



Bromley Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Annual Report
2022-2023



FOREWORD BY THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR

This reporting period has been typified by an increase in need and the demand for greater safeguarding support that has followed. To this end the partnership has maintained a sharp focus on the context of our young people's lives, and the complex challenges they and many of their families and carers face.

Unsurprisingly, mental health and wellbeing has remained a key priority for us. Many of our agencies experienced a sustained increase in the demand for help. For example, Bromley Y and CAMHS saw a consistent and persistent increase in demand for their critical services. This meant that caseloads rose, some backlogs grew and waiting times increased. The data in this annual review provides an insight into these pressures. The report also illustrates the work done by partners to respond. For example, we embedded our network of trained school Mental Health and Wellbeing Leads across all Bromley schools and provided extensive support to drive the implementation of whole school approaches to wellbeing across the Borough. Waiting times continue to be a focus for us.

Neglect and abuse, as well as the proximity to domestic violence and coercive controlling individuals continue to result in children requiring support from our partners. As does living alongside parents struggling with their own mental health and for those gripped by alcohol and drug addiction.

Engagement with health, social care, voluntary services and other statutory agencies, including the police often provides a direct line of sight to reassure partners that children are being cared for. Schools are critical in this regard. Our schools work hard to ensure that our young people are educated in an environment where they have the opportunity to thrive. From a safeguarding perspective, schools are also key because they have the most frequent line of sight of young people. To this end, school attendance has been a key area of focus in 2022/23. Given that we mirror the national picture concerning increases in persistent and severe absence from school we have established a focused and active Attendance and Inclusion Taskforce.

Notwithstanding the issues I have outlined and the many more within the report itself, the partnership continues to work well and is making progress in many areas.

We reviewed, redesigned, and renamed our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), now the 'Children and Families Hub.' It has been configured to enhance our one stop shop approach, to prevent duplication of effort and reduce waiting lists. Phase One was completed on 6th March 2023 and I am delighted to report that at the time of writing we are making real progress, resulting in better systems.





We continued to focus on getting the basics right, improving multi agency engagement and enhancing our safeguarding first philosophy. During this reporting period this was yet again evidenced by our ongoing commitment to learning. This included work that ranged from multi-agency themed audits on extra-familial harm, children with disabilities and complex needs in residential care, developing the Perplexing Presentation and Fabricated Induced Illness (FII) Guidance and carrying out a thematic study on a child's journey through custody, to work with the Adults Safeguarding Partners focussed on transitional safeguarding between Children's and Adults Services and wide-ranging challenge sessions on active anti racism following the publication of the Child Q review.

Whilst there are very real challenges, challenges faced by every safeguarding partnership in the country, what I can say about Bromley is this - we remain committed to doing everything we can, whenever and wherever we can to support our families and their children. I have no doubt that the leadership in the Local Authority at a political and officer level shares this commitment and given the workforce we now have, I am confident that we continue to do whatever it takes to make our children safer.

Jim Gamble QPM
Independent Chair





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LEARNING & IMPROVEMENT

THE CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS AGAINST BROMLEY PLEDGE

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BSCP MEMBERSHIP



The BSCP Annual Report 2022-23 is a transparent assessment of the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare in Bromley

Pages **9 to 21** 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 **22 to 67** 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 **68 to 76** highlight the lessons that the BSCP has identified through its work and the actions taken to improve child safeguarding and welfare as a result of this activity.

Pages **77 to 82** describe the range and impact of the multi-agency safeguarding training and briefings delivered by the BSCP.

Pages **83 to 94** 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 2022-23 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 2022 and 31st March 2023





Glossary of Terms



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ABH	Actual Bodily Harm	ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic	IHA	Initial Health Assessment
BCU	Basic Command Unit	LA	Local Authority
BSAB	Bromley Safeguarding Adult Board	LAC	Looked After Child
BSCP	Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership	LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
C&F Hub	Children and Families Hub (previously MASH)	LBB	London Borough of Bromley
CAF	Common Assessment Framework	LSCP	Local Safeguarding Children Partnership
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
CAIT	Child Abuse Investigation Team	MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	MACE	Multi Agency Child Exploitation
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation	MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel	MEGA	Missing Exploitation and Gang Affiliation Panel
CHIN	Child in Need	MISPER	Missing Person
CLA	Child Looked After (child in care)	NHS	National Health Service
CME	Children Missing Education	NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
CP	Child Protection	OFSTED	Office for Standards in Educat, Children's Services & Skills
CPP	Child Protection Plan	PF	Private Fostering
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse	PCI	Performance, Challenge and Impact Subgroup
CSC	Children's Social Care	PPU	Public Protection Unit
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation	PRUH	Princess Royal University Hospital
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service	PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
DfE	Department for Education	RAS/R&A	Referral & Assessment Service
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead	RHI	Return Home Interviews
DVIP	Domestic Violence Intervention Project	SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
ECHS	Education, Care and Health Services	SELICB	South East London Integrated Care Board
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
EHCP	Education Health Care Plan	TAC	Team Around the Child
EIFS	Early Intervention and Family Support	UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
GP	General Practitioner	YJS	Youth Justice Service
ICB	Integrated Care Board		



The Partnership



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MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) was put in place in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 and replaced Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). The partnership supports and enables 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 South East London Integrated Care Board (ICB). The Director of Education has also been co-opted as a member of the Executive because of the critical role that schools and education services play in safeguarding children and young people.

Executive leads and Partnership members have signed up to the BSCP Pledge which consists of four priorities: the health and wellbeing of the workforce; understanding vulnerability; a focus on getting the basics right; and continuous improvement.





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. 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 for Safeguarding Children 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 2022/23, the Designated Professionals have led on the development of the Perplexing Presentation and Fabricated Induced Illness (FII) Guidance as well as the Discharge and Safety Planning Protocol for Children and Young People Who Present & Require Multi-Agency Response to Address Their Safeguarding and Mental Health Needs when Presented to the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH). They have also provided briefings to Children's Social Care on the role of Health partners in Strategy Discussion, Child Protection Medicals, Bruising and Injuries in Non-Mobile Babies, Perplexing Presentations/FII and Child Sexual Abuse.

The Designated Children Looked After (CLA) Nurse has worked on the Pre-paid Prescription Certificate (PPC) Initiative for Care Leavers in partnership with the Transformation Team at SEL ICB and LBB Leaving Care Team. This has included joint working on the development of a pathway, toolkit, and application form for the PPC initiative. The aim of the PPC initiative is to reduce the risk of health deterioration, emergency presentations, inpatient admission, or longer periods in hospital for those leaving care. The Designated Nurse plans to deliver training with Personal Advisors and Social Workers in June 2023. The launch of the PPC is planned for June 2023. Strategic communications are being arranged prior to the launch date.



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.

Awareness of the escalation process has been raised at BSCP Multi Agency Partnership Events, via the BSCP app and during training events.

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 BSCP 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 to excellence.

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





GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Quarterly Safeguarding Assurance Group

To ensure accountability for children and young people's safeguarding to the highest level, the Partnership holds a quarterly meeting. This is attended by the most senior staff from the three statutory partners as well as other elected Members who have accountability in this area.

The meetings are attended by:

- **Metropolitan Police (South BCU)** – BCU Commander.
- **South East London Integrated Care Board (ICB), formerly CCG** – represented by the Bromley Executive Lead.
- **Bromley Council** – Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families.
- **Independent Chair of the BSCP**



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 Detective Superintendent for Safeguarding.
- **South East London Integrated Care Board (ICB)** – represented by the Bromley Executive Lead.
- **Bromley Council (Children's Services)** – represented by the Director of Children's Social Care.

The Director of Education has also been co-opted as a member of the Executive.

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.



BSCP Board

The Partnership Board met four times during 2022-23. 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.

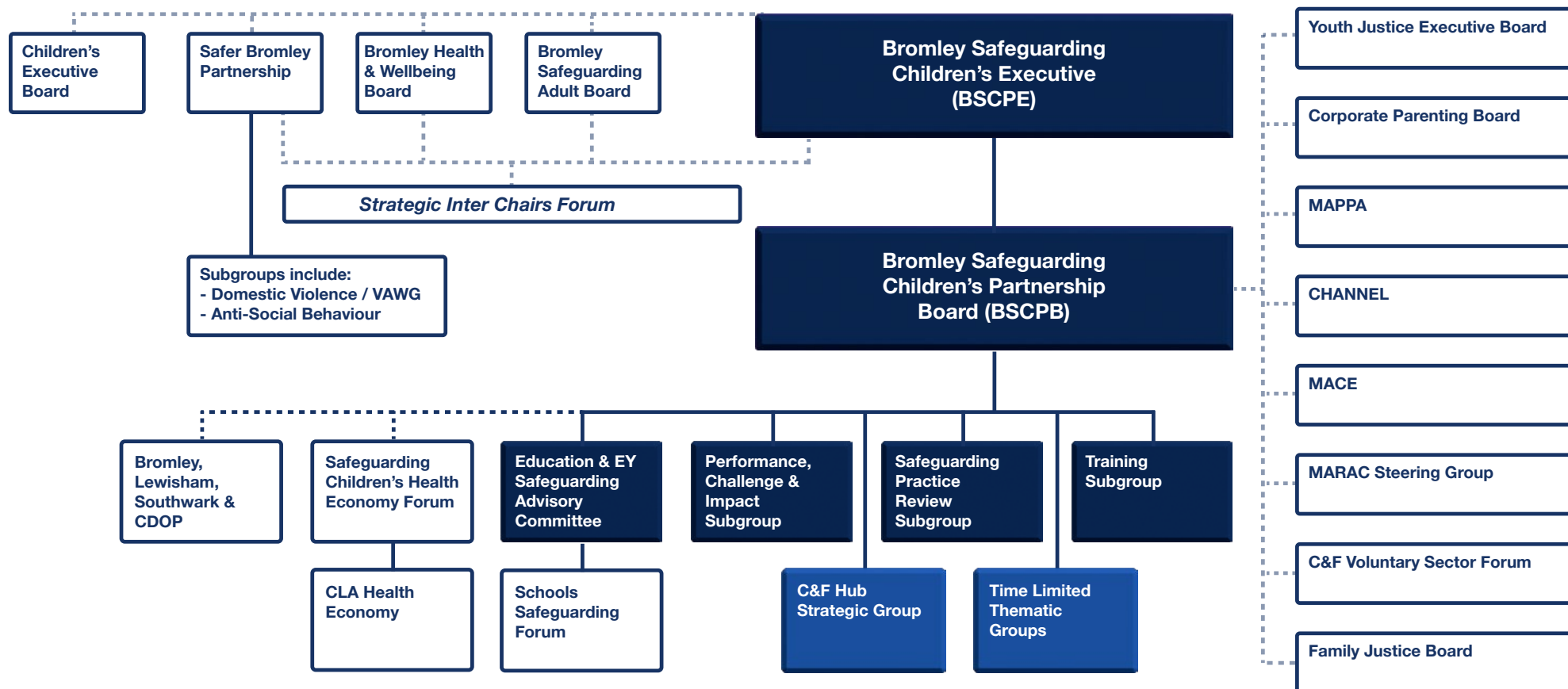
The BSCP now regularly reviews performance through reference to its risk register, self-assessment process and partner agency updates submitted to each Board meeting. During 2022-23, key risks identified as having the potential to impact on the BSCP's ability to carry out its statutory objectives included concerns around workforce retention as well as an increase in referrals to Children's Social Care and mental health services. 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 2022-23 to the four main Board meetings are set out below.

Partnership Board Attendance - April 2022 to March 2023

	Attendance	No. of places
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 Justice Service	75%	1
London Borough of Bromley, Public Health	100%	1
London Borough of Bromley, Housing	100%	1
London Borough of Bromley, Portfolion Holder Care Services & Education	75%	1
Probation Service	75%	1
Lay Members	100%	1
Children & Family Court Advisory & Support Service	50%	1
School Representative	50%	2
Bromley Colleges	25%	1
South East London Integrated Care Board (formerly known as CCG)	100%	3
Kings College Hospital	25%	1
Metropolitan Police Service – South London BCU	75%	1
Bromley Healthcare	100%	1
Oxleas NHS Trust	100%	1
Children & Family Voluntary Sector Forum	0%	1
Change, Grow, Live	75%	1
Bromley Y	100%	1



BSCP STRUCTURE - JUNE 2023





BSCP SUBGROUPS

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

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 2022-23. 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:

- Scrutiny of single agency audits and inspection reports, including police audits of arrested children, children taken into police protection, missing children, CQC (Care Quality Commission) report on maternity services, Met Police Services' PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) assessment, and Children's Social Care mock inspection.
- Scrutiny of a multi-agency reaudit, checking the FGM pathway from Maternity Services to the Health Visiting Service and to GPs.
- Completion of a multi-agency audit on serious youth violence and a learning event in January 2023.
- Scrutiny of the multi-agency dataset every quarter with subsequent challenges. There was a continued focus on CAMHS waiting times and caseloads, as well as the increased demand and caseloads across the partnership.
- Analysis of completed safeguarding self-assessments by education settings, early years settings and Section 11 agencies.
- Monitoring actions from completed audits and reviews in a composite action plan. This included actions for children's agencies involved in Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Challenge, escalation and resolution of issues, such as concerns over MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) co-ordination.





Training Subgroup

The BSCP Training Subgroup is chaired by the Head of Workforce Development at London Borough of Bromley (LBB) and it met 3 times 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 consists of formal live learning, online learning and less formal briefings, seminars and workshops throughout the year.

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

- Completing procurement of a new three-year programme of live learning from specialist trainers
- Managing and quality assuring the 2022-23 training programme and returning to face-to-face live learning
- Understanding training needs and emerging harms and ensuring the workforce has access to the learning they require. This included access to new specialist training on gaming harms.

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 2022/23, the SPR Subgroup:

- Undertook a Rapid Review relating to a newborn baby who died at birth due to complications associated with maternal uncontrolled diabetes
- Undertook a Rapid Review regarding sibling child sexual abuse
- Completed a Thematic Study on a child's journey through custody
- Held a joint table-top review with the Adults Safeguarding Partners regarding the maternal uncontrolled diabetes case (leading on from the Rapid Review above). This focussed on transitional safeguarding between Children's and Adults Services

IMPACT

The SPR Subgroup noted a recurring theme across local and neighbouring borough reviews, relating to the transfer of children between LA boroughs. The Chair of the BSCP wrote to the London Editorial Board and to the National Panel to highlight this and request that procedures should be amended to be more robust. The London Safeguarding Children Procedures have since been amended to reflect this.

Multi agency action plans have been agreed for all completed Serious Case Reviews/Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Learning Reviews and these are monitored by the PCI subgroup. Learning from these reviews is detailed in the 'Reviews of Practice' section.



Children and Families Hub - Strategic Group

There was 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 Children and Families Hub (previously MASH) Strategic Group, attended by strategic leads across the partnership, to provide a forum to ensure partnership oversight, accountability, engagement and support. The subgroup is chaired by the Independent Chair of the BSCP. Its aims to:

- Ensure the formal Partnership agreement is delivered and regularly reviewed.
- Agree and advise sufficient operational resources to ensure that C&F Hub 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 Hub Partnership.
- Respond to local and national policy and legislative change to ensure partnership practice is aligned.

IMPACT

The Independent Chair undertook a review of capacity and capability of the MASH in 2021. The Review found that the MASH was safe but under significant pressure - both the system and on particular individuals. The findings included recommendations relating to filtering and pathways, training, resourcing, systems and analysis.

Following this, Bromley committed to modernise the MASH so that it is fit for purpose - using a phased approach. This aims to reduce duplication of effort, reduce waiting lists and provide a more efficient 'one stop shop' service to our families. Phase 1 was implemented on 6th March 2023. The new front door was renamed the 'Children and Families Hub' and has expanded to now accept Tier 2 referrals for the Early Intervention and Family Support Service, in addition to the usual Tier 3 and 4 referrals.

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 has been chaired this year by a Primary School DSL which began in September 2022 having previously been chaired by a secondary DSL. ESAC has a number of new members from across Bromley education services.

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
- Improve the knowledge and skill base of our safeguarding leads within our educational settings.
- 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 to:

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



ESAC has continued to meet each term, with 3 meetings this year. During the last ESAC meeting, members worked together to prepare the term's DSL Forum including the new guidance from KCSIE and information pertaining to Bromley's new front door/early help support and self-harm prevention.

Throughout the year, ESAC members have doubled in numbers. ESAC is used for discussions around good safeguarding practices, common presenting themes and reviewing of safeguarding policy and procedures, in-line with the changes to the Children and Families Hub.

The Self-Assessment Audit Tool was launched by ESAC in Summer 2021 and was completed by 91 education settings. 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. We are now in the process of launching the 2023 audit which will be shared with schools imminently.

This year, emotional wellbeing of children in education settings has continued to be an ongoing concern for education professionals, namely for DSLs with a significant increase in concerns arising following the COVID19 pandemic. Mental health is a key priority in the ESAC work plan and this informed the implementation of Mental Health leads, to promote and support the wellbeing of children and young people. Mental Health & Wellbeing Leads Network has also been put in place. LBB has provided Mental Health and Wellbeing Tool Kits and schools also have access to a single point of contact at Bromley Wellbeing. There are now also regular network meetings held at the Warren where good practice and supportive resources are shared.

In the summer term, there will be a transition day which facilitates information sharing between secondary and primary schools. This event is attended by the Education Safeguarding Officer (ESO) to ensure that schools are supported to manage transition effectively and, in a child centred way.

The ESO has provided consultations to DSLs, headteachers and education staff. This involves providing advice and support around safeguarding policies, procedures, and advice on safeguarding thresholds in relation to LADO referrals, where an allegation has been made that a member of staff has harmed or may have harmed a child.

Over the last year some common safeguarding themes for schools are issues relating to exploitation/contextual safeguarding, bullying in person/online and students presenting with complex emotional needs. There has been increasing complexity around contextual safeguarding and DSLs have been supporting students and families with this over the last year.

