Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board (BDSCB)

Annual Report

2010 - 2011
INTRODUCTION TO BARKING & DAGENHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ……... 3
GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY .................................................................................. 4
STRUCTURE CHART ........................................................................................................... 5
MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE ..................................................................................... 6
BDSCB SUB COMMITTEES .................................................................................................. 7

- YOUNG PEOPLE’S SAFETY GROUP .................................................................................. 8
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE .......................................................... 9
- POLICY, PROCEDURES & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE ............................................... 10
- PERFORMANCE MONITORING COMMITTEE ............................................................... 11
- SERIOUS CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE ........................................................................... 12
- CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL ............................................................................... 13

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND OTHER AREAS OF WORK UNDERTAKEN …………… 14 – 23

- SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN EDUCATION ................................................................. 14
- BARKING & DAGENHAM COLLEGE ............................................................................. 16
- HEALTH ........................................................................................................................... 17
- POLICE ............................................................................................................................ 20
- VOLUNTARY SECTOR ...................................................................................................... 21
- COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (CAF) .............................................................. 22

AUDITS, MONITORING & EVALUATION ........................................................................... 24
BOARD PRIORITIES 2010/2011 ......................................................................................... 27

Appendix

APPENDIX 1: B&DSCB BOARD MEMBERSHIP LIST ......................................................... 28
APPENDIX 2: B&DSCB BOARD ATTENDANCE DATA ..................................................... 30
APPENDIX 3: MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING ATTENDANCE DATA .................................... 31
APPENDIX 4: ANNUAL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE DATA ........................................... 33
APPENDIX 5: B&DSCB FINANCIAL STATEMENT ............................................................... 34
This is the 5th Annual Report of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board (BDSCB) and I am pleased to have the opportunity to endorse this overview of the Board’s work during 2010/11.

The main purpose of the Annual Report is to comment on the effectiveness of our Safeguarding mechanisms within Barking & Dagenham and, to set out the progress that has been made to further improve the safety and wellbeing of Children and Young people in the Borough. The BDSCB supports the development of local accountability and plays an important role in its relationship with the Local Strategic Partnership and the Children’s Trust.

The Safeguarding Children Board is a statutory body made up from a number of different organisations in each local area and whose role is to help safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality.

Over the course of the year the Board met on six occasions and continues to enjoy strong support from Partners with good levels of attendance and commitment to the annual programme of work. The Board is also assisted by an energetic network of Sub Committees which provide the impetus for the work programme and represent the ‘bridge’ between strategic and practice responsibilities.

This year, the Board has continued to see good progress being made in responding to the Business Plan and is especially pleased to have strengthened engagement through consultation and awareness raising events. The business plan contributes to the Boroughs ‘Stay Safe’ approach and the Board has been fully consulted and engaged in the development the Young Peoples Plan adopted by the Strategic Partnership.

Inevitably much of the year has been focussed on the completion of a local serious case review and ensuring that all the lessons that could be learnt from this tragic case were acted on. The Board awaits the evaluation from Ofsted for its report and action plan arising from this case. This has affirmed the commitment and support offered to the Board by its partners in ensuring that the review was conducted thoroughly and openly across all agencies. The Board remains well positioned to respond to the revisions expected to statutory guidance ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ and will actively contribute to the forthcoming findings of the ‘Munro Review.

For the coming year the Board is aware of the need to ensure that safeguarding has the maximum strategic impact and this Annual Report will be presented to both the Children’s Trust and also to the local strategic partnership. The Board has also determined to strengthen arrangements for performance management and audit in an effort to ensure that services are developed in a safe and sustainable way.

Additionally the Board will seek to encourage strong and effective support through engaged corporate services covering areas such as safe recruitment, training and development and information management.

Overall 2010/11 has been a productive year for the Board and continued good progress has been made in developing more effective arrangements to both recognise risk and safeguard children and young people who live, work and study in the Borough. However it is equally important to ensure that Barking & Dagenham continues to be a positive and constructive place for people to work and the Board will continue to encourage strategies that support the often volatile work of practitioners and their managers.
Of course much remains to be done, but with an increasing emphasis on strong corporate and partnership working we should be confident of maintaining our direction and making Barking & Dagenham a safer place for children, young people and their families to live and thrive in the future."

Independent Chair
Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board

Governance and Accountability

Constitution and Governance:

A full copy of our Constitution and Governance can be downloaded at www.bardag-lscb.co.uk
Local Governance Arrangements

- Local Authority
  - Overview and Scrutiny
  - B&DSCB
  - Local Strategic Partnership
    - Young People Safety Group
    - Serious Case Review Committee
    - Professional Development Committee
    - Performance Management Committee
    - Child Death Overview Panel
    - Policy
      - Procedures & Communications Committee
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities for 2009/10</th>
<th>Our Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reviewing and Strengthening our Governance and Leadership</td>
<td>We have started work on reviewing our Governance to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and meets our needs. Work is expected to be completed with a revised Governance paper by mid June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring a Communication Strategy is implemented;</td>
<td>This year we have drawn up draft Communication Strategy for the Board that incorporates all our partners’ needs and is due to be presented to the BDSCB later this year for final approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring that our Workforce (including strategic leads) are confident, competent &amp; equipped to undertake their safeguarding responsibilities;</td>
<td>Our training programme continued to deliver a successful range of safeguarding courses and provided training to a wider workforce than ever before. We have ensured that all front line staff have access to our training programmes and we routinely monitor attendance on these courses to ensure we meet the needs of our workforce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring full compliance with Section 11 and external inspections for all partner agencies</td>
<td>We have achieved 100% of S11 returns from all our schools this year and we continue to drive forward our S11 audits and compliance report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embedding the “Think Family” approach to all our work with children and young people</td>
<td>The Think Family approach has continued in ensuring that a holistic approach is being taken when working with children and families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing the risk through Early Intervention and Prevention.</td>
<td>We have strengthened our early intervention strategies through increased CAF processes and wider awareness of support agencies within the third sector. Our MALT teams continue to work closely with tier 2 services to ensure early intervention and prevention remain high on the council’s agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support and implement the findings of the Munroe Report in relation to social work practice and development</td>
<td>The draft report produced by Prof Eileen Munroe has been disseminated to all partners and we await the publication of the Final Report and Government response to this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remain committed to the work of the London Safeguarding Children Board and support their work in keeping children safe</td>
<td>We have maintained good close links with the London Board and continue to support them in their work in helping us all keep children safe. We currently have a representative on all the London Board Local Network Groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appoint Lay Members to our Board in line with statutory guidance</td>
<td>We have not been able to fulfil this area of our priorities from last year but continue to look towards the guidance issued by central government on the appointment of lay members to ensure we meet this requirement within the next year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BDSCB Sub Committees:

