



Barnet Safeguarding Children Board

Making Safeguarding Everybody's Business

June 2015

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INTRODUCTION

Barnet's Safeguarding Children Board works in collaboration with local agencies to ensure comprehensive support is provided to young people experiencing exploitation. Together we lay the path for a secure future for the younger generation, not only providing protection when serious incidences take place, but also having strategies in place to recognise and assess risk before perpetrators have the opportunity commit these abuses.

This has been an exciting quarter for the Board, with members working hard to share and enhance methods of protection with agencies and local services. We had a strong presence at the Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Conference; you can read about the key objectives and resolutions which were shared in this newsletter.

Considerable steps have been made in our key areas of e-safety, child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and neglect. The key to unlocking knowledge is to share it with others; to find out more about training, read on. We also have new innovative tools available which will effectively change the way professionals assess risks of exploitation.

FREE SAFEGUARDING COURSES

The new 2015/16 Multi-Agency Safeguarding training programme has been launched and can be viewed [here](#).

The programme is open to staff across all agencies and services that work with Barnet children and adults. Currently, there is no charge for places on these courses, ensuring that the information is accessible to all. They are also pitched at different levels to accommodate different learning needs, creating an inclusive learning environment for all. We hope to cast out a wide net to educate a large spectrum of groups and individuals. With the correct training, we can enhance our impact on the lives of young people.

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ONLINE CSE AND E-SAFETY TRAINING

Child sexual exploitation and e-safety are two of our primary strategies, and the progress in these areas is gaining more and more momentum. The Board is promoting training in these subjects, which will provide a pallet of tools to people working with children.

These programmes are fully supported by the Board, whose ambition is to provide agencies with access to training. Our aim is to ensure this important information is available to all staff and others working with children.

To apply for log-in details please contact the Children's Workforce Development Team by email: childrens.workforce@barnet.gov.uk or telephone: 020 8359 6389/7602.

CSE SURGERIES

As part of supporting professionals in dealing with suspected child sexual exploitation, partners can discuss their concerns at the CSE Surgery. The Police and CSE Co-ordinator meet every fortnight . To express you interest, please contact the CSE Co-ordinator on 0208 359 7207.

NEW CSE TOOL

The Board has approved a new CSE Screening and Assessment Tool. It was designed to be used by all professionals working with children and young people. It caters for the increasing anxieties about children and young people being vulnerable to targeting by perpetrators and those already involved in child sexual exploitation. There is also a Stage 2 Risk Assessment Tool, which can be used for children who have been referred to Children's Social Care. The tools can be accessed [here](#).

PREVENT TRAGEDIES—UK POLICE AND PARTNERS

There is growing concern about young people travelling to take part in conflicts in other countries. The [Prevent Tragedies](#) website was created due to the alarming number of young people who are putting themselves at risk, and to help the families that have been torn apart by fear when their loved ones travel to countries riddled with war. The website has contributions from women from communities, charities, public sector organisations and Government departments. They aim to work together to help keep our loved ones safe, to address the numerous issues and sign up to the resolution to Prevent Tragedies.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN MULTI-AGENCY CONFERENCE

Safeguarding Children: Tackling Issues Relating to CSE, FGM and Domestic Violence

In April 2015, Barnet's Safeguarding Children Board joined agencies working tirelessly for the safety of young people, to share intentions and progress at the Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Conference.

Shared intentions:

- ◆ To pursue essential work on three priorities: Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Domestic Violence.
- ◆ To provide a robust response to these challenging issues.
- ◆ To support victims, raise awareness, recognise impact, share good practice examples and gather intelligence.

The Metropolitan Police have joined forces with London boroughs to create the innovative programme, [Operation Makesafe](#), for use by local services in Barnet. Taxi companies, licenced premises, hotels, pharmacists and GPs are a handful of the key areas under pressure by the risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE). Operation Makesafe has been created as a set of preventable measures to identify and intervene, contributing to the safety and security of young people in Barnet.

The scheme is progressing in leaps and bounds, with eight children recovered since the London launch in 2014. Licenced premises and public services have a responsibility to protect children and young people, and the project helps organisations achieve this. They are provided with their own set of indicators, so that employees are clear about what suspicious behaviour they should be looking for. These actions can assure the protection of young people who are at risk, before awful circumstances escalate.

The project also opens up avenues of communication to those at risk. With the use of the safe-word 'Makesafe', young people or businesses can contact the Police without fear. It provides a protected environment for them to discuss issues with a professional.

The [National Working Group](#) reported on the important steps they have been taking in collaboration with local Safeguarding Children Boards and agencies. With children at risk from opportunistic perpetrators, who track and trap young people into sinister scenarios, the importance of these professionals working together has never been more acute.