IMPACT

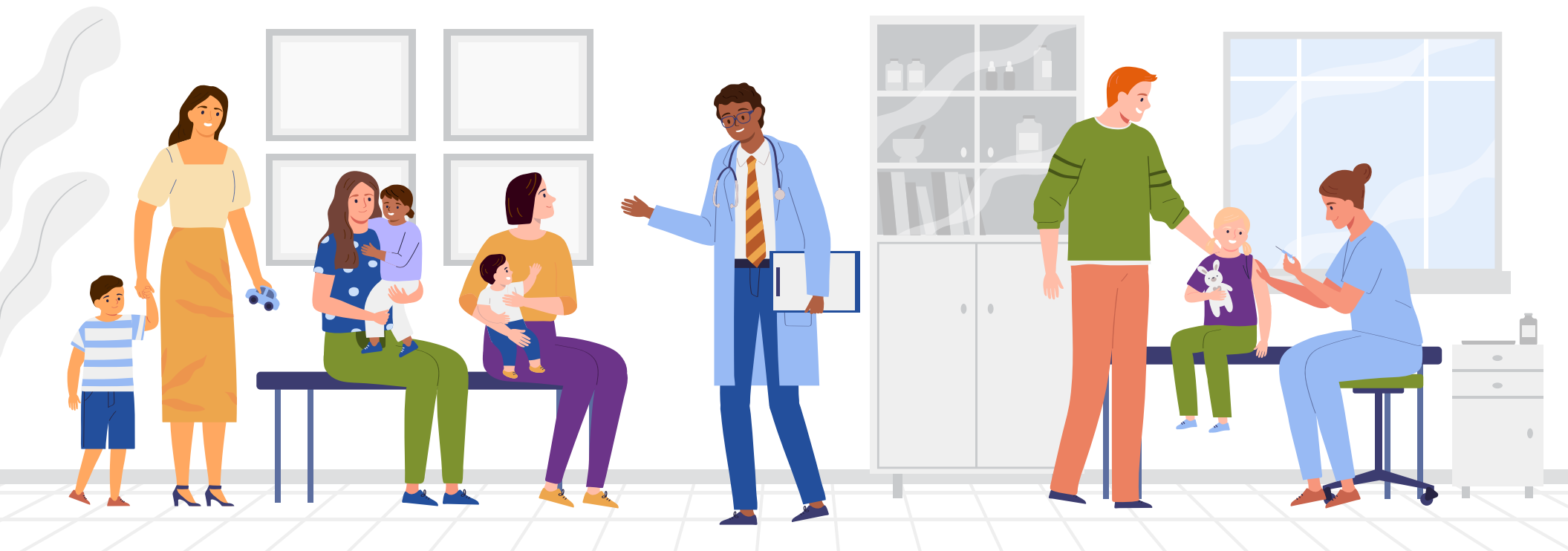
Following the events related to Child Q (Safeguarding Practice Review) and the Department for Education's revisions to the Searching, Screening and Confiscation guidance, the BSCP Independent Chair wrote to all schools to summarise the updates and signpost them to awareness raising and training resources. Awareness will be tested through the 2023 school safeguarding self-assessments.



Health Economy Safeguarding Children Forum

The Health Economy Safeguarding Children Forum and Children Looked After Forum is chaired by the Bromley Designated Professionals for Children and Young People for Safeguarding and Children Looked After respectively. The Forums provide a professional network for Named Safeguarding Professionals (Nurses and Doctors and Allied Health Professionals) across the NHS and Private Sector. The Forum helps support these professionals to link the work of South- East London ICB, Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership, Corporate Parenting Board, NHS England and the National Network of Designated Professionals which 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.





FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A range of partner agencies from the local authority, health agencies, police and probation service continued to contribute to the BSCP's budget for 2022-23, 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 £200,060. This is only an increase of 1.76% from last year's total agency income. Whilst several of the partners paid the agreed 2% annual increase, others paid the same small amount to all London LSCPs and one reduced their contribution due to the reunification of two organisations, however this will be rectified for 2023-24 and a significantly increased contribution will be given. The challenge with police funding to London LSCPs is well documented and we continue to work with London Safeguarding Children Partnership to press MOPAC to pay a more equitable share.

INCOME 2022-23

	£
London Borough of Bromley	97,115
Bromley Integrated Care Board	24,555
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	24,130
Bromley Healthcare CIC	24,130
Kings College Hospital NHS Trust	24,130
Metropolitan Police Service/MOPAC	5,000
National Probation Service	1,000
Training income	13,403
TOTAL INCOME	213,463

EXPENDITURE 2022-23

	£
BSCP SALARIES, including Independent Chair costs, lay members expenses, and BSCP 2.2fte staff	170,339
Temporary post Data Analyst (agency costs to end March 2023). Part grant funded.	73,262
TRAINING COSTS, including e-learning and external trainers	15,466
OTHER costs, including IT hardware, website costs, general office expenses, publication design, professional association membership	2,910
Child Safeguarding Practice Review costs	6,560
TOTAL SPEND	268,537

In addition, we were able to carry forward unspent grant from Government to continue to fund a Strategic Data Analyst for the Partnership. We continued to pay for this post from BSCP reserves once the grant was spent but had to cease the post at the end of March 2023.



PARTNER SAFEGUARDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES 2022-23

Children's Social Care

Throughout 2022/23, Children's Social Care (CSC) has continued to experience some of the impact from the Covid pandemic, as well as needing to respond to challenges faced by families linked to the current economic pressures. This context has meant the level of demand for services remains high and the level of complexity facing families is also challenging. Despite these challenges we continue to keep children front and centre of all strategic and operational planning throughout the year. Despite the challenging financial pressures for Local Authorities and the wider challenges in recruiting qualified social care staff, we have continued to find creative solutions to these challenges. Our investment in recruitment, competitive pay awards to focussing on "do-able" caseloads has meant that we continue to provide good quality services to our vulnerable families.

Following the revision of our Quality Assurance framework last year, we have used this to continue to strengthen our continued focus upon the quality of social work practice, and this has proved helpful as we continue to prepare for our anticipated Ofsted ILACS inspection. All managers now undertake monthly cycles of Practice Reviews or Dip-samples that allow us to gain a sense of the overall quality of practice which is also tri-angulated with a short questionnaire with service users. The findings of these audits are reported back to the senior leadership team to consider recommendations. CSC has continued to induct new staff in the Bromley Relationship Model (BRM) and continued with virtual refresher training for existing staff. Many of the compliments received evidence the BRM model 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.

The most common reasons that children are identified as needing a social care service continues to be issues linked to mental health/well-being, alongside the impact on children of domestic abuse, parental mental ill health, neglect and substance misuse. During the pandemic, CSC saw an increase in domestic abuse within families and an increase in young people as well as adults suffering from mental ill health. As a response to the continued rise in demand that we have seen since the pandemic we have taken steps to re-organise our "front-door" services. In order to ensure greater consistency and to make referral pathways more straight-forward we have combined both the Early Help and safeguarding front doors. This new arrangement (the Children and Families Hub) was formally launched in March 2023, and has been well received. We will undertake a more formal review of arrangements in September 2023 at the six month point to ensure we are able to reflect and take further learning from these changes.

The continued high levels of demand have also meant that we have continued to maintain additional social work capacity in both the Referral and Assessment service and within the Safeguarding service. These additional staff have enabled us to seek to keep caseloads as low as possible, although pressures still remain.



Due to the demand and volume of work originating through the Children and Families Hub, and then the Referral and Assessment Service, two additional safeguarding teams were funded in January 2022. The teams focus on Children in Need, accelerating identified actions to alleviate difficulties children and their families are faced with. The focus on seeking to maintain “do-able” caseloads has also involved ensuring that regular supervision for staff can move cases forward in a purposeful manner so that families are able to conclude working with the department in a timely manner where it is safe to do so.

The Quality Assurance Framework findings continue to 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. Over the past year CSC has seen a reduction in the number of children subject to Child Protection Plan. There were 287 children subject to a child protection plan at 31st March 2023, representing 37.3 per 10,000 Under 18 population, which is a reduction from the previous year and lower than the comparative pan-London figure of 38.

The introduction of panels such as the Child in Need panel, chaired by a Head of Service helps to ensure that children who have had a Child in Need plan for more than 9 months are receiving meaningful intervention. The Head of Service for Quality Assurance continues to chair the Child Protection Scrutiny Panel. The panel considers children who have been on child protection plans for 9 months or more and reviews case direction. The panel challenges progress as to whether matters should be stepped up or down to ensure a positive outcome for children in a reasonable timescale.

Final Care Planning meetings are chaired by respective Heads of Service responsible for overseeing the proposed outcome for a child that is in our care. This is a final scrutiny meeting prior to submission of evidence 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 continues to experience a back log of hearings that are causing delays for some children.

The Staying Together team now has a lead practitioner, overseeing work across the team and continues to work intensively with families to prevent young people becoming looked after by improving family relationships and young people’s safety. The team has designated workers for working with the Youth Justice Service and the MEGA panel.

Our participation in the “Your Choice” Project has continued, and we have recently been accepted for the second stage of the project. This initiative is led by LIIA (London Innovation & Improvement Alliance) and in partnership with the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Anna Freud Centre, funded by the Home Office. The project aims to reduce Serious Youth Violence. Staff in the Youth Justice Service were trained in CBT and put their training into practice when working with selective young people as an alternative approach to working with this hard to reach cohort of young people. Thus far we are seeing positive outcomes for many of our families.



CSC 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 from carers continues to be positive and our case auditing schedule also regularly highlights the positive impact that the team makes for young people.

As highlighted earlier, one of our continuing challenges 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. This has been addressed by the introduction of new social work capacity but will remain under review as there are no signs of this reducing.

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.

IMPACT

This year the BSCP has revised and relaunched the BSCP multi-agency [Neglect Strategy and Toolkit](#) for use across the partnership.





Education

Mental health and wellbeing remains a key priority area for the Education department and its partner agencies, with a sustained increase in presenting mental health needs, including high levels of anxiety in the post-pandemic period. During 2022/23 the partnership has further embedded our network of trained school Mental Health and Wellbeing Leads across all Bromley schools and provided extensive support to drive the implementation of whole school approaches to wellbeing across the Borough. Working with our specialist mental health providers in Bromley Y and CAMHS, we have extended the support through the Mental Health in Schools Teams (MHST) to cover all secondary schools and the majority of primary schools on a risk based approach.

All frontline Education teams continue to experience significant demand for services, with the complexity of presenting needs also increasing. Additional resources have been directed to the Special Education Needs (SEN) teams, Access to Education and Inclusion and Educational Psychology to seek to keep up with the pressures these services continue to experience. We have implemented a deficit recovery management action plan to ensure future sustainability of services and address the Dedicated Schools Grant exceeding the funding provided by Government. The introduction of Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment Guidance has established clearer expectations for families and professionals about when an Education, Health and Care Plan is appropriate and when needs can appropriately be met through Ordinarily Available Provision, with early indications of a reduction in the number of requests for statutory assessment and a focus on earlier intervention bearing fruit.

The Education department has continued to support disadvantaged families with supermarket vouchers during school holiday periods, administered by Bromley schools. Additionally, the range of fun and engaging opportunities has been extended further through our Holiday Activities and Food Programme, with all parts of the Borough and all age ranges 0-18 covered. Vulnerable children are prioritised within the grant conditions to complement safeguarding work.

School attendance has been a key area of focus in 2022/23, considering higher levels of increases in persistent and severe absence from school, which reflects the national picture. The Attendance and Inclusion Taskforce was established, with a number of primary and secondary school representatives, which will oversee the partnership's data for attendance and inclusion and direct activity to improve attendance for all pupils, with an increased focus on vulnerable cohorts, aligned to the Virtual School's duties for children known to social care. This approach has led to the development of co-produced Inclusion Dashboards at school level, which will be published to professionals in September 2023, promoting the most inclusive practice across Bromley and highlighting areas of development.

IMPACT

In 2022/23 the Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership has effectively used data from key data sources to inform practice reviews and initiatives in schools and other settings. The findings from the School Health Education Unit Survey (SHEU) identified areas of particular vulnerabilities around young carers and gender identity, which have led to attendance of key professionals at Headteacher meetings to raise awareness and promote the best practice. Similarly, the data produced from crisis attendance at Emergency Departments is used to identify schools with a higher level of acute mental health crises and to inform multi-agency preventative work, which has shown reductions in presentations from the schools identified.



South East London Integrated Care Board (ICB) - formerly known as Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group

On 1 July 2022, Southeast London Integrated Care Board (SEL ICB) was established. As a newly created statutory body, the ICB now supports and builds upon existing health and care partnerships established by the Integrated Care System (ICS) - Our Healthier Southeast London. The ICS was established in 2019 and consists of six south east London borough (Bromley, Bexley, Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich).

The Designated Professionals (employed by SEL ICB) are represented on several Bromley place based multiagency forums, providing assurance and health oversight to safeguarding children, young people and children looked after. This year they have developed a system audit to seek assurances of the process of recording and information sharing in relation to Female Genital Mutilation and the FGM-IS recording system. Designates have also contributed to the SEL ICB Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Task & Finish Group to develop a collective response to south London review of CSA service provision.

IMPACT

The partnership has developed the Perplexing Presentation and Fabricated Induced Illness (FI) Guidance as well as the Discharge and Safety Planning Protocol for Children and Young People Who Present & Require Multi-Agency Response to Address Their Safeguarding and Mental Health Needs when Presented to the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH).

Primary Care

This year GP training has mostly been virtual but some face-to-face training has restarted, including the training for GP Trainees and some of the visits to Practices.

Practices are offered a training visit by the Named GP every 3 years to provide level 1 and 2 training. 14 'Practice visits' have been made this year.

Level 3 training has been provided to Bromley GPs via 1 academic half day and 4 Practice Leads training afternoons.

Training at the academic half day included Safer Registrations, Safeguarding and on-line access, Domestic Abuse, Back to Basics Child Safeguarding, role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), the antisocial behaviour and self-neglect and hoarding panels, CLA and Care Leavers.

Practice Leads training included 0-25 service, perplexing presentations, IRIS, ICON project, CLA and Substance Misuse and Domestic Abuse in the elderly population.





Police

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. Working with partners, Police have implemented a booking process that allows Children’s Social Care to directly book appointments with the relevant teams.

This year the South London Basic Command unit of the Metropolitan Police (MPS):

- Continued to support plans for tackling local violence against woman and girls in line with the MPS strategy. The creation of the Predatory Offenders Unit provided a valuable tool in tackling some of the high harm offenders. This unit has had outstanding success in targeting some high harm offenders.
- Developed a multi-agency strategy group, to discuss individual cases with multi agency partners and the relevant officers and ensure barriers and issues are discussed and resolved.
- Implemented a local audit process as a unique tool analysing contact that Police have with children and making sure there is a focus on high levels of service and consistency for approach. This process makes sure Police are hearing the voice of the child and their families.
- Provided a dedicated Police Mental Health Team that works with partners to provide best practice and assist in reducing calls to service and providing the best possible response.
- Expanded the one front door strategy to include vulnerable adults and children and reduce delays and increase the pace of information sharing between partners.
- Implemented a new IT system that brings together several existing tools into one format.
- Provided increased data sharing with partners to share information and identify opportunities to work smarter and more efficiently. This includes data on areas such as modern-day slavery and child abuse with the data tailored for external partners.

The Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation team continues to provide training to external partners regarding identifying Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). A new data set is being rolled out to partners to overlay with local data and tackle exploitation.

In 2023/24, South London BCU plan to:

- Continue its focus on Violence Against Woman and Girls (VAWG)
- Continue to focus on tackling Serious Youth Violence
- Maximise the new BCU Organisational Learning hub that has been set up to capture learning, feedback and results of reviews.
- Implement Right Care, Right Person initiatives
- Share more specific data that will assist partners in all areas of child protection
- Respond to the Casey report and the recommendations

IMPACT

The Independent Chair held a BSCP Board focus session, challenging partners on the progress they have made relating to active anti-racism and adultification including awareness raising/training. This included analysis of the learning from the Child Q Safeguarding Practice Review.





Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust (provider of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in Bromley)

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust's vision is to ensure safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is embedded across every directorate and in every aspect of work.

Children's social care referrals made by Oxleas services to Bromley Local Authority remains consistent with previous years. There were 44 referrals in total – 10 by Adult Mental Health Services and 34 by CAMHS. The primary concern leading to referral is risk of emotional abuse, almost 70% of referrals resulted in a Child and Family Assessment. Referrals resulting in No Further Action made by CAMHS services were scrutinised using a deep dive tool, concluding that the majority were made correctly towards effective information sharing.

The number of attended CAMHS appointments increased to 1074, in comparison to 1003 in 2021/2022.

CAMHS Level 3 Safeguarding training, delivered on 5th and 7th September 2022, centred on the national review of the child protection system, hearing the child's voice through the lens of intersectionality reflecting on the principles of culturally competent anti-discriminatory safeguarding practice, followed by a session on safeguarding record keeping.

The Safeguarding Team is an integrated team of safeguarding children and adult specialists. Priorities in 2022/2023 focused on:

- 1) Embedding the Think Family approach to safeguarding across all services.
- 2) Addressing vulnerabilities of under 1's, children with complex needs and adolescent mental health, extra-familial and transitional safeguarding.
- 3) Learning from and embedding of lessons learnt.
- 4) Domestic Abuse and development of safe practice (Domestic Abuse Act 2021).

Priorities for year 2023/2024 will remain largely unchanged, adding workstreams on development of the Think Family Safeguarding Champions, transitional safeguarding, and support of prison healthcare safeguarding.

A new role of a trust-wide Domestic Abuse (DA) Lead responsible for development of domestic abuse arrangements and practice was introduced in July 2022. The trust strategic plan is overseen by a steering group whose members include senior representatives from the trust directorates. Integral to the success of the plan is partnership working with the DA specialist providers and Local Authority leads.

An internal audit, undertaken between September – November 2022, reviewed the processes and controls for safeguarding children at Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust ('the Trust') and provided 'significant assurance with minor improvements opportunities' (AMBER-GREEN), which is in line with management expectations.





Bromley Y

Bromley Y is the single point of access for mental health and emotional wellbeing referrals for children and young people (0-18 years or 0-24 years for CLA, Care Leavers and children with Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) in place) in the Bromley borough.

Since the beginning of 2023, Bromley Y has been working closely with Bromley CAMHS on the design and implementation of an integrated single point of access (iSPA launch late 2023) with the support of 'Get Real Change', an independent consultancy. This is part of the South East London Integrated Care Board (SELICB) core offer for children, young people and mental health transformation. The integrated SPA will provide a common screening and triage pathway across both services with a focus on making sure young people are on the right pathway and receive the right care and support.

Bromley Y and CAMHS are working in line with the Thrive model, which is a needs-led system design and work is being undertaken with the wider system to include Education and Social Care. Increased demand plus changing needs have meant a need for greater collaboration across the One Bromley System. All services are still recovering from the pandemic and many organisations have had to think and respond differently.

Bromley Y continues to see an increase in referrals with 3,170 for 2022/23, up by 316 children/young people in 2021/22 (up 11% on 2021/22, 35% on 2020/21 and 18.5% on 2019/20 figures). The most common age range of those being referred is 14-16 year olds, comprising of just over a third of all referrals for 2022/23 year. Most children and young people are from a white ethnic background, however referral rates from BAME backgrounds are increasing (28.5% compared to an average of around 18% in previous years). In Q4 (2022/23) females comprised 62% of referrals, higher than the previous quarters of 56-59%.





Primary reasons for referral to Bromley Y in Q4 were, general anxiety, current self-harming behaviours, changes in mood, behavioural difficulties and verbalised suicidal thoughts. Ongoing challenges are the growing complexity of presentation, with 39% increase in general anxiety and almost 1.5 times increase in those with self-harming behaviours on Q3 figures. The number of children and young people with depressive symptoms has almost doubled over the quarter (42 in Q4 compared to 23 in Q3). The three top sources of referrals were parents/carers, GPs and schools.

To manage the challenges, we have employed a full time Clinical Lead and a Specialist Lead for the Mental Health and Support Team (MHST). They will be in place in August 2023 and will work closely with the leadership team and safeguarding lead.

Waiting times continue to grow. Currently we have a wait of sixteen weeks for the Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) and eighteen weeks for the Getting Help Team (intervention arm of the organisation). Evening clinics and Saturday working will be part of the new 'waiting well initiatives' plus access to resources, webinars, the signpost (text service for young people aged 12-18) and other resources to make sure young people and their parents/carers are supported. Over the summer there will be a waiting list initiative with a tighter cancellation/DNA policy so that more face to face sessions can be offered.

An MHST evaluation has been sent out to all 63 schools with a focus on, evaluating contact between schools and MHSTs, to understand which aspects of the offer are valued by school staff and seen as impactful. Bromley still has the highest presentation at A&E in London so there is a real need to support school professionals by offering training and advice around holding risk and when to escalate.

