Barnet
Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy
2020-22

FAMILY FRIENDLY BARNET

Barnet
Safeguarding
Children Partnership

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

Contents

1. Introduction

Safeguarding children and young people from the psychological and physical harm caused by sexual and criminal exploitation and involvement in gangs and serious youth violence remains a core priority for the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP). This document reflects upon the activity, successes and learning points of the Vulnerable Adolescents Community Partnership (VACP) in delivering the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy 2018 – 2020 and sets out the strategic priorities for the partnership for 2020 – 2022.

Over the past two years, the profile of children at risk of exploitation has changed across London, there is a reduction in reported victims of Child Sexual Exploitation and an increase in children and young people being identified as victims of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), or associated/affiliated with a gang. This is highlighted in the 'Keeping Kids Safe' Report of the Children's Commissioner, February 2019, which reported there were 33,000 children who are the sibling of a gang member and 34,000 children who have been victim of a violent crime and either are a gang member, or know a gang member (2018/19 National Office of Statistics). The report recognises that those on the periphery of a gang and who have experienced violence in the past 12 months are more likely to be vulnerable to exploitation by criminal networks involved in 'county lines' drug supply and thus more likely to go missing from home and care[1].

The Joint Targeted Area Inspection Addendum Report (JTAI, Protecting Children from Criminal Exploitation, Human Trafficking & Modern-Day Slavery) November 2018, emphasizes the need for a wider perspective and understanding of the context, situations and relationships in which child exploitation manifest. It finds that all children are vulnerable to exploitation, not just specific groups[2]. However, research and local data, also point to the increased vulnerability of children and young people with adverse childhood experiences including exposure to parental substance misuse, housing instability, offending, violence and neglect at home. These children and young people are more likely to experience exclusions from school and are more likely to have social, emotional and mental health needs, factors which can increase the risk of these groups being targeted for the purposes of exploitation.

Barnet's Vulnerable Adolescents Report, April 2020 https://thebarnetscp.org.uk/assets/1/annual_vulnerable_adolescents_report_2018-2020.pdf sets out the local context for children at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation and/or who are vulnerable to gangs and serious youth violence. The report details the partnership's approach to delivering the aims of the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy 2018 – 2020, recognising the strengthened integration of contextual frameworks which has enabled professionals to recognise the key vulnerabilities to exploitation noted above and thus support the development of preventative, diversionary and educative approaches across the borough.

Barnet's strategic and operational oversight of children and young people at risk of exploitation has improved, with more transparent information sharing, better interface and collaboration between statutory and voluntary and community providers, including awareness raising and learning events, and greater opportunity to hear the voice of children and young people and engage them in the shaping and design of services.

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1   https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/CCO-Gangs.pdf

2   https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756031/Protecting_children_from_criminal_exploitation_human_trafficking_modern_slavery_addendum_141118.pdf

However, there is still more to do. Barnet's local profile of vulnerable adolescents identifies a higher representation of boys from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds as being at risk of criminal exploitation and involvement in gangs and serious youth violence and the age range is decreasing. This document uses the term BAME when referencing children and young people from all minority backgrounds. However, it is understood that this term does not reflect the rich diversity of our population, as such is not intended to label but point to a consideration of groups and individuals affected by social and structural disadvantage.

Unlike the multi-agency response to children and young people at risk of CSE which has increasingly recognised their vulnerabilities as victims which has led to greater effectiveness in tackling the problem yet, young people at risk of criminal exploitation continue to have a higher exclusion rate from mainstream schools and are less likely to become Looked After when compared to victims of CSE.

This 2020 – 2022 Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy builds upon the aims and ambitions of the 2018 – 2020 Strategy and provides the platform from which to continue to drive our collective partnership, keeping the priorities of our communities and children and young people at the front and centre as we move into the next phase of delivery. Through the creation of opportunities, identification and early response to need, the enrichment of our workforce to equip them with the skills to effectively intervene and an unrelenting focus on disruption activities, we will be in a stronger position to safeguard children and young people in Barnet from the significant harm caused by sexual and criminal exploitation, gangs and serious youth violence.

The Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy 2020 – 2022 focuses on the following seven priorities:

◆ **Strategic, operational and practice leadership**
◆ **Engaging children and young people**
◆ **Tackling Disproportionality**
◆ **Predict & Prevent**
◆ **Identify & Intervene**
◆ **Disrupting and stopping perpetrators**
◆ **Transitional Safeguarding**

2. Purpose and Aims

"Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Therefore, children's social care practitioners, child protection systems and wider safeguarding partnerships need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse beyond their front doors"[3]

Over the past two years, as a strategic partnership, we have learned more about local need and the extent of the problem. This growth in understanding has informed our collective activities and shaped the development of services which has strengthened their effectiveness. Going forward, our approach must continue to be purposeful and informed by local intelligence, outcomes and the experiences of children and young people and their communities. We must continue, as a partnership, to identify patterns of concern that enable focused and robust intervention efforts to protect victims and disrupt perpetrators of abuse swiftly and effectively.

The Strategy should be read alongside:

◆ **Annual Report Vulnerable Adolescents April 2020**

◆ **0 -19 Early Help Strategy 2020 – 2022**

◆ **Youth Justice Plan 2020 – 2022**

◆ **Missing Children Protocol**

◆ **Vulnerable Adolescents Protocol**

◆ **Serious Incident Response Protocol**

The scope of this Strategy crosses the domains of child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, missing children, gangs and serious youth violence. Exploitation exists on a continuum that starts with access to children through to on-line and face to face grooming by peers and adults and ultimately to recruitment and coerced cooperation and control[4].

This Strategy recognises that all forms of exploitation have a negative impact on children and young people's outcomes, and given the complexities and contexts in which exploitation occurs, the VACP will routinely consider the interface between this Strategy and wider local plans and strategies as they relate to:

◆ **Violence Against Women & Girls**

◆ **Mental Health including suicide and self-harm**

◆ **Substance misuse**

◆ **Radicalisation**

◆ **Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

◆ **Community Safety**

◆ **Housing & Youth Homelessness**

◆ **Corporate Parenting**

◆ **Adult Safeguarding**

The aims of this Strategy will be overseen by the multi-agency VACP which reports to the Performance, Quality & Assurance sub-group to the BSCP Leadership Forum.

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3   https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/

4   https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines

3. Barnet Vision

Barnet's Children and Young People's Plan 2019 – 2023 sets out the strategic vision to be a 'Family Friendly' borough by 2023. The aspiration is for children and families to be:

- **Safe & Secure –**
  Children and young people are safe and protected from harm

- **Family & Belonging –**
  Families and children can be together and part of a community that encourages resilience

- **Health & Wellbeing –**
  Children are supported to achieve a healthy start in life, enjoy a healthy lifestyle and to build resilience

- **Education & Learning –**
  Children and young people can learn about the world around them

- **Culture –**
  Our attitudes and behaviours enhance the way we work with children and young people

- **Cooperation & Leadership –**
  We include children and young people in decision making

- **Communication –**
  Information is shared effectively to children, young people and families across the borough.

The strategy to achieve Barnet's vision is focused on developing families' resilience, which evidence tells us is pivotal to delivering the best outcomes for children and young people. Barnet wants all its children, young people and families to be safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed, listened to and involved.

