

# **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## **EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 10:00 HOURS**  
**IN BMI MAIN HALL, 9 MARGARET STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B3 3BS**

### **A G E N D A**

#### **1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chair to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6\\_5dnVnYlw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

#### **2 APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies.

#### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

**3 - 28**

#### **4 ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER**

To confirm the actions notes of the formal meeting held on the 24 November 2021, note the action notes of the informal meeting held on the 12 January 2022, and note the action tracker.

**29 - 46**

#### **5 SEND: DASHBOARD (10.00 - 10.40)**

Sue Harrison, Director, Education & Skills; Pauline Maddison, Interim AD, SEND; Sabiha Aziz, Chair, Parent Carer Forum; Pam Armstrong, Parent Carer Forum and Jo Green, Parent Carer Forum in attendance.

- 47 - 90**
- 6 **BIRMINGHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP (BSCP) UPDATE (10.40 – 11.20)**
- Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair, BSCP and Simon Cross, Business Manager, BSCP in attendance.
- 91 - 114**
- 7 **SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS (11.20 – 12.00)**
- Lisa Fraser, AD, Education and Early Years and Alan Michell, Head of Service for Admissions, Attendance, Exclusions and Pupil Tracking in attendance.
- 115 - 122**
- 8 **WORK PROGRAMME**
- For discussion.
- 9 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
- To note that the next meeting is scheduled to be held at 1000 hours on Wednesday 30 March 2022.
- 10 **REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**
- To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).
- 11 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**
- To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.
- 12 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**
- Chair to move:-
- 'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

## BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

# EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (O&S) COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1000 hours on Wednesday, 24 November 2021, BMI Main Hall

## Action Notes

### Present:

Councillor: Kerry Jenkins (Acting Chair)

Councillors: Katherine Iroh and Kath Scott

Other Voting Representatives: Rabia Shami, Parent Governor Representative and Sarah Smith, Church of England Diocese Representative

### Also Present:

Pam Armstrong, Parent Carer Forum

Sabiha Aziz, Chair, Parent Carer Forum

Chris Baggott, Service Lead, Partnerships Insight and Prevention, Public Health

Karl Beese, Commissioning Manager, Adults Public Health

John Freeman, Commissioning Manager, Complex Care & Prevention

Jo Green, Parent Carer Forum

Sue Harrison, Director, Education & Skills

Wesley King, Senior Practitioner, Aquarius

Pauline Maddison, Interim AD, SEND and Inclusion

Richard McVey, Area Manager, Aquarius

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

Soulla Yiasouma, Joint Head of Youth Service

Ilgun Yusuf, Acting AD, Skills and Employability (on-line)

### 1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Acting Chair advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6\\_5dnVnYlw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Cllrs: Narinder Kaur Kooner (Chair); Olly Armstrong; Charlotte Hodivala; and Alex Yip; and Adam Hardy, Roman Catholic Diocese Representative; and Omar Hanif, Parent Governor Representative.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## **4. ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER**

(See documents No. 1, 2, and 3).

### **RESOLVED:**

- Confirmed the actions notes of the formal meeting held on 1 September 2021.
- Noted the action notes of the informal meeting held on the 13 October 2021.
- Noted the action tracker.

## **5. AQUARIUS – YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICE**

(See documents No. 4 and 5)

Karl Beese, Commissioning Manager, Adults Public Health; John Freeman, Commissioning Manager, Complex Care & Prevention; Chris Baggott, Service Lead, Partnerships Insight and Prevention, Public Health; Richard McVey, Area Manager, Aquarius; and Wesley King, Senior Practitioner, Aquarius, were in attendance for this item.

During the presentation the main points included:

- This is a non-statutory service delivered by Aquarius Action Projects.
- It is a two year contract which ends on 31 March 2023 with a contract value of c.£673,000 per year.
- The key commissioning intentions are to minimise the misuse of drugs, alcohol and tobacco; and reduce risk and vulnerabilities in a holistic approach.
- The Triple Zero City Strategy is for substance use for all ages, for the period 2020 to 2030, and they are aiming to complete the strategy in January 2022.
- The strategy has three key ambitions: zero deaths due to drug or alcohol addiction; zero overdoses due to drug or alcohol addiction; and zero people living with addiction to drugs or alcohol not receiving support to manage and overcome their addiction.

- The Aquarius Young People's Substance Misuse Service works across four quadrants and it is about taking the service to where young people are. They are embedded in existing children's and education services.
- Most of the young people come into the service via professionals rather than self-referral, and they work closely with educational and children's services, so the young people get the help they need.
- The service is delivered predominantly face to face.
- The service may begin as a brief intervention to engage the young person to ensure they go into a position within a few weeks where they have built trust.
- They work with both young people who have an issue with substances themselves and young people who are affected by someone else's substance use.
- Most of the young people they work with now have two or more complexities, and they build their resilience and deliver a range of evidence based interventions.
- They have highly trained staff who have training on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) etc.
- They have a partnership approach and work very closely with a range of services, such as St Basils and Forward Thinking Birmingham.
- They work mainly with 15 – 16 years old and diversion from substance misuse and criminal activity is key.
- More than 50% of young people are from BAME communities.
- Key substances for young people are particularly around the use of cannabis and alcohol.
- They have very good service user feedback and 100% of young people would recommend them.
- They provide added value and wrap around services which they commission.
- Case studies were provided that highlighted they formulated interventions working in a multi-agency approach, building positive relationships with young people to achieve positive outcomes.

During the discussion with Members the main points included:

- The Acting Chair thanked the attendees for the really comprehensive report and commented that the partnership approach they are following is very important.
- There have been a wide range of responses to the draft strategy and one of the key things is that a lot of the respondents would like them to be more realistic regarding triple zero, so that people would have more faith in the strategy, They are looking at this and the ambitions may be altered.
- The contract was extended with it ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and this is aligned with the adults' service. The Triple Zero City Strategy is a city strategy

for people of all ages, and it is nationally recognised that two distinct services are needed, one for children and one for adults, even if you have one provider, as young people have safeguarding issues etc.

- They are part of the national drug monitoring system and more data can be provided. They have engagement plans to ensure young people stay in service and make sure there is pro-active follow up, as it is the consistency over time that makes the difference. They also measure a whole range of areas over a period of time.
- Harm minimisation:
  - They work with parents to help them understand the young person's needs and influence parents so they can make their response more sophisticated based on the situation.
  - If it is the parent that is using, then it is about safe storage boxes and how the young person deals with emergency situations, such as using the recovery position.
  - If it is about their own harm minimisation, then it is about making them aware of how they can reduce substances, who their protective adults and positive peers are, and how to seek support and alternatives to substance use in terms of coping.
- ACES and trauma: it is about making connections to positive peers, supportive adults and supportive services; and agency planning for the future, helping young people to plan the kind of life they want in the future.

#### **RESOLVED:**

The update was noted and the following information to be provided:

- The referral process for elected members, so they can add this to their resource toolkit when they are dealing with casework, to be provided.
- Data to see young people's transition out of substance misuse is to be provided.

## **6. YOUTH SERVICES**

(See document No. 6)

Ilgun Yusuf, Acting AD for Skills and Employability and Soulla Yiasouma, Joint Head of Youth Service, were in attendance.

Ilgun Yusuf introduced the item and highlighted there was a lot of good news in terms of the update. Also, they are increasingly working across the Council's directorates and, as has always been the case, they are working with stakeholders in the community in terms of the place based approach, and that is beginning to pay dividends.

They value the voice of young people and have the Youth City Board which is now formally constituted and is part of the wider City Board. In terms of the next steps, they are working on a proposal for a stronger youth parliament, and as part of the early intervention work, they have been working on the youth participation project. This includes them looking at youth services across the country, and they want to get to a position where young people can scrutinise the Council's proposals and initiate them, both from a short and long-term perspective.

The Directorate is setting priorities for the next 3 – 5 years and what the roadmap to excellence will look like, and they would like to come back and engage with the Committee on this.

They have won a really important expression of interest for the Partnerships for People and Place project from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, which shows that central government recognise that youth services are important.

Soulla Yiasouma took Members through the report and the key points included:

- Lessons have been learned from Covid: the importance of face to face sessions with young people cannot be replaced and is highly valued; as is detached working.
- The healthy activities programme ran this summer with Bring it on Brum which was about educating young people around healthy living and having the best summer possible. It was nice for Youth Workers to have some fun too. They are continuing this during Christmas, and they hope for funding to run it for the next few years.
- One of the biggest challenges they are now facing is around youth violence. All projects focus on the youth violence agenda and early prevention work. In terms of the early prevention work all the youth centres provide a safe space with trusted adults for young people.
- The Lighthouse is running a partnership called Transformation for Change, funded by VRU, for mentoring and outreach work.
- The Youth Endowment Fund also funded work and research for peer researchers from key areas of the city and they recruited change makers and social change projects. They hope the learning from this will inform the strategy on youth violence.
- They are also working with the Commonwealth Games on outreach work.
- They would love young people to be more involved in shaping provision and holding services to account. They have young people involved in public health and there are Covid champions etc.
- They are involved with the Commonwealth Games and they will be running activities in four youth hubs so young people feel connected and part of it.
- The service has faced horrific funding cuts over the past 10 years, and they have managed to keep going. The past 18 months and Covid has led to greater recognition of youth work and early intervention, with Government now investing. They have exploited the funding opportunities and are in a

position to develop the service. It feels good for youth workers and young people, and they have been able to attract external funding and recruit youth workers, and they see a future for the youth service.

During the discussion with Members the main points included:

- Inclusion and how the service works with young people with varying disabilities such as autism, who find socialising very difficult, was queried. The Acting Chair also highlighted that an e-mail had been received asking how young people with SEND access the service. Members were informed that they have not got a fully inclusive offer for young people with SEND. However, they do work with young people on an individual basis who have autism and anxiety issues. They are also working in the north of the city with Trinity College who work with young people with SEND and are looking at some youth work provision for young people with SEND at Clifton Road.
- The inclusion strategy needs to be inclusive to all young people and it was acknowledged that the language used is important, especially when saying they have a universal service. The Acting Chair highlighted that the commitment for an inclusive service should be there and the Council should be held to account to ensure the Youth Service is fully accessible.
- It was acknowledged that information on the Youth Centres on-line is not great. They have a presence on Instagram and Facebook and a lot of people in the locality know about the Maypole Youth Centre. However, a lot more work needs to be done to ensure young people are aware of this as promoting the work of the youth service is important.
- The process for identifying young people who are at risk of becoming 'Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS)' was provided and this is a partnership with schools, ensuring the young person is offered a personal 1 to 1 consultation, and the objective is that every young person leaves school with an offer of a place. In addition, the Youth Service works with young people who are known to them or are detached, and they work with partners, such as the early help team, Children's Trust and EmpowerU will refer to them, St Basils and DWP as part of the youth opportunity group etc.
- There will be a formal launch for the roll out of youth hubs on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022. A bespoke offer for SEND and inclusion will be the next phase and they are using the European Social Fund funding to deliver this.

#### **RESOLVED:**

The update was noted, and the following to be included in an update to the Committee in February or March 2022:

- How communications for the Youth Service have been improved (the website and social media etc).
- Information on the youth hubs (to include how they will be different).
- Update on the peer research and social action programme, and how the Committee can support this.



- The Youth Strategy.
- The Directorate's priorities and the roadmap to excellence.

## 7. SEND

(See document No. 7)

Sue Harrison, Director for Education and Skills; and Pauline Maddison, Interim AD for SEND and Inclusion; Sabiha Aziz, Chair of the Parent Carer Forum (PCF); Pam Armstrong, Parent Carer Forum and Jo Green, Parent Carer Forum were in attendance.

The main points made during the presentation included:

Sue Harrison, Director for Education and Skills:

- They have come as a team and as the Director she is pleased that they have a strong PCF to work with.
- They understand what co-production looks like and work closely together to get better outcomes for children.
- There are key pieces of work they want to be delivered even if they were not under a directive.
- John Coughlan is the Commissioner and they have had the first board meeting which went well.
- They are expecting the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) to be agreed imminently by the DfE. The APP needs to respond to the Ofsted report and is critical, but it is not the only work they need to do as there are more things they need to improve and develop outside the APP.
- The four objectives are key: System Leadership; Getting the Basics Right; Working Together Well; and Pathways.
- They will bring a SEND roadmap to the Committee.

Sabiha Aziz, Chair of the Parent Carer Forum:

- There have been discussions about understanding co-production and inter-agency working together: education, social services and health.
- Maria McCaffrey is leading as the co-production officer and the PCF are working closely with Maria who has been tasked to produce a report by the end of the year. Tony Bovaird from UoB has also been brought in as he is a co-production expert, and the PCF has been feeding in and is a "critical friend".
- The co-production event didn't happen due to Covid. However, they were able to have an hour event to discuss co-production as this means different things to different people. The main aim is to have a Birmingham shared definition of co-production and this work is ongoing. This was integrated in September's Carrs Lane event, which was hybrid and very well attended. The workshop worked better than the presentations and they have used this to

shape future events. They will be having one virtual and one central event this term and the co-production agenda will be part of the roadshows.

Pauline Maddison, Interim AD for SEND and Inclusion:

- Of the four objectives, two are moving well and two haven't really started. Although a lot has been done on Getting the Basics Right, there is still a long way to go before the Assessment and Review service is operating as it should be.
- We were out of line with other authorities in relation to the number of staff in SENAR and caseloads. They have appointed new case officers, but there is a lot of churn, so keeping a full complement of staff is difficult as all local authorities are fighting for the same experienced people. Pauline is aware that the Committee is interested in the training programme for the SENAR staff.
- The difficulty for us is that there are no school places available, with very few special school places and very few good or outstanding schools, which means more parents going through the appeals process which is longer due to Covid and this is a national problem.
- They spend a lot of time consulting with schools, particularly mainstream schools who are sometimes slow in responding as to whether they can meet the child's needs. Parents without an EHCP can get into a mainstream school quicker than those with an EHCP as they have a right to a place in mainstream school, whereas schools can turn down a child with an EHCP on the basis that they cannot meet their needs.
- The table in the report states 152 children were out of school, however this changes on a daily basis and is currently 146 children. In July 2021 they had no idea how many children were not in school and so rigorous investigation was put in place and they are now confident of the figures.
- Up to 25 hours home provision is provided and they will continue to rigorously monitor this group.
- They are on target for producing a draft SEND sufficiency strategy and will be in a good position to apply for funding in the spring when categories are announced for the DfE £2.6bn capital pot announced recently.
- Capital estate of the Council: they are working with colleagues to see if some special schools can free up spaces and increase temporary accommodation capacity. They are also working with mainstream schools about having more resource bases, e.g., they need 10 new secondary resource bases for autism alone. They are also talking to special schools and all independent schools in and around Birmingham.

During the discussion with Members the main points included:

- The Acting Chair found it frustrating and depressing that many of the key areas picked up in the report have been subject to discussion at this Committee over the last 2 – 4 years. These issues have been raised and the

Committee has had really in-depth discussions and reports from officers. This includes EHCPs, school places and honest parental engagement and involvement. However, the Ofsted assessment means positive action will come from it and we need to be getting the basics right. The Acting Chair thanked the Director for the work that has been undertaken and her honesty, particularly with parental engagement.

- Cllr Kath Scott was delighted to see efforts on SEND sufficiency and that this is being joined up with the funding bids to the DfE.
- It was felt there is an issue with funding free schools and independent schools as they have so much autonomy and can reject children once term is underway. The Director commented that they all have a moral purpose to educate children and it is part of her role to have conversations with head teachers about how the child's needs can be met. There is also a need for legislation when schools don't play ball, so they are legally accountable.
- The Home Bridging Team should be congratulated for the tremendous effort they make with children who have suffered trauma in the school environment. However, it was felt they need more support to enable them to have better ways to engage with these children.
- The training of the new SENAR staff should be more than what is in the legislation and it should include the journey of children (0 – 25 years old) to help staff understand the lived experience of parents, so staff become empowered to deliver and support parents and children. Members were informed that they work with the PCF to support staff and they have a strong SENCO network, so they have a fairly good understanding of trauma and SEND. They need to be more joined up so staff understand the whole picture. Also, how they relate to the parents, with staff being empathetic is being built into the training programme and the PCF are supporting them on this.
- Objective 4 and data tracking was queried. Officers have no right to information from schools such as school targets and schools use different systems. There is the DLP programme, £14m over two years from the high needs block to improve the skills and commitment of schools to meet SEND and they are really struggling with mainstream and special schools to get a system to track. This has been exacerbated by Covid as they have had no national data. There are hidden exclusions but they do have the NEETS information.
- The local authority is not allowed to run new schools, including special schools. The running of any new school will be put out to competition and the final decision on who runs the school belongs to the Secretary of State.
- The Acting Chair highlighted that there is talk about DWP introducing new rules for students claiming universal credit which could make it more difficult for young people to achieve good outcomes.
- Jo Green, PCF, asked how a young person is supported if they are not picked up by the Home bridging team. School provision is not provided if the child has a place and they need to be better at joining services and partners.

- Care needs to be used when officers say that parents are choosing to keep their child off school, especially if attending the school would cause the child mental health issues and trauma. Also, elective home schooling is not always quite what the phrase suggests.
- Sarah Smith has been on the Committee for six years and finds the Acting Assistant Director's approach refreshing, providing factual information and noting more to be done. A request was made for the APP and measurable impacts triangulated with parents, so this is backed up by parents.
- SEND is on the agenda for every committee meeting and it would be useful if the four priority areas can be broken down. The Acting Chair was happy for the officers to decide how best to do this, as long as all the priority areas are covered, as the Committee does not want to be in the same position again.
- The Acting Chair is more than happy to have the PCF and parents at future committee meetings, and this will be discussed with the Chair. Also, if there is anything that needs to be raised in-between meetings then these can be brought to the Committee's attention.