The MHSTs deliver numerous workshops, webinars, and groups for both young children and their parents/carers to give education, advice and strategies to

support and improve wellbeing. Groups and webinars run throughout the year and are tailored for young people. Some of the themes and topics covered are, managing low mood, stress and relationships, and exam stress. Support and advice calls have recently been introduced as well as 'stand-alone' sessions to offer advice and guidance.

Collaboration is key for Bromley Y and the establishment of a mental health practitioner role (Primary Care Network) will support a greater integration between mental health and primary care/GPs. A new funding stream has also given Bromley Y an opportunity to link more closely with the Youth Justice Service with a focus on early intervention and prevention by looking at attendance, behaviour, and exclusions in pilot schools.

A further priority and achievement is the Early Intervention Eating Disorders pilot. This is a joined-up approach with the voluntary sector and NHS Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, to support and identify disordered eating at community and school level.

Further funding has seen the development of the Recovery & Resilience Programme which provides longer and more intensive support for complex needs, outside the NHS. To date there are eleven young people on this programme at Bromley Y. There have been some issues with recruitment, especially for core professions which offer CBT, IPT-A and systemic family therapy.

The mentoring service continues to evolve. The pool of volunteers not only supports a young person on a 1:1 basis, but where possible will encourage young people to participate in group activities. Over the next year we will develop our service within local schools and look at ways mentoring can support Children Looked After.





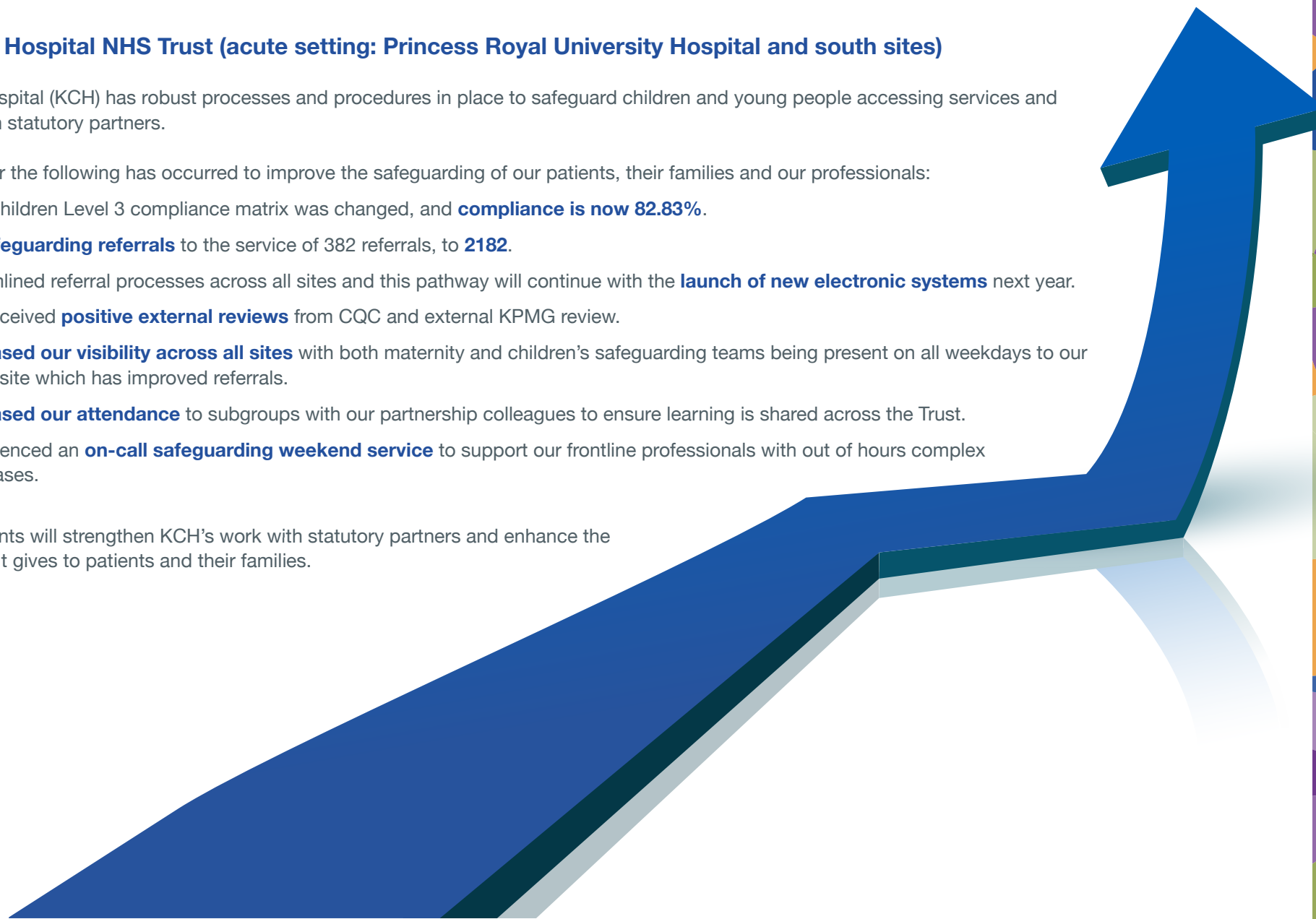
Kings College Hospital NHS Trust (acute setting: Princess Royal University Hospital and south sites)

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 reporting year the following has occurred to improve the safeguarding of our patients, their families and our professionals:

- Safeguarding Children Level 3 compliance matrix was changed, and **compliance is now 82.83%**.
- **Increase in safeguarding referrals** to the service of 382 referrals, to **2182**.
- We have streamlined referral processes across all sites and this pathway will continue with the **launch of new electronic systems** next year.
- We have had received **positive external reviews** from CQC and external KPMG review.
- We have **increased our visibility across all sites** with both maternity and children's safeguarding teams being present on all weekdays to our Princess Royal site which has improved referrals.
- We have **increased our attendance** to subgroups with our partnership colleagues to ensure learning is shared across the Trust.
- We have commenced an **on-call safeguarding weekend service** to support our frontline professionals with out of hours complex safeguarding cases.

These improvements 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)

Bromley Healthcare Community Interest Company (BHC) continues to prioritise its safeguarding responsibilities to vulnerable children, young people and adults. The BHC safeguarding service is an integrated children and adults service that adopts the 'think family' approach.

The Associate Director of Safeguarding joined BHC in May 2022 to provide strategic leadership to the service. In January 2023, the Safeguarding Coordinator joined BHC, providing critical business support to the team. BHC has a fully staffed safeguarding team with two Children & Families Hub health advisors. This support enables the safeguarding service to challenge and escalate cases as required to improve outcomes for children and families.

Safeguarding training remains a priority for BHC. Alongside mandatory Safeguarding (adult and child), Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Prevent training for all staff, additional learning is disseminated through workshops, briefings, newsletters and bespoke training. Supervision (including safeguarding supervision) is underpinned by the Supervision policy and is offered 12 weekly. The BHC supervision template has been updated to incorporate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) on the child. BHC has developed a supervision app that will support data monitoring in the future.

Throughout the year, safeguarding cases have remained complex with multi-faceted issues affecting the child/ young person's life, which has meant staff have required more advice, support and supervision. The continued rise in strategy meetings affects services and has led to a change in the safeguarding team becoming the single point of contact for community health attendance. There has remained a large volume of children on Child Protection and Child in Need plans needing supervision and face-to-face health contacts. MARAC cases have also increased - needing more research and feedback to staff.

BHC Priorities for 2023/2024 are:

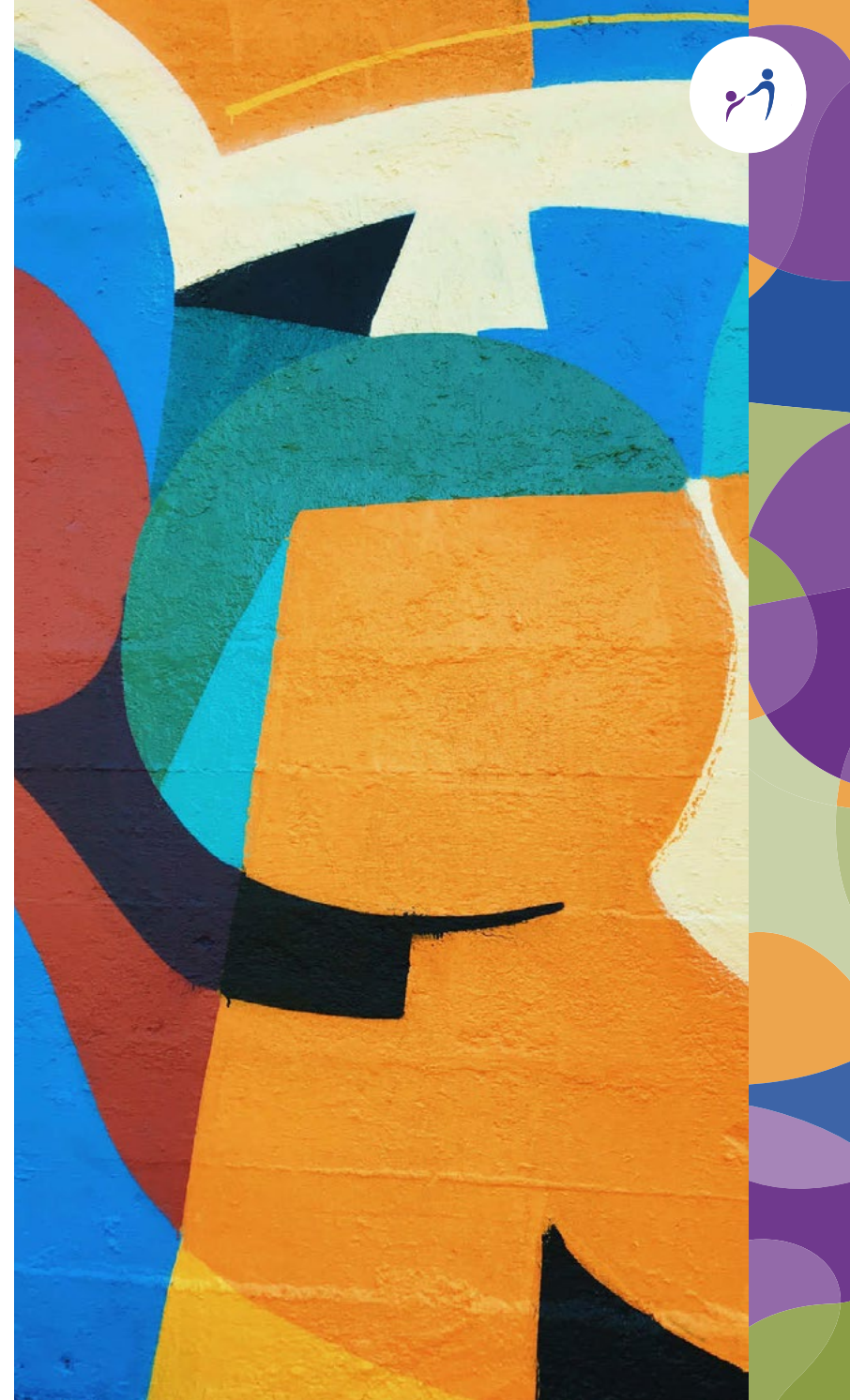
- Robust audit plan including Supervision, MARAC and routine enquiry
- Progression of the BHC Domestic Abuse work stream
- Focus on embedding the Mental Capacity Act into children's services
- Skilled workforce, including embedding lessons learned into practice
- Continue to participate and contribute to Partnership working.



Youth Justice Service (YJS)

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) has continued to have a strong focus on its primary aim to reduce offending and reoffending and to reduce the risk of a lifestyle involving crime. The YJS also works to support victims of youth crime and improve the safety in the borough. This year, the YJS has:

- Further extended the provision of Prevention support for children on the cusp of offending with the introduction of Turnaround and Engage to enhance the established prevention offer.
- Established very good representation on its joint decision-making panel for out of court disposals, which received praise in a peer review in early 2023.
- Focussed on disproportionality. Progress is ongoing with action plans in place for both youth justice partners and the service. Some progress has been made but we want to do much better.
- Started to roll out trauma informed training to all YJS staff.
- Introduced Youth Ink to provide greater opportunity for children's voices to be heard and to shape and influence the youth justice offer at strategic and practice levels.
- Trained staff and managers in working with children involved in sexually harmful behaviours – trained in AIM 3 assessment and interventions.
- Improved and collaboratively worked with colleagues in children's social care and the Staying Together Team to keep children at home where this is safe to do.
- Enabled a more coordinated approach to health and education provision and support via the Health and Education Professionals' Panel (HEPP).
- Assessed risk through multi agency forums that deal with Missing, Exploitation, Gang Affiliation (MEGA) as well as the Risk and Safeguarding Panel (RASP) for those managed by YJS.



Housing

As in previous years there continues to be significant challenges in supporting households to obtain and sustain suitable safe and affordable accommodation. We have continued to see escalations in the cost of living as well as increases in the cost of private rented accommodation. This coupled with an escalation in the cost of accommodation alongside the continued drop in the availability of homes both in the social and private sectors has made this a very challenging period for Housing services across London and beyond. As a result of this and despite every effort, the number of households living in temporary accommodation remains high. As previously reported much of this stock, in excess of 70%, has had to be provided outside of borough boundaries. The Council recognises that this impacts upon communities, support networks, employment and schooling but there are limited options available and accommodation must be provided for those effected by homelessness in order for the Council to meet its statutory Housing responsibilities.

As part of its transformation programme and in line with the published Housing Strategy, the Council continues to build accommodation on Bromley owned land. The Council remains committed to proactively increasing the number of homes available for Bromley residents. A further phase of the property purchase scheme “Meadowship Homes” has been commissioned and will see in the region of 184 homes purchased on the open market to be offered to those on the Council’s Housing Register.

The Housing Team continues to work proactively to support residents in the most urgent need. We work jointly with a number of teams and services both across the council but also in the private and charitable sector to undertake outreach work, provide early intervention and ongoing support and assistance. We work proactively with existing housing providers in order to sustain tenancies and prevent avoidable homelessness. We continue to help families with children via the Welfare Fund and Household Support Funds. This has provided families with access to white goods and beds and assisted vulnerable families who are experiencing financial challenges as a result of the cost of living crisis - with support towards household bills and essentials.

We are also this year reviewing both our Homelessness Strategy and Housing Allocation Scheme. This is being done in consultation with Council Staff, Elected Members, the Public, Service users and partner agencies.



IMPACT

Following the tragic death of Awaab Ishak and the Coroner’s conclusion that Awaab died from a respiratory condition caused by exposure to mould in the home, the Independent Chair challenged Housing partners to provide assurance that they had taken steps to ensure there were no similar conditions, or other high risk conditions within their housing stock, that they were dealing with any similar complaints from residents and that they have audit measures in place to ensure early remedial action can be taken to address such concerns.



Probation

The operational year 2022-23 was challenging for Probation Services, locally and nationally, beset by difficulties in the recruitment and retention of practitioner grade staff, alongside the operational demands of Probation work. At a local level, the Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) of Lewisham and Bromley was subject to an inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation in August 2022, leading to a rating outcome of inadequate.

The London Probation region had identified three core strands or themes as our operational priorities for 2022-23. These were priorities relating to Operational Delivery, People and Corporate Services. These priorities sought to embed new ways of working across the organisation and to capture the challenges of an organisation that was developing through significant organisational change, following its unification in June 2021.

The Probation Delivery Unit of Lewisham and Bromley comprises six operational teams, responsible for the management and oversight of 2,400-2,500 People on Probation. Approximately a third of the cases managed within the PDU have a Bromley address.

When considering the demographics of the caseload in Bromley, the vast majority are male (91%), with those of a White British and White Other background forming the highest percentage (60%). The age profile of people on probation indicates that those aged 26-35 form the highest percentage (32%) followed by those aged 36-45 (25%) and 18-25 (19%). In regard to offence type, violence (both domestic and non-domestic) forms the highest profile of offending, followed by matters related to drug supply and possession.

The Probation Service is a key statutory partner across the Safeguarding Children's Partnership. Previous research indicates that up to two thirds of men in custody have parented a child, with this value likely to be similar or higher when the full remit of Probation Service engagement is considered.

Whilst not responsible for the management of young people under 18, the Probation Service contributes to the arena of safeguarding by ensuring information is shared with appropriate services and multi-agency engagement and collaboration is considered. The operational year 2022-23 saw the establishment of improved information sharing arrangements with the Police and local authorities, relating to safeguarding enquiries and intelligence checks. Such arrangements are essential in ensuring that those subject to Probation Service management and oversight are not residing to locations deemed unsuitable, due to concerns relating to domestic abuse or safeguarding.

During 2022-23 there was a significant uplift in the range of interventions and services provided to People on Probation, via our commissioning pathway. These included work with providers such as Catch-22, the Forward Trust, Minerva / Women in Prison and Maximus. Approaches also commenced to ensure individuals leaving prison were supported through a new accommodation pathway. Such approaches are implemented to support the management of people at their most vulnerable, and as such not expose those in the community to incidences of increased harm or concern. As always, such approaches are supported by effective multi-agency work, with the Probation Service being committed to working in partnership with a range of statutory and community providers.



Change, Grow, Live (Bromley Changes Drug and Alcohol Service for Children and Young People)

Bromley schools have become a more significant stakeholder for Bromley Changes between 2022-23, with over 40 individual referrals for support.

Bromley Changes have also responded to multiple enquiries from safeguarding leads, pastoral staff, head teachers and non-educators- Safer Schools Officers - with requests for drugs education, workshops for students and training enquiries for staff.

So far, Bromley Changes have been able to successfully engage 3,000 students across Bromley secondary schools in learning about drugs and alcohol via their drugs prevention workshops. These have received excellent reviews from students and are being robustly evaluated for quality and impact

of learning. Bromley Changes have worked with Hayes secondary school to design a school-based drugs prevention strategy, which involved parents, teachers, and students with academic oversight from Middlesex university.

The whole school, whole family approach also included a live webinar delivered to parents, which is now accessible on YouTube and via Hayes school website.

Bromley Changes also responded to the desire of educators, parents and other stakeholders to have more resource to respond to vaping by producing this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4o3ilaofguM>





Communication



ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

THE PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNICATION

SAFEGUARDING CONTEXT IN BROMLEY

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

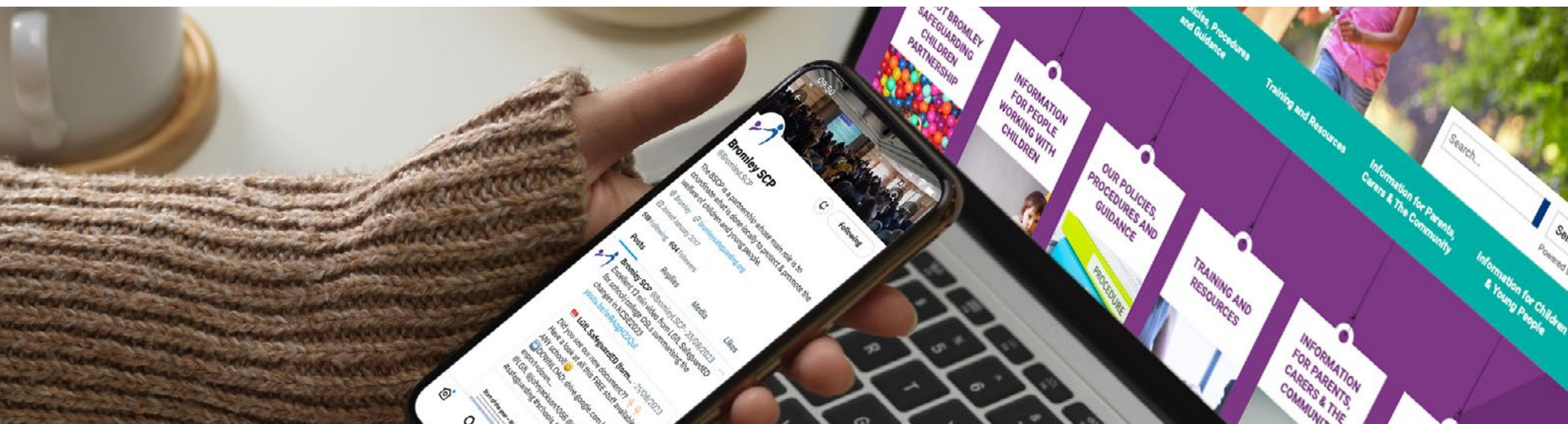
www.bromleysafeguarding.org >

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: Online Safety Bill, Stress Awareness Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, The Lullaby Trust, transition from primary to secondary school, launch of the Integrated Care Service, ICON, increase in number of vaping in young people, Bromley Warm Centres, Bromley Food Programme.





