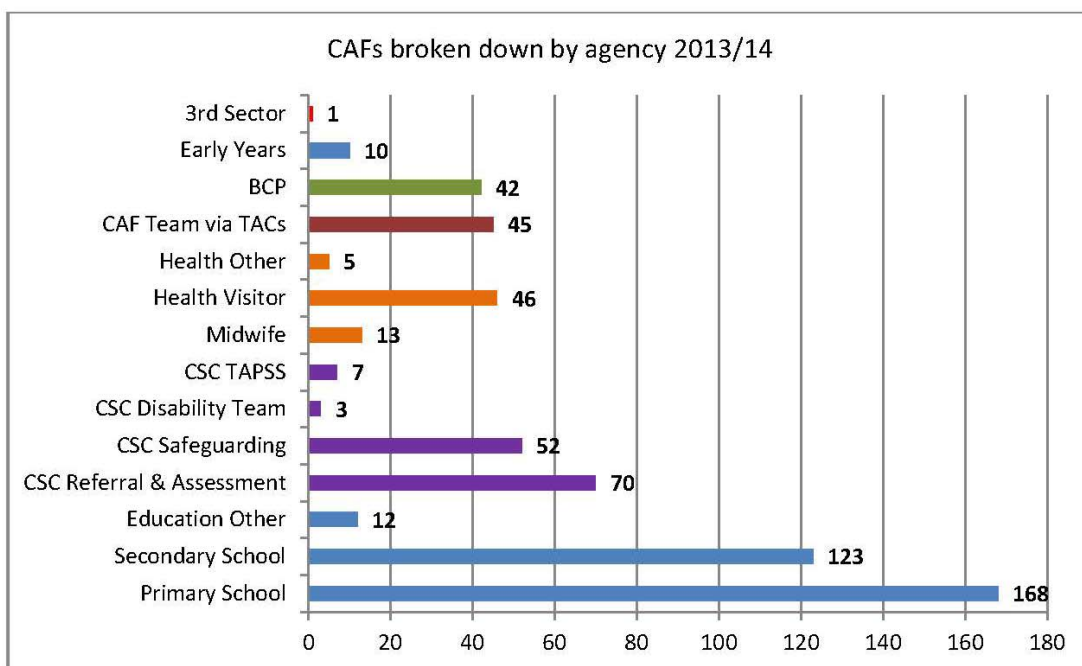




Figure 7 - Breakdown of CAF numbers completed by agencies/services during 2013-14



4.7 An increase in cases stepping down from Social care – there has continued to be an increase in cases stepping down from Social Care in line with Bromley Safeguarding Threshold Guidance (see Figure 7 for a breakdown of CAFs received via agency/service).

4.8 The offer of individual CAF training – over the past year the CAF Team have completed a number of request based training sessions in addition to the CAF Training facilitated via BSCB. These have included a number of schools and pre-school settings, Adult Mental Health, Portage, the Youth

Policing Team, Childminders, Midwives, Health Visitors and School Nursing.

4.9 As can be seen from Figure 8 the main category for CAF completion has been parental issues impacting on the child for example, neglect, parental conflict, mental health issues, etc. This is in contrast to previous years when the child/young person displaying behavioural issues has consistently been the top category. For example, aggression, disruptive behaviour within school, drinking/drug use, etc.

Figure 8 - Primary reason for CAF completion during 2013-14

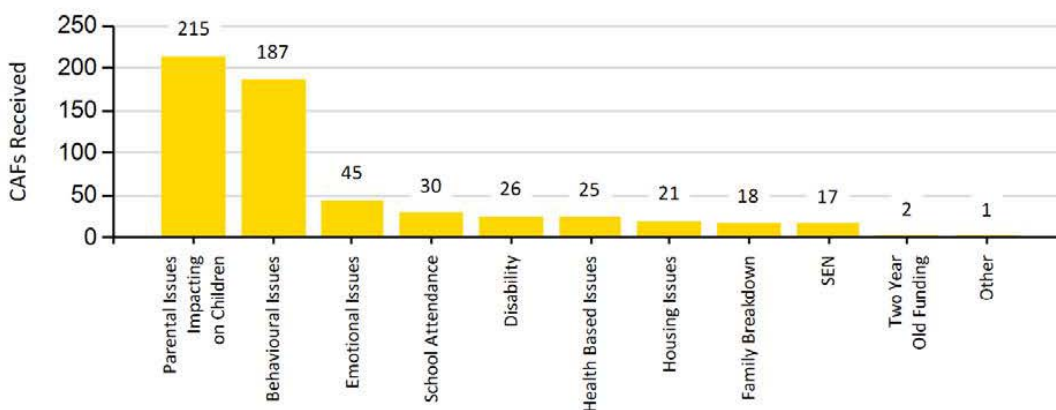
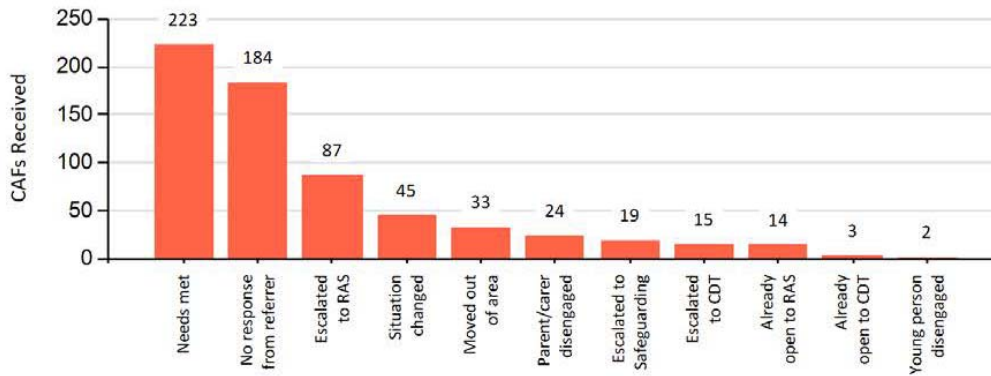