#### **RESOLVED:**

The update was noted and the following to be provided:

- Details of the consultation from the DfE which is proposing to take the last bit of money from local authorities for school improvement.
- Whether schools are reporting absence correctly and the Council not always being aware that child is not in school. This includes drilling down on the data for off-rolling, exclusions and absences.
- The APP and measurable impacts triangulated with parents, so this is backed up by parents.

## **8. WORK PROGRAMME**

(See document No. 8)

The work programme was discussed, and the following are to be added:

- The Chair has asked for CSE and school exclusions.
- The Youth Service in February or March 2022.
- Update on Hunters Hill and it may be appropriate to have this at the January 2022 committee meeting under the school attainment and school attendance item.

Members can e-mail the Chair and scrutiny officers if they want anything added.

The Committee could look at pursuing mental health as an item and it is an area for good joined up working as the mental health service has been discussed at the Health and Social Care O&S Committee (<https://bit.ly/3nHqwjv>).

**RESOLVED:**

The work programme to be updated accordingly.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

The next meeting is on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10am.

**10. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**

None.

**11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None

**12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

**RESOLVED:**

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

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The meeting ended at 12.12 hours.



## BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

# EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (O&S) COMMITTEE – INFORMAL MEETING

1000 hours on Wednesday, 12 January 2022, Online

## Action Notes

### Present:

Councillor: Narinder Kaur Kooner (Chair)

Councillors: Katherine Iroh, Kath Scott and Alex Yip

Other Voting Representatives: Rabia Shami, Parent Governor Representative, and Sarah Smith, Church of England Diocese Representative

### Also Present:

Councillor Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member, Education, Skills & Culture

Pam Armstrong, Parent Carer Forum (PCF)

Sabiha Aziz, Chair, PCF

Carolyn Daly, Co-chair, BAFGM

Rachel Edwards, Communications & Engagement Lead, SEND, Wellbeing & Inclusion

Lisa Fraser, AD, Education and Early Years

Jo Green, PCF

Sue Harrison, Director, Education & Skills

Pauline Maddison, Interim AD, SEND and Inclusion

Maria McCaffrey, Co-production Officer

Alan Michell, Head of Service, Admissions, Attendance, Exclusions and Pupil Tracking

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

Christine Wellington, Co-chair, BAFGM

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## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Adam Hardy, Roman Catholic Diocese Representative, and the Chair advised that we are awaiting a replacement representative due to Adam having retired. Apologies were also submitted on behalf of Omar Hanif, Parent Governor Representative, and Cllrs Olly Armstrong and Kerry Jenkins.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Alex Yip declared an interest as he is a Deputy Chair of governors at Wilson Stuart School, which is a special needs school.

Also, Councillor Alex Yip expressed his dissatisfaction with the committee meeting being an informal meeting rather than an in-person formal meeting, and it was agreed to discuss this offline.

## **4. BIRMINGHAM AGAINST FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (BAFGM) ANNUAL REPORT (10.00 - 10.30)**

(See documents No. 1 and 2)

Christine Wellington and Carolyn Daly, Co-chairs of BAFGM, were in attendance and gave the presentation. Members were informed that they work with partners to enable children to remain safe and to reduce the risk of FGM. Information regarding the legal context, including FGM protection orders, and the numbers of referrals and contacts was also given.

It was highlighted that there are no ongoing prosecutions for FGM or related offences in Birmingham, and nationally there were 6,590 individual women and girls where FGM was identified during the period 2019 to March 2020. In addition, they provided details of how they are working in partnership and some of the initiatives.

During the discussion with Members the main points included:

- The Chair highlighted that it really makes a difference when someone from within the community passes the message on.
- They have community involvement, although this has slipped due to Covid. However, the Women's network is out in the community, and they are confident that they are going to continue to make headway.
- Officers feel quite strongly about the survivor's account, as this is so impactful when raising awareness, and they have made a lot of links with survivors.
- The reasons for the low number of prosecutions was questioned, and it was speculated that people are not coming forward because they are fearful.
- They are upskilling social workers and other professionals on applying to the family court for FGM Protection Orders (FGMPOs). Schools can also apply for these.



- The aftercare that is provided to help survivors of FGM to cope with the long lasting effects include survivors being referred to appropriate victim groups, and universal services such as mental health services where needed. It was felt that there is not enough support available within the UK and the City, with some victim groups having to stop their activities due to funding issues.

The Chair thanked the officers for their attendance, and she was pleased they are working towards more community engagement, and the offer from the Cabinet Member to assist with protecting our young children and changing mindsets in schools.

#### **ACTIONS:**

The Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture offered her support in getting the message out to schools. Officers will make sure that this is fed back to the BAFGM group on education.

### **5. SEND (10.30 - 11.15)**

(See document No. 3)

Sue Harrison, Director for Education & Skills; Pauline Maddison, Interim AD for SEND and Inclusion; Maria McCaffrey, Co-production Officer; Rachel Edwards, Communications & Engagement Lead, SEND, Wellbeing & Inclusion; Sabiha Aziz, Chair of the PCF; Pam Armstrong, PCF and Jo Green, PCF were in attendance for this item.

The Director for Education and Skills highlighted that they could not have done the work without the PCF, as they are key partners in their work across the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP), especially in relation to co-production.

The AD for SEND and Inclusion commented that the focus for this meeting is the third objective: Working Well Together. Each objective has two Senior Responsible Officers (SROs) overseeing the development of the work. It was expected that at least one would attend the Scrutiny meeting. Unfortunately, Deborah Brooks, the Transformation Director, Commissioning, who is working with Jo Carney, NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG's Director of Joint Commissioning, on this objective has given her apologies. However, Maria McCaffrey is the co-production Officer for this objective and is in attendance.

Maria McCaffrey gave the presentation and highlighted this had been presented to the SEND Improvement Board and there has been some progress since then. The Working Well Together objective is primarily about co-production with families; it is the golden thread that runs through the whole SEND reforms and cuts across all of the four objectives. They are in the process of setting up a voluntary sector partnership group and are delivering a series of workshops to families, and the engagement events will be reported back in due course.

The important element is that this is a three pronged approach, with a working partnership agreement across education, health and care, and a summary report will be presented to the SEND Improvement Board.

The co-production framework is due to be drafted and developed at the end of February 2022, and delivered over two years, with the focus on building good and positive relationships as a baseline.

During the discussion with Members the main points included:

- It is important that as we progress with the other objectives this objective is integrated, and that it keeps coming back to Scrutiny as part of the conversation.
- The Chair will encourage other groups working on the SEND agenda to engage with the PCF or officers, so it is a holistic community.
- Although it is too early to discuss in practice how co-production would factor in the different stages of the child's progression, early thinking is that they it will be about "person centred planning" and the early identification of the child and their needs, with them being supported through every stage.
- It was proposed that the future Scrutiny committee meetings follow the cycle of the SEND Improvement Board, which would mean the following being brought to the committee meetings:
  - February 2022: the performance dashboard, and the cycle of regularly monitoring the Dashboard can be discussed at the next committee meeting.
  - March 2022: Objective 2: Getting the Basics Right.
  - April 2022: Objective 4: Pathways and Objective 1: Systems Leadership to be discussed nearer the time.
- As the whole objective in terms of parental engagement and satisfaction had not been covered at the meeting, it was agreed that there will be a commentary on this at the same time as the other objectives are being discussed.
- The Director would like to attend Scrutiny meetings with health colleagues, who are contributing as much as they can, but this is being restricted because of Covid.

#### **ACTIONS:**

The update was noted, and the items and objectives for the next Scrutiny committee meetings were agreed.

## 6. SCHOOL ATTAINMENT AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (11.15 - 11.55)

(See document No. 4)

Lisa Fraser, AD for Education and Early Years and Alan Michell, Head of Service for Admissions, Attendance, Exclusions and Pupil Tracking were in attendance for this item and gave the presentation. Officers emphasised that the data comes with significant health warnings and caveats because of the difficult and different times due to Covid. The presentation also focused on attainment at key stage four only because the DfE has only published key stage four. School improvement is delivered on behalf of the Council by the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP).

Officers highlighted that they have put in a significant amount of effort and support into helping schools develop their outbreak management plans, and their health and safety arrangements, and they closely monitor absences due to Covid through the daily returns, and the absences in Birmingham schools have been lower than nationally.

During the discussion with Members the main points included:

- Exclusions will be discussed at the February committee meeting and there is more work that urgently needs to be done around primary exclusions.
- The fast track to attendance has a very clear process, and it is a staged approach, with schools being key as they lead on this.
- Legal action for school absences is the last resort and this is continually reviewed and evaluated to make allowances for the Covid context.
- Schools are expected to make provision for monitoring attendance through their budgets.
- The Council gives advice and consultancy around the general approach to attendance as well as individual cases, and there is a raft of information and guidance from the DfE that officers steer schools to access.
- There is a very clear policy for Children Missing Education (CME), where the child's whereabouts is unknown.
- It a requirement for all schools to make regular returns on part time timetables.
- There is a referral process if anyone is concerned that there has been any illegal activity with off rolling. This would then be investigated, and officers are pleased that the numbers are incredibly low.
- It is a particularly challenging time for schools in terms of the number of teachers who are isolating or who are absent due to Covid, and the outbreak management templates, which have been agreed with teaching unions, clearly outline the steps schools should take.

### **ACTION:**

The update was noted, and school exclusions will be discussed at the February committee meeting.

## **7. WORK PROGRAMME**

(See document No. 4)

The work programme was discussed, and the agenda items for the next committee meeting are:

- Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report.
- SEND Update: the dashboard to be discussed.
- School Exclusions: to include SEND exclusions and cross departmental work with SEND services to support this agenda.

Mental health is it to be discussed at the April committee meeting.

### **Actions:**

The work programme to be updated accordingly.

Members to e-mail the Chair and / or scrutiny officers if they want anything added.

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 1000 hours, and the Chair advised that she has had a discussion with Christian Scade, Interim Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services, and there may be a more suitable room available at the BMI, and whether they can have a safe face to face meeting, subject to government guidelines, will be explored.

## **9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None

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The meeting ended at 12.08 hours.

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE**  
**ACTION TRACKER 2021-22**

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
16 Sep 2020	SEND Response to Covid - Nichola Jones, AD Inclusion and SEND	A report on DBS compliance to be provided.	Outstanding Action:  The Chief Executive has commissioned an investigation.  To this end, a report will be issued and presented to the relevant council committee to ensure complete transparency.  The Weightmans report has been e-mailed to Members.
9 Dec 2020	Children's Trust Update	The report to the Children's Trust Board resulting from the fundamental review regarding the workforce.	Completed: Discussed staff recruitment and retention at the 1 Sep 2021 committee meeting.
		The annual summary of the KPIs.	Completed: Discussed at the 1 Sep 2021 committee meeting.
		The Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing agreed to provide a briefing paper on the additional funding from the Government, budget outline, priorities going forward and the long-term contractual negotiation regarding funding for the Trust.	Not Outstanding: Cllr Booth is no longer Cabinet Member.
19 May 2021	Home to School Transport Update	Officers will soon have a roll out plan for the 365 response and this will be communicated very shortly. The Chair requested an update in June 2021.	Added to the work programme.
		Integrated Transport Unit (ITU): officers are currently undertaking scoping activity and it was agreed an update to the Committee could be provided in the Autumn.	Added to the work programme.

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE**  
**ACTION TRACKER 2021-22**

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
19 May 2021	Hunters Hill College Update	Travelling times/distance for pupils to their interim and permanent places (including how many pupils have and have not reduced their travelling).	E-mailed Members the information on the 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2022.
		How long it has taken to get pupils into interim placements and how long it has taken to convert these to permanent placements.	E-mailed Members the information on the 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2022.
21 Jul 2021	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Culture	<p>A written report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The capacity and take up of the Holiday Activities and Food programme.</li> <li>Whether there is a system and clear plan in place to support schools to ensure pupils and staff are safe if the pandemic continues.</li> <li>Information on Everyone's Invited programme, including the number of Birmingham schools that were flagged.</li> </ul> <p>Youth Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Half of the Youth Service budget is being funded externally and whether future resourcing of the service is being planned.</li> <li>Whether a mapping exercise of particular issues affecting young people, such as youth violence, has been undertaken.</li> </ul> <p>School Exclusion, Off Rolling, Part Time Timetables etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on the number of exclusions and off rolling etc.</li> <li>What happens to the pupils who are excluded? How soon are they re-schooled?</li> </ul>	<p>Members were e-mailed the report on 31 Aug 2021.</p> <p>Outstanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The work regarding children's social care and data sharing as mentioned by the Cabinet Member.</li> </ul>

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE**  
**ACTION TRACKER 2021-22**

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What support is given to pupils who are at-risk of being excluded?</li> <li>• What about the managed move programme?</li> </ul> <p>Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal action for non-attendance at school was suspended until after May half-term 2021 and it was queried whether this has continued to be suspended, or if not, when legal action re-commenced.</li> <li>• What is the council doing to ensure that pupil attendance drastically improves from September? There is a very strong link between attendance and attainment.</li> </ul> <p>Children Missing Education (CME):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the term "children missing in education" include "school refusers"?</li> </ul> <p>Part-Time Timetables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many children are there on part-time timetables?</li> </ul> <p>Elective Home Education (EHE):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details requested on the process and job titles/descriptions for those that oversee this.</li> <li>• What is done to assess and track pupils who are EHE?</li> <li>• How is it decided that this education is not good enough?</li> </ul>	

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE**  
**ACTION TRACKER 2021-22**

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of the support that is provided to parents, as Councillor Olly Armstrong has received anecdotal evidence about the support “not being great”.</li> <li>The process of inviting parents to the session and follow up, including questions that are asked: Attendance has historically been mixed at events put on for home educating families. All offers are broadcast to all families via the elective home education website. Colleagues can update the committee on the current online learning opportunities that are being offered to families at a future meeting if required.</li> </ul> <p>Data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does all the data given at the meeting include academies and free-schools?</li> </ul>	
21 Jul 2021	Hunters Hill College Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An analysis on how long it has taken to relocate the students.</li> <li>Information directly from the parents on the quality of the home education provided.</li> <li>A TOR to be agreed by the Committee for officers, so that members can receive more information regarding the circumstances leading up to the decision to close Hunters Hill College.</li> </ul>	<p>E-mailed Members the information on the 11th January 2022.</p> <p>Cllr Alex Yip to provide the draft TOR for discussion with the Committee.</p>
21 Jul 2021	SEND Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can we lobby government for more funding?</li> <li>We must fix SENAR, especially the waiting times. How can this be accomplished?</li> </ul>	SEND has been programmed in the work programme for monthly updates.



**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE**  
**ACTION TRACKER 2021-22**

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A SEND update to be added to the September 2021 Committee meeting.</li> </ul>	
1 Sep 2021	Children's Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The results of the Ofsted inspection of the Fostering Service to be shared when received.</li> <li>Comparative referral figures (pre and post Covid) for the EmpowerU Hub to be provided.</li> <li>A report on missing children to be provided.</li> </ul>	<p>E-mailed Members the information 27 September 2021.</p> <p>E-mailed Members the information 22 November 2021.</p> <p>E-mailed Members the information 22 November 2021.</p>
1 Sep 2021	Work Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members to inform Scrutiny if they want further information in relation to Elective Home Education.</li> <li>Cllr Alex Yip will send an email on things to be picked up from previous minutes and the action tracker.</li> </ul>	No e-mails received from Members regarding EHE.
13 Oct 2021	Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety & Equalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data on hate crime to be circulated to Members.</li> <li>An update on the specific projects in relation to hate crime.</li> <li>A geographical report identifying where hate crime is happening along with details of victims, and what support the Council is providing.</li> </ul>	E-mailed information to Members on 7 February 2022.
13 Oct 2021	SEND - Kevin Crompton, Interim Director, Education & Skills and Pauline Maddison, Interim AD, SEND & Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on the Health waiting lists to be provided.</li> <li>Information on the crisis provision and support for autism and learning difficulties to be forwarded.</li> <li>Information on the interim team of staff to identify children who have part time provision or temporary timetables to be brought to the next committee meeting.</li> <li>An update on the SEND Sufficiency report will be brought to the next committee meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>Awaiting information.</p> <p>Awaiting information.</p> <p>Awaiting information.</p> <p>Discussed at the 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 21 committee meeting.</p>

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE**  
**ACTION TRACKER 2021-22**

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A meeting between the Chair and officers will be arranged in the interim to discuss the requirements for the next committee meeting.</li> </ul>	Done.
13 Oct 2021	Home to School Transport (HTST) - Mary Jefferson, Head of Service for HTST, and Deborah Brooks, Transformation Director for Commissioning, Education and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whether officers are anticipating problems with drivers across the winter and whether there are any contingencies.</li> <li>A breakdown of the High Needs Block to include how much has been used and how much is left.</li> <li>Some contracts are for a short time period and therefore what is in place regarding the renewal of contracts?</li> <li>A breakdown on the sanctions made and whether these have worked.</li> <li>An update on the two new safeguarding issues that are outstanding.</li> <li>A copy of the safeguarding review undertaken by the independent consultation when it has been finalised.</li> </ul>	Awaiting information.
24 Nov 2021	Aquarius – Young People's Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The referral process for elected members, so they can add this to their resource toolkit when they are dealing with casework to be provided.</li> <li>Data to see young people's transition out of substance misuse is to be provided.</li> </ul>	Awaiting information via Karl Beese, Commissioning Manager, Adults Public Health
24 Nov 2021	Youth Service - Ilgun Yusuf, Acting AD, Skills and Employability, and Soulla Yiasouma, Joint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How communications for the Youth Service has been improved (the website and social media etc).</li> <li>Information on the youth hubs (to include how they will be different).</li> <li>Update on the peer research and social action programme, and how the Committee can support this.</li> </ul>	An update from the Youth Service is programmed for the 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2022.

