



# **Annual Report 2018 – 2019**

**and**

# **Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021**

## Chair's Foreword



Welcome to this year's Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

It has been my privilege to have been acting chair for much of this year and I will start by paying tribute to Robert Lake who provided excellent leadership to both this and the adult's board during his time as chair. I and the whole Board thank him and wish him well.

It is clear from the size and scope of this report that safeguarding children is a massive area of work for a wide range of partners, and a task of the utmost importance to children, families and the workers who support them. The LSCB has a long and excellent tradition of working together to assure and improve practice, direct strategy and achieve the best possible outcomes, always within very constrained resources. We can take pride in our achievements – both children's services and the LSCB itself were rated as "good" by Ofsted under their 'SIF' framework in 2017 and a positive Ofsted/Care Quality Commission (CQC) Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Inspection in 2019 further celebrates the strengths of local multi-agency working and our determination to do the best we can for children and young people. This is a truly impressive result in such a pressurised time, seldom obtained across England, and a great credit to the skill and commitment of front-line workers and managers throughout the system here.

But of course we can never be fully satisfied and we can never take our collective feet off the pedal - for two reasons. Firstly, when we are dealing with children and young people suffering from neglect, abuse, exploitation or the consequences of poor home circumstances, there can never be an "acceptable" level to such suffering, at individual or community level, and we can never imagine that we have done enough to fully compensate for such disadvantage. Needs will always outstrip resources, especially when our public services have been subjected to such significant savings. Therefore even if our services meet all agreed standards we will always try to do better. And secondly, the pressures on, and the threats to, children and young people's physical, mental and social wellbeing seem to multiply, with new threats identified year on year and greater numbers of children and families manifesting need in different ways. You can read in the report the many achievements across the whole safeguarding spectrum. You will also see that this will be the last report written under the auspices of the LSCB, as the governance structure of safeguarding, and community safety, has been redesigned to meet changes to national policy and to be more integrated and streamlined.

This will bring challenges to all of us in managing change, while not losing ground in maintaining and improving the essential safeguarding functions. But knowing the wide range of skills of board members, and the organisations that they represent, and their exceptional commitment to the children and young people of Bath and North East Somerset, I am confident that we will continue to uphold the standards that we have set this year.

I commend this report to you, and particularly suggest that you read through the executive summary which is concise and gives a good overview of the scope and highlights of the year's work.

If you have any comments that you would like the board to see please write to me at [bruce\\_laurence@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:bruce_laurence@bathnes.gov.uk)



Bruce Laurence Interim Chair

Bath & North East Somerset LSCB



**Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility**

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call 01225 396312 or 01225 396313 immediately

## Executive Summary

The LSCB has agreed the Executive Summary of the 2018-19 Annual Report which is published as a separate document including the following areas:

- The role of the LSCB
- The Sub-Groups of the LSCB
- Outcomes
- Engagement with Children & Young People

The Executive summary is available on the LSCB website <http://www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk/>



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## Section 1: Local Context for B&NES 2018 - 19

- 1.1 Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) is a Unitary Authority with 188,678 residents. According to the 2017 ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 16.7% (31,489) of the population are 15 years or under, and 6% (11,444) are 16 - 19 year olds. B&NES has two campus based universities in the Local Authority area which effects the 18-24 population.
- 1.2 The area has a predominantly White and White British ethnic population, with 95% defining themselves as such. The largest minority ethnic groups in the area are those who define themselves as mixed heritage (2%) and Black (1%). 9.6% of children under 18 are from BME communities.
- 1.3 Bath is the largest urban settlement in the area, acting as the commercial and recreational centre. It is home to approximately 50% of the population and is one of the few cities in the world to be named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Keynsham lies to the west of Bath, a traditional market town with a population of almost 9% of the total population of B&NES. Midsomer Norton and Radstock are small historic market towns, located in the south of the area with approximately 6% of the total population split between them. They both have a strong heritage of mining and industry stemming from the North Somerset Coalfield. The rest of the district consists of 69 diverse rural communities of varying sizes and characteristics, including a line of villages along the foothills of the Mendips, the Chew Valley and Cotswolds villages around Bath.
- 1.4 The area has a mix of affluent and deprived areas, with five small areas being in the most deprived 20% nationally according to the 2015 Indices of Deprivation. Nationally, Child Poverty is increasing, though we have no current reliable data on this locally.
- 1.5 As at January 2019 there were 1,277 children and young people with a Statement or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) normally resident in B&NES. Among the 0-19 population, our prevalence rate per 1,000 population of children and young people with a Statement or EHC Plan as at January 2018 remains significantly higher compared to national – 26.8 and 23.2 respectively.
- 1.6 The large majority of pupils in Bath and North East Somerset are taught in 'Good' or 'Outstanding' schools and educational outcomes are broadly in line with or above the national average at most key stages. In some cases attainment in B&NES is the best or amongst the best in the South West, for example the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard at the end of Key Stage 2 is the second best in the South West and attainment at the end of Key Stage 4 is in the top four in the South West. Attainment at Key Stage 5 is high and a higher proportion than national gain the highest grades at A level. Outcomes for Children in Care are above national at all key stages. However the achievement of pupils eligible for Free School Meals is lower than similar pupils nationally at all key stages and the achievement of some Black and Minority Ethnicity (BME) groups is low at some key stages.

## Section 2: Summary Statement: How Safe Are Children and Young People in B&NES

2.1 Throughout 2018-19 B&NES Children's Social Care recorded continued pressures in relation to safeguarding activity. The contact rates continued to be high across the partnership. Partners have continued to focus on the importance of developing early help resources that will prevent the escalation of concerns for many of our vulnerable families. The Early Help Assessment (EHA), related guidance and training materials were re-launched in early 2019: the Early Help Allocations Panel (EHAP) has worked effectively to support an increased number of families that did not meet the statutory social care thresholds. The Head of Safeguarding Outcomes and colleagues re-established the Quarterly Partner Meetings and Children's Social Care have attended the Child Protection Forums. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the work of the Early Help Board have continued to make significant contributions to this agenda. Work took place to review the multi-agency threshold document in 2018/2-19 and the revised documents will be completed in 2019.

Children's Social Care has effectively worked with multi-agency partners to safeguard children, young people and families across B&NES in 2018/2019. A significant number of families have been supported as detailed below:

- **166** number of children supported by Connecting Families. The target is to work with **700** families by 2020 and, at the end of 2018/19, had identified **683** families, all of whom have had an assessment and lead worker.
- **1425** number of children supported by Children in Need (CIN) Services **according to LA definition of CIN**. (1759 – 17/18 – “Children with an episode of need at any point during the year” – DFE definition)
- **272** number of children supported by Child Protection Services (313 – 17/18 – “Number of children on child protection plan at any point during the year” – DFE definition)
- **264** number of children supported by Looked after Children (LAC) Services (229 – 17/18 – “All children looked after during the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March excluding those only looked after during a series of short term placements – DFE definition)
- **1277** number of children supported by an EHC Plan - snapshot of the number of EHCP children as per the census date in January 2019
- During 2018/19, **1,195 referrals** were received by early help targeted support services (please note Q4 data is lower due to a reporting issue with one provider)
- Diagrams 1-17 provide end of year activity for Quarters 4.

Throughout 2018/2019 there was the further development of the Care Leavers Local and the development of Adoption West, the Regional Adoption Agency co-owned by the 6 Local Authorities. Children's Services, along with the CCG and multi-agency partners were judged as effectively implementing the SEND Reforms following the Ofsted/CQC inspection of SEND in B&NES in March 2019. Much work has been undertaken to streamline the strategic approach to exploitation and revised pathways have been reviewed for most of the 6 strands. The Adolescent at Risk Team (ART) has been expanded to have provide specialised support around contextual safeguarding.

2.2 The Number of Common Assessment Framework's (CAF) had fallen over the previous 12 months. The Early Help Assessment tool, guidance and training were relaunched in early 2019.



Early adopters were involved in testing out the new framework and guidance. At the end of quarter 4, 13 early help assessments were completed in the new format.

### 2.3 The LSCB has also:

- a) Further strengthened joint working arrangements between the LSCB and Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) which are now embedded in each Strategic Plan and the continued work of the joint Communications sub-group and joint training & development sub group.
- b) The Professional Practice sub group (PPG) has continued to audit and scrutinise the work and decision making of all agencies involved in safeguarding decision making. In the past year the group has been able to challenge how agencies are working to prevent and reduce drift in safeguarding cases as well as challenging practice in relation to decision-making at Initial Child Protection Conferences. The Board has taken very seriously the challenges in regard to preventing some of the drift identified by the PPG in some of this audit activity.
- c) The LSCB has continued to support the work of the Willow Project and continues to fund the work of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) consultant who has greatly assisted in the development of the project as well as playing an instrumental role in providing training and updating the CSE Strategy and Action Plans into an overarching Youth @ Risk Strategy covering all exploitation which will be launched in 2019/20.
- d) The LSCB has continued to undertake work on the two Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) that were commissioned two years ago, one in relation to a young baby and the other for young people who were involved in Operation Button, the follow up investigation to the convictions made in August 2016 of a number of men who had been charged with offences relating to concerns of Child Sexual Exploitation. We anticipate that both of these will now be published in 2019/20. The SCR sub group has also completed Learning Reviews for cases that did not meet the threshold for an SCR. Finally with changes in legislation through Working Together 2018 and the SCR process, the SCR group has undertaken one 15 day rapid review into a case involving a stabbing. The National Panel agreed with the recommendation that this did not meet the threshold and, the SCR group is overseeing an action plan as a result.
- e) The LSCB has continued to update and revise a range of key policies and guidance to ensure that the Board continues to be informed through documents that remain up to date and relevant to emerging priorities. In the past twelve months the Board has endorsed and revised a range of documents some of which include the Bruising in Children Protocol, Youth @ Risk Strategy, Revised Information Sharing Protocol, Managing Allegations Protocol, Neglect Toolkit, Revised LSAB & LSCB Escalation Protocol, B&NES Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018, the Board Assurance Framework, and LSCB and LSAB Communications and Media Protocol.
- f) Robert Lake unfortunately had to retire in January 2019 as the Independent Chair due to health issues and Bruce Laurence, the Director of Public Health who was the Deputy Chair has stepped up to chair the LSCB in the interim.
- g) Safeguarding Training we delivered:
  - 72 LSCB training sessions taking place comprising of 25 different courses
  - 11400 Inter-agency training places made available

- 1287 Inter-agency training places booked
- 1124 Inter-agency training places attended
- 797 professionals trained
- On average over 85% completed evaluations and these are demonstrating impact.
- 99 Professionals attended LSCB Stakeholder Day on Neglect
- 9 Single agency training sessions taking place
- 275 E-learning modules started and completed through the Learning Pool

2.4 The LSCB faces a major Challenge/Area for Development in 2019-20:

2.4.1 In last year's report we highlighted the implementation of the Wood Report as one of the key challenges for the Board. Members of the LSCB have actively participated in a regional group which continues to look at future options for all agencies across the Avon and Somerset Police force area in light of the recommendations of the Wood report. This work will continue throughout 2019/20 in order to ensure that we have inter-agency arrangements that ensure we are in-step with the over-arching recommendations of the Wood Report whilst at the same time seeking to protect and build upon the very positive observations that were central to the Ofsted report in May 2017. B&NES Council have also met with their new safeguarding partners the BaNES NHS CGG and Avon and Somerset Constabulary to look at possible new safeguarding arrangements to replace the LSCB from 29 September 2019 in line with Working Together 2018 and the new Statutory Guidance. The overarching view is that the new arrangements should be 'placed based' and focus on B&NES but look to inter agency working across the police area and Clinical commissioning Group (CCG) area looking towards Wiltshire and Swindon. Local plans for the new safeguarding arrangements in B&NES have to be published by 29 June 2019.

## Section 3: Updates on the Legislative and Statutory Framework during 2018 - 19

3.1 This section concentrates on new Acts and key guidance documents which have been published during 2018-19 only.<sup>1</sup> LSCB members receive a monthly digest which includes all newly released reports relevant to the work of the Board and consequently these are not included in this section however they are all available on the LSCB website.

<https://www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk/children/local-safeguarding-children-s-board/11-monthly-safeguarding-updates-lscb>

3.2 The Government Departments published the following statutory guidance:

- ***Working Together to Safeguard Children A guide to inter-agency working to***

<sup>1</sup> An updated list of relevant legislation will be available on the LSCB website which agencies can refer to. Click [here](#)

**safeguard and promote the welfare of children (July 2018)** The guidance covers the legislative requirements placed on individual services to safeguard children. It also sets out:

*‘a framework for the three local safeguarding partners (the local authority; a clinical commissioning group for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority; and the chief officer of police for a police area, any part of which falls within the local authority area) to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children including identifying and responding to their needs*

*the framework for the two child death review partners (the local authority and any clinical commissioning group for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority) to make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area, and if they consider it appropriate, for those not normally resident in the area’ (p6)*

The guidance clearly sets out the new arrangements for the national and local safeguarding practice reviews.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779401/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard-Children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf)

- ***Working Together: transitional guidance Statutory guidance for Local Safeguarding Children Boards, local authorities, safeguarding partners, children death review partners, and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (July 2018)*** The guidance applies across England from 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and expires on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020. It sets out that local authority areas must begin their transition from LSCBs to safeguarding partner and child death review partner arrangements from 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The transition must be complete by 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019. It enables a statutory ‘grace’ period of up to 12 months to complete and publish outstanding Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and up to four months to complete outstanding child death reviews. It also sets out the transitional arrangements which are to be followed for the existing system of SCRs to the new national and local review arrangements

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/722306/Working\\_Together-transitional\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/722306/Working_Together-transitional_guidance.pdf)

- ***Working Together to Safeguard Children: Statutory framework: legislation relevant to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (July 2018)*** This document sets out the legislation which must be read in conjunction with Working Together Statutory Guidance i.e.: Children Act 2004 (Section 10, 11, 16A-16K; 16M-Q); Education Act 1996 (Section 342); Education Act 2002 (Section 175); Education and Skills Act 2008 (section 94 (1) and (2)); Children Act 1989 (Section 17, 27, 38A, 44, 46, 47); Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (and associated *Care Planning, Placements and Case Review Regulations 2010*); Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (Section 1 (8) (h); Childcare Act 2006 (Section 40); Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Section 38); Housing Act 1996 (Section 213A)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/722307/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children\\_Statutory\\_framework.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/722307/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children_Statutory_framework.pdf)

- ***Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulation 2018*** The regulations set out the national review criteria, who the reviewers on the panel can be and how they are appointed and removed and what their powers.
- ***Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance (England) Oct 2018***  
The guidance sets out what a good child death review process should look like in one document to ensure that the outputs from reviews are standardised and uniform as far as possible.
- In September 2018 the Home Office updated guidance on ***Criminal Exploitation of Children and Vulnerable Adults: County Lines***. This guidance explains the nature of this harm and is to help practitioners recognise its signs. It sets out clearly what County Lines is and gives examples through case studies.
- ***Keeping Children Safe in Education: statutory guidance for schools and colleges (September 2018)*** this guidance sets out the duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. ***Part 1: Information for all school and college staff*** must have been read by all staff in schools or college and for that reason has been set out as a standalone document.
- ***Secure children's homes: how to place a child aged under 13 (updated July 2018)*** amendments to the original guidance published in 2015 have been made in terms of reporting / authorisation processes.
- ***Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and College: advice for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads May 2018***  
published by the Department for Education. This advice sets out how to minimise the risk of sexual violence and harassment and what to do when it does occur or is alleged to have occurred. It provides case studies to support schools and colleges.
- Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HMIC and HM Inspectorate of Probation produced guidance for ***Joint Inspections of the response to children experiencing neglect*** and ***Joint Inspections of the response to children living with domestic abuse September 2018***. Setting out the requirements and expectations of those agencies involved.

## Section 4: Lay Member's View

- 4.1 Below are the views of two of the four Lay Members supporting the work of the LSCB and giving effective friendly and independent challenge:

*Two lay members have worked together and individually on various projects over the last year. These specific pieces of work were requested by different LSCB sub-groups. One member conducted telephone interviews to establish individual worker's knowledge of the remit of the LSCB within partner agencies. The other member was part of a team which conducted Section 11 Walkabout Surveys of three partner agencies. Jointly, the same two lay members undertook a substantial piece of work interviewing partner agency staff about their personal experience of "Working Together" and their communication with each other in the time before and during the course of Children Act proceedings. On conclusion of each piece of work, the lay members evidenced their findings to either the Chair of a sub-group or to a full LSCB business meeting in both written and verbal form.*

Anthea Pritchard and Lesley Jones: Lay Members

## Section 5: Significant Local Events and Response

- 5.1 Much of the activity throughout 2018-19 has focused on work relating to the two Learning Reviews which have been completed, a new Rapid Review and the two SCRs that are currently being undertaken by the LSCB. It is unfortunate that both of the latter processes have been delayed, however we remain of the view that it is important that these pieces of work are completed in a thorough manner and are sufficiently comprehensive in order to maximise the learning from them.
- 5.2 The LSCB was inspected by Ofsted in May 2018 and received the published Report in July. The Board were rated as Good and given three recommendations to complete which were added to the Business Plan for 2015-18. These recommendations have all been completed in 2018-19
- 5.3 The other key area of response for the LSCB has been the work we have undertaken in conjunction with other Local Authorities to explore options for new regional Safeguarding arrangements which will be in line with the Wood report and Working Together 2018. This work will continue into 2019-20 when the three safeguarding partners agree the new safeguarding arrangements to replace the LSCB from 29 September.

## Section 6: The Interface with Other Boards and Committees

- 6.1 The work of the LSCB is complementary to and coordinated alongside those of other bodies within the responsibility of B&NES Council including the following:
- Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WBB)
  - Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)
  - Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) (known as Community Safety Partnership in other areas)
  - Early Help Board
  - Corporate Parenting Board

In addition to this the LSCB presents papers to the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.

6.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board:

The LSCB works in partnership with the Health and Wellbeing Board to make sure that unborn babies, children and young people are protected and kept safe. The LSCB presents its Annual Report and Strategic Plan to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board offer challenge to the LSCB to provide assurance that children are kept safe. This remains one of the areas of focus in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-19

[http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/banes\\_health\\_and\\_wellbeing\\_strategy\\_2015\\_-\\_2019.pdf](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/banes_health_and_wellbeing_strategy_2015_-_2019.pdf)

6.2.1 Children and Young People's Committee of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Responsibility for reporting on the delivery of outcomes for children and young people as outlined in the Children and Young People's Plan 2018 - 2021 (CYPP) is undertaken by The Children and Young People's committee of the Health and Wellbeing Board (CYP sub group)

Link to the CYPP for 2018 – 2021 <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/cypp>

The CYP Plan delivery groups:

- Be Healthy Outcomes groups (representative of the various elements of the be healthy outcomes groups)
- Emotional Health and Well-being group
- SEND Strategy Group
- Early Help Outcomes Board
- Stay Safe (LSCB PPP sub group chair)

The group presents an outcomes report to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September each year.



### 6.2.2 LSCB Challenges to the Children and Young People's committee of the H&WBB

As part of their complementary work to drive improvements in the safeguarding of children and young people, the LSCB issues a set of challenges identified in the LSCB Business Plan to the Children & Young people (CYP) sub group, on its ongoing priorities

For 2018 - 19 these were:

- Given the increase in children excluded and those home schooled, assurance is sought that they are achieving good outcomes ( and not at risk of harm)
- Given the commitment to Think Family the C&YP Sub Committee is asked to work with the Parenting Strategy Group and adult services to develop joint principles and actions that agencies can sign up to and implement, in order to improve the safeguarding and outcomes of CYP.

The CYP committee is due to submit 6 monthly progress reports on these challenges to the LSCB at the June and December meetings.

### 6.3 The Local Safeguarding Adult Board (LSAB)

The LSCB continues to work closely with the LSAB. As well as shared membership across the Boards to help ensure a joint and seamless approach to delivering safeguarding priorities the Board has continued to progress the areas of joint collaboration which is now embedded in each Strategic Plan.

Of significance during the year has been: the continuation of the joint Training and Development sub group; the work on a joint safeguarding website which launched in summer 2017; the continued development and publication of a joint six monthly LSCB and LSAB Newsletters; the sharing of LSCB and LSAB monthly emails with each Board and providers in order to promote the 'Think Family' approach; the joint working around Domestic Abuse Complex (Toxic) Trio.

The LSAB continues to receive routine updates on the work of the LSCB as a standing item on its agenda and hears reports on the progress of the Multi-agency Sharing Hub (MASH) that went live in September 2016. The scope of this was approved by both Boards and the RAG and includes an information sharing hub for low and moderate safeguarding and domestic abuse concerns for children, young people and adults with care and support needs.

### 6.4 Responsible Authority Group (RAG)

Links between safeguarding, community safety (overseen by the RAG) and the Council's wider preventative agenda have again been strengthened this year.

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/neighbourhoods-and-community-safety/crime-prevention-and-community-safety>

As with the LSAB there are shared members sitting on the RAG, including the Director for Public Health, Director for Children and Young People - CYP Specialist Services and the Director of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance (Council).

#### 6.5 Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

In addition to the above the work of the Board is scrutinised by the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and a number of reports have been presented during the period including:

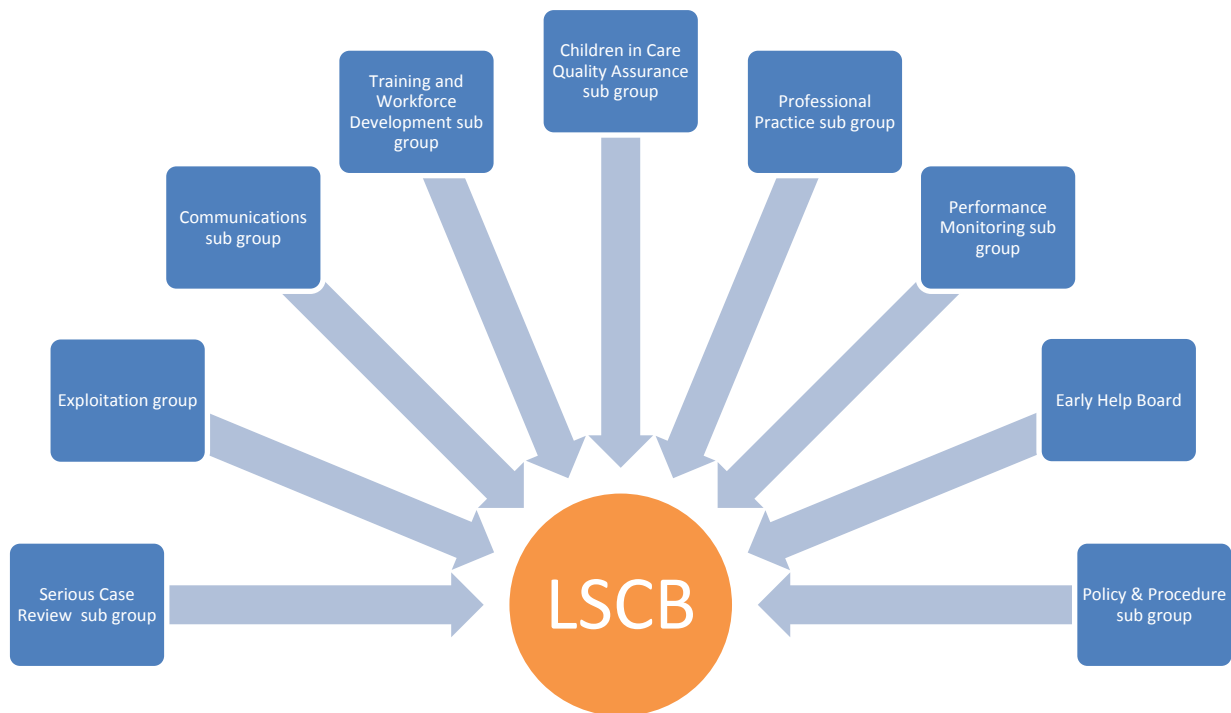
- LSCB Annual Report 2017-18 and Business Plan 2015-18
- IRO Annual Report 2017-18

## **Section 7: Governance and Accountability**

- 7.1 B&NES LSCB is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004 (Section 13) and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006. It has been independently chaired and consists of senior representatives of all the key stakeholders working together to safeguard children and young people across the area. The Terms of Reference are set out in Appendix 1. The membership for the LSCB and subgroups during 2018 - 19 are set out in Appendix 2.
- 7.2 The accountability of the LSCB and performance of the Independent Chair is delivered via a two stage process. The Annual Report is considered by a Scrutiny Panel made up of Chief Executives of member agencies and including the Lead Local Authority Member for Children and Young People. This Panel convenes soon after publication of the Annual Report and presents challenges to the Chair regarding the effectiveness of the LSCB. In stage two, B&NES Council coordinates a 360 degree appraisal of the performance of the Independent Chair. Contributors to this process include all representative members of the LSCB.
- 7.3 The process is completed at a meeting between the Independent Chair and Local Authority Chief Executive at which performance and development goals are set for the following 12 months. This was completed for Robert Lake, prior to his leaving the role.
- 7.4 The Independent Chair was also Chair of the LSAB and this joint role increased the joint working across the Boards and improves safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and their families/carers.
- 7.5 The Board's statutory objectives as set out in the Children Act 2004 (Section 14) are:
- a) To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area;
  - b) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body for those purposes.
- 7.6 The functions in relation to the above objectives are described in Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Board Regulations 2006.

7.7 The LSCB structure is set out below and the work of the sub-groups is articulated in Section 8 of the report.

The Member of the Bath & North East Somerset Youth Parliament (MYP), The Youth Forum and the Senior in Care Council (SICC) have helped to develop the Young Person's Guide to the LSCB and provided input into the LSCB Strategic Plan 2018-21 and S175 Safeguarding in Education annual audit.



7.8 The LSCB has commissioned one Rapid Review during 2018-19 which involved a stabbing, the National Panel agreed with the recommendation that this did not meet the threshold for an SCR and learning actions are being followed up locally. The two SCRs involving a baby and the SCR involving several young people are still in progress; two Learning Reviews have been completed which did not meet the SCR criteria, one action plan is completed and the other is underway and being monitored by the SCR sub group.

7.9 In line with the statutory requirement, the LSCB has in place a Learning and Improvement Framework, <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/child-protection/local-safeguarding-children-board>. This framework is intended to facilitate how the learning from reviews takes place and is embedded into practice which in turn should lead to improved outcomes for children and young people.

7.10 The LSCB continues to have has four Lay Members. Lay Members give a unique, independent and valuable perspective on safeguarding children and young people. They are very involved and their work positively influences decisions of the Board.

7.11 The LSCB budget is monitored throughout the year and presented in the Annual Report in Appendix 3. Discussions have been taking place in 2018-19 and will be finalised in 2019-20 about the financial contributions to be made by partner agencies with the new

safeguarding arrangements from 29 September 2019. Until this time, the contributions have remained the same as in previous years.

- 7.12 The LSCB developed a new Risk Register for 2018 for the remaining life of the LSCB which has been regularly reviewed by the Business Support Manager and the Business Management Group. The LSCB developed a new Board Assurance Framework in 2018 - 19 to monitor its effectiveness against various headings and this is monitored by the Performance Management Group (PMG). A new Board Assurance Framework was agreed in March for 2019 - 20.