Figure 9 - Outcomes of CAFs completed during 2013-14



4.10 Figure 9 below shows the outcomes of CAFs completed during 2013-14. The CAF Team transferred from using Capita ONE to Synergy Connect for recording CAF data in April 2013. As part of that transfer the CAF Team completed a data cleanse. The 'no response from referrer' relates largely to that data cleanse. Many of the CAFs on ONE were very old. Some of the young people were over 18 or had left school. Some CAFs were closed due to a lack of response from the author/agencies despite a number of letters being sent out. Going forward the CAF Team plan to run requests for updates on a regular basis if there is a pattern of no response from individuals or agencies this will be taken up. It is important that where there is a CAF in place for a child/young person it is being actively progressed.

Intervention and Prevention Services is one of solidly increasing engagement. Bromley Children Project Children and Family Centres are enjoying record levels of attendance year-on-year with 2013/14's 69,355 total active unique service users besting 2012/13 (56,607), by 12,748.

Performance Patterns in Child Protection

4.12 All referrals to Children's Social Care are now made through the Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH) with colleagues from the police and health service co-located with local authority staff at the Civic Centre. This provides more cohesive decision making and sharing of appropriate information. Figure 11 shows the number of initial contacts made to children's social care. There were 9928 contacts made in 2013-14 which is slightly less than the

4.11 The overall trend across all Early

Figure 10 – All Children and Family Centres: Access to Services – All children and families including those in target groups most in need of support and intervention

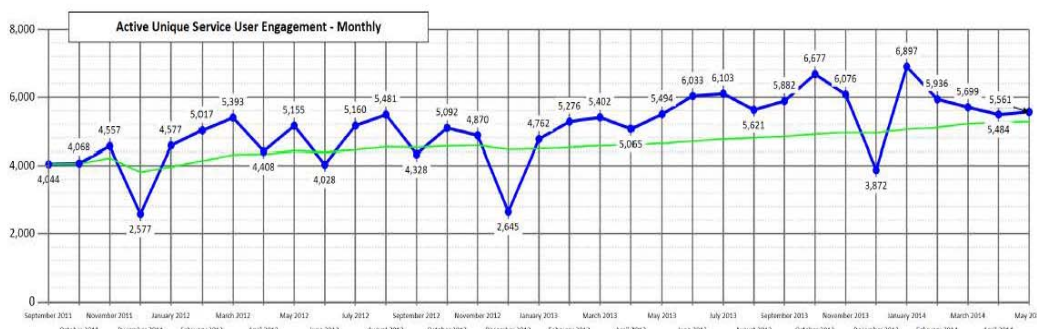




Figure 11 – MASH and Referral and Assessment Activity

Type	2013/14												Full EOY Figure	Target	2012/13 data
	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4					
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar			
Local	Total workflow - all initial contacts (including MASH)														
	828	886	653	860	689	883	868	858	864	989	779	777	9928	-	10069
Local	Number of referrals														
	177	190	126	200	154	186	208	195	176	185	108	118	2023	-	2111
Local	Number of re-referrals and (%)														
	17 (10%)	19 (10%)	14 (11%)	26 (13%)	20 (13%)	18 (10%)	26 (13%)	11 (6%)	14 (8%)	16 (9%)	22 (21%)	19 (16%)	222 (12%)	15%	15%
Local	Number of referrals due to concerns of child sexual exploitation														
	1	2	1	3	2	1	5	6	2	2	2	3	30/1934 1.6%	-	
N9	Percentage of referrals going onto an initial assessment														
	21%	21%	19%	23%	22%	21%	22%	22%	22%	19%	14%	15%	20%	-	21%
N7	Rate of assessments per 10,000 of the CYP population (Cumulative)														
	44	90	119	163	200	243	296	340	378	420	449	477	477	-	464

10,069 in 2012-13. There was a small reduction in referrals made in 2013-14 compared to the previous year, however re-referrals remains consistent. Following a successful pilot all children’s referral and assessment teams are now using a single assessment model instead of the previous initial and core assessment model. By using the Strengthening Families model this is consistent with that used in multi-agency child protection conferences and focuses on the experiences of the child.

4.13 The number of children subject to a child protection plan in March 2014 was 262 compared with 184 at March 2013.

4.14 The number of children in care at the end of March 2014 was 268 compared with 277 in March 2013. Research evidence suggests that children who are looked after achieve much better outcomes if placed in a placement that can fully meet their needs and wherever possible is close to the geographical area that they are familiar with and enables them to have continued contact with significant people in their lives.