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE**  
**ACTION TRACKER 2021-22**

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
	Head of Youth Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Youth Strategy.</li> <li>The Directorate's priorities and the roadmap to excellence.</li> </ul>	
24 Nov 2021	SEND - Sue Harrison, Director, Education & Skills, and Pauline Maddison, Interim AD, SEND and Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of the consultation from the DfE which is proposing to take the last bit of money from local authorities for school improvement.</li> <li>Whether schools are reporting absence correctly and the Council not always being aware that child is not in school. This includes drilling down on the data for off-rolling, exclusions and absences.</li> <li>The Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) and measurable impacts triangulated with parents, so this is backed up by parents.</li> </ul>	<p>E-mailed Members the information briefing and <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZLRSvY">https://bit.ly/2ZLRSvY</a>.</p> <p>School attendance was discussed at the January 2022 committee meeting.</p>



# Overview and Scrutiny

## 16 February 2022

### SEND Accelerated Progress Plan Performance Dashboard



# Introduction

- SEND Data in Birmingham sits across the partnership and currently there is no data management strategy to ensure it is robustly managed and scrutinised.
- This results in low confidence of the data we hold and how is transferred into insights.
- The data is as good as the systems where data is inputted in. There is a lot of work to do on data management to ensure higher confidence in the data.
- As part of Objective 1 – System Leadership, we will look at management of our data and policies around this.
- Data is a tool, however, as a programme we must look at individual experience and outcomes so that we adequately measure benefits realisation.



# Progress To Date...

## Project Design

- Developed a Dashboard for the SEND improvement programme
- Automated data feeds and complete picture
- Share with the programme leads for update
- A well-defined, user-focused purpose

## Plan the project(s)

- Engage with data owners to understand data availability
- Develop the timeframe of collection of data from different sources
- Engage with objective leads on KPIs performance narratives

## Implementation Plan

- Dashboard fully developed with all current data available
- Dashboard will be updated on a regular basis to show the progress on each KPI with narratives
- Gather feedback from the group

## Review

- Review of final dashboard to be carried out by the programme.
- Make changes as needed
- Provide dashboard reports on a monthly basis the project team and stakeholders outlining the performance of KPIs.



# Impact / Green Shoots...

The SEND dashboard gives consolidated view of all KPIs from each objectives from across the organisation on custom dashboard that deliver valuable insights into the whole business. The Dashboard allows you to track, visualize, and share impact with stakeholders.

The SEND dashboard will enable you to:

- Analyse data, (Trends, Historical and Benchmarking)
- Identify data quality issues
- Display the businesses key performance indicators (KPIs), to assess performance measures,
- Generate actionable insights
- Improve cognition and interpretation





## Next Steps...

- Working closely with our partners to develop a monthly timetable for timely collection of data
- Developing an SOP (Standard operating Procedure) for consistence data reporting
- Make dashboard available for the SEND Board on a monthly basis
- Updating KPI methodologies with current information
- Work closely with the project team, stakeholders on the navigation of dashboard

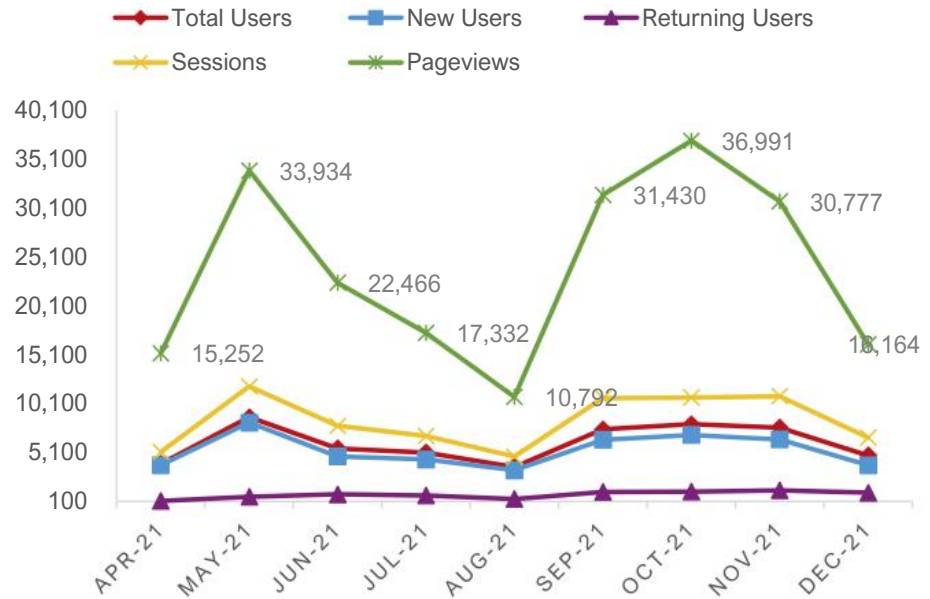
# Accelerated Progress Plan Objectives

Objective	Area of Significant Weakness	Improvement Projects at a glance
<b>1. System Leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy</li> <li>• Inter-agency working</li> <li>• Local Offer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh the SEND Strategy</li> <li>• Develop a Joint Working Protocol with Standard Operating Procedures across the partnership</li> <li>• Develop and Implement a Learning and Development Strategy across the partnership</li> <li>• Improve the Local Offer Website</li> <li>• Improve Data Management</li> </ul>
<b>2. Getting the basics right – identifying and assessing need</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination of Assessments</li> <li>• Quality of EHCPs</li> <li>• Waiting Times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a sustainable SENAR service</li> <li>• Improve the EHNCA and Annual Review Processes</li> <li>• Upgrade the Case Management System</li> <li>• Agree a Quality Assurance Framework</li> <li>• Improve waiting times for Therapies and Neuro-Developmental Pathways</li> </ul>
<b>3. Working Together Well</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-Production</li> <li>• Parental Engagement</li> <li>• Parental Satisfaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a co-production and engagement framework and plan</li> <li>• Set up a Voluntary Sector Partnership Group</li> <li>• Develop and implement a communications strategy</li> <li>• Launch Parent Portal as part of the SENAR Case management System Upgrade</li> <li>• Agree and sign a Partnership Compact</li> <li>• Review and Strengthen the role of SENDIASS</li> </ul>
<b>4. Pathways – meeting need and improving outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Progress</li> <li>• Attendance and Exclusions</li> <li>• Employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an Inclusion Strategy</li> <li>• Deliver the Developing Local Provision project</li> <li>• Review the Children Out of School Process for CYPs with EHCPs</li> <li>• Review the allocation of the HNB</li> <li>• 14-19 Review of Employment Pathways for YP with SEND</li> <li>• Review of Internal Processes to ensure that CYPs pathways are correctly tracked</li> </ul>

# Objective 1 – Data Analysis – Local Offer

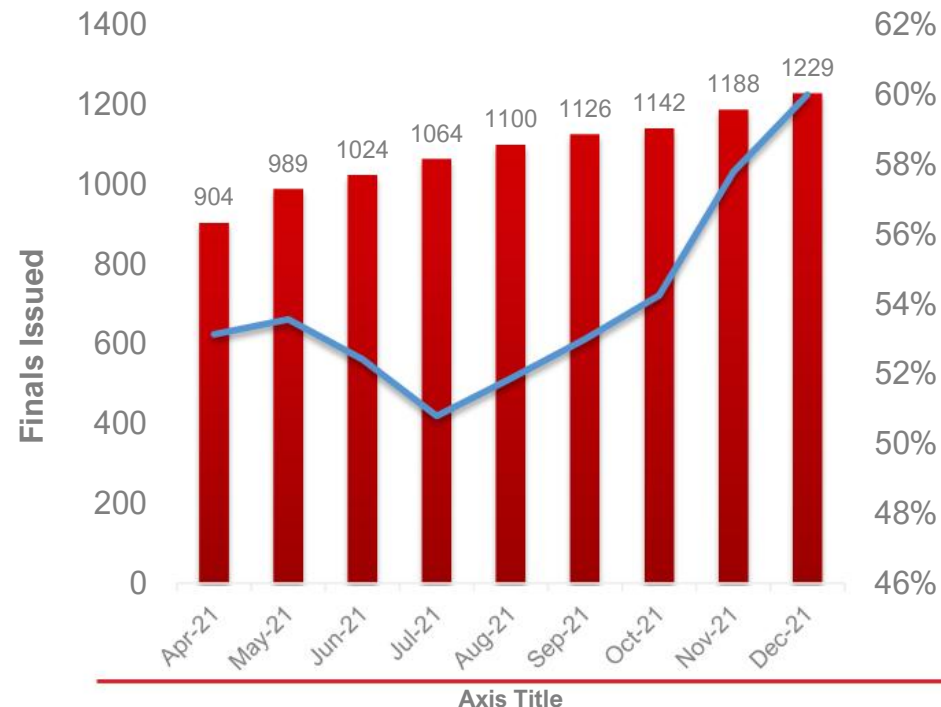
- For this objective, the data is suite is under developed. Once work will commence on the refresh of the SEND Strategy, baselines will be drawn and the programme can start monitoring the benefits for Objective 2.
- Nevertheless, green shoots can be observed on the use of the Local Offer.

## LOCAL OFFER - ALL WEBSITE DATA



# Objective 2 – Data analysis – EHC Needs Assessments

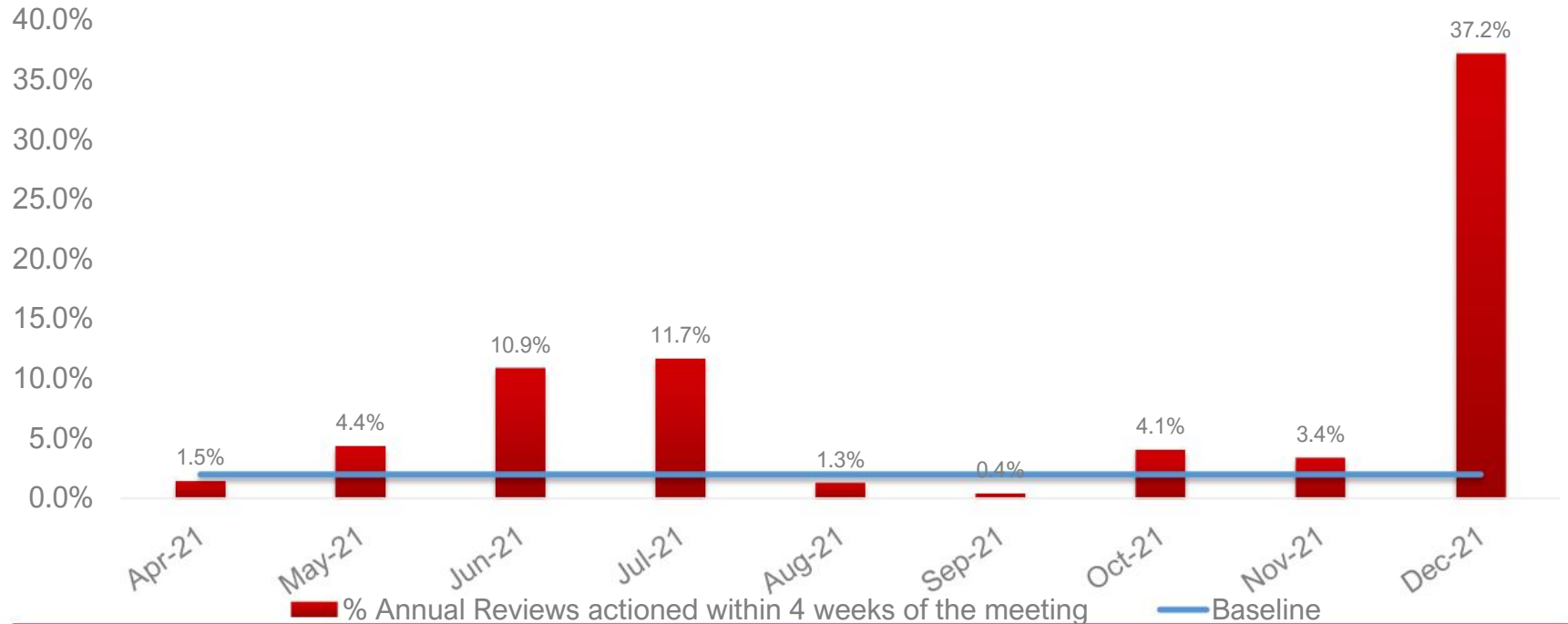
## GBR1 - %EHCPs issued within 20 weeks



- The % of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks has increased from 53% in May 2021 to 60% in December 2021 (12 months rolling), with 1229 EHCPs issued in the last 12 months.
- The national average of EHCPs issued in 20 weeks is at 58%.

# Objective 2 – Data Analysis – Annual Reviews

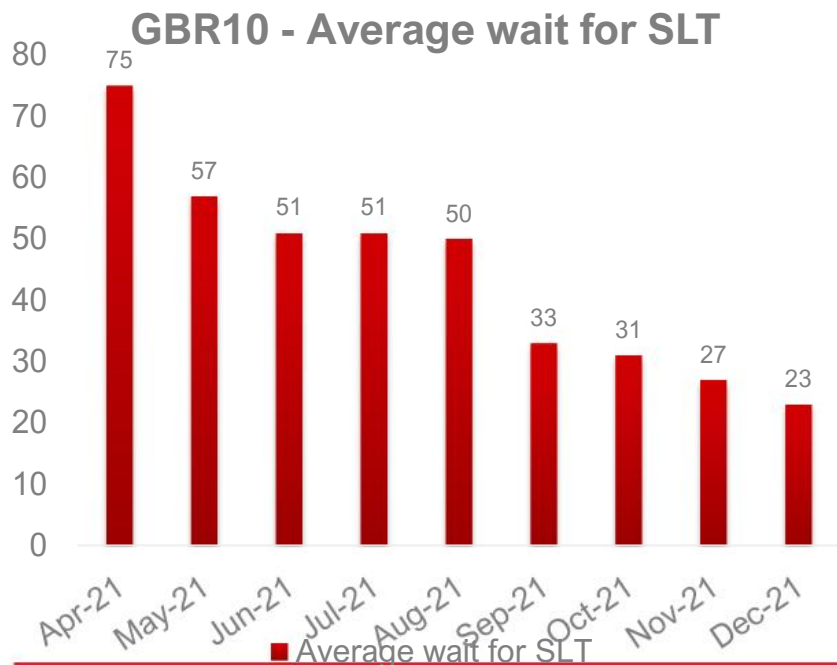
## GBR2 - % Annual Reviews actioned within 4 weeks of the meeting



## Objective 2 – Data Analysis – % of NEETs

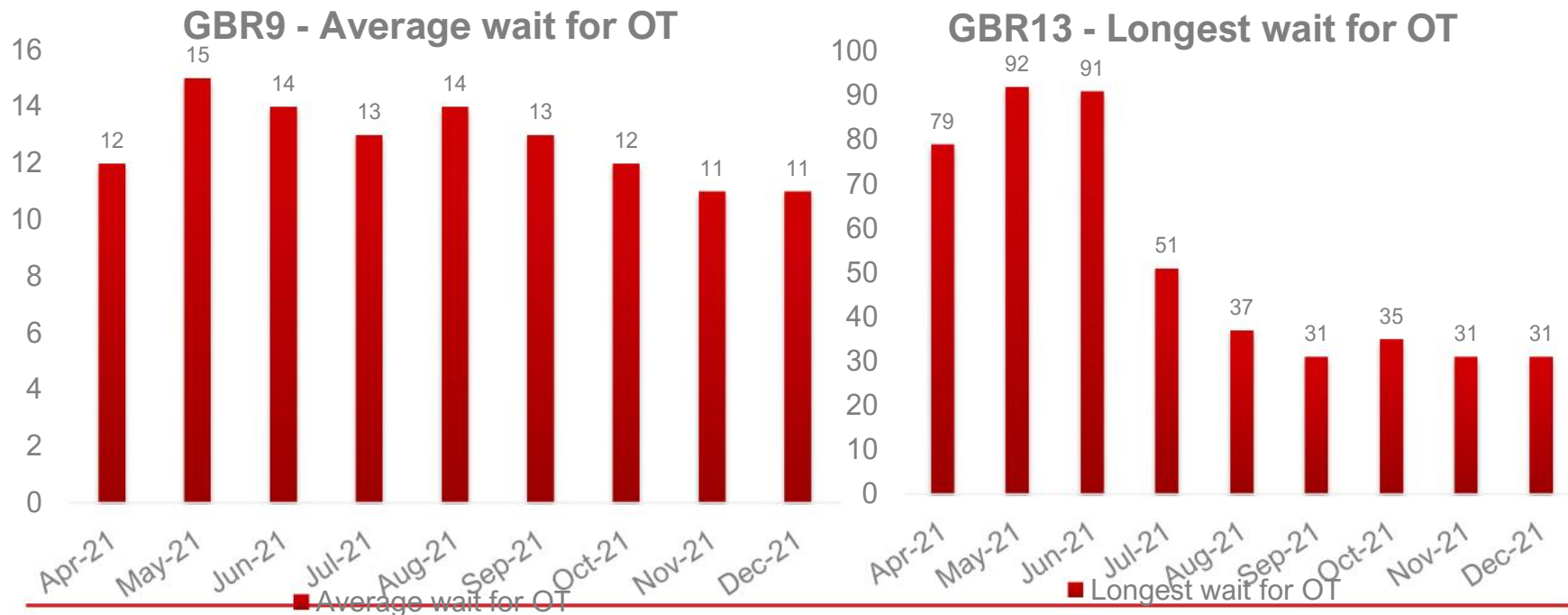
- Due to the increased capacity in the SENAR service, the percentage of children and young people with EHCPs that are NEET (Not in Education Employment and Training) has dropped from 9% (cc. 990 individuals) in May 2021 to 6.1% (cc. 650) in December 2021.
- This compares to a national average of 2.5%.