7.13 Escalation Policy for Resolving Professional Disagreement

Occasionally situations arise when practitioners/workers in one agency feel that the decision made by a worker from another agency on a child protection or child in need case is not a safe decision. . During 2017-18 there were only 3 recorded occasions when the LSCB Escalation Policy was used, however in 2018-19 there were 9 occasions when the joint Policy has been formally used. These included 4 concerns raised by schools, 1 from CAMHS, 1 from a play association, 2 from health visitors/CCG and 1 from AWP. All issues were satisfactorily resolved at the early stages between managers without having to escalate to the Director of Safeguarding or the Independent Chair.

In 2018-19, the Policy and Procedure sub group reviewed the Escalation Policy along with the LSAB sub group and created a joint policy. The LSCB will continue in 2019-20 to remind agencies of the need to use the LSAB & LSCB Escalation Policy and proforma to register escalation concerns regarding safeguarding decisions made by other practitioners even when they have been resolved. The joint LSCB & LSAB Dispute Resolution Policy between Sub Group members or Board members has not been used in 2018-19.

**LSCB Escalation Policy for Resolving Professional Disagreement**

- [LSAB & LSCB Escalation Protocol](#) (March 2019)
- [Escalation Report Proforma](#) (March 2019)

**LSCB & LSAB Dispute Resolution Policy**

- [LSCB & LSAB Dispute Resolution Policy](#)

## Section 8: LSCB Sub Group Achievements and Priorities

- 8.1 The LSCB has nine sub-groups as set out in section 7.6 above. Each sub group reports to the LSCB on a six monthly basis. During 2018-19, the CSE and Missing sub group became the Exploitation group to include the wider range of exploitation issues. The Terms of Reference for each of the sub-groups is available on the LSCB web page [here](#)
- 8.2 Each sub group reports progress on the Board's Strategic Plan on a quarterly basis and contributes to the Chair's Business Management Group Meeting (previously known as Sub Group Chairs). Each sub group has a duty to challenge practice within the partnership where it identifies issues of concern.

### 8.3 Early Help Board

It was agreed in December 2016 that the Early Help Board becomes a sub group and reports directly into LSCB on the quality and effectiveness of Early Help. The sub group also reports into the Children and Young Persons sub group on the delivery of strategy and health and wellbeing outcomes.

#### Key Achievements

1. The Early Help Toolkit/Offer which includes information about how to access support from early help services, has continued to be widely promoted to universal services alongside information about the Early Help App. In 2018/19 there has been positive joint working with Children's Social Care Duty team to understand and support the interface between early help targeted support services and to appreciate the pressures and increasing demand caused by contacts which are then deemed as requiring no further action.  
There is an increased recognition amongst the Early Help Board and commissioned targeted support services regarding thresholds, identifying risks and understanding the system and process behind when a request for service is made to Social Care. This work has ensured that Early Help and Social Care is considered as a whole system and there has been positive joint working and training delivered by both sectors. The Board also continues to monitor the number of safeguarding referrals to Children's Social Care from early help services to provide assurance that safeguarding concerns are identified and raised appropriately and to try and reduce inappropriate referrals through joint working and promoting the Early Help App.  
Complex referrals that do not meet the threshold for Social Care intervention are referred to the Early Help Allocation Panel (EHAP) to be allocated to an early help service for further support. 277 referrals were received in 2018/19 almost doubling from Quarter 1 from 51 to 99 in Quarter 4.
2. The new multi-agency Early Help Assessment was launched in February 2019 following a full consultation and pilot which involved a range of partner agencies. The new early help assessment enables a more "think family" approach, can include more than one child per family and is accompanied by full guidance which confirms the need for management sign off and review. Training is available on the new paperwork and has so far been positively received.

To recognise other single agency assessments that are routinely undertaken by commissioned targeted early help services, these are now being recorded in addition to any multi agency Early Help Assessments.

3. The Early Help Quality Assurance Framework for commissioned targeted early help services was launched in July 2018 to provide assurance of the quality of support provided by services. The framework assesses against standards across the journey throughout the service from access, assessment, support, exit/transition and outcomes achieved. 16 case files were audited between July 2018 and March 2019 which showed 100% included the child's views, 94% illustrated a clear understanding of the life and experiences of the child in the assessment, 81% had a good analysis of need and risks and 81% had plans which showed the difference made to the child's outcomes.

The framework is undertaken jointly with providers and is considered to be a robust, positive tool in which to enable them to evidence the quality of their early help support and the difference it makes to families receiving it.

4. The Best Start in Life Sub-Group of the Early Help Board action plan continues to review actions identified by the Baby J SCR audit which took place in 2017/18. There is increased partnership working across maternity, health visiting and children's centre services who all worked together to develop the Early Childhood Services Pathway. A joint team development day is being planned for the autumn to further increase understanding and promote support available.

### **Early Help Outcomes - What Difference have achievements made in relation to outcomes?**

1. The Early Help App has proved a popular way for practitioners to have access to information about early help services and thresholds. The number of users has increased steadily throughout 2018/19 and continues to receive positive feedback from colleagues including the Police, Housing and Voluntary Sector organisations particularly regarding how accessible the information is. The Early Help App is still a key part of the Early Help Toolkit/Offer which was launched in October 2017.
2. Children's Centre services and the adult substance misuse service (DHI) have continued to work together on a Think Family approach for parents in drug treatment and their children. This has led to positive outcomes for parents and their children in terms of increased parental understanding of attachment and activities to support their children's learning and development. Both organisations are now able to promote each other's service offer, support access and "whole family" support.
3. The Early Help Quality Assurance Framework for commissioned targeted support services and the quarterly monitoring undertaken confirms positive outcomes achieved for children, young people and families including improved parenting and increased ability to keep children safe, reduced social isolation and children and young people reducing risk-taking behaviour and returning to education, employment and training.

### **Challenges Faced in Delivering the Agenda**

1. A reduction in resources both within the Council and wider partners is having an impact on the delivery of the early help services. Many commissioned services are frequently reporting they are at capacity and unfortunately this sometimes results in waiting lists and/or having to close to referrals for short periods (though this is only undertaken to avoid families waiting for a long time to access support and all services work hard and



in partnership with each other to signpost/support to alternative provision where possible).

2. There are practical challenges for the council and partners involved in delivering early help. There is currently no shared electronic case management system for early help which makes case co-ordination difficult and case oversight and assurance about the effectiveness of early help difficult to establish. Data and information is spread across a number of different manual and electronic systems.
3. Whilst the new Early Help Assessment has largely been positively received, it is still a challenge to ensure universal services such as schools and academies and GPs to complete them. Reduced capacity with the Integrated Working team since October 2018 has resulted in less time to promote and support agencies with completing assessments. This has also contributed to not being able to convene any multi-agency audits of those assessments received, however all assessments received are quality assured by the Integrated Working Team.

### **Priorities for the Early Help Board**

1. Continue to drive improvements in the quality of early help assessments and plans ensuring practitioners have access to training.
2. Encourage universal and adult services to be proactively identifying early help needs as referred to in Working Together 2018 and to assess or signpost as appropriate to ensure timely access to early help support.
3. Improve and refine data collection particularly in relation to early help outcomes and evidencing the effectiveness of early help services.

## **8.4 Children in Care & Quality Assurance sub-group (CICQA)**

The Children in Care Quality Assurance and Strategy Group is a multi-agency sub group of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) established to ensure the best possible corporate parenting for children and young people in and moving on from care in Bath and North East Somerset.

The Group review the quality of reports to Children in Care reviews, the quality of multi-agency planning and have an overview of the national indicators for children in care.

### **Key Achievements**

1. There has been a new Chair of the Group appointed this year
2. The Terms of Reference for the CICQA sub group has been refreshed
3. There have been 14 cases audited in 2018-9, the themes include:-
  - 16/04/19 – Children in care who have had 3 or more placements
  - 22/01/19 – Children under 5 years with a plan for adoption or SGO
  - 27/11/18 – Children in care over 15years with complex needs
  - 02/10/18 – Children with a history of offending
  - 28/06/18 – Children with a history of offending
4. A new audit tool was developed by the Head of Outcomes for Children in Care and the Chair of the group which was subsequently agreed by members. The purpose being to increase the rigour of the audit, provide opportunity to rate the audits and also to enable a review mechanism to ensure all actions agreed were followed up and the

audits could be monitored over time.

5. The new audit tool includes the extent to which assessments include both adult and child safeguarding within the remit of contextual safeguarding.
6. The Group provides feedback to providers and staff where examples of good practice have been uncovered.

### **Outcomes - What Differences have achievements made in relation to Outcomes?**

The Group have used the new audit tool with good effect, although needs to be in place for an extended period to achieve its real potential.

The group made the decision to reduce the number of audits to enable a deep dive into the cases to identify themes and learning.

This also enables thorough exploration of multi-agency planning to identify good practice that can be shared and any challenges to be addressed.

### **Themes and Learning**

1. Voice of the child needs to be strengthened in care planning and documentation
2. Many of the audits demonstrated that care plans and documentation required updating
3. The number of Initial Health Assessments (IHA's) completed on time has reduced
4. Timeliness of notification by Council to Health that a child has come into care has been late on some occasions
5. Need for improved communication between SEND and health's LAC Team re: EHCP
6. For many of the children audited there was a lack of documentation as to whether health issues had been followed up.
7. The cultural needs of children were not always considered and should be reflected for all
8. Positively the vast majority of placements were well-matched
9. There are good relationships between the Council Health and Foster Carers

### **Challenges in Delivering the Agenda**

1. Attendance at meetings is minimal and this needs to be challenged and absent partners encouraged to attend
2. There is a conflict of interest in health in that the Designated LAC Nurse is also the Named Nurse and works for the Provider, this is being addressed as part of health's ongoing structural changes.
3. There has been insufficient time to accurately measure how effective the new audit tool has had on improving outcomes.

### **Priorities for the CICQA Sub-Group**

1. Ensuring that the CICQA sub group contributes to the LSCB Strategic Plan
2. Ensuring the group's membership is a suitable level to influence change
3. Measuring effectiveness of audit tool in improving outcomes for children in care
4. Mapping the learning from Serious Case Reviews, where relevant and applying to recommendations.
5. Identifying learning from audits in relation to Contextual Safeguarding, Complex (Trigger) Trio, Voice of the Child and Young Person, and how adverse childhood experiences have affected these children
6. Ensuring the CICQA group is maintained in some form as the Children's Partnership Arrangements are agreed.
7. Future audits to include:-
  - 16/07/19 – Children in care at risk of exploitation – cases TBC

- 15/10/19 – Care leavers (16 - 18) – cases TBC
- Then – Disabled Children’s Team cases – cases TBC.

## 8.5 Communications sub-group

The Joint Awareness, Engagement and Communications (AEC) sub-group’s purpose is to:

- To ensure that initiatives commissioned by the Board in relation to service user engagement, involvement and feedback are developed, implemented and evaluated on a regular basis
- To develop and disseminate a range of accessible information in a variety of formats to raise awareness about adult safeguarding, targeting citizens, professionals, service users and carers.
- To develop and oversee engagement, involvement and feedback with/ from carers on behalf of the Board
- To ensure that the LSAB partners and sub-groups are aware of the needs to promote awareness and that opportunities are taken to support the prevention of abuse.

### Key Achievements

1. The sub-group had a short hiatus during the summer whilst a new Chair was recruited, but has since resumed quarterly meetings and is receiving regular support and representation from a wide number of statutory and voluntary sector partners. We are pleased to continue to have lay representation on this group.
2. We have undertaken a year-long campaign around the themes of neglect and self-neglect, in line with the strategic priorities of the two local safeguarding boards. Best practice guidance and useful resources, including a practitioner briefing sharing learning from a safeguarding adult review undertaken in B&NES, have been shared widely with statutory and voluntary sector partners to raise awareness and understanding of this issue.
3. The sub-group continues its commitment to actively involving members of the public in its work. We have agreed an approach with the Youth Forum to capture the views of children and young people without them having to attend formal meetings, and are working with providers to capture some case study experiences of safeguarding from B&NES residents.
4. Sub-group members worked with safeguarding boards from across the West of England to co-ordinate messages during Stop Adult Abuse Week (June 2018) and provided a resource pack for local partners to engage. The topic of this year’s campaign was Mate Crime.
5. The sub-group has promoted emerging safeguarding topics, including ‘cuckooing’ and county lines, to professionals and the public through the joint adults’/children’s newsletter which the group produces and sends out twice a year.

### Outcomes - What Differences have achievements made in relation to Outcomes?

1. The establishment of the joint adult and children’s Communications groups has led to a more effective use of time and a consistency of message which has been evidenced in the production of joint newsletters. This ensures that all staff involved in both adult and children’s safeguarding gets an opportunity to read about key changes in each-others service area, and ensures a consistency of communication.

## Challenges in Delivering the Agenda

In the last year the challenges have been around capacity to do the work and the recruitment of the new Chair. The challenge for the sub-group in the coming year will be the establishment of the “Think Family” agenda across both boards and promoting the new safeguarding arrangements.

### Priorities for the Communications sub-group

1. To increase awareness of safeguarding and continue to engage children, young people and adults in our work.
2. To continue the joint campaign around neglect and self-neglect; sharing new learning, best practice and opportunities for professional development as they emerge.
3. To successfully delivery the 2019 Stop Adult Abuse Week campaign, the topic of which is mental capacity, and to lead a day of engagement around mental capacity and self-neglect.
4. To continue progressing the actions of both Boards’ strategic plans.

## 8.6 Exploitation sub-group

The CSE and Missing sub group established in June 2014 changed its name at the end of 2018 and evolved into the Exploitation Sub Group to take account of exploitation in the broadest sense. It now has a remit to oversee criminal exploitation (including modern slavery, trafficking); serious youth violence; harmful sexual behaviour; radicalisation; child sexual exploitation and missing (this includes working closely with colleagues in public protection with oversight of the night time economy ie taxis, hoteliers and other licensed establishments). The group has also started to consider contextual safeguarding.

### Key Achievements

1. Development and approval of the new Youth@Risk Strategy and plan to complete the protocols which support this with a view to launching in 2019.
2. The CSE screening tool has been reviewed and shared with agencies.
3. Police Operation Topaz in now live in B&NES and agencies are supporting this.
4. A multi-agency group has been convened to undertake mapping work (this will feed into Operation Topaz and other Police initiatives) to help identify links between young people and potential perpetrators. The group is helping the Police and public protection colleagues in relation to disruption activity. County Lines and Serious Violence are discussed within this group.
5. The Willow Project remains a positive initiative for the LSCB and its work continues to be reported to the group.
6. Reviewing Missing and CSE data throughout the year.
7. Delivery of the existing CSE and Missing action plan throughout 2018/19
8. Work has started on contextual safeguarding and the group has this included in their work programme to take forward.
9. Close working has continued with public protection colleagues in relation to FGM, trafficking, Modern Slavery and early identification of children at risk of radicalisation. There have been no cases which have reached the threshold for a Channel Panel.
10. Through close working with public protection colleagues the LSCB has developed

promotional materials for hotels and other agencies working as part of the night time economy.

### **Outcomes - What Difference have achievements made in relation to outcomes?**

1. Multi-agency audits have continued to demonstrate good practice and tenacity
2. The Willow Project and ART team within the Council can demonstrate some effective practice with young people at risk who sit outside 'usual' child protection procedures
3. Partner commitment and engagement to develop the Youth@Risk Strategy

### **Challenges Faced in Delivering the Agenda**

1. Multi-agency commitment to the Willow Project has dipped through the year and whilst the Project continues to be a success this needs to be reviewed in terms of its longer terms sustainability
2. It remains a challenge to ensure that agencies are working effectively strategically; operationally partners are sharing information well however this now needs to move further forward and for the operational intelligence to help drive strategic planning this is a challenge as the exploitation agenda brings new forms and considerations
3. There are risks associated with online safety and the group doesn't have the capacity to coordinated this currently

### **Priorities for the Exploitation sub group**

1. Review partner commitment to the Willow Project to ensure its sustainability in 2019/20 and recruit new members
2. Ensure the join up between the emerging operational intelligence and strategic direction
3. To ensure the implementation and embedding of the Youth@Risk Strategy and associated protocols
4. To develop B&NES contextual safeguarding approach
5. Seek agreement with LSCB members about how to take forward the work on online safety during 2019/20
6. Ensure the learning from the CSE SCR are implemented
7. Develop a system for flagging CSE on health systems where possible
8. Review the 'problem profile' from the Police and implement changes in accordance with this
9. Ensure housing providers and letting agencies are aware of issues relating to Youth@Risk

## **8.7 Performance Management sub-group (PMG)**

The sub group has the responsibility for monitoring performance activity across the multi-agency partners and ensuring any issues are identified and analysed. The group are responsible for the delivery of the Board Assurance Framework and ensuring any recommendations identified from the LSCB audit groups are implemented. The group has met four times during this reporting period.

### **Key Achievements**

1. The group has continued to review and triangulate performance data provided from Avon and Somerset Constabulary, from the Council and from commissioners responsible for Early Help Services. There has been limited health performance information provided and this is being reviewed with a commitment to a multi-agency dashboard being developed.
2. Undertaken deep dives following from findings from the data including:
  - Request for Service data analysis
  - Strategy discussion to ICPC analysis
  - Missing and CSE data analysis in relation to children in care
  - Police information in relation to safety and anti-bullying data
3. The group has routinely review the recommendations from the CICQA, PPG and CAF audit groups and ensures these are put into practice.
4. Reviewed and monitored the LSCB Board Assurance Framework for 2018/19 ensuring the Board receives assurance reports as set out in the framework for example the section 175 education safeguarding assessment. The group also proposed the performance indicators for 2018/19 which led to the requirement for Complex (Toxic) Trio training to be delayed as an indicator until 2018/19.
5. Received the following reports as set out in the Board Assurance Framework:
  - Private Fostering Annual Report 2017/18
  - Analysis of Partner Reports from 2017/18
  - CP Chairs Annual Report 2017/18
  - IRO Annual Report 2017/18
  - LAC Health Annual Report 2017/18
  - Mystery shopping report
  - Section 175 Education Visit Report
  - Section 11 Interagency Walkabout Report
  - Council Commissioned Children Services Annual Report for 2017/18
  - LADO Annual Report 2017/18
  - Child Death Overview Panel overview Report
6. Finalised the Neglect Toolkit which supports the Neglect Strategy which was then shared at the Stakeholder Event on Neglect.
7. Overseen the work on Parental Involvement – this has been slow and remains unfinished however Child Protection Standards were developed and approved.
8. Kept abreast of On Call arrangements for Paediatricians – work has been ongoing with commissioners to ensure sufficient cover is provided.
9. Received information in relation to learning from Joint Targeted Areas Inspections including discussion on County Lines
10. Carried out the annual reviewed of the Sufficiency Statement
11. Ensured the actions allocated to the group from the Strategic Plan 2018-21 are delivered and reported on, this included:
  - Update on how the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is progressing
  - Update on Family Group Conferencing and the outcomes for families
12. Kept abreast of the recommendations from the Complex (Toxic) Trio research and ensured these were completed
13. Received information on the National Referral Mechanism, updates regarding Prevent and a Care Standards pack for Slavery and Trafficking Survivors

## **Outcomes - What Differences have achievements made in relation to Outcomes?**



1. Through monitoring performance information and undertaking deep dives the group has ensured the LSCB focuses on the areas needed to keep children safe
2. Schools have again demonstrated improvements in relation to their self-assessment with fewer areas needing focus
3. Through the development of the Neglect Toolkit agencies and practitioners have a tool which is easy to implement – with all agencies now aware of this there is additional assurance that children neglected are being identified at the earliest opportunity
4. Raised awareness of County Lines and the changing landscape of safeguarding children
5. Positive results have been seen from Family Group Conferences and the sub group will maintain a watching brief on this
6. The MASH now is business as usual

### **Challenges in Delivering the Agenda**

1. The remit of the group remains substantial even with the policy and procedure development moving to the newly formed sub group as set out below in 8.8.
2. Partners' attendance has been variable which has added to the challenge.

### **Priorities for the Performance Management Group**

1. Deliver the work programme for 2019/20
2. Deliver the Board Assurance Programme for 2019/20
3. Seek approval for a new multi-agency dashboard and implement this
4. Complete the work on parental and young people participation

## **8.8 Policy and Procedure sub-group (P&PG)**

This sub group has the responsibility for reviewing policies and procedures operated by LSCB and South West Child Protection Procedures (SWCPP), and developing new multi-agency policies and procedures as required. Since April 2018 policy and procedure group have been responsible for LSCB policy development and review.

### **Key achievements**

1. The South West Child Protection Procedures (SWCPP) have been updated in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018 (WTTSC, 2018)
2. Where possible B&NES will utilise the SWCPP procedures adding local information as necessary to ensure fitness for purpose within B&NES, rather than develop additional policies.
3. The Bruising in non-mobile babies leaflet has been finalised and published on the LSCB website.
4. The SWCPP Bruising in Non-mobile babies' procedures has been adopted with some additional local information as the procedure for B&NES. All workers must refer a child under 6 months or a non-mobile child who presents with a bruise or injury, however health workers can use their professional judgement but in doing so must consider the injury in context and seek advice as necessary. If in any doubt a child should be referred.
5. The LSCB sought permission to adopt Wirral's 'Working Together Summary Sheet' and 'Working Together on a Page' information sheets and these are now published on the LSCB website.
6. Development of a Neglect Toolkit which has been rolled out across all partners, preliminary feedback has been very positive and there are plans to formally audit its implementation.

7. Threshold Guidance has been developed which mirrors language in the Neglect Toolkit and is based on the concept of Risk and Impact Assessment.
8. Considerable work has been undertaken with regard to the growing impact of County Lines in Safeguarding Children and Young People. A standardised set of Training Slides has been developed, a Briefing Document for professionals and the public has been developed to raise awareness and further work is being undertaken by the LSCB exploitation Group.
9. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Information Leaflet and Early Help Assessment documentation have both been reviewed and revised.

### **Outcomes – What difference have achievements made in relation to outcomes?**

3. Positive feedback from the implementation of the Neglect Toolkit, staff report it is easy to use and assists decision making
4. MASH leaflet provides a consistent message to all partners
5. By agreeing to use the SWCPP results in less confusion by partners as to which policies to follow
6. The Threshold Guidance should enable a risk assessment and impact approach which will result in improved referrals and better use of the Early Help offer. This will be audited to assess impact.

### **Challenges faced in delivering the agenda**

1. Attendance at the Policy and procedure sub-groups has been inconsistent throughout the year, however improved within the last six months with representatives from CCG, Health providers, Police and Social Care attending.
2. The 'Notifiable Incidents, Serious Case Reviews and Other Multi-Agency Reviews' policy has been refreshed to incorporate the WTTSC, 2018 Guidance. However because the LSCB are currently using both 2015 guidance for existing cases and 2018 guidance as new safeguarding arrangements are published and embedded, it was agreed that the document would incorporate both. It was recognised by the P&P group that this may appear confusing, however the old data is clearly labelled and within 3-4 months it would become extinct and subsequently removed.
3. Awareness of the uncertainty about new Children's Partnership Arrangements has not made a significant impact however as much of our current work is undertaken jointly with the LSAB, the group were cognisant of the fact that they did not want to lose the good work that has already taken place.

### **Priorities for Policy & Procedure Group**

1. The Notifiable Incidents, Serious Case Reviews and Other Multi-Agency Reviews policy will be amended to reflect the new arrangements
2. Agreement with regard to smooth transition for the policy and procedure work as the Council and its Partners move into the new arrangements.
3. The BaNES Clinical Commissioning Group is now part of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire commissioning alliance and to that end where relevant will be looking to develop policies and procedures across the BSW footprint.
4. Consideration will need to be given to a balance with both the new Children's Partnership Arrangements and the Local Place Based Arrangements.
5. Development of policies and procedures that come out from the learning from SCRs due to be published.
6. Review of existing SWCPP to ensure that they are fit for purpose for B&NES and to agree and add any local information as required.

7. Development of One Minute Guides to support the workforce across all partners
8. All existing policies need to be reviewed in light of Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018.

Ensure greater engagement of service users in the development of policies and procedures.

## 8.9 Professional Practice Group (PPG)

The PPG is a quality assurance group which audits the records of at least four children at six meetings a year. PPG looks at how well Child Protection Conferences work, as well as focusing on how agencies respond to particular issues that cause harm to children.

### **Key achievements**

1. In the last year, PPG has looked at the following themes - how well professionals work together when children are on Child Protection Plans and things are not improving; how well adolescents on Child Protection Plans have their views understood and are engaged in the their Plans; whether the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) affected how professionals share information about a child for whom they have concerns; whether more children should be on a Child Protection Plan under the category of Physical Abuse; how well children on Child Protection Plans are supported when there is poor parental mental health.
2. There continues to be good attendance at PPG meetings.
3. Using the Ofsted grading system for all cases we discuss, we have been able to recommend immediate actions in cases that PPG rated below Good. We have seen a number of examples work PPG rated 'Good' between professionals.

### **Outcomes – what difference have achievements made in relation to outcomes?**

1. In cases where children were on Child Protection Plans under the category of Physical Abuse, PPG agreed this category is being used correctly.
2. PPG did not see a negative impact on information sharing when there were child protection concerns, following the introduction of GDPR.
3. Inter-agency meetings, involving the views of families who have been part of Child Protection planning, are taking place to make Child Protection Conferences more accessible to families. Family feedback about Child Protection Conferences has shown some improvement.
4. The Adolescent Risk Team in Children's Social Care is starting to engage young people who had previously been at risk of "slipping through the net". This is a positive development from PPG's work last year of better involving older children in planning what will keep them safe.

### **Challenges faced in delivering the agenda**

1. PPG has audited a number of cases where there has been long term neglect of children. Many of these cases involved domestic violence and abuse, parental substance misuse and poor parental mental health. Though some Social Workers co-ordinate good packages of multi-agency support and things do improve for the children, too many cases did not show improvements for the children. Too often incidents of concern were not responded to as part of a long term pattern but as one off incidents.
2. Though PPG has seen cases where services commissioned to provide support to

parents work well with services for the children, in some cases there is not yet evidence of Think Family work being effective.

We have looked at cases where children live with a number of risks – parental substance misuse; domestic violence and abuse; and parental mental ill health. We have continued to see a lack of progress for children living in these situations.

Supporting an improvement to the response to this complex trio of risks is a priority for PPG.

### **Priorities for Professional Practice sub-group**

1. To continue the focus on hearing the voice of older children and better involving them in plans. There has been progress in this area in 2018-19.
2. To continue the focus on improving the involvement of children and families in Child Protection Conferences. Some positive work has started on this issue in 2018-19.
3. To ensure the Neglect Toolkit is embedded in multi-agency practice to better address long term and chronic neglect of children.
4. To ensure there is improved Think Family work across children and adult services.

### **8.10 Serious Case Review sub-group (SCR)**

The Serious Case Review sub group has met:

- five times during the period to discuss routine business
- three times to discuss the CSE SCR as a Panel (with additional co-opted members present)
- once to discuss a serious incident notification to enable the completion of a Rapid Review Report in line with the new Working Together 2018 guidance

The groups primary responsibilities are to:

- review SCR applications on behalf of the Board
- implement the Notifiable Incidents, SCR and other Multi-Agency Review Procedures and the Learning and Improvement Framework
- monitor SCRs and / or other review action plans
- link with the Child Death Overview Panel as required

As at March 2019 there are two SCRs and one learning review underway. The group are monitoring recommendations and actions in relation to a further two review reports.