This Strategy aims to ensure in Barnet we have:

- A collective and contextual understanding of exploitation including the impact of social inequalities that can increase children and young people's vulnerability to exploitative relationships

- Collaborative, informed and focused leadership across the range of agencies working to safeguard vulnerable adolescents

- Recognised that children and young people hold solutions to the challenges they face

- Listened to and responded to the wishes and views of children and young people in the design and development of creative interventions, promoting co-production with young people at all stages of design, implementation and monitoring

- Effectively engaged parents in understanding the issues affecting their children and supported them to recognise the signs of exploitation, access support and be part of the plan to keep their children safe

- Robust partnership data, multi-agency and community-led intelligence that is effectively shared and analysed

- Evidenced based and creative school and community based prevention and early help programmes that effectively address issues relating to social media, friendships, grooming, healthy relationships, sexual health and risks as they relate to exploitation, gangs, violence and drugs

- Recognised and responded to ensure children and young people with additional vulnerabilities to exploitation are effectively safeguarded

- Children and young people who understand risk in their communities, engage in healthy relationships and know how to seek help when they need it

- Provided opportunities for children and young people to develop 'trusted relationships' with adults who listen and respond to their needs, divert them from harm and who work in partnership to safeguard them from any risks they may be exposed to

- Recognised and understood the complexities of disproportionality including structural and institutional racism and the impact of this on outcomes for BAME children and young people

- Tackled social, educational and health inequalities, social injustice and evidence of disproportionality by creating fair access opportunities for children and young people from BAME backgrounds that promote better outcomes

- Professionals who are skilled in working with children and young people and who demonstrate curiosity, use non-victim blaming language and go the extra mile to engage children and keep them safe

- Consistently high quality multi-agency assessments using the SEAM tool to actively identify and assess risk in order to protect and support children and young people at risk of exploitation in a range of environments

- Evidenced based help including psychologically-informed and trauma-informed practice approaches

- Engaged communities, peer-groups, families and professionals in collaborative efforts to keep young people safe and build resilience

- A whole council approach that recognises that child protection is everyone's responsibility

- Robust disruption and enforcement activity that leads to convictions and safe management of offenders

- Vulnerable adolescents who are able to remain safe in their own communities, living with adults who know them well and protect their interests

- Coordinated and effective transitional safeguarding arrangements in place for older adolescents

- Space for learning, growth and innovation in practice.

4. Strategic Priorities

The following strategic priorities provide the framework for the VACP as a sub-group to the BSCP Leadership Forum to deliver coordinated actions in response to local issues and needs.

4.1. Priority 1: Multi-Agency Leadership

This strategic priority sets out the expectations of political, senior and operational leaders across the local authority, including faith, community and voluntary sector organisations.

All local leaders have a responsibility to safeguard children from harm. To do this there must be a shared understanding of the problem, an agreed and coordinated approach to tackle it and an uncompromising tenacity and ambition to ensure that a zero-tolerance culture is developed that allows no child or young person to be exploited in our community.

Our Leaders must exercise and model positive and proactive curiosity about what life is like for children and young people in Barnet, provide challenge to systems and practices that exclude and blame children and young people who are at risk and appropriately escalate harmful and exploitative practices when change is not being achieved in children's circumstances.

The VACP will oversee the implementation of this Strategy and update in accordance with developments outlined by the London Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP), national and local research, policy, practice and guidance.

The VACP will provide annual reports to Performance, Quality and Assurance sub-group to the BSCP Leadership Forum and updates as required to the Executive Director of Children's Services, the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Barnet, the Lead member for Children and chairs of wider partnership boards to ensure ongoing connectivity between policy and practice as they relate to the safety and well-being of children and young people in Barnet.

4.1.1 Outcomes Sought

- The safety of children and young people is prioritised across the entire council including partner agencies, political and community leaders and this is reflected in their respective strategic ambitions and plans

- Young people are invited to meaningfully participate, contribute and influence our strategic priorities, plans and activities to ensure their voices are heard, listened to and acted upon

- Risks to children and young people are considered in the systems and contexts in which they live, learn and grow and which recognise the valuable contributions their families, schools, neighbourhoods and communities make towards achieving successful outcomes

- Individuals living and working in Barnet from businesses, professional and non-professional backgrounds, grassroots organisations, the voluntary sector, community and faith leaders are effectively engaged and know what to do if they are worried about a child or young person

- Effective practice is recognised and evaluated leading to cross-sector learning, innovation and development

- All leaders commit to ensuring public and community spaces are safe for children and young people (i.e. parks, estates, high streets and shopping centres).

4.2.   Priority 2: Engaging Children & Young People

This strategic priority places the views, wishes, experiences and aspirations of our young people at the front and centre of all that we do as a partnership.

It is our responsibility as a partnership to promote meaningful participation with children and young people in all areas that affect their lives and their communities, recognising participation is a fundamental human right.

We believe that children and young people do not 'refuse to engage' in support, services or development activities and it is our responsibility, as a partnership, to find creative approaches that actively seek to engage marginalized voices and identify the reachable moments in which children and young people can be seen, heard and listened to.

Children and young people in Barnet have told us that they are worried about their safety (Youth Perception Survey) we will aim to build and strengthen their resilience and confidence and promote their engagement in decision making and design of services, through to monitoring and evaluation.

This strategic priority places the views, wishes, experiences and aspirations of our young people at the front and centre of all that we do as a partnership.

4.2.1. Outcomes Sought

- To ensure engagement is systematic and structured and provide children and young people with opportunities to influence and develop policy, programmes and practice

- Young people are seen as experts in their own lives and enabled to speak for themselves and tell their own stories about their experiences and relationship with help

- A broad spectrum of children and young people are engaged including those from disadvantaged backgrounds who suffer inequalities and social injustice

- Agencies listen to and respond to the diversity of children and young people's issues

- Young people are seen as partners and agents of change for their communities

- Agencies adopt a range of mechanisms to engage children and young people, including digital platforms

- Children and young people are safeguarded and equipped with the skills to thrive in critical social contexts such as school, family and their community

- Young people are enabled and empowered to share their individual voices and experiences of violence and exploitation by shining a light on systemic problems in their communities and used to help shape strategy and design of services

- Children and young people are provided with opportunities to grow their talent, reach their potential and express their creativity as well as their capacities for positive future choices

- Agencies provide children and young people with opportunities and platforms to influence, problem-solve and hold services to account

- Children and young people are empowered to define and guide how they engage with agencies and services.

4. Strategic Priorities (continued)

4.3.   Priority 3: Tackling Disproportionality

This strategic priority aims to address the overrepresentation of children and young people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds being exploited by criminal gangs, entering into the criminal justice system and becoming perpetrators and victims of serious youth violence. The Lammy Review[5] reports the disproportionate representation of BAME children as first time offenders, re-offending and in custody. The proportion of children in custody from BAME backgrounds has risen from 25% - 41% between 2006 – 2016.

Local data, as set out in the Vulnerable Adolescents Annual Report 2020 and within the Youth Offending data, demonstrates an overrepresentation of boys from BAME backgrounds that are victims to criminal exploitation. They are more likely to be victims and/or perpetrators of serious youth violence and enter into the criminal justice system and receive custodial sentences.