- Young Peoples Safety Group;
- Professional Development Committee;
- Policies, Procedures & Communication Committee;
- Performance Management Committee;
- Serious Case Review Committee; and
- Child Death Overview Panel
**Young People Safety Group (YPSG)**

During the last twelve months the young people’s safety group met four times, with different issues being considered and discussed on each occasion:

- The group looked at e-safety and proposed ideas on how we could make other young people aware of online dangers and how to stay safe whilst using social networking sites.
- Allison Buchannan, Domestic Violence Coordinator, visited the group to consult on how young people would like to report hate crimes and hate incidents.
- Street Pastors delivered a conflict resolution workshop to the group, with the aim and objective to give young people the know-how on avoiding conflicts, what to do if a conflict occurs and how to support a friend through a difficult situation.
- Dan Hales, Manager of the Youth Offending Service, presented the local facts on the gangs in Barking and Dagenham. The young people were told the reasons why people decide to join gangs, girls’ involvement in gangs and how to exit a gang.
- The young people were briefed on the concept of private fostering and the safeguarding dangers regarding these arrangements and what to do if they or anybody they know is living in this kind of arrangement.
- Members of the LSCB met with the Young People’s Safety Group for the first time, to give young people a greater understanding of the work the Board.

In September 2010, the group was visited by Dr Maggie Atkinson, Children’s Commissioner for England, to take a look at the work that the group had been working on.

She commented that the Group was the first of its kind that she had come across in the country.

In addition, the work of the group contributed to the Engagement Team winning the LGC awards 2011, in the Children’s Services category.

**Priorities for 2011-2012**

- Ensure trusted reporting mechanisms to the Police;
- Development work on Cyber-bullying via social networking sites;
- Work on Gang’s prevention; and
- Continue to develop positive activities

If you have any questions or would like to find out more information about the Young People Safety Group, please contact Kevin Donovan: Kevin.donovan@lbbd.gov.uk
Professional Development Committee (PDC)

The PDC met on nine occasions in 2010-11 with the purpose of ensuring that the BDSCB discharges its duties under Chapter 4 of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010).

For a full agency break down of attendance to the BDSCB training programme 2010/11, please see Appendix 3 on page 34.

During 2010/11, the PDC has focused on the following priorities:

- Further basic and intermediate courses on Safeguarding and Child Protection.
- To increase the skills of many more people from all sectors.
- To continue with professional development in safeguarding and child protection.
- To include courses to explore particular areas of interest such as ‘E-Safety’.
- Dissemination of the learning from the Serious Case Review for Baby M.
- To increase the number of organisations attending the multi-agency training programme.

In March 2011, the PDC led the Board’s Annual Conference. The purpose was to provide an opportunity for front line managers and operational practitioners to engage with other stakeholders across the workforce, receive briefings on emerging safeguarding priorities around the forthcoming Olympics; Sexual Exploitation; Child Trafficking and Gangs.

132 delegates from a cross section of Adult and Children’s statutory and third sector agencies attended the one day conference held at Castle Green, Dagenham.

Overall the Conference was very successful as feedback and outcomes were positive. The day included presentations from London Councils lead for Olympics; Barnardos on Sexual Exploitation; and Catch 22. A presentation was also given by Tridents independent advisor, Sheldon Thomas, on Gangs activity.

Priorities for 2011-2012

- To continue to increase the skills of staff from all sectors;
- To continue with professional development in safeguarding and child protection;
- To deliver an inclusive multi-agency training programme, compliant with Chapter 4, Working Together (2010); The London Child Protection Procedures, Version 5 (2011); Child and Young Person Plan (2011);
- To ensure that lessons from Serious Case Review’s are embedded in the training programme;
- To capture and quality assure single agency training data;
- To continue to illustrate Safe Recruitment & Supervision of staff working with children into the training programme.

If you would like to find out more information about B&DSCB multi-agency training please contact: Jacqui Van Rossum on jacqui.vanrossum@nhs.net
Policies, Procedures and Communication Committee (PPC)

The Policies, Procedures and Communication Sub Committee (PPC) met on a monthly basis with the purpose of ensuring that the BDSCB discharges its duties under Chapter 3 of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010).