### **Key achievements**

1. Considered and approved the a draft report into a case involving a young child (RW) who has Downs Syndrome with severe learning delay who was left unaccompanied on home to school transport for several hours. The report was undertaking in parallel to a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) investigation and is being shared with the LSCB in June 19 and reported in the next Annual Report. This is the first incident of its type in B&NES.
2. Concluded the learning review into M a teenage child who was looked after who sadly took his own life. Recommendations from the review are being implemented and monitored through an action plan.
3. Concluded the review of a child protection conference which one professional inadvertently attended. Actions to ensure this doesn't happen again have been implemented however this is the first incident of its type in B&NES.

4. Concluded the learning from a SCR undertaken by Wiltshire CSB. B&NES colleagues believed there was learning for B&NES despite B&NES not being involved. A Task and Finish group reviewed the report and implemented an action plan which is now concluded.
5. The Sub Group has also:
  - Reviewed and signed off the revised Non Mobile Baby Protocol
  - Undertaken a light touch review of the Notifiable Incidents, SCR and other Multi-Agency Review Procedures in line with the transitional arrangements brought in with Working Together 2018 including the provision of the Rapid Review Procedure for the National Panel
  - Reviewed the Youth Offending Service Critical Incident Protocol and agreed it would be responsible for oversight of any young person's death; young persons attempted suicide and any review regarding a young person as a victim of rape which the Police are pursuing. From the date of agreeing to be responsible for these areas none have occurred.
6. Completed a Rapid Review Report for a teenage child who had been involved in a knife crime incident. The SCR sub group recommended to the National Panel that the case did not meet the requirement for an SCR but that two actions needed to be carried out. The National Panel approved the decision and approach taken. The first of two of the actions has been completed and progress will be reported back on the second in the autumn of 2019.
7. The Sub Group with additional members has acted in the capacity as the Panel for the SCR into Child Sexual Exploitation, a draft report was received early in 2019 and the final report is being presented to the LSCB in June.

#### **Outcomes – What difference have achievements made in relation to outcomes?**

1. The learning from all the reports mentioned above has led to systems, processes and practice improvements being in place to reduce the risk of such incidents occurring again.

#### **Challenges in Delivering the Agenda**

1. The timescale for the two SCRs has continued to slip this has been out of the Sub Groups control and the group have continued to monitor progress and ensure actions identified are being progressed despite reports not being finalised.
2. The turnaround time for the new Rapid Review Reports is a challenge with 15 working days being given as the deadline nationally. The Sub Group complied with the requirement however acknowledged the challenge this presents.
3. The report into the case of RW was delayed due to capacity issues – capacity remains a challenge for the group given the number of reviews taking place.
4. Ensuring all the recommendations are implemented; this is a significant task.

#### **Priorities for the SCR sub group**

1. Embed the learning from reviews and SCRs
2. Complete the outstanding reviews in line with the national requirement set out in Working Together 2018 transition arrangements.
3. Review the Notifiable Incidents, SCR and other Multi-Agency Review Procedures and the Learning and Development Framework

## 8.11 Joint LSCB & LSAB Training and Development sub-group (T&D)

This sub group is responsible for ensuring the continuing development of all staff in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and adults at risk. The group focuses on the skills, knowledge and behaviours required for inter-agency working and provides training and development opportunities in order to meet statutory functions and to respond to national and local issues. The group also sets standards and learning outcomes for single agency and multi-agency safeguarding training.

### Key Achievements

An extensive LSCB inter-agency training programme was provided across 2018 – 2019 which resulted in:

- 72 LSCB training sessions taking place comprising of 25 different courses
- 1416 Inter-agency training places made available
- 1303 Inter-agency training places booked
- 1138 Inter-agency training places attended
- 797 professionals trained across the LSCB partner agencies, Voluntary and Private sectors
- 275 E-learning modules completed through the Learning Pool
- 9 Single agency training sessions taking place

### Strategic Developments

1. A joint strategy aimed to equally support the learning and development of the adult's and children's workforce was approved by both Boards. The strategy was created to reflect the key themes of safeguarding shared by the two workforces and bring together the training provision to achieve a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities and improve effective working together.
2. The training strategy 2018 – 2021 is in line with the LSAB and LSCB business plans and allows training to be responsive to changing need and new priorities. For example additional training and learning opportunities have been provided to support the workforce in protecting children and young people against the impact of neglect; and all training materials have been adapted in response to changes arising from the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
3. A new approach to the Training and Development sub group was adopted which streamlined membership and enabled developmental work to be taken forward in a timely and constructive manner. The new structure involved 'Core' members meeting on a quarterly basis, with 'wider' representatives attending the meetings twice a year, acting as a virtual panel to review any work produced by the 'Core' team and also joining specific work streams as required.
4. The new structure has supported the advancement of a number of projects including the formation of a development work plan, the creation and endorsement of CSE and Domestic Abuse 'awareness raising' materials, the revision of trainer observation reports to support QA of training delivery.
5. The charging policy for LSCB training was reviewed and a new tiered system of charging was approved by the Board, ready to be implemented in September 2019. The new system was

refined to ensure the charging policy is fair, constantly applied and protects the sustainability of the training programme.

6. The sub group is responsible for overseeing the rigorous evaluation of training, to ensure that it meets the LSCB's statutory duties and responds to national and local issues.

Scrutiny of evaluation forms shows a positive trend in terms of improved confidence and knowledge of course delegates. Evaluations have particularly highlighted an increase in:

- Practitioner's confidence in applying knowledge and skills following training.
- Practitioner understanding of multi-agency roles and improved communication between professionals.
- Practitioner understanding of different forms of abuse, the risk factors and indicators associated with abuse and the holistic impact on children.
- Practitioner understanding of legislation, case law, policy and guidance and how to apply this into practice.

### **Challenges faced in delivering the Agenda**

1. The postponement in the publication of the intercollegiate document for Adults led to a delay in the revision and approval of training levels and standards. A small working group is currently undertaking this task.
2. Limited expansion has taken place to the modules available in the e-learning library, due to reduced availability of technical support. The possibility of utilising the skills of Digital Learning Design Apprentice is currently being explored to help progress on-line methods of learning.
3. Limited representation on Training & Development Sub Group from statutory bodies.
4. The consideration of the charging proposal by the Boards was delayed to enable refinement of the model to occur. Consequently the Charging Policy was not approved until March 2019.

### **Priorities for the joint sub group**

1. Build upon the work undertaken with the Adult Workforce to further embed a culture and practice of 'Think Family'.
2. Revise and approve training levels for the workforce and review and agree standards and required learning outcomes for 'core' safeguarding courses.
3. Focus on prevention and Early Help to reduce significant harm and promote improved outcomes for children and young people.
4. Provide access and associated themed learning from Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews.
5. Supply additional training and learning opportunities to support the workforce in protecting children and young people against the impact of Contextualised Safeguarding.
6. Following the launch of the Neglect toolkit and strategy embed across the workforce to support cases of child neglect being identified early with appropriate support being provided (especially with resistant families).
7. Implementation of the new tiered system of charging approved by the Board.
8. Adapt working practices to support and respond to changes arising from the replacement of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with Safeguarding Partners.



## 8.12 Task and Finish Groups

### **Joint LSCB and LSAB County Lines Group:**

The Joint Task & Finish Group on County Lines was established to address the growing threat of County Lines across Bath & North East Somerset and to ensure a consistent message across all LSCB and LSAB partners. The Group consisted of members from children and adult services as well as commissioners, education, CCG, council and police.

The Group only met on three occasions to undertake specific task of producing a Multi-Agency Briefing.

### **Key Achievements**

1. A Multi-Agency Briefing for all partners to raise awareness across the workforce and with the public on the growing threat and impact of County Lines, how to identify if children, young people or vulnerable adults may be involved and what to do.
2. A set of power Point Slides were also developed to ensure consistent training across the workforce

### **Outcomes - What Differences have achievements made in relation to Outcomes?**

7. All partners and their workforce have an awareness of County Lines and what actions to take.
8. All partners have an understanding of both their role and the role of others in disrupting 'County Lines'
9. There are consistent messages being delivered through training.

### **Challenges in Delivering the Agenda**

1. County Lines, gang culture and violence is a fast moving agenda with perpetrators rapidly changing their modus operandi, thus requiring everyone to be aware of this and share information.
2. Sharing of intelligence is key to disruption and yet some of these young people are not receiving any statutory service input. However Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018 makes it clear.

*'Practitioners should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children, whether this is when problems are first emerging' and*

*'Information sharing is also essential for the identification of patterns of behaviour when a child has gone missing, when multiple children appear associated to the same context or locations of risk, or in relation to children in the secure estate where there may be multiple local authorities involved in a child's care'*

### **Priorities for the County Lines Task & Finish Group**

Further work on County Lines is to be taken forward through the 'Exploitation Sub Group'.

## Section 9: Other Relevant Work and Achievements

- 9.1** During the year the Board has received a number of reports and presentations these are set out below and all are relevant to the scope of the work of the Board.

### **9.2 PRESENTATIONS TO LSCB**

#### **9.2.1 Schools Health Education Unit (SHEU) Survey**

The Director of Public Health gave a brief presentation on the SHEU survey that is an anonymous audit taking place in primary and secondary schools across B&NES every 2 years. The Board had specifically asked for the findings regarding online safety as this was an action in the new Strategic Plan

##### **Coverage and Participation**

- 36 out of 54 eligible Primary and Junior Schools participated
- 14 out of 16 Secondary Schools (incl. Studio Schools) took part
- 2,148 Primary and Junior School pupils (Years 4 and 6), with participation rate (in those schools that took part) of 89%
- 3,238 Secondary School pupils (Years 8 and 10), with participation rate (in those schools that took part) of 79%

##### **Online content**

Pupils who report they have seen images, videos or content online that upset them...

Year 6: 3 out of 10

Years 8 & 10: 5 out of 10

##### **Pornography and Violence**

Percentages in brackets are for 2015

- Boys ever searched online for pornographic images, films or games:  
30% (30%) of Year 8  
62% (65%) of Year 10
- Boys ever searched online for very violent images, films or games:  
45% (47%) of Year 8  
56% (60%) of Year 10
- 7% of Year 8 and Year 10 girls report that they have ever searched online for pornographic images, films or games.
- 14% of Year 8 and Year 10 girls report that they have ever searched online for very violent images, films or games.

##### **Messages**

- Nearly twice the proportion of Year 8 and Year 10 pupils report they had ever texted or sent images of themselves they later regretted... (up from 10% in 2013 to 19% in 2017)
- but, upon receiving inappropriate messages or images, the proportion of pupils saying they deleted such a message has more than doubled. (up from 11% in 2013 to 25% in 2017)

##### **Online Safety**

% of Year 8 and Year 10 pupils that know how to stay safe online

2013: 81% Boys / 88% Girls

2015: 95% Boys / 97% Girls

2017: 95% Boys / 99% Girls

The SHEU survey shows that there continues to be evidence that a substantial proportion of respondents are accessing adult material, are seeing content online which is upsetting and are engaged in 'sexting'. However, the vast majority report they know how to stay safe online and there is evidence that respondents appear to be acting more responsibly in some areas.

**9.2.2 Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI)** The Designated Nurse for Safeguarding (CCG), the Head of Young People's Prevention Services and Service Development Manager (Council), Safeguarding & Quality Assurance (Council) gave a presentation to ensure that all partner agencies are aware of the process and understand their part and role in any forthcoming JTAI Inspection.

#### Joint Targeted Inspection (JTAI)

- Multi-Agency/Multi Inspectorate
- Focused on a theme
- LA CSC, Police, Health, Probation, YOS, there will also be an inspector contacting Schools, etc.
- Pre inspection data
- Lines of enquiry
- No prior warning dates

#### What is involved?

- Evaluation of multi-agency 'front door' for child protection and 'deep dive' sampling and tracking of children and young people's experiences
- Quality of multi-agency planning and decision-making
- Thematic and 6 per theme – e.g. CSE, neglect
- Published Local Authority level and thematic reports

#### Themes

- Intra-Familial Child Sexual Abuse (IFSA)
- Neglect
- Domestic Abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Gangs/County Lines

#### **9.2.3 Self-Harm Audit**

The Assistant Director of Public Health gave a presentation regarding the latest self-harm audit following on from the adoption in November 2017 of the information and guidance found on HarmLESS <https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/harmless> as a guide to multi agency professionals working with young people who self-harm.

The results were as follows:

#### **Awareness of local self-harm guidelines amongst services**

- Serious case review of Child A
- 2015 - LSCB adopted local guidelines and circulated
- 2016 audit - 29% of respondents were able to name the guidelines
- 2017 audit - 30% of respondents able

### 2018 survey

- Similar range of stakeholders
- Similar distribution of frequency seen

### How often see self-harm? %

Never	23%
1 or 2 times each year	21%
3 or 4 times each year	18%
Every month	20%
Every week	19%

- 28.4% able to describe the HarmLESS or LSCB/Multi-agency guidelines  
<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/harmless>

### Assessing self-harm and planning support

- HarmLESS provides a series of questions you can ask the young person
- How they answer these questions will inform a plan about the type of support they might require
- If at the end of this you are still unsure or worried about a young person then phone your local CAMHS team

### How has HarmLESS helped?

- *“Providing support and guidance”*
- *“Helped me with supervision to support a practitioner”*
- *“Gave advice to help me think about best course of action”*
- *“Helped to support someone living with self-harm”*

### What barriers do people find?

- Young people deciding to tell when self-harming
- Recognising signs
- Conversations with parents can be very distressing for staff delivering the news
- Lack of on-going support from CAMHS – high thresholds
- Long waiting list for counselling services in school
- Parental support / acknowledgement, not having information
- People tend to focus on the self-harming rather than the cause
- Information for primary aged children and early intervention

## 9.2.4 Lessons Learned Review – M

The Assistant Director of Public Health introduced this report into Learning Review - M. The Report looks at the circumstances leading up to the unexpected death of M in October

2017

Aims to identify issues and learn from these in order to improve practice in the future.

## **Background**

- Young male, some adverse childhood experiences, who took his own life
- Several years of interaction with services, difficulties for services to engage with a key carer, episodes of self-harm, periods of going missing, police involvement and eventually becoming looked-after
- Balanced throughout this were also periods of good achievement at school, hobbies and friendships, and some positive relationships with adult.

## **Process**

- Chronologies from agencies
- Further questions and clarifications
- Lessons learned review event
- Further clarifications
- Report to Serious Case Review sub-group

## **Issues**

- Support to M's family and friends
- Issues with engagement and stopping/starting support
- Information sharing and multi-agency working
- Understanding and communicating risks
- Support to the foster family
- School role
- GP role

## **Recommendations**

In total 11 recommendations were made following the Lessons Learned Review, these will form a multi-agency action plan which the Serious Case Review Sub-Group will monitor along with the action plans from each single agency involved in the case.

**9.3 Young Persons experience and participation** The Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP) gave a presentation to the Board on the work of the Youth Forum, Senior in Care Council (SICC) and Youth Parliaments. The SICC shared a film with us that they have made about their experiences of being in Foster Care [What is Foster Care?](#)

## **9.4 LSCB THEMATIC REVIEWS:**

The Board has undertaken one themed review in their quarterly meetings during the period:

### **9.4.1 June 2018: Voice of Young People**

The Board worked in four groups to discuss the following four (out of six) Participation Standards for commissioned services.

1. Children and young people are given a range of opportunities to give feedback on the service they receive and are clear about how that feedback will be used.

2. Children and young people are actively encouraged to contribute to service design and development.
3. We have a clear commitment to participation within our organisation, which all staff are aware of.
4. All children and young people who use our service are clear about how they can participate and how they will be supported to do so.

Feedback from Group 1 – They recognised the work already in place and asked the Board to consider inviting particular groups to attend the Board or to feed into relevant Sub Groups.

Feedback from Group 2 – They acknowledged the existing forums available such as School Council and In Care Council. They said it was important to hear from children from as early an age as possible and suggested that Board members could visit schools.

Feedback from Group 3 – They identified the Board's expansion in the use of digital / social media and receiving quarterly feedback from commissioning services. They proposed additional work from the outcomes of the Schools Health Education Unit (SHEU) Survey and an extension of the recent mystery shopper work.

Feedback from Group 4 – They identified similar themes from the previous groups and suggested visiting groups in their localities would be a good way to facilitate participation.

The Board agreed that the full feedback from each group would be use to create an LSCB Participation Standards for the LSCB which can then be monitored through sub groups and the Business management Group. All Sub groups agreed to review their Terms of Reference with regard to hearing the Voice of the Child / Young Person.

**9.5 Other Annual Reports:** the LSCB received annual reports from Child Death Overview Panel; the Child Protection Chairs, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and the Independent Reviewing Officer Service (IROs) and identified a number of actions and priorities. These are monitored through the following years report. Some of the activity information is also presented later in the report.

**9.5.1 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP):** In the area of the former county of Avon, four neighbouring LSCBs (Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset) have come together to form a single West of England (WoE) CDOP. The child death review process is administered on behalf of the WOE CDOP by University of Bristol.

Throughout 2017 - 18 B&NES have maintained a regular presence as part of the CDOP. In September 2018, the Designated Doctor for Child Deaths presented the CDOP Annual Report for 2017-18 at a single event for all four LSCBs rather than a brief attendance at each Board. The West of England CDOP has an excellent reputation nationally and has been used as the model for the new CDOP arrangements proposed as part of Working Together 2018. There have been eight children resident in B&NES that have died during the 2017-18 year. Not all these deaths have been reviewed by CDOP yet. There is an inevitable time-lag (4-12 months) between notification of a child's death and discussion at CDOP. There are various factors that contribute to this: the return of Form Bs from professionals, the completion of the final post mortem report by the pathologist and receipt of the final report from the local child death review meeting. On occasion when the outcome of a Coroner's inquest is awaited, there may

be a delay of over a year before a case might be brought before CDOP. The undertaking of a criminal investigation or a Serious Case Review will also affect when a case is discussed at Panel.

The West of England CDOP reviewed 324 cases in detail between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2018. Of the 324 cases 2% were caused by deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect and 2% were suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm. CDOP concluded that over all the cases poor parenting/supervision was a factor in 2.2% of cases. In 3.7% child abuse or neglect was judged to have been a contributory factor. CDOP identified 'modifiable factors' in 30% of cases. A modifiable factor is defined as a factor, which may have contributed to the death of the child and which, by means of locally or nationally achievable interventions, could be modified to reduce the risk of future child deaths'. An example of a modifiable factor might be a death resulting from a vaccine preventable infection where the vaccine had not been given to the child.

Certain themes have emerged from reviewing children's deaths in the West of England in 2017-18:

- Review of suicides identified a number of themes o Role of Education in emotional support and safeguarding intervention
- Potential for forthcoming changes to PHSE to improve reporting when young people have concerns about a peer
- Press intrusion increasing distress

**Issues noted at CDOP led to specific actions in some cases:**

- Raising national mother and baby unit capacity with NHS England
- Challenge Commissioners on out of hours provision for replacement of feeding tubes
- Ensure pre-conception counselling to women with diabetes

The LSCB is assured that all child deaths are reported as required and the numbers remain low in B&NES.

[West of England CDOP Annual Report 2017-2018](#)

**9.5.2 Private Fostering 2017-18:** Throughout the year we have continued to ensure that the profile of Private Fostering remains in the thinking of both professionals and with the public of B&NES. Currently there are no children being privately fostered within B&NES of which the Local Authority have been made aware. Two formal Private Fostering assessments were completed in 2017-2018 both of which have now ended. The LSCB continues to work with the Council on a Private Fostering action plan and had an annual report to the Board in June 2017 and follow up in September 2017. The action plan has been completed as follows: Specific questions were asked as part of the 2016-17 Section 175 Safeguarding in Education Self-assessment and the responses were then triangulated. The Private Fostering lead contacted all schools that submitted a positive return to clarify the definition of private fostering and offered support. The Lead also presented a report and all the new leaflets and posters in line with the action plan to the Child Protection Forum in May 2017.

A new policy, procedure and guidance document was written which outlines specific actions to be taken with timescales, a local authority statement etc. This was distributed



to staff across the service. The Private fostering page on the B&NES website has been updated and links to all of the newly formed advertising materials and notification forms will be downloadable from the website:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/adoption-and-fostering/private-fostering>

The Lead compiled a spreadsheet of local language schools and disseminated the new materials to them outlining the actions they must take if any children they work with fit the private fostering requirements. Contact has been made with several language schools to discuss what they offer/how they operate and it seems that many schools offer placements of less than 28 days to students and as such do not qualify as private fostering arrangements.

Private foster carers will be given the same training opportunities as local authority foster carers. The Private Fostering question in the S175 2018-19 education safeguarding audit has been repeated and the full report will come to the LSCB in June 2019.

**9.5.3 LADO:** The total number of referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) during this period was 152. This covers safeguarding enquires, and cases which require an investigation whether through a LADO strategy or an internal investigation undertaken by staff/ volunteers employers. This figure challenges the previous three year trend showing an overall reduction in cases referred to the LADO.

All calls to LADO are screened and initial evaluation and guidance is given. Alongside specific allegations which need to be investigated the LADO deals with a large number of general enquires from professionals from a wide range of employment settings across the Local Authority Area (LA) and other LA's. These enquiries are categorised as safeguarding 'enquiry'. These enquiries reflect emerging issues which need attention or the LADO will often undertake specific pieces of safeguarding work with agencies as a result of enquires and, whilst they do not involve investigation they need a degree of oversight.

There have been 70 allegations of abuse or neglect by people working or volunteering with children made to the LADO this year; this is made up of allegations which required either a multi-agency investigation or an internal investigation. This compares to 108 in 2015 -2016. These allegations were investigated under the LSCB Allegations Management protocol because they met the thresholds under the Government's Allegations Management process.

The allegations meeting this threshold have reduced in comparison to previous years. This most notably reflects a tightening of the LADO threshold and a drop in the number of lower level allegations which are held for monitoring under the LADO process.

The type of allegation reported during this financial year is comparable to previous years, with physical abuse being the largest source of referral. These allegations tend to arise from inappropriate/ disproportionate physical intervention/ restraint, where complaints are made that a child has been harmed and due process has not been followed. For example a child's hand being hurt when a marker pen is snatched, or a staff member physically restraining a child without appropriate training.

Of the allegations referred, 42 were sufficiently serious or complex to require a full multi-agency response and investigation, a similar number to the previous year. It is important to note that all allegations where a criminal offence may have occurred were reviewed by the Police for an investigation decision. All allegations of a sexual nature were referred for a multi-agency investigation.

For this annual period, there were:

- 76 disciplinary investigations carried out in B&NES area
- 21 criminal investigations

Of these:

- 26 allegations were substantiated
- 5 allegations were eventually recorded as unfounded
- 19 allegations were recorded as unsubstantiated following investigation
- 5 referrals were made to the Disclosure and Barring Service,
- 4 cautions, convictions or imprisonments were made

There are currently a number of ongoing investigations, with 11 awaiting investigation outcomes from the police.

Our substantiated findings are in line with other Local Authorities in the South West.

In December 2017 the team were able to appoint two full time team members who have 18.5hrs ring-fenced to focus on LADO work. This is a significant achievement towards further embedding the LADO role and providing consistency of staff and resilience for the role.

**9.5.4 Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) 2017-18:** The Deputy Safeguarding Lead for Children and Young People presented the 2017/18 Annual Report. Within the reporting period the IRO service have chaired a total of 461 Children and Young People in Care reviews, a 14% increase on the previous financial year.

The data collected shows a decline in the number of children on a full care order, which reflects the increase in alternative permanence options such as special guardianship Orders or Child arrangement orders being granted by the courts alongside a steady rise in children placed for adoption. This trend is also reflected in both regional and national trends.

In this reporting period the IRO service undertook a number of audits and contributed to an overview of multi-agency working to support young people in Care who had been affected by:

- Domestic Abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Trafficking & Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking

Placement stability is strongly correlated to the progress that children and young people make in care, as compound moves can negatively impact on a young person's sense of worth, emotional resilience and is disruptive to developing friendship and support networks and educational achievement, which we want for all our young people. A key role of the IRO is to support placement stability through scrutiny of placement plans. The service raised the concern in the last financial year that there had been an increase in placement breakdowns

and multiple moves and is pleased to report that the actions undertaken appears to be showing signs that this issue is being addressed through a fall in placement moves.

In 2017-18 B&NES has small number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people and Trafficked Young People. These young people bring unique issues with them. Some of them have been trafficked into the country and may still be at risk from their traffickers. Bath and Northeast Somerset LA has not been able to identify any placements within the local authority for these young people and does not currently have resources within the authority (such as language classes) to support them. This has meant that all of the young people have been dispersed to other local authority areas and this has reduced the opportunity to build networks between the young people or with other services.

The Board were informed that further work needs to be undertaken to understand the apparent increase in unmet need in relation to therapeutic intervention for children in care, with a view to reviewing the provision of services.

**9.5.5 Child Protection Chairs Annual Report 2017-18:** The Deputy Safeguarding Lead for Children and Young People presented the 2017/18 Annual Report. The Board were asked to note that currently there were 126 children on Child Protection Plans.

In 98% of Initial Child Protection Conferences and 95% of Review Child Protection Conferences at least one parent was present.

Following Child Protection Conferences families are routinely given feedback forms and encouraged to complete them to help us understand and improve our service. She acknowledged that the returns are limited, but do offer some insight and helpful information into the parents experience.

On average, last year it took 441 days for situations of significant harm to be resolved within the family. She added that for these families they were able to make the change necessary to ensure their children were safe.

During 2017-18 148 plans were closed, with 36 (26%) being closed administratively, mostly due to children being accommodated under legal orders.

The Board were asked to note that within the reporting period 64% of children above the age of 11 directly contributed to their Child Protection Conference. This figure is lower than the service would like, and further work needs to be undertaken to understand the reason for the drop in participation in Review Conferences.

## **9.6 Section 11 Audits:**

After a series of meetings with the other Business Support Managers, B&NES, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire LSCBs had previously agreed to run a three year cycle of Section 11 audits. The full Section 11 audit was undertaken electronically in Quarter 1 of 2016, in partnership with North Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire. This allowed for a more 'joined up' approach and for more work to be developed with our neighbouring authorities in relation to the Section 11 process. (This is of particular benefit to agencies who work across those areas). In Quarter 4 the LSCBs followed up on the Action plans submitted. The full Section 11 report evidenced where agencies had rated themselves as red, amber or green in response to nine questions in line with Ofsted gradings. All agencies completed this audit, including various Council departments, and B&NES received the highest number of returns. The

individual responses were analysed in detail and a grid collated of all colour-coded responses. There were no reds identified.

The three Standards in which organisations working in B&NES felt the strongest are:

- There is effective Information Sharing
- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Senior Management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.

The main areas of weakness identified in B&NES are:

- There is effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- There is effective training on safeguarding & promoting the welfare of children for all staff working with or, depending on the agency's primary functions, in contact with children & families
- Safer recruitment procedures including vetting procedures and those for managing allegations are in place.
- Service development takes account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and, where appropriate, by the views of children and families.

The Board resolved to undertake one themed audit in 2017-18 and one in 2018-19. The theme for 2017-18 across the four LSCBs was 'Interagency Working and Information Sharing'. Walkabout visits were agreed to take place with each LSCB undertaking one visit to an agency working across the region and two agencies specific to their own LSCB area. Due to difficulties arranging visits at mutually acceptable times for the agency, Board reps and Lay Members, by the end of 2017-18, we then completed other two visits very early in 2018-19. The full report on our visits to Oxford Health CAMHS, went to the September LSCB. The findings were that Walkabout sessions gave the review team a valuable insight into front line practice and a better understanding of how child protection arrangements operate within their service. Members of the review team that took part in the process noted that it was a significant step towards the LSCB providing further strategic oversight and assurance that the data collected in 2016/17 was accurate.

