



Bromley
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership

Annual Report
2020 - 2021



Foreword by the Independent Chair

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

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

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





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

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

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

Jim Gamble QPM
Independent Chair



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



Contents

Foreword by the Chair	2	Safeguarding Context in Bromley	34	Learning & Improvement	57
		MASH	36	The Child's Voice	58
About the Annual Report	5	Children in Need	36	Reviews of Practice	59
		Children on Child Protection Plans	37	Auditing	62
Glossary of Terms	7	Children Looked After	37	The Child Death Overview Panel	64
		Adoption	38		
Context	9	Youth Offending	39	Training & Development	65
		Domestic Abuse	41		
The Partnership	12	Elective Home Education	43	Progress against Bromley Pledge	68
Key Roles and Relationships	13	Private Fostering	46		
Governance and Membership	14	SEND	47	Technology & Social Media	71
BSCP Structure	16	Children with Disabilities	48		
BSCP Sub Groups	17	Children's Mental Health	48	What You Need to Know	73
Financial Arrangements	21	MAPPA	49		
Partner Safeguarding Achievements	23	Alcohol and Substance Misuse	50	BSCP Membership	76
		Early Help	50		
		Child Exploitation	52		
		Missing from Education	53		
		Modern Day Slavery	55		
		Local Authority Designated Officer	55		



About the Annual Report



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Glossary of Terms



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



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



Context



MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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





COVID-19

IMPACT

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

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

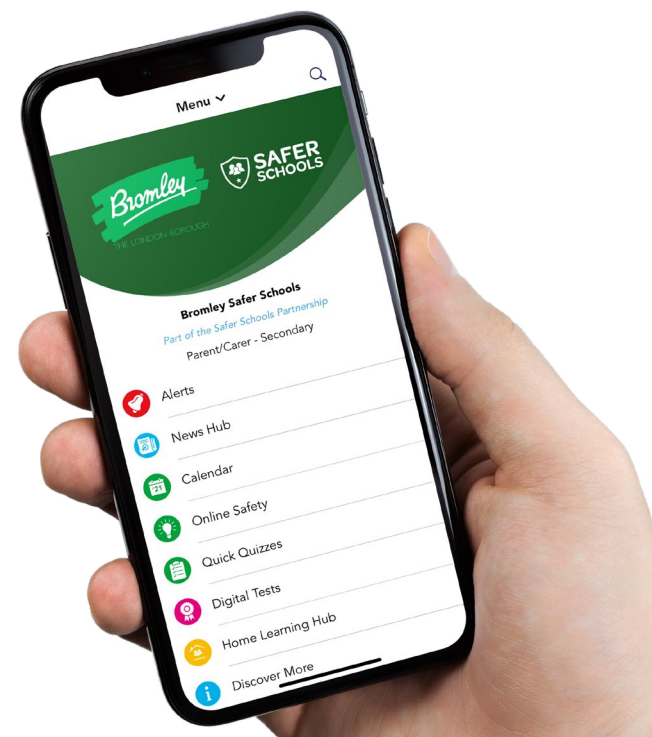
To this end Partnership meetings and subgroups have pivoted successfully to digital engagement. Since March 2020, meetings have included a Contingency Oversight Group (COG) to review the partnership risk assessment and multi-agency responses. These meetings have been held every three weeks during lockdowns to ensure regular updates and collaboration.

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

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

IMPACT

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





The Partnership



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



KEY ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS

THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR AND THE BSCP TEAM

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

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

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

DESIGNATED PROFESSIONALS

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

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

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

PARTNER AGENCIES

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

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER STRATEGIC BOARDS

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

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



GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

BSCP EXECUTIVE

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

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

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

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

Extraordinary meetings take place as and when required.

