

Family Services

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Barnet
Safeguarding
Children Partnership



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1. Introduction

Safeguarding children and young people from the psychological and physical harm caused by sexual and criminal exploitation is a core priority for the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP).

This type of abuse is extremely complex and often hidden, it occurs when children and young people misplace their trust in peers and/or adults who exercise coercion and control over them through intimidation, grooming, debt bondage and violence for their own gains. Children and young people may not recognize the harm they are experiencing and may also be very reluctant to tell, as such all agencies and professionals need to be alert to the signs of exploitation and be able to effectively respond.

There is currently no consistent approach to recording the numbers of victims of child sexual abuse due to the complexities of the indicators and numerous agencies involved in working with young people across England, it is not possible to state how many children are victims of CSE in any given period¹. Research identified 16,500 children from across England as being at risk of child sexual exploitation, with 2,409 confirmed as victims of sexual exploitation in gangs and groups during the period August 2010 to October 2011.²

A study across six research sites involving 188 young people and 76 professionals identified many different forms of victimisation occurring within 'gang' environments. 65% of the research respondents shared examples of young women being pressurised or coerced into sexual activity³.

The Trident Matrix is used to identify the most harmful gang members in MPS areas. The Matrix identifies that young people and young adults aged between 17 and 23 years are most prolific and are likely to be repeat offenders since their early teens. However, London Youth Offending Teams identified 858 individuals known to services who were involved with gangs although only 43% of these young people were on the Trident Matrix⁴ which makes the scale of the issue difficult to define.

In Barnet, there is growing evidence of the strong links between drugs, serious youth violence and exploitation. It remains a significant problem, Barnet is 6th on the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Gangs Matrix which highlights the importance of safeguarding and early intervention with this group of young people⁵.

In Barnet, our approach to tackling the problem must be collaborative and multi-agency supported by purposeful leadership across the partnership to drive our Strategic Priorities.

This document provides the Strategic platform from which to launch our collective efforts and focuses on the following priorities:

- Strategic, operational and practice leadership
- Predict & Prevent
- Identify & Intervene

¹ *Out of mind, out of sight: breaking down the barriers to child sexual exploitation: executive summary* (2011) Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

² *"I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world": The Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation In Gangs and Groups* (2011) Children's Commissioner

³ *"It's wrong...but you get used to it" – A qualitative study of gang-associated sexual violence towards, and exploitation of, young people in England* (2013) Beckett et al

⁴ Youth Justice Board data, as of 18th March 2014

⁵ *Gangs and Serious Youth Violence* (2014) Mayor of London

- Disrupting and stopping perpetrators

2. Purpose and Aims

Exploitation of children and young people is located within a wider context of risk and harm. For our strategic preventative and protective efforts to be both purposeful and effective, we must develop a shared understanding of the problem, and the environments and contexts in which exploitation occurs so we can identify wider patterns of concern and intervene to protect victims and disrupt perpetrators of abuse swiftly and effectively.

The Strategy should be read alongside the BSCP:

- Missing Children Protocol
- Vulnerable Adolescents Protocol

The scope of this Strategy crosses the domains of child sexual exploitation, missing children, gangs and criminal exploitation as the BSCP recognises that a broader view of safeguarding is required when considering exploitation of children and young people. The BSCP views exploitation on a continuum that is a consequence of grooming from either within or outside the young person's home by peers or adults. All forms of exploitation for either criminal or sexual gains are equally as abusive and destructive to a young person's outcomes.⁶

Given the complexities and contexts in which exploitation occurs, the BSCP will routinely consider the interface between this Strategy and wider local plans and strategies as they relate to:

- Violence Against Women & Girls
- Mental Health including suicide and self-harm
- Substance misuse
- Radicalisation
- Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Youth Justice
- Community Safety
- Housing
- Youth Homelessness
- Corporate Parenting

The aims of this Strategy will be overseen by the multi-agency-group to the BSCP.