Some of the agencies that took part in this process felt that it was a valuable experience that gave them the opportunity to quality assure, reflect on and improve safeguarding services for children and young people in a more supportive, meaningful and collaborative way. Recommendations were made for each agency involved and for the LSCB as a whole.

In 2018-19 the LSCBs undertook a themed audit on Listening and responding to children, young people and their families and B&NES LSCB's team visited Virgin Care Community Services – Health Visiting Hub, Southside and SWAST. The B&NES report which was very positive went to the LSCB in March 2019 and the regional report is due for June 2019.

A meeting is planned in January 2019 with all the relevant Board Managers to plan a possible joint S11 process under the new safeguarding arrangements.

audit was completed by 100% of education establishments in B&NES by March 2018 on their safeguarding practice in 2017-18. Establishments had to give their own examples of best practice and rate themselves with red, amber, green (RAG rate) against all the standards and prepare an action plan.

A full report was presented to the LSCB in June 2018. A random selection of 10% of establishments in B&NES were then visited in June 2018 to quality assure the audits with an Executive Summary being presented to the September Board. Both reports were shared with all education establishments and gave the LSCB assurance of the work being undertaken in education in all aspects of their work to safeguard children and young people. The reports were then shared in October with the Child Protection Forum for all education establishments and the Strategic Director's briefing with Head Teachers.

The new format has continued to provoke a lot of reflection, learning and development. In several establishments they identified actions that would improve practice or outcomes for children and young people and these are often recorded as strengths for that reason. All development areas are included in ongoing action plans where appropriate. In 2018 new questions were added regarding mental health training and support, an addition requested by the Youth Forum; as well as questions on early help; CSE and Harmful Sexual Behaviour; Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) content and delivery; and support for teachers in undertaking their safeguarding role.

The majority of RAG ratings are GREEN with very few areas being rated as RED. In 2016, 24 establishments identified 1 or more actions as 'red' and in 2017 this was 11 establishments. In 2018 19 establishments have identified total of 39 reds. Given all the new areas and more specific questions asked, there has been an increase in the reds identified this year, mainly in these new areas.

Establishments report that they are generally strong on training and induction; safer recruitment, training and record keeping; management of SCRs; anti-bullying and Equality Teams which continue to increase with more still being considered; involving and listening to children and young people; engagement with other services and the LADO; Child Protection (CP) policies and procedures; Online Safety.

Developments and improvements in the last year include: the sign up and awareness of the LSCB Managing Allegations Policy; Safeguarding Governor in place and more are being considered/replaced for online safety etc; more use of online/Esafety policy but not all reviewing this annually as not mandatory; improved engagement with Governors and the review of action plan/safeguarding; annual review of safeguarding and anti-bullying policy and LAC responsible member of staff is now in place in all education establishments.

In 2016-17 there was a marked improvement in Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and PREVENT training, a few schools are now reporting the need to keep up to date with their Workshop Raising Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training in particular and need to maintain this area as a priority.

The report has seen a strong impact on results and evidence from establishments as a result of the new areas added particularly in the change in the number of reds identified. It is hoped that these areas will have improved significantly in 2018-19 now that the issue has been raised.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) training in primary training – as a result of the audit responses resource information was sent to 14+ primary schools

There was clear evidence of some excellent support and creativity around mental health. It is clearly more effective when all the staff are trained/aware not just the pastoral staff.

PHSE was reintroduced in several schools with changes in the Children & Social Work Act and being reviewed at end of 1<sup>st</sup> year. The LSCB can be assured of the work being undertaken to deliver in this area.

In October 2018 the LSCB contacted all 19 establishments that had identified a total of 39 'reds' on their action plan and 5 of these returned updated action plans after six months showing improvements. There is no statutory requirement for Education establishments to send updated action plans. The audit has since been amended for 2018-19 included new questions relating hate crime and reporting, reporting Serious Equality Incidents (SEIRF), support to those experiencing discrimination (asked at the request of the Youth Forum and SICC), elective home education processes, Domestic Abuse training and support and neglect training and support. It was sent out to all education establishments in January 2019 and completed by April 2019. The LSCB very gratefully received again an impressive 100% return from all establishments. The overview report is being presented to the Board in September 2019.

## **9.8 Engagement with Children and Young People:**

B&NES Council has a contract with Off the Record (OTR) to promote the participation of children and young people, particularly those who are most vulnerable, in order to ensure their voices are heard and responded to, and to encourage their active involvement in decision-making, service delivery and strategic development.

<http://www.offtherecord-banes.co.uk/>

The following is an overview of the participation work undertaken by the In Care Councils, and Youth Forum covers the period April 2018- March 2019.

### **9.8.1 Junior in Care Council - JICC:**

The JICC group meets three/four times a year; it currently has 11 members and is bonding really well. This year Social Care and OTR have organised:

A bowling activity

A Christmas Social

A Visit to the Roman Baths

Consultation - on one-page care plans

### **9.8.2 Senior in Care Council - SICC:**

They meet for full meetings weekly basis during term time and work very closely with Children's Social Care and the In Care Council steering group made up of a range of professionals. Work this year included;

- Made a short video about Being In care
- Consulted with advocacy service.
- Meet with LAC nurses to give views on accessing GP's and transitioning from children's to adult services.
- Successful Boat trip activity in Summer
- Two longstanding members completed GCSE's and transitioned to college

- Designed a display banner for ICC
- Attended a Seminar and Q&A session at Bath Spa University for PGCE students.
- Took part in the recruitment of Director of Children's Services
- Supporting with Participation Training for B&NES/NHS/Virgin Staff

### 9.8.3 Care Leavers:

The participation worker for ICC has been working closely with Social Care colleagues, as part of the ICC Planning group to plan for a programme of engagement with care leavers for 2019-2020.

### 9.8.4 Youth Forum:

Every two years there are elections held across the Secondary Schools of B&NES to nominate a Member (MYP) and Deputy Member (DMYP) of Youth Parliament. They work across B&NES to influence and campaign on behalf of young people living in the authority, supported by and working with the Youth Forum. The focus of their work has been Make Your Mark (MYM), a young person led national campaign.

- MYP attending and being debate lead at the House of Commons.
- Change of MYP in Jan 2018 and new Deputy MYP
- Attending the regional Exeter BYC event
- Working in collaboration with First Bus.
- MYP spoke at DHI event
- MYP/DMYP met with local MP's
- Delivered a workshop on Challenging Discrimination at Primary Parliament 2018
- Providing question to the LSCB/LSAB Communications sub group
- Helping to deliver training to B&NES staff as part of the participation contract
- MYP presenting to the March LSCB about the work of the Youth Forum/Youth Parliament
- Reviewing the LSCB website and helping to make changes
- Meeting with the B&NES children workforce lead Jen Russell Discussing the training needs that they think should be made available
- Developing the 7<sup>th</sup> participation Standard for Commissioned Services
- Working with Nightstop to raise funds for their self-care kits

*"The Youth Forum has allowed me to gain insight into the issues surrounding young people in B&NES, and what we can do to help" (YF member Feb 2019)*

*"Making a difference to the local community and contributing to national change" (YF member Feb 2019)*

#### Useful links to:

#### Participation and consulting with Children and Young People

Click below:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/your-council-and-democracy/consultations/consulting-children-and-young-people/strategy-part>

Here you will find a range of documents that evidence how we engage with our children and young people in B&NES



## 9.9 LSCB Stakeholder Event:



The LSCB held a stakeholder event in November 2018 on Neglect that 91 practitioners attended. This event was used to launch the new Neglect Toolkit for which the LSCB has received very positive feedback about the ease of its use. The RUH have used it very successfully in 1:1 supervision and in complex cases with physios and occupational therapists and their disability team to analyse their thinking and articulate the reasons. A fuller evaluation of the day can be

found in the LSCB Training Evaluation in Appendix 4. It is hoped that another joint LSCB and LSAB Stakeholder event will take place in spring 2020. is planned for November 2018 on neglect and it is hoped that both Boards will be able to do a joint one in 2018-20 following the introduction of the new safeguarding arrangements.

- 9.10 Board Development:** The LSCB usually holds two Business Development Days every year. The purpose of these half-day events is to explore the mechanisms by which the Board undertakes its business and to identify improvements to our effectiveness.

In 2018-19 no Development Sessions took place.

A joint Development Session with both the LSCB and LSAB is due to take place in May 2019 to discuss the new safeguarding arrangements proposed by the safeguarding partners (B&NES Council, Avon & Somerset Police and the BaNES NHS CCG). It was not possible to progress this earlier in 2018-19.

- 9.11 OTHER RELATED WORK:** Work to safeguard children and young people is broader than all that is reported in year to the Board and whilst the Board may not have received direct reports on all of the following in relation to these activities it is all recognised to contribute to the Board's agenda and reported as relevant.

### 9.11.1 Work of the MASH: MASH data headlines from data for Q1-Q3 2018/19

446 children and young people were discussed at Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) The main referrer to MASH continues to be the Police.

There is ongoing work in relation to how we capture the outcomes of MASH assessments.

The main outcomes are - No Further Action (NFAs) and refer back to Social Care for a single assessment or strategy discussion.

The NFAs are being broken down further to reflect the work that this constitutes-

- Case to be signposted
- Health visitor to follow up
- Nursery/School to monitor.

#### **MASH audits**

Quarterly MASH audits are set up for the year. The purpose of the audits is to look at patterns and trends in relation to what is discussed at MASH and the outcomes so that we can improve practice and the service we provide to families.

#### **MASH portal**

The MASH portal has been updated and we are going to start to pilot this with some GP surgeries and the RUH directly.

## **Child Sexual Exploitation and MASH**

We are looking to refer all Sexual Exploitation cases so that they are progressed through MASH in the first instance. This will aid information sharing for this vulnerable group of children and young people to ensure that they receive a better service. We are meeting on 03/05/2019 to progress this.

**9.11.2 Child Protection Forums:** the Council and LSCB facilitate child protection forums twice a year for all school and College Designated Safeguarding Leads, these forums support the leads to keep abreast of legislative changes, local practice and procedural changes. Issues covered at the 2018-19 meetings include: Ofsted changes in safeguarding Inspections; LADO fictional case study of an allegation against a teacher; Child Sexual Exploitation update; Home School Education; Serious Equality Incident Report Form (SEIRF); MASH update and education input, GDPR and Data Protection 2018; the Section 175 Self-Assessment Safeguarding in Education Audit Report; Private Fostering in B&NES – information and support to schools; LADO concerns; Harmful Sexual Behaviour in B&NES; using the Escalation Policy; and LSCB updates.

**9.11.3. Work of Youth Connect:** Youth Connect provided open access youth work up to October, when the service was reduced. Youth work continues to be provided but will be by the new Public Staff Mutual which is planned to be launched in July 2019.

The service continues to deliver individual work with a focus on 16 -18 years old NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training), those in year 11 at risk of NEET and 13 – 18 year olds who would benefit from additional support, the service is a member of the EHAP panel. The service continues to support young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) up to 25 with support into work and transitions.

This targeted support can be provided through the following:

- Brief interventions
- Longer term interventions with plans
- Contributing to existing plans where a clearly identified need is agreed with the lead agency/professional and can be met by the Service

The Service also undertakes statutory returns - tracking and reporting the number of young people participating in Education, Employment or Training (ETE), those who are not in education, employment or training and those whose current activity is unknown, submitted to the National Client Caseload Information System in accordance with DfE guidance. This data also informs identification of young people who may benefit from a service to improve their ETE status.

Safeguarding Achievements in 2018-19:

- 154 new young people were referred during 2018/19 and received an individual targeted service; young people who were referred in the previous year also continue to receive support, this is a good achievement considering the greatly reduced size of service.
- 9 accepted Early Help Assessment and Plan (EHAP) referrals
- In partnership with Julian House, delivery of the 10-week Crush programme (domestic abuse), to help develop thinking and skills in relation to safe, positive relationships delivered in schools.
- Engagement work with Jamie's Farm which will lead to a residential in June 2019

- Development of a new college course with Bath College called Learning 4 Work which supports 12 young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and other with high anxiety and emotional needs.
- Supporting young people through key transitions, including work with young people who have been unable to access education and employment due to physical or mental ill health issues or have been excluded from provision.
- To continue to deliver youth work session in 7 locations across B&NES funded by Town and Parish Councils.
- Helping young people to stay safe by raising their awareness of the risks of certain behaviour or situations, empowering them to make positive, informed decisions and build their confidence and self-esteem.
- Work as lead professional with young people with a range of issues such as living with domestic abuse, homelessness, at risk of suicide and self-harm and with others as part of a statutory Social Care Plans.

Other Achievements:

- Unemployment figures for young people in the B&NES area to 2.9%
- Participation in education for 16/17 years olds at 91.4%
- Support to transition young people into education employment and training at aged 16/17/18 and up to 25 with SEND
- 77 young people said they had increased emotional resilience
- 56 young people said they were healthier
- 58 young people said they were positively helped to engage in education, employment or training

**9.11.4 Youth Offending Service:** Staff from a range of backgrounds including Police, Health, Social Care, Education and the National Probation Service work in an integrated way alongside other specialists and have key statutory functions in relation to preventing young people from offending. These include supervising young people aged 10-17 who have committed offences but not appeared in Court on 'Out-of-Court Disposals.' Where young people have been convicted in Court, the service supervises them on community and custodial Court Orders, giving victims a voice, enabling young people to make amends for the harm they have caused and strengthening parenting skills. The Youth Offending Service is responsible for safeguarding young people and supporting them to make positive lifestyle choices and achieve better outcomes.

Safeguarding Achievements in 2017-18 include:

- Escalation of decisions to Social Care
- Requesting Strategy and multi-agency meetings
- Training staff from YOS and a wide range of partner agencies in trauma-informed practice in preparation for the roll out of the enhanced Case Management pilot in 2019-20
- Making strong community proposals to Court when a custodial sentence is likely. The number of custodial sentences reduced from 9 in 2017-18 to 1 in 2018-19
- Setting up a reporting centre for young people in central Bath
- Helped to keep some young people out of custody
- Supported young people in custody to access education, training and employment on transfer back into the community

**9.11.5 Responsible Authorities Group (RAG):** the work that the RAG contributes to safeguarding

children and young people during the year includes the following:

### **1. Domestic Homicide Reviews**

During 2018 – 19 two domestic homicide referrals were made by the police; RAG was consulted on each case. One Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is continuing as a combined process with a Safeguarding Adults Review. The second DHR has been subject to the first multi-agency meeting and has been adjourned pending court proceedings with an aim to convene again during October 2019.

### **2. Domestic Abuse Partnership and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) grant.**

- a) **Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS).** Primary Care training for GPs and Nurse Practitioners. This has been evaluated and all GPs have now received the training.
- b) **IRIS Support Worker** -This post works with standard and medium risk domestic abuse cases and holds a caseload of 32 at this time. Most of the work is in support of the IRIS service which continues to be well supported by the GP surgeries.
- c) **Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA).** Continues to be in high demand and on average the IDVA has held a caseload of 50 during the year against a target of 25 cases as set by SafeLives.
- d) **The IDVA service** now also works in partnership with the RSVP perpetrator programme to deliver support to partners of RSVP clients which ensures greater victim safety. Clients of RSVP have to agree that they will not interfere to prevent the service contacting the victim to offer to work with them. Unless this condition is satisfied RSVP will not engage with the perpetrator.
- e) **CRUSH** Julian House have rolled out CRUSH across Bath and North East Somerset and has exceeded the targets. CRUSH has been delivered to 31 young people across two quarters with a target of 40 young people per year. The schools are also allowing time for teachers to spend with the training co-ordinators in order to increase their skills and develop a 'champions' role.
- f) **Information and Advice Navigator (IAN)** – The IAN service is now well embedded in Bath and North East Somerset. It is a busy service with both professionals and victims being able to access for information. To date 342 calls have been supported that needed that extra emotional support The IAN has e also dealt with a lesser number of calls from professionals that have needed direction for their clients.
- g) **IDVA Plus** is a new post funded February 2018 until April 202. The service held a case-load of 19 complex domestic abuse cases at the end of December 2018. Numbers of referrals from the mental health services are low but work continues towards improving. The work has proved to be very intense having to address issues, sometimes life threatening that must be addressed before the work to reduce the domestic abuse can begin.

### **3. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):**

The Council's FGM group works to encourage a multi-agency approach to this serious issue, along with ensuring the comprehensive integrated VAWG strategy is resourced and supported.

#### **4. Modern Slavery:**

B&NES Council is an active member of the regional anti-slavery partnership and the Avon & Somerset Anti-slavery Board with an aim to raise awareness of modern slavery amongst all employees and partners, to ensure a multi-agency approach to this issue and to implement the transparency in supply chain provisions of the Modern Slavery Act to prevent modern slavery from occurring in its own supply chain, noting that the Council's Contract Standing Orders already recognise the importance of preventing modern slavery.

#### **5. Serious and Organised Crime:**

The 'Disrupt' panel meets regularly; the Council is a lead member and chairs this group. We work proactively with strategic partners to gather intelligence that helps to disrupt serious and organised crime including money laundering; drug dealing/county lines initiatives, human trafficking etc.

#### **6. Prevent & Channel:**

- a) The Prevent Board has continued to meet six monthly and are appraised of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile which highlights changes in security intelligence internationally, nationally and locally in the Avon and Somerset area.
- b) A number of referrals have been made which do not meet Channel Panel thresholds. This is an ongoing concern.
- c) Channel Panel has met formally to consider one case, (adult). At time of writing two other referrals are being researched in order to determine if they meet the threshold for consideration at Channel Panel.
- d) WRAP training is carried out by training Officers within the Council as part of the corporate training programme. SCAN training (designed by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure) is due to be provided in 2019 prioritising CCTV, security and democratic officers (noting potential European elections in May 2019)

### **9.11.6 Work of Disabled Children's Team (DCT) and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)**

- **SEND:** The numbers of children requiring assessment for EHCP's continues to be high, but the demand has shown signs of reducing from previous years. Currently, 1270 children have an EHCP in B&NES
- In June 2018 a survey on parental satisfaction with the EHCP process and SEND support in schools was completed; this demonstrated a high level of satisfaction with both the support provided by the LA and Schools. A new survey will be completed in June 2019
  - The biggest areas of growth in SEND are with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) & Social, Emotional Mental Health (SEMH)
  - Additional resource has been provided to Social Care to provide capacity to the EHC Needs assessment
  - OFSTED/CQC have completed an inspection of the local areas arrangements for children with SEND. The report is not yet published, but numerous strengths in the local area have been identified as well as areas for improvement.

#### Progress on EHCPs:

- Performance of completing EHC Plans within the 20-week time-scale continues to be high. On average 81% of EHCP's are completed within statutory time scales

#### Work stream to Alleviate Demand & Pressures

- A capital programme is underway to support the development of SEND provision in specific areas of need, ensuring that we sufficient in the volume and type of placements we are able to offer. The programme is designed to improve capacity in the local area. Some of these projects have been completed and are delivering additional SEND placements in the local area.
- A graduated approach to SEND has been introduced into all schools. This approach outlines what schools should deliver to SEND children and young people before requesting an EHCP.
- The local area has carried out a consultation on services that support children with autism in their educational settings. This review will inform the recommissioning of these support services and a review of the autism diagnostic pathway.

- **Disabled Children's Team (DCT):** The thematic report, [Protecting disabled children](#), recommended what local authorities and LSCBs should do. The team have considerable experience and expertise around disability and children's services. Staff working with children with complex needs require a wider range of training and specialist knowledge.

#### Priorities include:

- That all children have clear, SMART plans which are delivered through partnership working with families and professionals
- Assessments are timely and thorough, with risks clearly identified and plans are clear
- That creative methods are used to achieve the participation and voice of the child in matters that affect them
- That plans are reviewed in a timely way to ensure relevance and prevent drift and waste.
- Timely and quality contributions to EHCP assessments.

#### Workload

As at 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the team are currently working 213 active cases. Of these there are 21 child protection plans (8 households) and 14 children are looked after (10 are in specialist residential provision).

The remaining cases are children in need. The team will typically work cases for a long duration as some children will be considered 'in need' for the duration of their childhood because of their disability (section 17 of The Children Act 1989). This includes families who are in receipt of Direct Payments.

#### Partnerships

The skills of partnership working in DCT is perhaps more critical than any other environment, mostly influenced by the complexity of need. The great majority of children live at home with parents who passionately advocate for them, and health and education partners will typically have a greater specialist role in the plans.

Audits have revealed excellent partnership working with Adults services, Education colleagues, care providers, health services, transition panel, special schools, advocacy and specialist foster carers. This is also evidenced within the recent SEN inspection in which partnership working was highlighted as a particular strength.

### Future developments

- The team continue to develop the role of family support practitioners in the team to work with families receiving children in need plans and ensuring the timely review of plans, especially the Direct Payment scheme.
- We now have a dedicated FSP role to manage the Social Care contribution to EHCP. This is supported by a manager and admin officer, enabling us to complete contributions, attend SEN panel as well as undertake quality assurance alongside our partners.
- The team provides a consultation role for other staff across the division where a child may have a degree of disability/special need but not to a level that requires allocation to the Disabled Children's team. This includes providing advice and consultation in relation to EHCP contributions when a child does not sit within DCT.
- Team members are encouraged to develop areas of specialist knowledge (such as CSE, harmful sexual behaviour, communication) so that the team (and division) is suitably equipped to address these safeguarding needs despite the additional complexities.

**9.11.7 Work of Public Health:** The public health team in the council contributes to safeguarding work off the council and NHS in a variety of ways. This year we have continued to focus on mental health of children and young people, and have also taken on an expanded role in the strategic leadership of early health work and the commissioning of some targeted children's services such as Youth Connect, Children's Centres and play services which can identify and support potentially vulnerable children and families.

➤ **Public mental health:**

1. In the spring and summer terms of 2019, B&NES Public Health are once again surveying school pupils about their health and wellbeing. The Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire asks pupils questions about a range of health issues including mental health, bullying and online safety. This year all secondary schools and approx. 54% of primary schools are signed up and results will be published later in the year.
2. The development of a new Public Health in Schools and Early Years Settings Programme marks Public Health's commitment to maximising the contribution schools and early years settings can make to promote positive physical and mental health and wellbeing. A series of new developmental audits have been shared and training provided plus ongoing information and support around key public health priorities.
3. Work to promote the mental health and wellbeing of boys and young men in B&NES continues to flourish through the Boys in Mind programme which began within Public Health in 2017 and which now has a national profile and charitable status.

[www.boysinmind.co.uk](http://www.boysinmind.co.uk)

➤ **Children's Services:**

Within the 0-19 service specification commissioned by the Council's Public Health Team, are three main services including Health Visiting, Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) and School Nursing delivered by Virgin Care. Health Visiting remains very active with contributing towards children's safeguarding by supporting parenting skills, accessing parents and carers needs, offering and providing early intervention and requesting additional services for families through universal services. During 18-19 a formal family health needs assessment (FHNA)



format was agreed and can be accessed within the SystemOne electronic health record used within Virgin Care.

The School Nursing Service have a key role in the physical and mental wellbeing and safeguarding of school aged children and during 18-19 a child protection intervention pathway was formalised and implemented by Virgin Care. This is to ensure that all children on a child protection plan receive a holistic health assessment with the school nurse contributing to the child protection process where relevant and appropriate to do so. Core to the School Nursing service is the young people's sexual health and during last year, Virgin Care developed the sexual health skills of the wider school nurse team to deliver an enhanced 'drop in' service in those schools that don't currently have Clinic in a Box. Training was delivered from the faculty of sexual health and reproduction and as a result more students are able to obtain contraception and can access advice and support on relationship and sex. There has been an implementation of a full Standard Operating Procedure for the Clinic in a Box Service to include all aspects of the service delivery including safeguarding.

The Family Nurse Partnership continues to work within its widen criteria so that mothers in the 19-24 age group who are considered to have added vulnerabilities are also eligible for the programme of support, giving skills and confidence in parenting.

➤ Targeted children's services:

These have just come over to the public health team's portfolio and so there is little to report for 18-19, but these all bring safeguarding considerations with them.

## Section 10: Local Arrangements

Local arrangements have been reviewed and fulfil the requirements set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

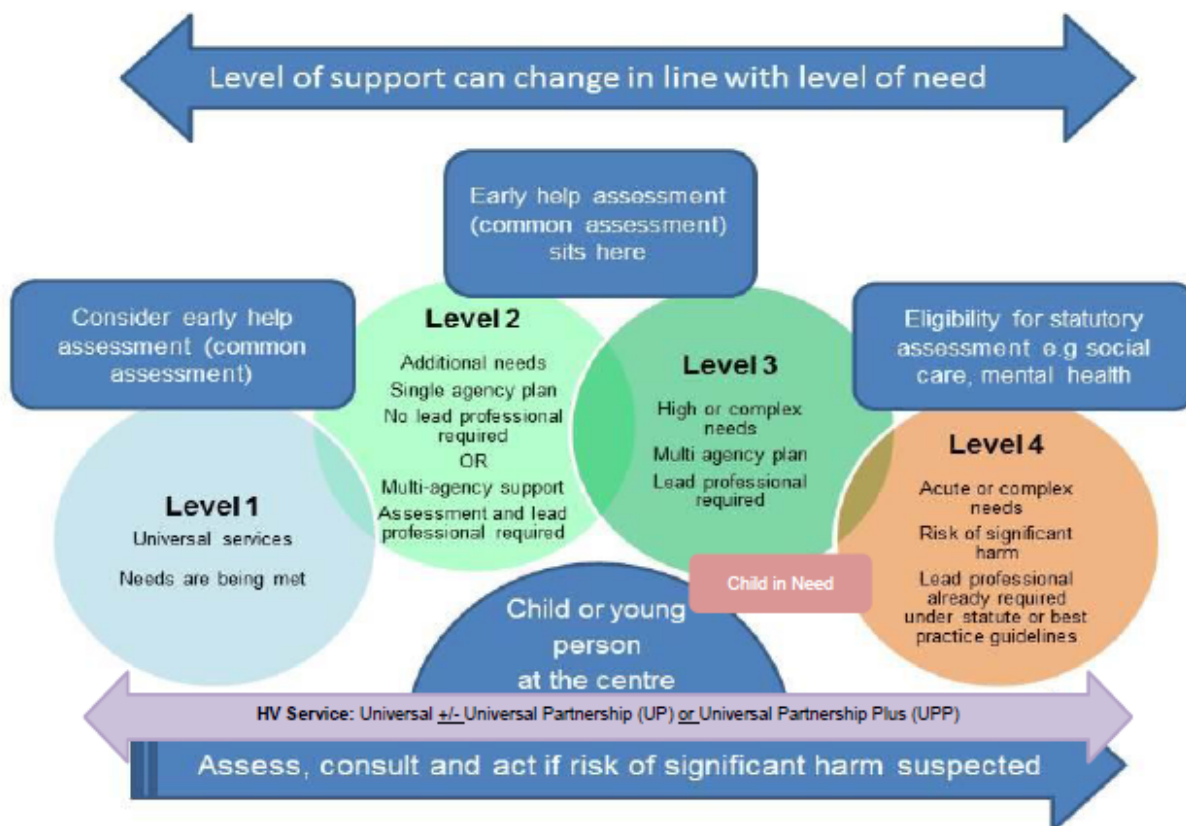
- 10.1 B&NES LSCB is one of the 12 members of the South West Safeguarding Child Protection Procedures consortia (SWCPP) and uses these procedures to direct its safeguarding duties. B&NES LSCB host the license contract and the other LSCBs now pay into this, as reflected in the Budget, see Appendix 3. The SWCPP website license was extended for a further year until 2019, with a provider that works nationally with many Local Authorities providing their policies and procedures; and the new site went live in February 2016. The procedures comprise guidance based on current legislation and up to date national policy and guidance, as well as also incorporating locally developed materials which are relevant to each of the 12 LSCBs. Each Board has its own site, which provides a 'gateway' to the shared consortium procedures, with the facility to house information specific to individual boards avoiding confusion for users. Materials will be updated twice yearly to ensure all guidance remains a current and relevant for practitioners. Boards will also be able to add some of their own local information. B&NES will handover contract responsibilities for the SWCPP in 2019 to another LSCB.
- 10.2 All multi-agency policies and procedures the LSCB approves are placed on the public website. We are mindful that poor oversight and assurance of implementation was a failing in the Rotherham Inquiry. As a result in 2015-16, the LSCB has implemented a dissemination process whereby all members of the Board, education establishments and commissioned providers are made aware of the new/revised policies and procedures;

Commissioners and LSCB partners are then asked to confirm this dissemination with the LSCB / LSAB Business Support Manager.