Whilst the numbers of children are relatively low, there is a need for the partnership to do more to improve outcomes for children from BAME backgrounds, particularly those who have had adverse childhood experiences and are at the greatest risk of educational and social exclusion. We must be ambitious for their futures and ensure effective measures are in place to address the harmful impact of social and racial inequalities and injustice, we must ensure that all agencies demonstrate that Black Lives Matter in Barnet.

All agencies must work to create opportunities for BAME children that promote a strong sense of their own cultural, racial, religious and linguistic identity and build their self-esteem through access and inclusion in education, employment, training and positive activities.

4.3.1 Outcomes Sought

- The partnership will seek to actively engage BAME communities and the voluntary, faith and community providers supporting them in the community in addressing and solving the problem

- Local partners and agencies to develop a comprehensive understanding of the contextual risks factors and social inequalities that young men from BAME backgrounds experience and work effectively and purposefully to tackle disadvantage and structural racism

- Children and young people from BAME backgrounds at risk of school exclusion and with additional vulnerabilities to received targeted support aimed at keeping them in education, access positive activities and build trusted relationships

- Agencies and services have a sound understanding of the mechanisms of institutional racism in relation to the exploitation and criminalization of children from BAME backgrounds

- Out of Court disposals to be considered for children and young people from BAME backgrounds to minimize the risk of early entry into the criminal justice system

- Agencies have effective and accessible measures in place to challenge discriminatory practices

- Training is available for all agencies to promote cultural competence in the development of policy, practice and engagement with children, young people and families from BAME backgrounds

5   https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

- Children and young people from BAME backgrounds are safeguarded as victims of exploitation using Modern Slavery mechanisms to enforce prosecution of the adults exploiting them

- Early intervention for parents of children from BAME backgrounds to identify the signs of grooming and exploitation and support for them to enable parents to work with services to prevent and deter their children from exploitation and criminality

- The partnership works to challenge and change system narratives of children and young people from BAME backgrounds to contribute to a clearer understanding of their needs and equity in service provision.

4.4.   Priority 4: Predict & Prevent

This strategic priority aims to ensure that multi-agency information and intelligence is gathered and shared to identify early, those children and young people at the greatest risk of exploitation.

Our focus is to ensure that early help systems are effectively mobilized to enable multi-agency intervention to be targeted at children at risk of experiencing adversity arising from exposure to familial violence, poverty, parental mental health or substance misuse and school exclusions.

In Barnet, the activities of the VACP identified a need to focus on a younger cohort of children, particularly those aged between 10 – 13 years. Children with additional vulnerabilities including neuro-developmental disorders, learning difficulties/disabilities and those who have had adverse childhood experiences are particularly vulnerable to exploitation; early help systems must ensure wrap around support is available at the point of identification and throughout these children's minority to protect them from the harmful impact of exploitation and social exclusion.

Our aim is to ensure that early help is effective in building resilience and preventing vulnerabilities from escalating into social or educational exclusion, neglect and abuse. We will achieve this through direct work, building trusted relationships, providing education, building self-esteem and knowledge about how they can keep themselves safe on-line and in their homes, schools and communities.

4.4.1   Outcomes sought

- Multi-agency information and intelligence is gathered to identify risks and vulnerabilities in groups, communities and individuals as they relate to exploitation of children and young people

- Agencies are able to recognise and respond to the contextual factors that increase the risk of children and young people being exploited

- Early help is delivered in local communities by professionals who understand the nature and risks of online, peer and adult grooming and exploitation of children and young people and who are equipped to intervene, build resilience, promote healthy friendships and relationships and prevent problems escalating

- Risks and vulnerabilities to exploitation are identified early and reduced through focused interventions aimed at building confidence and self-esteem

- Whole family approaches are used to engage the child's whole system of support at the earliest opportunity

- Primary school transitions are managed for children at risk of exclusion safely and with wrap around support

- The need for statutory youth offending and/or safeguarding interventions is reduced

4. Strategic Priorities (continued)

- Children, young people and their parents/carers are informed about the risks, can identify exploitation and other forms of harm and know how to access early support[6]

- Professionals use the Early Help SEAM to effectively assess and respond to risk

- Inclusive and accessible preventative and evidenced based programmes are delivered in schools/colleges and in the community to provide education, challenge myths and stimulate engagement with young people about their understanding of coercive or exploitative relationships

- The use of technology, including but not exclusive to, WhatsApp, Snap Chat, Facebook, You Tube and Twitter are recognised as potential platforms from which exploitation can occur and can also present opportunities to understand the early indicators of local issues and tensions.

4.5.   Priority 5: Identify and Intervene

This strategic priority focuses on identification of children and young people who are being coerced or exploited to engage in harmful, sexual and criminal activity and our shared ambition to provide rapid and effective protective multi-agency responses and support.

The aim of this strategic priority is to ensure that children and young people are effectively kept safe from exploitative adults, peers and groups through strong multi-agency partnerships that wrap around vulnerability to protect from harm.

Child exploitation is a complex form of abuse which can make it difficult to identify. Children and young people who are victims of exploitation often distrust professionals and/or are subject to threats of violence and harm against them and their family members which prevents them from being open about their lived experiences.

The multi-agency partnership needs to ensure all professionals working with children and young people have a good understanding of normal adolescent behaviours, the concept of consent[7] and the impact of adverse childhood experiences on children's vulnerability to exploitation. Professionals must first see children as victims who are subject to coercion and control by the adults and peers exploiting them.

Our expectation is that agencies and professionals cooperate and collaborate to build a clear and accurate picture of a child or young person's circumstances and who else might be involved in order to provide protection, considering, at all times the need to safeguard children and young people in context of their individual, community and family circumstances.

Children in Care can be particularly vulnerable to exploitation, agencies must support interventions that enable foster carers and residential homes to manage the risk to children and young people and the harmful impact of exploitation including missing episodes and peer grooming.

Professionals working with vulnerable groups of children and young people need to be equipped with skills to deliver psychologically informed

6   Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

7   The law states that consent is only valid where a young person can make a choice and have the freedom and capacity to make that choice. If a child feels they have no other meaningful choice, are under the influence of harmful substances or are fearful of what might happen if they don't comply (all of which are common features in cases of child exploitation) consent cannot legally be given whatever the age of the child.

and trauma informed interventions, to be able to build trusted relationships and engage children in activities that keep them safe and divert them away from harmful relationships and activities.

Keeping children and young people in school is a protective factor, it increases opportunities for access to professionals in the school system, increases promotion of pro-social activities and relationships, reduces access of criminal gangs to children and enhances further education and employment opportunities. Supporting children and young people to successfully transition and stay in school must be a key priority for the partnerships.

Parental engagement is nearly always a protective factor. Parents and extended family members need effective support in helping them manage risk from outside the home. This is skilled work and requires building good relationships with parents. We must ensure that parents are not blamed and alienated from attempts by services to help[8]. The partnership must commit to the continued delivery of effective family based interventions that reduce missing from home episodes, entry into the criminal justice system and the risk of children entering into care and the intensive and collaborative multi-agency responses that children at a high risk of harm require.

Risk assessments using the SEAM tool must be coproduced with children and young people, drawing on their personal, family and professional system resources to create plans that enable children and young people to define the risks they are experiencing and include them in their plans to keep them safe.

Agencies must use 'critical moments' as opportunities to intervene i.e. when children and young people are excluded from school, arrested or attacked in order to capitalize on receptivity to support at these critical times of vulnerability. Trauma-informed interventions should be proactively prioritised following an assault on a child or young person.