⁶ The 2016 Runaway and Missing children and Adults, all Party Parliamentary Group Report found that the "patterns of grooming children for criminal exploitation are very similar to those of sexual exploitation. In the past child sexual exploitation was often perceived amongst professionals as the victim's fault, or due to their risky behavior. We believe that in some areas of the UK a similar culture currently exist around criminal exploitation by gangs."

3. Barnet Vision

Barnet's Children and Young People's Plan 2016 – 2020 sets out the strategic vision to be a 'Family Friendly' borough by 2020. The aspiration is for children and families to be able to:

- Keep themselves safe
- Achieve their best
- Be active and healthy
- Have their say

Barnet wants all its children, young people and families to be safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed, listened to and involved. This Strategy aims to ensure in Barnet we have:

- Collaborative, informed and focused leadership across the range of agencies working to safeguard vulnerable adolescents
- Evidence based and creative school and community based prevention and early help programmes that effectively address issues relating to social media, friendships, grooming, healthy relationships and risks as they relate to gangs, weapons and drugs
- Children and young people who understand risk and engage in healthy relationships
- Opportunities for children and young people to develop 'trusted relationships' with adults who listen and respond to risk and need
- Professionals who demonstrate curiosity, use non-victim blaming language and actively identify, protect and support children and young people at risk of exploitation in a range of environments
- Consistently high quality multi-agency risk assessments using the SEAM tool
- Creative interventions that promote co-production with young people
- Communities, families and professionals that collaborate to keep young people safe and build resilience
- A whole council approach that recognises that child protection is everyone's responsibility
- Robust disruption and enforcement activity that leads to convictions and safe management of offenders
- Vulnerable adolescents who are able to remain safe in their own communities, living with adults who know them well and protect their interests

4. Strategic Priorities

The following strategic priorities provide the framework for Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership and the SARG sub-group to the BSCP, to deliver coordinated actions in response to local issues and needs.

4.1. Priority 1: Multi-Agency Leadership

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

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

Our Leaders must exercise and model positive and pro-active curiosity about what life is like for children and young people in Barnet, provide challenge to systems and practices that exclude and blame vulnerable children and young people and appropriately escalate harmful and exploitative situations that are not achieving positive changes in their circumstances.

Governance frameworks that include regular meetings between the Independent Chair of the BSCP with the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Barnet, Lead member for Children and Director of Family Services and chairs of wider partnership boards will ensure ongoing connectivity between policy areas relating to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Barnet.

The BSCP will review this Strategy as required and in response to the London Safeguarding Adolescents Steering Group (LSASG) and national research, policy and guidance.

4.1.1 Outcomes Sought:

- The safety of children and young people is prioritised across the entire council including partner agencies, political and community leaders and this is reflected in their respective strategic ambitions and plans.
- Young people are invited to meaningfully participate, contribute and influence our strategic priorities, plans and activities to ensure their voices are heard, listened to and acted upon.
- Risks to children and young people are considered in the systems and contexts in which they live, learn and grow and which recognise the valuable contributions their families, schools, neighbourhoods and communities make towards achieving successful outcomes.
- Individuals living and working in Barnet from businesses, professional and non-professional backgrounds, grassroots organisations, the voluntary sector, community and faith leaders are effectively engaged and know what to do if they are worried about a child or young person.
- All leaders commit to ensuring public and community spaces are safe for children and young people (parks, estates, high streets and shopping centres)

4.2. Priority 2: Predict & Prevent

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

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

Our aim is to ensure that early help is effective in building resilience and preventing vulnerabilities from escalating into social or educational exclusion, neglect and abuse. We will achieve this through direct

work, building trusted relationships, providing education, building self-esteem and knowledge about how they can keep themselves safe on-line and in their homes, schools and communities.

4.2.1 Outcomes sought:

- Multi-agency information and intelligence is gathered to identify risks and vulnerabilities in groups, communities and individuals as they relate to exploitation of children and young people.
- Early help is delivered in local communities by professionals who understand the nature and risks of on-line, peer and adult grooming and exploitation of children and young people and who are equipped to intervene, build resilience, promote healthy friendships and relationships and prevent problems escalating.
- The need for statutory youth offending and/or safeguarding interventions is reduced.
- Children, young people and their parents/carers are informed about the risks, can identify exploitation and other forms of harm and know how to access early support⁷.
- Inclusive and accessible preventative and evidenced based programmes are delivered in schools/colleges and in the community to provide education, challenge myths and stimulate engagement with young people about their understanding of coercive or exploitative relationships.
- The use of technology, including WhatsApp, Snap Chat, Facebook, You Tube and Twitter are recognised as potential platforms from which exploitation can occur and can also present opportunities to understand the early indicators of local issues and tensions.