# Objective 2 – Data Analysis – Waiting times SLT



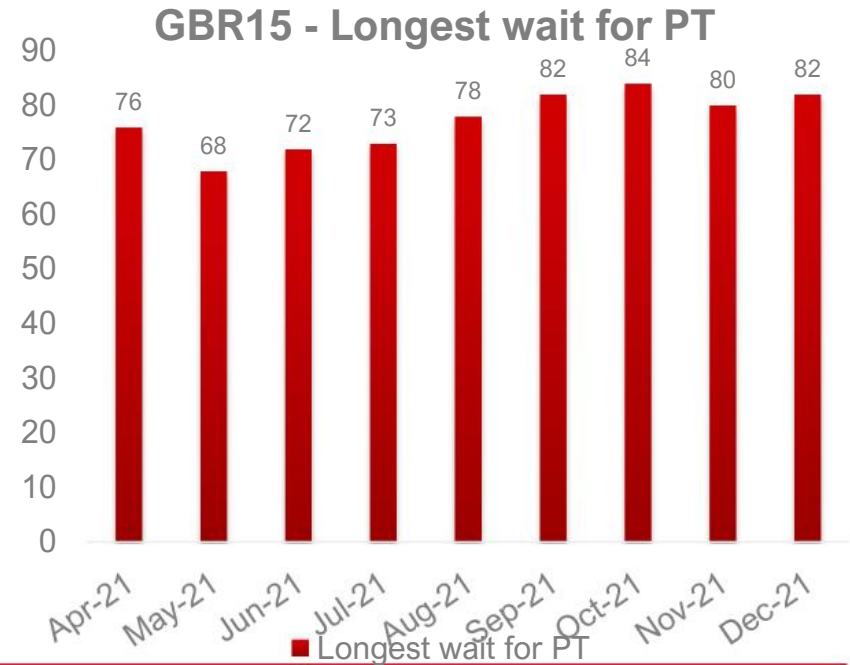
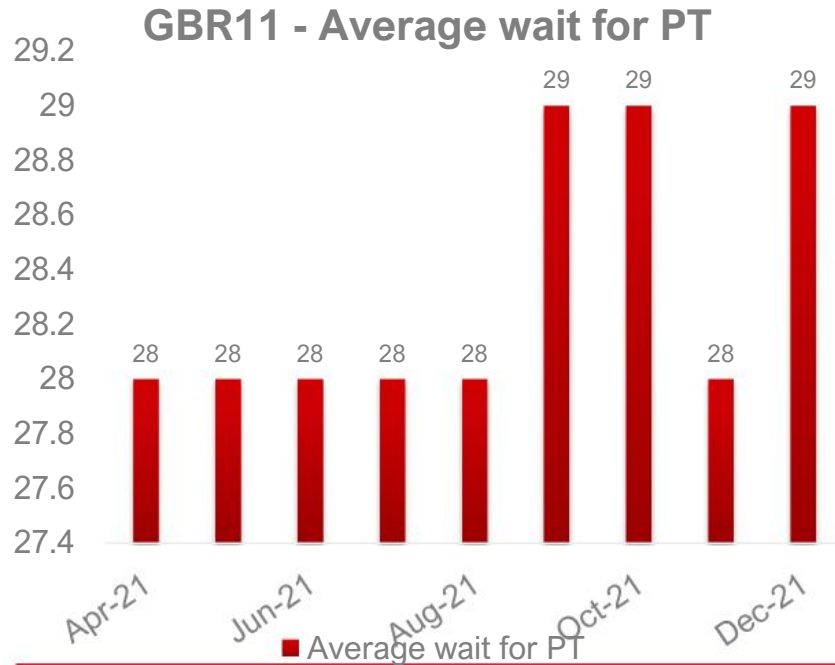


# Objective 2 – Data Analysis – Waiting times OT

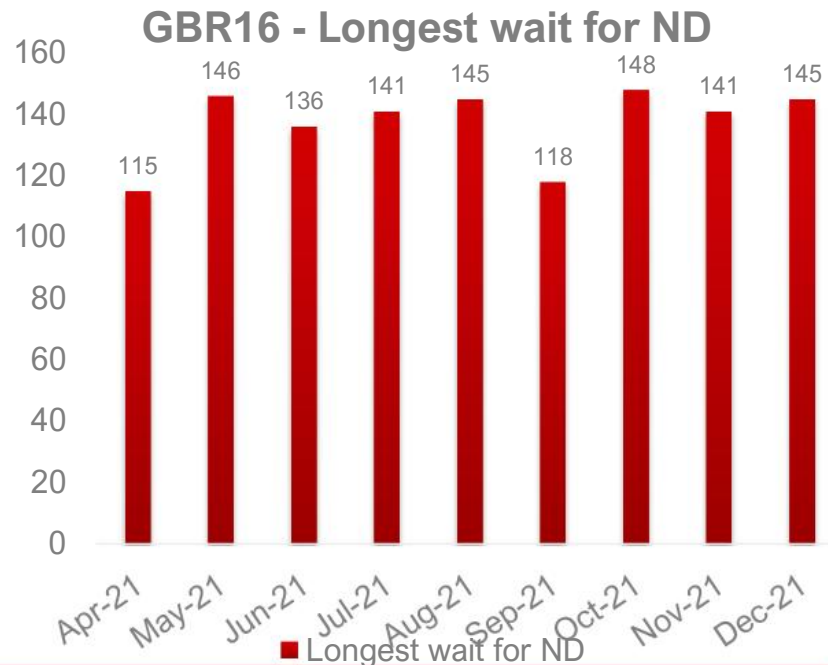
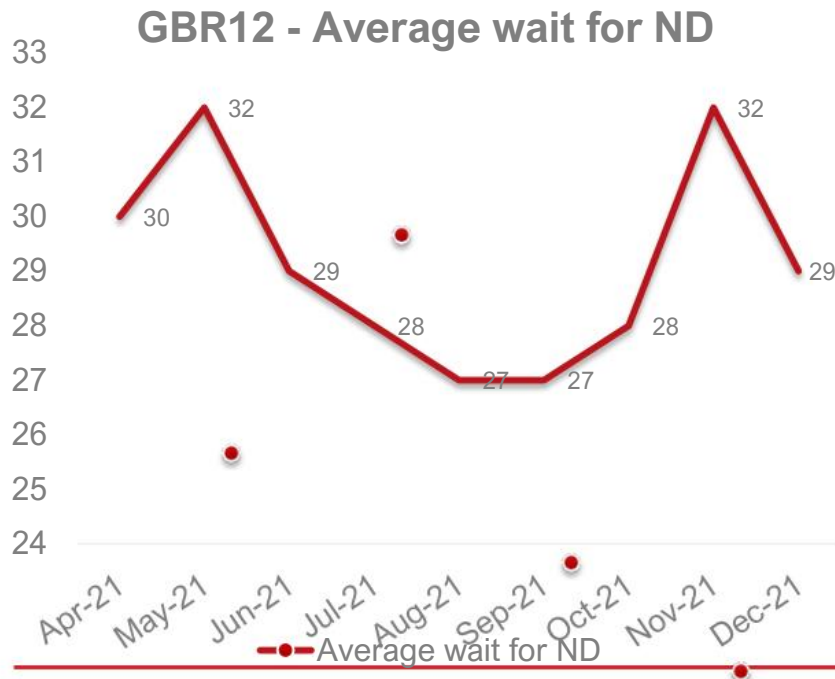




# Objective 2 – Data Analysis – Waiting times PT



# Objective 2 – Data Analysis – Waiting times ND Pathway



# Objective 3 – Data Analysis – Appeals and Complaints

- More work is needed on Objective 3 in order to baseline data.
- In the last 6 months Birmingham has had an average of 41 appeals logged per month, in comparison with 21 appeals per months in 2020/21. (59% are around placement and 15% are around refusal to asses).
- This represents a rate of 2.52 out of appealable decisions, compared to a national average of 1.74.
- Complaints for SENAR are currently sitting at 14 (was 137 in November). Dedicated officers have been assigned and training delivered to corporate complaints team to align the corporate procedure. More officers in the service has led to less complaints around communication and the majority of complaints are in relation to lack of special school places.

# Objective 4 – Data Analysis

- More work is needed on Objective 4 in order to baseline data.  
e.g. working with Head Teachers to develop a mechanism through which we collect attainment and progress data for children and young people with SEND, as part of the Developing Local Provision (DLP) project.





# Safeguarding Children

Presentation by

Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair

and

Simon Cross, Partnership Business Manager

Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

# What we are going to cover

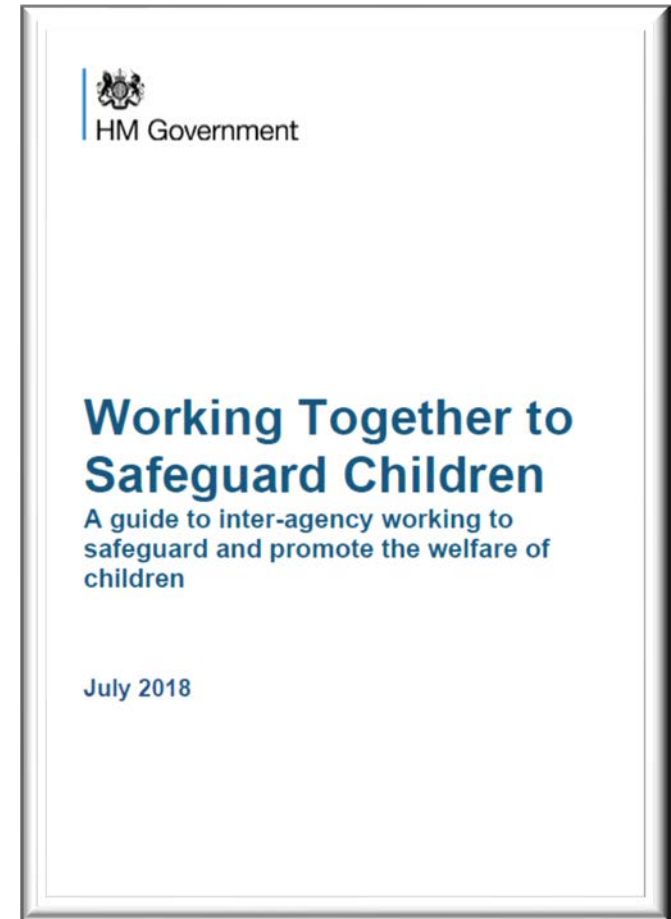


- National Framework – Safeguarding Children
- Safeguarding Partnership Priorities
- Business Improvement Plan – Progress
- Independent Scrutiny & Challenge
- Safeguarding children during the Pandemic
- High Profile Cases – Embedding learning
- Serious Youth Violence
- Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews
- Looking forward



# National Framework

- 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019
- Safeguarding Partners & Relevant Agencies
- Police Accountability
- MASA replaced LSCB
- CSPRs replaced SCRs
- National & Local Reviews
- Child Death Reviews



# Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnerships



## Strategic Priorities for 2021/23:

**Priority 1:** Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership demonstrating effective Accountability;

**Priority 2:** Continuously Improve Child Safeguarding Practice across the system and in all agencies;

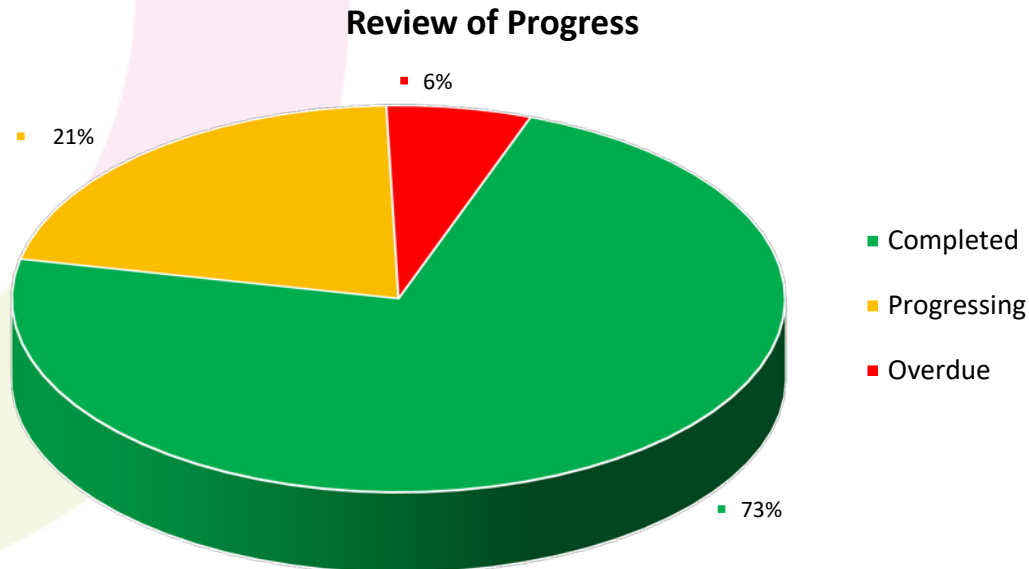
**Priority 3:** Developing an effective multi-agency response to Child and Adolescent Neglect

**Priority 4:** Evaluating and addressing the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on safeguarding children;

# Business Improvement Plan 2021/23



- The Plan has four Strategic Priorities and thirty three actions.
- At the end of the January 2022, 73% of the actions have been completed.
- Significant progress has also been made on the outstanding actions scheduled for completion in the second year of the plan.



# Priority 1 - Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership demonstrating effective Accountability



Planned Action (2021-23)	February 2022 – Update	
1. The BSCP Independent Chair to present an Annual Accountability Report to the Safeguarding Leaders Assembly 22nd April 2021;	Completed on 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2022.	😊
2. BSCP Independent Chair to attend the City Board and Children's Partnership to provide support and challenge on behalf of children and young people;	Independent Chair is a City Board member.	😊
3. Safeguarding Leaders Assembly to be convened twice yearly for accountability, learning and system development;	Safeguarding Leaders Assembly in October 2021 had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.	😊
4. The Chairs of the BSCP and Community Safety Partnership to oversee the development of the Serious Youth Violence Strategy – Spring 2021;	Chairs' of Community Safety and Safeguarding Children Partnerships hosted a strategic summit to commence development of Serious Violence Strategy.	😊
5. The BSCP Executive Board to oversee a comprehensive quality assurance and audit programme aimed at evaluating safeguarding practice – Executive Board to endorse Quality Assurance Programme 2021-23 by May 2021;	Scrutiny and Quality Assurance Programme endorsed in March 2021.	😊

## Priority 1 - Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership demonstrating effective Accountability (continued)



Planned Action (2021-23)	February 2022 – Update	
6. The BSCP to redesign its website and improve its communications and social media capacity by November 2021 to improve engagement with children, families and practitioners;	Website redesign will commence in 2022/23.	☹️
7. BSCP to contribute to the continued development of the Regional Safeguarding Procedures Group consortium to deliver on-line safeguarding policies, procedures and guidance by March 2022;	Birmingham are key members of the Regional Safeguarding Procedures Group consortium, providing up to date on-line multi-agency policy, procedure and guidance.	😊
8. BSCP to Co-Chair the West Midlands MASA Network to develop, share and disseminate regional good practice from April 2021;	BSCP Co-Chair the West Midlands MASA Network, sharing and developing regional good practice.	😊
9. BSCP to assist in the development of a regional on-line Safeguarding Self- Assessment tool to enhance, synchronise and simplify the regional Section 11 audit programme by 1st April 2022;	Regional Section 11 – Self Assessment Programme in place.	😊
10. BSCP to participate in a peer review of the 'Prevent Duty' and children and young people at risk of radicalisation - Publication of findings by September 2021.	Completion of Prevent Duty Peer review delayed due to Covid-19 pandemic.	😊

## Priority 2 - Continuously Improve Child Safeguarding Practice across the system and in all agencies



Planned Action (2021-23)	February 2022 – Update	
1. The BSCP Executive Board to publish on its website an Annual Report for 2020/21 providing evidence of impact on the priorities set out in the Business Improvement Plan by July 2021. The findings to be presented to the Birmingham Children’s Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and Children Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee by December 2021.	Chairs Accountability Report presented to Education and CSC Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2022. A two-year report on the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements during the pandemic is scheduled for publication in July 2022.	😊
2. The BSCP Executive Board to maximise the opportunity to learn and improve partnership practice through workforce development, Conference, Seminar and Training programme –Training Offer 2021/22 to be published by May 2021;	Learning and Development Training Offer endorsed in March 2021.1	😊
3. Quality, Impact & Outcomes Sub-Group to host a seminar focusing on the importance of agency engagement in the implementation of multi-agency plans from Early Help, Children in Need to Child Protection by December 2021;	Date for seminar to be announced.	😞
4. Quality, Impact & Outcomes Sub-Group to refine ‘near miss policy’ to provide assurance, highlight areas for improvement in practice and maximise the opportunity for multi-agency learning by November 2021;	‘Near Miss’ Policy and Audit updated.	😊
5. Learning & Development Sub-Group in conjunction with Birmingham Children’s Partnership to develop and deliver bespoke training for the ‘Lead Practitioners’ role in supporting ‘Our Family Plans’ by May 2022;	Lead Practitioner Training in development.	😊

## Priority 2 - Continuously Improve Child Safeguarding Practice across the system and in all agencies (continued)



Planned Action (2021-23)	February 2022 – Update	
6. BSCP to publish and oversee the dissemination of learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review of a 'County Lines' case focusing on ' <i>Reachable Moments</i> ' by July 2021;	'Reachable Moments' LCSPR focusing on 'County Lines' published September 2021.	😊
7. The Community Safety Partnership to share with Executive Board regular updates on Implementation of learning from the benchmarking exercise on progress of the key recommendations in relation to ' <i>It was hard to Escape</i> ' a National Review of Child Criminal Exploitation by November 2021:	BSCP oversee effective implementation of learning.	😊
8. The BSCP to host a virtual 'Contextual Safeguarding Conference and Practitioners workshops in June 2021.	Virtual conference hosted in June 2021.	😊
9. BSCP to undertake a self-assessment of Child Exploitation practice using the Joint Target Area Inspection approach by November 2021;	Self-Assessment deferred until 2022/23.	😐
10. BSCP to work in close collaboration with NSPCC and Ofsted in responding to the emerging issues raised through the ' <i>Everyone's Invited</i> ' movement, with specific focus on the understanding and application of 'peer on peer' safeguarding guidance in schools, by September 2021.	BSCP participated in national learning event in December 2021.	😊