- 10.3 The Council delivers its statutory duty through its Children and Young People Service and through the Councils' Commissioned Services. The Child Protection Chairs and Independent Review Service sit within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance section whilst operational teams such as the Duty and Assessment Team, who provide the first point of contact for anyone wishing to talk about a child or young person, sit within the Children's Specialist Service area. If a child is disabled the Disabled Children Team provides contact, referral and initial response services for the hospital and for disabled children. The majority of teams are based at the Civic Centre in Keynsham with the exception of the Safeguarding Children Administration Team and CP Chairs based with the CP Conference room at the Bath city office – Lewis House.

## Section 11: Summary of Activity in Relation to the Support and Interventions Provided for Children and Young People

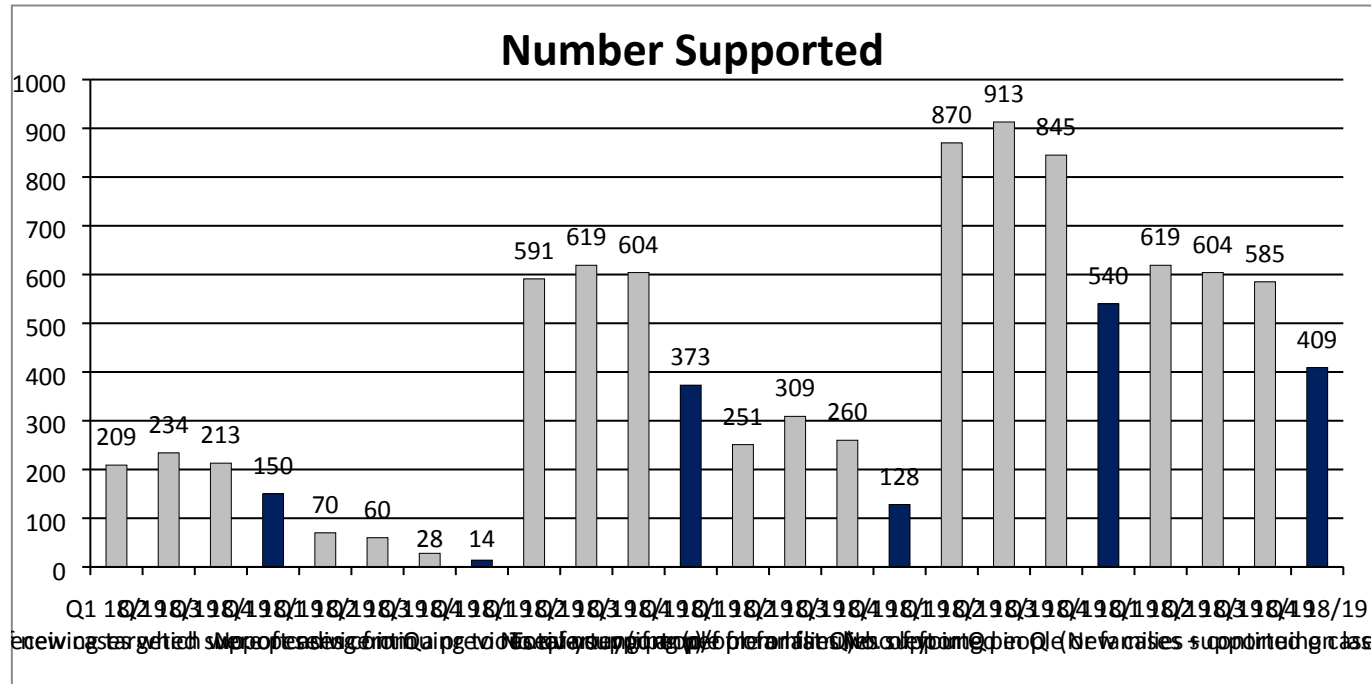
- 11.1 All partners have a responsibility to act when they identify that a child, young person and or their family needs support. The LSCB is committed to supporting agencies and continues to apply the threshold tool which was approved in December 2015.  
[https://www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk/sites/default/files/threshold\\_for\\_assessment\\_2016v4.pdf](https://www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk/sites/default/files/threshold_for_assessment_2016v4.pdf)  
which was amended in 2017 to take account of the new Parenting Strategy and revised windscreen to include Early Help.



- 11.2 The information provided in this section of the Annual Report details the activity that has taken place during the reporting period to support children and young people identified in need of a service intervention as identified in the threshold document. It starts with the offer of ‘early help’ and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) through to the number of children and young people we support through child protection arrangements and through being brought into the care of the Local Authority to protect and keep them safe.
- 11.3 **Early Help** – Throughout the year the Board has received enhanced early help reporting. Activity has been reported from a range of indicators for both Council run and externally commissioned services. These include Mentoring Plus, Youth Connect, Children’s Centre Services, the Family Support and Play Service, Theraplay and Connecting Families. During 2018/19 1,195 referrals were received by early help services of which 64% of these were accepted and started to receive a service within the same quarter they were referred. A further 25% of the referrals were pending allocation. The graph below shows the number of families or children and young people supported through preventative early help services.

**Diagram 1: Number of Families, Children or Young People Supported by Preventative Early Help Targeted Support Services**

NB: \* (\* please note data for Q4 does not include information from one provider due to reporting issues)(relevant for diagrams 1-3)

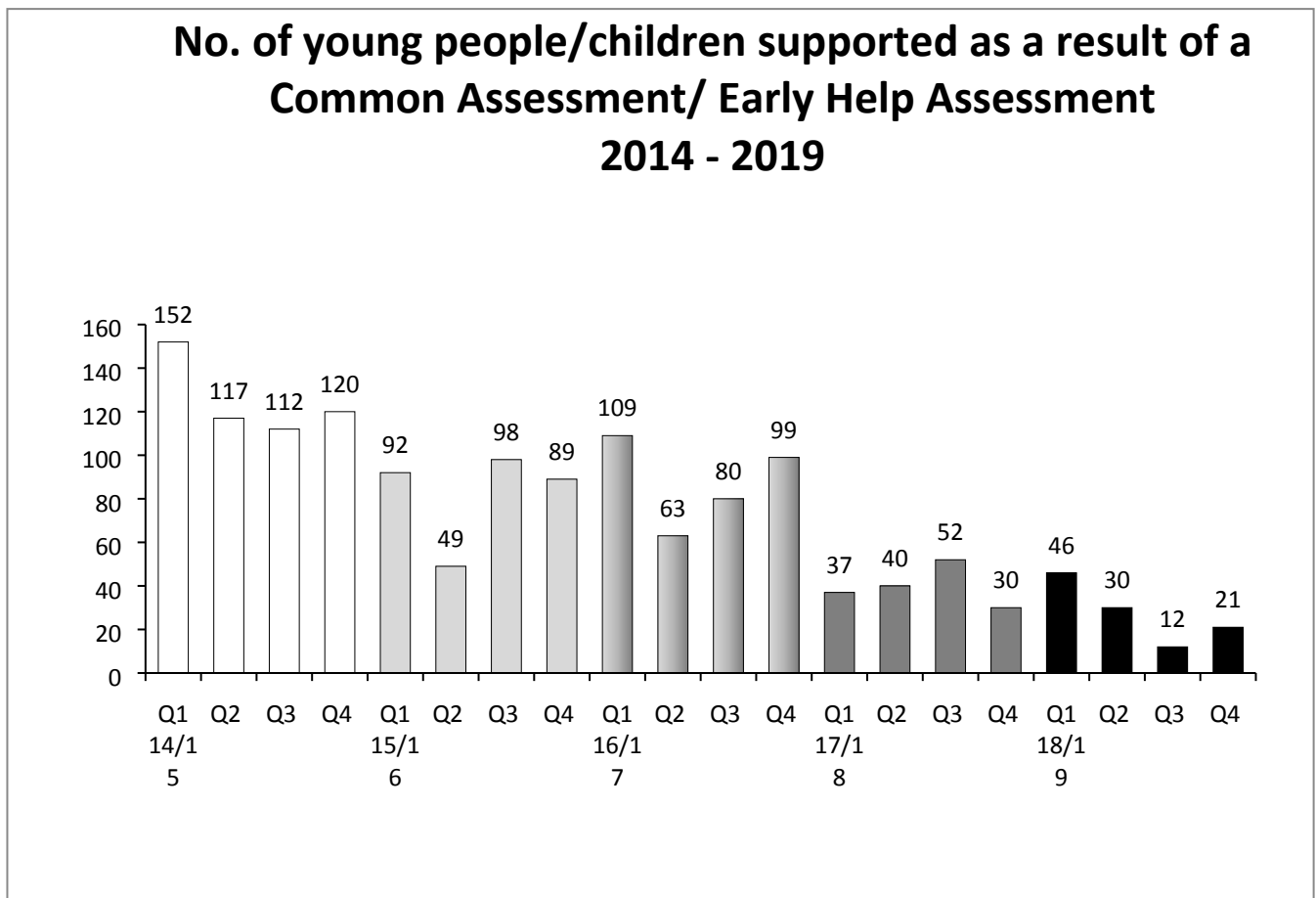


- 11.4 Referrals to early help services from the Council Children Services duty desk have remained consistent since the 2017/18 increase which was primarily influenced by the development and launch of the Early Help offer which has assisted in directing requests for services to the most appropriate area of provision. The onward referrals are made when Requests for Services have been triaged and found not to meet the threshold for Social Care and therefore appropriate referrals to early help are made. Referrals from Health visitors and from Primary and Secondary Schools

remain the highest Referrals from adult services remain low and further concentrated awareness raising is required.

- 11.5 The age range and gender of children, young people and adults receiving early help services remains similar with the largest cohort being 0-5.. 27% of cases remained open for three months or less and 24% of cases for over 12 months
- 11.6 198 common assessment forms were received, some of which included information for siblings as well. Hence the number of children assessed in the financial year 2017-2018 was 202. This is a significant decrease on the previous year when 351 were received.

**Diagram 2: Number of Common Assessments (CAFs) now Early Help Assessments (EHA) by Year and Quarter**



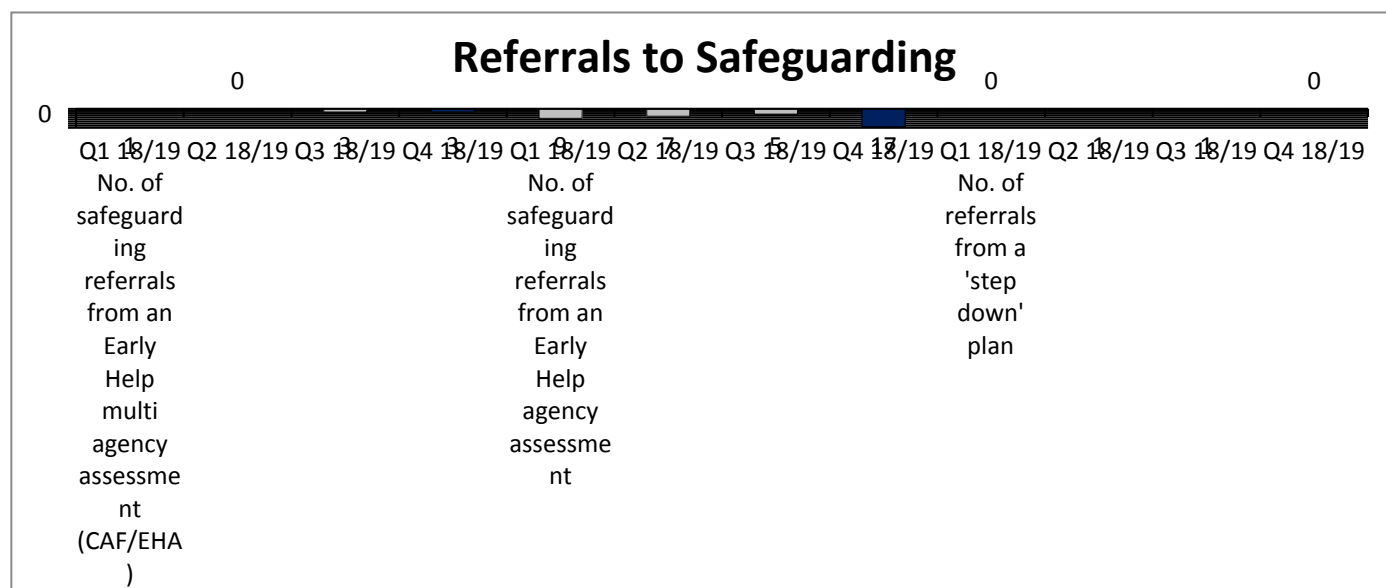
- 11.1 During the transition from CAF to Early Help Assessments the number received has reduced. We will review the audit arrangements to align with new proposals for safeguarding but 48 early help assessments have been received since that new paperwork was introduced, have been quality assured and responded to by the Integrated Working Team.
- 11.2 The conversation rate from CAF to Social Care assessment is taken as a proxy indicator to assess the effectiveness of early help in preventing escalation of need, the target of 10% was only achieved in quarter one during 2017/18 and fell to just under 9% in quarter four. As part of the transition we are investigating data sources to provide this information for

2018/19. Schools and health visitors continue to initiate the largest number of assessments and the wider workforce continues to be supported by the Council Integrated Working Team.

11.3 The LSCB continues to receive information on the progress of the work of the Connecting Families programme in B&NES. Connecting Families continue to work to their target is to support 700 families by 2020 and, at the end of 2018/19, had identified 683 families, all of whom have had an assessment and lead worker. There have been 487 claims to date which is approximately 70% of the target. The programme is complimented on benchmarking second in England out of all Local Authorities and being the best in the South West.

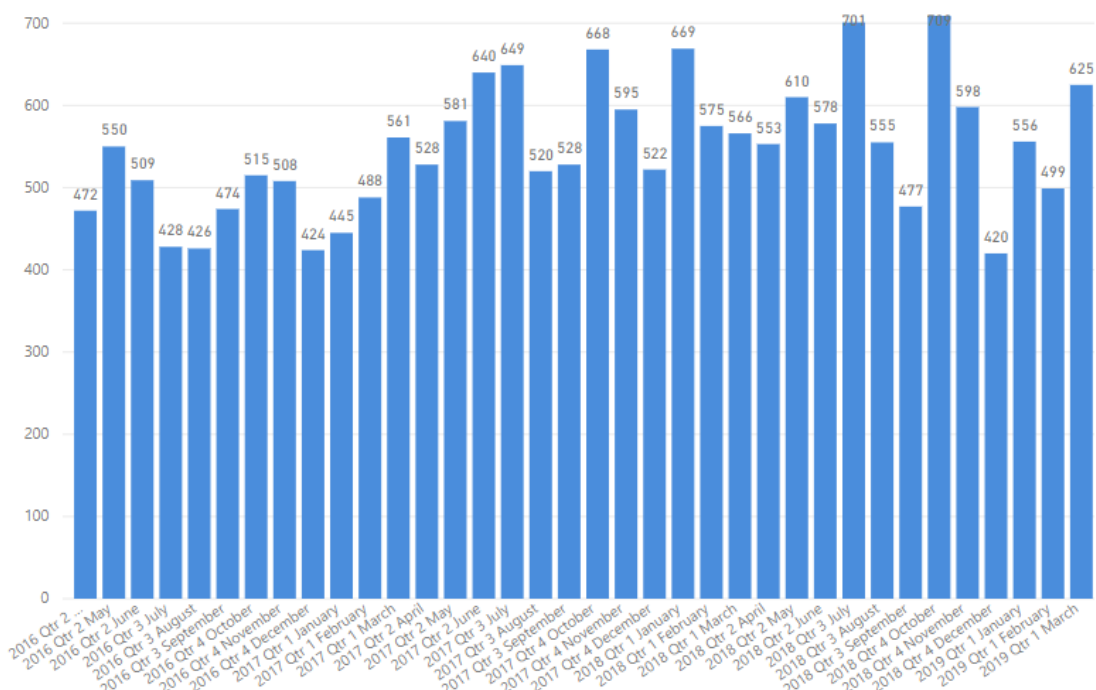
11.4 For the first time the Early Help Board has reported the number of safeguarding referrals from targeted support services made as set out in the diagram below. Whilst Council and CCG commissioners have routinely collected this and the Council record system can extrapolate this the diagram provides assurance that safeguarding concerns are routinely raised when needed:

**Diagram 3: Number of Safeguarding Referrals Made from Early Help Targeted Support Services\* (\* please note data for Q4 does not include information from one provider due to reporting issues)**



11.6 B&NES Council Children, Young People and Families Division have the statutory responsibility to receive, assess and intervene appropriately when there is a concern raised about a child or young person. These concerns are sent in from other agencies or the public as a **Request for Service and Referrals**. The aforementioned threshold tool is applied and decision made as to whether and what action is required. The diagram below sets out the activity per month.

**Diagram 4: Number of Contacts per Month 2016 – 18**



11.7 The average monthly number of **Request for Service** continues to remain high and was 625 in March 2019 whereas during 2016-17 was 565, in 2015-16 this was 415. The increase continues to place a significant strain on Children Social Care. The Police requests make up a significant proportion of these followed by Schools and then health services which are as the LSCB would expect. During the last six months of the year the Police made changes to their triage arrangements during the year in response to requests from the Local Authorities they cover to reduce inappropriate information being shared with Children Social Care, whilst they still make the most requests out of all agencies this figure has reduced. The new triage arrangements are being monitored to ensure incidents of concern are not missed.

11.8 The table below shows the reason for the requests. The Council took the decision to remove the option to code the requests as advice at the beginning of quarter two and risk taking in quarter three as it wanted to be more specific in its categorisation to look for themes. Removing the option for advice and adding in more categories is the reason for some of these having a 0 figure in quarter one, this is true also for the removal of the risk taking category as the LSCB can now see the number of concerns which relate to negative peer involvement / gangs for example which rose in quarter four. Highlighted in yellow are of the ones which are of particular note to the LSCB. Domestic abuse and neglect are significant and this is in line with national trends and data. The LSCB also note the rise in homelessness as a request for service and will monitor this.

**Table 1: Reason for Request for Service to Council Children Social Care Service by Quarter**

Contact reason	Q1 18/19	Q2 18/19	Q3 18/19	Q4 18/19
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Parenting capacity	319	15.7%	533	17.8%	602	19.7%	510	18.9%
Acrimonious relationship between parents/carers	119	5.8%	270	9.0%	251	8.2%	273	10.1%
Domestic abuse (victim)	223	11.0%	224	7.5%	267	8.7%	247	9.2%
Substance / drug misuse	64	3.1%	209	7.0%	124	4.1%	207	7.7%
Neglect	166	8.2%	209	7.0%	181	5.9%	166	6.2%
Hospital admission	109	5.4%	92	3.1%	135	4.4%	152	5.6%
Physical Abuse	169	8.3%	131	4.4%	168	5.5%	144	5.3%
Learning needs including learning disabilities / difficulties (EHC/SEN)	35	1.7%	73	2.4%	100	3.3%	110	4.1%
Alcohol misuse	44	2.2%	110	3.7%	86	2.8%	108	4.0%
Anti-social behaviour (perpetrator)	59	2.9%	94	3.1%	95	3.1%	97	3.6%
Criminal behaviour / risk of offending	48	2.4%	57	1.9%	55	1.8%	94	3.5%
Sexual Abuse	81	4.0%	100	3.3%	81	2.7%	82	3.0%
Poor school attendance / risk of education breakdown	0	0.0%	32	1.1%	32	1.0%	70	2.6%
Mental health issues / emotional well-being	161	7.9%	259	8.7%	234	7.7%	68	2.5%
Child Sexual Exploitation	80	3.9%	66	2.2%	60	2.0%	68	2.5%
Poor attachment / emotional well-being	19	0.9%	101	3.4%	105	3.4%	54	2.0%
Home conditions (inadequate)	0	0.0%	28	0.9%	44	1.4%	53	2.0%
Anti-social behaviour (victim)	59	2.9%	56	1.9%	50	1.6%	47	1.7%
Harmful sexual behaviour	57	2.8%	32	1.1%	61	2.0%	37	1.4%
Emotional Abuse (only)	17	0.8%	36	1.2%	16	0.5%	26	1.0%
Missed appointments / immunisations	0	0.0%	3	0.1%	6	0.2%	16	0.6%
Toxic Trio (domestic abuse, mental ill health and substance misuse)	2	0.1%	8	0.3%	9	0.3%	12	0.4%
Bereavement	0	0.0%	8	0.3%	7	0.2%	11	0.4%
Physical health issues including limiting long term illness	17	0.8%	33	1.1%	31	1.0%	10	0.4%
Teenage pregnancy / risk of	0	0.0%	6	0.2%	6	0.2%	9	0.3%
Notification of Child in Care by another LA	0	0.0%	9	0.3%	7	0.2%	8	0.3%
Prison (family	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	3	0.1%	8	0.3%

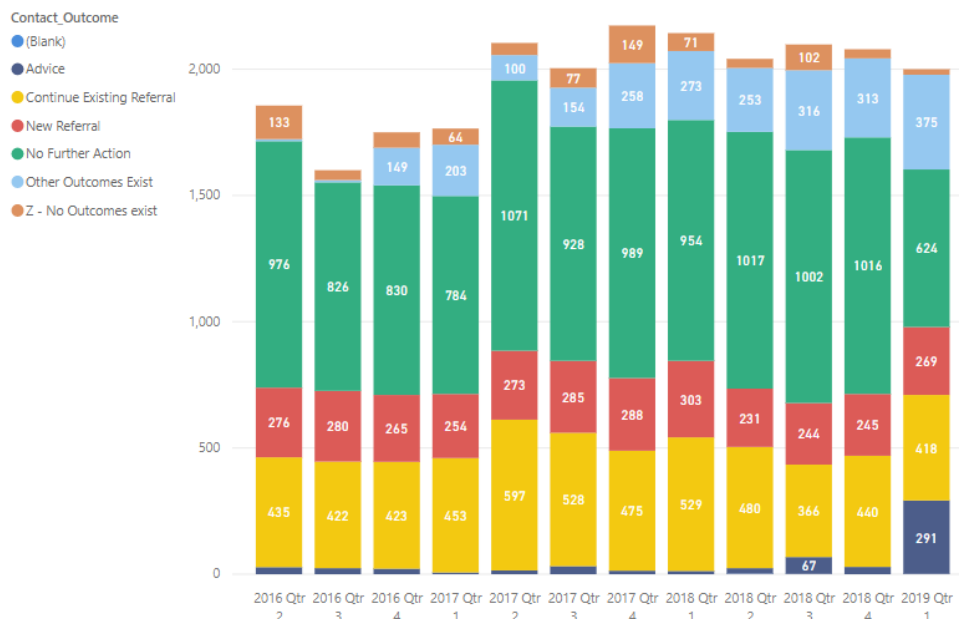


member has had a custodial sentence or recently released)								
Private Fostering	3	0.1%	7	0.2%	4	0.1%	6	0.2%
Not in education, employment or education (NEET) young people	0	0.0%	6	0.2%	16	0.5%	2	0.1%
Social Isolation	0	0.0%	8	0.3%	14	0.5%	2	0.1%
Radicalisation / risk of	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	2	0.1%
Blank/ In progress	101	5.0%	0	0.0%	97	3.2%		
Homelessness or risk of eviction	63	3.1%	75	2.5%	43	1.4%		
Disengagement or resistant to working with mainstream agencies	0	0.0%	23	0.8%	15	0.5%		
Negative peer group/gang involvement	10	0.5%	41	1.4%	13	0.4%		
DA (perpetrator) and honour based and forced marriage	8	0.4%	23	0.8%	11	0.4%		
Debt including rent arrears / lack of income	0	0.0%	5	0.2%	11	0.4%		
Numerous police callouts	0	0.0%	10	0.3%	7	0.2%		
Adult on benefits, not in work	0	0.0%	5	0.2%	3	0.1%		
Female Genital Mutilation	0	0.0%	4	0.1%	3	0.1%		
Trafficking and modern slavery	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2991</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3055</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2699</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### No Longer used

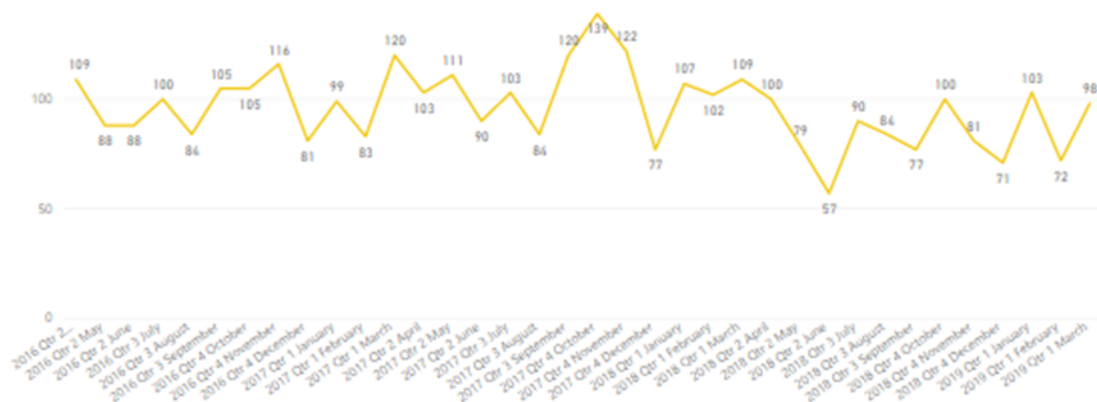
- 11.9 The outcome of the Request for Service to the Council service is reported below. The reduction in the no further action is related to the Police triaging their requests and the number of referrals to the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub appears to have stabilised and remain consistent. Figures for application for adoption order and occupational therapy are available but have been removed because they are so small and families may be identifiable because of this.

**Table 2: Outcome of Request for Service (Calendar Year Quarters)**



11.10 The number of **Referrals** received has increased slightly from the previous years to 1,261 for 2017/18 from 1,143 in 2016/17 and 1,125 in 2015/16. The diagram below shows this by quarter for 2016/17 and 17/18. In 2016/17 the Department for Education reported via the *Characteristics of Children In Need: 2016 to 2017* (referred to in this report as CIN data) report published in November 2017 a national increase of 4%. This confirms a continuing rise in demand which is in line with the general national trend.