BSCP BOARD

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





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

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

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

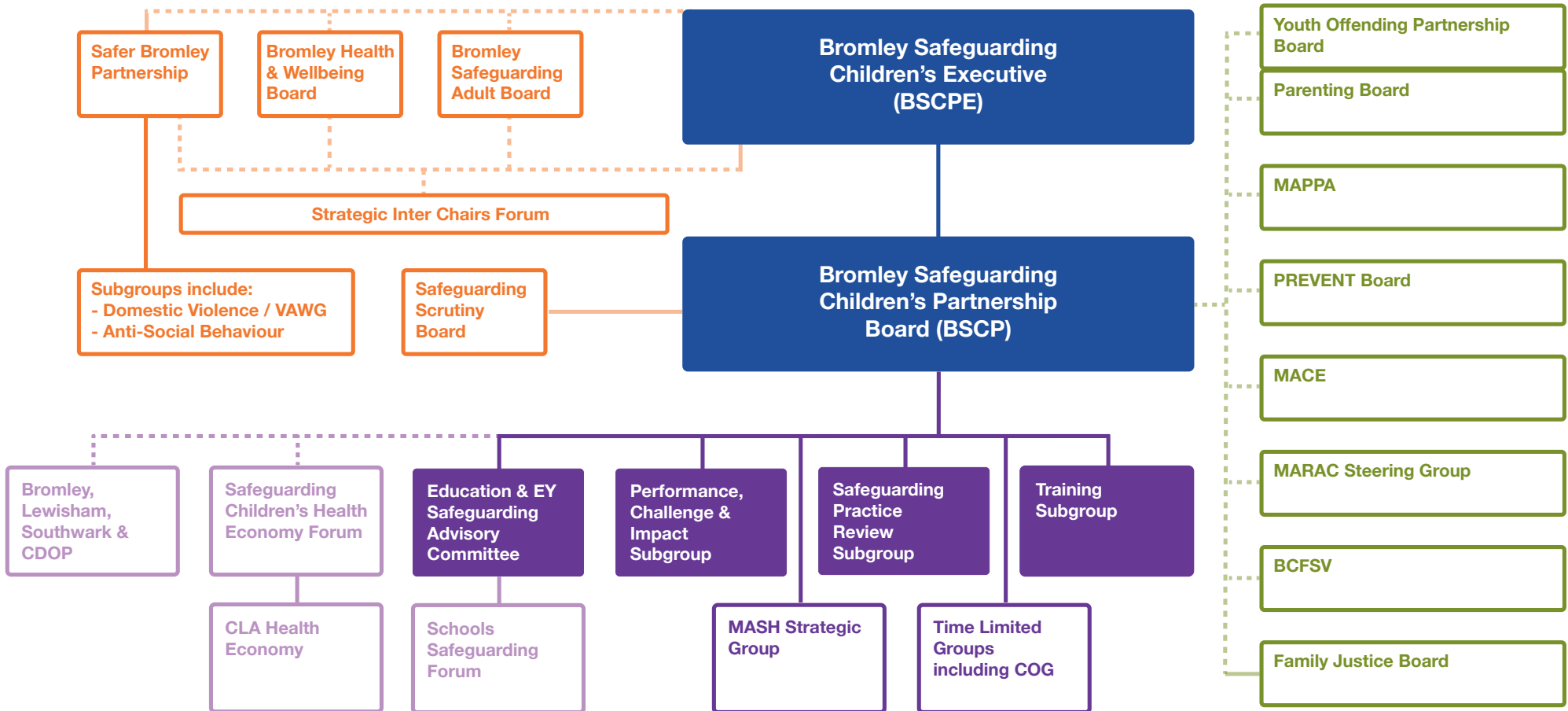
PARTNERSHIP BOARD ATTENDANCE – APRIL 2020 TO MARCH 2021

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





BSCP STRUCTURE – MARCH 2021





BSCP SUBGROUPS

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

CONTINGENCY OVERSIGHT GROUP

IMPACT

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

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

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

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY BOARD

IMPACT

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

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



PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE AND IMPACT SUBGROUP

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

This year the work of the PCI subgroup included:

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

IMPACT

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

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





TRAINING SUBGROUP

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

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

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

SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW SUBGROUP (PREVIOUSLY SERIOUS CASE REVIEW SUBGROUP)

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

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

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

During 2020/21, the SPR Subgroup:

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

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

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



MASH STRATEGIC GROUP

IMPACT

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

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

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

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

EDUCATION SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

The purpose of ESAC is to:

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

ESAC priorities are:

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





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

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

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

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

HEALTH ECONOMY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN FORUM

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

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

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

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

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

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

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



INCOME

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

EXPENDITURE

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

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

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



PARTNER SAFEGUARDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES 2020-21

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

CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE

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

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

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





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

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

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

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





IMPACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

POLICE

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

BROMLEY HEALTHCARE (COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE (YOS)

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

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



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

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

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

PROBATION

During the period of 2020/21, the Probation Service remained structured as two separate organisations with similar aims and objectives, namely the London Community Rehabilitation Service (LCRC) and the National Probation Service (NPS). Each provider was allocated cases based on an assessment of risk of reoffending and harm presented by the service user.

Due to the challenges presented during subsequent lockdowns, both organisations had to adopt exceptional delivery models (EDMs), resulting in changes to service delivery. This included an increase in remote working, which following appropriate assessment and oversight included a proportion of people on probation being





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Communication



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



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

THE BSCP WEBSITE

www.bromleysafeguarding.org

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

TWITTER

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

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

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





Safeguarding Context in Bromley



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



BROMLEY DEMOGRAPHICS SNAPSHOT



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

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

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

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

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



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





BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

MASH ENQUIRIES AND REFERRALS

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

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

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

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



SOCIAL WORK ASSESSMENTS

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

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

CHILDREN IN NEED

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

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

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

SECTION 47 INVESTIGATIONS AND INITIAL CONFERENCES

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



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

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

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

CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

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

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

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

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

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

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

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

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

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

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

At 31st March 2021:

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





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

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

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

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

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



ADOPTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



YOUTH OFFENDING

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

First time entrants (FTE)

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

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

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



Reducing offending

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

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

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

Custody

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

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

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





DOMESTIC ABUSE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Strategic Domestic Abuse Lead has developed:

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



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

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

The services that they provide are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