Some of the key areas of work undertaken by the Committee during the year include:

- The continued monitoring of the BDSCB Business Plan
- The completion and launch of an FGM strategy
- Government response to Lord Laming; one year on
- Sign off of the NELFT Safeguarding manual
- 18 + on CP Plan Panel assessment documentation and visiting proforma
- London Ambulance Service – procedures for safeguarding and statistical data sharing processes
- Annual report sign off for 2009/10
- Update of the procedures for Children not collected from school. This will be cascaded in 2011/12 to schools through the training and communication strategy.
- Various presentations from service lead members of the PPC

Priorities for 2011-2012

- Agree the 2011-12 Work Plan for PPC;
- To further develop, launch and monitor the BDSCB Communication Strategy including the re-launch of the BDSCB website (PPC will also integrate feedback from the LBBD Young People’s Safety Group conference response to communication and safeguarding concerns);
- To continue to review and monitor BDSCB Business Plan to measure compliance with national and local requirements and responses to local needs;
- To continue to highlight the London Child Protection Procedures v4 with services/agencies; and
- To review the feedback from the Peer Review and instigate any actions required for the PPC from this.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more information please contact Nannette Higgins, Area Manager at nanette.higgins@prospects.co.uk
Performance Management Committee (PMC)

In 2010/11 the Chair of the PMC changed and is now chaired by the Divisional Director of Strategic Commissioning and Safeguarding. The membership has otherwise remained as it was although this has been reviewed and revisited throughout the year to ensure we have had the right level of membership throughout the year.

The Performance Management Committee has continued to meet on a quarterly basis throughout 2010/11 and a Performance Management Core working group, whose work stream feeds into the Sub-committee, meet on a monthly basis. The Performance Management Committee’s key function has remained to review and scrutinise the safeguarding children performance of all agencies constituent to the Board and to advise on ways to improve. Individual agency performance is monitored through the review of management information systems including:

- Children Services Audit and Quality Assurance Strategy
- S11 audits
- Pan London and Local Datasets
- Action Plans arising from Case Reviews or Inspections

The Performance Management Committee reports findings around patterns and trends to the full Board through a six-monthly report.

2010/11 has seen the PMC provide closer scrutiny on the datasets being submitted to the Committee and the PMC has been able to challenge some of the findings and data coming forward. This has ensured that we are able to continue identifying patterns and trends in a proactive and responsible way, and provide early responses in dealing with any issues as and when they are identified. This has included close monitoring of the number of children subject to Child Protection plans throughout the year as well as closer inspection into the way in which our data is being gathered around ethnicity. This enables us to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all the community and put in place measures to address any imbalances or disproportionate recordings.

Key achievements for 2010/11 included;

- Implementation of the Pan London Dataset;
- Monitoring and reporting on National Indicator Set;
- Monitoring and update of Action Plans relating to Inspections
- Overseeing of Section 11 compliance audits.

Priorities for 2011-2012

- To support and monitor compliance with SCR Action Plan;
- To ensure compliance with recommendations from external inspections reviews;
- To oversee and implement the revised Quality Assurance strategy; and
- To respond to patterns and trends, emerging from performance data.

If you would like to find out more information about the PMC, please contact Meena Kishinani: Meena.kishinani@lbld.gov.uk
Serious Case Review Committee (SCR)

In 2010/11 the Serious Case Review (SCR) Committee appointed a new Chair tying in the arrival of the new Divisional Director for Children’s Complex Needs and Social Care. This post holder now chairs the Serious Case Review (SCR) Committee.

The Serious Case Review (SCR) Committee has continued to meet on a quarterly basis and in addition to any SCR Panels that were specifically tasked with ongoing Reviews.

In 2010/11 the Serious Case Review (SCR) Committee focussed on implementing and monitoring the Action Plan from the Child T SCR that was commissioned by the Board in February 2010. This SCR continued throughout the year with both the SCR process and legal process ongoing. The final report was submitted to OFSTED at the start of 2011 and we await their evaluation.

The Serious Case Review (SCR) Committee has ensured that despite the process continuing to develop throughout the year, the recommendations from each agency, and the final report, were drawn together as an agreed Action Plan and that work was underway across the Board to implement these findings.

The Action Plan for Child T has been monitored and overseen by the Serious Case Review (SCR) Committee and a further report will be provided in our next Annual Report.

This year, the Serious Case Review (SCR) Committee also oversaw the completion of the Action Plan for Baby M which was an SCR commissioned in 2009/10. This SCR was submitted to the full Board as complete and formally signed off by BDSCB in May 2010, within timescale. The Executive Summary is available on the BDSCB website www.bardag-lscb.co.uk.

Full briefing sessions were held with our workforce later in the year to disseminate learning and provide an opportunity for our workforce to help implement the findings of the action plan.

In addition to the two SCR’s, the Serious Case Review (SCR) Committee also signed off the action plans of three Internal Agency Reviews that had been commissioned during 2008/09.

Priorities for 2011-2012

The SCR Committee will be involved in ensuring that lessons are learned from the SCRs through;

- Briefing events;
- Implementation of quality assurance audits that incorporate lessons learned; and
- Continuous review of action plans.

If you would like to find out more information about the SCR, please contact Chris Martin: Chris.Martin@lbbd.gov.uk
Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The CDOP is a sub-committee of Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board (BDSCB) with the responsibility of reviewing all child deaths between 0-18 years. The CDOP look at trends and patterns and make recommendations to reduce the risks of future child deaths, to the BDSCB and Department for Education. In 2010-11, Barking and Dagenham’s achievements were:

- A 17% decline on 2009-10 child deaths.
- As a result of 30% of deaths classified as Sudden Unexpected, unexplained deaths, BD CDOP carried out a safe sleep campaign with the Foundation for Study of Infant Deaths. The campaign was scheduled over 4 phases and the last phase was joint with Havering and Redbridge.
- Developed and agreed working relationships with the Coroner and the Registrar.

Priorities for 2011-2012

- To have a single CDOP function within Outer North East London (ONEL). This will consider and produce a more detailed breakdown of child death over a larger population for the purpose of reducing the risks of future deaths. And, improve the quality of service by developing a consistent way of working across all partnerships; and
- To report findings, recommendations and local learning to the DfE to be shared nationally.