**Diagram 5: Number of Referrals per month (contacts which progress to single assessment)**



11.11 The diagram below sets out the comparison data from the CIN data - Census data for England per 10,000 referral rates. B&NES has been consistently lower than National, Regional and statistical neighbour (Like authority) data. This remains the case for 2016/17 at 329.0 and the LSCB and Council would expect the same for 2017/18 when the data is released.

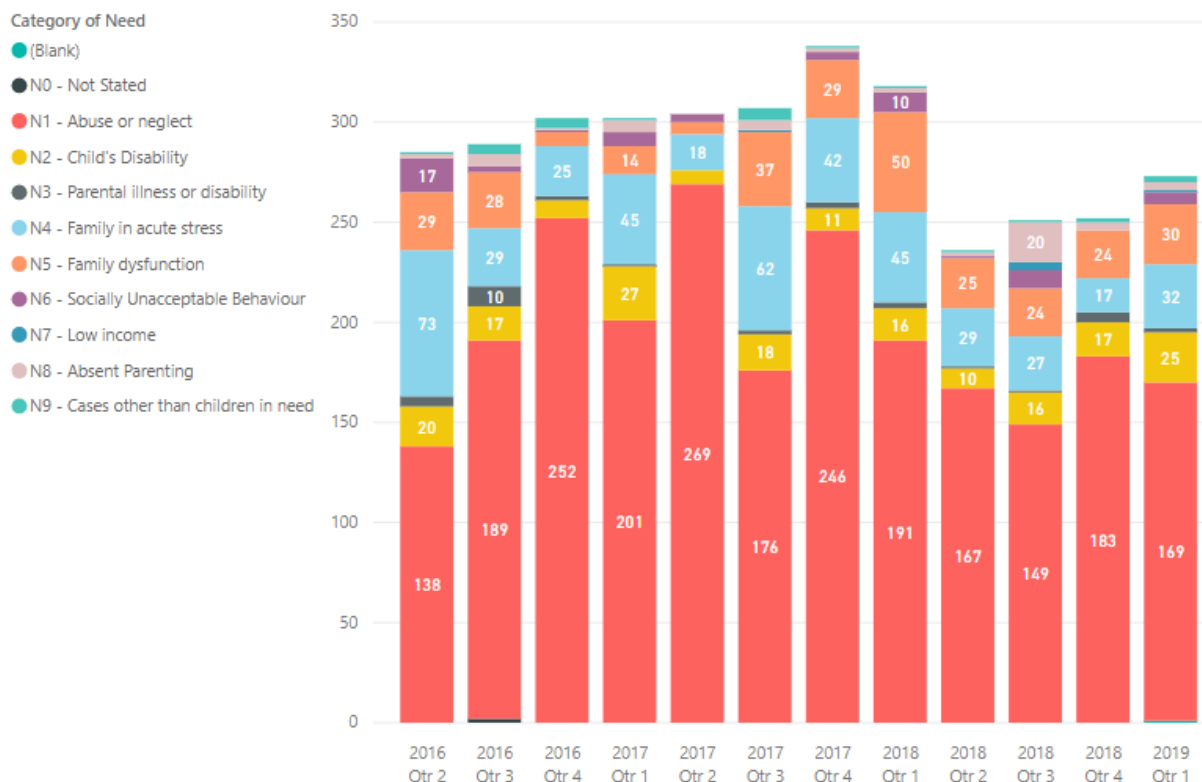
11.12 The majority of referrals have come from the Police followed by schools. This is the same as the national picture and in line with previous reporting.

11.13 Council Children Social Care continue to monitor the timeliness of their response to referral and improvements are being shown with a significant reduction in the number of cases

taking longer than five days to agree a decision to proceed to a fuller Assessment. In line with this improvement the number of children seen within five days is increasing.

- 11.14 The primary need identified for referral continues to be abuse or neglect; this is in line with national trends reported in the CIN data, however B&NES report a higher percentage (60.1%) than the national figure from 2016/17 (52.3%). B&NES figure at the for children identified with a disability or illness in quarter four (4.5%) is almost half of those reported in the national picture for 2016/17 (9.4%) and the LSCB through the Performance Management Group continue to monitor this as does the Professional Practice audit Group. Family dysfunction is the same as the national reporting and family in acute stress is higher.

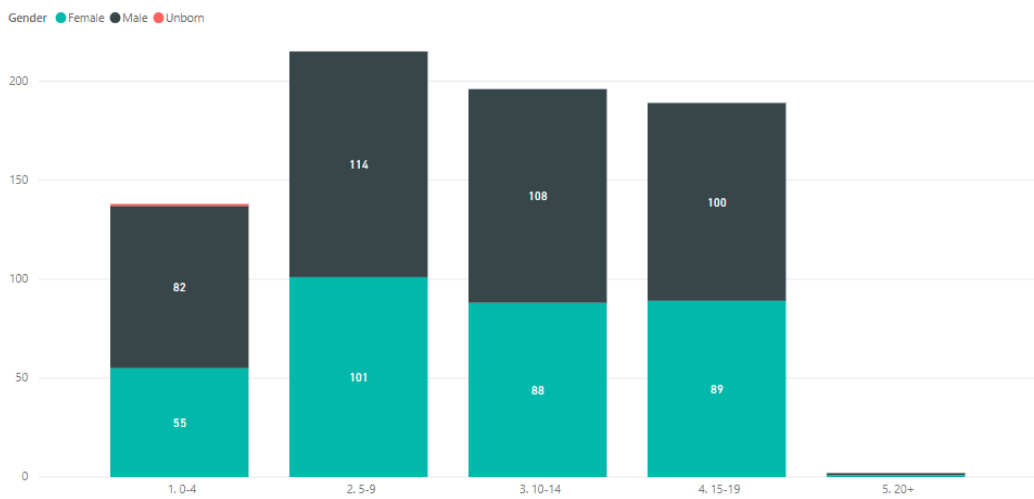
**Diagram 6: Category of Need Breakdown for Referrals Received per Quarter (calendar year quarter)**



- 11.15 There has been continued decrease during the year with the number of children referred again to Children Social Care within a 12 month period with re-referrals at 15.7% for quarter four 2017/18. The reduction is in line with the national picture where there has also been a reduction from 22.3% for 2015/16 to 21.9% in 2016/17. *The low rate of re-referrals is indicative of agencies getting decision making and interventions right "first time", enabling fewer families needing to return to Social Care for support.* (Divisional Director for Children Services April 2018)

- 11.16 **Children in Need Interventions** - there were 610 Children in Need (CIN) open to Children's Specialist Services at the end of March 2018. A fall of 74 (11%) from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The CIN data (2016/17) also reported a decrease of 1.3%.

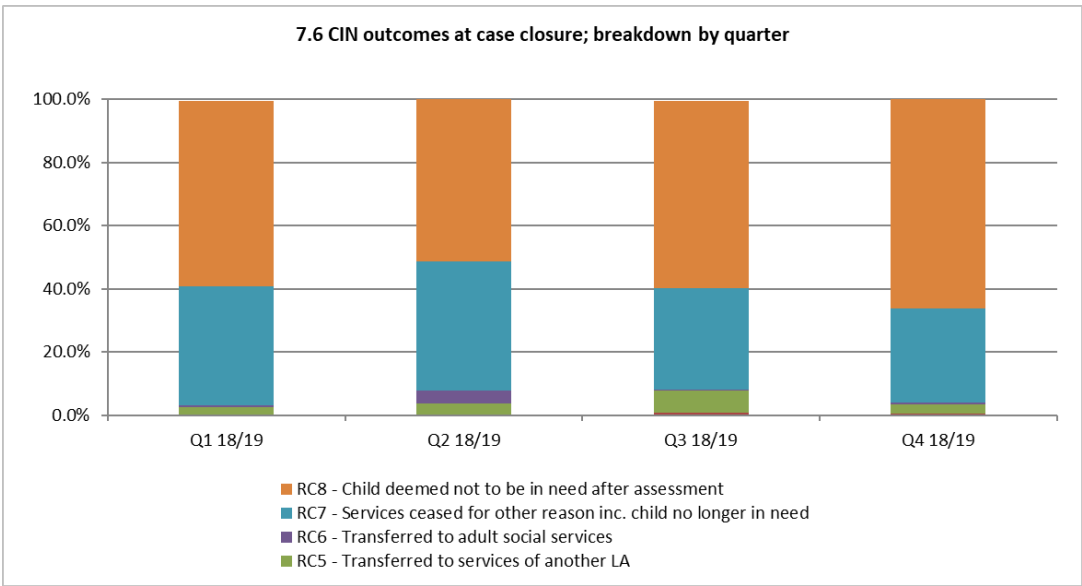
Diagram 7: Breakdown of Children in Need by Age and Gender for CIN plans open in 2018/19



11.17 This year, like last has seen an increase in the number of younger children in need and unborn children identified. The gender split of children in need remains very similar to the national picture with 54% being male, 43% female and 3% unborn. The CIN data for 2016/17 is 53% for male, 45% female and 2% unborn the same as the previous year. The age range in B&NES is not in line with the national report which shows more children aged 10-15 years in need.

11.18 The timeliness of visits continues to be monitored in addition to children being seen and the duration of CIN plans. Over 70% of visits are on time and like the national data the majority of CIN cases closed within the first six months of intervention. The reasons for the closure of cases are set out below. The Council will break down RC7 further to enable a clearer understanding of what the other reasons are for cases closing.

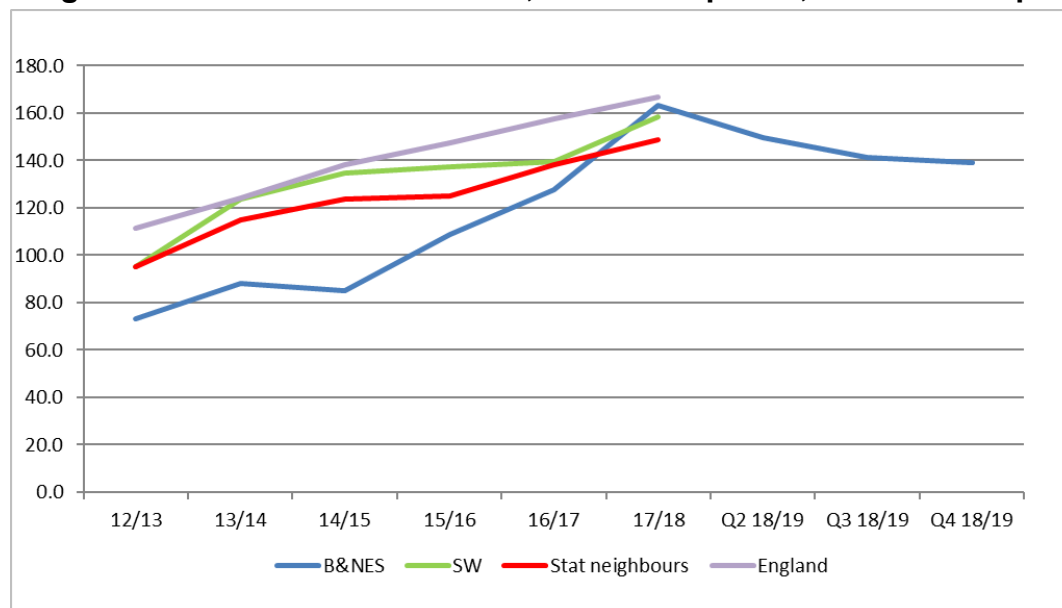
Diagram 8: CIN Outcomes at Case Closure by Quarter



11.19 **Strategy Discussions and Child on Child Protection Plans** - there were 908 strategy discussions were held during the reporting period resulting in comparison to 481 from the previous year. 174 children being on child protection plans on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 up from 152 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 an increase of 14%. Nationally there has been an increase of

1.5%% in 2016/17. B&NES continues to place higher than CIN comparator data 2016/17.  
See section 11.27 for more information in relation to this.

**Diagram 9: Child Protection Plans, S47 Rates per 10,000 with Comparator Data**

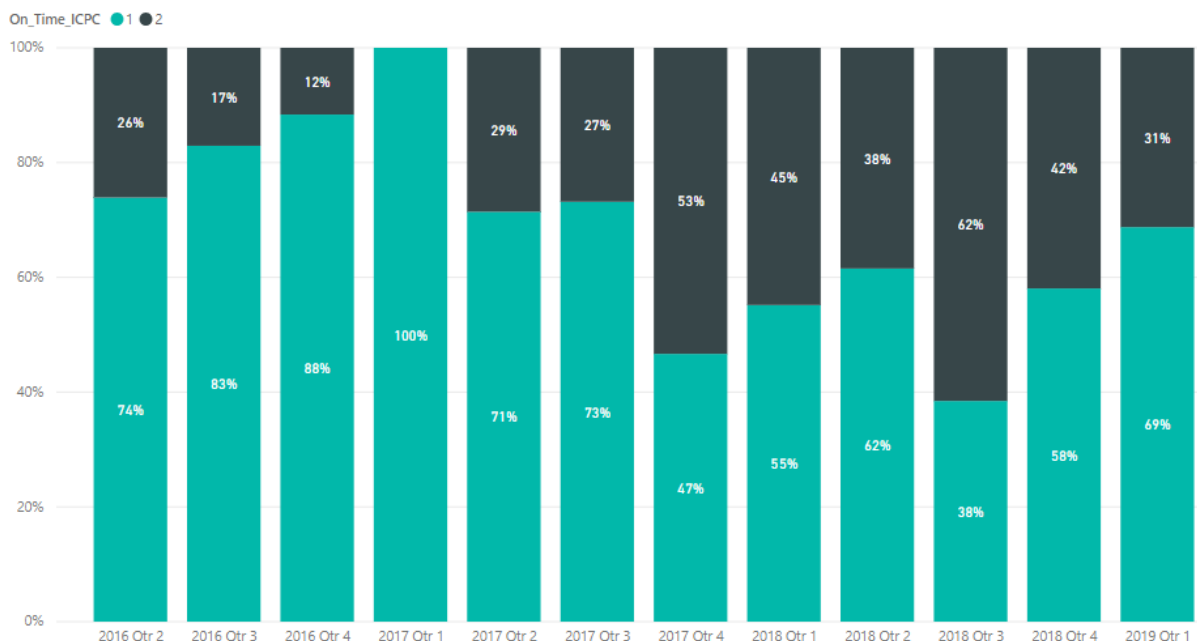


11.20 Quarter four shows the number of children subject to a section 47 and an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) decreasing, this decrease has continued in the first quarter of 2018/19.

11.21 The table below shows three sets of information:

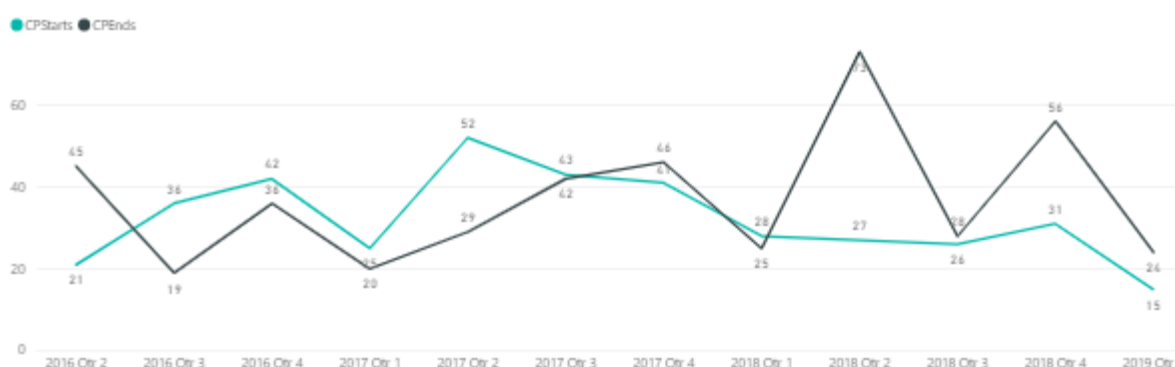
- the percentage of strategy discussions which have converted to section 47 investigations during the period
- the number of section 47 enquiries which progressed to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC)
- The number of ICPCs which are held within 15 working days of the section 47 – this is a national timescale set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children. Whilst quarter one and two demonstrate good performance, quarter three and four deteriorate. The Child Protection Chairs have accommodated the ICPC requests they have had however there has been delays in notifying them in a timely way. This is being looked into as usually performance in this area is good.
- The area continues to be an outlier compared to comparator areas and will be monitored closely in 2019/2010

**Diagram 10: % ICPC held within 15 working days of strategy discussion (Calendar year quarter).**



**11.22 Initial Child Protection Conferences** – the diagram below sets out the number of children by month who became subject to a Child Protection Plan. One reason for the number of children on a plan being above comparators is that there were a number of large families whose children came onto a plan, also that de-planning has slowed. There is also a concern from Children Social Care that there is *‘a reluctance from agencies to agree “step-down” plans on the basis that on some occasions there is a perception that remaining on CP plan can mean a greater access to resources for the family. We are currently seeking to address this by including a new section within RCPC reports which will articulate more clearly steps taken to support families and progress made.’* Council Divisional Director Children Services (April 2018).

**Diagram 11: Number of Child Protection Plans Started and Ended by Quarter (calendar year quarter)**



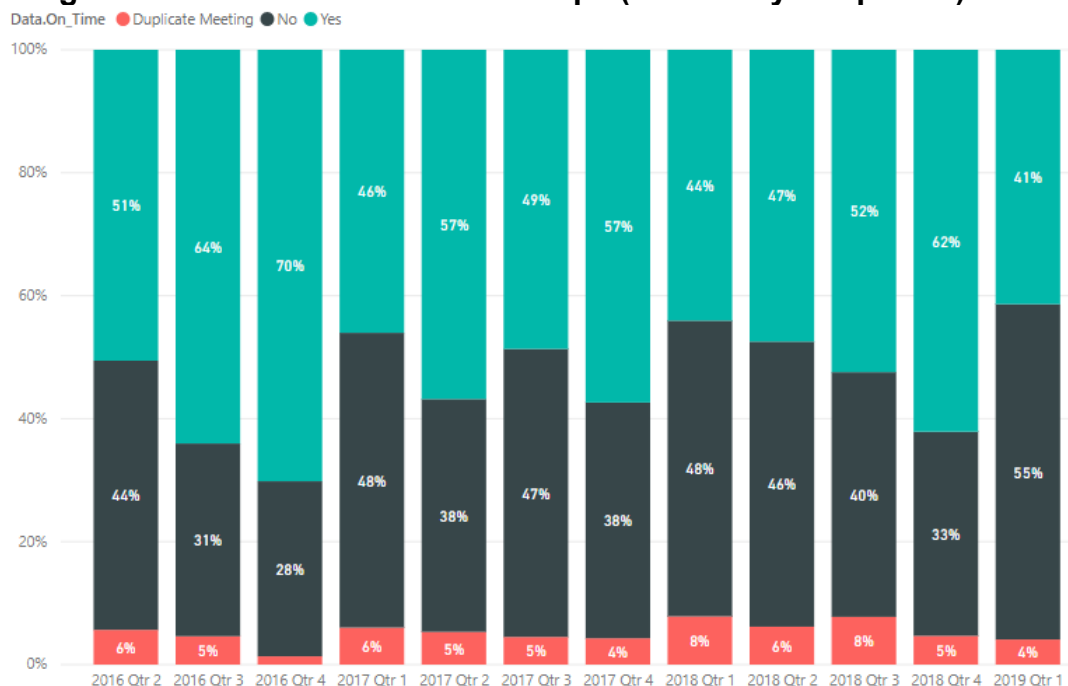
**11.23** The diagram above shows the number of children subject to a plan by quarter. Quarter one 2017/18 had the highest number of children on a Plan and a reduced percentage of children removed from a plan, this is a recurring pattern whenever we have a spike in new Child Protection Plans they take priority (ensuring children are safe) over ending plans (for children who we are confident are safe). Council teams caseloads are at their maximum levels and they consequently need to prioritise in terms of risk to the children.

**11.24** The diagram below shows the age of the children on Child Protection Plans – this remains similar to previous periods. The number of un-born babies that are being identified as

requiring pre-birth plans are continuing to be identified which is indicative of good pro-active planning by agencies.

11.25 Regarding the timeliness of Core Groups the general picture for these is improving however there is more work to be done and this is being monitored routinely by Children Social Care managers.

**Diagram 12: Timeliness of Core Groups (calendar year quarter)**



11.26 The table below sets out the length of time a child is on a Plan. It is important to note that one of the impacts of the increased activity in Child Protection activity over the past two years has inevitably meant an increase in the number of children have been on a Plan for more than two years especially given there were 0 on a Plan on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Agencies are aware of this and have reported that there has been increased pressure given the rise in children on a Plan during 2017/18 which has affected their capacity to work as intensely with families as they would like. There has however been an increase in the number of cases that have closed by 18 months which is encouraging meaning over 90% of children are on plans for less than 18 months. The LSCB Performance Management Group (PMG) continue to monitor this and the new Strategic Plan 2018/2020 sets a target of less than 4% of children being on a Plan for more than two years for 2018/19. The aim being to reduce that figure further the following year. All children on a Plan for longer than 15 months are audited by an independent consultant from Barnardo's; Service Managers also audit all cases over 12 months.

11.27 When looking at the categories of abuse recorded for children on Plans (see diagram below) the most common initial category is neglect. This is in line with the national picture with 47.8% of children in need at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 followed by emotional abuse with 36.7% (CIN data). B&NES is above that figure with 53% of children with initial category of abuse as neglect followed by 32% with emotional abuse.

**Table 3: Recorded Actual Number of Children on Child Protection Plan by Categories of Abuse**



at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Current CP Plans - Category	Children
Emotional	18
Emotional, Physical	1
Neglect	63
Physical	4
Sexual	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>

11.28 The LSCB through the Professional Practice Group (PPG) undertook an audit of children with a disability on child protection plans and confirmed arrangements were robust. The number of children with a disability at the 31<sup>st</sup> March on a Plan was 9.

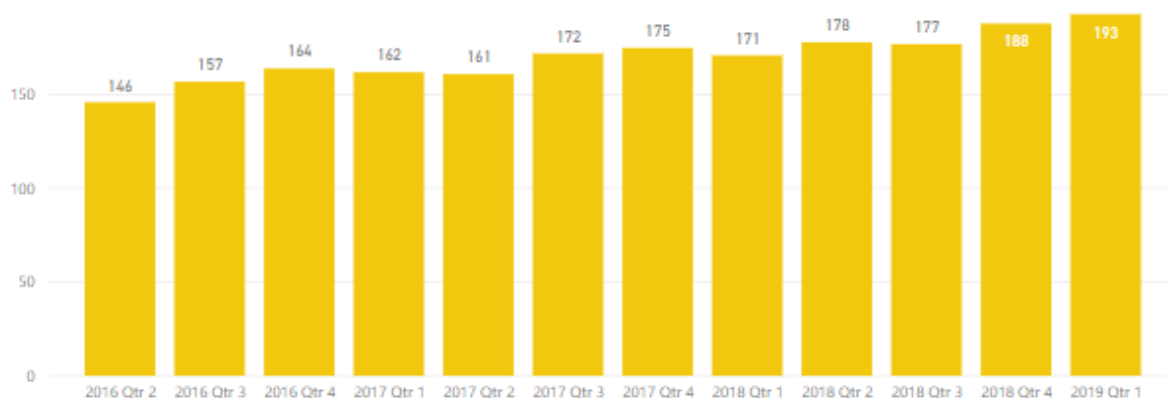
11.29 The table below identified the reason for the children being closed from a Plan. The reasons were modified in quarter 3 to better illustrate this enabling greater oversight of reasons. This explains the reason behind the 0% in quarter four for Change of Plan and for quarter one and two for three of the reasons.

**Table 4: Reason for Plan Closure 2018/19**

Leavers - End Reason	Children
Child/YP no longer at risk of significant harm - Step down to CIN	104
Child/YP no longer resides at home – Local Authority Accommodation	63
Child/YP no longer resides at home – Private Arrangement	2
Child/YP transferred to another LA or has left the UK	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>

11.30 **Looked After Children (LAC)** - On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 there were 168 children in care in B&NES this is a 5% increase from 160 in the previous year, 154 in 2015/16 and 131 in 2014/15. Nationally there was a 3% increase from 2015/16 to 2016/17 as reported in the *DfE Children looked after in England (including adoption), year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017* data (referred to as CLA data through this section of the report). The DfE are clear that the change in the characteristics of looked after children and care leavers nationally is because of the cohort of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who tend to be 'non-white British, older children, with a main category of need of absent parenting.' (p5). The yearend figure places B&NES South West average, statistical neighbours and significantly below the national average per 10,000 population figures.

**Diagram 13: No. of Looked After children at quarter end (calendar year quarter)**



- 11.31 The age breakdown of Children in Care remains broadly similar to the previous year's picture with a slight increase in the 0-5 years. This is thought to be directly related to increased activity in Care Proceedings. Nationally there has also been a slight increase in the number of children under 1 year old.
- 11.32 The proportion of females to males remains broadly in line with the national picture with B&NES being 54% male and 46% female in comparison to the national figure of 56% male and 44% female (for 2017 same as 2016).
- 11.33 The ethnicity of B&NES Children in Care is predominantly White British at 70% this is broadly similar to last year which was 71%. The CLA data year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 – reports that looked after children are predominately white (75%) the same as last year. There has been a slight increase in non-white which reflects the increase in number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The DfE are clear that the change in the characteristics of looked after children and care leavers nationally is because of the cohort of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who tend to be 'non-white British, older children, with a main category of need of absent parenting.' (p5)
- 11.34 The local reports do not currently capture the reason for children being looked after however this will be available for next year's Annual Report and will be reported on from quarter two 2018/19 to LSCB PMG. Nationally 61% of children are looked after due to an initial need of abuse or neglect, 15% family dysfunction, 8% family in acute stress and 7% absent parenting (CLA data 2017 page 7).
- 11.35 The legal status of children and young people is set out in the table below with comparators from other periods included.