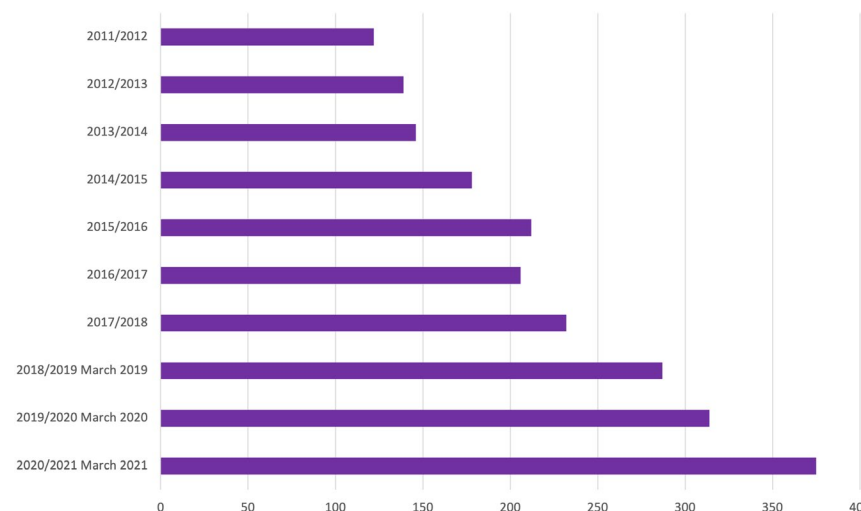


ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

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

Number of EHE Declared in Bromley Since 2011

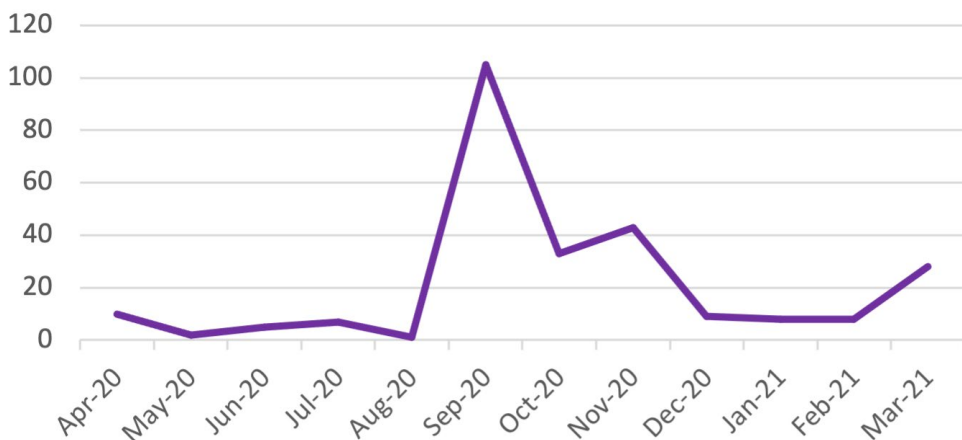
As of March 2021, the total number of young people registered as electively home educated was 375. (See chart below)



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

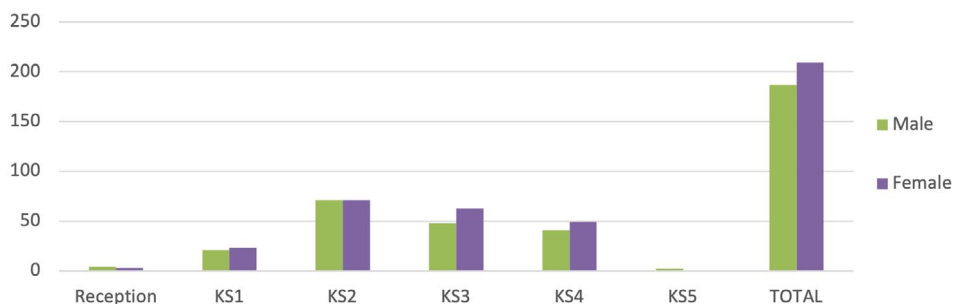


Numbers of Newly Declared EHE April 2020 to March 2021



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

EHE Cases by Key Stage and Gender for May 2021



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

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

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

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

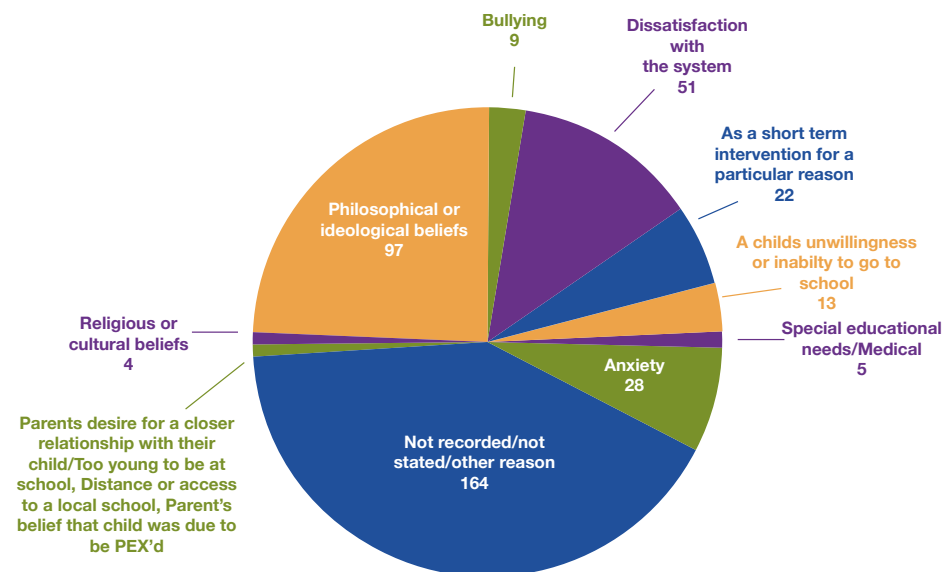




During the last year, Education services have worked together to support the EHE Team when some families proved harder to reach. The impact of this resulted in an increase of engagement with 82% of families willingly working with the EHE Team. The EHE Team and Education services will continue to work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

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

Reasons Given for Choosing EHE May 2021



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

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

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





Private Fostering

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)