4.3. Priority 3: Identify and Intervene

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

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

Child exploitation is a complex form of abuse which can make it difficult to identify. The challenge for the multi-agency partnership is to ensure professionals have a good understanding of normal adolescent behaviours and the concept of consent⁸.

⁷ Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

⁸ The law states that consent is only valid where a young person can make a choice and have the freedom and capacity to make that choice. If a child feels they have no other meaningful choice, are under the influence of harmful substances or are fearful of what might happen if they don't comply (all of which are common features in cases of child exploitation) consent cannot legally be given whatever the age of the child.

Our expectation is that agencies and professionals cooperate and collaborate to build a clear and accurate picture of a child or young person's circumstances and who else might be involved in order to provide protection.

4.3.1 Outcomes sought:

- Multi-agency information and intelligence is gathered and shared to identify children and young people who are vulnerable to exploitation, to map hotspots, trends and risks in missing episodes, victim and perpetrator identification, and criminal activity involving children, including 'county lines'.
- Professionals in the council, community, schools, health settings and safeguarding systems have relevant and proportionate knowledge of the risk and vulnerability factors as they relate to the exploitation of vulnerable adolescents
- The multi-agency partnership routinely engage in SEAM⁹ Strategy Meetings contributing to assessment of vulnerability and risk factors using SEAM as a common risk measurement tool.
- The BSCP develop individual and collective expertise through joint learning exercises and strong partnership.
- A non-pathologising professional culture is developed in which exploited children and young people are always recognised and supported as victims.
- A common language is used by all professionals to describe exploitation and its harmful impact.
- The multi-agency professional network is equipped with the knowledge and skills required to build trusted relationships and build resilience with children and young people
- Interventions will be informed by best practice guidance and research and innovation and tailored to meet individual needs and circumstances
- A single multi-agency vulnerable adolescents panel, MACE - Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel is developed through consolidation of the existing Gangs & Serious Youth Violence and Multi- Agency Sexual Exploitation meetings to ensure that the needs and risks facing all children and young people who are on the continuum of exploitation are considered.
- A strong understanding is developed through MACE in respect of community and risks, themes, service and training gaps, recognising the potential overlap between victims and perpetrators

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

4.4. **Priority 4: Disrupting and stopping perpetrators**

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

The aim of this strategic priority is to bring perpetrators to justice and build the confidence of victims and empower them and members of the public to report exploitation.

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

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

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

4.4.1 **Outcomes sought:**

- All agencies effectively share information and routinely utilise intelligence-led disruption in relation to any local businesses, individuals or groups associated with exploitation.
- Professionals are able to identify, assess and effectively intervene with children and young people involved in complex criminal, exploitation and abuse networks and can aid their safe exit, disclosure, physical and psychological recovery.
- Robust policing responses are in place to respond to identified perpetrators and their networks which place the safety of children and young people at the centre of surveillance, investigations and criminal prosecution activity.
- Agencies flexibly apply the full range of disruption tactics available through both criminal and civil routes to protect children and young people including but not exclusive to:
 - Taxi licensing
 - Child Abduction Warning Notices
 - Sexual Risk Order (SRO)
 - Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO)
 - Closure Notices
 - CSE at a hotel – requirement to disclose information/comply with Police notice
 - Civil Injunctions
 - Section 222 of the Local Government Act 1972
- Young people demonstrating harmful sexual behaviours are identified and are supported to address their behaviours using evidenced based approaches.
- Robust offender management strategies are in place post-conviction and effective intervention strategies are in place that effectively reduce the risk presented by identified abusers.