Safeguarding Context in Bromley



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BROMLEY DEMOGRAPHICS SNAPSHOT

Approximately **75,000 children** and young people are **under 18**. Of these, around **21,000** are aged **less than five years**.

0-18 year olds make up **23% of the total population** in Bromley,

Bromley has a similar ethnicity profile to the South-East of England, approximately **21.4%** of Bromley's population in 2021 are **ethnic minority groups**. The largest and fastest growing ethnic minority group in Bromley is Black African (8%), followed by white other group that includes Gypsy or Irish Travellers (7%), White and Black Caribbean (4%) and Black Caribbean (3%).

Although only around **21%** of Bromley's population are from **Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds**, 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.

Source:

- GLA Housing Led Population Projection (2018)
- [Children and Young People Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) 2018 – London Borough of Bromley](#)
- [Ethnic group population projections - London Datastore](#)
- [Demography JSNA Chapter Update 2021 \(bromley.gov.uk\)](#)





MASH ENQUIRIES AND REFERRALS

The number of monthly MASH enquiries received during 2022-23 has fluctuated throughout the year peaking at a high of 843 in June 2022 and reaching annual total of 8,267.

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

- **Police** - 50%
- **Health** - 17%
- **Schools** - 24%



35% of all children with MASH enquiries in 2022-23 were referred to Children's Social Care (CSC) for an assessment. This conversion rate is slightly lower than that of 2022 (39%) but below that of 2021 (37%).

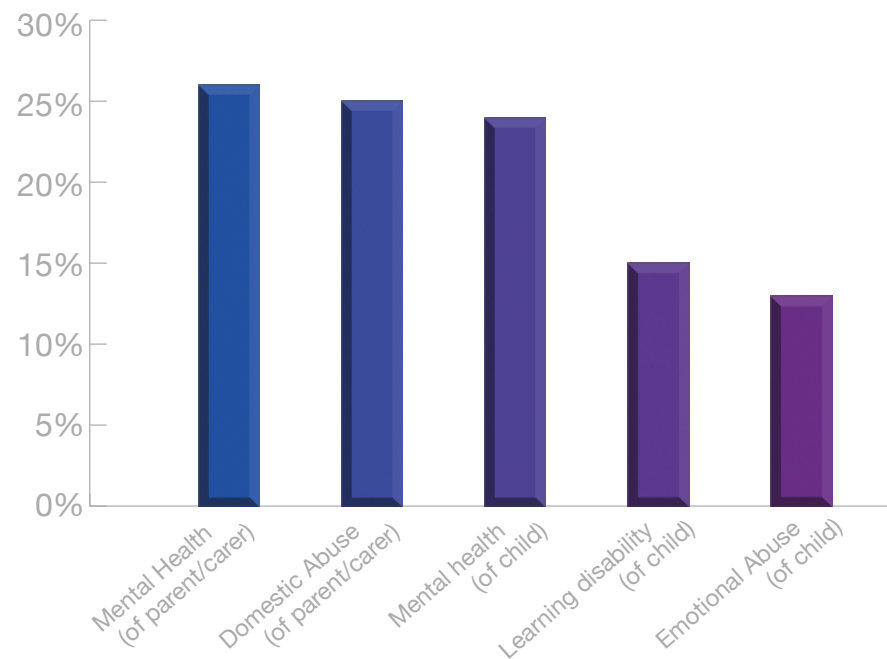
There is continued and sustained improvement in safeguarding awareness and CSC continues to work with partners on their understanding of the threshold. The pandemic resulted in an increase in enquiries not requiring CSC intervention.

SOCIAL WORK ASSESSMENTS

During the year 2022-23, 4347 Social Work Assessments (SWAs) were completed; compared to 4207 the year before 2021-22. 93% of assessments were completed within the expected timeframe of 45 working days, indicating 3% decrease on previous years' outturn but above annual target of 87%.

The 5 most common factors identified at SWA were:

- Mental Health (of parent/carer) – 26%
- Domestic Abuse (of parent/carer) – 25%
- Mental health (of child) – 24%
- Learning disability (of child) – 15%
- Emotional Abuse (of child) – 13%





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 2021/22, 6280 children were open to Children's Social Care at some point, indicating an increase of almost 500 more than open cases the year before. On 31st March 2023, there were 2,695 children in need indicating a rate of 357 per 10,000 children population in Bromley and slightly above 2021 national rate of 346 per 10,000.

SECTION 47 INVESTIGATIONS AND INITIAL CONFERENCES

A total of 2076 Strategy Discussions were held in 2022-23 and 1520 Section 47 enquiries commenced - both indicating increases on the year before.

582 children were the subject of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) during 2022-23 indicating an increase of 45 children on the previous year (537). The average monthly number for 2022-23 was 48, ranging from the lowest number of 24 to 72. The rate per 10,000 ICPCs held in Bromley (77) is above national rate of 61 in 2022.

79% of ICPCs resulted in the child becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan, a decrease from previous years conversion of 83%.

63% of ICPCs were conducted within 15 days of S47 during 2022-23. This is lower than previous year's outturn and lower than the 2022 national average of 79%. ICPC timeliness for 2022/23 is not as high as previous years due to a change in case management system and an oversight in performance reporting. This discrepancy was identified through our data QA processes and has now been addressed.



CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

There were 315 children subject to a child protection plan as of 31st March 2023, a decrease of 30 children from the year before (345). This represents 41.7 per 10,000 population and below the national average of 53.

The highest category of abuse for Child Protection Plans starting during the year is Neglect (296, 61%); followed by Emotional Abuse (155, 32%)

In 2022-23, 7 children ceased to be subject of child protection plan that was longer than 2 years, this is more than the 1 reported the previous year and even more than 4 reported in 2020-21. Bromley's rate is well below national average of 4% (2022).

109 children became subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time during the period 2022-23 (22.6%) and is above the previous rate of 19.5% (87 children) but in line with 2021 national average of 23%.





CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

At the end of March 2023, there were **343 Children Looked After (CLA)** and this is 15 more than previous years outturn (328). This amounts to **45.3 per 10,000 population** and is significantly below the 2022 national average rate of 70 per 10,000.

On 31st March 2023, **29% of children were looked after under Section 20** of the Children's Act. This is significantly above the national rate (17%) and above the previous outturn as more Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children were taken into care in the last 2 years.

39 children looked after (11.4%) had **3 or more placement moves** during 2022-23. This is above previous years outturn and slightly above the the 2022 national average of 10%. 79% of Children Looked After are under the age of 16 and in care for 2.5 years or more and have been in the same placement for 2 years. This is above the 2022 national average of 71%.

On 31st March 2023:

- **72%** of CLA were in **foster placements**. Of these, 25% were with in-house carers, 31% with Independent Fostering Agencies and 15% in connected persons placements
- **21%** in **residential placements**
- **0%** in **independent living**
- **1.2%** in **adoptive placements**
- **5%** placed **at home**

17.5% of children are **placed outside of Bromley** and more than 20 miles from where they used to live. This is below the 2022 national average of 21%.

Of the **71 care leavers** aged 17 and 18 receiving supports as of 31st March 2023, **93% were in touch with the local authority**. Of these, 100% were in suitable accommodation, 66% were in Education, Employment or Training (EET).

175 (91%) care leavers aged 19-21 were in touch on their birthday compared to 92% nationally in 2022. 95% were in suitable accommodation compared to 88% nationally and 59% were in EET in line with the national average of 59%.

Of those children continuously looked after for 12 months as of 31st March 2022:

- **100% of under 5s** had **up to date health checks** completed within the statutory timeframe
- **94% of children** had a **health assessment completed** within the statutory timeframe, in line with previous outturn.
- **91% of children** had a **dental check completed** within the statutory timeframe, significantly better than 75% the year before which was affected by the pandemic.
- **95% of children** were **up to date with their immunisations**, slightly above last year's figure of 93%.



ADOPTION

9 children were placed for adoption during the same year, this is above the 6 in 2020-21. 10 children had an ADM decision for adoption and were waiting to be placed.

12 children were adopted from care during the year 2022-23 representing 8% of the cohort ceasing to be looked after and below the national average of 10% in 2022 also affected by the pandemic with reduced pace of court proceedings.

The average number of days between a child entering care and moving in with an adoptive family in 2022-23 was 509.

This is higher than the national threshold of 426 days but lower than the previous outturn of 557 days.

10 (7%) children looked after ceased to be looked after due to a Special Guardianship Order in 2022-23 indicating a slight decrease from the 11 reported in 2021-22.

The average number of days between Bromley receiving court authority to place a child, and matching the child with an adoptive family, was 169 indicating a decline in performance from the previous outturn and above the national threshold of 121 days. The 3-year average is however above at 465 days, a slight decline on previous rolling 3 years.

At the end of 2022-23, there were 105 approved foster carer households (including respite and connected persons). This is lower than the 133 reported in the previous year. There have been 10 newly approved mainstream foster carer households in 2022-23, similar to the 11 approved in the previous year.



YOUTH JUSTICE

There are over 32,700 children aged 10-17 years old in Bromley and less than 0.22% are involved in offending, on average we work with around 60 children at any one time.

The profile of the children we work with are:

- Predominantly males aged 15-18 years old (79% of the caseload are 15-18) and the remainder are aged 12-14 years old (21%).
- Primary offences committed by children are violence against the person or robbery and motoring related offences. It is worth noting that knife and weapon possession is counted in this category and this represents the most common offence type in Bromley.
- Disproportionate number are BME – 51% compared with 37% white
- Approximately 14% of our children have experience of care
- 15% children have an Education and Health Care Plan
- 23% assessed as SEN (special educational needs)
- Small number regularly go missing from care or home
- Much of the offending is related to violence and exploitation and shoplifting in relation to early offending.

This highlights that we continue to see boys aged 15-17 years dominating the youth justice caseload. Those children who are in the Youth Justice System are recognised as having a complex presentation, often known to children's social care and having experienced some level of trauma in early years. Much of their offending is related to serious youth violence as well exploitation.

Our achievements related to Youth Justice Plan 2022-24.

Performance

First time entrants (FTE:)

- Bromley have achieved 3% annual reduction in the number of FTE (from 40 down to 39) an 5% quarterly reduction from 41 (oct 21 – Sep 22) to 39 FTEs (Jn 21-Dec 22).
- Bromley has the 5th lowest FTE rate in London and are ranked 40th out of the 154 YJS in the country.

Reducing offending:

- 75 Young people received a YJS intervention between July 2020 – June 2021.
- This cohort of young people being tracked has reduced over the past 3 years where 171 young people were serving YJS interventions by the end of December 2017. This is an 56% (96 cases) reduction over a 3-year period.

There is a continued focus within the YJS and with partners in respect of this vulnerable group of young people. The YJS have identified the most prolific offenders and those who are most likely to reoffend, offering enhanced interventions

Custody:

- Bromley YJS had one young person sentenced to custody Between April 2022 – March 2023 which is in line with the number of custodial sentences the previous year

Bromley currently has the 3rd lowest rate of custodial sentences in London and ranked 32nd Nationally. Bromley has the 3rd lowest custodial sentence rate among our statistical neighbours.



DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Domestic Abuse Strategy Lead role sits within the LBB Community Safety Team in Public Protection.

The 2021/24 Domestic Abuse Strategy 'An intergenerational domestic abuse strategy, making domestic abuse everyone's business' was published in 2021. 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 Domestic Abuse (DA) is everyone's and every agency's responsibility

A Domestic Abuse Strategic Board and an Operational Forum were developed and have been operational since 2020 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.

Bromley is now coordinating two new services, the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) panel and the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel (DAPP), both of these have been developed and monitored through the panel steering groups. The MARAC action plan, developed in partnership with SafeLives, remains an active document driven through the MARAC Steering Group, Operational Forum and Strategic Board.

A range of positive changes and improvements have been implanted, including:

- Our recently re-commissioned victim survivor service is reviewing and rebranding their promotional material.
- A professionals directory has been produced and websites have been updated with new documents, learning and resourcing material.
- There is triangulation of DA support, information and guidance between the four LBB websites- LBB, Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB), BSCP and Parenting Hub.
- Our wallet sized Butterfly Cards have been reviewed and will be circulated between all partners through the Operational Forum.

The Strategic Domestic Abuse Lead has developed:

- The coordination of two new services in LBB – MARAC and DAPP
- A new referral pathway into MARAC/DAPP
- A series of partnership 'Lunch and Learns' developed and delivered by the Operational Forum
- A local services referral pathway presentation to attach to all DA training and made available on the board websites
- A professionals directory of support services
- An update on the LBB website including two new pages and links to relevant support services
- Training on the new DAPP model
- Free specialist and bespoke training across partners from national services to address local need



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

Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid (BCWA) are the current commissioned domestic abuse victim survivor service in Bromley. The services that they provide under the contract with Bromley are:

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

The referrals into BCWA for their services continue to be very high post COVID-19 (both in Bromley and nationally). The One Stop Shop is now offering a virtual phone line which was adopted through Covid and has proven to enable an increase in their capacity to support survivors.

Total of new referrals into IDVA services:

- 2019/2020 - 466
- 2020/2021 - 943
- 2021/2022 - 922
- 2022/2023 - 885

Total number of people supported through the One Stop Shop:

- 2019/2020 - 358
- 2020/2021 - 358
- 2021/2022 - 508
- 2022/2023 - 553

The Freedom/Keys to Freedom Programme was adapted for online learning:

- 2020/2021 - 244 places offered online
- 2021/2022 - 257 offered a place
- 2022/2023- 295 offered a place

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

Bromley has been part of the DRIVE perpetrator pilot programme since 2021. The pilot has now ended as of July 2023. MOPAC has replaced the borough focused service with a Pan London service with a much reduced offer of referrals. Previously Bromley had a target of 70 referrals a year, this has been reduced to 8 a year with the new model.

Partners in Bromley are taking steps to further explore how we can, as a borough, challenge perpetrators' behaviour and offer interventions to effect behavioural change. Bromley has adopted the DAPP service into the council and now coordinates and chairs the panel, offering oversight of perpetrators and ensuring we are utilising the limited DRIVE referral spaces to effect.





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

The Strategic Lead Officer continues to work closely with both the BSCP and BSAB to ensure that Bromley is delivering a good quality training model to support the understanding of Domestic Abuse issues.

DA training events 2023:

- Domestic Abuse Intermediate and Advanced
- Domestic Abuse and the impact on children
- Coercive control
- DRIVE Pan London model for professionals
- Service and referral pathways for MARAC, DAPP and DA support services
- Working with Perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Non-Fatal Strangulation webinar
- NCDV training in Domestic Abuse and Civil Protection Orders
- Family members and protections for victims of domestic violence under the EU Settlement Scheme
- 3 months of Lunch and Learn sessions developed and delivered by the Operational Forum to support staff and promote Domestic Abuse Awareness month.

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

The Strategic Domestic Abuse lead is working with LBB to develop and implement a staff domestic abuse 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 Council's staff Domestic Abuse Policy was presented to colleagues and will be implemented within the year. The Housing Department is working towards the Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation which will include the development of DA champions. The DA Staff Policy will support the accreditation.

6. Extent of known domestic abuse in the Borough

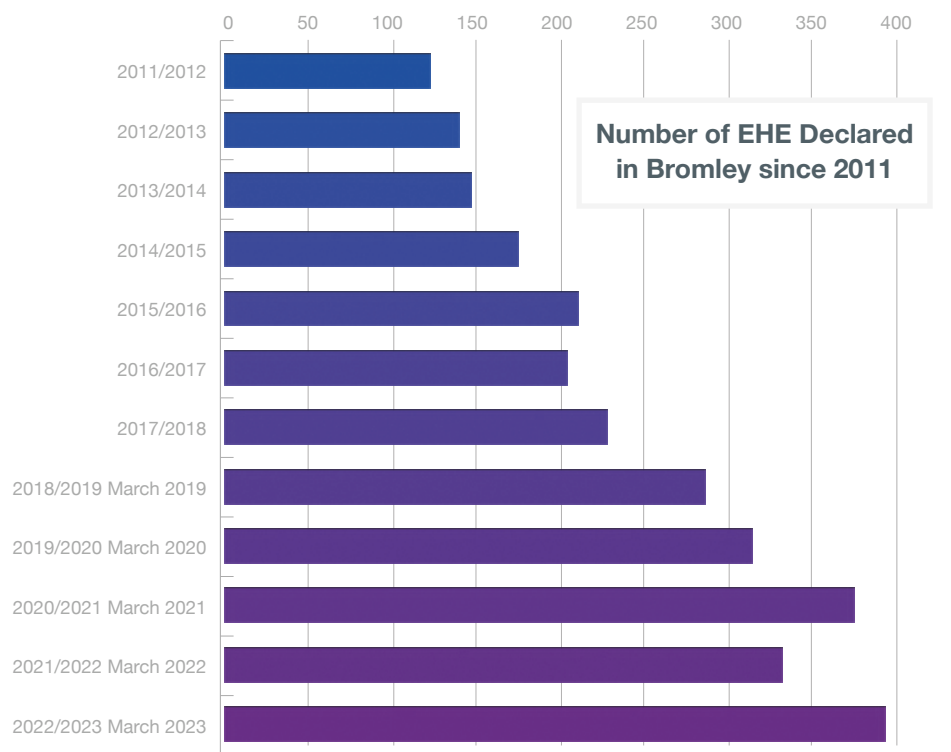
Data from the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) shows that in Bromley, between June 2022 and June 2023 there were:

- 2795 domestic abuse offences – an increase from the 2021/22 data of 2750 offences (where a crime has been committed and recorded)
- 665 of these were violence resulting in injury
- 230 sanction detentions (Orders, courses, curfews etc) were implemented. There has been a continual decrease in sanctions over the last few years and in particular since 2021.



ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

The Elective Home Education (EHE) cohort is fluid in nature as a result of students returning to mainstream education and being removed from the list when moving out of borough whilst at the same time, new additions from children moving into the borough or coming out of school. The number of EHE as of March 2023 is 394, this is an increase in 62 cases from the same point in the previous year. The EHE team work closely with the Education Welfare Service (EWS) to ensure that families are aware of their responsibilities when deciding to EHE. When first advised by a school of the intention to off role a pupil to EHE, officers engage families ensuring only those who maintain a genuine intention to EHE are removed from the school roll. The chart below shows the increase in numbers of EHE declared year on year since 2011.