### Summary of Child Death Review Process activities 2010-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of B&amp;DSCB CDOP meetings</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of child deaths where the review of the child’s death has been completed by BDCDOP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of child deaths notified to CDOP 2010/11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of child deaths notified to CDOP 2009/10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the deaths where the review was completed, the number the panel assessed as being preventable</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the deaths where the review was completed, the number the panel assessed as being potentially preventable</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the deaths where the review was completed, the number the panel assessed as being not preventable</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the deaths where the review was completed, the number identified as unexpected</td>
<td>14 (70%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the deaths where the review was completed, the number identified as expected</td>
<td>6 (30%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Deaths judged related to Perinatal / Neonatal events</td>
<td>6 (30%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Rapid Response meetings</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safeguarding Children in Education

Section 175 of the Education Act (2002) states that everyone in the education service shares a duty to have arrangements in place to ensure that children are adequately safeguarded and their welfare is promoted, this includes:

- Providing a safe environment for children and young people to learn in education setting: and
- Identifying children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both at home and in the education setting.

The Safeguarding Lead for Education has a role to ensure that the statutory requirements around Child Protection and Safeguarding are adhere too; this may include a range of varying activities and events.

Refresher training for schools and Child Protection Leads around child protection & safeguarding:

- 26 schools will have participated in refresher training (required every three years) a further three schools are scheduled to receive training in the autumn term 2011.
- 54 Child Protection Leads in Education participated in the training events and will be issued with certificates on completion of the required twelve hours engagement.
- A further training event is scheduled to take place in the autumn term 2011.
- A Child Protection awareness briefing at the Quality and School Improvement service as part of the induction for newly qualified teachers took place in July 2010 a total of 34 participants were in attendance, they commented that the briefing was very informative and timely. Another induction briefing is scheduled to take place in July 2011.
- A series of thematic workshops / seminars have taken place in a number of education settings as a result of recommendations made following child protection and safeguarding strategy meetings.

Consultation Forums:

- Practice Consultation: The Safeguarding Lead for Education continues to facilitate monthly consultation sessions for practitioners based at Ripple Road. The purpose of these sessions is to assist in bridging the gaps between education and children social care by way of exploring issues with particular reference to challenges experienced between the agencies.

Consultation, support and advice is readily available to all professionals within the education establishment.
SPECIFIC PROJECTS:

- Barnardos Sexual Exploitation project:
The safeguarding lead for education continues to work alongside the project with a particular focus on the recovery service which aims to identify and work children at risk of experiencing sexual exploitation. Targeted services within social care setting will receive tailored / bespoke training.

- Section 11 Submissions:
In 2010/11 the Section 11 audits for education establishments were completed and submitted to the unit. The RAG rating system was undertaken by the unit and each school will received constructive feedback regarding the document. Appropriate support will be offered to address the identified areas of further development.

- BDSCB Committees:
The Safeguarding Lead for Education attends the three sub committees of the BDSCB. Information, issues and updates, from the education settings are reflected and represented at committee level.

- Additional Needs Panel:
The Safeguarding Lead is represented at this panel and continues to contribute to the discussions / actions relating to the vives outcomes and the requested additional needs.

- Serious Youth Violence Partnership Group:
The Lead for education attends the Serious Youth Violence Partnership group and is working closely with the Youth Offending Service (YOS) to develop a Gang strategy pertaining to Barking and Dagenham.

- Under the auspices of the PHSE curriculum the safeguarding lead for education contributed to the July 2010 citizenship day - awareness raising of year 8 pupils by way of delivering nine sessions in three secondary schools focussing on materials and information pertaining to the safeguarding and staying safe agenda; The Safeguarding Leads will participate in the planned event for 2011.

- School Governor Training:
A child protection and safeguarding programme has been designed and will be delivered on three separate occasions for school governors commencing from summer 2011.

- The Child Protection Leads for Education Consultation forum:
This forum was formally established in May 2010. The objective is to provide support, share good practice experiences and development opportunities across network; the group is scheduled to meet every term. Making allegations and Female Genital Mutilation have been two thematic workshops which were evaluated and concluded as successful.

- Policy Development:
In line with the 4th Edition of the London Child Protection Procedures and pending the Munroe review the Education Lead will continue to support schools in recognising their changing role and responsibilities under the new procedures. The Lead will also take responsibility to update and review the relevant policies pertaining to schools/education establishments.

If you would like more information please contact Elaine Ryan, Safeguarding Lead for Education: Elaine.ryan@lbbd.gov.uk
**Barking & Dagenham College**

The number of cases in the college file has increased in the 09/10 year from 22 to 33. This is a sharp increase which is due to increased vigilance and better procedures following the new safeguarding policy and procedures documents. We have not completed the 10/11 year, so we have yet to report on this. Of these 33 on file, 20 were referred to other agencies. Those that were not were those that could not be reasonably verified and were therefore kept at the level of counselling interventions.