## Priority 3 - Developing an effective multi-agency response to Child and Adolescent Neglect



Planned Action (2021-23)	February 2022 – Update	
1. BSCP to provide seed funding for initial NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 Training and the appointment of a Neglect Lead Manager to assist with implementation of the Childhood Neglect Strategy 2019/23;	Funding in place and extended for 2022/23.	😊
2. BSCP and Neglect Operations Group to commission and deliver Graded Care Profile 2 training and produce neglect eLearning models and practice guidance by April 2022;	GCP2 Training Programme in place.	😊
3. Neglect Operations Group to establish two Neglect Pilot Projects in the north and south of the city, by September 2021 to test and develop exemplars of good inter-agency practice and models of working using NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2.	Both Pilot Projects are progressing.	😊
4. Evaluation of Neglect Pilot Projects to be completed by 31st March 2022, to inform the rollout of a new Multi-Agency practice model through the Early Help and Support Localities in Spring 2022;	Evaluation to published early 2022/23.	😊
5. The BSCP to host an Annual Safeguarding Practitioners conference on 'Childhood Neglect' in June 2022, to share good practice and cascade learning from the pilot projects.	Conference scheduled for June 2022.	😊



## Priority 4 – Evaluating and addressing the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on safeguarding children



Planned Action (2021-23)	February 2022 – Update	
1. The BSCP Executive Board to oversee the effective implementation of the Business Improvement Plan and to publish its Annual Report evaluating progress and the impact of Covid-19 on safeguarding children by July 2021;	A two-year report on safeguarding during the pandemic is scheduled for publication in July 2022.	☹️
2. BSCP, Birmingham Council of Faiths and Public Health to work in close collaboration on a Department of Education funded project to enhance safeguarding within faith-based settings. To build upon, expand and adapt the ' <i>every conversation counts</i> ' model which has been adopted to promote the importance of social distancing and encourage vaccine take up from April 2021;	DfE funded Project is progressing lead by BSCP and Birmingham Council of Faiths.	😊
3. The Safeguarding Leaders Assembly on 22nd April 2021 to focus on Covid-19 ' <i>Response to Recovery</i> ' with Safeguarding Leaders workshop to identify exemplars of good practice developed during the pandemic;	Safeguarding Leaders Assembly in April 2021 focused on City's response to the pandemic.	😊
4. The Quality, Impact & Outcomes Sub-Group quality assurance and audit programme to incorporate comparative analysis of the impact of 'lockdown' on safeguarding practice by December 2021;	This aspect of the Quality Assurance programme has been deferred until 2022/23..	☹️
5. Launch public awareness campaign ' <i>Who's in Charge</i> ' highlighting the consequences of drinking alcohol whilst caring for children, to take account of easing of Covid-19 pandemic restriction in April 2021;	The ' <i>Who's in Charge</i> ' Campaign won the NHS National Patient Award 2021.	😊

## Priority 4 – Evaluating and addressing the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on safeguarding children (continued)

Planned Action (2021-23)	February 2022 – Update	
6. Learning and Development Sub-Group to incorporate within its annual evaluation of the multi-agency safeguarding training, the impact of virtual training, webinars and eLearning for inclusion with the BSCP Annual Report scheduled for publication in July 2021;	During the pandemic multi-agency safeguarding training has successfully been delivered virtually.	😊
7. Serious Cases Sub-Group to undertake a thematic review of learning from the National Panel Review ' <i>Out of Routine</i> ' as part of a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review examining support for vulnerable families with newborn babies. The learning to inform the Neglect Pilot Projects;	LCSPR remains ongoing, emerging learning informed Neglect Pilots.	😐
8. Serious Cases Sub-Group to ensure that Rapid Reviews continue to incorporate analysis of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on service delivery and partnership intervention to inform Local and National Learning.	Rapid Reviews specifically focuses on the impact of Covid-19 on partnership intervention.	😊

# Independent Scrutiny & Challenge



## Independent Chair's Accountability Report 20/21:

Focus and Key issues;

- Covid-19- Continuing to deliver
- Our Ambition & Purpose
- Progress on Priorities
  - ✓ Strong Leadership;
  - ✓ Continuously Improve of Practice;
  - ✓ Childhood Neglect;
  - ✓ The impact Covid-19 on safeguarding children;
- Conclusion

# 'Who's in Charge?' Campaign



Keeping children safe  
when adults are drinking  
alcohol

<https://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/whos-in-charge-video-campaign/resources/>





# Current High Profile Cases



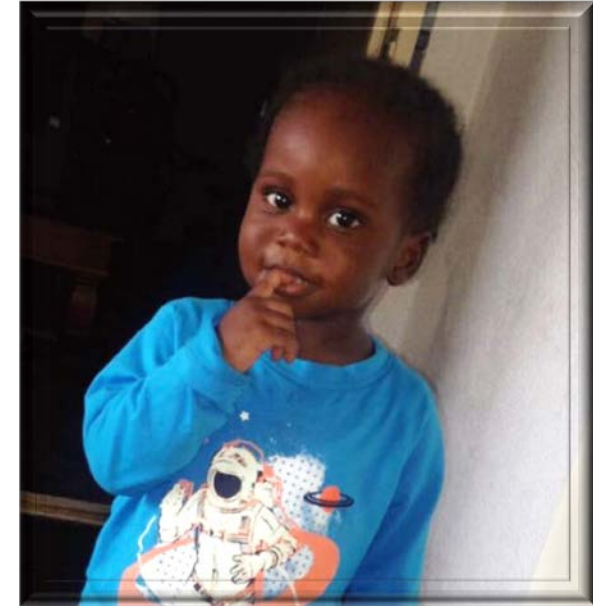
**Arthur Labinjo-Hughes**  
6 years old

17<sup>th</sup> June 2020



**Star Hobson**  
16 months old

22nd September 2020



**Kermani Watson Darby**  
3 years old

5th June 2018

# Embedding National Learning



## Six key practice themes to make a difference:

1. Understanding what the child's daily life is like
2. Working with families where their engagement is reluctant and sporadic
3. Critical thinking and challenge
4. Responding to changing risk and need
5. Sharing information in a timely and appropriate way
6. Organisational leadership and culture for good outcomes

# Serious Youth Violence



**Nasir Patrice**  
17 years old

15<sup>th</sup> January 2020



**Babacar Diagne**  
15 years old

5<sup>th</sup> February 2020



**Keon Lincoln**  
15 years old

21<sup>st</sup> January 2021



**De-John Reid**  
14 years old

31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

# Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews



- Legislative framework - The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill
- West Midlands Pilot – Scheduled for 2022
- Concerns over – Proposed Criteria 18+
- Missed opportunity to capture systemic learning
- Lobbying for change – Letter to Home Secretary



# Looking Ahead

- Birmingham 2022
- Birmingham Council of Faiths
- Serious Youth Violence - Strategy
- Robust response to 'Everyone's Invited'
- Childhood Neglect – embedding good practice
- Publication of 2-year report – Focusing on safeguarding children during the pandemic

# Question Time!







BIRMINGHAM  
**Safeguarding  
Children**  
PARTNERSHIP



# Independent Chair's Accountability Report 2020-21

## **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report formally discharges my responsibility to the Safeguarding Partners in Birmingham.
- 1.2 It is my fifth Accountability Report and once again is a personal reflection which I have prepared for the Statutory Safeguarding Partners (Birmingham & Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (BSol CCG); West Midlands Police; Birmingham City Council/Birmingham Childrens Trust) and Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership prior to sharing at the Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.
- 1.3 In this report I seek to provide assurance as to my activity and to reflect on my independent view of the progress that the Safeguarding Children Partnership has made in achieving its Ambition, Purpose and Priorities. This is not a data rich Annual Report; that comes later in the year. This is a personal reflection.

## **2. Introduction**

- 2.1 It is now two years since the introduction of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) in Birmingham.
- 2.2 The Independent Chair role description has remained relevant and is attached as Appendix 1. We have sustained the nomenclature of Chair, rather than adopt the title "Scrutineer" favoured by some. The reason is not simply that this word is not in the English dictionary! Rather, my role goes way beyond scrutiny and assurance; it encompasses convening, supporting and challenging. I was recruited because of my experience and was given the remit to range and influence across the breadth of partnership arrangements in the interests of children, and this I have sought to do. Our purpose was improvement - in partnership, services, impact and reputation.
- 2.3 I again attach a simple chart of the Partnership Sub-Groups and their connectedness (Appendix 2). This remains the essential architecture, though this year. I have met regularly with the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board, Cllr Paulette Hamilton, who is also a regular and supportive attender of our twice-yearly Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly.
- 2.4 This year has been remarkable for the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the whole year has been conducted virtually. I will address the impact of COVID-19 specifically and will then address progress against our Ambition, Purpose and Priorities.

## **3. COVID-19 - Continuing to deliver**

- 3.1 Let me begin by paying tribute to all Leaders and Staff for their response to this dramatic turn of events last March (2020). I am truly lost in admiration for the speed with which everyone reacted to the instruction to "Lockdown" whilst retaining a complete focus on the needs and interests of children, young people and their families.



- 3.2 For many staff this meant an overnight move to working from home. For others this meant a hybrid existence, using a base for working and still conducting face to face assessments and work with PPE, following strict guidance and making safety risk assessments on top of everything else.
- 3.3 Despite what the press conveyed, schools remained open and working. Police, Health, the Local Authority and Children's Trust remained very much in business.
- 3.4 For many Health staff there was a reprioritisation of work and changes of roles. For the Police, the work demands changed dramatically in the short term, increasing Domestic Abuse referrals and reduction in acquisition crime in the short term. Many children became less visible to services and tremendous efforts were made to reach out and provide practical and emotional support.
- 3.5 One practical and impactful development led by Jenny Turnross, Director of Practice for Birmingham Children's Trust, was the instigation of the "Partnership Operations Group" (POG). This group did what it said on the tin and in the early weeks and months of lockdown it met weekly (virtually) to oversee a new way of working together, ensuring that core concerns were addressed and necessary service developments were accelerated. The POG is still meeting, having last week stepped down from fortnightly to monthly. In common with other places and other sectors, collaboration and partnership working made strides during this past year. One example of a tangible output from the POG was the protocol for face to face meetings and visits for children and families agreed by partners.
- 3.6 Early help and support locality offer were speeded up, led by the newish Children's Partnership and its Transformation Director and team, with the Children's Trust, CCG and a valued and vibrant voluntary and community sector, re-invigorated and embraced.
- 3.7 The City Board got into its stride as a mechanism for ensuring good communication across the business, public services, community and faith sectors. I attended 11 virtual meetings across the year, each one receiving a COVID-19 situation report from Public Health and key leaders.
- 3.8 The Safeguarding Business Support Team moved to home working and we adopted the mantra that we should be a support and not an unnecessary burden. The first meeting of the year was transacted through the exchange of papers with the option of a face to face discussion only if necessary. It soon became obvious that the requirements of the pandemic were going to be sustained for sometime and we held our first virtual Executive Board meeting in July. Since March 2020 all meetings have been virtual.
- 3.9 The team led by Simon Cross, instituted a daily "keeping in touch" meeting and the feedback has been positive about the support and structure that this provides. I must once again pay tribute to the team for their support to me. Despite us not having seen each other face to face all year, we have sustained all our commitments and made progress.
- 3.10 In particular I will highlight a selection of achievements:
- The sustained meeting of the Rapid Review target of 15 days;
  - The adoption by the whole region of our Rapid Review process and the progress in developing a commissioning framework for Independent Reviewers;

- Provision of evidence to Independent Inquiry on Child Abuse in Religious Settings in May 2020;
- Publication of our Safeguarding Review "Four Children....two were the parents" in November 2020;
- Our successful virtual Practitioner Conference on Contextual Safeguarding held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 with 839 delegates;
- Launch of the "Who's in Charge?" campaign on the lead up to Christmas, which focused on the impact of alcohol and substances on parental capacity to care for very young infants.
- The preparation for the National Learning event on Youth Violence on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021, for which Simon Cross pulled together a full and effective Birmingham submission.

- 3.11 This year of COVID-19 saw me conducting myself entirely virtually for the whole year. Despite (perhaps because of this), I have attended more events and meetings than ever! As well as attending all the City Board and Children's Partnership Board meetings, I have chaired the quarterly Executive Board, Practitioner Forums and the Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly in October, which was addressed by Sir Alan Wood who led the National Safeguarding Review.
- 3.12 I have sustained my regular 121s with the Leads for Health, Council, Children's Trust and the Police. Through the year I have met regularly with the LA, Children's Trust and CCG Chief Executives; Council Lead Member; Scrutiny Chair and Chairs of the Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board and conducted induction meetings with new Board members and new Senior officers across the partnership. In October, I appeared before the Scrutiny Committee to present our Annual Report. I also met with the Director of the Violence Reduction Unit, Claire Gollop, and have encouraged links with the City and regional colleagues. I have attended the revitalised quarterly Regional Forum meetings of Safeguarding Chairs and Business Managers the West Midlands MASA Network where sharing learning, best practice and forging common approaches have been our aim. Simon Cross co-chairs that forum and provides very effective drive and offers good support to its efforts.
- 3.13 I have conducted assurance visits to the Serious Cases Sub-Group; Quality Impact and Outcomes Sub-Group and Learning and Development Sub-Group, and the Partnership Operations Group. In June 2020, I was invited to meet the Children's Trust Board to review progress. Andrew Christie, Chair of BCT has also met with me and attended the BSCP Executive Board.
- 3.14 On 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021, I attended the Police & Crime Commissioner's launch of a research report he commissioned, "Punishing Abuse" which drew on the lived experience of young people in the Youth Justice system telling their often traumatic stories of earlier neglect and abuse. Whilst not news, this was powerful, up to date evidence to support the developing agenda for early help and early intervention, being developed by the Children's partnership. The Birmingham "Local Offer" website launch on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, was a moving example of this policy shift gaining practical application. Here was a co-produced development undertaken with parents and carers, responding to their needs for information and access to services and support.

- 3.15 Let me end this section where I started, with recognition for the commitment and energy of the Safeguarding Partners who have continued to do the business - implementing our improvement plan, responding to the demands of events, contributing to our meetings and demonstrating their determination to improve the lot of children and families in Birmingham.

#### **4. Our Ambition**

4.1 It hasn't changed from April 2019:

4.2 "Birmingham is a family friendly city where children will flourish, feel safe, listened to, learn and grow up, able to actively contribute to society".

4.3 Last year marked an improvement signalled by OFSTED and endorsed by those of us close to the service improvement agenda in Birmingham. We recognised there was still a way to go, and there still is. However, as I say above, COVID-19 has been a catalyst for collaborative and co-productive progress. Is there any evidence?

4.4 Well yes, let me give a few examples.

- Birmingham's Children's Partnership (Board, Exec and POG) has driven progress in the development of the "Local Offer" website, especially designed for those children with special needs including educational needs.
- Birmingham's Children's Partnership has also developed the Early Help offer delivered through 10 designated localities, partnering with community and voluntary organisations.
- The Children's Partnership's Vision and plan has been shaped with the direct input of "Young Researchers" who have garnered the views of Children and Young people to inform it - safety, opportunity, diversity, leisure and open space all scored highly.
- The Empower-U Hub hosted by the Children's Trust and involving a wide range of partners is developing its practice in the face of a local and national priority - tackling exploitation and violence; recognising children as victims.
- The NHS are listening to the voices of the young and are acting on research, an example being the commissioning of "RedThread" and "St Giles" in Emergency units to enable those "reachable" moments to be found with the victims and perpetrators of violence.
- The numbers of children excluded from primary schools is reducing, though still too high. There is a consensus that this requires a "team around the school" as well as a "team around the child". An issue highlighted by Quality Impact and Outcomes and the Executive Board last year, is getting the partnership attention it requires.
- This year saw the launch of the powerful and timely "Who's in Charge" campaign initiated by the Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust and supported by the BSCP. The release of this set of videos and advice materials during lockdown, reminding

parents of the dangers of alcohol and substance misuse whilst caring for children, gained a good reach and was picked up in other places. Sadly, we have still had some injured infants.

- BSCP have initiated a development programme with the Birmingham Council of Faiths with the aim of raising awareness, developing Safeguarding Leads and a programme of training. An effective bid to the DfE will help to resource this.
- A partnership Neglect Lead Manager is in the process of being recruited. This person will be a key driver behind bringing the Neglect Strategy launched at the 2019 Practitioner Conference, to practical fruition.
- West Midlands Police with partners has thrown its weight behind “making every conversation count”, ensuring training and reinforcement of this important message.

4.5 All this said, there are still real issues for children and young people in Birmingham and the BSCP priorities reflect these: tackling neglect, exploitation and violence to name but three.

## **5. Our Purpose**

5.1 At the outset of the new arrangements, we agreed that our purpose was to:

5.2 Convene the four lead safeguarding partners and their staff to work in close and effective collaboration with “relevant agencies” to “safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Birmingham”.

5.3 Specifically, our partnership purpose was to provide “system leadership, challenge, and to hold organisations to account”.

5.4 We committed to creating a “learning culture, sharing good practice and driving improvement in partnership working to deliver better outcomes”.

5.5 This year has been all about doing this, and doing it against a back cloth of COVID-19 and lockdown. This year has not been about structural change for the partnership, rather it has been about delivery, delivering together.

5.6 The Sub-Groups have delivered on their work programmes.

5.7 David Passley, the new L&D Programme Manager, has led the effective move to online courses and the online learning offer has gained good traction, evidenced by quality assurance observations, user feedback and good attendance. The online Conference was a success, increasing our reach and impact.

5.8 The Serious Cases Sub-Group has continued to divide its time between conducting reviews and ensuring identification of improvements in practice.

5.9 Three learning bulletins have been produced reflecting key themes identified in reviews. In turn, these themes are picked up in training and provide lines of enquiry for audit and review.