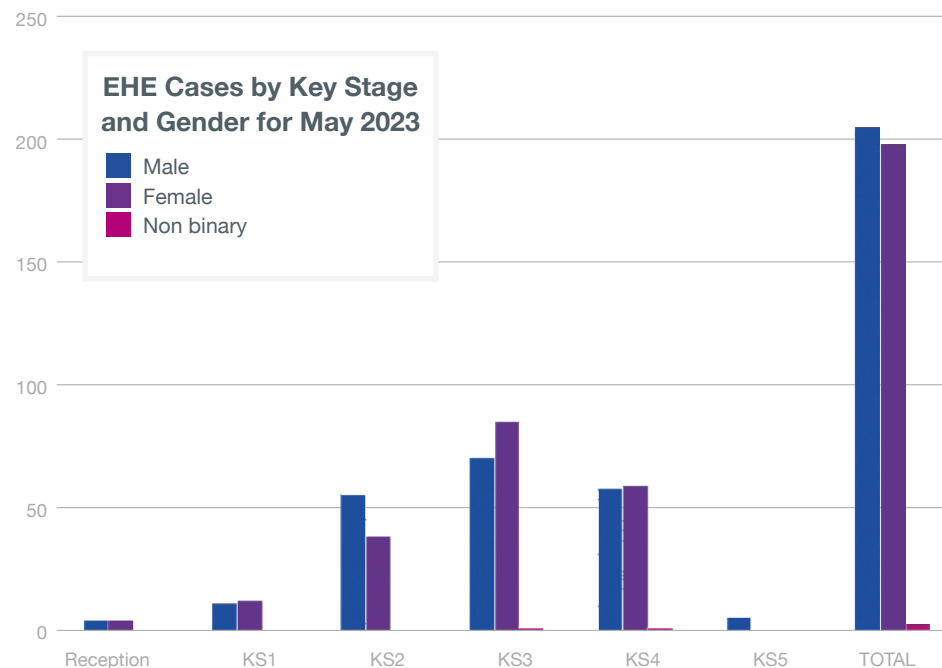


Numbers of Newly Declared EHE April 2022 to March 2023

Between April 2022 and March 2023, there were three peaks in the pattern of families declaring EHE: April, September and January, which correlates to the start of each academic term and is quite usual.

EHE Cases by Key Stage and Gender for May 2023

The data suggests there is no particular gender bias when it comes to EHE; the overall number indicates slightly more males than females, although the difference is not significant. There is more variance of gender at different key stages. Key Stage 3 continues to see the highest number of students declared as EHE, with Key stage 5 and Reception year being the lowest. It is possible that high numbers of EHE at KS3 are indicative of the parent not receiving secondary school offers of preference and low numbers in Keys stage 5 as children return to school to complete their GCSE exams.





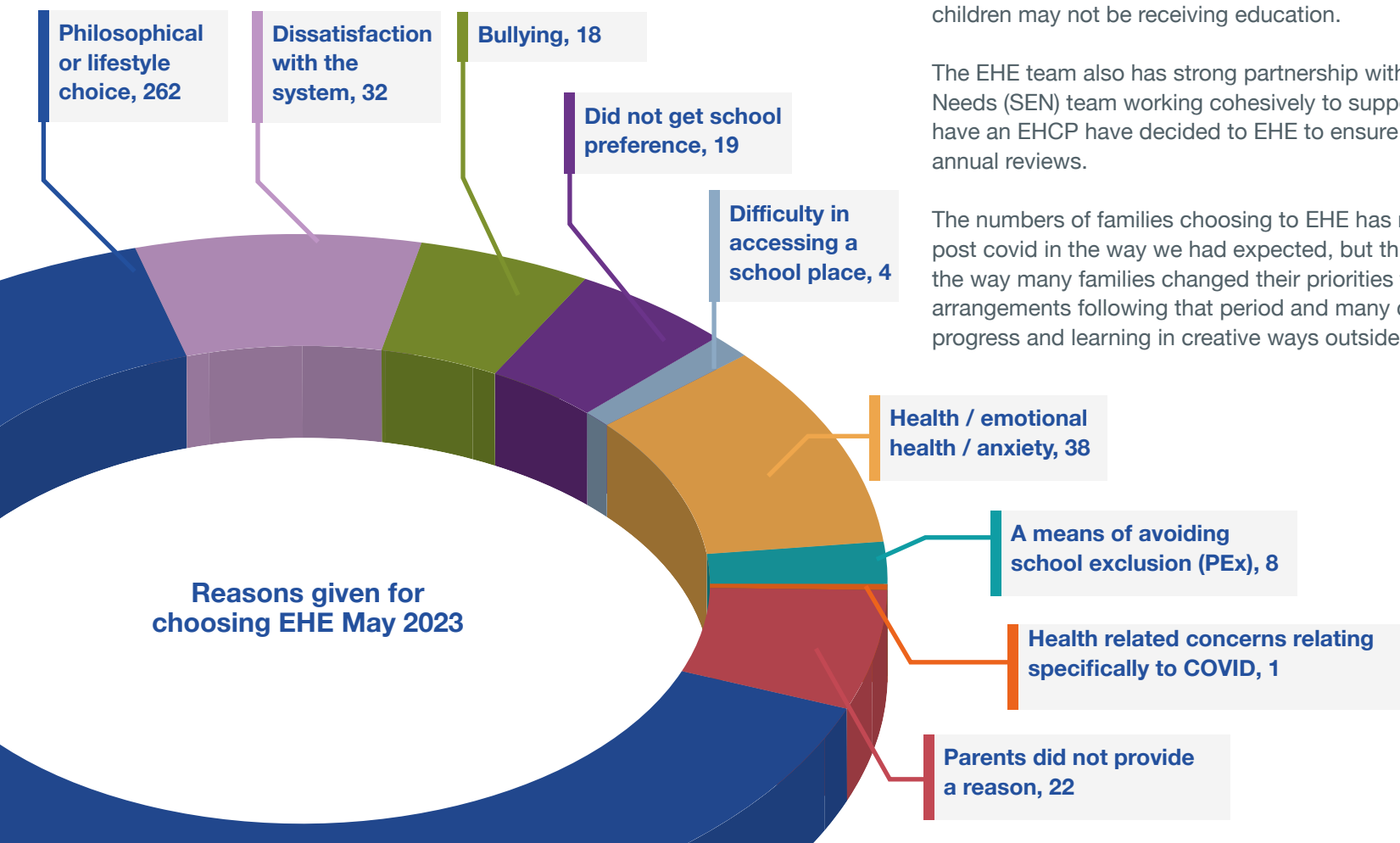
The EHE team continues to build their relationships with the EHE community and continues to work with the EHE community to appropriately support parents with their choice to home educate their children. Engagement continues to be challenging with some families who remain opposed to the state involving itself in what is their responsibility, but we work hard to find creative ways in which we can share ideas, best practice and understanding.

Philosophical or lifestyle choice continues to be the main factor in reasons why parents decide to electively home educate their children. There is a small percentage who do not provide a reason for their decision; this equates to just over 5% of registered EHE families.

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 the Senior Leadership Team and Portfolio holders, where there are concerns that children may not be receiving education.

The EHE team also has strong partnership with the Special Educational Needs (SEN) team working cohesively to support families where children who have an EHCP have decided to EHE to ensure they continue to access their annual reviews.

The numbers of families choosing to EHE has not reduced significantly post covid in the way we had expected, but this is perhaps reflective of the way many families changed their priorities towards family and working arrangements following that period and many children are making good progress and learning in creative ways outside of the school environment.





PRIVATE FOSTERING

1	Number of active/open PF arrangements at 31 March 2022	3
2	Number of new notifications received During 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023	32 *
3	The Source of new notifications in the year	
	Homes for Ukraine Team	8
	Children's Social Care	2
	International Schools	8
	Border Force Agency	2
	Bromley Job Centre	1
	School Inclusion	4
	College	3
	Camhs	1
	Hospital	1
	Parent	1
	Cafcass	1
4	Number of children in PF arrangements during 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023	23
5	Number of PF arrangements closed during 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023	9
6	Outcome / Reason for closure	
	Section 20 / Transfer to other teams in Bromley	2
	Child returned to parents or close relative in the UK	2
	Child returned to parents or close relative overseas	0
	Child turned 16	2
	Criteria not met as child living with close relative	2
	Care transferred to another Local Authority	1
7	Number of active/open PF arrangements at 31st March 2023	10

*9 of the new notifications did not progress into a private fostering arrangement due to a variety of reasons such as international student's visa's not arriving; being identified as living with a close relative; moving to another LA soon after notification.

The ages of children at point of notification ranged between 12-17 years.

The table below illustrates the ethnicity of the children in private fostering arrangements during 2022-2023

Ukrainian	3	Black / White American	2
Thai	1	Black / White Spanish	2
Vietnamese	1	Black / White British	3
Pakistan	2	White British	4
Black African Nigerian	3	Other	2
		Total	23

The number of private fostering notifications have increased significantly in the financial year, 2022-2023, as there were 32 Private Fostering Notifications received which then resulted in 23 Private Fostering Arrangements going ahead. This is the highest number of Private Fostering Notifications and Arrangements that we have achieved in Bromley to date.

Private Fostering Notifications over the last two years were greatly impacted by the pandemic, and notifications from Private Schools decreased significantly due to a reduction in international travel. Since then, a strategy has been implemented around raising awareness on Private Fostering, and this, along with the restrictions around travelling having been lifted, has evidenced a direct correlation to our increased efforts in the awareness raising campaigns in the last year, which in turn has resulted in an increased number of Private Fostering Notifications being received from diverse sources.





SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)

The number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) has continued to increase over the past five years at a rate significantly above population changes. The SEN2 dataset shows that 3,582 children and young people in Bromley had an EHCP compared with 3241 in 2021 (10.52% increase) and 2,482 in 2019 (62.67% increase).

Requests for Statutory Needs Assessments have increased significantly over the past five years; 467 in 2018 to 913 in 2022, an increase of 51.15%. Based on 2023 for the first six months of this year, there is an average of 71 requests per month, with the forecast for statutory needs assessments likely to be in the region of 852. It should be noted however that the activities around demand management and in particular the EHC Eligibility Guidance that has been coproduced with parent/carers and partners is resulting in a slowing down of statutory needs assessment requests.

The EHC Needs Assessment Eligibility Guidance, which has been coproduced with partners and parent/carers, was published in January and has been positively received across the Local Area Partnership. Schools are reporting that they have a better understanding of the assessment process and are more confident in responding to parental requests. The quality of referrals has improved enabling a more robust decision-making process. This has led to a decrease in the number of assessments being agreed at the Needs Assessment Panel (NAP). There are early indications of a reduction in the number of requests for statutory assessment, which will continue to be monitored.

Health and Social Care representation on decision making panels is valued in supporting decisions for children and young people with complex presentations and/or family situations. This is contributing to more effective decision making at an earlier stage, leading to a reduction in the number of requests being agreed.





The introduction of the Bromley Funded Inclusion Plan (FIP), following a review of the Pupil Resource Agreement (PRA) model supports a 'watch and wait' approach to determine if an EHC Needs Assessment is required, with resource available to provide short term interventions that sit above SEN support.

Sessions have been developed to support parent/carer understanding of the statutory assessment process and the entitlement for their child or young person below the statutory threshold. This is contributing to a shared understanding between families and education settings, ensuring SEN support is being fully accessed, and monitored to assess impact, before consideration of an EHC Needs Assessment.

The most common primary needs of children and young people with an EHCP are Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN - 1116), autistic spectrum disorder (ASD - 731) and social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH needs - 699). All three areas of need are an increase on 2021 data.

With regard to Bromley residents with EHCPs, mainstream schools (943) and special schools (870) are the settings with the largest EHCP population.

Data shows a continued increase in levels of requests for support from the SEN Advisory Teams. Schools and early years settings are reporting a higher complexity of need within their pupil cohort - especially related to Speech Language and Communication needs (including ASD) Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs, together with challenges around early developmental presentation, where SLCN is prevalent, which may be attributed to the impact of the pandemic. Health services have been under significant pressure, specifically mental health services, leading to increased.

Bromley Early Years and School settings have single points of contact within key support teams providing education colleagues with access to advice, support and signposting in a timely way.





0-25 SERVICE

The 0-25 service was initiated on the 1st September 2022. This service includes 4 teams within one 0-25 Service: Social Work team for Children with Disabilities, Short Breaks team, a Preparing for Adulthood Team and the Occupational Therapy (social care) team.

At the end of July 2023 there were 410 children open to the Children's Disability Team. 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.

Since last year we have devised a new categorisation for the children we work with. Within the 410 children, there are 243 that are now classified as CIN short breaks. These children require limited direct input from the team, as no safeguarding issues have been identified, but will receive short breaks and be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Children's Disability Team is presently responsible for 25 looked after children and lead on 1 child who is subject to a child protection plan. There are currently 10 children on child in need plans, requiring the highest level of support (below Child protection) with 4 weekly visits and 6 weekly meetings. The team have an additional 34 children, who have a new classification of CIN support. These children receive 3 monthly visits and 6 monthly reviews. There are no safeguarding concerns, but would benefit from more regular contact and multi-agency meetings to co-ordinate support.

The Children's Disability Team complete their own strategy discussions and subsequent Section 47 enquiries and recommend for Child Protection Conferences if applicable for all this other than CIN short breaks category. This has strengthened the safeguarding of disabled children by having practitioners with knowledge of the child and family.

The primary focus of the Occupational Therapy Social Care team service is to assess and review a child's home environment and to consider interventions, aids and adaptations to improve the child/young person's outcomes.

The Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) team works with young people from 14-25. The PfA workers holds case responsibility whilst an EHC plan is in place and until there is transition into adult care services. Due to EHC plans potentially going up to 25 years of age the transfer could occur from 18 up to 25 years of age. The PfA Pathways of Employment, Independent Living, Community Inclusion and Health is a key focus of their work.

The transition for young people's whose primary need is a mental health condition will remain the same, whereby if a young person meets the threshold for intervention for adult mental health they will transition on to a well-established multi-agency community mental health team based within Oxleas Foundation NHS Trust at 18. Although, as part of the work on transition development, we will need to ensure that the same key performance indicator of completion of Care Act Assessments at 17 ½, is adhered to.

The service also aims to identify young people who will meet the Care Act criteria from a younger age, ideally from 14 years of age, to enable improved individual planning and strategic commissioning. A 'Transition Plan' document is in the process of being developed for Liquid Logic.

A Transition Operational Working Group has been set up with the first meeting held on the 17th July 2023 to focus on developing transitional working practices. Areas this will include are the running of transition events, development of information and improving the practice of implementing the PfA pathways within the Local Area.

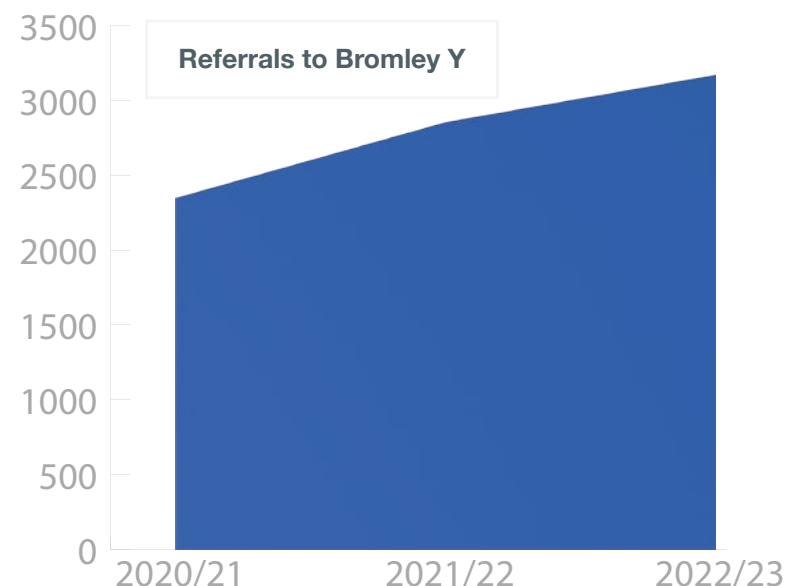


CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

During 2022-23 there was an ongoing situation of long waiting times for Bromley CAMHS. This higher level of waiting times was due in large part to the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on children and young people. Following the re-opening of schools in September 2020, there was a significant rise in the number of referrals to mental health and wellbeing services, with more children and young people presenting with complex and multi-faceted challenges. The average caseload of Bromley CAMHS prior to the covid-19 pandemic was around 850-900 children and young people at any time; after the pandemic this rose to 1,100-1,200. As of May 2023, there were 97 children and young people waiting over 52 weeks for an assessment in Bromley CAMHS which is in large part due to the backlog that accumulated in the period after the pandemic. That said, Bromley CAMHS have always prioritised children and young people in crisis and those who present in A&E due to their mental ill health are seen by CAMHS within 24 hours.

In 2022/23 there was also an increase in referrals to Bromley Y, which reached 3,170 in 2022/23 compared to 2,854 in 2021/22 and 2,348 in 2020/21. The result of this increased activity has been additional work in Bromley Y to triage all referrals within 72 hours, with priority referrals then assessed within 10 days and routine referrals within 4 weeks. Although Bromley Y's activity in 2022/23 increased, they were also able to roll-out a third Mental Health Support Team (MHST) into Bromley schools, to commence a new specialist parenting programme (Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities) and to develop new in-reach services into the Youth Justice Service, GP Practices and the Bromley Children and Families Hub.

The level of demand on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing services in Bromley remains an area of concern. In light of this, Bromley Council and NHS South-East London Integrated Care Board (ICB) have come together with key partners to drive forward a series of transformational improvements. This includes £700K additional investment into CAMHS to support work to reduce waiting times and overcome the local "backlog" of cases needing to be assessed. It also includes the establishment of a joint integrated Single Point of Access (iSPA) between Bromley Y and CAMHS, which will see the two services coming together around a single operating model, joint screening and triage, and a common management approach to cases. With this, there will be further improvements including an independent review of Bromley ASD/ADHD diagnostic and support services, further work to develop and embed the Bromley Dynamic Support Register (DSR) for children and young people with autism or a learning disability, and with a second phase of the A&E "deep dive" project into children and young people in crisis.



MAPPA

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 provided for the establishment of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in England and Wales. Nearly 20 years later these mechanisms continue to form a conduit for information sharing and the oversight of the management of individuals presenting the highest likelihood of committing offences involving the most serious harm.

Whilst these arrangements are predominately focussed on the management of individuals convicted for offences of sexual and violent offences, the arrangements also include mechanisms for increased oversight for other individuals where risk is assessed to be escalating.

Within MAPPA there is a statutory duty for criminal justice agencies and other bodies managing offenders to work together in partnership. Although the Police, Prison and Probation Services are the 'Responsible Authorities' (with responsibility for chairing and convening these meetings), other bodies hold a 'Duty to Co-operate' function and are invited to attend and share information within these arrangements. Duty to Co-operate agencies may include statutory bodies such as Children and Adult Social Care; the Youth Justice Service; Job Centre Plus; Integrated Care Boards; providers of electronic monitoring; and the Home Office Immigration Enforcement.

Given the dynamic nature of risk assessment, the level at which individuals are managed within MAPPA thresholds will fluctuate, with level 1 being the lowest threshold and level 3 the highest. Most individuals are managed at level 1.