4.15 For all but a very small cohort, the most appropriate placement is with foster carers. The number of children placed with foster carers (including family and friends foster carers) in 2013/13 was 69%, down slightly on 2012/13 (71%). However, the number

Figure 12– Children subject to a Child Protection Plan

Type	2013/14												Full EOY Figure	Target	2012/13 data
	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4					
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar			
Local	Total number of Children subject to a Child Protection Plan														
	177	190	204	185	198	193	189	197	204	229	269	262	262	-	184
N19	Rate of Children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 under 18 population														
	25.8	27.7	29.7	26.9	26.9	28.1	27.5	28.7	29.7	33.3	39.6	38.1	38.1	-	26.8
Local	Number and Percentage of Black and Minority ethnic (BME) (excluding unborn children)														
	57 (32%)	57 (30%)	62 (30%)	59 (32%)	63 (32%)	63 (33%)	65 (34%)	69 (35%)	64 (31%)	65 (28%)	78 (29%)	85 (32%)	85 (32%)	-	56 (30%)
Local	Number of CP with disabilities														
	3	3	3	3	7	7	6	6	6	6	8	5	7	-	4



Figure 13 – Children becoming subject to a plan for physical emotional or sexual abuse or neglect (rate per 10,000 population)

Initial Category of Concern	Number	Percentage
Emotional abuse	96	37%
Neglect	66	25%
Neglect and Emotional abuse	4	2%
Physical abuse	15	6%
Physical abuse and Neglect	4	2%
Physical and Emotional abuse	44	17%
Sexual abuse	5	2%
Sexual abuse and Neglect	14	5%
Sexual and Emotional abuse	1	0%
Multiple (not listed above)	13	5%
Total	262	
Rate per 10,000	38.1	

of children and young people placed in residential accommodation fell from 16% in 2013/14 to 13% in 2013/14.

4.16 We continue to actively recruit local foster carers to meet our needs, and in particular those who are able to offer placement to disabled children, adolescents and sibling groups.

4.17 Figure 15 shows the school attainment levels for Children in Need (CIN) and Looked After Children (LAC). The percentage of Bromley Looked After Children achieving 5 GCSEs at A*-C (16%) was in line with the national figure for Looked After Children of 15.3% for academic year 2012/13. The KS4 reporting cohort for this academic year was the smallest for some years and, notably, 78% had recorded SEN.

4.18 Overall school attendance for Bromley Looked After Children is good. Persistent absence, however, is frequently a pre-existing feature of the lives of children who become looked after during adolescence and reluctance to engage with an education provider can be one of the biggest challenges of working with them. The figures for persistent absence also include children who are missing from placement and those whose medical conditions or disability means that they have prolonged periods when they are unable to access school

4.19 Bromley has had no reported permanent exclusions of looked after children since 2008 and the number of fixed term exclusions has decreased year on year over this period. This is the result of increased levels of support offered to both individual pupils and their schools by the Virtual

Figure 14 – Number of Children in Care

Type	2013/14												Full EOY Figure	Target	2012/13 data
	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4					
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar			
Local	Number of Children in Care														
	287	279	280	282	287	291	289	291	283	279	277	277	268	-	277
Local	Number and Percentage of CiC with Special Educational Needs (SEN)														
	65 (23%)	63 (23%)	61 (22%)	61 (22%)	65 (23%)	68 (23%)	68 (24%)	68 (23%)	68 (24%)	65 (23%)	68 (25%)	68 (25%)	67 (25%)	-	65 23%
Local	Number and Percentage of CiC from black and ethnic minority groups (BME)														
	106 37%	101 36%	97 35%	101 36%	102 36%	102 35%	107 37%	109 37%	102 36%	102 37%	100 36%	101 36%	80 30%	-	81 29%



Figure 15 – Comparison of Children in Need (CIN) and Looked After Children (LAC) achievement data by contextual factors

2013/14 Attainment	Children in Need	Children Looked After	All Bromley Children	All National (2012/13)
Table N2 School aged children in need and looked after children attainment and contextual information (Source: DFE)				
Special Educational Needs (SEN)				
SEN (including all action, action plus and statemented pupils)	516 (71%)	80 (68%)	83%	19%
No SEN	207 (29%)	40 (32%)	17%	81%
Eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM)				
Eligible for FSM	322 (45%)	100%	12%	17%
Attainment at Key Stage 2 (KS2) (academic year 2012/13)				
Achieving level 4 or above in reading	27 (54%)	9 (64%)	89%	85%
Achieving level 4 or above in writing	21 (42%)	7 (50%)	85%	83%
Achieving level 4 or above in maths	24 (48%)	7 (50%)	88%	84%
Achieving level 4 or above in grammar, punctuation, and spelling	17 (34%)	*	79%	73%
Attainment at Key Stage 4 (KS4) (academic year 2012/13)				
Achieving any pass	53 (75%)		100%	100%
Achieving 5+ A*-G grades	33 (47%)	21%	98%	94%
Achieving 5+A*-G grades (including English and maths)	28 (39%)	-	97%	91%
Achieving 5+ A*-C grades	21 (30%)	21%	93%	82%
Achieving 5+ A*-C grades (including English and maths)	16 (23%)	3 (16%)	74%	59%
Absence from school				
Percentage of sessions missed through overall absence	10.7%	4.2%	4.8%	5.3%
Percentage of persistent absentees	14%	8.2%	3.9%	4.8%
Exclusions from school				
Permanent Exclusions	X	0%	0.07%	0.06%
Percentage of Fixed Term Exclusions	3.5%	9%	2.28%	3.52%

School and of improved collaborative working between the Service and colleagues in the Behaviour Service, SEN and Education Welfare and our local schools. Fixed term exclusions of looked after children have been reducing consistently since 2009. This represents a reduction both in the number of days and in the number of pupils experiencing exclusion. This trend is not borne out among our statistical neighbours, most of whom saw an increase in the numbers of fixed term exclusions in 2011.

time biennially. The change provides time for in depth discussion of each submission and a presentation by agency senior staff, where they can be held to account for their arrangements. In submitting self-assessments agencies reflect not only on their compliance with the section 11 Standards, but also must address this within the context of agency challenges, successes and Board priorities. This new approach facilitates improved understanding between agencies of operational and strategic contexts and challenges.