- 5.10 The Quality Impact and Outcomes Sub-Group have sustained their audit and deep dives programme and are seeing progress against a number of highlighted issues: discharge planning; school exclusions; and homeless provision for children at risk.
- 5.11 The Practitioner Forums have increased attendance whilst online, the most recent seeing 53 participants valuing the presentation on Domestic Abuse from the Lead Manager in the Children's Trust.
- 5.12 By participating in both the City Board and the Children's Partnership Board I seek to bring independence, challenge, support and the voice of safeguarding to these agendas. For these bodies, the determinants of safety and well-being are and should be the focus - secure homes and places for inclusive communities; effective education; opportunities for work and fulfilment; physical and emotional health; equality and diversity valued and respected.

## **6. Our Priorities**

- 6.1 Let's consider now the progress we have made against our specific BSCP priorities:

### **6.2 Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership Demonstrating Effective Accountability**

- 6.2.1 I had hoped to be able to celebrate new stability in the managerial leadership of the Council. Unfortunately, after just under a year in the Interim role, Chris Naylor returned to his substantive post as CEO of Barking & Dagenham Council. Whilst in Birmingham his impact was positive, and his legacy is a commitment to structuring the Council around the Early Intervention that should lead to better more responsive services for citizens and savings on higher cost provision that should not be needed. That Graham Betts has been able to step into the role temporarily for a second time is reassuring. That there will be yet another recruitment and subsequent change at the top is regrettable. I have worked with six CEOs in my five years in Birmingham. That as much has been achieved as can be seen is testimony to many people, but there is a need for senior officer stability and continuity.
- 6.2.2 There is also now a change at the top of Education and Skills Department in the Council. Fortunately, Andy Couldrick has stepped in to cover in the interim, providing much needed sustainability for the significant agenda of change, improvement and a collective response to COVID-19. The Education function in particular requires support and recognition, enabling them to become fully engaged in partnership priorities especially the reduction of exclusions. The "Team around the School" initiative appears to be a really positive development.
- 6.2.3 Beyond the Council, there has been commendable stability. And it shows. The role of the Children's Trust has been pivotal in sustaining momentum behind the improvement and collaboration agendas that this report reflects.
- 6.2.4 The leadership team from the CCG has forged respectful and effective working relationships across the breadth of the partnership. The new Head of Public Protection from West Midlands Police has built his team and begun to establish purposeful relationships.
- 6.2.5 The open exchanges between senior partners can be properly challenging and are also supportive and noticeably un-defensive. Displaying curiosity and learning from elsewhere, as

well as evaluating local practice has become the norm. All this is encouraging and reflects a commitment to accountability.

6.2.6 Leadership and partnership do not reside just at the top, and this year has seen positive behaviours at all levels of the safeguarding system. I have already highlighted a number of examples - the POG, the Children's partnership programme, and the work of the Sub-Groups of the BSCP. There is evidence that the partnership is empowering colleagues to work together with purpose, to review and learn, to listen to the voices of young people, and to have a positive impact.

6.2.7 This report is testimony to my accountability on a personal basis. Additionally, I have outlined above my attendance at Council Scrutiny, the Children's Trust Board and in one to ones with Executive Leads and Chief Executives.

### **6.3 Continuous Improvement of Child Protection Practice across the System and all Agencies**

6.3.1 Despite COVID-19, the agenda for improving practice has remained. The commendable move of Learning and Development courses online, with an extension of the reach, is an example. So too was the virtual Practitioner conference in November 2020. We had hoped that moving it from the Summer might allow a real time offering, but that was not to be. But again, the reach was increased and the feedback positive.

6.3.2 It is clear that whenever we resurge or re-emerge after the pandemic, there will not be a complete return to the way we were. Instead we are likely to blend approaches, and it's clear that virtual online learning resources will remain on the menu.

6.3.3 This full year of the new arrangements for Rapid Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews, has demonstrated the benefits of the new national approach. We are benefitting from regular feedback from the "National Panel" on their distillation of messages for practice from themed reviews and trend analysis. We have speedier identification of learning from Rapid Reviews, allowing faster action. And we have recently received endorsement for our recommendation not to carry out a Safeguarding Practice Review, because of the full programme of work emanating from a similar review and a national piece of work. This is sensible pragmatism allowing for a focus on improvement.

6.3.4 Our year has highlighted a number of areas for practice awareness and system improvement and it is encouraging to see specific action underway on Neglect; Exclusions; Exploitation; and Serious Youth Violence where the lead accountability rests with the Community Safety Partnership, but we have a key assurance role to play.

6.3.5 As I indicated earlier, our Practitioner Forums have continued virtually, quarterly, and have achieved increased attendance.

6.3.6 We continue to produce Learning Bulletins from serious cases, relevant rapid reviews and interesting audits. We sustain our website as the home for these materials and we hope that all practitioners and their managers avail themselves of the useful resources available. Anecdotally, colleague Chairs regularly tell me that they use our website as a good source of information.

- 6.3.7 Our virtuous learning circle across the Sub-Groups requires that reviews identify learning; the training offer reflects these up to date themes; and the audit programme tests the effectiveness of their practice.
- 6.3.8 The one published Serious Case Review this year November 2020. We refer to it as “Four Children....two were the parents” because the parents were teenagers and unprepared for care of two children under one, one with significant health concerns and needs. This was a case from 2015, which had taken 5 years to conclude in a criminal conviction of the mother. By then both the young children had been adopted and were settled. The key learning from this sad case focussed on discharge planning and neglect. Given the passage of time, the key findings from the review had been acted upon and key improvements made.
- 6.3.9 Finally, in the light of the developed consensus over the need to embrace early intervention and early help, the BSCP Executive in its March 24th meeting, concluded that the wording of this priority should be adjusted to read: “Continuing Improvement of Safeguarding practice across the system and all agencies”. This word change is to signal the importance of collaborative working with all children requiring a plan of work whether it be “early help”, “child in need “or indeed “child protection”. Our shared approach is to help families as early as possible and to work together with them to prevent need or significant harm. Collaboration is key and should not start when a “child protection” concern is raised.

#### **6.4 Developing an effective multi-agency response to Child and Adolescent Neglect;**

- 6.4.1 This priority has probably suffered as a result of COVID-19.
- 6.4.2 The requirements for all agencies to change their ways of working overnight from March 2020, and the impact on individuals, organisations and the communities they served, cannot be underestimated.
- 6.4.3 In practice, the focus had to be on prioritising practice, the delivery of basics, and essential safeguarding.
- 6.4.4 In recognition for the relative lack of capacity to address turning the Neglect strategy of 2019 into a deliverable programme of work, the partners concluded that investing in Programme Management would be vital. The BSCP have provided funding for the first year of this key post.
- 6.4.5 The post is being recruited to now. I expect to report on progress next year.

#### **6.5 Evaluating and Addressing the consequences of COVID-19 on Safeguarding Children**

- 6.5.1 When we set this priority, we did not expect to end the financial year 2020/21 in lockdown. So in some ways it's too early to conclude the assessment of this priority. That said, there are already some very obvious impacts from COVID-19 on Safeguarding.
- 6.5.2 Firstly, the upsurge of Domestic Abuse referrals has been dramatic. The police have seen a 50% increase. In December 2020 alone the Police had 6000 call outs. 25% of referrals to Birmingham Children's Trust had Domestic Abuse as the primary reason, and 3400 assessments were completed by Social Work Teams between May 2020 and March 2021. The

impact on children is significant and the presentation to the March 2021 Practitioner Forum was very sobering and timely. There is increasing recognition of the potential for children to suffer both directly and indirectly and for this trauma to have a lasting impact, especially if not addressed.

- 6.5.3 Secondly, children, whilst the least affected by COVID-19 in a medical sense, have been the most affected educationally and socially by the pandemic. The welcome return to school for all children in March 2021 is as important to address social isolation as educational attainment. The return also provides for visibility of most children, a safeguarding factor in its own right. However, there is an significantly increasing number of Birmingham children for whom “home education” is being selected.
- 6.5.4 Thirdly, the last year has seen a surge in case of youth on youth violence and gang related exploitation. A recent case of two teenagers (one murdered, one seriously injured) has led to a review which will be published under the title “Reachable Moments”, before long. The recent murder of Keon Lincoln led to a Rapid Review whose actions are being dovetailed with those of the serious case review (above) and a national review. A significant body of partnership work is underway to recognise, divert from, and where necessary, respond to, developing threats. The role of the Empower-U Hub and the contribution of the West Midland Violence Reduction Unit will be vital. I welcome the opportunity to co-host with the Community Safety Partnership chair, a summit on Child Criminal Exploitation and Serious Youth Violence to develop a citywide strategy.
- 6.5.5 Fourthly, the changes in practice occasioned by lockdown, have brought some benefits as well as challenges. I’ve charted the catalysing effect that the pandemic had on the partnership and collaborative working. The Partnership Operations Group is a good example.
- 6.5.6 I have noted myself the improved attendance at some regional meetings, in particular. The West Midlands MASA Network meeting has opted to sustain virtual meetings for three out of its four in the year, introducing a fourth face to face development session annually.
- 6.5.7 The Children’s Trust has undertaken a though piece of research with parents and professionals as to the effectiveness of “hybrid” Child protection conferences. The results were very positive and must suggest that there is some maintenance of this option. Attendance from some professionals has improved significantly; unsurprisingly GPs are one example.
- 6.5.8 It seems highly unlikely that there will be a wholesale return to office-based working. More likely, is a blended approach or a “work from anywhere” policy being introduced for many parts of public services. The flexibility, the rejection of “presentism”, and the freeing up of space will be some of the benefits. If that improves recruitment, retention and work-life balance, then it should also have a beneficial impact on safeguarding and the capacity and capability of the system to sustain its pursuit of improvement.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 The past year has been unlike any other. My overriding assessment is that the Safeguarding Partnership rose to the challenge and made real tangible progress.
- 7.2 I would like to end by thanking everyone who has contributed to that collective effort.
- 7.3 The leaders I know and can thank personally when we meet.
- 7.4 Some practitioners I meet in Forums, meetings, or in the old days, on visits. To them and the countless numbers that I do not know, I want to say a big admiring "thank you". Your efforts are not unnoticed even if they are unseen.
- 7.5 It is the collective effort of so many in all the organisations, disciplines and communities that ensures that the City's safeguarding duty is fulfilled.

Thank you.

**Penny Thompson CBE**  
**Independent Chair**

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1:** Role of BSCP Independent Chair – Leadership of Assurance, Learning, Partnering
- Appendix 2:** BSCP Structure Chart

## **Appendix 1:**

Role of BSCP Independent Chair – Leadership of Assurance, Learning, Partnering

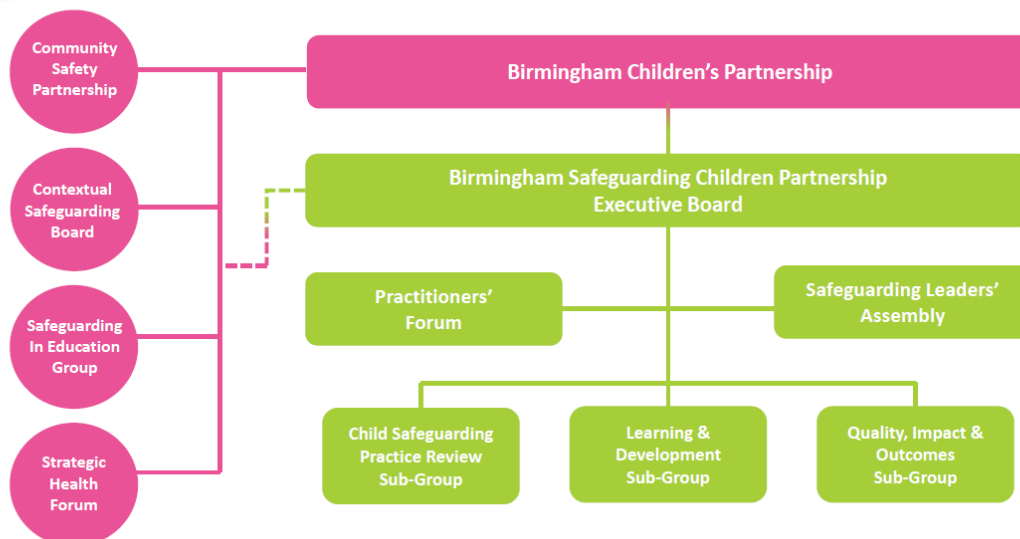
Key Functions:

- a) Independent convener of all those charged with the wellbeing, including safeguarding, of children and young people in Birmingham;
- b) A champion for children and best practice;
- c) Independent Chair of the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Board and Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly.
- d) Supporting and challenging the Birmingham leadership in their quest to achieve a sustainably
- e) safe city for children and young people, in the context of family, community and wellbeing;
- f) Modelling openness, challenge, support, mutual respect, professionalism and learning for application by leaders in Birmingham;
- g) Ensuring political and managerial leaders are demonstrably accountable for the resourcing and strategic priority given to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people;
- h) Ensuring the Safeguarding Partners' leadership role is understood, valued, respected and fulfilled;
- i) Demonstrating a robust approach to evaluation, practice audit & research whose dissemination will support valuable learning for multi-agency leaders, managers and practitioners in their critical roles;
- j) Through robust independent support and challenge, contribute to developing confidence of citizens and the state in the city of Birmingham.

**Appendix 2:**



## Structure Chart





BIRMINGHAM

**Safeguarding  
Children**

PARTNERSHIP

Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership  
PO Box 17340  
Birmingham  
B2 2DR

Date of Publication: April 2021



# **Business Improvement Plan 2021-23**



## Foreword

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We are pleased to share with you the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Business Improvement Plan for 2021-23, setting out the safeguarding priorities to protect and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in Birmingham.

As the Safeguarding Partners, we will share equal responsibility for ensuring effective oversight and implementation of the Business Improvement Plan, which will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. We have reflected on the challenges and achievements of the first two years of the new arrangements, whilst in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and the significant impact this has had on children's physical and mental wellbeing. We have consulted a wide range of partners who have assisted in identifying the key themes that have helped define our safeguarding priorities for the next two years to further strengthen collaborative working to safeguard and protect children and young people across the city.

The four key priorities are:

- Priority 1:** Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership demonstrating effective Accountability;
- Priority 2:** Continuously Improve Child Safeguarding Practice across the system and in all agencies;
- Priority 3:** Developing an effective multi-agency response to Child and Adolescent Neglect;
- Priority 4:** Evaluating and addressing the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on safeguarding children.


All our work will be underpinned by a consideration of the views and experiences of Birmingham's children and young people. We acknowledge that successful implementation of the Business Improvement Plan will be judged on the difference it makes to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Birmingham. We intend that progress will be reported to the Birmingham Children's Partnership, as well as the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis.



Graeme Betts CBE  
Acting Chief Executive  
Birmingham City Council



Paul Jennings  
Accountable Officer  
Birmingham and Solihull  
Clinical Commissioning Group



David Thompson  
Chief Constable  
West Midlands Police

## Introduction

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The Business Improvement Plan 2021-23 sets out the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) strategic vision, ambition, purpose, principles and safeguarding priorities for the next two years. The document should be read in conjunction with the partnership governance arrangements which were revised and updated in January 2021.

### **Our Ambition**

Birmingham is a family friendly city where children will flourish, feel safe, listened to, learn and grow up, able to actively contribute to society.

### **Our Purpose**

BSCP convenes the statutory 'Safeguarding Partners', the Police, Clinical Commissioning Group and Local Authority to work in close collaboration with 'Relevant Agencies' to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in Birmingham. The partnership provides system leadership, challenge and holds organisations to account. The partnership focuses on creating a learning culture, sharing good practice and driving improvement in collaborative working to deliver better outcomes for children and young people. To achieve this it:

- Sets standards and procedures for multi-agency practice.
- Promotes working together in practice supported by behaviours of respect and trust.
- Assures sound quality of practice with a positive impact on outcomes for children and young people.
- Ensures a programme of learning and development which supports leadership and practice learning from the best and from Local Child Practice Safeguarding Reviews.
- Models a culture of evaluation, learning and development.
- Communicates effectively with the wider safeguarding system of organisations and individuals, including voluntary organisations and those who experience services.
- Drives progress through Sub-Groups and work streams which regularly account to the partnership Executive Board.

The Business Improvement Plan sets out the strategic intent of the BSCP in making this vision a reality. It underlines the statutory objectives of the BSCP to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

## Our Principles

The work of the BSCP will be based on four key principles:

- **Effective Partnership Working:** Committed to effective collaborative partnership working which delivers the best possible protection of children in this young, diverse, creative city.
- **Focus on the Family:** Supporting families to enable their children to flourish and learn in preparation for a long, productive, happy, life.
- **Committed to Early Help:** Recognising that those with economic, health and other disadvantages will need additional support to achieve the same outcomes as their peers.
- **Promotion of a Learning Culture:** Operating as a learning system; open and ambitious to improve.

## Our Priorities

The partnership will focus on four specific safeguarding priorities. This plan is intentionally brief concentrating on the key workstreams and planned partnership activities that the Executive Board will oversee during the next two years period. These priorities support the statutory functions of the BSCP and the partnership response to protecting vulnerable children and young people, preventing harm and promoting their welfare.

These build upon the achievements since the introduction of the new safeguarding arrangements in April 2019 and complements the Birmingham Children's Partnership work in developing the City's Early Help and Support Offer and Birmingham Community Safety Partnership's strategic coordination of partnership intervention to tackle Serious Youth Violence. The four key priorities are:

- Priority 1:** Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership demonstrating effective Accountability;
- Priority 2:** Continuously Improve Child Safeguarding Practice across the system and in all agencies;
- Priority 3:** Developing an effective multi-agency response to Child and Adolescent Neglect;
- Priority 4:** Evaluating and addressing the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on safeguarding children.

The golden thread that links these priorities is ensuring that the voice and lived experience of children and young people informs and influences the continuous improvement in partnership working across the city.

Annually, the BSCP will reflect on progress and take account of emerging themes to refocus partnership activity on delivering on the priorities set out in the Business Improvement Implementation Plan.