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

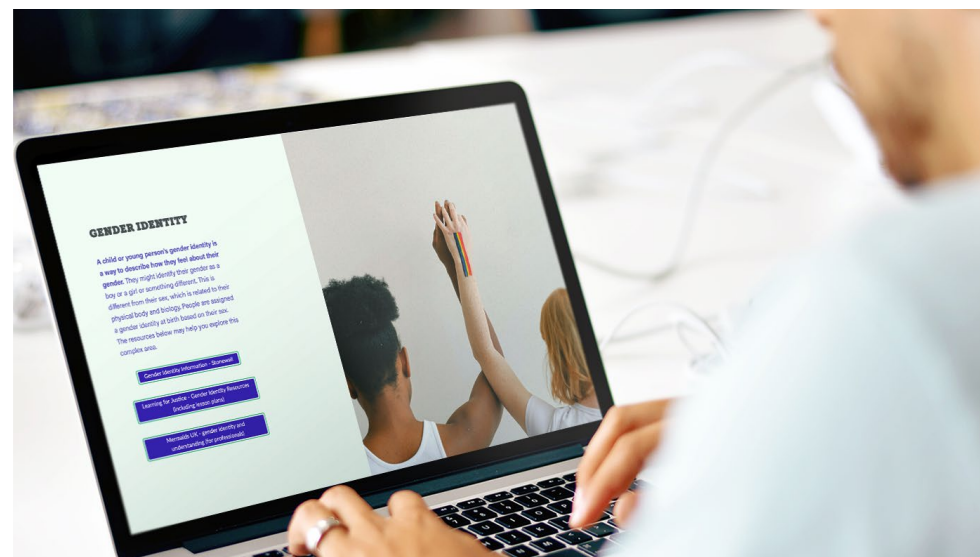
Services quickly mobilised to be innovative, creative and responsive to the needs of families and redesigned provision so that it can be available remotely where appropriate. Many providers delivered services online, providing virtual support in creative and imaginative ways. The needs of children and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

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

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

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

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





EHC Plans

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

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

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

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

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

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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

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

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

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

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

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



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

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

IMPACT

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

MAPPA

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

These are designed to protect the public, including previous victims of crime, from serious harm by sexual and violent offenders. They require the local criminal justice agencies and other bodies dealing with offenders to work together in partnership in dealing with these offenders. The Police, Prison and Probation Services (Responsible Authority) have a duty to ensure that the risks posed by specified sexual and violent offenders are assessed and managed appropriately. Other bodies (Duty to Co-operate agencies) have a duty to co-operate with the Responsible Authority in this task. Duty to Co-operate agencies are YOS, Ministers of the Crown e.g. Job Centre Plus, local education authority, local housing authority, local social services authority, local health authority, CCG, NHS Trust, providers of electronic monitoring and Home Office Immigration Enforcement.

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

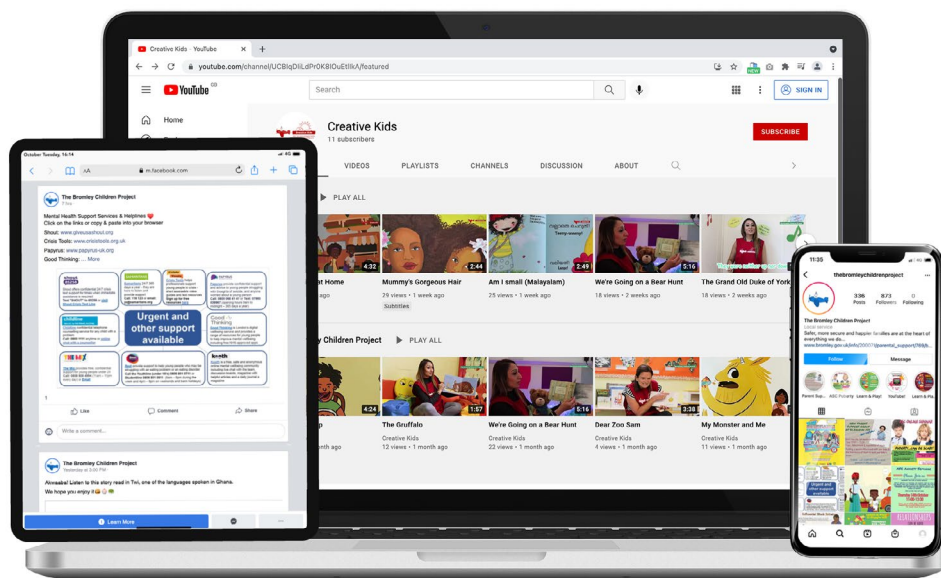




ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

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

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



EARLY HELP

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

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

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

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



Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

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

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

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

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

Family Support and Parenting Work

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

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

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

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

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





Children and Family Centres

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

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

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

Tackling Troubled Families

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

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

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

Child Exploitation

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Missing, Exploitations and Gang Affiliation (MEGA) Panel:

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

Over the past 12 months (April 2020 – March 2021) both the Atlas Team and MEGA have increased scrutiny and oversight of young people known to the team and panel. It is recognised that vulnerable adolescents found the COVID restrictions particularly difficult and as restrictions eased, missing episodes and risks around exploitation were likely to increase. There was also an increased focus on online exploitation during periods of the national lockdown. Social workers, managers and partner agencies were mindful of increased risk and these were considered in all safety plans.