Those individuals with a current conviction for serious violence (category 2) currently form the highest percentage of those managed within the MAPPA framework (accounting for 21%), followed by those with registrable sexual offences (category 1 – 12% of the overall caseload), and finally those without either a violent or sexual offence but where their likelihood of committing an offence involving serious harm is deemed to be escalating (category 3 – less than 1% of the caseload).





ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

In 2022, Bromley Changes Young People’s Drug and Alcohol Service received 123 referrals. Just over a quarter of these young people (32) were poly users, which is defined as using more than one drug together sequentially. Poly users are characterised as riskier users, because of the potential adverse interaction of drugs used together - with more extreme effects on brain function, behaviour and mood, severity of intoxication.

Between January and July 2023, there has been a significant increase compared to 2022, of poly user behaviours requiring substance use support. There has also been an increase in the repertoire of substances used all together, with young people experimenting with the effects of between 4-6

substances at once. Partners in emergency care have reported seeing a similar increase in these young people requiring emergency treatment.

We speculate that the popular emergence of dark web markets to purchase drugs may be driving a wider experimentation with substances, also an increase in peer-to-peer supply via schools and organised criminality improving access to supply networks via social media.

Below is a detailed breakdown of the young people who were referred to Bromley Changes in 2022/23, for single substance use.

Singular Drug use 2022	
Cannabis	(63) 69.2%
Alcohol	(14) 15.4%
MDMA	(3) 3.3%
Cocaine	(3) 3.3%
Ketamine	(3) 3.3%
Acid (LSD)	(2) 2.2%
Vape	(1) 1.1%

Singular Drug use 2023		
Cannabis	(15) 55.6%	↓
Alcohol	(3) 11.1%	↓
MDMA	0% Poly use (5) 10.4%	↑
Cocaine	(1) 3.7%	↓
Ketamine	(5) 18.5%	↑
Acid (LSD)	0% Poly use (4) 8.3%	↑
Vape	(8) 17%	↑





EARLY HELP

Early Intervention and Family Support Services (EIFS) comprise of four distinct services plus two key lead posts:

- The Bromley Children Project (BCP) Family Support and Parenting Practitioners encompassing the Supporting Families agenda (nee Tackling Troubled Families)
- Children and Family Centre Service (CFCs)
- Children's Contact Centre Service (CCCs)
- Information Advice and Support Service (IASS)
- Reducing Parental Conflict Coordinator; and
- Social Communication Needs Family Support Coordinator.

The strongest focus within EIFS remains effective early intervention so that children and their families can receive the help they need at the best time for them from the most appropriate agency. The concept of early help assessment practice is built into core practice. For instance, Children and Family Centre Support Officers and Family Support and Parenting Practitioners work holistically with the family to help them take back control by supporting them to build their self-efficacy and resilience using the EIFS holistic Family Assessment as an early help assessment, and actively promote the 'team around the family' model of working with families and partners.

The Bromley Children Project Facebook and Instagram account presence continues to grow in popularity, as well as the linked You Tube Channel 'Creative Kids'. There are in excess of 2,700 Facebook followers and in excess of 2,200 Instagram followers, and the YouTube Channel has posted 32 videos. The Parenting Hotline was launched in 2020 and remains a key element of the support offer. Alongside this the team has developed tools, outreach, and engagement options utilising technology. One example is the use of 'Flipbooks' for parents and professionals to help bring services to their fingertips on their electronic devices via QR-Codes for easy access.

EIFS continues to host the monthly MAPE (Multi Agency Partnership Event) 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business' training event with colleagues from the Children and Families Hub. Alongside this, EIFS has continued to run the monthly EIFS Information Sessions but moved these online to ensure consistency and improve access. 145 partners attended these sessions throughout the year. The Single Point of Contact 'SPOC' model developed during COVID for our colleagues in Children's Social Care, schools across Bromley's educational landscape, and partner agencies such as Change Grow Live, Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid, Probation Services, continues to offer support to colleagues in the moment. This model continues to promote communication, bespoke training, improved referrals, and better case management.

EIFS also launched its [Early Help Strategy](#) in November 2022.





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. 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. New parenting sessions developed during the pandemic continue to run, both online and in person, as stand alone seminars and as courses.

There are currently 9 courses in person face-to-face, 18 online webinars, and 2 'short' online courses. Courses are delivered to capacity audiences and have become integral to the wider support offered by other specialist services, such as the recommendation by Community Paediatricians who are asking parents to complete Cygnet before ASC diagnosis and New Forest Parenting before ADHD diagnosis. Feedback regarding parenting courses and webinars continues to be excellent. The increase in the number of families where both parents attended the sessions remains consistent.

This year there were 88 online parenting seminars, and 10 online courses comprising of 7 online NFPP short courses (3 of which were in the evening), and 3 online NAP short courses. The number of attendees for seminars increased; there were 731 online seminar attendees compared to 561 online seminar attendees last year. In addition to the 10 online parenting courses delivered, there were a further 33 face-to-face parenting courses delivered through the Children and Family Centres, including 2 on a Saturday, and covering 8 different courses. The 33 face-to-face courses had 370 attendees and 10 online courses had 210 attendees, totalling 580 parenting course attendees compared to 327 parenting course attendees last year.

The dramatic increase in referrals for one-to-one support via Bromley Children Project's Family Support and Parenting Practitioners noted in 2019/20 has been sustained year on year and the referral rate remains in excess of 900 referrals. Data shows EIFS have worked with in excess of 4,800 families and supported in excess of 6,545 cycles of support. Of these 6,545 cycles of

support the impact has been very positive with over 92% of families receiving no more than 2 cycles - in fact, 75% (3,587) families have only received one cycle of support in the 10 years this has been tracked.

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

Following the pandemic, data for 2022/23 shows families returning to the centres to access the services they need, in their communities. In 2022/23 there were more than 52,055 visits by 16,088 unique service users. This clearly shows that families appreciate and want to access services locally.

EIFS have undertaken a considerable Capital Works programme which includes two streams: outside play spaces and internal works. Outside play spaces were completed last year, whilst the internal works have progressed this year. Contractors were appointed, works commenced in May 2022, and final completion is anticipated for summer 2023. The works have made the sites accessible and functional. Existing service users who use a wheelchair were involved in the process of testing accessibility.

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. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities (DLUHC) set Bromley a range of targets to achieve. To date, all of the Supporting Families (nee Tackling Troubled Family) Programme milestones agreed with the DLUHC have been achieved. This requires evidence to show that the changes made by the family are both 'significant and sustained'.



Information Advice and Support Service (IASS)

The IASS team has continued to support families in their meetings with professionals and at Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunals. The team of five Independent Volunteer Supports have also continued to give up their time, energy, and expertise to support our families. The team have a public-facing website www.bromleyiass.org.uk which has been live for 2 years and is recognised as a beacon of best practice by the Council for Disabled Children, and the National Information Advice and Support Services Network. Work continues to develop the website further, as our residents and professionals have told us how valuable and useful it has been.

Reducing Parental Conflict Programme

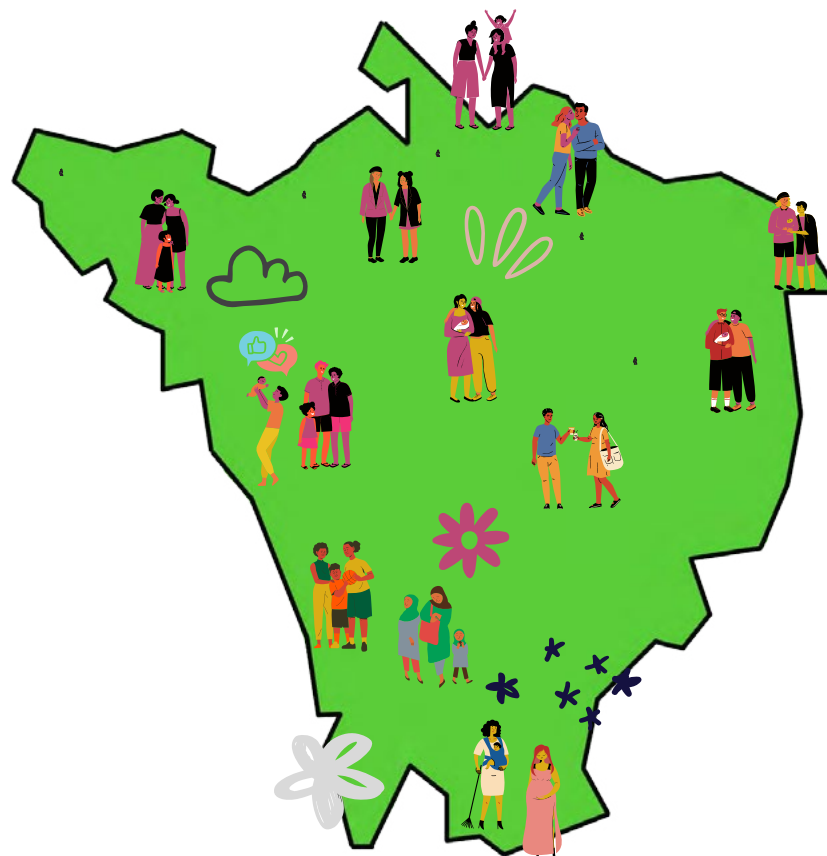
LBB has received funding from the Department for Work and Pensions to raise awareness about the concept of Reducing Parental Conflict 'RPC'. The goal is to intervene earlier, to help people identify that their relationship is not healthy, that the conflict they expose one another to, could develop into domestic abuse, can harm their own mental wellbeing, and impact the long-term wellbeing of their children.

To date EIFS has developed a training programme for professionals to better understand the signs and symptoms, enlisted 'champions', developed a Forum for discussion and learning, developed and produced a toolkit and strategies for those who work with families to help the families alter their pathway which is given to colleagues and partners who complete the Awareness Raising Training, and most recently developed a short 3-week course to deliver the Reducing Parental Conflict message in an accessible format directly to parents. This has been complimented with a website www.bromleyparentinghub.info which is free to access for families and professionals, sharing the tools and strategies, and encouraging families to look at their own lives and challenge themselves to change – with support.

Social Communications (ASC) Family Support Coordinator for the Borough

This role was developed as part of Bromley's All Age Autism strategy and also reflects the growth in requests for support from families with a child who has social communication challenges. The post is located in the Children and Family Centres. The role supports not only families, but professionals too through the provision of advice, guidance, and challenge, as well as being the gateways to specialist support from MENCAP.

During 2022/23, demand has exceeded expectations with the number of families who have reached out to this service exceeding 300 and it continues to grow.





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, a senior practitioner, three return home interview (RHI) officers, a data analyst and a business support officer.

The team works closely with the Youth Justice Service (YJS), Police (Gangs, Missing, CSE, CCE) Community Safety Team, Safer London and the Rescue and Response Project. The Atlas team manager also sits on Bromley's Channel (PREVENT) panel, the YJS Risk and Safeguarding Panel and the Out of Court Disposals Panel. The Atlas team functions as an intelligence hub, supporting the Children and Families Hub (C&F Hub - previously 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. The team also undertakes mapping exercises to identify patterns of risk and places of concern. 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 whether an assessment needs to be undertaken by the Referral and Assessment teams. All young people who go missing are discussed in the daily C&F Hub 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 Missing, Exploitation and Gang Affiliation (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 offer opportunities for challenge, creative thinking and building a local picture of trends, patterns and themes. The panel meets fortnightly and is well attended by CSC teams as well as partners from Police, Health, Education, Housing, Community Safety, Youth Justice, Targeted Youth Support, CAMHS and Rescue and Response. 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 the MEGA Panels, ensures that all partner agencies have the most contemporary intelligence in relation to the Bromley context. Strategic challenges and emerging trends are shared with senior leadership via the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Panel and through the BSCP.

In February 2023, we held our first MEGA / MACE away day to refresh our collective commitment to tackling Exploitation and Extra Familial Harm in Bromley. The theme for the day was “Increasing Support & Safety for Young People.” The day was well attended by a range of strategic leaders across the partnership. As a result of the away day, the MACE board now takes place more frequently. MEGA has also returned to being face to face and new partners have joined MEGA.



MEGA / MACE Away Day



Senior Leaders using Virtual Reality at the MEGA / MACE Away Day.

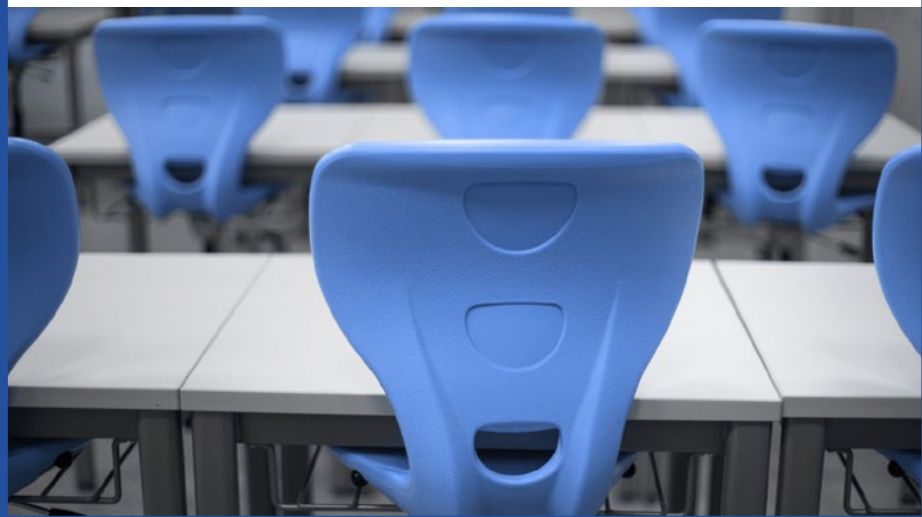




Key indicators (April 2022 - March 2022)

Missing from home and care

- 212 Children / Young people were reported missing or had an unauthorised absence from care.
- 909 missing episodes were recorded by Atlas and 140 unauthorised absences.
- 947 return home interviews were offered. (90%)
- 644 return home interviews were taken up. (63%)



Risk of Exploitation

73

young people were tracked through the MEGA.

The risk level of

39

young people was sufficiently reduced and they were closed to MEGA.

Of the 73 children tracked at MEGA, the following categories of exploitation were identified. Some young people were identified in more than one risk category.

- 32% had at least 1 missing episode.
- 29% were identified to be at risk of CSE.
- 17% were being exploited by gangs or there were concerns around serious youth violence.
- 51% were being criminally exploited (CCE) / concerns in relation to County Lines.

In 2022/23 we saw a significant increase in relation to serious youth violence, criminal exploitation and concerns for young people being exploited into County Line activity. Partners are working together to better understand the increase in these areas and how best to safeguard young people at risk of Criminal Exploitation.



MISSING FROM EDUCATION

Work is carried out by the Education Welfare Service (EWS) across three main functions. The first is the work undertaken by the Children Missing Education (CME) officer to identify, locate and support children and young people of statutory school age to have access to education. The CME officer can receive referrals from a range of sources including Social Care, Housing, partner agencies, other local authorities as well as concerned members of the public. The work of the CME Officer ensures that Bromley Council meets its statutory responsibility regarding the identification, monitoring and tracking of children missing or not in receipt of a suitable education.

The Education Welfare Service (EWS) works with schools and families to identify and remove barriers preventing children from regularly accessing school. The service has committed resource to the Children and Families Hub (previously known as MASH) and Youth Justice Service (YJS) ensuring the EWS is in a position to support vulnerable pupils without delay. The team has strong partnership working across the borough with partner agencies.

The EWS also works to ensure that children and young people are only removed from roll appropriately. The use of the 'intention to off roll form' provides an oversight of reasons as to why schools are removing children from roll and allows each request to be reviewed by a member of the EWS, ensuring schools have completed all the necessary investigations before attempting to remove a child from roll.

Monthly Children not in school (CNIS) meetings take place, where the Director of Education has oversight of CME and Children Missing out on Education (CMOE), ensuring 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.

Work is under way to develop an online form to further improve the timeliness of communications and it is anticipated that these can be introduced in September 2023. The updates provide a more specific line of questioning for schools which will need to specify clearly the reason for the removal of any pupil from roll. The service will launch this alongside updated webpages and information.

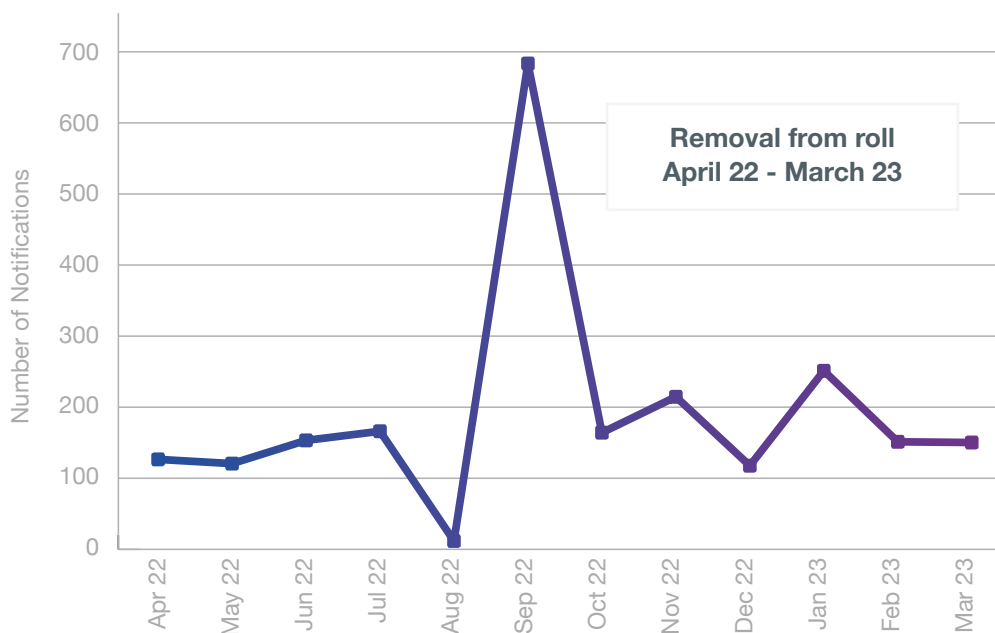
Whilst robust referral and tracking procedures are in place, children continue to leave the borough without a known destination. These cases are tracked, and all reasonable efforts are made by the EWS and CME Officer to trace the family.

From April 2022 to March 2023, the EWS received 442 CME referrals, this is nearly double the previous year's total of 288 referrals. Referrals are received from out of borough schools, health, housing and other agencies.