The partnership will continue to promote and actively engage children and young people in educative and preventative knife crime programmes that support the borough's participation in national programmes of education i.e. Knife Angel.

The partnership will continue to tailor intervention approaches to meet the identified need of Barnet's children and young people.

The partnership will work to ensure that children and young people have safe exit strategies that enable them to leave exploitative relationships, including enhanced protection to safeguard them and their families from harm as necessary.

Moving children, young people and their families out of the local area provides temporary relief from immediate danger, support plans for children, young people and their families in these situations need to be a coordinated plan in place to manage the transition and access to the support required in the new local authority area.

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8   https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/870035/Safeguarding_children_at_risk_from_criminal_exploitation_review.pdf

4. Strategic Priorities (continued)

4.5.1   Outcomes sought

- Multi-agency information and intelligence is gathered and shared to identify children and young people who are vulnerable to exploitation, to map hotspots, trends and risks in missing episodes, victim and perpetrator identification, and criminal activity involving children, including 'county lines'

- Professionals in the council, community, schools, health settings and safeguarding systems have relevant and proportionate knowledge of the risk and vulnerability factors as they relate to the exploitation of vulnerable adolescents

- The multi-agency partnership routinely engage in SEAM[9] Strategy Meetings contributing to assessment of vulnerability and risk factors using SEAM as a common risk measurement tool which will be reviewed and updated in accordance with evidence, evaluation and feedback

- The BSCP develop individual and collective expertise through joint learning exercises and strong partnership

- Professionals understand the need to 'stay with the child' when engagement is frustrated and/or difficult

- A non-pathologising professional culture is developed in which exploited children and young people are always recognised and supported as victims

- A common language is used by all professionals to describe exploitation and its harmful impact

- Agencies are ready to maximise on the critical moments for engagement in children and young people's lives

- The multi-agency professional network is equipped with the knowledge and skills required to build trusted relationships and build resilience with children and young people

- Young women at risk of violence in relationships are supported through Youth Independent Domestic Violence Advocates and are referred to MARAC to develop a safety plan

- Interventions will be informed by best practice guidance and research and innovation and tailored to meet individual needs and circumstances

- Parents will be informed and empowered to identify and respond to risk their children may be exposed to outside of the family home

- A single multi-agency vulnerable adolescents panel, MACE – Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel continues to track and monitor the needs and risks facing all children and young people who are on the continuum of exploitation

- Children and young people moved out of the area are supported to transition to services that can meet their needs in the longer term

- A strong understanding is developed through MACE in respect of community and risks, themes, service and training gaps, recognising the potential overlap between victims and perpetrators.

4.6.   Priority 6: Disrupting and stopping perpetrators

This strategic priority focuses on the need to focus on disrupting and stopping perpetrator activity. Victims must be assured that all partners are working to safeguard their interests through robust enforcement activity.

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9   Adolescents at risk universal measurement and planning tool, adapted and modified, Phoenix Centre's Sexual Exploitation and Missing Measurement Tool 2014

The overlap between victim and perpetrator, particularly in peer groups, is acknowledged and children and young people who are both victims and perpetrators of exploitation will be provided with support that addresses their particular vulnerabilities and needs.

However, the overall aim of this strategic priority is to bring adult perpetrators of all forms of child sexual and criminal exploitation to justice, build the confidence of victims (including those that have also committed offences) and empower them and members of the public to report exploitation.

The London Borough of Barnet will strive to ensure victims are given opportunities to remain in their local communities, cared for by safe adults who know them well and the practice of moving children to placements at distance to protect them from harm being perpetrated in the community is minimised.

All agencies will recognise how age, gender, sexual identity, race/ethnicity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status and access to economic or other resources can create power imbalance in relationships.

All agencies will consider the vulnerabilities of young people involved in offending behaviour, particularly those that cross the domains of both victim and offender i.e. children and young people involved in county lines.

4.6.1   Outcomes sought

- All agencies effectively share information and routinely utilise intelligence-led disruption in relation to any local businesses, individuals or groups associated with exploitation

- Professionals are able to identify, assess and effectively intervene with children and young people involved in complex criminal, exploitation and abuse networks and can aid their safe exit, disclosure, physical and psychological recovery

- Robust policing responses are in place to respond to identified perpetrators and their networks which place the safety of children and young people at the centre of surveillance, investigations and criminal prosecution activity

- Agencies flexibly apply the full range of disruption tactics available through both criminal and civil routes to protect children and young people including but not exclusive to:

  - Taxi licensing

  - Child Abduction Warning Notices

  - Sexual Risk Order (SRO)

  - Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO)

  - Closure Notices

  - CSE at a hotel – requirement to disclose information/comply with Police notice

  - Civil Injunctions

  - Section 222 of the Local Government Act 1972

  - Young people demonstrating harmful sexual behaviours are identified and are supported to address their behaviours using evidenced based approaches

  - Robust offender management strategies are in place post-conviction and effective intervention strategies are in place that effectively reduce the risk presented by identified abusers.

4. Strategic Priorities (continued)

4.7.   Priority 7: Transitional Safeguarding

Barnet recognises the need for young people at risk of exploitation or at a high risk of entry into the criminal justice system to successfully manage transitions into adulthood. Analysis of crime data in Barnet evidences that young people aged between 16-24 years account for 35% of all offences committed in the borough (2018/19).

There is well documented evidence of young people who are victims of exploitation or at risk of involvement in criminal activity often having had adverse childhood experiences including poverty, exposure to violence in the home, educational exclusion, poor access to mental health services and positive activities. The absence of these structural factors is linked with multiple crime related outcomes (Graif et al 2014).

Over the period 2017/19 Barnet, there was a reduction in the number of young people subject to statutory orders and Youth Offending interventions, however, young people aged 16+ accounted for 79.5% of the Youth Offending cohort, in the reporting period.

For young people transitioning to adulthood, there is limited availability of holistic wrap around support, there is a cliff edge where both services and intensity of support falls away at 18 years which can render young people unprepared for adulthood and thresholds for adult services do not typically lend themselves to delivering transitional safeguarding support.

Barnet's network of partners must seek to address the gap that exists for young people in late adolescence (described by Hanson & Holmes 2014, as being young people aged between 16 years and their early 20's) to improve the transition into adulthood through coordinated support.

4.7.1 Outcomes Sought

- Young people will receive support to manage transitions and the complexities of housing, financial and education/employment

- Agencies will work together to create an environment of structural support and young person focused goals that are developed in partnership with young people

- Services will be developed to enable young people reaching adulthood to be supported to develop mature affect regulation, social relationships and executive functioning and minimise poor outcomes in mental health

- Agencies will work effectively together to identify and implement programmes of support that help young people understand the individual and community impact of violence and offending behaviour

- Young people will have access to support to combat loneliness, isolation, poor physical/mental wellbeing, substance misuse, managing negative peer or family pressure, boredom, awareness of opportunities and choices, lack of confidence and coping skills

- Agencies will ensure young people transitioning to adulthood receive support to access employment, training and education opportunities

- All partners will work to engage young people in the design, delivery and monitoring of service delivery aimed at supporting transitions

- Young people will benefit from co-produced personal development plans that set out their needs and goals

- Agencies will use psychologically informed approaches to build social capital, develop positive identity, challenge perception and support personal change and success.