Key performance information (2020/21):

Missing:

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

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

Exploitation:

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

Missing From Education

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

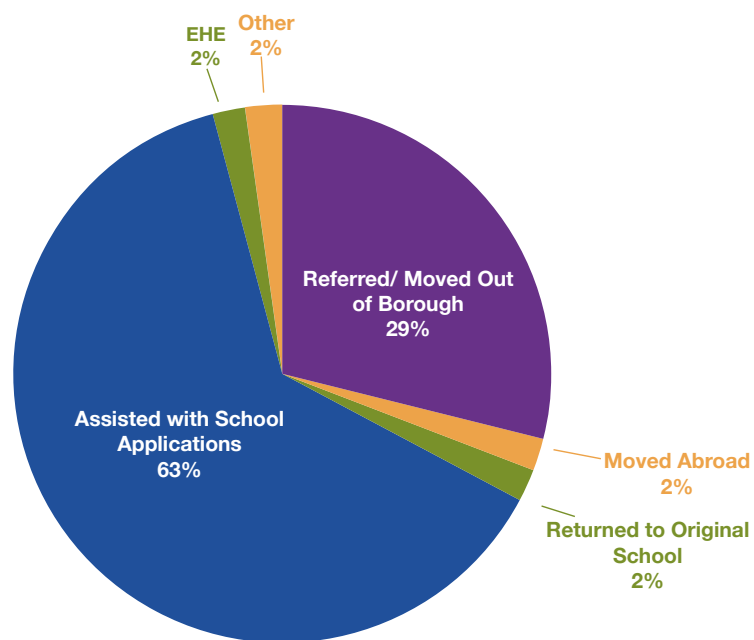
The work of the EWS team fits closely with other strands of work to support vulnerable pupils including supporting schools and families to prevent poor school attendance, truancy, exclusions and supporting schools and families to get children back to school once absence has occurred. The team liaises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

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



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

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

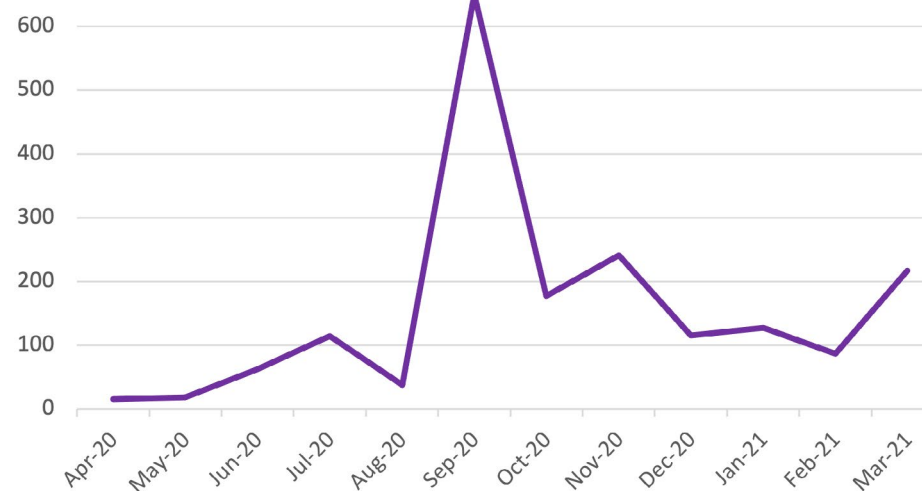


Outcomes for CME Referrals from Outside Agencies

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

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

Off Roll Notifications received

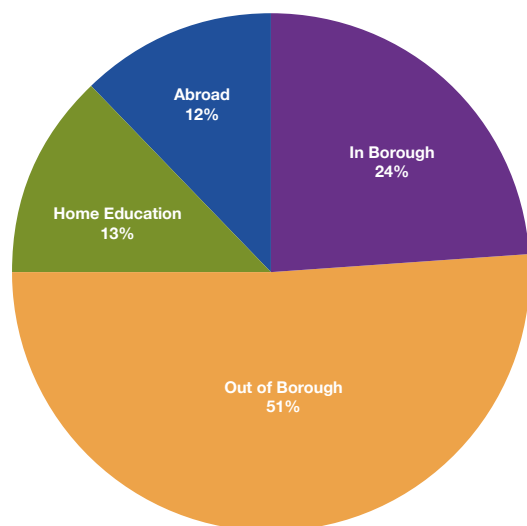


The data shows that when schools fully re-opened in September, there was a big increase in requests to Off Roll. Also, following the full opening of schools in March, a small number of families, who had gone abroad in December were struggling to return to the UK. Schools were encouraged to maintain contact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

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



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



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

Modern Day Slavery

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

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

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

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

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





Learning & Improvement



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



THE CHILD'S VOICE

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

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

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

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

Other projects include:

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

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

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

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





REVIEWS OF PRACTICE

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

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

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

During 2020/21, the SPR Subgroup:

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

IMPACT

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

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

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

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

www.bromleysafeguarding.org (Training & Resources)

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



LEARNING REVIEW MATTHEW

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

Key learning for the Partnership includes:

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

LEARNING REVIEW GEORGE

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

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

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





IMPACT

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

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS LEARNING REVIEWS

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

SCR Child K

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

Locally, the following has been achieved:

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

SCR Hannah

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





AUDITING

AUDIT OF MULTI AGENCY STRATEGY MEETINGS

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

Key learning from the audit was:

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

IMPACT

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





The Child Death Overview Panel



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



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

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

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

CDOP FACTS AND FIGURES

- The number of deaths in the first month of life was 7 in 2020/21. This is similar to previous years.
- There are currently no deaths categorised as SUDI in 2020/21 although not all cases have been completed in CDOP.
- There were 2 unexpected deaths in 2020/21 and 2 Joint Agency Response meetings.
- There were 12 expected deaths in 2020/21.
- Analysis of data 2008-2019 shows that overall 57% of child deaths in Bromley are boys, which is similar to the England rate of 56%.
- The Bromley numbers are very small, even with aggregated data, but analysis of 7 years of Bromley data shows possible over-representation of deaths in children of ethnicity other than White British.
- All perinatal mortality rates are still lower than England and London rates.
- The trend in deaths of older children is downward, again mirroring the rates in London and England.