SECTION 11 AUDITS

4.20 It is a statutory requirement for agencies to complete a Section 11 agency self-assessment on safeguarding children. In Bromley this runs as a two-year rolling programme - the 2011-13 programme was completed in January 2014. Submissions are made to the Quality Assurance & Performance Monitoring Committee (QAPM). This is a significant change to previous years when paper-based submissions would be made at the same

4.21 The changes have been a milestone in Section 11 reporting in Bromley. It raised the status and importance of this statutory duty and has provided opportunities for inter-agency challenge leading to change in practice. BSCB has kept abreast of these challenges through logging issues and actions raised in this process and reviewing them regularly at the QAPM committee.

4.22 BSCB uses an adapted version of the



Section 11 tool developed by the London Board. In doing so this relieves some burden on agencies reporting to several Boards.

4.23 Of the notable milestones in Section 11 reporting in Bromley, there were important firsts within the programme. One of which was a Section 11 for schools which was reported on in last year's annual report.

4.24 The London Borough of Bromley's Early Years Service also provided an audit for the first time. There are a significant number of private and voluntary providers of early years provision in Bromley and the team identified a plan to send a questionnaire to the range of providers and ask for information on their safeguarding arrangements.

4.25 Bromley is home to one of few secure mental health hospitals for children and young people, Oakview. Oakview provided a Section 11 audit and presented to the QA & PM Committee. This was the first opportunity for BSCB, in session, to challenge the agency.

4.26 London Borough of Bromley Adult Services also provided a comprehensive audit to the Board. The programme ensured that key services as outlined in Working Together 2013 made separate and comprehensive submissions. The Youth Service & Youth Offending Service also made a first separate submission.

4.27 The voluntary sector was audited via an on-line survey promoted through the Children and Families Forum and the Safe Network. Due to the limited response, an alternative audit approach for this sector is being considered for 2014-15.

4.28 The audits indicate that the majority of agencies are compliant with their duties under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and in fact striving to enhance their

services and practice through improvements. Significant concerns were raised about one agency, Oakview Hospital and these were in the process of being addressed. Historically there had been a number of allegations made against staff at the hospital and BSCB had become involved earlier when the hospital was undergoing significant proprietary and managerial changes. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) had also found areas for concern in an earlier inspection, which were addressed and on re-inspection the standards were met. Concerns about practice and monitoring were expressed by members of the QA&PM Committee and the agency was asked to provide a fuller report at a later date. The agency were in a transitional phase with management and staff changes, whilst also updating their systems and procedures and responding to inspection. On re-submission of their Section 11 it was clear that significant improvements had been made in terms of staff training. Comprehensive quality, monitoring and recording systems were put in place. Concerns about the number of allegations against staff were explored within the context of the changes and the nature of the institution. Challenge from other agencies including the police and Children's Social Care included asking Oakview to remind placing authorities / agencies of their duty to notify Bromley Children's Social Care. Oakview improved their systems to emphasise this to referrers and the local authority are monitoring notifications.

4.29 At various points in the Section 11 programme, agencies challenged each other to provide evidence of compliance such as monitoring and service changes. Examples include the youth service having clear records of *all* training undertaken by staff and improved access to BSCB training for early years providers, the provision of details of the hospital's school and education provision by South London and Maudsley NHS Trust.

4.30 A pattern in the Section 11 for health



partners was the uncertainty and implementation of significant strategic and operational changes in the health sector. Partners followed NHS structural changes closely, seeking assurance that the role of the 'named safeguarding' officer remained within the governance structure of all agencies.

- 4.31 Safeguarding arrangements within commissioned services was raised as an important area to monitor within London Borough of Bromley Education Care Health Services (ECHS). As more services and functions are outsourced to external providers, members recognised the importance of securing safeguarding arrangements. The issue was raised at ECHS senior management team in a bid to ensure consistency across the council.
- 4.32 Agencies are asked to rate their compliance to the standards using the following status:
- Red – not achieved, significant delays, concerns about practice.
 - Amber – delays, further development required, moving towards achievement/effective practice.
 - Green – achieved, good progress or working effectively

Agency Challenges

- 4.33 Agencies identified challenges faced by their organisation as part of the strategic context. The police structure at both borough level and child abuse investigation command experienced staff reduction and re-configuration of services. Health agencies moved into a new phase with the development and launch of clinical commissioning groups, and SLHT went into administration and eventually the Princess Royal University Hospital has come under the management of the Kings College Hospital Trust. This has been a considerable undertaking and has been closely monitored by BSCB as staff changes occurred. During the period, the government's programme on schools becoming academies was implemented. All

secondary schools in Bromley have become academies over the past two-three years, with a number of primary schools also making the change. There have been significant implications for local authority support services, however safeguarding lead officer support for schools remains in place.