- Young people will be supported to access psycho-educative approaches for substance misuse and be provided with support to access recovery support and treatment services

- Young people will benefit from practical support aimed at housing and benefits, independent living skills, employment, training and education opportunities

- Young people leaving care will be recognised as a group that are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, poor mental health and custodial outcomes in the criminal justice system and supported at key transitions to improve their outcomes

- Young people will be supported to build upon their existing strengths and strengthen their social, personal and community based resources and support networks.

5. Communication Strategy

Safeguarding responses to exploitation require the ability to build relationships with local businesses, licensing authorities and other sectors. The VACP will ensure that public and professional awareness is raised through an effective communication and engagement strategy that develops universal awareness across the council and local community of the context in which perpetrators are operating targeting in particular:

Restaurants and licensed premises	**Shake & Dessert bars, and Shisha bars**
Local Business, especially those providing free wi-fi	**Taxi Firms**
Refuse collection, public facing services provided by the council including parks	**Hotels and bed & breakfast**
Community outreach, youth engagement and feedback	**Information to parent's family members**

6. Monitoring the effectiveness of all agencies working with vulnerable adolescents

The Vulnerable Adolescents Community Partnership (VACP) will drive the implementation of the Strategy creating a plan that will detail agency and collective activity. The VACP will provide annual reports to the Performance, Quality & Assurance (PQA) sub-group to the BSCP Leadership Forum.

Strategic Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings will review, analyse and disseminate information in relation to SEAM's, Return Home Interviews and Youth Offending data to map networks of victims, perpetrators and share proportionate and relevant intelligence with key stakeholders and community groups to develop appropriate safeguarding responses to known or emerging risks.

The VACP, via its partner representatives and inclusion of children and young people at key development and implementation stages will facilitate the voice of children and young people in the monitoring the effectiveness of the strategy and quality of services provided.

Multi-agency partners will be engaged in quality assurance activities aimed at providing reassurance to the VACP and PQA through regular Multi-agency thematic audits that will measure the effectiveness and impact of partner contributions in delivering Early Help and Safeguarding interventions and testing the difference this is making to children and young people's lives.

Appendix 1 - Definitions

Child sexual exploitation is defined as:

"...A form of child sexual abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology."[10]

Child criminal exploitation is defined as:

"Child criminal exploitation is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology."

Criminal exploitation of children is broader than just county lines, and includes for instance children forced to work on cannabis farms or to commit theft.

The Office of the Children's Commissioner offers the definition of a gang as:

"A relatively durable, predominantly street-based, social group of children, young people and, not infrequently, young adults who see themselves, and are seen by others, as affiliates of a discrete, named group who (1) engage in a range of criminal activity and violence, (2) identify or lay claim to territory, (3) have some form of identifying structural feature, and (4) are in conflict with similar groups"

In addition to gangs, organised child sexual exploitation can be "perpetrated by groups who come together in person or online for the purpose of setting up, co-ordinating and/or taking part in the sexual exploitation of children in either an organised or opportunistic way."[11]

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10 Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision also fulfil the requirement for exchange, for example a child who engages in sexual or criminal activity to stop someone carrying out a threat to harm his/her family. Whilst there can be gifts or treats involved in other forms of sexual abuse (e.g. a father who sexually abuses but also buys the child toys) it is most likely referred to as child sexual exploitation if the 'exchange', as the core dynamic at play, results in financial gain for or enhanced status of, the perpetrator. Where the gain is only for the perpetrator/facilitator, there is most likely a financial gain, money, clothes, jewelry, technology items. makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation (2017) Department for Education

11 "I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world": The Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation In Gangs and Groups (2011) Children's Commissioner

Appendix 2 – SAFEGUARD Mnemonic

The SAFEGUARD mnemonic is utilised to enable all professionals, including foster carers, to understand the key areas of vulnerability that can lead adolescents to be at risk of exploitation.

Sexual health & behavior	Concerns of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and termination; inappropriate sexualised behaviour
Absent	From school or running away – episodes of truancy or periods of being missing from home or care
Familial abuse	Problems at home – familial sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, risk of forced marriage or honour-based violence; domestic violence; substance misuse; parental mental; health concerns; parental criminality; experience of homelessness; looked after child
Emotional and physical condition	Thoughts of or attempted, suicide or self-harming; low self-esteem or self-confidence; problems relating to sexual orientation; learning difficulties; poor mental health; unexplained injuries or changes in physical appearance identify
Gangs	Older age groups and involvement in crime – involvement in crime; direct involvement with gang members or living in a gang-afflicted community; involvement with older individuals or lacking friends from the same age group; contact with other individuals who are sexually exploited
Use of technology, sexual bullying	Evidence of 'sexting', sexualised communication on-line or problematic use of the internet and social networking sites
Alcohol & drug misuse	Concerns regarding alcohol and or substance use
Receipt of unexplained gifts or money	Unexplained finances, including phone credit, clothes and money
Distrust of authority figures	Resistance to communicating with parents, carers, teachers, social services, health, police and others

Appendix 3 – SEAM Tool

Personal Details of Young Person	
First name	
Surname	
Address	
DOB (age)	
Legal Status	

Agencies Involved and contact details			
Specialist Children Services		Education	
Police		Health (inc sexual health)	
CAMH's		Substance misuse services	
Targeted Youth Service		Other (specify)	

Appendix 3 – SEAM Tool (continued)

This measurement tool is designed to enable the professional network to identify and understand holistic risks surround a vulnerable adolescent and to triangulate support and multifaceted planning in order to reduce the identified risks and needs.

Circle either 1,2,3,4 or 5 on each of the ten categories which best describe the current situation for the young person. Please also provide evidence in the addition information column which supports the scoring. The scoring matrix needs to be completed and action planning completed.

Sexual health – activities and awareness		
0	Is not sexually active but is aware of where to get support and advice when needed – There are no concerns regarding sexual health, young person has an age appropriate and healthy outlook regarding sexual relationships.	
1	Young person is sexually active and in an equal consensual relationship with a peer. Young person does not feel pressured, they feel they can say no and is following safe sex advice.	
2	Information leads to concerns that the young person is feeling pressured to become sexually active, or there is some sexual health concerns,	
3	Young person is sexually active but is not willing to access support from any sexual health services.	
4	Young person feels pressure to have sex or perform sexual acts in exchange for status/ protection, possessions, substances or affection. Young person is being pressured to perform sex as part of initiations into 'gangs'. Young person has been coerced to perform a line up. Young person is in a sexual relationship with an adult / there is a wide age gap or clear imbalance of power. Young person is under 13 years old and sexually active. Young person has many sexual partners / many test for STI's or pregnancy.	
5	Sex is non-consensual – young person is experiencing violence/coercion with sex, or are unable to consent due to intoxication with alcohol and/or drugs, Young person is made to watch sexual acts. Concerns and evidence that the young person has been forced to transport drugs through 'Plugging'	

Absent / Missing		
0	There are no concerns regarding missing / Absence.	
1	(Increasing) episodes of missing education, truancy.	
2	Stays out late (State pattern) often breaking curfews. Young person often returns within 24 hours.	
3	Occasionally goes missing for short or prolonged episodes (State Pattern)	
4	Frequent and short missing episodes – Information or concerns that young person is being exploited for local drug dealing of criminal activity.	
5	Frequent and prolonged missing episodes – information or concerns that young person is being exploited for Country Lines (OT, Country 'Cunch')	