Several Safeguarding objectives were completed during this year:

- Ensure Governance, Structure and contact arrangements were in place;
- Raise awareness of safeguarding among learners through the tutorial program that informs learners as well as equipping them with skills and knowledge about how to handle and resolve particular issues that may arise in college and the workplace
- Ensure relevant Safeguarding training is undertaken by staff;
- Ensure staff are CRB checked;
- Include safeguarding matters in the new Staff Handbook, including physical contact, language, social networking, oppressive behaviour, relationships, use of sanctions and whistle blowing;
- Include safeguarding in the induction of all new staff

**Priorities for 2011-2012**

- Develop further the college’s “Listening Culture”
- Ensure learners safety–related complaints are rapidly and effectively tackled
- Collection of evidence of the impact of the Safeguarding Strategy showing improvement of learner experience in the last 12 months
- All staff CRB checked
- Maintain All staff have level 1 Safeguarding training
- Maintain All Safeguarding Officers have level 2 Safeguarding training (referring to other organisations)
- Safeguarding update training includes the use of case studies for discussion and debate
- Ensure all new staff and governors are inducted in safeguarding
- Continue to link with other organisations in relation to safeguarding

If you would like to find out more information please contact Paul Lalgee, Director of Personalised Learner Support Services: paul.lalgee@barkingdagenhamcollege.ac.uk
Health

Key areas of progress/achievements during 2010 / 2011:

In its second year as a commissioning organisation, NHS Barking and Dagenham has continued progress in setting out a clear service specifications for safeguarding and identifying key safeguarding metrics and outcomes for providers. Capacity within health visiting and school health services was identified as an area of concern and following intensive work with Community Health Services (CHS NELFT) via their recruitment and retention strategy to address this, a vacancy factor which is in line with the London average was achieved and maintained.

The Family Nurse Partnership initiative which was jointly commissioned by NHS Barking and Dagenham and Children’s Services came into operation in November 2010. This project which will run over 3 years will focus on providing intensive support to young first time parents, proactively supporting this very vulnerable group.

Work has continued in addressing DV as a key safeguarding issue. Awareness raising on domestic violence amongst service users and health staff was a key area of achievement in the last year with events like the ‘Walk a mile in her shoes’ at the White Ribbon Campaign. Following a broad range consultation NHS Barking and Dagenham approved a health strategy to address violence against women and girls and this strategy was launched with the support of the Minister for Public Health in November 2010. Having lead in commissioning DV Advocacy support specifically for users of maternity services at BHRUT NHS Hospital Trust, the launch of this new service to support pregnant women who are victims of domestic violence took place in March 2011. The implementation of the Female Genital Mutilation strategy has made much progress with awareness training and domestic violence publicity campaigns targeting perpetrators and family and friends.

Governance and Accountability Arrangements

NHS Barking and Dagenham have contributed to the completion of two Serious Case Reviews over the last year and have actively participated in implementing recommendations, capturing the learning from each. Regular update reports on progress were made to the Serious Case Review subgroup of the LSCB and to the PCT Board. Update reports on Serious Case Reviews and other to key quality issues go to the Governance Committee for NHS Barking and Dagenham and to the Clinical Assurance Committee of NHS Barking and Dagenham on a bi-monthly basis. Regular reports on Risk issues and incidents related to safeguarding are monitored regularly via the Risk Register and monthly update reports are part of the Board Assurance Framework.

Restructure of Health Services

In response to the Government White Paper, Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS, issued in September 2010 NHS Barking and Dagenham commenced a staff consultation on the new commissioning arrangements that need to be put in place. These arrangements will operate across the
Outer North East London (ONEL) sector and will cover the transition from PCT based commissioning to the new GP Consortia and NHS Commissioning Board.

Over the next two years, if the white paper proposals are adopted in law, this will require further consultation and re-design of structures to support the developing role of GPs, local authorities and the proposed National Commissioning Board. The plan is for the full changes to come into effect in 2013.

The transition needs to:
- Deliver the management costs savings across the sector
- Ensure a stable environment from which to manage finance and service performance, while improving quality and patient safety
- Enable the NHS in ONEL to respond to the outcomes of the white paper consultation

A key priority for the transitional organisation is to improve health outcomes for our population through:
- Financial sustainability through effective commissioning
- Service change and transformation
- Assuring the quality and safety of services provided to patients in our community.
- Managing an effective transition to new commissioning arrangements for the NHS in ONEL.

Within the new organisation one key function of the Nursing Directorate will be to advise and provide professional leadership to the board on all areas of nursing care and lead the corporate responsibility on safeguarding of adults and children as well as child protection.

The staff consultation ended on 28th February 2011 and appointments to the new structure are expected to be in place for April 1st 2011.

**ONEL Child Death Overview Panel**

There is a statutory requirement for the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to have a specific subgroup, called the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviewing all deaths of children up to the age of 18 years (excluding stillbirths and lawful, planned terminations).

The CDOP reviews all child deaths and identifies for particular attention those which were unexpected or preventable. Its role is to make strategic recommendations to the LSCB partnership on actions to reduce the likelihood of future child deaths.

Since its introduction in 2008 the LSCBs in ONEL have taken individual approaches to the implementation of CDOP. Emerging best practice shows that there is benefit in having joint CDOP structures. The guidance suggests that a base population of 500,000 is needed to achieve the numbers of deaths to allow rapid learning and meaningful analysis of the strategic recommendations relating to deaths. Currently none of the four boroughs have this threshold population base.

Following discussion with partners across ONEL a proposal has been developed to merge the current structures. The proposal is currently being presented to each LSCB in the sector and to date it has gained the
support of Barking and Dagenham and Havering LSCB.

**Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust**

Following an external review and subsequent business case in 2009, additional posts were created within an integrated children and adult safeguarding team, so that the trust had the capacity to manage the required work.

For safeguarding children, two new nursing posts at band 7 and band 6, along with two new administrative support posts, were established and recruited to in 2010. Recruitment to the safeguarding adults post was, however unsuccessful, and the safeguarding children roles continued to undertake and support some of the work in safeguarding adults in the trust.

The safeguarding children team are now managed by the Director of Nursing and the safeguarding Adults team by the Deputy Director of Nursing, following a further review of BHRUHT structure in autumn 2010. Professional supervision arrangements are now also in place for all members of the team.