Outcome	Actions 2021-23
<b>Priority 1: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership demonstrating effective Accountability. .</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the BSCP supports and challenges partners to work effectively together in the interests of children, demonstrating authoritative leadership and accountability.</li> <li>2. The BSCP develops a learning culture whilst embedding good practice that is continually influenced by children, young people and their families.</li> <li>3. The BSCP continues to lead, participate and influence safeguarding initiatives at a National, Regional and Local level to develop, share and disseminate good practice.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The BSCP Independent Chair to present an Annual Accountability Report to the Safeguarding Leaders Assembly 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021;</li> <li>2. BSCP Independent Chair to attend the City Board and Children's Partnership to provide support and challenge on behalf of children and young people;</li> <li>3. Safeguarding Leaders Assembly to be convened twice yearly for accountability, learning and system development;</li> <li>4. The Chairs of the BSCP and Community Safety Partnership to oversee the development of the Serious Youth Violence Strategy – Spring 2021;</li> <li>5. The BSCP Executive Board to oversee a comprehensive quality assurance and audit programme aimed at evaluating safeguarding practice – Executive Board to endorse Quality Assurance Programme 2021-23 by May 2021;</li> <li>6. The BSCP to redesign its website and improve its communications and social media capacity by November 2021 to improve engagement with children, families and practitioners;</li> <li>7. BSCP to contribute to the continued development of the Regional Safeguarding Procedures Group consortium to deliver on-line safeguarding policies, procedures and guidance by March 2022;</li> <li>8. BSCP to Co-Chair the West Midlands MASA Network to develop, share and disseminate regional good practice from April 2021;</li> <li>9. BSCP to assist in the development of a regional on-line Safeguarding Self- Assessment tool to enhance, synchronise and simplify the regional Section 11 audit programme by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022;</li> <li>10. BSCP to participate in a peer review of the 'Prevent Duty' and children and young people at risk of radicalisation - Publication of findings by September 2021.</li> </ol>
<b>Priority 2: Continuously Improve Child Safeguarding Practice across the system and in all agencies.</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BSCP to use emerging learning from its Quality Assurance and Audit programme, statutory inspections, Joint Targeted Area Inspections and emerging good practice from National and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews to inform the development of multi- agency</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The BSCP Executive Board to publish on its website an Annual Report for 2020/21 providing evidence of impact on the priorities set out in the Business Improvement Plan by July 2021. The findings to be presented to the Birmingham Children's Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and Children Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee by December 2021.</li> <li>2. The BSCP Executive Board to maximise the opportunity to learn and improve partnership practice through</li> </ol>



Outcome	Actions 2021-23
<p>practice for Birmingham.</p> <p>2. To develop a practical analysis of those arrangements developed through the pandemic that should be sustained.</p>	<p>workforce development, Conference, Seminar and Training programme –Training Offer 2021/22 to be published by May 2021;</p> <p>3. Quality, Impact &amp; Outcomes Sub-Group to host a seminar focusing on the importance of agency engagement in the implementation of multi-agency plans from Early Help, Children in Need to Child Protection by December 2021;</p> <p>4. Quality, Impact &amp; Outcomes Sub-Group to refine ‘near miss policy’ to provide assurance, highlight areas for improvement in practice and maximise the opportunity for multi-agency learning by November 2021;</p> <p>5. Learning &amp; Development Sub-Group in conjunction with Birmingham Children’s Partnership to develop and deliver bespoke training for the ‘Lead Practitioners’ role in supporting ‘<i>Our Family Plans</i>’ by May2022;</p> <p>6. BSCP to publish and oversee the dissemination of learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review of a ‘County Lines’ case focusing on ‘<i>Reachable Moments</i>’ by July 2021;</p> <p>7. The Community Safety Partnership to share with Executive Board regular updates on Implementation of learning from the benchmarking exercise on progress of the key recommendations in relation to ‘<i>It was hard to Escape</i>’ a National Review of Child Criminal Exploitation by November 2021;</p> <p>8. The BSCP to host a virtual ‘Contextual Safeguarding Conference and Practitioners workshops in June 2021.</p> <p>9. BSCP to undertake a self-assessment of Child Exploitation practice using the Joint Target Area Inspection approach by November 2021;</p> <p>10. BSCP to work in close collaboration with NSPCC and Ofsted in responding to the emerging issues raised through the ‘<i>Everyone’s Invited</i>’ movement, with specific focus on the understanding and application of ‘peer on peer’ safeguarding guidance in schools, by September 2021.</p>
<b>Priority 3: Developing an effective multi-agency response to Child and Adolescent Neglect</b>	
<p>1. BSCP Executive Board to establish a Neglect Operations Group Co-Chaired by Birmingham Community Health Care NHS Trust and Birmingham Children’s Trust to oversee effective implementation of the Childhood Neglect Strategy 2019/23;</p>	<p>1. BSCP to provide seed funding for initial NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 Training and the appointment of a Neglect Lead Manager to assist with implementation of the Childhood Neglect Strategy 2019/23;</p> <p>2. BSCP and Neglect Operations Group to commission and deliver Graded Care Profile 2 training and produce neglect eLearning models and practice guidance by April 2022;</p>

Outcome	Actions 2021-23
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Neglect Operations Group to establish two Neglect Pilot Projects in the north and south of the city, by September 2021 to test and develop exemplars of good inter-agency practice and models of working using NSPCCC Graded Care Profile 2.</li> <li>4. Evaluation of Neglect Pilot Projects to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, to inform the rollout of a new Multi-Agency practice model through the Early Help and Support Localities in Spring 2022;</li> <li>5. The BSCP to host an Annual Safeguarding Practitioners conference on 'Childhood Neglect' in June 2022, to share good practice and cascade learning from the pilot projects.</li> </ol>
<b>Priority 4: Evaluating and addressing the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on safeguarding children.</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide assurance that the Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements have continued to work effectively during the Covid-19 Pandemic to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in Birmingham.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The BSCP Executive Board to oversee the effective implementation of the Business Improvement Plan and to publish its Annual Report evaluating progress and the impact of Covid-19 on safeguarding children by July 2021;</li> <li>2. BSCP, Birmingham Council of Faiths and Public Health to work in close collaboration on a Department of Education funded project to enhance safeguarding within faith-based settings. To build upon, expand and adapt the '<i>every conversation counts</i>' model which has been adopted to promote the importance of social distancing and encourage vaccine take up from April 2021;</li> <li>3. The Safeguarding Leaders Assembly on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 to focus on Covid-19 '<i>Response to Recovery</i>' with Safeguarding Leaders workshop to identify exemplars of good practice developed during the pandemic;</li> <li>4. The Quality, Impact &amp; Outcomes Sub-Group quality assurance and audit programme to incorporate comparative analysis of the impact of 'lockdown' on safeguarding practice by December 2021;</li> <li>5. Launch public awareness campaign '<i>Who's in Charge</i>' highlighting the consequences of drinking alcohol whilst caring for children, to take account of easing of Covid-19 pandemic restriction in April 2021;</li> <li>6. Learning and Development Sub-Group to incorporate within its annual evaluation of the multi-agency safeguarding training, the impact of virtual training, webinars and eLearning for inclusion with the BSCP Annual Report scheduled for publication in July 2021;</li> <li>7. Serious Cases Sub-Group to undertake a thematic review of learning from the National Panel Review '<i>Out of Routine</i>' as part of a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review examining support for vulnerable families with newborn babies. The learning to</li> </ol>

Outcome	Actions 2021-23
	<p>inform the Neglect Pilot Projects;</p> <p>8. Serious Cases Sub-Group to ensure that Rapid Reviews continue to incorporate analysis of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on service delivery and partnership intervention to inform Local and National Learning.</p>





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Date of Publication: April 2021



# Exclusions Update

## Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 16 February 2022

*Lisa Fraser*

*Assistant Director, Education and Early Years*

*Alan Michell*

*Head of School Admissions, Attendance, Exclusions and Pupil Tracking*



# Aims

- In this update we aim to:
  - provide an update on permanent exclusions and suspensions, including pupils with SEND, for the period 2019-2021
  - provide an overview of managed moves and the work of sharing panels
  - highlight the work of the Tackling Exclusions group in developing multi-agency approaches to reducing exclusions
  - set out the next steps and ongoing work in this area, particularly for pupils with SEND

# Exclusions

- National and local authority comparator data is available up to the year 2019-20.
- The permanent exclusion rate is measured as the number of permanent exclusions recorded as a percentage of the school population.
- The suspension rate is measured as the number of suspensions recorded as a percentage of the school population.
- Primary permanent exclusions is the significant issue for Birmingham.

# Local Authority Data Matrix – 2019/20

## Exclusions and Suspensions

	2015/16 %	Rank	2016/17 %	Rank	2017/18 %	Rank	2018/19 %	Rank	2019/20 %	Rank	Latest Quartile Band	Latest England Ave
Permanent - Primary (State-funded)	0.08	147	0.08	149	0.09	150	0.08	149	0.04	137	D	0.02
Permanent - Secondary (State-funded)	0.22	106	0.20	70	0.15	47	0.18	70	0.14	85	C	0.13
Total Permanent Exclusions (rounded)	0.13	124	0.13	107	0.11	87	0.12	93	0.08	100	C	0.06
Suspensions - Primary (State-funded)	1.60	123	1.95	132	1.82	122	1.58	108	1.10	103	C	1.00
Suspensions - Secondary (State-funded)	7.20	62	7.51	53	7.44	45	7.61	46	5.48	41	B	7.43
Total Suspensions (rounded)	3.91	74	4.29	75	4.24	57	4.22	54	3.05	49	B	3.76

# Permanent Exclusions

- For 2019-20, when children were out of school from the COVID-19 lockdown from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to the end of the school year, permanent exclusion rates fell across the country.
- Permanent exclusion rates in Birmingham remain above the overall national rate and across the education phases, but most notably in primary schools.
- Birmingham is ranked 100 out of 152 local authorities overall, with the rank for secondary school pupils at 85 and for primary school pupils at 137.

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Secondary schools	
	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England
2019/20	0.08%	0.06%	0.04%	0.02%	0.14%	0.12%
2018-19	0.12%	0.10%	0.08%	0.02%	0.18%	0.20%
2017-18	0.11%	0.10%	0.09%	0.03%	0.15%	0.20%
2016-17	0.13%	0.10%	0.08%	0.03%	0.20%	0.20%

# Permanent Exclusions by comparator councils

- Permanent exclusion rates in primary schools in Birmingham are higher than for core cities and statistical neighbour councils.
- However, for pupils in secondary schools, Birmingham's permanent exclusion rate is lower than for statistical neighbours and on a par with core cities.

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Secondary schools	
	Birmingham	Core Cities	Birmingham	Core Cities	Birmingham	Core Cities
2019/20	0.08%	0.07%	0.04%	0.02%	0.14%	0.14%
2018-19	0.12%	0.09%	0.08%	0.04%	0.18%	0.18%
2017-18	0.11%	0.10%	0.09%	0.04%	0.15%	0.18%
2016-17	0.13%	0.12%	0.08%	0.05%	0.20%	0.22%

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Secondary schools	
	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours
2019/20	0.08%	0.07%	0.04%	0.02%	0.14%	0.16%
2018-19	0.12%	0.11%	0.08%	0.03%	0.18%	0.25%
2017-18	0.11%	0.12%	0.09%	0.03%	0.15%	0.28%
2016-17	0.13%	0.12%	0.08%	0.04%	0.20%	0.25%



# Suspensions

- Suspension rates in Birmingham are lower than national average overall. Birmingham is ranked 49 out of 152 local authorities.
- For 2019-20, when children were out of school from the COVID-19 lockdown from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to the end of the school year, suspension rates fell across the country.
- Suspension rates in primary schools are higher than national average. Birmingham is ranked 103 out of 152 local authorities.
- Suspension rates in secondary schools in Birmingham are ranked 41 out of 152 local authorities.
- Birmingham secondary schools continue to out perform the national average for suspensions.

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Senior schools	
	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England
2019/20	3.05%	3.76%	1.10%	1%	5.48%	7.43%
2018-19	4.22%	5.36%	1.58%	1.41%	7.61%	10.75%
2017-18	4.24%	5.08%	1.82%	1.40%	7.44%	10.13%
2016-17	4.29%	4.76%	1.95%	1.37%	7.51%	9.40%

# Suspensions by comparator councils

- Birmingham secondary schools continue to out perform comparator authorities for suspensions.
- Suspension rates in primary schools in Birmingham are higher than for core cities and statistical neighbour councils.

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Senior schools	
	Birmingham	Core Cities	Birmingham	Core Cities	Birmingham	Core Cities
2019/20	3.05%	4.10%	1.10%	1.01%	5.48%	8.53%
2018-19	4.22%	5.70%	1.58%	1.48%	7.61%	11.87%
2017-18	4.24%	5.20%	1.82%	1.58%	7.44%	10.46%
2016-17	4.29%	5.80%	1.95%	1.62%	7.51%	12.00%

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Senior schools	
	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours
2019/20	3.05%	3.59%	1.10%	0.76%	5.48%	7.81%
2018-19	4.22%	5.40%	1.58%	1.09%	7.61%	12.03%
2017-18	4.24%	4.92%	1.82%	1.21%	7.44%	10.73%
2016-17	4.29%	4.90%	1.95%	1.23%	7.51%	10.72%

# Exclusions for SEN pupils

- Permanent exclusion rates for children with an EHCP or statement have risen slightly against a national reduction and are now higher than the national rates for this cohort.
- Permanent exclusion rates continued to fall for SEN children without an EHCP or statement, and the gap between Birmingham and national children in this cohort has narrowed.
- Permanent exclusion rates are higher than average in special schools in Birmingham whilst suspension rates are lower.
- Suspension rates have fallen for all SEN children and the Birmingham rates remain lower than national.

# Exclusions for SEN pupils

	Children with EHCP/statement		SEN Children with SEN support	
Permanent exclusions	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England
2019-20	0.15%	0.10%	0.27%	0.20%
2018-19	0.14%	0.15%	0.45%	0.32%
2017-18	0.32%	0.16%	0.45%	0.34%
2016-17	0.22%	0.16%	0.47%	0.35%
Suspensions	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England
2019-20	8.00%	11.70%	8.32%	10.99%
2018-19	11.32%	16.10%	10.27%	15.60%
2017-18	12%	15.90%	10.50%	15.10%
2016-17	12%	15.90%	11.20%	14.80%

# Exclusions by ethnic group

- Birmingham mirrors the national picture of higher permanent exclusion and suspension rates for pupils from Black, White and Mixed ethnicities and lower rates for pupils from Asian ethnicities.
- In 2019-20 in Birmingham, the largest reduction was for children of Black ethnicities, with a 47% reduction in the permanent exclusion rate and a 35% reduction in suspensions.

Main ethnic groups	Birmingham					England				
Permanent Exclusions	All	Asian	Black	Mixed	White	All	Asian	Black	Mixed	White
2019/20	0.08%	0.05%	0.10%	0.15%	0.09%	0.06%	0.03%	0.07%	0.08%	0.06%
2018/19	0.12%	0.05%	0.19%	0.23%	0.14%	0.10%	0.04%	0.11%	0.13%	0.10%
2017/18	0.11%	0.05%	0.19%	0.20%	0.14%	0.10%	0.04%	0.13%	0.16%	0.10%
2016/17	0.13%	0.05%	0.18%	0.19%	0.17%	0.10%	0.04%	0.14%	0.14%	0.10%
Suspensions	All	Asian	Black	Mixed	White	All	Asian	Black	Mixed	White
2019/20	2.97%	1.70%	4.14%	4.84%	3.79%	3.76%	1.35%	3.85%	4.34%	4.10%
2018/19	4.22%	2.37%	6.35%	6.74%	4.87%	5.36%	2.03%	5.54%	6.29%	5.80%
2017/18	4.24%	2.30%	6.82%	7.44%	5.76%	5.08%	1.76%	5.56%	5.89%	5.50%
2016/17	4.29%	2.34%	6.97%	6.89%	5.04%	4.76%	1.80%	5.65%	5.73%	5.08%

# Exclusions by ethnic group

2019-20	Birmingham		England	
Minor Ethnicity Group	Permanent exclusions	Suspensions	Permanent exclusions	Suspensions
Any other white background	0.00%	1.59%	0.03%	2.03%
Irish	0.00%	2.04%	0.09%	3.69%
Traveller of Irish heritage	0.00%	12.50%	0.14%	10.12%
Indian	0.01%	0.89%	0.01%	0.53%
White and Asian	0.03%	3.35%	0.06%	2.62%
Bangladeshi	0.04%	1.32%	0.03%	1.42%
Black African	0.04%	2.45%	0.04%	2.95%
Any Other Ethnic Group	0.05%	2.01%	0.03%	2.22%
Pakistani	0.06%	1.96%	0.04%	2.05%
Any other Asian background	0.06%	1.76%	0.02%	1.06%
White and Black African	0.08%	4.50%	0.06%	4.21%
Chinese	0.09%	0.28%	0.01%	0.30%
Gypsy Roma	0.09%	2.17%	0.23%	15.28%
White British	0.10%	4.16%	0.07%	4.26%
Any other Mixed background	0.11%	3.99%	0.06%	3.31%
Ethnicity Unclassified	0.11%	4.28%	0.11%	5.88%
Any other black background	0.16%	4.82%	0.09%	4.11%
Black Caribbean	0.21%	7.81%	0.14%	7.03%
White and Black Caribbean	0.27%	6.61%	0.15%	7.64%

# Exclusion rates across schools and districts

- Permanent exclusion and suspension rates vary school to school.
- In 2019-2020, 87% of primary schools made no permanent exclusions and 32% made no suspensions. The highest permanent exclusion rate in primary schools was 0.6% and the highest suspension rate was 40.5%.
- In 2019-20, 40.4% of secondary schools made no permanent exclusions and one school made no suspensions. The highest permanent exclusion rate in secondary schools was 1.65% and the highest suspension rate was 38%.
- The following slide shows data for districts where each school is based – not the pupil home address. It shows that:
  - schools located in Hall Green, Hodge Hill, Ladywood, Perry Barr and Sutton Coldfield districts had higher permanent exclusion and suspension rates than the city averages. Rates are also higher than average in Erdington and Edgbaston districts for primary schools
  - Schools located in Northfield, Selly Oak and Yardley districts had lower permanent exclusion and suspension rates than the city averages

# Exclusion rates across schools and districts

	All primary and secondary schools 2019-20		Primary schools		Secondary schools	
District	Permanent exclusions	Suspensions	Permanent exclusions	Suspensions	Permanent exclusions	Suspensions
Edgbaston	0.08%	4.24%	0.06%	3.55%	0.11%	4.70%
Erdington	0.13%	2.69%	0.08%	1.32%	0.23%	5.19%
Hall Green	0.05%	1.66%	0.03%	0.77%	0.10%	3.65%
Hodge Hill	0.07%	1.80%	0.03%	0.57%	0.15%	3.92%
Ladywood	0.04%	3.00%	0.02%	0.85%	0.07%	5.35%
Northfield	0.15%	5.79%	0.05%	2.63%	0.36%	12.65%
Perry Barr	0.03%	2.56%	0.02%	0.67%	0.03%	5.25%
Selly Oak	0.11%	3.84%	0.02%	0.72%	0.21%	6.81%
Sutton Coldfield	0.05%	2.95%	0.02%	0.42%	0.08%	5.45%
Yardley	0.12%	3.21%	0.05%	0.79%	0.23%	6.90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.08%</b>	<b>3.04%</b>	<b>0.04%</b>	<b>1.09%</b>	<b>0.14%</b>	<b>5.66%</b>



# Birmingham Children Partnership (BCP) and the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Audit

The recommendations of a 2019 audit of primary age children who had been permanently excluded included:

- increasing the effectiveness of early help intervention, coordination and communication with schools and multi-agencies before an exclusion takes place
- investigating cases where the best work is being done to avoid exclusion as well as learning from places that manage this process well.
- utilising the additional skill sets offered by partners, for example, close working between schools and School Nurses to assist with this strategy
- training and support to governors prior to exclusion so that they are aware what early help is available to schools
- ensuring that schools utilise services across the city more widely when needed, for example input from Forward Thinking Birmingham and the Education Psychology Service
- further work on understanding the lived experience of children and consideration of the impact on family life of domestic violence, substance misuse and undiagnosed learning difficulties

# Ongoing work to reduce exclusions

Officers in education have worked with a range of partners on a number of initiatives to reduce exclusions.