Familial concerns parent/carer – young person relationship		
0	Parent/Carer and the young person have a positive relationship and communicate effectively. Parent/Carer demonstrates emotional warmth and provides stability for young person. Young person responds to boundaries.	
1	Parent/carer and the young person have a generally positive relationship, they express concern and respond to young person's needs and presenting concerns (for example; reporting young person missing to Police) Appropriate boundaries are in place but the young person does not always adhere to them.	
2	The relationship is strained between the young person and their parent carer. Parent/carer is not consistently responding to young person.	
3	There has been a sudden or recent negative change in the quality of relationship, or the relationship is thought to be strained.	
4	Poor or negative relationship communication between young person and their carer Parent. Young person not responding to boundaries, historic abuse experiences of trauma in the family or directly to the young person. Familial links with gang's criminal activity.	
5	Current/suspected abuse in the family, Poor communication, low warmth, attachment or trust. Parent/Carer does not implement age appropriate boundaries.	

Appendix 3 – SEAM Tool (continued)

Emotional and Physical Condition		
0	No Concerns	
1	Concerns that the young person is becoming increasingly distant, distracted and preoccupied.	
2	Experiencing difficulties in identity, low self-esteem or self-confidence. Young person is avoiding certain areas, worried about being harmed.	
3	Learning or physical difficulties vulnerabilities, reporting thoughts of helplessness, self-harm or suicide. Young person is significantly stressed and anxious and is refusing to leave the home.	
4	Unexplained injuries, either suspected through being inflicted or through self-harming, Young person expressing suicidal ideation	
5	Hospital admission due to unexplained injuries, self-harming suicide attempt, concerns regarding experiences of Trauma, PTSD.	

Association with gangs/criminals adults who pose a risk		
0	No concerns	
1	Young person not at risk, information indicates that the young person may have some contact with vulnerable peers but has other positive networks.	
2	Young person is aware of gang activity in their area, and aware of others associated, but information indicates that they are not actively involved.	
3	Young person socialises with vulnerable peer's adults or is in contact with peers who pose a risk, there is no information that they themselves are involved in exploitation however, they are thought to be on the periphery.	
4	Young person is in active contact with risky adults and peers, information/intelligence confirms that who are known 'gang' Associates/Nominals, young person can recognise risks/exploitation but contact has not reduced. Young person is suspected of carrying a knife, or drugs with the intent of supply.	
5	Young person is known to be habitually associating with risky adults/peers and does not act on this. Young person is actively involved with a gang, criminal group or associated to gang members through peers or family, they have been found in possession of a knife (Bladed article) firearm, drugs (not for personal use). They have been found on a suspected County lines, exploitation of the young person is heavily suspected.	

Use of technology - SOCIAL MEDIA – Sexual Bullying		
0	No Concerns - Young person uses internet and or has an instant messaging account, they have a good awareness of potential risks/dangers of internet use and age appropriate parental controls and monitoring is in place.	
1	Young person uses internet and social media accounts and there are some concerns that a lack of age appropriate monitoring guidance is in place or should be strengthened.	
2	Young person has accessed one or more social networking sites and has links to, or is 'friends' to unknown people.	
3	Unmonitored / secretive use of internet. Young person received texts/calls from unknown people. Possession of a mobile phone which parent/carer has no or only limited knowledge. Accessing videos connected to gangs/criminality.	
4	Young person has been exposed to online dangers and regularly accessing sites such as Tinder, Grinder. Young person is at risk of being coerced into sharing inappropriate images of themselves. Images or videos may include, drug taking, weapons, money, peers and adults thought to be associated with gangs/criminal activity, unknown locations e.g. hotel rooms.	
5	Young person maybe receiving threats and there is evidence that they are being coerced and controlled through online platforms. Young person being coerced and controlled to post inappropriate language /information sexual pictures when contacted. Young person plans and being coerced to meet face to face the person they only know online. Young person has appeared as a perpetrator or victim in online video relating to criminal sexual exploitation. Young person has suddenly stopped using any social media.	

Appendix 3 – SEAM Tool (continued)

Alcohol and drug use		
0	No concerns	
1	Experimental/Recreational use of drugs or alcohol (cigarettes in younger children).	
2	Uses drugs or alcohol – there is evidence of increasing and regular use and it is unclear as to how this is being financed.	
3	Alcohol/drug dependency and habitual use is suspected. Drug possession and use is "on tick" - and young person is becoming indebted.	
4	Evidence that young person is dependent on alcohol/drugs.	
5	Evidence of drug dependency, young person has been arrested for drug possession with intent to supply, on a county line or in a 'trap house' or 'bando'.	

Recognition of abusive and exploitative behaviour receipt of unexplained gifts money	
0	No Concerns, young person has a good understanding of exploitative / abusive behaviour and can use it to keep themselves safe, within the context of age and environment. All new gifts and belongings are accounted for.	
1	Reasonable understanding of abusive/ exploitative behaviour.	
2	Some understanding of abusive / exploitative behaviour, may recognise the risk but unable to apply it to themselves, requires some additional support in understanding how relationships can become exploitative.	
3	Limited recognition of exploitative relationship patterns, young person has unaccounted for gifts, monies and evidence or concerns that they may be feeling 'indebted' to others.	
4	Very limited recognition of abusive / exploitative behaviour, young person has monies being transferred through their bank account, gifts, belonging clothing's unaccounted for. Young person is being requested to carry out jobs or tasks to clear off debt.	
5	No recognition of abusive exploitative behaviour, cannot identify recognise the risk of abuse or exploitation.	

Appendix 3 – SEAM Tool (continued)

	Distrust of Authority figure disengagement Education school	
0	Good engagement with all appropriate services/ professionals, engaged in education, training, work or actively seeking employment	
1	Increasing recent concerns regarding attendance at school.	
2	Reasonable engagement with all relevant services professionals education but attendance is a concern, education could include: - Is on roll at a school or PRU - Is on roll at a school or PRU with alternative provision in place - Is on roll at a college - Is employed with training	
3	Some engagement with services and professionals - Occasional contact - Is on a reduced timetable - Is persistently absent from school Sudden noticeable change in engagement inc attendance, performance or behaviour at school Negative view of authority figures and professionals.	
4	Brief engagement or lack of meaningful engagement with professionals/service: early stages or sporadic contact Young person is excluded from school A NEET (Not in education employment or training) but young person is showing an interest in accessing opportunities.	
5	Not engaging with service of professionals Young person is not attending school or is NEET and shows no interest in accessing education or training opportunities	

Scoring			
Indicator	**Score**		**Score**
Sexual Health		Gangs / Criminal/ adults who pose a risk	
Absence Missing		Use of technology Social media	
Familial Concerns		Alcohol and drug use	
Emotional and Physical Condition		Recognition of abuse and exploitative behaviour	
		Distrust of authority figure / disengagement with education	
Total Score		**Risk Level**	