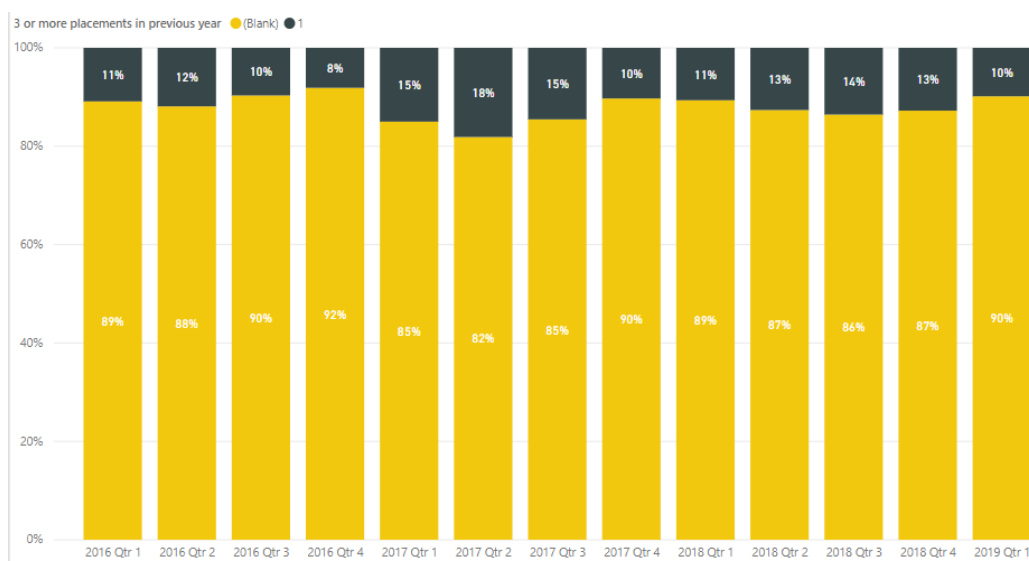
**Table 5: % Legal Status of Children in Care**

	2013/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	Q4 18/19	Age 16+ Q4 18/19
Full care order (C2)	40.5%	49.6%	45.6%	40.6%	40.5%	40.8%	38.3%
Section 20 (V2)	43.2%	41.2%	36.7%	37.5%	32.7%	25.0%	61.7%
Placement order (E1)	9.5%	4.6%	8.8%	7.5%	14.3%	13.8%	0.0%
Interim care order (C1)	6.8%	4.6%	8.8%	14.4%	12.5%	20.4%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

11.36 The table above shows a broadly similar range from previous years with the exception of the category Placement Order which confirms the increase in adoption activity however this increase is not in line with the national trend which is decreasing. Section 20 arrangements in B&NES have decreased however which is in line with the national trend. Interim Care Orders remains similar to last year which highlights the increase in Court activity experienced by both B&NES and other parts of the country in the same period.

11.37 Children Specialist Services and the Independent Reviewing Services work together to ensure placements remain as stable as possible. The national measure takes account of children who have moved placements three or more times in the last 12 months. The diagram below demonstrates that just over 10% of children do not move more than 3 times. The CLA data 2016/17 shows that 11% (18/168) of children move three or more times, we continue to be just above this at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 however the diagram shows that there were periods through the year where we were significantly over and the Corporate Parenting Board will continue to keep a watch on this. It is however important to note that placement moves include both planned and positive moves as well as those that are unplanned and the Corporate Parenting Board have asked for this to be broken down to explain this to understand moves which are of concern.

**Diagram 14: Placement Stability: 3 or more moves in 12 months (Calendar year quarter)**



11.38 The Independent Reviewing Service has ensured reviews are carried out in a timely way. During this period we are reporting two figures, the national indicator 66 and the local one.

- NI66 reviews on time for children and young people in care for over a year for 2017/18 was in line with the target of just over 87% at 87.6% this is a decrease on last year (93%). Quarter one, two and three remained consistently high at report states 93% or over but 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 performance had dropped. The performance that the figure is being checked by the IRO service and may increase but this is the current reported figure.
- Local NI66 review on time for children and young people in care (including those in care for less than a year) was also less than last year and on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 reported as 81.5% against the more than 87% target. In quarter one and two performance was on average at 93% but this fell in quarter three and four. Again there is a health warning on the end of year figure at the moment but this is the current report.

11.39 461 reviews were carried out during the year 57 more than the previous year; children and young people are encouraged to participate in these and in 93% of cases some form of participation took place. Note good practice recommends not including children under the age of four in such reviews and their involvement has been removed from the calculation.

11.40 The Independent Review Service produces an Annual Report each year highlighting, as well as highlighting activity and the profile of B&NES Children In Care it also raised issues and concerns that the IROs have identified and whether they were responded to and resolved. The IRO report will be published on the LSCB website and these issues can be viewed in more detail. The escalations are routinely monitored as part of the quality assurance role of the service.

### 11.41 Outcomes for Looked After Children

11.42 During the year 58 children and young people left care, 12 of whom were adopted. There are an additional 2 children where a match for adoption was agreed.

11.43 On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 79% of young people (aged 19, 20 and 21) leaving care have suitable and stable accommodation; this compares to 83% in 2016/17 and 92% in 2015/16 and 98% in 2014/15. Performance until 2015/16 was significantly above benchmark data however the CLA data 2016/17 shows that national figure of 84% and South West at 86%; statistical neighbours average however was 82% therefore B&NES in 2016/17 was slightly

higher. This remains an area of concern for the Council.

11.44 58% of young people leaving care are in employment, education or training, this figure has lower than previous years with the exception of 2014/15. This is an area of focus as part of the Ofsted inspection highlighted however it is important to note it is higher than the national benchmark figure which continues to shows 40% of young people who had left care were not in education, employment or training for 2017.

11.45 91% of care leavers on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 remain in touch which is higher than the national average of 89% in 2017.

#### **11.46 Other Activity Information Relevant for the LSCB**

11.47 During quarter one, two and three there were 195 missing episodes reported to Children Specialist Services. The data for quarter four is currently being checked for accuracy. 77% were offered return home interviews however not many were completed within 72 hours in line with statutory guidance however there are a number of reasons for this one is caused by the lack of capacity to respond but secondly because of the delay in reporting from the police which makes the 72 hour interview impossible to achieve.

11.48 The number of children identified at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation has increased during the year and this is shown in Table 1 with 80 more children being identified as at risk of CSE during 2017/18 than 2016/17. The Divisional Director monitors the situation and the Service is working closely with the Police and states:

*'Much of this increase is founded on the growing understanding of the impact of so called "county lines" and a subsequent growth of criminal exploitation. The growth of the county lines appear to be linked to two key routes, one along the M5 corridor from Birmingham and the Midlands, and the other along the M4 corridor from London. We are currently working with Police colleagues to update our Problem Profile to highlight particular hot-spots associated with the County lines.'* April 2018

11.55 The number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children is 15 and there are currently two young people identified as having been trafficked. One child was referred to the Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit however no Channel Panels were held.

## 12.1 Ofsted Review of B&NES LSCB (July 2017)

The final report from the team of inspectors, who visited in April and May 2017, gave the Council an overall rating of 'Good'. The review of the multi-agency arrangements to protect children through the Local Safeguarding Children Board, carried out alongside the inspection of Council services, also received a 'Good' rating.

Ofsted's review of the effectiveness of the LSCB reflected some fantastic working between local partners, including the Board's then three active lay members, and the strong work we did to 'actively seek the views of children through the Senior in Care Council (SICC) and Youth Forum'. The Board picked up three recommendations - to broaden the range of performance information we review; to add some additional areas of focus into our annual report; and to extend to a wider audience the ongoing work to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation. These recommendations were then built into the Business Plan 2015-18 and two have carried over to the new Strategic Plan 2018-21. All three actions were completed during 2018-19

[Ofsted Report on B&NES LSCB](#) Inspection of B&NES Children's Services and review of B&NES LSCB (July 2017)

During 2018-19 we had one external inspection. The joint local area SEND inspection in Bath and North East Somerset took place between 18 March 2019 and 22 March 2019. The inspection found that "local area leaders, driven by strong and shared values, are determined to provide the best for children and young people with SEND. They provide strategic leadership that enables a solid foundation for effective services, continuous improvements and creative solutions" Full report can be found on the Ofsted website; <https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50077230>

A Multi Agency JTAI preparation group has been in place and in 2018-19 has run 3 trial JTAI processes based the themes set by Ofsted. Learning from the audits undertaken around Child Sexual Exploitation, Early Help/Children's Social Care threshold and Exploitation have supported learning and development in these areas. Work has been undertaken to support communication and multi-agency working around contextual risks and audits are demonstrating effective work with young people, their families and the multi-agency network to reduce the risks and make a real difference. Learning from these audits has been disseminated to the Early Help Board and Improvement Board to support further development and understanding. Findings from Joint Targeted Area Inspections nationally have been disseminated to partner agencies via the schools Child Protection Forum and the Early Help Board, Improvement Board and the Exploitation Sub Group to ensure widespread awareness and evidence based developments.

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) has been awaiting and preparing for an Ofsted Inspection but this did not take place in 2018-19.

## Section 13: Priorities for 2018 - 19 and Beyond

### 13.1 LSCB Strategic Plan 2018-21

During 2018, the LSCB partners and Business Management Group developed a new Strategic Plan for 2018-21, this is more outcomes or impact focused and was finalised in June 2018 and then published on the safeguarding website. Sub Groups then report very six months to the Board on their progress on the Strategic Plan actions and the Year One progress is available below:

[LSCB Strategic Plan Year End Summary March 2019](#)

The full version and one page version of the Strategic Plan are also available on the safeguarding website:

[LSCB Strategic Plan 2018-21 on a page](#)

[LSCB Strategic Plan 2018-21](#)

The new Plan has 5 key outcomes and 13 priorities in order to meet them.

#### **Five Outcomes**

- All children and young people are safe
- Children, young people, carers and families contribute to the way services respond to child protection and children in care safety concerns
- LSCB is assured that safeguarding is embedded; is delivered to a high standard and is effective across all partner agencies
- A skilled, trained and competent workforce
- The LSCB is effective and responds to the new legislative requirements

## Section 14: Essential Information

- 14.1 The Annual Report is published by the LSCB and has been contributed to and approved by all partner The Annual Report is published by the LSCB and has been contributed to and approved agencies.
- 14.2 The Report is shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, B&NES LSAB, Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) and Council Chief Executive.
- 14.3 The report can be made available in alternative formats as required and by contacting the LSCB Business Support Manager by emailing [dami\\_howard@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:dami_howard@bathnes.gov.uk)



## Appendix 1: LSCB Terms of Reference

The LSCB Terms of Reference are available on the safeguarding website:

[LSCB Terms of Reference](#)

The Terms of Reference were fully reviewed in June 2018 and will be rewritten during 2019 - 20 with the creation of the new safeguarding arrangements, agreed locally, under Working Together 2018.

Board and Lay Members also receive an Induction Book and are offered an induction session with the Board Manger and Chair. All members have signed the member's agreement and their agencies have signed the Board's Memorandum of Understanding. Again all of these processes and forms will be reviewed during 2019-20 under the new arrangements.



## Appendix 2: LSCB Members and Attendance 2018-19

Name	Agency	Role
1. Andrea Harris	Independent	Lay Member
2. Anthea Pritchard	Independent	Lay Member
3. Angela Vick	Independent	Lay Member
4. Bruce Laurence	B&NES Council	Director of Public Health and Interim Chair
5. Dami Howard	B&NES Council	LSCB/LSAB Business Support Manager
6. Debbie Forward	B&NES Council	Senior Commissioning Manager-Preventative Services
7. Deborah Murphy- Smith	CAFCASS	Service Manager
8. Donna Redman	BaNES NHS CCG	Named GP
9. Duncan Stanway	Barnardo's	Assistant Director, Midlands and SW
10. Dr Fiona Finlay	Virgin Care & BaNES NHS CCG	Designated Doctor
11. James Fortune (from Sept 2018)	Oxford Health	
12. James Knight	National Probation Service	Senior Probation Officer
13. Jayne Davis	Bath College	Deputy Principal Curriculum & Quality: FE Advocate
14. Jane Shayler	B&NES Council	Director, Integrated Health & Care Commissioning - Adults
15. Lesley Hutchinson	B&NES Council	Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
16. Lesley Jones	Independent	Lay Member
17. Lisa Cheek	RUH NHS Trust	Deputy Director of Nursing & Midwifery
18. Liz Plastow	BaNES NHS CCG	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children & Integrated Quality
19. Liz Spencer	National Probation Service	Head of SW National Probation Service
20. Lynn Franklin	AWP (Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust)	Head of Safeguarding Children and Domestic Abuse Lead
21. Marilyn Harrison	Community Rehabilitation Company	LDU Head Of Operations
22. Mark Tucker (from Sept 2018)	NHS England South & Central	Safeguarding and Patient Experience Manager
23. Matthew Woodville	Wellsway Academy	Head Teacher: Secondary Heads Advocate
24. Mary Kearney-Knowles (From Dec 2018)	B&NES Council	Director Children and Young People Services

25. Michelle Maguire	Oxford Health	Head of Service
26. Mike Bowden	B&NES Council	Corporate Director
27. Neil Liddington	Avon Fire & Rescue	Associate LSCB Member
28. Nicki Smith	St Nicholas CofE Primary School	Head Teacher: Primary Heads Advocate
29. (Cllr) Paul May	B&NES Council	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
30. Penny McKissock	Southside	CYPN Voluntary Network
31. Peter Brandt (from March 2018)	Community Rehabilitation Company	Assistant Chief Officer
32. Richard Baldwin (until June 2018)	B&NES Council	Divisional Director Safeguarding & Social Care
33. Robert Lake (until January 2018)	Independent	Independent Chair
34. Sally Churchyard	B&NES Council Youth Offending Service	Service Manager 11-19 Outcomes
35. Simon Hester	SWAST	Named Professional for Safeguarding
36. Steve Kendall	Avon & Somerset Constabulary	Chief Superintendent
37. Sue Deedigan	CURO	
38. Sue Lane	Community Rehabilitation Company	Senior Probation Officer
39. Val Janson	BaNES NHS CCG	Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality
40. Val Scrase	Virgin Care	Head of Operations
41. Victoria Caple	Avon & Somerset Constabulary	

<b>Name</b>	<b>June 2018</b>	<b>Sept 2018</b>	<b>Dec 2018</b>	<b>March 2019</b>
Avon Fire & Rescue (Associate member only)				
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust				
Avon and Somerset Constabulary				
B&NES Council CYP Strategy and Commissioning				
B&NES Council Public Health				
B&NES Council Social Care				
B&NES Council YOS				
BaNES NHS CCG/Designated Nurse				
Barnardo's				
CAFCASS				
Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)				
Bath College				
Designated Doctor				
DWP from March 2019				
Executive Lead Member				
Curo - Housing Advocate				
Lay Members				
Named GP				
National Probation Service				
NHS England South				
Oxford Health				
Primary Head Representative				
Royal United Hospital				
Secondary Head Advocate				
SWASFT (Associate member only)				
Virgin Care				
Voluntary Sector Advocate – Southside				

## LSCB Sub group members

Serious Case Review sub group	
Member	Agency
Lesley Hutchinson	B&NES Council (Chair)
Dami Howard	B&NES Council
Dr Fiona Finlay	Virgin Care/CCG
Liz Plastow	BaNES NHS CCG
Margaret Simmonds-Bird	B&NES Council
Mary Kearney-Knowles	B&NES Council
Deryck Rees	Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Exploitation sub group	
Member	Agency
Lesley Hutchinson	B&NES Council (Chair)
Cathryn Brown	B&NES Council
Clare Luxton	B&NES Council
Chris Wilford	B&NES Council
Dr Donna Redman	BaNES NHS CCG
Ella Remes	Barnardo's
Gavin Usher	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Helen Schofield	Virgin Care
Ian Read	AWP
James Oldham	Beechen Cliff
Jamie Luck	Mentoring Plus
Jayne Davis	Bath College
John-Mark Poppleston	Oxford Health - CAMHS
Judith Steele	Virgin Care
Julia Morris	B&NES Council
Julie Morris	B&NES Council
Julie Pill	Oxford Health - CAMHS
Leigh Zywek	B&NES Council
Lee Moore	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Lisa Miller	Oxford Health - CAMHS
Liz Bryan	Project 28
Lorraine Beasley	Hayesfield Academy
Louise Boyce	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Lynn Franklin	AWP
Mike Menzies	RUH
Phil Walker	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Rachael Ward	B&NES Council
Sally Churchyard	B&NES Council
Simon Ashman	B&NES Council

<b>Joint LSCB &amp; LSAB Communications sub group</b>	
<b>Member</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Alex Francis	Healthwatch (Chair)
Alison Gerrard	B&NES Council
Bev Craney	Swallow
Caroline Latham	Virgin Care
Charlie Farnham	Off The Record
Dami Howard	B&NES Council
David Trumper	Carers Centre
Jane Williams	B&NES Council Comms
Lores Savine	B&NES Council
Mary Kearney-Knowles	B&NES Council
Marjorie Stephinson	Independent Lay Member
Melissa Neill	Virgin Care Comms
June Thompson	RUH, Bath.
Sarah McCluskey	B&NES Council
Sharon Prowse	Freeways
Victoria Parker	Curo

<b>Joint LSCB &amp; LSAB Training and Development sub-group</b>	
<b>Member</b>	<b>Agency</b>
<b>Core Group</b>	
Debra Harrison	RUH (Chair)
Jen Russell	B&NES Council (Vice Chair)
Dami Howard	B&NES Council
Helen Heal	B&NES Council
Justin Charnock	Way Ahead Care
Judith Steele	Virgin Care
Karyn Yee-King	B&NES Council
Liz Plastow	BaNES HHS CCG
Maggie Hall	Virgin Care
Simon Crisp	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Vicky Christophers	Diocese of Bath & Wells
<b>Wider Group</b>	
Debra Harrison	RUH (Chair)
All of the above members and	
Kevin Clark	B&NES Council
Kitty Crowther	B&NES Council
Dawn Kingman	B&NES Council
Helen Roberts	Virgin Care
Mike Menzies	RUH
Ralph Lillywhite	St Mungo's/Volunteer Network
Roanne Wootten	Julian House
Sue Lee	CAFCASS
Stephanie Pepperd	Step Ahead Training

Professional Practice sub group	
Member	Agency
Duncan Stanway	Barnardo's (Chair)
Helen Roberts	Virgin Care
Helen Schofield	Virgin Care
Judith Steele	Virgin Care
Julie Morris	B&NES Council
Leigh Zywek	B&NES Council
Mike Menzies	RUH
Mike Parker	
Sarah Hogan	B&NES Council

Performance Management sub group	
Member	Agency
Liz Plastow	BaNES NHS CCG (Chair)
Val Scrase	Virgin Care
Dami Howard	B&NES Council
Denice Burton	B&NES Council
Jayne Harrison	Oxford Health - CAMHS
Judith Steele	Virgin Care
Simon Eames	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Sarah Hogan	B&NES Council
Marcia Burgham	B&NES Council
Mary Kearney-Knowles	B&NES Council
Lisa Furby	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Leigh Zywek	B&NES Council
Suzanne Cheng	B&NES Council
Tori Mitchell	AWP

Children in Care & Quality Assurance sub group	
Member	Agency
Liz Plastow - Chair	BaNES NHS CCG (Chair)
Ian Tomlinson - Deputy	B&NES Council (Deputy Chair)
Bev Coles	B&NES Council
Carla Cooper	B&NES Council
Jackie Wrench	Virgin Care
Louise Nichols	Oxford Health - CAMHS
Rachael Ward	B&NES Council
Ruth Loughridge	B&NES Council
Sarah Hogan	B&NES Council



<b>Policy and Procedure sub group</b>	
<b>Member</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Liz Plastow	BaNES NHS CCG (Chair)
Dami Howard	B&NES Council
Debbie Forward	B&NES Council
Fiona Finlay	Virgin Care/CCG
Judith Steele	Virgin Care
Lisa Williams	Oxford Health - CAMHS
Leigh Zywek	B&NES Council
Marcia Burgham	B&NES Council
Mary Kearney-Knowles	B&NES Council
Mike Menzies	RUH
Lisa Furby	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Leigh Zywek	B&NES Council
Simon Eames	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Sarah Hogan	B&NES Council
Suzanne Cheng	B&NES Council
Tori Mitchell	AWP

<b>Early Help Board sub group</b>	
<b>Member</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Denice Burton	B&NES Council (Chair)
Alistair Wakely	Oxford Health, CAMHS
Ali Woodiwiss	B&NES Council
Ann Robins	Virgin Care
Chris Wilford	B&NES Council
Claire Davis	B&NES Council
Emma Prout	B&NES Council
Heidi Limbert	B&NES Council
John Thornfield	St Johns
Leigh Zywek	B&NES Council
Lores Savine	B&NES Council
Marcia Burgham	B&NES Council
Matt Dix	Curo
Mel Hodgson	B&NES Council
Paula Bromley	B&NES Council
Penny McKissock	Southside
Rebecca Potter	B&NES Council
Sally Churchyard	B&NES Council
Sam Jones	B&NES Council
Sandy Cheetham	Action for Children
Sheila Willoughby	Virgin Care
Sue Deedigan	Curo

## Appendix 3: Budget 2018 - 19

	2018 - 19	
	Budget	Actuals
<b>Income</b>		
B&NES Council	58,860	56,681
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	9,200	9,200
BaNES NHS CCG	20,102	20,652
National Probation Service	485	485
CAFCASS	550	550
Community Rehabilitation Company	500	500
SCR contributions (external from Police and CCG equally)	3,830	3,830
Training	9,950	23,993
Fees and Charges	1,650	1,770
SWCPP Manual contributions	11,462	11,462
<b>Carry Forward</b>	<b>32,322</b>	<b>36,049</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>148,911</b>	<b>165,172</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff Salaries (Business Manager 60% allocation, Training Coordinator, Integrated Training Admin, Apprentice)	69,900	88,181
Travel / Car Parking	1,000	666
Printing / Design	100	150
Independent Chair	7,500	7,750
CDOP	3,703	3,703
Training	13,000	11,545
SWCPP Manual (B&NES LSCB only £1038)	12,500	12,500
SCR expenditure.	3,830	3,830
Contracts	9,900	9,900
Contracts	13,500	15,480
Contracts – ECR online system	1,500	1,500
Miscellaneous - Internal charges, room hire, hospitality	8,286	10,966
<b>Totals</b>	<b>148,911</b>	<b>165,172</b>

## Appendix 4: Training Information



Bath and North East Somerset  
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Evaluation of LSCB Inter-agency training  
(April 2018 – March 2019)

# Bath and North East Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board.

## Executive Summary

### Core Business Objectives 2018 – 2019

- Our role is to ensure that people who work with children are appropriately trained to understand childhood development and to recognise and act on potential signs of abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity. We review and evaluate the quality, scope and effectiveness of single and inter-agency training to ensure it is meeting local need.
- All LSCB training is child centred, evidence based, promotes the need for working in partnership, and informed and governed by issues of equality and diversity.
- All LSCB training is accessible to all B&NES individuals who work with children, young people and /or their carers and is subjected to regular rigorous review and evaluation.

### Delivery in 2018 – 2019

- 72 LSCB training sessions taking place comprising of 25 different courses
- 1400 Inter-agency training places made available
- 1287 Inter-agency training places booked
- 1124 Inter-agency training places attended
- 797 professionals trained
- On average over 85% completed evaluations and these are demonstrating impact.
- 91 Professionals attended LSCB Stakeholder Day on Neglect
- 9 Single agency training sessions taking place
- 275 E-learning modules started and completed through the Learning Pool

### Outcomes as reported / evidenced by practitioners:

Evaluations highlight an increase in practitioner's confidence in applying knowledge and skills following training, thus being more responsive to the needs of children and families in B&NES.

Practitioner evaluations identify an increased understanding of multi-agency roles and improved communication between professionals. Practitioners noted that this understanding was heightened through the use of multi- agency trainers.

Practitioners advised that they have gained a significant understanding of different forms of abuse, the risk factors and indicators associated with abuse and the holistic impact on children.

Evaluations identified that delegates hold a greater understanding of legislation, case law, policy and guidance and how to apply this into practice.

The responses received through the Standard Child Protection training longer term evaluation project confirmed the positive findings gained within the immediate feedback process.

### Challenges

Limited expansion has taken place to the modules available in the e-learning library, due to reduced availability of technical support.

The postponement in the publication of the intercollegiate document for Adults led to a delay in the revision and approval of training levels and standards.

Limited representation on Training & Development Sub Group from statutory bodies.

The consideration of the charging proposal by the Boards was further delayed to enable refinement of the model to occur. Consequently the Charging Policy was not approved until March 2019.

## The next steps –

- Build upon the work undertaken with the Adult Workforce to further embed a culture and practice of 'Think Family'.
- Revise and approve training levels for the workforce and review and agree standards and required learning outcomes for 'core' safeguarding courses.
- Focus on prevention and Early Help to reduce significant harm and promote improved outcomes for children and young people.
- Provide access and associated themed learning from Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Supply additional training and learning opportunities to support the workforce in protecting children and young people against the impact of Contextualised Safeguarding.
- Following the launch of the Neglect toolkit and strategy embed across the workforce to support cases of child neglect being identified early with appropriate support being provided (especially with resistant families).
- Implementation of the new tiered system of charging approved by the Board.
- Adapt working practices to support and respond to changes arising from the replacement of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with Safeguarding Partners.

## Introduction

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is responsible for ensuring that people who work with children are appropriately trained to understand childhood development and to recognise and act on potential signs of abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity. The LSCB also needs to review and evaluate the quality, scope and effectiveness of inter-agency training to ensure it is meeting local needs.

This annual evaluation report covers training and other learning and development activities commissioned and delivered through the LSCB from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. Information is provided on attendance, course evaluation, the impact of training onto practice and conclusions about future training and development priorities.

## Training Delivery

The LSCB employs a Training Coordinator who is managed by B&NES Children's Services Training & Development Manager. By agreement, the Training & Development Manager oversees the development and delivery of the LSCB training programme and makes provision for the effective administration, evaluation and quality assurance of the programmes courses. The LSCB Training Coordinator is responsible for the development, and in many cases the delivery, of courses, frequently co-facilitating sessions with colleagues from health, education, the police or children's services.

## Training Programme

The programme provided by the LSCB resulted in the provision of 72 training sessions taking place which comprised of 25 different training topics. This compared with 70 sessions covering 26 subjects taking place across the 2017 – 2018 programme.

In addition to the training programme, a stakeholder's event was held on the topic of neglect. The day provided an opportunity to explore this complex issue, utilise professionals' knowledge and experience, gain new skills and "launch" the Neglect Toolkit. The event was attended by 99 delegates with an additional 11 booked places not being filled on the day.

A main priority throughout the year has been to revise all course material to support and respond to changes arising from the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. Additionally there has been a focus on prevention and Early Help with further courses added to the programme to promote the new Early Help assessment and support professionals to undertake this piece of work with families. Additional training and learning opportunities have also been provided to support the workforce in protecting children and young people against the impact of neglect.

The following topics were also introduced / included on the 2018 – 2019 programme:

Course Title	Reason Course added to 2018 – 2019 programme
Difficult & Aggressive Behaviour	Based on delegate feedback a 'pause' on the delivery of this area of training occurred whilst a more suitable course was identified. This training is now being delivered by a different provider to the one used historically.
Female Genital Mutilation	It had been identified that there was an under representation on the referrals received from specific areas of the workforce regarding FGM and therefore

	an event was organised to raise awareness of the topic and the responsibilities attached.
IBA – Think family	To support the culture and practice of ‘think family’, this course was developed to provide resources and techniques to build confidence across the B&NES workforce in delivering early interventions and brief advice to parents around their alcohol use while thinking family.
Managing Allegations	In response to the work undertaken by the S & QA team, a course was developed to aid professionals understanding of the process of allegation management, the dilemmas and complexities of investigation and decision making and the importance of ‘Lessons learned’.
Neglect Awareness	Resulting from the collation of need and service provision for children experiencing neglect to embed the neglect strategy and toolkit, it was agreed that awareness training on the topic should be provided.
Supporting Children and Families Affected by Offending	Last year the workforce accessed training directly through Barnardo’s, this year based on workforce need it was established that a course should be made available specifically for B&NES. The course was provided through the Young People’s Prevention Service, with support from the LSCB.

Limited expansion has taken place to the modules available in the e-learning library, due to reduced availability of technical support, however, the Child Protection Module has been updated and a link has been added to signpost to a Domestic Abuse Awareness package commissioned by the Domestic Abuse Partnership. It is hoped that the progression of on-line methods of learning will occur throughout the 2019 – 2020 programme through the possibility of utilising the skills of Digital Learning Design Apprentice.