CDOP RECOMMENDATIONS 2019/20

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



Training & Development



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



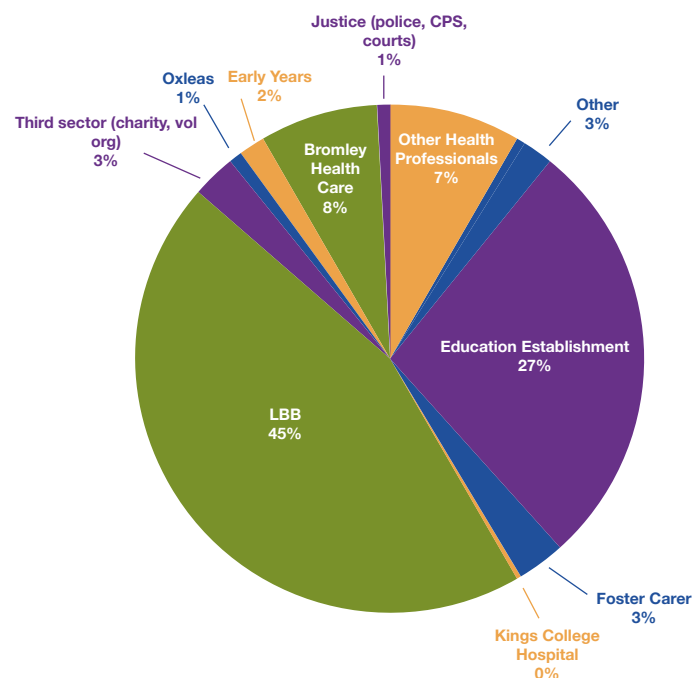
The BSCP Training Programme was significantly impacted by the pandemic; No face-to-face learning has taken place this year. All classroom-based courses were cancelled in March 2020 and the majority have run as webinars this year. Tragically our main trainer died in July 2020; She ran safeguarding courses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

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

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



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



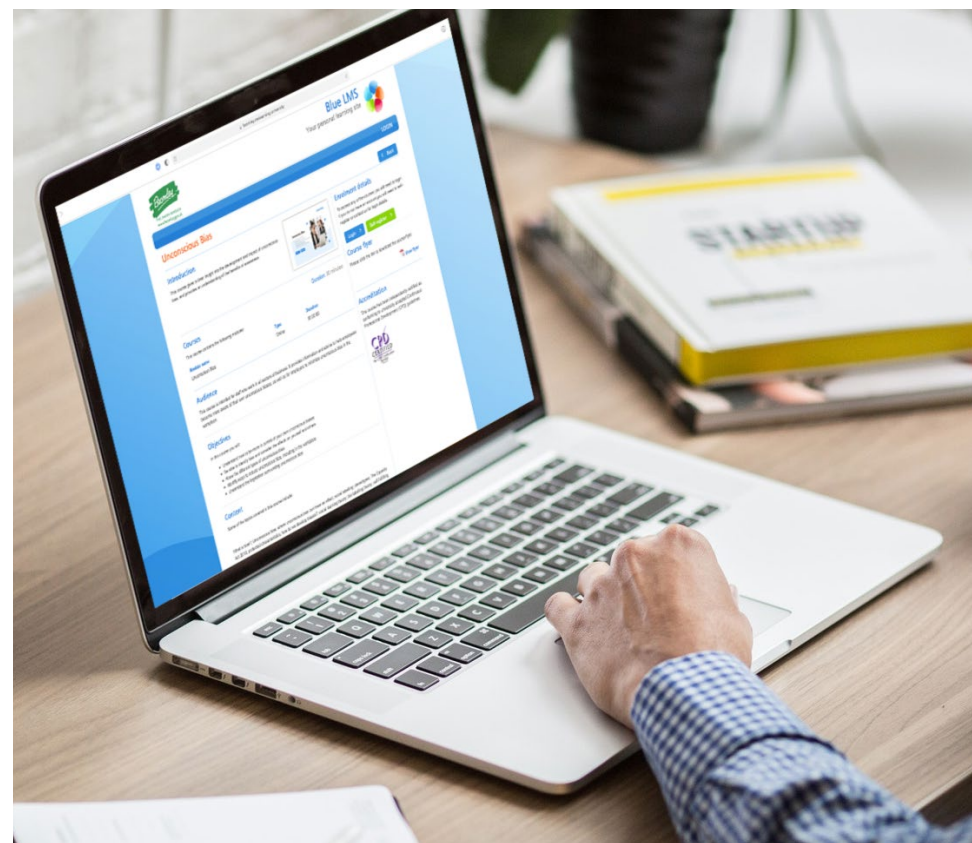
We bolstered our learning opportunities by increasing the number of e-learning modules available for free to the entire workforce to 26 different courses. 7831 people completed a relevant course on our e-learning platform, Me Learning. This compares to 3197 completing 17 different courses last year.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