5. Communication Strategy

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

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

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

The BSCP has strategic oversight of the effectiveness of the multi-agency partnership in delivering the aims of this Strategy.

The Safeguarding Adolescents at Risk Group (SARG) will steer operational activity providing quarterly update reports to the BSCP on progress and issues. (attach SARG TOR's as an appendix?)

The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting will disseminate information for review using analysis from SEAM's, Return Home Interviews and Youth Offending data to map networks of victims, perpetrators and share proportionate and relevant intelligence with the SARG, operational teams and key partners.

Quality assurance activities will provide reassurance to the BSCP through regular Multi-agency thematic audits that will measure the effectiveness and impact of partner contributions in delivering Early Help and Safeguarding interventions and testing the difference this is making to children and young people's lives.

Appendix 1 - Definitions

Child sexual exploitation is defined by the government, and for the purposes of this strategy, as:

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

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

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

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

⁴ *Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision* also fulfil the requirement for exchange, for example a child who engages in sexual or criminal activity to stop someone carrying out a threat to harm his/her family. Whilst there can be gifts or treats involved in other forms of sexual abuse (e.g. a father who sexually abuses but also buys the child toys) it is most likely referred to as child sexual exploitation if the ‘exchange’, as the core dynamic at play, results in financial gain for or enhanced status of, the perpetrator. Where the gain is only for the perpetrator/facilitator, there is most likely a financial gain, money, clothes, jewelry, technology items. *makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation* (2017) Department for Education

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

Appendix 2 – SAFEGUARD Mnemonic

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

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

Appendix 3 – SEAM Tool

| Personal Details of Young Person | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| First name | | | |
| Surname | | | |
| Address | | | |
| DOB (age) | | | |
| Legal Status | | | |
| Agencies Involved and contact details | | | |
| Specialist Children Services | | Education | |
| Police | | Health (inc sexual health) | |
| CAMH's | | Substance misuse services | |
| Targeted Youth Service | | Other (specify) | |

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

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

| Sexual health – activities and awareness | | Evidence and additional information | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Is not sexually active but is aware of where to get support and advice when needed – There are no concerns regarding sexual health | | |
| 2 | Young person is sexually active and in an equal consensual relationship with a peer. Young person does not feel pressured, they feel they can say no and is following safe sex advice. | | |
| 3 | Is not sexually active but is feeling pressured to become sexually active, or There are some sexual health concerns | | |
| 4 | Young person is sexually active but is not receiving support from any sexual health services. | | |
| 5 | Young person feels pressure to have sex or perform sexual acts in exchange for status/protection, possessions, substances or affection. Young person is in a sexual relationship with an adult / there is a wide age gap. Young person is under 13 years old and sexually active Young person has many sexual partners / many test for STI's or pregnancy | | |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| | Sex is non-consensual – young person is experiencing violence/coercion with sex, or are unable to consent due to intoxication, Young person is made to watch sexual acts. | | |
| Absent / Missing | | Evidence and additional information | |
| 1 | Increasing episodes of missing education, truancy | | |
| 2 | Stays out late (State pattern) | | |
| 3 | Occasionally goes missing for short or prolonged episodes (State Pattern) | | |
| 4 | Frequent and short missing episodes | | |
| 5 | Frequent and prolonged missing episodes | | |
| Familial concerns parent/carer – young person relationship | | Evidence and additional information | |
| 1 | Parent/Carer and the young person have a positive relationship and communicate effectively. Carer demonstrates emotional warmth and provides stability for young person. Young person responds to boundaries | | |

| 2 | Parent/carer and the young person have a generally positive relationship. Appropriate boundaries are in place. The young person does not always adhere to them. | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 3 | Sudden negative change in the quality of relationship, or the relationship is strained. | | |
| 4 | Historic abuse in the family Poor or negative communication with young person not responding to boundaries | | |
| 5 | Current/suspected abuse in the family Poor communication, low warmth, attachment or trust. Parent .carer does not implement age appropriate boundaries. | | |
| Emotional and Physical Condition | | Evidence and additional information | |
| 1 | No Concerns | | |
| 2 | Experiencing difficulties in identity, low self-esteem or self-confidence. | | |
| 3 | Learning or physical difficulties, reporting thoughts of self-harm or suicide. | | |
| 4 | Unexplained injuries, self-harming, suicidal idealisation. | | |
| 5 | Hospital admission due to unexplained injuries, self-harming suicide attempt | | |