The role and terms of reference of the Safeguarding Children Committee were revised in 2010. The committee meets every two months and is now more representative of trust staff, and focuses on internal standards and work within the trust. Previously it had been more focused on working as a multi-agency forum to share information; much of that role, however, should be fulfilled by the LSCBs and their sub-groups.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more information on Health please contact:

Steph Sollosi, NHSBD on stephanie.sollosi@wf-pct.nhs.uk; or

Deborah Wheeler, BHRUHT on deborah.wheeler@bhrhospitals.nhs.uk
The Police CAIT team have dealt with over 750 child protection cases and attended 250 case conferences within 2010-11.

The Police CAIT have noticed a significant rise in referrals which is reflected in the increased figures. Whilst always looking to improve our work with partners and managing the everyday risk of child abuse cases, one of the recommendations of working practises from recent serious case reviews has been the implementation of a new risk assessment matrix.

The purpose of this new system of identifying risks to children is to ensure that all relevant information is obtained, that all information is shared as appropriate and that informed decisions are made when considering what is in the best interest of the child.

During the course of the year there has been increased attendance at all Child Protection Plan meetings with additional resources now available to the Child Abuse Team. In addition to this closer monitoring of families on Child Protection Plans take place to ensure that all information is shared in a timely fashion.

The challenge for the following year is maintaining the levels of performance, at a time of financial constraints and with a predicted increased workload.

In April 2010 the KG Adult Safeguarding Unit was formed, in essence this follows the procedures and success of the Every Child Matters Public Protection Desk child referral scheme. All vulnerable adults over 18, coming to the notice of Police or Local Authority Safeguarding Adults unit are subject to a referral and joint investigation.

In April 2011 the Child Sex Offender Disclosure scheme comes into force. This will also be managed by the PPD. The process is an initiative to protect children from sex offenders. It enables the public to seek information about people who have access to children and provides a framework whereby police can reveal relevant information, under certain circumstances to certain people.

This does not replace existing arrangements for CRB checks or vetting processes.

If you have any questions, or would like to find out more information, please contact Andy Keen, Detective Inspector CAIT: Andy.keen@met.police.uk
Voluntary Sector

As the Voluntary Sector reps both Keith Smith, Parents with Autistic Children (PACT) and I, Joan Brandon, Volunteer Bureau, have had an extremely busy year; Attending Board Meetings, Training, Special Meetings and the Annual Conference.

Unfortunately due to an increase in his workload, Keith has had to retire from this role. I would like to thank Keith for all the support he gave me in the time we were both Reps. This, of course, has made my role even busier.

I, with the help of my Staff from the Volunteer Bureau, have been busy meeting with Individuals checking their Safeguarding Children Policies; Helping them with Section 11 completions; assisting them to understand the Common Assessment Framework; and the importance of using a CAF form if they are worried about any child in their organisation.

I have also been informing them of the work of the Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board.

I also report to the Voluntary Sector Forums with all Safeguarding News.

Ensuring all groups working with children have Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks in place is important work of the Bureau, and I update them regularly. We have registered over 300 groups to date. Legislation regarding CRB checks has gone through many changes this past year and will continue in the coming year. We have produced newsletters with up to date information on the changes.

This coming year being a Voluntary Sector Rep looks like being equally busy. We in the Third Sector are seeing a large increase in the need of our services with budgets and resources stretched to the limit. I am as committed to Safeguarding and will be happy to carry out the duties of Voluntary Sector Rep. I will continue to inform the Sector of Safeguarding Issues and also continue ensuring that Groups are practising Safeguarding in their groups.

For more information about the role of the voluntary sector please contact Joan Brandon bardagvb@hotmail.co.uk
Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Prevention and early intervention is vital to safeguarding children and young people. In Barking and Dagenham, our prevention and early intervention work has been strengthened by continuing to embed the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) across all agencies and Multi-Agency Locality Teams (MALT).

The CAF is used to trigger interventions for children and young people with additional needs. It provides effective inter-agency working through a holistic assessment, improved coordination and cooperation and effective information sharing between agencies through the Team Alongside the Family (TAF) approach.

In 2010/11, CAF usage has significantly increased. The CAF has now supported 1,786 children, young people and their families (as of 31.03.11) in Barking and Dagenham, and has become increasingly embedded in local services. This figure represents an overall increase of 786 or 78% in the use of CAF since the last B&DSCB Annual Report 2009-10, when 1000 CAFs were in place.

Following a formal unannounced inspection by OFSTED in November 2009, the following strengths were identified:

- Children and carers are regularly and appropriately consulted about service provision. In particular, this has impacted positively on the use of the CAF
- Multi-agency partnerships led by the Children’s Trust are successful, particularly in relation to the implementation of the CAF. Effective inter-agency working also ensures children receive timely support from appropriate agencies.

More recently, CAF was identified as a key strength at the Feedback Conference in March this year, following the Safeguarding children Peer Review.

“CAF very well established amongst some partners”.

“Good ‘step up and step down’ pathways between Tier 2 and Tier 3”.

### Priorities for 2011-2012

- Embedding Barking and Dagenham Quality Assurance Framework (B&D QAF)
- Monitoring and measuring outcomes for children and young people through the Common Assessment Framework.
- Qualitative research study of children/young peoples’ experiences of the CAF in Barking and Dagenham.
- Implementation of the Family CAF across Barking and Dagenham.
- Improve CAF pathways with Adult Services, e.g. Housing and Adult Treatment Services
- Borough consideration and preparation for the National eCAF solution.
Service Developments for 2011/12

- **LAC Step Down to CAF Pathway** – Following the good practice already in place with Care Management and Private Fostering.

- **Fostering/Special Guardianship Pathway to universal services**

- **Think Family (B&D Family CAF)** – Currently being piloted across several agencies with a review planned for May 2011.