- 4.34 Operational challenges were also evident. The health sector has a tradition of using agency staff, necessary for the flexibility required in the care sector. Local Authority Designated Officer reporting and information shows that this can be associated with higher levels of allegations against professionals. Details about the use of agency staff in SLAM and Oakview, their training, criminal and disclosure barring service (DBS) records were issues that arose during section 11 enquiries. Both agencies had robust plans to move towards a reduction of agency staff, using bank staff (employed by and trained by the organisation).
- 4.35 The youth service audit raised issues for partners to encourage their use of CAF for older young people to obtain a comprehensive assessment of need. The exploration by all agencies around working with young people contributed to a focus on this age group in multi-agency audits and in particular the audit on Missing Children.

- 4.36 The national consultation on proposals to change the early years sector adult-child ratios was closely monitored for its possible impact on safeguarding standards and provider arrangements. Cost of training and its implications for accessing training were also reviewed by the partners.

How agencies addressed BSCB priorities

- 4.37 All agencies, to varying degrees engaged with BSCB priorities including:
- involvement in the child sexual exploitation strategy, training and provision of services



- Involvement in reviewing and rewriting the missing children procedure in 2013.
- 4.38 A number of agencies were able to highlight their membership of BSCB groups, committees and panels at various levels all of which support BSCB priorities. Agencies were able to evidence support for operational groups such as the hospitals Psycho-social meeting which facilitates discussion between health and social care professionals on patients with mental health issues and their families.

Conclusion & Future Development

4.39 The revised process for undertaking Section 11 self-audit has been robust and effective. It has facilitated interagency challenge through holding agencies to greater account. In a number of areas it has led to service improvement. It enabled BSCB to work effectively with partners as they underwent significant structural and operational changes. The QA & PM Committee managed the process, agreeing the schedule, monitoring actions and issues that arose.

4.40 Going forward the QA& PM Committee has implemented several improvements for 2014-15 in order to improve the process. This includes:

- Amending the self-audit tool to help agencies to clearly identify services delivered by agencies within the borough
- Changing standard 7 to ask agencies to state how Board priorities are specifically being met by the agency.
- Improving the issues and actions log to also show compliance with the standards and actions in relation to specific standards, alongside challenges made by the Board.

MULTI-AGENCY AUDITS

4.41 BSCB between April 2013 and March 2014

undertook three multi-agency audits covering *Child Protection Arrangements*, *Missing Children* and *Early Intervention Arrangements*. An audit of the *Voluntary Sector* commenced, but due to a poor response it was not concluded. Proposals for a different approach are to be developed.

4.42 In addition, the audit programme for 2014 was agreed by the Board in January 2014. A case review into domestic violence and audits on core group effectiveness and child protection plans; neglect; child sexual exploitation; and a re-audit of missing children are planned for the 2014-15.

4.43 An analysis of BSCB’s multi-agency audits conducted in 2013-14 identifies many themes relevant to practice. Much learning relates to assessment, information sharing, referral quality and ensuring that the views of young people are taken into account in service delivery. The summary below highlights a number of key findings related to these broad areas. The findings from each audit are available on the BSCB website within practice guidance. BSCB encourages agencies to share the guidance widely with relevant staff.

4.44 Each audit considers the process and effectiveness of procedures through exploring individual cases. They investigate the quality of working relationships between partners to safeguard children and draw on relevant data about performance to set the audit in context. The scope of audits is refined and developed by a small team of key partner agencies who form a Multi-Agency Audit Group. This group convenes to manage and have oversight of the audits. A Multi-Agency Audit Team acts as a panel to draw together the findings of each agency to formulate overarching recommendations.

4.45 The Child Protection Arrangements Audit considered the process from Section 47 referral to Child Protection Review meeting. In fact, questions related to early intervention and case history enabled



auditors to comment on timeliness and appropriateness of response. Missing children are extremely vulnerable and, by the nature of their absence, less visible. The audit focused on how agencies worked together to protect these young people from harm. It considered the services received by a sample of young people aged 11-17 who had gone missing several times; the usefulness and effectiveness of the missing procedures; professional awareness of the vulnerability of missing children; assessment and planning for the child or young person. Early Intervention focused on the appropriate use of CAF and processes within agencies to monitor and manage cases where one or two agencies were involved and which did not meet the threshold for social care. The focus was on effective assessment, appropriate information sharing and management of cases including monitoring and case closure.

Good Practice

- 4.46 Each audit provided evidence of good practice and it is possible to identify three key themes that can be applied more widely to practice across agencies. In conducting the audits it was particularly helpful when case files were linked to supervision records. Not only was it noted that decision-making processes were more transparent and auditors noted that in those cases case drift was less evident. Audits indicated that where there was frequent communication between partner agencies on a case, the outcome for children was enhanced. Interventions appeared to be more likely to be effective. Referrals to social care were generally good and timely. Audits also suggested that agencies valued inter-agency panels and forums where cases could be discussed.
- 4.47 One example of good partnership work related to protecting an unborn child. It demonstrated prompt and accurate referral, good quality assessment and persistence and good discharge planning across agencies in protecting an unborn baby out of hours, where the mother had parental

mental health issues.

Key areas where safeguarding is going well

- 4.48 Audits highlighted a number of areas where Bromley partners currently work together effectively to protect and safeguard children and young people living in the borough:
- Evidence of timely referrals being made to children's social care with mainly accurate information included. Some agencies are aware of the range of support and early intervention services available locally;
 - Regular supervision of cases and management oversight in agencies;
 - Child protection plans, which are now modelled on the Strengthening Families approach to child protection conferences, are outcome focused and plans tend to be smart;
 - CAF is being used by agencies and the CAF team escalate appropriately to social care;
 - Where there is a lead for a case or there is frequent good communication and information sharing between professionals working on a case, outcomes for the child appear enhanced;
 - Young people are generally seen regularly and their views are heard, though could be better recorded.