| Association with gangs/criminals adults who pose a risk | | Evidence and additional information | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Young person not at risk, may have some contact with vulnerable peers but has other positive networks | | |
| 2 | Young person is aware of gang activity in their area but is not actively involved | | |
| 3 | Young person socialises with vulnerable peers or is in contact with peers who pose a risk | | |
| 4 | Young person is in contact with risky adults, they are developing an awareness of risks/exploitation but contact has not reduced. | | |
| 5 | Young person is known to be habitually associating with risky adults/peers and does not act on this Young person is actively involved with a gang or criminal group or associated to gang members through peers or family | | |
| Use of technology - SOCIAL MEDIA – Sexual Bullying | | Evidence and additional information | |
| 1 | Young person uses internet and or has an instant messaging account, they have a good awareness of potential risks/dangers of internet use and parental controls and monitoring is in place | | |
| 2 | Young person has accessed one or more social networking sites and may have links to, or is 'friends' to unknown people. | | |
| 3 | Unmonitored / secretive use of internet | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| | <p>Young person received texts/calls from unknown people</p> <p>Possession of a mobile phone which parent/carer has no or only limited knowledge</p> | | |
| 4 | <p>Young person proactively exposes themselves to online dangers.</p> <p>Send inappropriate images of themselves to others</p> | | |
| 5 | <p>Young person posts inappropriate language /information sexual pictures when contacted, and does not acknowledge the risks of this.</p> <p>Young person plans to meet face to face the person they only know online.</p> | | |
| Alcohol and drug use | | Evidence and additional information | |
| 1 | No concerns | | |
| 2 | Some concerns about drugs or alcohol (cigarettes in younger children) | | |
| 3 | Uses drugs or alcohol – there is evidence of increasing use | | |
| 4 | Alcohol/drug dependency is suspected | | |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 5 | Evidence that young person is dependent on alcohol/drugs | | |
| Recognition of abusive and exploitative behaviour receipt of unexplained gifts money | | Evidence and additional information | |
| 1 | Young person has a good understanding of exploitative / abusive behaviour and can use it to keep themselves safe, within the context of age and environment | | |
| 2 | Reasonable understanding of abusive/exploitative behaviour | | |
| 3 | Some understanding of abusive / exploitative behaviour, may recognise the risk but unable to apply it to themselves. | | |
| 4 | Very limited recognition of abusive / exploitative behaviour | | |
| 5 | No recognition of abusive exploitative behaviour, cannot identify recognise the risk of abuse or exploitation | | |
| Distrust of Authority figure disengagement Education school | | Evidence and additional information | |
| 1 | Good engagement with all appropriate services/professionals, Engaged in education, training, work or actively seeking employment | | |
| 2 | Reasonable engagement with all relevant services professionals education but attendance is a concern, education could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is on roll at a school or PRU | | |

| | | | |
|----------|---|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is on roll at a school or PRU with alternative provision in place • Is on roll at a college • Is employed with training | | |
| 3 | <p>Some engagement with services and professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional contact • Is on a reduced timetable • Is persistently absent from school • Sudden noticeable change in engagement inc attendance, performance or behaviour at school | | |
| 4 | <p>Brief engagement with service: early stages or sporadic contact</p> <p>Young person is excluded from school</p> <p>A NEET (Not in education employment or training) hut young person is showing an interest in accessing opportunities.</p> | | |
| 5 | <p>Not engaging with service of professionals</p> <p>Young person is not attending school or is NEET and shows no interest in accessing education or training opportunities</p> | | |

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

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Total Score | | Risk Level | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|--|

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| Low | Medium | High | Very High |
|------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 0 | 20 | 30 | 40 |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

YOUNG PERSONS PERCEPTION OF RISK

| | | | |
|-----|--------|------|-----------|
| Low | Medium | High | Very High |
|-----|--------|------|-----------|