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

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

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

 **Email: BSCP Team**





Progress against the Bromley Pledge



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



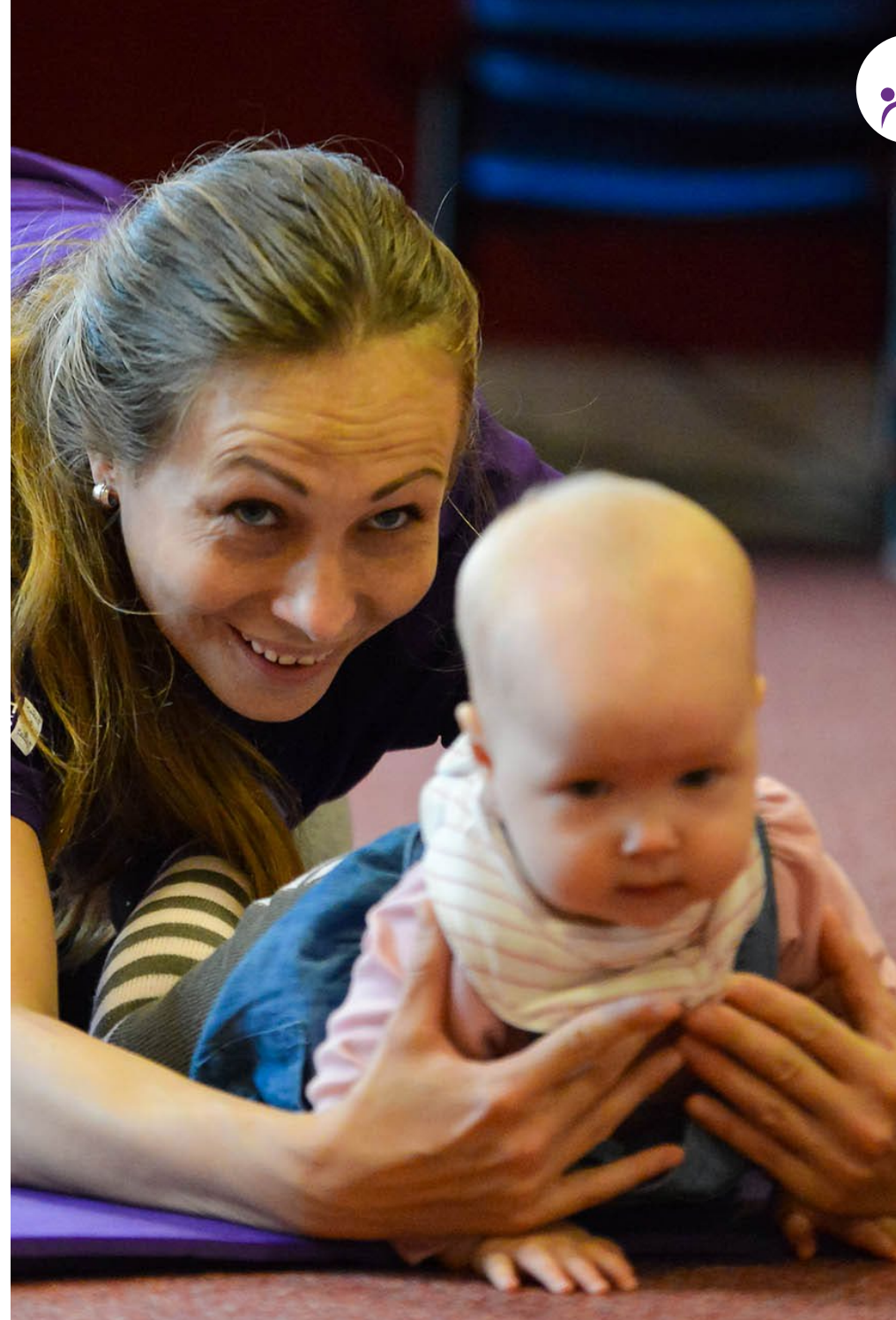
BSCP Vision: “Children and young people in Bromley are seen, heard and helped; they are effectively safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together.”

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

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF WORKFORCE

What did we do in 2020-21?

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





UNDERSTANDING VULNERABILITY

What did we do in 2020-21?

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

A FOCUS ON GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT

What did we do in 2020-21?

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

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

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

What did we do in 2020-21?