Key areas for improvement

- 4.49 Specific areas for improvement emerged from the audits such as improving assessment through raising professional awareness of the risk factors and vulnerabilities associated with child sexual exploitation and missing children. Details for these can be found within the Board's practice guides which are available from the website. Child sexual exploitation was a priority for the Board over the past year and awareness raising activities were being undertaken or about to commence for several agencies:
- Reviewing risk regularly such as changes to



family circumstances such as household composition or where a case is not progressing make reviewing risk regularly an important practice issue;

- The use of the CAF to support good information sharing requires continued promotion;
- In general, referrals to other agencies or to social care are appropriate and timely. It was noted that where referrals were detailed, clear and accurate with correct family details provided, this supported the receiving agency to respond appropriately and promptly;
- Supervision could be used more effectively to help staff to reflect on the risk factors associated with complex cases- e.g. neglect and case drift, apparent compliance or working with challenging parents.

4.50 A key area for development for the board is to capture the views of children and young people. This is an area that all agencies continue to develop to ensure that their views are evidenced and it can be seen how they contribute to decisions being made about them.

The Impact of Audit

4.51 Auditing has impacted practice and a number of the key multi-agency strategic and operational impacts are captured below. In addition, this led to an immediate change to the way in which a specific child or young person was being worked with. In one case it led to a re-referral to social care, in another to interventions by additional teams and access to additional services and in another improved coherence between agencies working with the young person.

4.52 A strategic outcome was to push forward development of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) *procedure* to support professionals in working with young people and in joint work to protect young people. It also led to improved *recording and monitoring* as now Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meeting minutes are

formally linked to social care electronic records for relevant young people with a child protection plan. This supports CSE being embedded in the child protection process and supports more effective analysis of risk factors. Plans for a specific audit on CSE is planned for autumn 2014.

4.53 The audit of missing children led to significant changes to the care pathway for children who repeatedly runaway. A *new service* was established to address the needs of this particular group with support being provided for those over 10 years old by the Teenage and Parent Support Service which is a social work led service within London Borough Bromley. In addition, concerns about missing children will go to the same panel that leads on sexual exploitation. This approach provides a more *coherent and co-ordinated* approach to some very vulnerable young people. A revised procedure was agreed in November 2013.

4.54 The identified good practice from the above audits in relation to supervision has led to *safeguarding supervision* being incorporated within the BSCB Training programme for 2014-15. Promoting good practice in safeguarding supervision is considered to directly improve reflective practice among the wider network of professionals and to enhance professional confidence in working with complex cases.

4.55 It became increasingly clear in the audit process that the voice of young people who are children in need or who have a plan was not always systematically captured in records and therefore it was not always clear how their needs and wishes improved practice. As a result of the findings the Borough has reviewed and re-specified its contract with an advocacy service. Clearer feedback should be available to social workers and other professionals more quickly. Young people will benefit from feeling that their viewpoint has been understood and taken into account in decision-making.



4.56 To enhance professional practice, BSCB has disseminated its findings through circulating practice guidance, e-bulletins and the BSCB newsletter. It has linked learning from the practice guidance to its core training content and held briefings with the Safeguarding Network - the wider professional community working with children and their families.

4.57 It is evident that the programme of multi-agency audits and performance review has a positive influence on the Board's work programme, helping to focus on priorities and make operational improvements which directly impact on young people's lives. The breadth of learning from the range of audits undertaken indicate that it remains important to audit core processes of child protection as well as key themes related to priority areas.

MONITORING SINGLE AGENCY AUDITS

4.58 Each year the QA & PM Committee establishes an audit plan including a review of single agency audits. Inspections are also brought to the attention of the committee and the Board for discussion and monitoring safeguarding actions where appropriate. This year a number of audits were considered and as a result the following agency audits were reviewed in more detail by the QA&PM Committee:

Bromley Healthcare Audit on Health Care Plans of Looked After Children

4.59 This audit was a repeat of an audit reported to the QA&PM Committee in 2010. In 2010 only 50% of health care plans were up to date but this audit found that 98% of health care plans had been monitored and were up to date. The audit also showed there had been increases in the percentage of immunisations which were up to date.

Children's Social Care Audit on the Strengthening Families Child Protection Conferences

4.60 This audit looked at how well the process of the Strengthening Families Child Protection Conferences, which were introduced in August 2012, had been established. The audit identified three areas of concern. An action plan was put in place to address the recommendations.

Bromley Healthcare Audit on Family Needs Assessments

4.61 In previous Serious Case Reviews in Bromley, it has been noted that the role of fathers/men within the family has not been well documented. This audit showed that the Family Health Needs Assessment currently in use is more robust and provides prompts to establish the composition and role of the wider family network. It also helps to raise awareness of significant males within the family home and their impact on the children. The amendment was introduced in December 2013. It was however noted at the time that progress was not yet fully embedded. As a result a repeat audit was requested to be brought back to the QA&PM Committee to monitor improvements in 2014-15.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PROFESSIONALS

4.62 There are occasions when a child protection allegation is made against a professional working with children within the borough. These allegations are reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who ensures that any allegations are investigated promptly and appropriately. The LADO ensures that a record is kept of how the allegation was followed up, the decisions reached, the action taken and the final outcome.