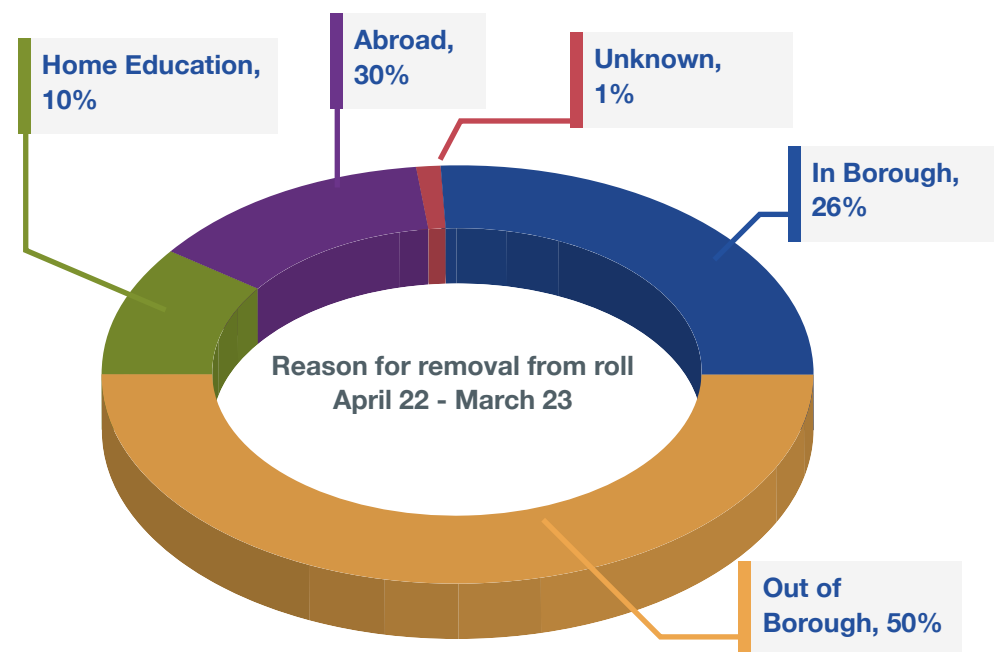
Outcomes for CME Referrals from Outside Agencies

The Education Welfare Service received 2,337 'Intention to Remove from Roll' notification forms from schools between April 2022 and March 2023. This is a similar figure to the year before. The consistency of schools completing these forms varies; the forms have been simplified in an effort to encourage more schools to comply. Where schools are found not to have completed the forms, appropriate challenge is made and training where necessary to help ensure compliance. The following chart plots this data showing totals of notification each month.



As with previous years the data shows a significant spike of 691 referrals received within in September, this equates to 29.5% of the total referrals received. This is an increase from the previous year when 25% of referrals was received in September 2021. This peak correlates with the start of the school year.

This spike places additional pressure on the resources within the EWS, as whilst some removals from roll requests provide details of new schools and no further action is needed, this is not the case with all referrals and officers need to chase down the onward school information.



The above chart provides insight to the reasons behind the requests to off-roll a student. As with previous years, 50% of the requests received relate to the family moving out of borough, where applications in the new borough have yet to be made. Referrals to the relevant borough are made to ensure families are tracked and where required, families are supported to complete applications. Not all families are located and after both schools and the EWS have completed necessary checks, they may be removed from roll and referred to the CME officer to try and establish their whereabouts.



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 of harm/risk of harm 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, fair and proportionate 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.

The permanent appointment of a LADO Business Support Officer continues to provide invaluable support by way of maintaining an effective tracker, minuting Allegations against Staff and Volunteers (ASV) Meetings and facilitating a seamless transition from Care First to Liquid Logic in relation to LADO specific processes.

Referrals to the LADO have continued to increase this reporting period with 500 contacts being made, compared to 437 the previous reporting year. Out of those contacts: 212 met threshold for LADO Referral and 288 were dealt with as LADO Consultations. There were 2 Criminal Convictions made during this reporting period. There have been 14 DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) and TRA (Teaching Regulatory Agency) referrals advised. The increase is attributable to improved guidance to schools concerning transferable risk and some high-profile cases that saw multiple referrals concerning an individual organisation.

The LADO has worked closely with regulatory agencies namely Ofsted, NHS England, DBS, TRA, Church Diocese and Sporting regulatory bodies, i.e. The Football Association, Swim England, British Gymnastics etc. The LADO has continued to seek to provide information and learning to all partners with virtual quarterly training sessions, and evening training sessions specifically targeted to Early Years Provision who are often unable to attend daytime training. This raises 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. Over the last year the ESO has attended the MASH daily briefing meetings twice weekly to support the triangulation of information about young people and schools being reported to the MASH.





Learning & Improvement



ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

THE PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNICATION

SAFEGUARDING CONTEXT IN BROMLEY

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.

IMPACT

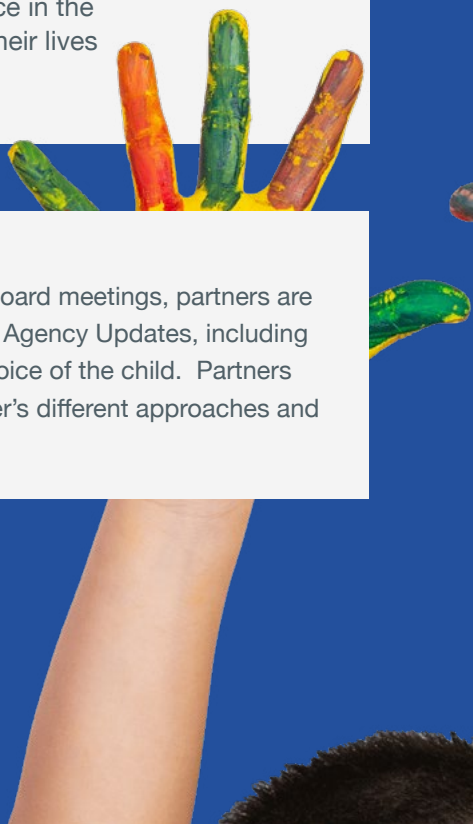
At quarterly BSCP Board meetings, partners are requested to submit Agency Updates, including how they seek the voice of the child. Partners learn from each other's different approaches and case studies.

LBB's engagement activities are used to improve their approach, understanding or method of implementing a service or identifying needs. They have conducted the following engagement activities:

- Brightspots survey, in partnership with Coram Voice, which asks Bromley's children in care and those who have previously experienced being in care about their experiences, thoughts and feedback.
- Special educational needs and disability 'Make Yourself Heard' transition workshops attended by teenagers from Bromley special schools.
- Integrated Therapies programme where CSC engaged with the Youth Council, Living in Care Council and pupils at Darrick Wood school.
- 'Design Your Life' activity which informed the development of the 0-25 Integrated Service and Preparing for Adulthood services.
- Local Offer website captures the views of families who are using the site.
- Youth Council members carried out mystery shopping activity to consider if the Youth Justice Service building is welcoming and meets young people's needs.

LBB has a number of formal structures in place to bring together groups of people who share a similar characteristic to give them a platform to share their experiences and life stories. This helps to improve the local area for everyone. This includes:

- Children in Care Council for those in living care – known as LINCC (Living in Care Council) – which is supported by the Active Involvement Team.
- Care Leavers Forum for those who have previously experienced being in care – known as CFCL (Change for Care Leavers) – which is supported by the Active Involvement Team.





- Food 4 Thought programme for teenagers and young people aged 17 and over who are in care or who have previously experienced being in care which is supported by the Active Involvement Team.
- The elected School Councils which feed into the elected Youth Council of teenagers across the borough which is supported by the Youth Service.
- Representation on our Council scrutiny committees, including Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee, which is supported by our Youth Service and our Democratic Services.
- The Down Syndrome Task and Finish Group is jointly chaired by a parent and our Head of Service: 0- 25 Service with representatives from the local community.

Bromley Healthcare practitioners, working alongside children and young people, utilise tools and skills to gain insight into the views, wishes and feelings and daily-lived experiences of children as much as possible. Each service has its own way of capturing this and is embedded in all our Electronic EMIS templates for each service. Those working with children and their families (0-4) use the family health needs assessment which focuses on the needs of all the family and the impact of any safeguarding on the child to support discussions about what early interventions can help support the child. The 'All About' Me' health assessment template aims to capture the child's perspective regarding their health, wellbeing and safety. All About Me has helped facilitate discussion so the practitioner has a good understanding of the child's needs and can offer appropriate support to improve outcomes. The questionnaire has also facilitated discussions around topics children and young people find more difficult to discuss such as sexual health and substance misuse and has led to safeguarding disclosures. In Hollybank, BHC's short break respite care service, children and young people are asked a question about every stay using emoji's or counters to indicate their views.

Bromley Y continues to make sure the voices of children, young people and their parents/carers are listened to, and their needs are at the centre of everything that they do. This work has been linked with the Get Real Change development with feedback being requested about the integrated Single Point of Access and access into services. They have also extended the Youth Ambassador roles for a further 6 months so they can continue to gather the views of young people and make sure young people's voices are heard. The focus going forward will be on in reach into the community and improving access to marginalised groups. A current youth ambassador is a care leaver so has lived experience.

Police continue to run the 'Every Child Every Time' programme in custody suites at Bromley and Croydon. This aims to improve officers' awareness of vulnerabilities when dealing with children in custody and to encourage "the voice of the child". This is further supported by posters in and around police stations and in custody, as well as prompt cards for all officers. Performance around this is monitored at the daily safeguarding meetings and weekly SLT meetings.

Peer advocacy has been developed through commissioning of Youth Ink which has also supported children's attendance and contribution to the Youth Justice Service Executive Board.





REVIEWS OF PRACTICE

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) 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 CSPR 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 CSPRs. 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 CSPR 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 2022/23, the SPR Subgroup:

- Undertook a Rapid Review relating to a newborn baby who died at birth due to complications associated with maternal uncontrolled diabetes
- Undertook a Rapid Review regarding sibling child sexual abuse
- Completed a Thematic Study on a child's journey through custody (Patrick)
- Held a joint table-top review with the Adults Safeguarding Partners regarding the maternal uncontrolled diabetes (leading on from the Rapid Review above). This focussed on transitional safeguarding between Children's and Adults Services

The learning from the Patrick Thematic Study includes: the impact of permanent school exclusion on a child, adultification of children in the criminal justice system, the importance of having a high level of professional curiosity for children placed in the secure estate and to understand the child's lived experience, assessment of behaviour of children looked after in secure settings, ensuring young people have sufficient support to rehabilitate into the community and are able to cope with semi-independent living, ensure children in secure estate gain access to the education they need, address the barriers for children in care or in secure estate to access mental health support, ensure access to advocacy.

Recommendations and learning from local reviews are monitored at the PCI Subgroup. Other learning this year includes:

- Need for advocacy and support outside statutory services
- Consideration of a 'vulnerable panel' from children's to adult's services for those without SEND
- Raising awareness of the significance of housing issues for young people
- Impact of uncontrolled diabetes and its link with safeguarding
- Professional awareness of impact of trauma/abuse on executive function ([watch our video for learning summary](#))
- Understanding of mental capacity and what this means for safeguarding professionals
- When parents use private therapies and alternative healthcare, it is difficult for professionals to have oversight what is being provided.

Access to published serious case and learning reviews can be found at www.bromleysafeguarding.org – [Training and Resources](#).





AUDITING

Safeguarding Self-Assessments (Section 11 audits)

Safeguarding Self-Assessments are issued by the Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) to safeguarding partners and relevant agencies in Bromley. They replace the Section 11 and Section 157/175 audits and are a key part of our local arrangements. Under Section 16G of the Children Act 2004, relevant agencies must act in accordance with the BSCP's arrangements. They can help organisations focus on what matters most and improve the sufficiency of their safeguarding practice.

This year, the BSCP required 23 agencies/sectors to complete a self-assessment – including Children's Social Care, Education, Health organisations, Bromley Drug and Alcohol Service, Police and Probation, using an online system (Formsite) which had been tested with partners. Individual schools and early years settings completed bespoke self-assessments in late 2021- 22 and these have been analysed separately. Analysis was undertaken of the (Section 11) results to identify common themes and areas needing improvement or further support. Overall, agencies are meeting requirements relating safeguarding roles and responsibilities, training and induction, child protection policies, staff roles, recruitment, code of ethics/behaviour and rights of children and young people. Where a standard was met or partially met, the assessment required agencies to generate an action which automatically populated an action plan. Staff training on extra familial harm was an area for development as was seeking the views of children and young people about safeguarding.

Multi-Agency Audits – Extra-familial Harm

In January 2023, the BSCP carried out a multi-agency audit on the theme of extra-familial harm and how Bromley partners are able to best prevent and respond to the factors behind the risks this poses to young people in the Borough. The audit focussed on 6 young people who were stabbed during the summer 2022.

The BSCP held a multi-agency workshop on 25th January to explore the learning from the audits. Partners came together from CSC, Schools, Police, Youth Service, Community Healthcare, Probation, Drug and Alcohol Service and Housing. The learning included: information sharing; collecting and analysing information; resource differentials across the partnership; and effective methods of engaging with young people at risk of extra-familial harm.

The audit reinforced across the partnership an objective to maximise and strengthen the umbrella of early help support across Bromley from a prevention of future risk and harm perspective. An Early Help Governance Board will be established and the significance across the partnership of the long-term impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences was considered.

FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) Pathway Audits

Following our Learning Review 'Natalie', the BSCP wanted to seek assurance that FGM recording was accurate and shared appropriately from Midwifery to the relevant primary care services. In November 2022, we reaudited this pathway following weaknesses identified in an earlier audit. Many issues had been resolved and the BSCP was assured of accurate and appropriate information sharing from Maternity Services to Health Visitor Services. However, challenges remain with recording in GP case files. The Named GP for Safeguarding Children has organised some training sessions for Practice Leads on the FGM-IS system in early 2023 and the neonatal discharge letters are being reviewed again with key professionals to consider if the family history of FGM can be made more prominent in the antenatal and obstetric discharge letters.



Single Agency Audits

Partners have their own internal audit programmes and report the key findings at the Performance, Challenge and Impact (PCI) subgroup. This year, we looked at the findings of Metropolitan Police Service audits which have included children in our BCU who are arrested, children taken into police protection, and missing children and considered the impact of the BCU's Every Child Every Time (ECET) programme. Agencies also shared findings from their safeguarding supervision audits, information sharing audits (CSC to GPs), audits on quality of referrals made from their own organisations to MASH and audits of what own agencies did where a referral did not meet S47 threshold. These findings were shared with partners in the PCI subgroup.

Following the online completion of safeguarding self-assessments by education settings, the Education Safeguarding officer conducted site visits to check assessments were accurate and to give support where there were weaknesses. This monitoring, spot checking, and support model was mirrored by the Early Years Quality Team following the submission of 264 self-assessments from the early years sector. Action plans for each sector were shared at PCI in May 2022 and are monitored and updated by the relevant local authority specialist safeguarding officer.





The Child Death Overview Panel



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

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).

Bromley Child Deaths 2022/23

- There were 17 child deaths (Female 6: Male 11) this year, compared to 11 child deaths in the 2021/22.
- The number of deaths in the first month of life was 9.
- The number of deaths of children more than a month old and less than a year old was 2.
- The number of deaths of children in Bromley is very variable due to death being a rare event.
- If stillbirths and infant (neonatal) deaths are monitored together this shows variable rates in Bromley but overall lower than the national and London rates.
- All perinatal mortality rates are still lower than England and London rates. However the Bromley rates are rising whereas those in London and England have decreased slightly.
- The trend in deaths of older children is downward, again mirroring the rates in London and England





Comparison Bromley deaths 2008-2023 with death rates in England, 2021/22

Category of death	Bromley 14 years average 2008-2023(%)	All child deaths England 2021/22*(%)
Deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect	1	2
Suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm	3	4
Trauma and other external factors	9	4
Malignancy	8	8
Acute medical or surgical condition	8	6
Chronic medical condition	8	5
Chromosomal/ genetic/ congenital anomaly	20	25
Perinatal/ neonatal event	34	31
Infection	1	6
Sudden unexpected, unexplained death	9	8

*Source: National Child Mortality Database

This comparative data shows some differences between pooled data over 14 years of child deaths in Bromley and the national data. Even with pooling of data the numbers are too small for the differences to be statistically significant. However, this process is useful for indicating where there may be differences between national and local patterns of child death.

Suicides of 18-25 year olds

BSCP has monitored suicides of young adults following learning at a transitional safeguarding tabletop session in 2021. There were two suicides in this age group in 2022-23. Both cases were considered at the BSCP Safeguarding Review Subgroup. In the case of the 25-year-old, the subgroup was assured that appropriate safety plans had been put in place for the younger siblings whilst the young adult was particularly unwell.

A care leaver aged 21 years was killed in a neighbouring borough in November 2022 in a seemingly unprovoked attack by two teenagers. The neighbouring borough is conducting a Child Safeguarding Practice Review.



Training & Development



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The BSCP training programme consists of the following elements: online e-learning courses, live learning (formal face to face learning, usually classroom based but sometimes online), and shorter face to face briefings/seminars/workshops and webinars. London Borough of Bromley (LBB)'s Workforce Development Team supports the commissioning and administration of the BSCP training programme with strategic direction provided by the BSCP Training Subgroup.

There continued to be a wide range of multi-agency learning opportunities for the children's workforce in Bromley with 22 different live learning courses provided by the BSCP. The vast majority of it was very well received and had a beneficial impact on practice. 445 people attended a live learning session (422 excluding the bespoke school DSL courses) which is a decrease from last year. 5011 people completed an e-learning course is an increase on last year.





E-Learning

This year Bromley's e-learning package consisted of 22 different courses suitable for the children's workforce. These courses make up the majority of the BSCP Group 1 and 2 (foundation level) training offer. The advantage of online training is that delegates can learn at a time and pace that suits them. BSCP and BSAB pay costs in full so all participants can undertake this training at no cost to them.

5011 people completed online learning modules for children's safeguarding this year. There has been a steady increase in uptake since 2016, with 2020-21 seeing a huge increase during lockdowns when no other training was available, since then we have maintained over 5000 completed courses per year.

Participants on the Safeguarding Children Level 1 this year included sports coaches, Mindful Mums volunteers, mentors, chefs, a musical theatre teacher, refuge staff, exam invigilators and staff from semi-independent living accommodation. 515 people were from the voluntary sector which is excellent as we aim to reach as many workers and volunteers as possible to teach 'safeguarding is everybody's business'. It is reassuring to see that the Safeguarding Children level 1 course continues to have the highest take up with 1288 people completing it this year.

The use of e-learning is particularly important for those in the children's workforce who struggle to attend daytime live learning sessions. 962 Early Years staff completed e-learning this year, as did 128 foster carers. This is an excellent take up.

Courses offered this year included: Autism Awareness, Child Exploitation, Gangs and Youth Violence, Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery, Safeguarding Children with Disabilities, and Unconscious Bias.