These include:

- Tackling Exclusions and Joint Responses group
- Close working with local sharing panels
- Developing specific strategies to support children and young people with SEND
- SAFE Taskforce
- Support for teachers' professional development through the Birmingham Virtual School

# Tackling School Exclusions Group

The group comprises colleagues from education, social care, health and police and:

- provides a forum for collaboration, problem solving between partners across the system
- aim is to develop an integrated systems offer via partnership / multi-agency pathways, protocols, and processes

Achievements so far:

- [Right Help Right Time](#) revised so that referrals into CASS for children at risk of primary school permanent exclusion are mandatory
- improved support for schools with early help offered in locality teams by teams around the school
- data sharing processes in place between education and BCT so that areas where suspensions are high are known
- regular training offered to school governors so that governing boards understand the processes for permanent and fixed term exclusions and the range of early help support services that are available
- myths busted across the range of agencies regarding Fair Access protocols and sharing panels
- opportunities for the voice of children and young people to be heard in developing new approaches to reducing exclusions

# Managed moves and the role of local sharing panels

Secondary Local Sharing Panels provide a key mechanism for schools to collaborate on the inclusion agenda and:

- are the key decision making for the reintegration arrangements of pupils who have been permanently excluded and are assessed as suitable for a return to mainstream school
- make decisions on the admissions of Fair Access pupils who are deemed to be the most complex and challenging
- provide a vital function in making decisions on managed moves, ensuring that many children continue in a mainstream school and avoid having the experience of permanent exclusion

Local sharing panels are not a legal requirement. There is ongoing work in the primary phase around replicating the same system as in the secondary.

# Specific work around preventing exclusions of pupils with SEND

- The Communication and Autism Team's training offer which focusses on supporting:
  - practitioners to have a better understanding of the triggers and managing distressed behaviours
  - parents' autism awareness and their reflection on the challenges and opportunities faced by autistic teenagers
- When a pupil with an EHCP is excluded full-time:
  - the case is notified to SENAR for consideration
  - the pupil is referred to the Home Bridging Team to maintain contact with the family and arrange home education
  - if the school governors uphold the exclusion, SENAR will discuss the need for an urgent annual review, which may lead to an amended plan
  - the Teaching Support Services and Educational Psychology Service will feed into the review as appropriate

# Specific work around preventing exclusions of pupils with SEND

- Multi-agency planning meetings are held each term in each school to discuss pupils at risk of exclusion
- Support to schools in working with pupils is provided by:
  - signposting to specialist teaching support, Developing Local Provision (DLP), and Educational Psychology traded support
  - discussions on SEND provision plans
  - urgent annual reviews in cases of EHCP
  - the Special Schools Outreach Service, led by special schools and funded through DLP, also offers mainstream schools support
- Under DLP, some areas of the city have focused on behaviour and in secondary there is a Fair Access Team which supports secondary schools to avoid exclusions

# Other initiatives

## SAFE Taskforce:

- Birmingham has received £6 million from the DfE to set up a SAFE Taskforce to support young people to attend school and achieve (Support, Attend, Fulfil, Exceed).
- The target is to reach approximately 3000 young people and the taskforce will be made up of mainstream secondary schools, working alongside other multi-agency structures and local experts to commission evidence-based interventions to support those at risk of serious violence; re-engage them in education; improve attendance and behaviour in school and in the community

## Birmingham Virtual School:

- Training offered through the Birmingham Virtual School focuses on developing Trauma Informed Attachment Aware approaches and Emotion Coaching for schools, settings and colleges

# Contacts

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## Education and Children's Social Care O&S Committee: Work Programme 2021–2022

<b>Chair:</b>	Cllr Narinder Kaur Kooner
<b>Deputy Chair:</b>	Cllr Kerry Jenkins
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Cllrs: Olly Armstrong, Charlotte Hodivala, Katherine Iroh, Saddak Miah, Kath Scott and Alex Yip  Education Representatives: Omar Hanif, Parent Governor; Rabia Shami, Parent Governor and Sarah Smith, Church of England Diocese. The Roman Catholic Diocese position is currently vacant.
<b>Officer Support:</b>	Acting Group O&S Manager: Ceri Saunders (303 2786)  Scrutiny Officer: Amanda Simcox: (675 8444)  Committee Manager: Mandeep Marwaha (303 5950)

## 1 Terms of Reference

- 1.1 As per City Council on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 the Committee's Terms of Reference is 'to fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning schools and education, the Children's Trust, vulnerable children, corporate parenting, children and young people's health and wellbeing and other child social care and safeguarding functions of the council'.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee dealing with education matters shall include in its membership the following voting representatives: a) Church of England diocese representative (one); b) Roman Catholic diocese representative (one); and c) Parent Governor representatives (two, who are on the Committee until April 2022).

## 2 Meeting Schedule

Date & Time	Items	Officers / Attendees
9 June 2021 at 10am Informal Meeting	To discuss priorities for 2021/22 work programme.	



Date & Time	Items	Officers / Attendees
<p>21 July 2021 at 10am</p> <p>Formal Meeting at the BMI</p> <p>Deadline for Send Out: 12 July 2021</p>	<p>Councillor Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing Update (last discussed 10 Jul 2019). To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Years (this has been included in the written report).</li> <li>• SEND and EHCPs including the health aspect e.g. waiting times etc (regular SEND updates programmed).</li> <li>• Birmingham Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2021/22 (this is now scheduled for Cabinet 7 September 2021 rather than 29 June 2021 &amp; will be picked up by the Children's Trust update).</li> </ul>	<p>Suman McCartney, Cabinet Support Officer</p> <p>This item was included within the SEND update at the committee meeting.</p>
	<p>SEND Ofsted Inspection Outcome (SEND &amp; WSoA last discussed 28 Oct 2020).</p> <p>To include: EHCPs including the health aspect (waiting times etc).</p>	<p>Kevin Crompton, Interim Director, Education &amp; Skills / Director of Children Services (DCS), and Deborah Brooks, Transformation Director, Commissioning, Education and Skills</p>
	<p>Hunters Hill College Update.</p>	<p>Councillor Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture, Jaswinder Didiyal, Head of Service, Education and Skills, and David Bridgman, Head of Service, SENAR</p>
	<p>Councillor Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture update (last discussed 11 Sep 2019). To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Engagement and Youth Service (Youth voices – to include how the different forums are supported and how they can support each other; and the resources to support these).</li> <li>• Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) provided in schools.</li> <li>• Education of Children and Young People and the difficulty with the school system being set up for young people to be job ready, however there is a lack of jobs and universities are expensive.</li> </ul>	<p>Rose Horsfall, Cabinet Support Officer</p> <p>Lisa Fraser, AD, Education and Early Years, Ilgun Yusuf, Acting AD, Skills and Employability and Alan Michell, Head of School Admissions and Fair Access</p>



Date & Time	Items	Officers / Attendees
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools Forum and monitoring schools on how they are spending the money they are allocated.</li> </ul>	
1 September 2021 at 10am  Formal Meeting at the BMI  Deadline for Send Out: 20 August 2021	Children's Trust to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Justice Strategic Plan</li> <li>Children in Care</li> <li>Independent Advocacy Service / Rights and Participation Service</li> <li>Missing Children</li> </ul>	Andrew Christie, Chair and Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust
	Cllr Sharon Thompson, Cabinet Member for Vulnerable Children and Families	Suman McCartney, Cabinet Support Officer
	SEND	Kevin Crompton, Interim Director, Education & Skills and Pauline Maddison, Interim AD, SEND and Inclusion
13 October 2021 at 10am  Informal On-line Meeting  Deadline for Send Out: 4 October 2021	Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rise in hate crime, youth crime and knife crime.</li> <li>Engagement of young people and how they are supported in relation to climate, BLM and increase in racism, Palestine, Me too campaigns etc.</li> </ul>	Waqar Ahmed, AD, Community Safety and Resilience  Marcia Wynter, Cabinet Support Officer
	SEND	Pauline Maddison, Interim AD, SEND and Inclusion
	Home to School Transport (HTST) Update	Mary Jefferson, Head of Service, Home to School Transport, and Deborah Brooks, Transformation Director, Commissioning, Education and Skills



Date & Time	Items	Officers / Attendees
24 November 2021 at 10am  Formal Meeting in the BMI  Deadline for Send Out: 15 November 2021	Aquarius – Young People's Service	Karl Beese, Commissioning Manager, Adults Public Health; John Freeman, Commissioning Manager, Complex Care & Prevention; Chris Baggott, Service Lead, Partnerships Insight and Prevention, Public Health; Richard McVey, Area Manager, Aquarius; and Wesley King, Snr Practitioner, Aquarius
	Youth Service	Ilgun Yusuf, Acting AD, Skills and Employability and, Soulla Yiasouma, Joint Head of Youth Service
	SEND  PCF: Sabiha Aziz, Chair of the PCF; Pam Armstrong, and Jo Green invited for this item.	Sue Harrison, Director, Education & Skills and, Pauline Maddison, Interim AD, SEND and Inclusion
12 January 2022 at 10am on-line  Deadline for Send Out: 30 December 2021	Birmingham Against Female Genital Mutilation (BAFGM) Annual Report 2021/22	Christine Wellington and Carolyn Daly, Co-chairs of BAFGM
	SEND – Objective: Working Well Together  PCF: Sabiha Aziz, Chair of the PCF; Pam Armstrong, and Jo Green invited for this item.	Sue Harrison, Director for Education & Skills; Pauline Maddison, Interim AD for SEND and Inclusion; Maria McCaffrey, Co-production Officer; Rachel Edwards, Communications & Engagement Lead, SEND, Wellbeing & Inclusion;
	School Attainment and School Attendance	Lisa Fraser, AD, Education and Early Years and Alan Michell, Head of Service for Admissions, Attendance, Exclusions and Pupil Tracking
16 February 2021 at 10am in the BMI  Deadline for Send Out: 7 February 2022	SEND – Dashboard  PCF: Sabiha Aziz, Chair of the PCF; Pam Armstrong, and Jo Green invited for this item.	Sue Harrison, Director, Education & Skills and Pauline Maddison, Interim AD, SEND and Inclusion



Date & Time	Items	Officers / Attendees
	Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Update	Penny Thompson, Independent Chair, BSCP and Simon Cross, Business Manager
	School Exclusions  To include: SEND exclusions and cross departmental work with SEND services to support this agenda	Lisa Fraser, AD, Education and Early Years and Alan Michell, Head of Service for Admissions, Attendance, Exclusions and Pupil Tracking
30 March 2022 at 10am in the BMI  Deadline for Send Out: 21 March 2022	SEND – Objective 2: Getting the Basics Right  PCF: Sabiha Aziz, Chair of the PCF; Pam Armstrong, and Jo Green invites for this item	Sue Harrison, Director, Education & Skills and Pauline Maddison, Interim AD, SEND and Inclusion
	CSE	Cllr Sharon Thompson, Cabinet Member for Vulnerable Children and Families, Dionne McAndrew, AD, Children's Trust and Clair Graham, Head of Service, Children's Trust
	Youth Service	Ilgun Yusuf, Acting AD, Skills and Employability and, Soulla Yiasouma, Joint Head of Youth Service
6 April 2022 at 10am in the BMI  Deadline for Send Out: 28 March 2022	SEND - Objective 4: Pathways and Objective 1: Systems Leadership  (combining these two pathways will be discussed nearer the time)  PCF: Sabiha Aziz, Chair of the PCF; Pam Armstrong, and Jo Green invites for this item.	Sue Harrison, Director, Education & Skills and Pauline Maddison, Interim AD, SEND and Inclusion
	Children's Trust Update (tbc)	Andrew Christie, Chair and Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust  Sue Harrison, Director, Education & Skills



Date & Time	Items	Officers / Attendees
	Children's and Young People's health and wellbeing (tbc)	Elaine Kirwan, Deputy Chief Nurse Officer, Mental Health Service, Clinical Lead - West Midlands CAMHS Provider Collaborative, Forward Thinking Birmingham (tbc)

### 3 Items to be Programmed / Outstanding

- 3.1 Child exploitation, such as County Lines is to be explored in the new municipal year, this it to include Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities.
- 3.2 Children's and Young People's health and wellbeing was identified as an item to be programmed at the June 2021 meeting and this has been pencilled in for the April 2022 committee meeting. Areas for discussion could be:
- The impact on children's and young people's mental health and how this is being supported.
  - To include an update on the development of the footprint as a response to the pandemic to provide support to children with mental health, emotional neglect, domestic abuse (early help hubs). Early Help: Nigel Harvey-Whitten, AD, Children's Services (Commissioning) & Richard Selwyn, Birmingham Children's Partnership have now left and the contact is Garath Symonds.
  - How children and young people and mainstream schools coped with the return to school and the resulting pressures (including missed education and anxiety regarding returning to school).
  - Forward Thinking Birmingham.
  - An update on Preparation for Adulthood which should include data that allows for comparison, tracking and monitoring (attended 20 January 2021).
  - Youth Justice.
- 3.3 Young People and Mental Health has been discussed previously by the former Learning, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee:

5 Sep 2018	<p><b>Forward Thinking Birmingham</b></p> <p>Erin Docherty Senior Nurse Lead, Forward Thinking Birmingham, Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p><b>The Birmingham School Health Advisory Service (BSHAS)</b></p> <p>Joanne Thurston, Chief Operating Officer and Karen Hansford, Head of Universal Children's Services 5-19, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.</p>
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14 Nov 2018	<b>Educational Psychology Service Birmingham</b> Amanda Daniels, Principal Educational Psychologist. <b>Visit to Pause, Digbeth</b> Karen Woodfield, Area Manager, Pause, Forward Thinking Birmingham & Sandwell Beam and Leroy McConnell, Mental Health, Youth Work/Participation Lead, The Children's Society.
6 Feb 2019	Anna Robinson, Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) Mental Health/Emotional Wellbeing Lead and Sarah Finch, Assistant Head, Colmers Secondary School and Sixth Form.

3.4 Councillor Alex Yip to send a draft TOR for Hunters Hill College.

## 4 Other Meetings

- Call in Meetings: None scheduled
- Petitions: None scheduled
- Petitions: None scheduled
- Councillor Call for Action Requests: None scheduled

## 5 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

5.1 The following decisions, extracted from the Cabinet Office Forward Plan of Decisions, are likely to be relevant to the Education and Children's Social Care O&S Committee's remit.

ID Number	Title	Proposed Date	Date of Decision
008943/2021	Birmingham Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2021/22	7 Sep 21	7 Sep 21
009043/2021	Proposed In-Year Variation to Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and the Co-Ordinated Scheme 2021/22 and 2022/23 and Approach to Fair Access Protocol	27 Jul 21	27 Jul 21
009054/2021	Skills School conversion from Community School to Academy Status	27 Jul 21	27 Jul 21
009301/2021	Education and Skills Transformation Programme Including SEND Improvement and Home to School Transport	12 Oct 21	12 Oct 21
009530/2021	Birmingham Children's Trust Accommodation	22 Mar 22	
009699/2022	Proposed Admission Arrangements and Published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and the Local Authority Coordinated Scheme 2023/2024.	08 Feb 22	
009744/2022	The Adoption of the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2022	08 Feb 22	
009775/2022	Continuation of Early Help (EH) Programme Funding for 12 Months	08 Feb 22	



ID Number	Title	Proposed Date	Date of Decision
009917/2022	Queensbury School: Relocation of Sixth Form to Former Osbourne Primary Site and Refurbishment of Existing Sixth Form to Increase Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 SEND Provision.□	26 Apr 22	