- **Intermediate Care Services (NELFT)**
  - Development of a pathway to join up Adult Treatment services working with families with additional needs (Children) with Children’s Services.

- **Adult Treatment Services** – Development of a pathway to join up Adult Treatment services who are working with families with additional needs with Children’s Services.

- **BHRUHT Cross Borough CAF training and implementation** – Train the trainer programme for the Trust to be delivered by CAF. This will ensure the right people in the Trust receive CAF training and a pathway is put in place for working across the three LA’s and Trust.

- **Housing** – As a result of a Serious Case Review (SCR), Housing were provided with a two tier Safeguarding briefing covering Early Intervention & Child Protection, resulting in several leads across the various Housing teams working with the ISA Team and B&D Safeguarding Children Board on a training and briefing programme to improve joint working across Housing and Children’s Services.

For more information about the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process, please contact Damien Cole, ISA Team Manager on Damien.cole@lbbd.gov.uk.
Quality Assurance activity within the Boards work streams is driven by the Council’s Quality Assurance Strategy, designed to promote continuous improvement in performance and outcomes in the areas of greatest concern. A number of audits and quality assurance mechanisms were carried out across partner agencies to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of work being delivered. These included:

- Section 11
- Compliance audits,
- Auditing of front line social work practices

Throughout the year, we have continued to collect and analyse relevant performance data that has helped the Board monitor and evaluate safeguarding measures across the partners. This has included;

- Child Protection Statistics outlining patterns and trends for children made subject of Child Protection Plans – detailed quarterly reports submitted to the BDSCB
- LAC reviews / CP Conferences compliance with national and local guidance
- S11 Compliance
- London Safeguarding Board Data Set.

The Board believes that the Quality Assurance process should be the way through which services can be improved and outcomes clearly measured. Within the past year this commitment can be seen through the improvements made of the following:

- Revision of the Quality Assurance Strategy to include auditing and Quality Assurance streams throughout each children’s service area;
- The revision and support for a new approach top referral and assessment services;
- The improvement of Management Oversight and tools drawn up to measure this.

During 2010/2011 we continued to build on our audit activity and ensured that previous findings had been acted on. Alongside this, Children’s Services have been reviewing the current audit strategy and developed a new and robust method of providing scrutiny, audit and quality assurance across their division as well as that which will hold partners to account.

Although the new Quality Assurance Strategy is in draft, audit activity has continued based on the agreed format for 2010/11

### Quality Assurance Activity for 2010/11

In February and November 2010, we undertook a series of multi agency audits aimed at identifying how well agencies work together. The inspection identified a number of areas of good practice along with some areas for further development.

Amongst our partners, good practice findings included
• Child Centred and Family Focused approaches across partnerships
• Good levels of Multi-agency working
• Good and timely intervention identified
• Recording was found to be of a good standard

**Example of Area for Further Development**

Some of the cases within this audit represented a distinctive health need, and hence information about the CAF and their needs, identified by CAF, should have been placed within Health records. It needs to be clarified why information was not present on the health records, i.e. because information was not shared with them; to resource issues, or whether they were unable to input the details of the CAF and TAF on their record system.

Some of the areas identified for further development included:

- Multi-agency Working – although this featured as a positive, there were areas where it was felt we could improve on to make the process smoother still
- Inconsistent information sharing across our partnership
- Insufficient Preparation for Child Protection Conferences by some of our partners

In July 2010 and February 2011, we undertook a series of audits carried out by Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) within Children’s Services looking at a range of children in need, child protection and looked after children cases. This included children with disabilities and fostering and adoption services. The cases were chosen at random by the Policy Team and the IRO’s were tasked with evaluating the quality of work being undertaken by social care staff and to explore whether good outcomes were being achieved for children and young people.

**The Multi Agency Audit Report quoted:**

"**Child Centred:** There were many examples where the views and needs of children, young people and families were clearly taken into account and plans were understood by the child and family"

"**Good Understanding of Thresholds:** There exists a clear understanding of thresholds of the continuum of services from prevention and early intervention and prevention through to statutory child protection services, with universal services. There is a good awareness and understanding of the CAF’s and the Think Family approach across most agencies. However, there still needs to be some development work from Health on CAF and exploration around resource and capacity”

**Good Practice Example:**

A school was highlighted as working particularly well with the child in one case as it was able to retain this pupil in education and successful assist in her future education planning and development. The school provided a safe place for this pupil which tested their ability to work with complex cases. Unfortunately an audit from the school on the second child was not carried out due to school closure.
The audits also focussed on evaluating whether improvements had been made in relation to findings of previous audits.

Our findings identified a number of positive areas including:

- No cases found that identified a cause for immediate concern in relation to a child’s safety and well being
- Safeguarding issues in the main were being identified and responded to appropriately and timely
- A number of teams such evidenced good levels of clear recording on their case files
- There was evidence that children were being seen as part of ongoing plans and in line with statutory and departmental guidelines.

Some of the areas we identified for further development included;

- Chronologies on files being either absent or out of date on
- Assessments were missing on some cases and there was a need to sometimes update those that were found.
- Absence of evidence that Core Groups were taking place routinely
- Supervision was not always recorded on files and frequency did not always tally up with the departmental policy

These findings have been fed up back to the Safeguarding Children Board through its Performance Management Committee. The outcome of these audits is that we have developed a robust action plan to respond to the areas identified for further development and drawn up a schedule as how we will drive improvements through.

The next round of audits will be themed to ensure that we are reviewing the progress required from previous audits and ensuring that the action plan is being effective and robust enough to effect change at ground level.