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| 0 | 20 | 30 | 40 |
|---|----|----|----|

ACTION PLANNING

| Action Plan | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Area of need /risk | Desired outcome | Action | By Whom | By When |
| <i>e.g. Missing from home/care</i> | <i>To gain further information and greater understanding to suspected location, and patterns of missing</i> | <i>To support foster carer in gain itemised billing of YP phone bill, Build a missing chronology</i> | <i>S/W and Foster carer</i> | <i>14 days Ongoing</i> |
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| Review Date | |
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Please send copy to CSE/Missing Lead

Appendix 4 – CSE Language

Suggested alternative for describing behaviour around CSE concerns,

Inappropriate terms and putting themselves at risk.

Suggested alternatives

- Child may have been groomed.

- The child is at an increased vulnerability to being abused/exploited.

- A Perpetrator may exploit the child's increased Vulnerability

- Situation could reduce the child's safety

- Location/situation could increase a perpetrators opportunity to abuse them.

- Child in not in a protective environment

- The location is dangerous to children

- Not clear if the child is under duress to go missing

- Concerns are that the child may be being sexually abused

- It is unclear why the child is getting in to cars.
- Concern that there is a power imbalance forcing the child to act in this way.
- Concerns regarding others Influences on the child.

Sexual activity with...

- They have been sexually abused
- They have been raped.
- Allegation of sexual abuse
- Child has described sexual activity, however concerns exist that they child may have been groomed/coerced.

Sexually active since (Age under 13)

- Raped
- Concerns exist that child may have been coerced, exploited or sexually abused.
- Child may have been sexually abused.

Appendix 5 – SARG Terms of Reference

Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP) Safeguarding Adolescents at Risk Group (SARG) Terms of Reference

Why are we doing this?

Child sexual and criminal exploitation like most child protection concerns is rarely a solitary issue, similar to traditional inter-familial safeguarding; concerns are often multi-faceted and interrelated. The management of a young person experiencing repeated missing episodes can be resultant of an underlying problem which is easy to overlook and difficult to identify and understand. Complexities and factors that can increase vulnerability and risk for a young person experiencing sexual and criminal exploitation include: experiences of trauma, domestic violence, drug and alcohol use, familial abuse, trafficking, anti-social behaviour, exclusion from education, radicalisation and going missing.

It is suggested by Research in Practice (2015) that these factors and vulnerabilities do not operate in a linear fashion. It is especially highlighted that there is a significant relationship between gangs, missing and child sexual exploitation (CSE), and that often young people who are vulnerable to exploitation have many underlying vulnerability factors prior to exploitation being identified as a concern.

At a local level, strategies responding to the risks associated with adolescence are often managed by a range of strategic partnerships. It is therefore essential that agencies are able to consider the strategic interface of how we respond effectively to young people, ensuring that their safety and wellbeing is the driver for delivery.

Purpose of the Safeguarding Adolescents at Risk Group (SARG)

Working on behalf of BSCP (The Executive), the purpose of the Safeguarding Adolescents at Risk Group is to **assure** the Safeguarding Partnership of the coordination and impact of services to vulnerable adolescents. Therefore the aim is to: -

1. Understand how agencies are coordinated in the borough to respond to the risks associated with:
 - a. Missing
 - b. CSE
 - c. Exploitation (including gangs and modern day slavery and trafficking)
2. Monitor the effectiveness (implementation and impact) of strategies and the coordination of services for children and young people;
 - a. aged 12-18 years
 - b. care leavers up to 25 years
 - c. young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) up to 25 years.