Several courses that were previously offered did not take place in this year’s programme:

Course Title	Reason Course not provided on 2017 – 2018 programme
Critically Curious Conversations	The trainers for this course have retired and a restructure has taken place within the organisation. Therefore the delivery of this training has currently been placed on hold.
Fabricated Induced Illness	This specialist area of training has not been requested through the LSCB, over the past year. (Situation to be reviewed annually)
Holding Difficult Conversations	Based on delegate feedback it was determined that the content of the course previously offered did not meet the assessed need of the workforce. To date it has not been possible to secure a suitable alternative training provider.



Raising Awareness: Child Protection & Poor Parental Mental Health	A restructure has taken place within the trainer's organisation and there is not capacity to facilitate the course. Alternative providers have been approached without success therefore the delivery of this training has currently been placed on hold.
Rapid Response	It was necessary to defer this training until the new arrangements for the Child Death Review process were agreed. A date has now been set for this course in July 2019, with responsibility being shared across Local Authorities.

For a full list of the training programme offered across the year please refer to appendix A

## Course Content

All LSCB training is child centred, evidenced based, promotes the need for working in partnership and governed by issues of equality and diversity.

**Child centred:** The training courses use a variety of techniques to ensure the needs of the child and the paramountcy principle remain central to the learning undertaken, including hearing individual children's stories, recognising the importance of relationship building with young people, providing techniques on receiving information from children and confirming the importance of using observation.

The evaluation forms also ask a specific question about how children and young people will know that a delegates practice has improved, ensuring that all delegates consider the situation from the perspective of a young person.

**Evidence Based:** The content of the training course is regularly appraised and reviewed to ensure it contains the latest research, reflective practice changes to legislation, practice and policy and the 'lessons learned' on a local and a national level.

**Partnership with Parents and Carers:** The training courses explore the relationships held between professionals and parents and carers in different working contexts from early help through to child protection. Within each of these situations focus is given to the importance of working in partnership with families for the most positive outcomes to be achieved, whilst exploring difficult or challenging topics with parents / carers including issues of disguised compliance.

**Interagency Collaboration:** All training is designed and delivered to multi- agency audiences, bringing together people and organisations and promoting the need for interagency working, to effectively safeguard children from harm.

**Equality & Diversity:** All training is informed and governed by equal opportunities and reflects the diversity and cultural needs of the individuals and organisations, within Bath & North East Somerset, that have responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children

To support delegates' engagement in the course content, aid their understanding of the material and assist in transferring the learning undertaken into practice each course incorporates a variety of methods and approaches to ensure a variety of adult learning styles are catered for.

## Course Attendance

All LSCB training is accessible to all B&NES individuals who work with children, young people and / or their carers.

Bookings for course attendance are overall good with 71% of courses having a minimum of 90% places booked and nearly 79% of courses having a minimum of 80% of places booked. Particular challenges were experienced with attendance rates on FGM and IBA Training with both courses having less than 50% of their places booked. However, it should be noted that these courses had considerably more places available than other topics and both received good attendance levels once the bookings were made.

Low take up rates of courses are monitored and attempts are made to improve attendance through additional advertising of the training and targeting specific areas of the workforce as appropriate. If it is not possible to achieve a minimum booking of 10 delegates, discussion will take place with the course trainer and a decision will be made as to whether the course will be deferred / cancelled. Decisions are informed by cost and time implications and the effect low numbers may have on the quality of group work and overall learning undertaken.

The overall patterns of attendance are reflective of the 2017 – 2018 audience, although work has been undertaken to clarify professionals' categorisation between Children's Services, Social Care and Youth. There has also been an increase in the number of delegates attending from voluntary and independent agencies and the Education sector and decrease in the number attending from the Police.

For further information regarding course attendance / agency representation please refer to appendix B

## **Evaluation & Quality Assurance**

Through its Training & Workforce Development Sub-group, the LSCB is required to evaluate the provision and quality of both single and multi-agency training, ensuring that it is provided within individual organisations, and checking that training is reaching all relevant staff.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation of Inter-agency training**

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of multi-agency training in Bath and North East Somerset, a variety of methods are employed to achieve four goals:

- Ensure the learning outcomes for each course are met, and reflect evidence based 'best practice' that keeps the child or young person in focus.
- Ensure the continual evaluation by LSCB Training Manager to ensure courses are meeting the needs of staff, with transparent overview and accountability to the LSCB training and workforce development sub group.
- Ensure that evaluations inform the planning and development of future training
- Ensure that messages from training are being embedded in practice.

## **Methods of Evaluation**

All courses advertise the learning outcomes expected from participants by the end of the session. The evaluation forms used in B&NES on half day, full day or two day courses remind attendees of the expected learning outcomes and delegates are asked to scale pre and post course their confidence in these areas to assess the effectiveness of the training in addressing the identified aims and objectives on the day, with space for additional comments. If a common theme emerges around objectives not being met this will trigger a review of the course content/ delivery style so that adjustments can be made.

Research into the effectiveness of inter-agency training suggests that for participants to gain the most from training they need to be able to make direct links to their own practice, and consider how the knowledge gained in training can improve their practice. All delegates are therefore invited at the end of training to consider an action plan for changing their behaviour in the workplace, and

thinking through the impact that this change will have on the children and young people that they work with.

With regards to attendance on the Standard Child Protection course the impact of training into practice has also been assessed through an additional evaluation project, where delegates are invited to re-evaluate their confidence and learning after a 3 month period to help understand how effective the training has been over a longer time frame. Capacity within the team enabled this project to run for the first 10 months of the year, the data gained within this timeframe demonstrated that delegates confidence levels reflected those held at the end of the training session. Additional information received through the project strengthened the evidence gained through the other evaluation methods that the programme was achieving the intended learning outcomes and having a positive impact on practice.

Quality assurance on trainers practice is undertaken through consideration of the evaluation forms received from training courses and also through sessions being observed by a member of the Training and Development Sub Group. The findings from the session observed are fed back to the trainer with an action plan being developed to address any gaps in provision / delivery identified.

The methods of evaluation used have evidenced an increase in practitioner's confidence in applying knowledge and skills following training, thus being more responsive to the needs of children and families in B&NES:

"I will be more curious of their [child] story, experiences and lived world"  
Student Social Worker (Complex Trio Awareness)

"I will keep safeguarding in the forefront of daily practice to ensure children remain safe"  
Alcohol & Drugs Worker (Standard CP)

"Lots of information but presented in an easily absorbable way that will be easy to put into practice"  
Psychological Support (Advanced CP)

"An understanding of the complexity of the potential developmental impact"  
School DSL (Neglect)

"A confidence in understanding the process"  
Deputy DSL (Managing Allegations)

"Better understanding of the impact of trauma on the brain"  
Housing Learning & Development Co-ordinator (CSE Advanced)

"I feel confident in spotting indicators and what to do"  
Social Worker (Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery)

Practitioner evaluations identify an increased understanding of multi-agency roles and improved communication between professionals. Practitioners noted that this understanding was heightened through the use of multi- agency trainers.

"Opportunities throughout to share stories and best practice"  
EY Teacher (Domestic Abuse & CP)

"Very interesting discussions – a good mix of professionals from a variety of agencies"  
Family Nurse (Neglect)

"Meeting and working with people from other agencies was really helpful and gave me different perspectives"  
Nursery Manager (Standard)

"Really fantastic to be alongside a multi-disciplinary room with a wide variety of experience, skills and training"  
Inclusion Worker (Parental Substance Misuse & CP)

"Greater understanding and awareness of the massive value in multi-agency working"  
Midwife (Toxic Trio Awareness)

“Mix of trainers helps with Multi-agency understanding”  
Counsellor (Advanced Child Protection)

Practitioners advised that they have gained a significant understanding of different forms of abuse, the risk factors and indicators associated with abuse and the holistic impact on children.

“More awareness about risk factors, cultural & language awareness of families / children at risk”  
Resettlement Worker (FGM)

“Understanding terminology and risks”  
Social Worker (Online Safety)

“Understanding how to recognise risk factors and different types of exploitation”  
Family Support Practitioner (CSE Awareness)

“Realising that it is a holistic view of a child’s life and that the whole picture needs to be looked at not just one part”  
Supported Lodgings Provider (Toxic Trio Awareness)

“More understanding of the reasons behind behaviour”  
Anon (Difficult & Aggressive Behaviour)

“Learning about how abuse impacts on different areas / development for a child and young person”  
Youth Support Worker (Toxic Trio)

“More knowledge about risks and barriers to disclosures”  
Family Support Practitioner (Child Sexual Abuse)

Evaluations identified that delegates hold a greater understanding of legislation, case law, policy and guidance and how to apply this into practice.

“A much greater understanding of procedures and legislation relating to CP”  
Manager Complex Health needs (Standard)

“Good to have some tools to use with families / children”  
Family Support Practitioner (CSE Skills & Practice)

“Early intervention – hadn’t heard of this before, such a great area to be aware of”  
Podiatrist (Standard)

“A really useful range of resources. This can be applied to practice”  
Youth Worker (Toxic Trio Awareness)

“I will be able to explain procedures clearly to my families so they can better understand the process and they will be confident and secure in my approach”  
Family Support Manager (Standard)

“Clarity on rules / laws”  
Head Teacher (On line Safety)

“Increase in knowledge about legislation”  
School Nurse (FGM)

## The next steps

In evaluating the training that has taken place over the last year and in consideration of the priorities determined by the LSAB and the LSCB in their 2018 – 2021 strategy the following will be the main Training and Development areas of focus:

- Build upon the work undertaken with the Adult Workforce to further embed a culture and practice of ‘Think Family’.

- Revise and approve training levels for the workforce and review and agree standards and required learning outcomes for 'core' safeguarding courses.
- Focus on prevention and Early Help to reduce significant harm and promote improved outcomes for children and young people.
- Provide access and associated themed learning from Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Supply additional training and learning opportunities to support the workforce in protecting children and young people against the impact of Contextualised Safeguarding.
- Following the launch of the Neglect toolkit and strategy embed across the workforce to support cases of child neglect being identified early with appropriate support being provided (especially with resistant families).
- Implementation of the new tiered system of charging approved by the Board.
- Adapt working practices to support and respond to changes arising from the replacement of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with Safeguarding Partners.

## Appendix A

### **Training delivery: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

(Please note no LSCB courses run during the school summer holidays.)

	Course Title	Number of Sessions run	Duration of course	Places Available	Places Booked	Delegates attended	% of places booked	% of places allocated	% actual course take up*
LSCB	Advanced Child Protection	12	13hrs	216	243	217	113	89	100
LSCB	Child Sexual Abuse	1	7hrs	20	18	16	90	89	80
LSCB	Common Assessment	3	6.5 hrs	65	66	57	102	86	88
LSCB	Complex / Toxic Trio	2	7 hrs	36	38	32	106	84	89
LSCB	Complex /Toxic Trio Awareness Training	3	3.5hrs	54	45	42	83	93	78
LSCB	CSE Advanced	1	7 hrs	20	23	21	115	91	105
LSCB	CSE Awareness Training	2	3hrs	38	37	34	97	92	89
LSCB	CSE Skills & Practice	2	7 hrs	39	32	24	82	75	62
LSCB	CSE Working with Parents	1	6 hrs	18	11	9	61	82	50
LSCB	Difficult and Aggressive Behaviours	2	7hrs	32	32	24	100	75	75
LSCB	Disabled Children & CP	2	7 hrs	20 (co run with S. Glos)	11	10	55	91	50
LSCB	Domestic Abuse & CP	3	6hrs	54	53	49	98	92	91
LSCB	FGM	1	2.5 hrs	60	24	20	40	83	33
LSCB	IBA Training (Think family)	2	3 hrs	60	26	25	43	96	42
LSCB	Lead Professional/TAC	2	6.5hr	28	15	12	54	80	43

LSCB	Managing Allegations	2	3 hrs	38	20	14	53	70	37
LSCB	Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking	1	3 hrs	18	13	11	72	85	61
LSCB	Neglect & CP	2	7 hrs	36	38	34	106	89	94
LSCB	Neglect Awareness	2	3.5 hrs	36	24	22	67	92	61
LSCB	Online Safety	1	3.5hrs	18	12	12	67	67	67
LSCB	Private Fostering	1	1hr	10	6	3	60	50	30
LSCB	Safer Recruitment	1	7 hrs	18	16	13	89	81	72
LSCB	Standard Child Protection	19	7hrs	344	373	331	108	89	96
LSCB	Substance Misuse & Child Protection	2	6hrs	36	34	29	94	85	81
LSCB	Train the Trainer	2	3.5hrs	36	39	32	108	82	89
LSCB	Understanding the needs of children & families affected by parental offending	1	2hrs	50	38	31	76	82	62

\*Attendance based on potential course capacity

It should be noted that Workshops Raising Awareness of Prevent are included on the council's corporate programme, and are available to all partner agencies.



Single Agency Training provided by LSCB training co-ordinator

Organisation / Sector	Course title	Number of sessions run	Delegates attended
Prior Park	Child Protection	1	32
Norland Nannies	Child Protection	1	81
Southside	Child Protection	1	21
Scouts	Child Protection	1	14
Bathwick St Mary Primary	Child Protection	1	38
St Nicholas Primary	Child Protection	1	44
Project Search	Child Protection	1	5
Library staff	Child Protection	1	6
Bath University – Education Studies	Child Protection	1	11

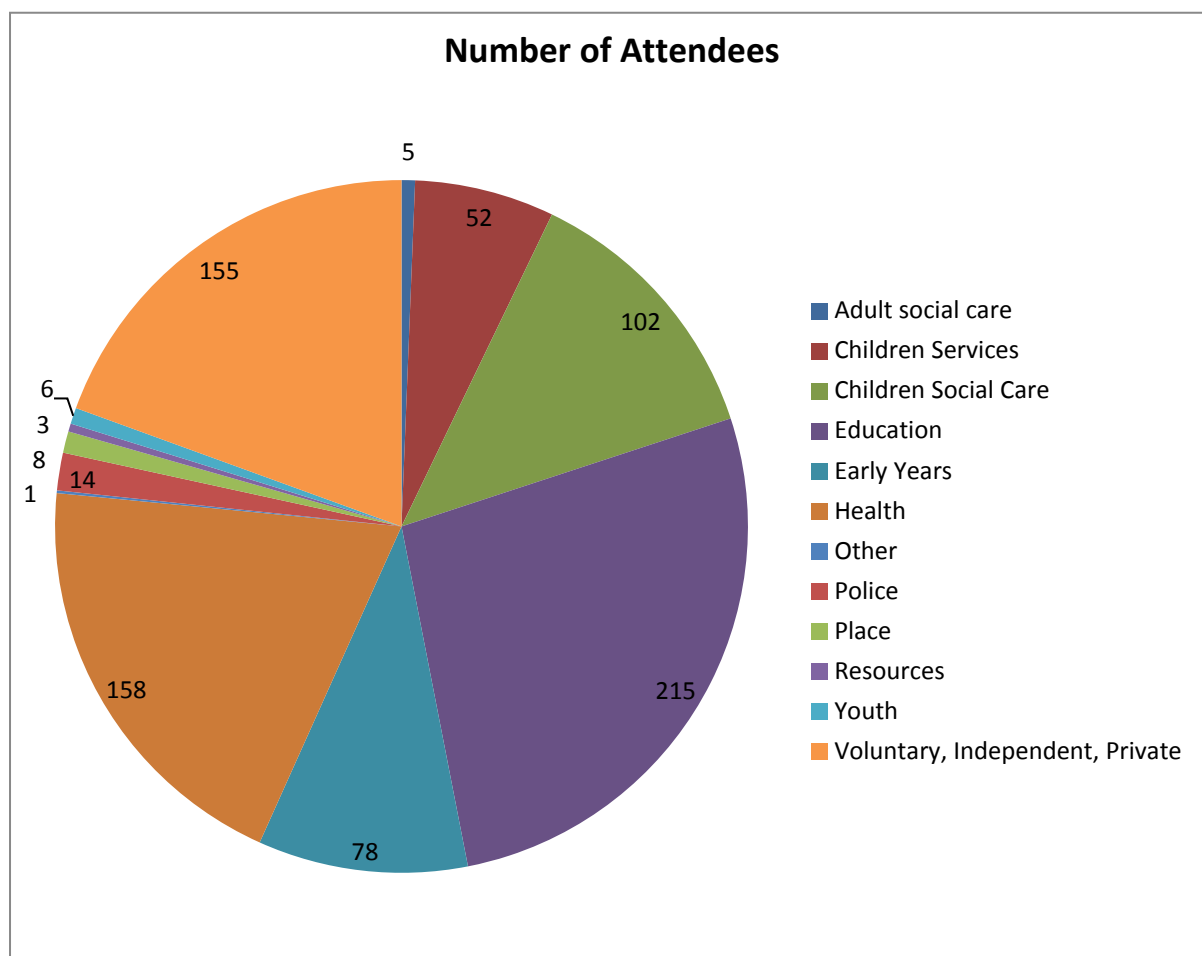
E-Learning Courses completed through LSCB

Course Title	Complete	Incomplete	Total
Prevent	61	18	79
Child Sexual Exploitation	82	33	105
Domestic Abuse	40	18	58
Introduction to Safeguarding and Child Protection	90	44	134
Common Assessment Framework	2	7	9 This module became unavailable with the launch of the new Early Help Assessment

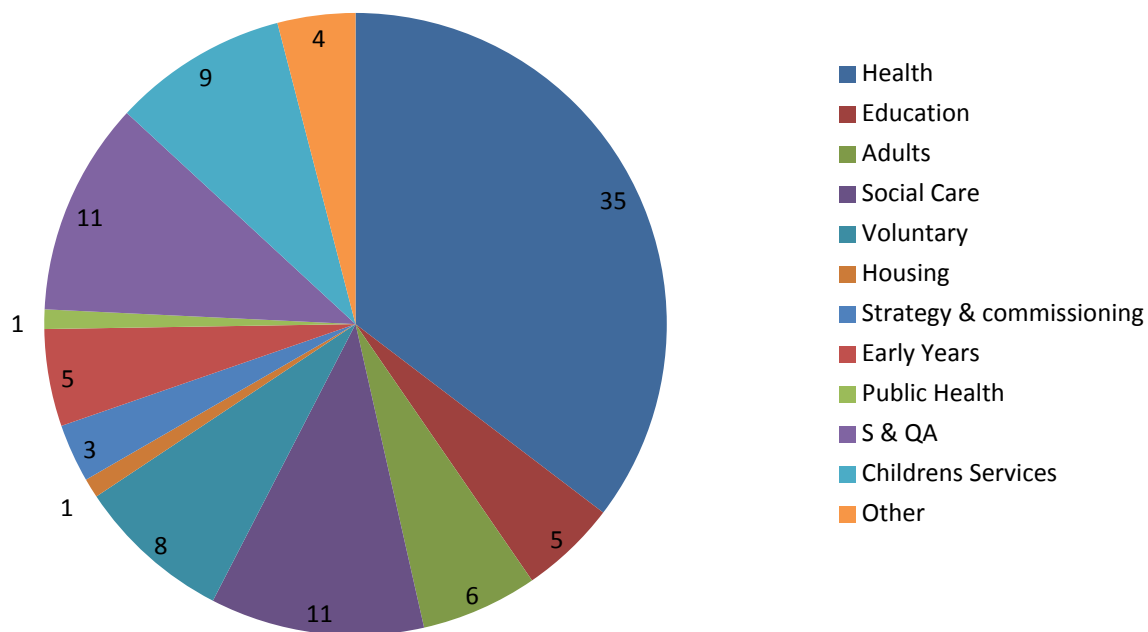
It should be noted that E-Learning / online learning material is also available for Awareness of Forced Marriage, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, Children of Prisoners, and Female Genital Mutilation. However, it is not possible to gain figures of completion for the B&NES workforce as the materials are hosted on separate booking sites.

## Appendix B

### **Agency Representation: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**



Agency Code	Number of Attendees
Adult Social Care	5
Children Services	52
Children Social Care	102
Education	215
Early Years	78
Health	158
Other	1
Police	14
Place	8
Resources	3
Youth	6
Voluntary, Independent, Private	155
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>797</b>

**Agency Representation: Neglect Stakeholders event 2018****Number of Attendees**

Categories	Delegates Attended
Council	13
Education	1
Health	38
Home Improvement	4
Housing	8
Voluntary & Improvement	21
CCG	2
Other	4
	91

## Appendix 5: Safeguarding Assurance Indicators for 2019- 20

The following indicators were approved by the Board in June 2019 for the following year 2019 -20. Partner Reports in Appendix 6 report on those indicators that were agreed by the Board in March 2018 for this 2018-19 Annual Report.

### Board Performance Indicators 2019-20

#### Indicator Set 1: Training

- 1.1 90% Relevant staff to have undertaken child protection standard training
- 1.2 90% Relevant staff to have undertaken child protection advanced training
- 1.3 80% Relevant staff to have undertaken CSE awareness training
- 1.4 80% Relevant staff to have undertaken FGM awareness training
- 1.5 85% Relevant staff to have undertaken WRAP training
- 1.6 85% Relevant staff to have undertaken PREVENT awareness training
- 1.7 80% Relevant staff to have undertaken Domestic Abuse awareness Training
- 1.8 100% Safeguarding Leads awareness of Modern Slavery / Human trafficking
- 1.9 **NEW** 80% relevant staff trained in Complex (Toxic) Trio

Note: the LSCB has agreed that it is each agencies responsibility to determine which of their staff members fall into the category of 'relevant'. For example a social worker, GPs, a school nurse, beat officers staff supporting children in face to face activities would be considered 'relevant' however an administrator in a nursery setting who has no contact with children would not be. The staff to be considered 'relevant' for child protection advanced or WRAP training need to be determined by each agency but the expectation is they would have completed the awareness and standard training indicators above and have progressed to the more advanced eg, GP Cluster Leads

Awareness training can be either face to face, e-learning or equivalent agencies need to decide. Agencies are asked to note the incremental rise in the PREVENT awareness.

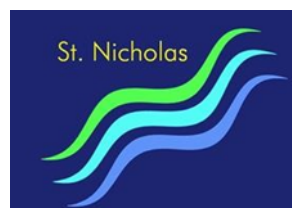
#### Indicator Set 2: Safer recruitment

- 1.1 100% Relevant staff to have a DBS check before work commences with children or young people and families
- 1.2 100% of written references to be provided before work commences with children or young people and families

#### Indicator Set 3: Attendance at Board

- 3.1 75% Attendance at the LSCB

## Appendix 6: Partner Reports



Oxford Health  
NHS Foundation Trust



All 2018-19 Partner Reports have all been read by an audit group reporting back into the Performance Management (PMG) and Training & Development sub groups quality assuring all partner reports and commenting in terms of:

1. Do the Partners meet the LSCB indicators?
2. Overview of the quality of the reports
3. Highlights of achievements in 2018/19
4. Summary of the Partners objectives for 2019/20

In 2017-18, after this process was trialled for the first time, each agency then received feedback on the quality and content of their report and were asked for additional information where the Audit or a sub group felt it was necessary. Many agencies then answered these further questions giving greater assurance to the LSCB.

Partner Reports were not received for 2018-19 from the following agencies: Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust (AWP) and Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC).

South West Ambulance Trust (SWAST Annual Report) and CAFCASS sent in their Regional/national Annual Reports which do not directly cover the LSCB Indicators but give general assurance of the safeguarding practice and training that they undertake. The primary school advocate did not complete a report as they had completed the S175 Safeguarding in Education Audit for 2018-19.

1. Do the Partners meet the LSCB Indicators?

All agencies that provided data largely met or exceeded the LSCB training indicators. B&NES Council and RUH had not fully met all training indicators, the RUH and AWP were very close to doing so, but all gave detailed commentary and given the size of the organisations, the audit group were not concerned and could see evidence of efforts made to address this. Virgin Care provided training data this year whereas they had not had the system in place last year to separate training from safeguarding adults training records. The Police were unable to give training percentage data but gave very detailed commentary which fully explained the training and even named specific staff trained and responsible for certain areas. Areas that showed a need to increase training remained as the awareness of FGM, PREVENT, WRAP, Domestic abuse and for some more staff to attend advanced CP training. It was interesting to note that some agencies exceeded the indicator for WRAP but did not for PREVENT awareness. There appears to be some misunderstanding about the ease of completing PREVENT awareness by sharing leaflet or briefing.

Attendance at the LSCB was not fully met by all agencies although many exceeded the 75%. Attendance is an issue in smaller agencies to ensure senior staff at appropriate levels can attend or when staff are called away to safeguarding issues. CAFCASS and SWAST submitted their national or regional report and so did not cover the LSCB indicators.

2. Overview of the quality of reports

Generally, the reports were detailed and impressive. Those that were brief were succinct and answered all the necessary questions. Especially notable were Wellsway School, Oxford Health (CAMHS), Curo, Youth Offending Service and Virgin Care. The challenges to each agency and how safeguarding is promoted with staff were well described.

The full QA Report will be shared with the Performance Monitoring Group (PMG) and Training subgroup (T&D) as part of the quality assurance process for the LSCB.



Agencies will then be given individual feedback and individual questions and concerns will be addressed where identified.

A new question was added at short notice about referrals from children's teams to adult safeguarding services as part of the evidence within the Strategic Plan to show the Think Family approach. This data will be added to the Strategic Plan. Some agencies have now set up systems to be able to capture this and particularly as some just speak to the adult services within their own agency so that this would not be captured as being identified by those working with children.

### 3. Highlights of achievements in 2018/19

This section of the reports was very thorough. There was evidence of the voice of the child and children being listened to. There was clear evidence of evaluation and auditing of training and Child Protection work.

The QA group were particularly impressed by:

- Avon & Somerset Constabulary – Specialist Child Exploitation Officers and Staff inc County Lines and delivered 10 CSE awareness events to B&NES schools.
- Barnardo's - Levels of support given by BASE
- CCG - Development of Health Professionals Network
- B&NES Council – ART
- Bath College – mental health support for students, student online peer mentoring and links with Topaz
- Curo – domestic abuse champions, flagging domestic abuse, County Lines work
- CAMHS – work with YOS, staff training and supervision
- RUH – the wealth of safeguarding achievements identified
- Southside – work with and training for volunteers
- Virgin Care – learning from SCRs, development of training data, increased supervision provided for staff
- Wellsway School – mental health audit, revised anti bullying and self-harm policies, commitment to safeguarding
- YOS – setting up a reporting centre for young people in Bath, reduction in custodial sentences from 9 to 1

### 4. Summary of the Partners' Objectives for 2019/20

The objectives identified were strong, appropriate and should lead to positive outcomes. They include: developing the Think Family agenda; embed Topaz ( Child Exploitation) identification, safeguarding, disruption and investigation; County Lines; increase training; support to care leavers up to 25; working with Adolescent Risk Team (ART); review Looked After Service; creative ways to capture the voice of the child; developing mental health support services and developing/increasing Domestic Abuse and Modern Slavery training.

However it was noted that some agencies reported a shortfall in their meeting the training indicators but did not appear to set any objectives to improve this.

### Recommendations for 2019-20 Partners Reports:

- All health commissioned services to respond through 1 report managed by the CCG.
- LSCB agencies should be asked to focus on their top 5 safeguarding achievements.
- LSCB agencies to be asked for key objectives only.
- LSCB agencies to be encourage the give examples of their work particularly regarding the difference it made to children, young people and their families.
- Agencies to be asked to record the number of staff as well as the percentage as this will make the figures clearer.