4.63 There were 101 allegations in total referred to the LADO service during 2013-14, this compares to 88 for the same period in 2012-13. During the period 2013-14 there were 18 allegations against foster carers, half of the referrals related to foster carers



approved by Independent Fostering agencies or other. A total of 41 allegations were made against staff working in schools, colleges and alternative educational provisions. This represents an increase of 10.5% on the previous year during which 41 referrals were received from the same sector. A total of 23 allegations were received from Early Years (excluding child minders) provisions in Bromley.

4.64 During the year the multi-agency referral form for allegations and the template for recording the decisions agreed at strategy meetings has been redesigned improving the quality of information shared and ensuring actions are SMART. The start of 2014 also saw the implementation of a new application for recording allegations which is integrated with the overall electronic recording system used by children's social care to record safeguarding concerns around children and young people. The allegations application has restricted access thereby maintaining confidentiality.

CHILD DEATHS

4.65 The number of deaths of children in Bromley showed a downward trend to 2011 but has since been rising again, largely due to increasing deaths in teenagers aged 15-18. This year there were eighteen Bromley children who died during 2013-14. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) continues to analyse the information for each child and report its findings to the BSCB Board. In 2013-14 there were four routine CDOP meetings, and one special meeting to discuss a possible suicide.

4.66 A small proportion of cases take longer than twelve months, often due to an impending court case or complex information. National data shows that such cases are more likely to have identifiable modifiable factors which need to be examined in depth. Of the eleven cases reviewed so far from 2013-14, seven were reviewed in less than six

months, and the rest within eleven months. However those cases not yet completed at CDOP are mostly very complex cases, including two homicides, and the CDOP panel has not been able to review those cases until the police process is completed.

4.67 There were eleven unexpected deaths in 2013-14 and seven expected deaths. Eight of the deaths were female and ten male. Six of the deaths were in babies less than a month old. Two of these babies died from congenital problems which were complex to treat and a good outcome very unlikely.

4.68 The following key learning and actions have been taken from these cases:

Self-Harm and Risk of Internet

4.69 Children and young people cannot be protected completely from internet sites which may encourage them to self-harm or even commit suicide. In this context it has been recommended that:

- Schools and other services where children may access the internet should continue to block harmful websites;
- Schools and other agencies with responsibility for children and young people should help parents to understand the risks to their children of unlimited internet access and how to set up effective filters;
- Programmes are provided which help children and young people cope with some of the material they are exposed to on the internet. This may include resilience programmes;
- Implications for Early intervention by CAMHS.

Dangers of leaving very young babies with young siblings

4.70 This issue has come up in other cases over the last few years. Key messages from this case was feedback to Health Visitors to



ensure that they are raising awareness of this risk with parents

Measures to ensure that messages about safety of children is passed on effectively to parents from different ethnicity where language is a barrier.

4.71 Public Health to work with Children and Family Centres on accident prevention in young children.

Asthma care in the community

4.72 Asthma is a common illness and usually well controlled but is known to have sudden deterioration. As asthma is a common illness, this can sometimes detract from its potential seriousness. Interventions such as Written Asthma action plans are associated with reduced mortality and may have been beneficial in this case. Regular parent/patient education about their condition would have alerted parents to the signs of an acute attack and need to seek medical help early. Use of asthma guidelines and regular training for school staff may also have helped school staff to identify signs of deterioration. Following this case, an Asthma event is planned for GPs.



Section 5: BSCB Priorities for 2014-15

5.1 BSCB’s priority is to remain focused on safeguarding children, which it delivers through offering training, monitoring agency performance and the development of policies, guidance and strategies as required. Moving forward into 2014-15 a key focus for BSCB will be on improving outcomes for children and young people. The Board’s Business Plan for 2014-15 sets out the following priorities which BSCB will work towards:

5.2 The Business Plan is divided into five work areas themes:

- Leadership and Accountability – holding agencies to account and the Board having a strong strategic leadership on safeguarding
- Improve Safeguarding through effective communication – the role of promoting safeguarding and also good interagency working
- Monitoring and Quality Assurance
- Improving outcomes for children and young people who have been harmed or abused or at risk of harm
- Listening to children and young people and improving outcomes.

5.3 Key priorities for 2014-15 include:

- Evaluating the effectiveness of the BSCB training programme;
- Continuing to promote awareness in key areas of child protection including domestic violence, child sexual exploitation and neglect;
- Continuing to monitor the effectiveness of arrangements for safeguarding children missing from home and care, and children missing education;
- Continuing to develop mechanisms to listen to the views of children and young people;
- Reviewing the support, engagement and impact of Lay Members to enable them to develop links between the BSCB and community groups and support stronger public engagement;
- Developing and implementing an annual survey for frontline practitioners to help develop understanding of how well safeguarding practice is working;
- Establishing a Domestic Abuse task and finish group;
- Completing the Serious Case Review commissioned in March 2014 and embedding the learning;
- Develop work around children with mental health problems and young people who self-harm making this a focus of the 2014-15 Annual Conference.