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





Technology & Social Media



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

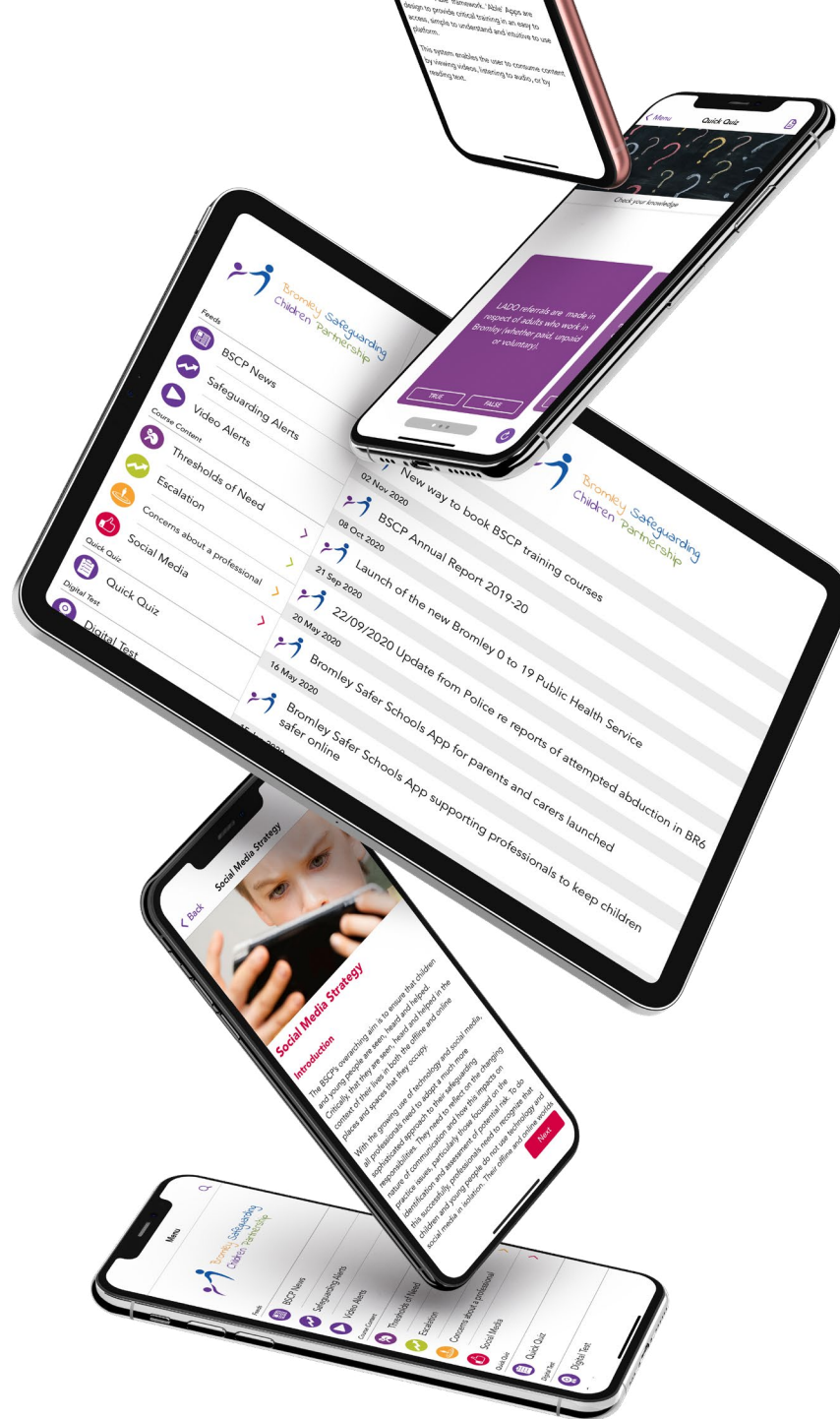
BSCP
Membership



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

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

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





What you need to know



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need
to know

BSCP
Membership



THE BSCP WEBSITE

 www.bromleysafeguarding.org

 www.twitter.com/BromleyLSCP

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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

PARENTS AND CARERS

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

THE COMMUNITY

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

FRONT-LINE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN OR ADULTS

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



LOCAL POLITICIANS

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

CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND DIRECTORS

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

THE POLICE

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

HEAD TEACHERS AND GOVERNORS OF SCHOOLS

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

CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS

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

THE LOCAL MEDIA

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



BSCCP Membership 2020-2021



Context

The Partnership

Communication

Safeguarding
Context

Learning &
Improvement

The Child Death
Overview Panel

Training &
Development

Progress against
Bromley Pledge

Technology &
Social Media

What you need to
know

BSCP
Membership



INDEPENDENT CHAIR

Jim Gamble QPM

BSCP TEAM

Kerry Davies

Partnership Manager (Job Share)

Joanna Gambhir

Partnership Manager (Job Share)

Hazel Blackman

Business Support Officer

BOARD MEMBERS

Felicity Akers

Asst Director of Operations, Bromley Healthcare

Gill Allen

Director, Bromley Y

Janet Bailey

Interim Director Children's Social Care, LBB

Eric Beckford

Interim Head of Service, National Probation Service
London

Angela Bhan

Borough Director (Bromley), South East London CCG

Hannah Brice

Manager, Change, Grow, Live

Kim Carey

Interim Director, Adult Social Care, LBB

Lynnette Chamielec

Deputy Director Housing, LBB

Jane Clegg

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

David Dare

Assistant Director Children's Social Care, LBB

Helen Dyer

Bromley CFVSF Chair (third sector)

Peter Fortune

Portfolio Holder, Education, Children and Families Services

Julia Hale

Designated Dr, (Bromley), SEL Clinical Commissioning
Group

Stuart Hills

Head of Service Quality Assurance, LBB

Debbie Hutchinson

Deputy Director Nursing, Kings College Hospital

Louise Jones

Service Manager, Cafcass

Marina Laurie

Lay Member

Betty McDonald

Head of Youth Offending Service, LBB

Karen Moorey

Deputy Headteacher, Eden Park High School

Jared Nehra

Director of Education, LBB

Finola O'Driscoll

Senior Strategist, Public Health, LBB

Rebecca Saunders

Designated Nurse (Bromley), SEL Clinical Commissioning
Group

Geraldine Shackleton

Primary Education Director, Aquinas Trust

Mark Smith

Head of Service 0 -25 Project

Lucien Spencer

Area Manager, London CRC

Antoinette Thorne

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

Jane Wells

Director of Nursing and Safeguarding, Oxleas NHS Trust



FEEDBACK

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

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

© Bromley LSCP 2021

Publication Date: 26st October 2021

Version: 1.0.0

Address: Stockwell Building,
Civic Centre, Stockwell Close,
Bromley, Kent, BR1 3UH

Website: www.bromleysafeguarding.org

Email: BSCP@bromley.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8461 7816



Bromley
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership

Seen | Heard | Helped

www.bromleysafeguarding.org