Low	Medium	High	Very High

0	20	30	40

YOUNG PERSONS PERCEPTION OF RISK

Low	Medium	High	Very High

0	20	30	40

ACTION PLANNING

Action Plan				
Area of need /risk	**Desired outcome**	**Action**	**By Whom**	**By When**
e.g. Missing form home/care	To gain further information and greater understanding to suspected location, and patterns of missing	To support foster carer in gain itemised billing of YP phone bill, Build a missing chronology	S/W and Foster carer	14 days Ongoing

Appendix 4 – CSE/CCE Language

Suggested alternative for describing behaviour around CSE concerns,

Inappropriate terms	Suggested alternatives
Putting themselves at risk.	• Child may have been groomed. • The child is at an increased vulnerability to being abused/exploited. • A perpetrator may exploit the child's increased Vulnerability • Situation could reduce the child's safety • Location/situation could increase a perpetrators opportunity to abuse them. • Child in not in a protective environment • The location is dangerous to children • Not clear if the child is under duress to go missing • Concerns are that the child may be being sexually abused • It is unclear why the child is getting in to cars. • Concern that there is a power imbalance forcing the child to act in this way. • Concerns regarding others Influences on the child.
Sexual activity with…	• They have been sexually abused • They have been raped. • Allegation of sexual abuse • Child has described sexual activity, however concerns exist that they child may have been groomed/coerced.
They are following in the footsteps of their older sibling	• Exploitataive relationships and coercion is represents potentially a "normal" relationalship pattern for them. • They are feeling pressure to adoipt a similar nartrative to their older sibling.
They are engaged with criminal activity/groups/ gangs	• They have been criminally exploitated • They have been groomed and coerced to commit crime, violent acts. • They are being trafficked for transporting drugs • It is unsafe for the young person to break ties with the people coercing them.
They are violent and a habitual knife carrier	• The young person has potentially experienced trauma. • They are scared, and trying to ascertain ways to feel safe and protect themselves.
Young person refuses to engage	• The young person is potentially being corceed to become increasing isolated from their family and safe professioanals. • We need to find what works for the young person, so far we have not found it. • The pulls of the coercion and control are significant,
Sexually active since (Age under 13)	• Raped • Concerns exist that child may have been coerced, exploited or sexually abused. • Child may have been sexually abused.

Appendix 5 – VACP Terms of Reference

Vulnerable Adolescence Community Partnership
Terms of Reference – March 2020

Context

A number of different partnership tools, programmes and service initiatives have been established locally and across London to support adolescents whose circumstances make them vulnerable to exploitation and unsafe situations. In Barnet, there are a range of preventative and statutory services delivered across sectors aimed at tackling exploitation; these include REACH; Art Against Knives, Growing Against Violence, MAC-UK, Rescue and Response, St Christopher's and targeted intervention approaches such as No Lives, Better Lives. The local authority has developed a Sexual Exploitation and Missing (SEAM) tool to support multi-agency risk assessment and has introduced the SAFEGUARD mnemonic to support the identification of children and young people at risk of exploitation. The local authority, in partnership with the voluntary sector, has secured Home Office Trusted Relationships funding to develop the Barnet Creative Safe Spaces Partnership which is supporting growth and development of service delivery approaches.

Vision & Aims

To support effective and coordinated delivery of services provided to adolescents at risk in Barnet, a senior level partnership group has been established comprising of public and voluntary/community sector organisations and which also provides a forum for young people to contribute to organisational learning and service development. The Vulnerable Adolescents Community Partnership will:-

- Implement the aims of the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy

- Use data and feedback from key stakeholders, delivery partners, local communities and young people and Strategic MACE to drive high quality and evidenced provision in the borough

- Identify and swiftly respond to trends and changing needs of adolescents whose circumstances make them vulnerable to exploitation;

- Effectively coordinate delivery within the borough to ensure services have coherent and accessible pathways and points of interface;

- Measure and build on the evidence base for preventative and risk management interventions by effectively monitoring outcomes for children and young people at risk of exploitation;

- Monitor the effectiveness of services ensuring that children and young people are provided with timely and proportionate help and interventions that safeguard them from harm and build their resilience

- Ensure training and learning events are regularly coordinated and accessed by a broad range of agencies

- Share information and seek opportunities for growth and development in the partnership and delivery framework.

- Support changes in organisational culture through the development of agreed principles and outcomes for working with young people

- Share learning across the council and sector;

Purpose

The Strategic Board will deliver the following roles:

Development and Delivery of the Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy

- Be responsible for the development, implementation of the Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy;

- Agree shared principles for ways of working across the partnership;

- Review intelligence, data and current services (and their impact), and use this to develop delivery plans;

Drive Cultural Change across the Partnership

- Ensure that the voices of young people are heard and that they are enabled to be part of development and delivery of services;

- Draw on the experience and resources of communities in Barnet to co-design local solutions which work;

- Support frontline practitioners across the partnership to identify vulnerable young people earlier and provide help to protect them and reduce vulnerability;

- Develop whole system integration so we adopt a whole family approach;

- Promote workforce development through shared learning, joint training and service development programmes.

Lead specific projects to reduce vulnerability or protect vulnerable adolescents

- Ensure the logic model developed for the Trusted Relationship project is delivered and outcomes evidenced;

- Oversee and steer the direction of the REACH Team and ensure integration with other areas of work related to vulnerable adolescence.

Measure and Demonstrate Impact

- Develop and monitor the Vulnerable Adolescents dashboard to evaluate the effectiveness of services on young people's outcomes;

- Report to the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board and Barnet Safer Communities Partnership on progress;

- Adjust services, work programme and strategy in response to data and intelligence.
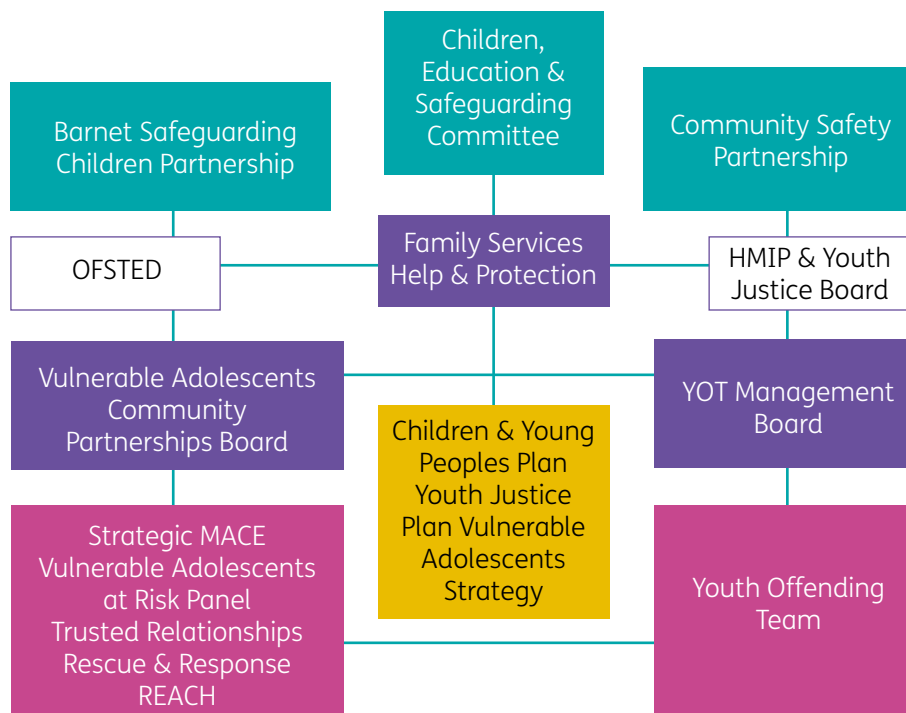
Governance

The Vulnerable Adolescence Community Partnership Board will be accountable to the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership.