They optimise the e-safety strategy, providing guidelines for situations where children are being groomed on social media, which the NWG says is the current primary method of grooming. They also provide guidelines for human trafficking, emphasising how easily children can be disorientated, and forced into cruel situations. Disturbing statistics support the importance of doing what we can to put a stop to these methods of CSE.

The National Working Group has an impressive PR campaign in action, with the message 'Say something if you see something'. It is important that the normalisation of sexual relationships with young people is avoided, and the campaign, along with the essential work being done with key workers and young people, supports the NWG on their road to enhancing protection.

The National Working Group's strapline is 'exploration without consent is exploitation', and I think we will all agree that these words express perfectly the gravity of CSE issues.

Midwife Florence Acquah presented a powerful talk on the subject of Female Genital Mutilation, on behalf of FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development). She explained the senseless practice, exploring the serious danger for women who are subject to such abuse.

The challenge for organisations such as FORWARD is that FGM is a cultural practice; the serious risks to health are often ignored. Some women are reluctant to accept FGM as a form of abuse, crumbling to social pressures, and often less intimidating names are used, imprinting a less oppressive impression on the practice.

FGM is a global problem. Florence explained that FGM risk can be applied to all social classes, educational levels and religious groups although no religion actually mandates it. [Unicef](#) estimates that at least 120 million girls and women have experienced FGM across 29 countries. These disturbing statistics emphasise the desperate help that is needed to stop this exploitation.

FORWARD's procedures implement guidelines and tools for practitioners to recognise areas of risk. These indicators promote success in safeguarding vulnerable women who are at risk of FGM. With the support of agencies, we can act as a stronghold with one intention, to protect against these forms of cruelty.

Our final area of exploration was domestic violence, presented by the [Jewish Women's Aid](#). This kind of abuse presents itself in a variety of forms, categorised into psychological/emotional, physical, sexual, financial and spiritual, with perpetrators always expressing controlling behaviour to impose a sense of helplessness upon their victims. The aim of Jewish Women's Aid is to support and engage women, helping them to regain control of their relationships and their lives.

They provide a core support services including a helpline, refuge provision, counselling and training. They also have an education programme, working in schools, where they are teaching young people about recognising domestic violence. The work with young people is key. Children witnessing violence in their home can promote anxiety and long lasting neurological issues. Furthermore, the child can become a victim of neglect and abuse themselves. A good relationship can be established between the professional, the child and the parents to instigate a path of long-term healing.

This meeting of minds raised important issues which we can all learn from, and provided the perfect platform for us to share resources. As a multi-agency group, we have the opportunity and strength to create a real impact for those who are struggling in this life, and to create a positive future for young people, who deserve the opportunity to enjoy their youth.

Sarah Veniard, Safeguarding Board Administrator, BSCB

BOARD MEETING :

The recent meeting took place on the 14th May 2015. Both the Children and Adult Board had a joint session to receive a presentation from the police on human trafficking. It was clear from the presentation that every borough is effected by this modern day slavery where the victims are treated terribly. The boards were asked to get better at identifying victims while the police were asked to consider their plans to deal with unaccompanied asylum seekers. At the Board meeting we:

- ◆ Approved a revised CSE strategy which can be found [here](#).
- ◆ Received an update from the NHS on how those at risk of FGM would be identified and supported. The Board agreed to develop more detailed referral pathways.
- ◆ Discussed and noted the Council's strategy for dealing with missing children.
- ◆ Were updated on progress on providing safeguarding data to enhance joint understanding of problems and the difference the board is making.
- ◆ Heard an update on the Council's approach to early help, progress made and the next steps.
- ◆ Were updated on progress in relation to the Board's priorities of CSE, domestic violence, neglect (Karen Person from Children's Social Care is chairing the sub-group), and e-Safety (Mark Shoffren from Alma Primary School is chairing the sub-group).
- ◆ Heard an update from Youth Shield on their work in supporting the Board.
- ◆ Were updated on the Council's Voice of the Child strategy.

MEETING DATES**Board (Children and Adults):**

Date: Thursday 10th September 2015

Time: 11am – 1pm (**BSAB**)

Time: 2.00pm – 5.00pm (**BSCB**)

Venue: Committee Room 1, Barnet House

Date: Thursday 10th December 2015

Time: 11am – 1pm (**BSAB**)

Time: 2.00pm – 5.00pm (**BSCB**)

Venue: Hendon Town Hall

We always welcome any contributions (links to websites, training or conferences) from our readers to share. Please send details for inclusion in the next newsletter or website to

barnet_scb@barnet.gov.uk