Section 6: Accounts

A summary of the accounts of the BSCB for 2013-14

INCOME

2012-13 Carry Forward	£81,595
Bromley CCG	£10,324
Oxleas NHS Trust	£10,324
Bromley Healthcare	£10,324
King's College Hospital Trust	£10,324
Metropolitan Police	£5,000
Probation	£2,000
Bromley Mytime	£694
South London & Maudsley NHS Trust	£615
CAFCASS	£550
LBB—ECHS (Adults)	£6,115
LBB—ECHS (Children's Social Care & Education)	£33,686
Annual Conference	£5,850
Training	£33,250
TOTAL INCOME	£210,651

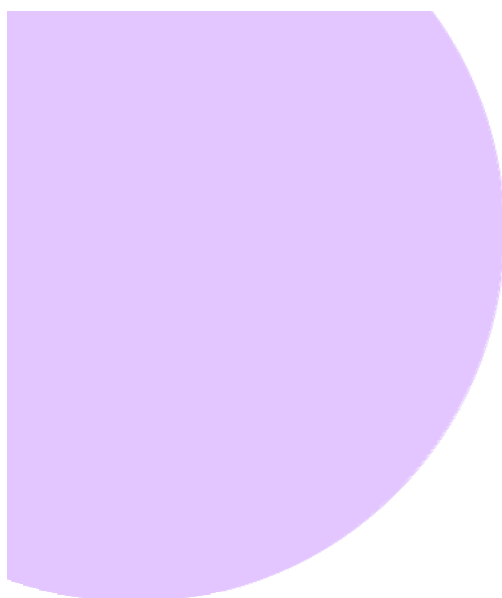


EXPENDITURE

Staff, consultant, office, Independent Chair	£99,990
Training & Annual conference	£28,981
Serious Case Review	£0
Publications, guidance & resources	£500

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £129,470

BALANCE £81,181





Section 7: BSCB Membership

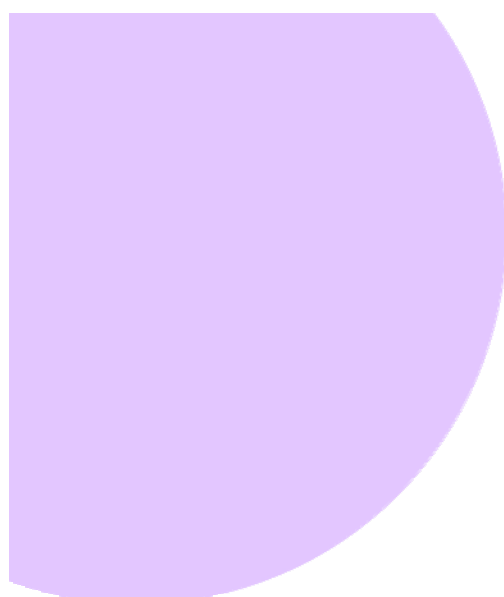
Board Membership 2013-14

Independent Chair	Independent
Designated Dr	Bromley CCG
Clinical Director	Bromley Healthcare
DCI Borough Police	Metropolitan Police Service
Director of Quality, Governance and Patient Safety	Bromley CCG
Director of Adult Mental Health and Adult Learning Disability Services	Oxleas NHS Trust
Care Services Portfolio Holder	Council Member
Assistant Chief Officer	National Probation Service
Assistant Chief Officer	Croydon and Bromley CRC
Head of Service Quality Assurance	London Borough of Bromley
Lay Members	Independent
Assistant Director Nursing	King's College Hospital Trust
Quality Improvement Service Manager	CAFCASS
Bromley CFVSF Chair	Voluntary Sector
Assistant Director, Education	London Borough of Bromley
Executive Director, Education & Care Services	London Borough of Bromley
Consultant Public Health Medicine	Public Health
DCI Child Abuse Investigation Team	Metropolitan Police Service
Designated Nurse for Safeguarding	Bromley CCG
Assistant Director, Children's Social Care	London Borough of Bromley
BSCB Performance & Improvement Officer	London Borough of Bromley
BSCB Business Manager	London Borough of Bromley



Professional Advisors 2013-14

Named Nurse	South London & Maudsley Trust
Head of Housing Needs Service	London Borough of Bromley
Asst Director Legal & Support Services	London Borough of Bromley
Lead Officer, Education Safeguarding	London Borough of Bromley
Head of Service Early Years	London Borough of Bromley
Named GP	Bromley CCG
Safeguarding Named Nurse	Oxleas NHS Trust
Named Nurse	Bromley Healthcare
Named Dr	Bromley Healthcare
Named Nurse	King's College Hospital Trust
Named Dr	King's College Hospital Trust





Section 8: Essential Information

Date of Publication: 8 December 2014

Approval Process: Approved at the BSCB Board meeting on 18 November 2014

This publication and other information is available on the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) website:

www.bromleysafeguarding.org

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Appendix One

London Borough of Bromley

Located in South-East London, Bromley is the largest London borough in the city. At approximately 150 square kilometres it is 30% larger than the next largest borough. It has over 45 conservation areas and a wide range of historic and listed buildings.

Although Bromley is a relatively prosperous area, the communities within Bromley differ substantially. The North-East and North-West of the borough contend with similar issues (such as higher levels of deprivation and disease prevalence) to those found in the inner London Boroughs we border (Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Greenwich), while in the South, the borough compares more with rural Kent and its issues.

Bromley benefits from a good number of public parks and open spaces as well as sites of natural beauty and nature conservation.

The latest (2014) estimate of the resident population of Bromley is 320,057, having risen by 21,775 since 2001.

The resident population is expected to increase to 330,361 by 2018 and 339,154 by 2023.

Although the number of 0 to 4 year olds is projected to decrease by 2019 to 21,016 and then to 20,825 by 2024, there has been an increase in the number of live births since 2002. The latest (2014) GLA population projection estimates show that 17.34% of the population is made up of Black and minority ethnic (BME) groups; an increase from 8.4% in 2001.

The BME group experiencing the greatest increase within Bromley's population is the Black African community, from 1.1% of the population in 2001 to 4.7% of the population in 2024.

(Source: Bromley Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2014)

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