The VACP will provide an annual report to the Performance, Quality & Assurance sub-group to the Leadership Forum and quarterly updates to the Community Safety Partnership Board.

The Chair of the Board, or their nominated representative, will attend to report on progress with the programme. Below is a diagram of the governance structure.

Strategy & Governance

Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee

Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership

Community Safety Partnership

OFSTED

Family Services Help & Protection

HMIP & Youth Justice Board

Vulnerable Adolescents Community Partnerships Board

Children & Young Peoples Plan Youth Justice Plan Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy

YOT Management Board

Strategic MACE Vulnerable Adolescents at Risk Panel Trusted Relationships Rescue & Response REACH

Youth Offending Team

Board Membership

The membership of the Board is as follows. The partnership is comprised of individuals at a decision-making level of authority. If members are not able to attend, they are asked to provide a nominated substitute who can make decisions on their behalf.

Frequency of meetings

Meetings are held quarterly.

Terms of Reference Review Date

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed in March 2020

VACP Agency Membership

Metropolitan Police Service – Detective Superintendent, North West Basic Command Unit Safeguarding Lead

London Borough of Barnet – Director Early Help & Children's Social Care Services.

Art Against Knives

Growing Against Violence

MAC-UK

St Christopher's

Young Barnet Foundation

Education - School Exclusions & Safeguarding Lead

London Borough of Barnet – Head of Service 0-19 Early Help Services

Education – Head of Specialist Inclusion Services/ Primary Education Psychologist

London Borough of Barnet – Head of MASH, REACH & Youth Offending Services

London Borough of Barnet – Strategic Lead for Vulnerable Adolescents and Partnerships

CCG / NCL Health Lead

London Borough of Barnet – REACH Team Manager

Barnet, Enfield & Haringey CAMHS

London Borough of Barnet – Data Analyst

Appendix

There are many local and national services that can be accessed by practitioners and parents/carers a full list of these can be found here

http://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fs_-_va_service_directory_1.xlsx.

Over the last two years key partnerships have been formed and practitioners in Barnet have access to the following projects to help support Vulnerable Adolescents these include:

Trusted Relationships Project

Trusted Relationship is a partnership co-ordinated by Barnet Children's Services in partnership with Art Against Knives, MAC-UK and Growing Against Violence. The aim of the project is to foster positive relationships between young people and services; to reduce risk of criminal and sexual exploitation; to bridge relationships between voluntary and statutory services; and to develop psychologically informed environments. As the main delivery partner, Art Against Knives offer free access to creative spaces in which young people can engage in creative activity and skills training of their choice, ranging from nail art through to music. Through these activities young people access support at a pace that works for them via therapeutically informed conversations with the team. Their multi-skilled team is equipped to respond to whatever support a young person may need, from child sexual exploitation through to education, employment and training, ensuring young people are in the lead at all times. Growing Against Violence provides educational sessions free to all primary schools to help raise awareness for year 6 pupils regarding exploitation. MAC-UK are supporting the embedding of psychologically informed environments and co-production across the partnership to contribute to transforming services for excluded young people.

For further referral or project information please email: **SEAM@Barnet.gov.uk**

Sibling Mentoring Project

A project focused on providing targeted mentoring to 10-14 year olds who have an older sibling who is involved with Youth Offending Services or Probation, the project is aimed to help divert young people from similar trajectory's to their older sibling.

For further referral or project information please email: **SEAM@Barnet.gov.uk**

Additional services and further information sources

Organisation	Summary of Interventions	Links / Attachment
The Lighthouse	Provide an immediate holistic response to Sexual abuse, including Therapy, Examinations, ABE and wider work with the family	**https://www. thelighthouse-london. org.uk/**
Safer London	Provide direct work to young people at risk of exploitation	**http://saferlondon.org. uk/services/empower/**
Research in Practice	Valuable resources and best practice guidance, and webinars	**https://www.rip.org.uk/**

PAN London Missing protocols	Pan London Agreed protocols for responding to missing young people.	**https://www.met. police.uk/globalassets/ downloads/child-abuse/ the-london-sexual- exploitation-operating- protocol-3rd-edition- june-2017.pdf**
Barnet Missing Protocols	Local protocols regarding missing processes	**HYPERLINK**
Research in Practice	Valuable resources and best practice guidance, and webinars – There is a great deal of information regarding effective engagement with young people.	**https://www.rip.org.uk/**
MAC UK	Working through partnerships with services to support the embedding of the INTEGRATE model which is is a psychologically informed approach, delivers multi-level interventions that create change in social environments and advocates for the co-production of services with excluded young people.	**https://www.mac-uk.org/**
Rise Mutual	Provide support to perpetrators of abuse	**https://risemutual.org/**
Youth Realities	Youth-led organisation tackling teenage relationship abuse by addressing the root causes, creatively and compassionately. We offer bespoke prevention, intervention focused workshops and survivor-focused core community programmes for young people aged between 11 - 25, supporting those with experiences of trauma related to teenage relationship abuse, exploitation, mental ill-health, bullying, social isolation and violence. Our community programmes are for young women and we have mixed-gender bespoke programmes available on request that focus on healthy relationships and sexual health.	**http://www. youthrealities.co.uk**
BEETS	Education and training support	**www.barnet.gov.uk/ citizen-home**
Young Barnet Foundation	Support children & young people in Barnet - a membership movement to grow local activities and opportunities	**www.barnetfoundation. or.uk**
Unitas - Barnet Youth Zone	Opening in Spring 2019, Unitas will deliver open access universal youth provision for children and young people aged 8 upwards and to age 25 for those with additional needs. Utilising our world-class facility in Montrose Park, we will provide up to 20 activities every day including sports, art, music, media, boxing, climbing and much more. All for just 50p per visit and £5 per year membership. We will have over 40 members of dedicated and trained staff, sessional workers and over 100 volunteers committed to transforming the lives of children and young people.	**https://www. unitasyouthzone.org/**

Grahame Park One Stop Shop and Pulse Community Flat	Provides community venues offering meeting and activity space, telephone, free WIFI, printing and information point for the local community. Services & Activities - adult education, playgroup, space for hire, community groups, resident's meetings, office space for rent, telephone, internet, printing and photocopying, information and referrals.	**http://www. colindalecommunity.org/**
Art Against Knives	AAK co-designs creative community spaces with young people that provide creative skills training, specialist support, establish trusted relationships, amplify their voices and put them in the lead of their own futures. Their work is underpinned by a trauma and psychologically informed approach to safeguarding young people. These spaces include 3 community nail and hair bars, a music studio, design studio, a fitness hub and programme of virtual support. They are rooted in the community and provision is open 46 weeks of the year through term time and holidays.	**https://www. artagainstknives.com/**
4Front Project	Youth-led social enterprise, empowering communities to live free from violence.	**www.4frontproject.org**
Inclusion Barnet	We create better services and more inclusive communities for those with mental health issues, disabilities and long-term conditions	**https://www. inclusionbarnet.org.uk/**