April 2018

The objectives are to:

1. Enable partners and stakeholders to operate within a universal, standardised and coherent approach when working vulnerable adolescents by having the correct strategic leads around the table for decision-making.
2. Ensure partners are effectively working to pan London Procedures, or partnership wide locally agreed protocols when relevant including the use of SEAM as the adolescent risk assessment tool. Oversee the protocol for CSE / Missing / Exploitation from review through to sign off (keep CSE & Missing as two separate protocols).
3. Assure the effectiveness of multiagency interventions on the outcomes of children; use nationally agreed frameworks such as the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) for CSE, Missing and those at risk of exploitation and gang association to measure impact.
4. Use quality and meaningful data sets to be able to identify and target growing areas of vulnerability.
5. Enable coherent and meaningful communications with partners and the community around SARG risk areas.
6. Correctly escalate SARG issues that designated strategic boards/groups cannot resolve. i.e. Executive Board or through to the Leadership Forum.

Governance

The Safeguarding Adolescent at Risk Board will report into the Barnet Council's Executive group, this group will be responsible for establishing the effectiveness of the SARG via the BSCP Chair.

The sub group will meet on a bi-monthly basis.

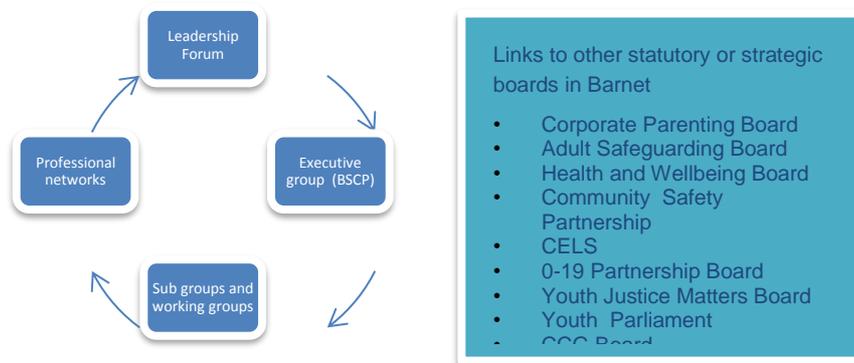
In order to ensure the efficacy of the BSCP as detailed in *Working Together 2015*, the BSCP term will be used to describe the following partnership structure from September 2017, ensuring that all S13 partners are engaged across the safeguarding partnership arrangements and effectively preparing Barnet to meet the new duties:

- Leadership Forum
- Executive Group ¹²
- Professional Networks
- CDOP
- Learning and Improvement Group

¹² Please note until the new Working Together guidance is in place the Executive Group will be badged as the BSCP and twice a year the membership will be expanded to ensure engagement with a wider cross section of S13 members. A full Board meeting will be called if required.

Each member of the BSCP as described in *Working Together* has a responsibility to ensure their own organisation is informed of the work of BSCP and particularly to highlight through their organisation’s governance arrangements, any risks associated with that organisation not meeting its statutory responsibility in relation to safeguarding children. All agencies will use the Pan London policies and procedures in the delivery of safeguarding arrangements. If a Barnet partner or strategic body develops a local policy to supersede the Pan London procedures, this will not be operational unless approved by the BSCP.

Model of the new BSCP partnership structure



Monitoring and Measuring Impact

We will monitor the impact of the work across the partnership via a outcomes scorecard.

A Barnet local authority analyst with access to Police and Family Services data will develop a score card which can also support MACE and Youth Panels and the police Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TTCCG).

The scorecard / report will include data from the Met Police’s (developing) Safeguarding Dashboard and feeds from REACH and MACE Panels. Data will not just be presented but will have accompanying ‘so what’ analysis to help steer SARG members as to questions and areas they should be probing.

Ideally such a report should be circulated with the group’s other papers a week before the meeting and cover the below as a minimum.

SARG Membership

| |
|--|
| Metropolitan Police Service – Detective Superintendent, Barnet Borough, Police Safeguarding Lead |
| London Borough of Barnet – Operational Director for Family Services. |
| London Borough of Barnet - Public Health Consultant |
| London Borough of Barnet - Community Safety Lead |
| Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group – Associate Director Safeguarding |
| London Borough of Barnet - Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing Lead (Strategy and Development) – Safeguarding Division |
| Lead Probation Officer, Barnet, Enfield & Brent |
| Sexual Health |
| CAMHS |
| Education |
| SARG Analyst - London Borough of Barnet |
| SARG Business Support - London Borough of Barnet |
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