E-Learning Course Name	No. of people completed	% of total attendees completing this specific course
Autism Awareness	236	4.71%
Child Sex Exploitation Level 1 & 2	71	1.41%
Date Protection Law, Definitions and Principles	128	2.55%
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	80	1.60%
Domestic Abuse	145	2.89%
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	419	8.36%
Gangs and Youth Violence	106	2.11%
Gypsy and Traveller Cultural Awareness	149	2.97%
Hate Crime	81	1.62%
Honour Based Violence & Forced Marriage	59	1.18%
Human Trafficking & Modern Day Slavery	56	1.12%
Information Sharing and Consent	94	1.88%
Multi-Agency Working	72	1.44%
Online Safety - Risks to Children	169	3.37%
Online Safety for Parents and Carers	55	1.10%
Safeguarding against Radicalisation: the Prevent Duty	564	11.26%
Safeguarding Awareness	156	3.11%
Safeguarding Children Level 1	1288	25.70%
Safeguarding Children Level 2	402	8.02%
Safeguarding Children with Disabilities	232	4.63%
Suicide Awareness	109	2.18%
Unconscious Bias	340	6.79%
Total	5011	100.00%

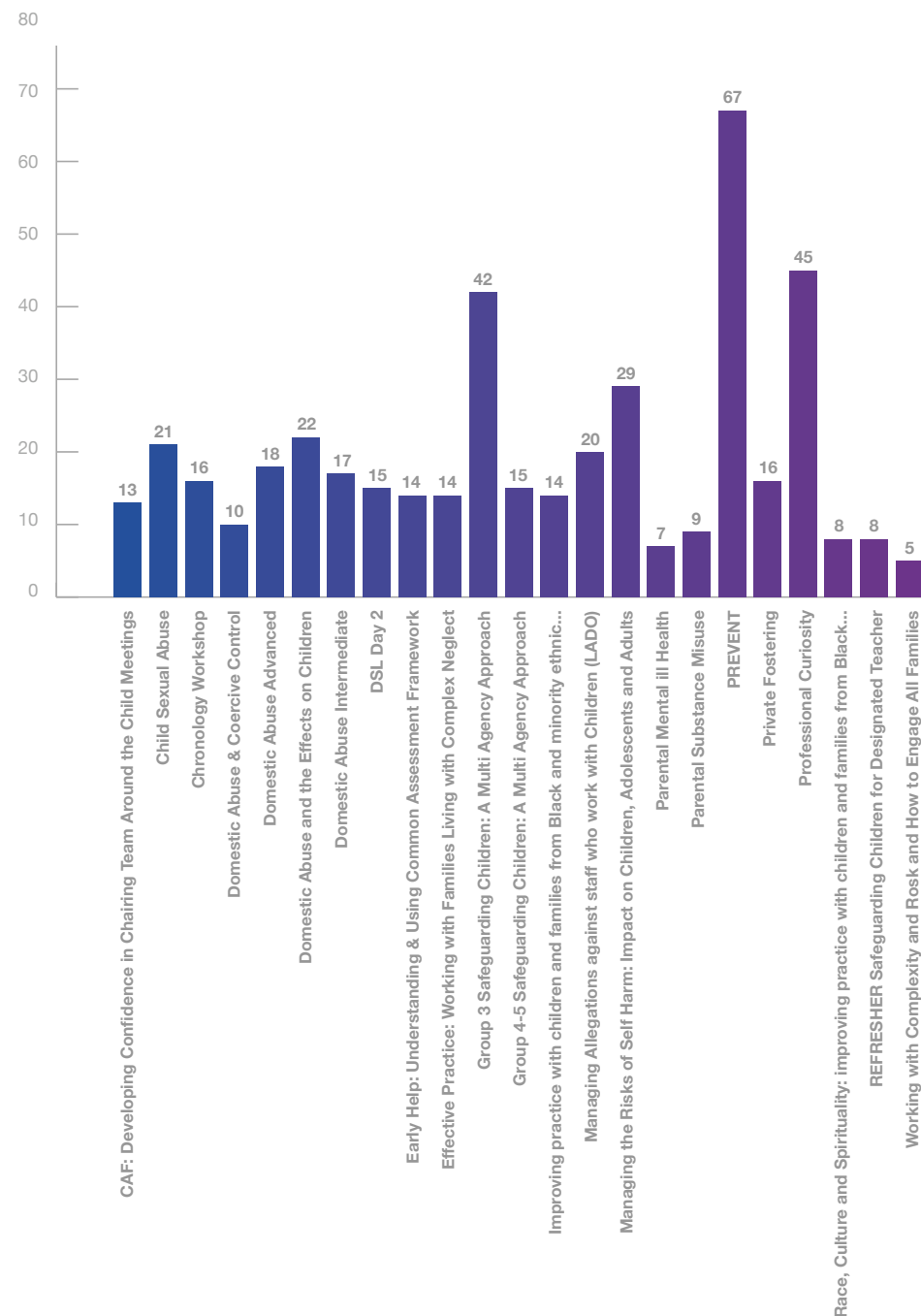
Live Learning

For all the benefits of online pre-recorded training, not all training can take place in short informal sessions, and it is important for all staff to have some protected time for formal multi-agency training where they have a safe space to reflect on their own practice, share experiences with other members of the Bromley children's workforce and learn from each other. The BSCP promotes that partner agencies ensure a balance and BSCP provides opportunities for different types of learning every year.

In 2022-23, we ran 23 classroom-based learning courses, including the two Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) courses that we commission on behalf of schools. Our courses range from half a day to two days' duration and comprise our formal multi-agency training offer. These were attended by a total of 445 people across the different agencies. The table below shows the attendance at each course. Prevent and Group 3 remain the most popular, however, there was a significant decrease in staff attending PREVENT training this year with 67 completing the course (compared to 184 last year). Further analysis will be conducted to ascertain the reason.

Single agency safeguarding training continues to be mandatory for most agencies and covers a broad range of issues. Staff are strongly encouraged to complete some multi-agency training as well as their own agency training every year.

In addition to our own BSCP multi-agency live learning, this year we also encouraged attendance at some regionally commissioned live learning organised by London Safeguarding Children Partnership. This included courses on gaming and gambling harms in children and young people run by Ygam, Suicide Prevention Training run by Papyrus, Child Exploitation run by the Metropolitan Police Service's Modern Slavery and Child Exploitation Central (MSCE) training team, Talking to Young people about Mental Health run by Kooth and courses on Modern Day Slavery, NRM referrals and parental mental health. These courses and attendance by Bromley staff are not included in our attendance data since they are not commissioned by the BSCP.





We monitor attendance by agency at every course as it is important that training is multi-agency to improve the learning experience. London Borough of Bromley (LBB) accounts for the largest percentage/number of attendees with 85%. This included staff from across the council including Adult Services, Education, Housing, HR, Legal, Public Health, Commissioning, Youth Support, Youth Offending with the majority of places taken by Children's Social Care staff and Early Intervention. Many specialist teaching staff are LBB employees and therefore count in this total. The proportion of our training being taken up by LBB staff has increased considerably since 2019. The Training Subgroup has analysed this. We believe that the increase in LBB staff is due to a number of factors including: the sheer number of employees within the council whose sole priority is safeguarding children, the increased promotion from LBB's Learning and Development team who send very regular emails to all staff and some reluctance from other agencies to use Evolve to book on to our training (LBB employees have a simpler single sign on to Evolve so don't need to register for an account). We have trialled a few months of allowing telephone and email bookings to test if this improves uptake from partner agencies.

Education establishments account for 12% of attendances which is the same as last year. School staff attend a very wide range of BSCP multi-agency courses, including child sexual abuse, Group 3, CAF and professional curiosity courses. We would like to see more education staff attending the courses on self-harm, parental mental health and Race/Culture and will continue to promote these.

9% of attendances at live learning courses were by health professionals which is 3% higher than last year. The 'Other Health Professionals' category included staff in the Bromley Community Wellbeing Service (Bromley Y) and SELICS (formerly CCG). Bromley Y has sent 15 staff to multi-agency training this year.

One foster carer attended our multi-agency training this year. A very comprehensive programme of accredited training for foster carers is in place

from London Borough of Bromley but the BSCP programme is available to them at no charge and the LBB Fostering Team continue to promote BSCP training.

No members of the police attended a multi-agency live learning course this year. This ongoing low level of engagement in multi-agency safeguarding training remains a concern.

Early Years staff accounted for 21 places on the BSCP commissioned multi-agency courses. It is a known factor that early years staff can usually only attend training in the evenings and weekends. Separate safeguarding training is delivered by specialist LBB Education for early years staff which is evaluated separately and this can be obtained from the BSCP Team and in the detailed Training Evaluation report 2022-23. Training sessions are delivered to designated leads in early years settings, childminders, staff in nurseries and out of school provision and take-up exceeds 900 this year. Some BSCP courses have been delivered in the evenings solely to early years practitioners and the uptake is excellent. For example, the Managing Allegations Against Professionals was delivered by the LADO to 333 early years staff in four webinar sessions.

Last year, together with the Bromley Adult Safeguarding Board, we increased our learning offer to address domestic abuse, with four different live learning courses. We have continued that commitment in 2022-23 and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The 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.

Briefings and Seminars

Attendee numbers for these less formal sessions are not counted within the figures given above as they are commissioned outside the BSCP, however, they are a vital source of learning for partners.





The half day Multi Agency Partnership Events (MAPE) commissioned by London Borough Bromley in partnership with key partners which started in 2017 are highly evaluated and continue to be a welcome contribution to multi-agency training. MAPE covers: Bromley's thresholds of needs; what services are available for families; key safeguarding pathways; and summarises how other partners' work. These sessions are perfect for workers who are new to Bromley or in a new role.

The Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children ran briefing sessions for various sectors this year, including on Strategy Discussions, Child Protection Medicals, Bruising and injuries in Non-Mobile Babies, Perplexing Presentations/FII and Child Sexual Abuse. The attendee numbers are not included in this analysis. These were short 1-2 hour briefing sessions without follow up evaluations as per our formal training offer.

Impact of Training

The BSCP consistently provides training of a high standard, with course participants agreeing that courses are useful and relevant to their needs. Each course is subject to user evaluation at two points in time – immediately after the course (every participant) and 8 weeks after the course (one session per course).

The Training Subgroup has been provided with the detailed data analysis showing evaluations by course. We have particularly looked at those attendees who answered that they disagreed with the statements or were yet to apply any learning to their practice.

Each BSCP training course is allocated to a member of the Training Subgroup to monitor, dependent on their specialist area. Where a course consistently has a low score, indicating low impact, attendees are contacted to obtain more specific details, which is then fed back to the trainer to amend content or delivery. Poor evaluations can lead to unsatisfactory trainers being replaced or courses decommissioned. Furthermore, certificates can be withheld if individuals do not apply the training and the BSCP also expects that this is followed up by supervisors and line managers during supervision. All trainers are required to submit an evaluation form to evaluate how well the course went. Questions include how relevant the course was to the experience of the delegates and whether any organisational issues emerged during the training. Forms are submitted to and followed up by the Chair of the Training Subgroup. The Training Subgroup routinely analyses evaluation data and also carries out observations of courses to ensure quality and impact.

Courses are amended during the year by trainers in agreement with BSCP to reflect learning from evaluations, new developments (for instance the introduction of a new policy or guidance) and learning from new reviews. Our trainers continue to be accommodating and receptive to these amendments.

A detailed analysis of training, learning and development can be found in the Training Evaluation Report 22-23 which is available from the [BSCP Team](#) or members of the Training Subgroup.



Progress against the Bromley Pledge



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BSCP VISION:

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

The Executive 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?

- Included health and wellbeing of workforce in BSCP Strategic Threat Assessments
- Reviewed health and wellbeing of the workforce in quarterly updates of the BSCP Risk Register
- Retained Health and Wellbeing of the Workforce as a cross cutting priority of the InterBoard Chairs Group





Understanding Vulnerability

What did we do?

- Identified current pathways to harm, risks and recommendations were included in Strategic Threat Assessments.
- Carried out a multi-agency audit on the theme of extra-familial harm and how Bromley partners are able to best prevent and respond to the factors behind the risks this poses to young people in the Borough
- Included the impact of cost of living at each Board meeting so that partners could share trends, themes and patterns and signpost each other to advice and support for families
- Developed the Perplexing Presentation and Fabricated Induced Illness (FI) Guidance as well as the Discharge and Safety Planning Protocol for Children and Young People Who Present & Require Multi-Agency Response to Address Their Safeguarding and Mental Health Needs when Presented to the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH)
- Audited the FGM pathway from maternity to primary care in both June and November 2022
- Scrutinised the SHEU survey (Schools Health Education Unit) results of Bromley Year 10 pupils to understand emerging safeguarding concerns such as worse outcomes for young carers and the LGBTQ+ community
- Scrutinised an audit of Bromley children with disabilities and complex health needs placed in residential settings to provide assurance to partners, following the national review

A Focus on Getting the Basics Right

What did we do?

- Monitored recommendations that came out of the review of MASH capacity and capability, via the C&F Hub (previously MASH) Strategic Group and made changes to the 'front door'
- Reviewed our expectations for Strategy Meetings/Discussions and worked on a new Protocol with improved forms, contact lists and guidance
- Reviewed and republished our Threshold of Needs Guidance using the pan London indicators to improve cross borough working and transfers
- Revised and relaunched the BSCP multi-agency Neglect Strategy and Toolkit
- The Independent Chair held a BSCP Board focus session, challenging partners on the progress they have made relating to active anti-racism and adultification including awareness raising/training. This included analysis of the learning from the Child Q Safeguarding Practice Review.
- Reviewed the multi-agency response to sexual harassment and abuse of learners – emerging practice

Continuous Improvement

What did we do?

- Required 23 agencies/sectors to complete the BSCP on-line safeguarding self-assessment tool to help safeguarding partners review their evidence more effectively and enable them to develop action plans
- Completed a Thematic Study on a child's journey through custody
- Undertook a Rapid Review relating to a newborn baby who died at birth due to complications associated with maternal uncontrolled diabetes
- Undertook a Rapid Review regarding sibling child sexual abuse and agreed a Safeguarding Practice Review
- Held a joint table-top review with the Adults Safeguarding Partners which focussed on transitional safeguarding between Children's and Adults Services
- Scrutinised single agency audits
- Scrutinised the multi-agency dataset every quarter with subsequent challenges. There was additional focus on CAMHS waiting times, and increased demand and caseloads across the partnership
- Undertook challenge, escalation and resolution of operational issues such as Strategy Discussions, hospital discharges following a mental health crisis presentation and MARAC co-ordination.
- Undertook the recommissioning of the multi-agency training programme - ensuring our training programme reflected training needs, which included commissioning additional domestic abuse courses.





Technology & Social Media



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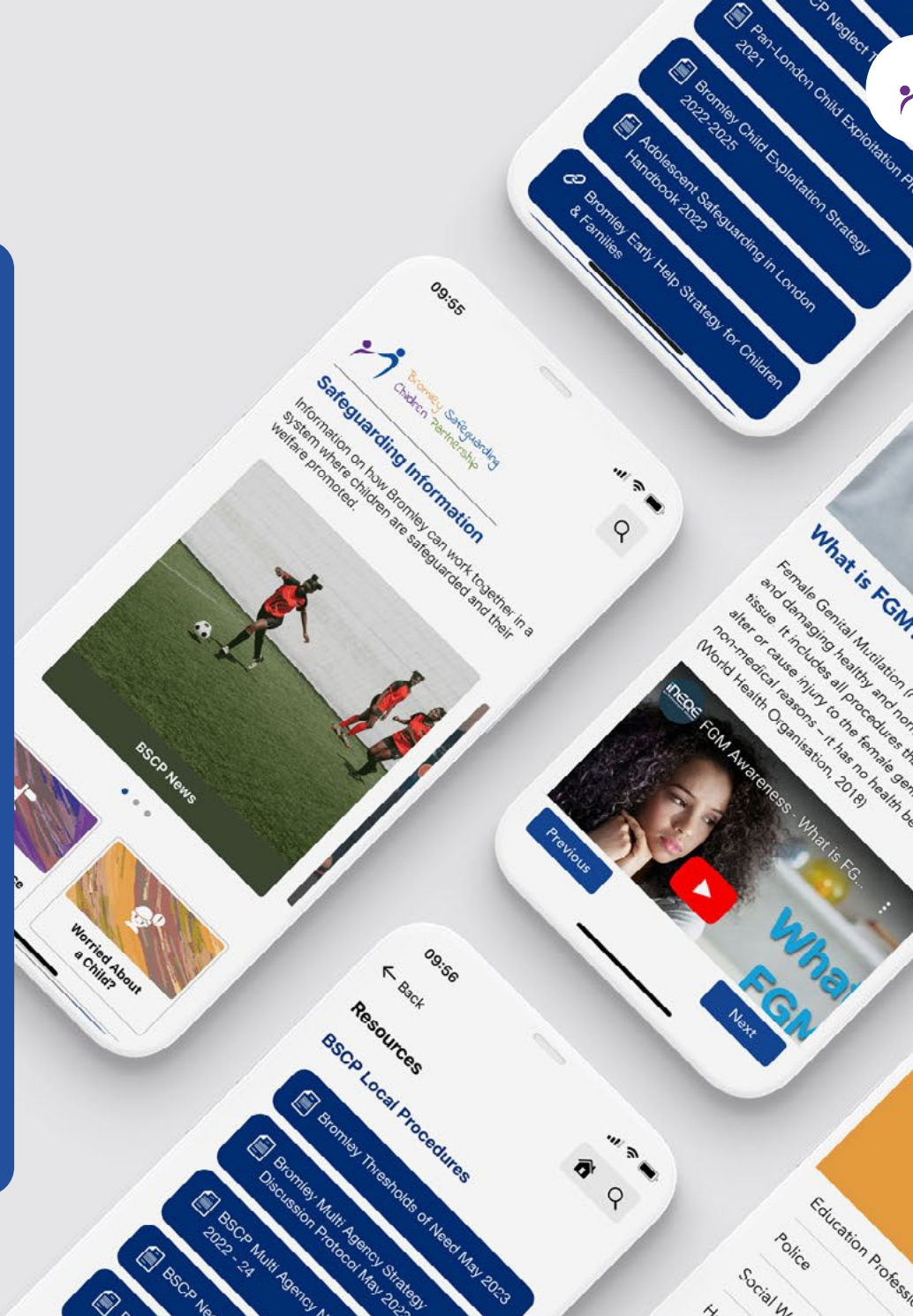
BSCP MEMBERSHIP



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

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

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





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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 Children and Families Hub 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/carer



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 2022)
- You see children more than any other profession and develop some of the most meaningful relationships with them



INTEGRATED CARE BOARDS

- ICBs 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





BSCP Membership



ABOUT THE
ANNUAL REPORT

GLOSSARY OF
TERMS

THE PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNICATION

SAFEGUARDING
CONTEXT IN
BROMLEY

LEARNING &
IMPROVEMENT

THE CHILD DEATH
OVERVIEW PANEL

TRAINING &
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PLEDGE

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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 (as at May 2023)

Gill Allen	Director, Bromley Y
Richard Baldwin	Director Children's Social Care, LBB
Angela Bhan	Director (Bromley) South East London Integrated Care Board
Samantha Britnell	Bromley CFVSF Operations Manager (third sector)
Kim Carey	Interim Director, Adult Social Care, LBB
Debbie Carter	Interim Head of Safeguarding, Bromley Colleges
Lynnette Chamielec	Deputy Director Housing, LBB
David Dare	Assistant Director Children's Social Care, LBB
Emily Duignan	Service Manager, Change, Grow, Live
Stuart Hills	Head of Service Quality Assurance, LBB
Louise Jones	Service Manager, Cafcass
Zoe Lane	Head of Nursing, Safeguarding Children, Kings College Hospital
Marina Laurie	Lay Member
Cllr Kate Lymer	Portfolio Holder, Care Services & Education

Fiona Martin	Detective/Superintendent, South BCU (Metropolitan Police Service)
Betty McDonald	Head of Youth Offending Service, LBB
Jared Nehra	Director of Education, LBB
David Osoba	Designated Dr, South East London Integrated Care Board
Elizabeth Quayle	Crofton Junior School, Chair of ESAC
Rebecca Saunders / Lynda Bartlett	Designated Nurse, South East London Integrated Care Board
Jenny Selway	Consultant in Public Health, Public Health, LBB
Geraldine Shackleton	Primary Education Director, Aquinas Trust
Heather Payne	Associate Director of Safeguarding, Bromley Healthcare
Lucien Spencer	Head of Service, National Probation Service
Antoinette Thorne	Learning and Development Manager, LBB & BSCB Training Subgroup Chair
Jane Wells	Director of Nursing and Safeguarding, Oxleas NHS Trust

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Bromley
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership

Seen | Heard | Helped
www.bromleysafeguarding.org