### Areas for further development

2011/2012 we will aim to:

- Strengthen our audit activity across all partner agencies, both statutory and voluntary using our revised and robust Quality Assurance Strategy
- Provide analysis to the data gathered and publish our action plan in response to these findings on our website
- Ensure that senior and middle managers play a wider part in the auditing of services for children
- Ensure that children and young people are actively involved within our Quality Assurance Strategy

If you have any questions or would like to find out more information on our Auditing Strategy please contact Meena Kishinani on meena.kishinani@lbld.gov.uk
The BDSCB remains committed to ensuring that children and young people within Barking and Dagenham remain safe and the professionals who work to protect those children have the necessary support, training and supervision to do so. We want to continue making sure that our children are able to perform to the best of their ability.

The BDSCB is pro-active in looking forward and anticipating the challenges ahead and we are able to adjust our focus accordingly in light of new challenges that emerge.

**Board Priorities for 2011-2012**

- To ensure that all actions originating from Serious Case Review findings are implemented
- To review its governance and constitution to ensure it remains effective and meets the purpose for all agencies
- To ensure we have lay representation on the Board
- To respond to the Governments position regarding the findings of the Munro Review
- Ensuring that our front line services provide appropriate and safe response to all referrals received
- To develop and agree a clear safeguarding strategy for the Board and it’s partners ahead of the Olympics of which the borough is a host authority
- To measure and evaluate the effectiveness of our partners in meeting their safeguarding obligations under s11 CA2004
- To continue with our preventative agenda ensuring that services respond early and timely to concerns about children

**Priorities for the coming year:**

- Access the full BDSCB Business Plan from our website [www.bardag-lscb.co.uk](http://www.bardag-lscb.co.uk)
Appendix 1: B&DSCB Board Membership

**Independent Chair of BDSCB**
Simon Hart

**Elected Member**
Lead member
Councillor Rocky Gill

**Children’s Services**
Corporate Director of Children’s Services
Helen Jenner

Interim Divisional Director of Safeguarding and Rights
(Chair of Performance Management sub-committee)
Chris Pelham (P)
Kamini Rambellas (P)

Divisional Director of Children’s Complex Needs and Social Care
(Chair of Serious Case Review sub-committee)
Chris Martin

Divisional Director of Strategic Commissioning and Safeguarding
(Chair of Performance Management sub-committee)
Meena Kishinani

Interim Group Manager: Safeguarding, Quality & Reviews
Alison Crowe (P)
Avraamis Avraam

Interim B&DSCB Safeguarding and QA Manager
Kellie Ann Fitzgerald (P)

Group Manager: Engagement
(Chair of Young People Safety Group)
Erik Stein
Chris O’Connor (P)

**Education**
Head Teacher, Warren Junior School
Gary Wilder (P)

Head Teacher, St Joseph’s Primary School
Bernadette Horton

Head Teacher, Gascoigne Primary School
Bob Garton

Head Teacher, Sydney Russell Secondary School
Roger Leighton

**Adult College**
Director of Personalised Learner Support Service
Paul Lalgee

**Adult and Community Services**
Head of Community Safety and Public Protection
Glynis Rogers

**Legal Services**
Legal Partner
Melanie Field
Fiona Taylor (P)

**Housing**
Divisional Director of Housing Services
Stephen Clarke (P)
Ken Jones

**Health**
Interim Chief Executive PCT
Stephen Langford

Chief Executive NELFT
John Brouder

Chief Executive Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospital Trusts (BHRUHT)
John Goulston

ONEL Sector Director of Nursing
(Chair Child Death Overview Panel)
Juliet Beal

NHSBD Designated Nurse, Safeguarding
Liz Doherty

Interim Director for LBBD North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT)
David Horne

Community Health Service (CHS)
Managing Director
Jacqui Van Rossum

Executive Director of Nursing BHRUHT
Deborah Wheeler

Joint Assistant Director of Health Improvement
Justin Varney
Appendix 1 continued: B&DSCB Board Membership

**Connexions**
Area Manager
Nanette Higgins

**CAFCASS**
Service Manager
Pauline Poyser

**Faith Sector**
Marion Henderson

**Probation**
Assistant Chief Officer
Andrew Blight

**Community and Voluntary Sector**
Volunteer Bureau
Joan Brandon

Parents with Autistic Children (PACT)
Keith Smith (P)

**Police**
Borough Commander Metropolitan Police
DCI Ellie O’Connor (P)
DCI Phillip Howarth

Metropolitan Police
Child Abuse Investigation Team
DI Andy Keen

*(P) indicates left partial year*
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>No of seats at Board</th>
<th>% of meetings attended by Agency representative**</th>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Chair</td>
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<td>Probation</td>
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** Representative of four Board meetings and two Development sessions
## Appendix 3: Agency Breakdown of Attendance of B&DSCB Training Programme 2010-11

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<th>Courses</th>
<th>Local Authority</th>
<th>Children’s Services</th>
<th>Faith Group</th>
<th>Connexions **</th>
<th>Probation</th>
<th>Police (CSU)</th>
<th>Police (Borough)</th>
<th>Police (CAIT)</th>
<th>CAFCASS</th>
<th>Total staff trained from each agency</th>
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<td>Recognising &amp; Understanding the Impact of Child Abuse</td>
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** Multi Agency training also accessed via other Boroughs.
## BDSCB Annual Safeguarding Conference 2011

‘Get Set’ to Protect Children throughout the Olympics

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# Appendix 5: BDSCB Financial Statement

## Income

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<td>Council - Housing</td>
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<td>Council - Community Safety</td>
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<td><strong>Total Contribution</strong></td>
<td><strong>139,859</strong></td>
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| Local Safeguarding Children Board                    | 139,859|
| Under spend carried over                             | 111,846|
| **Total**                                            | **251,705** |

## Expenditure

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<td><strong>(Over)/under spend</strong></td>
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*Unpaid £8,888