



Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership

Yearly Report 2023 - 2024



**BARNLSLEY
SAFEGUARDING**
CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

Contents

1. Who we are	
Introduction & Welcome	Page 3
Role of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP)	Page 5
How the Partnership works together	Page 5
Governance structure	Page 6
2. What have we done this year	
Working Together 2023	Page 7
Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)	Page 8
Ofsted Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Inspection	Page 9
The Integrated Front Door (IFD)	Page 11
Children's Services Development Programme	Page 13
Strategic Priorities	Page 15
Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)	Page 19
Education	Page 20
3. Are we making progress on protecting children?	
Data Landscape of Barnsley- what do the numbers tell us?	
➤ <i>Children's Social Care</i>	Page 24
➤ <i>Family Hubs & Early Help</i>	Page 27
➤ <i>Youth Justice Service (YJS)</i>	Page 29
➤ <i>Missing from Home & Return Home Interviews</i>	Page 29
➤ <i>South Yorkshire Police (SYP)</i>	Page 30
➤ <i>South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (SYFR)</i>	Page 31
➤ <i>Berneslai Homes- Tenants First</i>	Page 31
Multiagency Quality Assurance	Page 32
4. Children and Young People's Voices	
Youth Groups	Page 34
Services	Page 35
Commissioned Services	Page 37
5. Implementing Learning and Raising Awareness	
Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs)	Page 44
First Year of Life	Page 45
Multiagency Training Programme	Page 46
Safeguarding Awareness Week 2023 (SAW)	Page 47
6. Strategic Priorities 2024-2025	
Strategic Priorities 2024-2025	Page 49
7. Accounts	
Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership Finance 2023-2024	Page 50
8. Our Partners	
Thanks to our partners	Page 51

1. Who we are

Introduction & Welcome

Welcome to Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership's yearly report which covers our work in 2023/24. It provides an overview of this year's multiagency safeguarding activity and reflects the hard work and commitment of all our partner agencies. Our aim is to create strong relationships and a positive multiagency environment in our shared and equal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of Barnsley's children and young people, building a brighter future for every child. Our [Healthy Barnsley 2030](#) ambition is that everyone has the right support, with early help at the right time and place; that fewer people live in poverty and that everyone has the resources they need to look after themselves and their families; that our diverse places are welcoming, supportive and adaptable.

The national context has been an evolving landscape where the cost-of-living crisis means greater numbers of adults find themselves parenting in hardship and there are continuing challenges to Public Services funding. The legacy of the pandemic is still felt, especially in schools and mental health service provision. Recruitment challenges continue in Health, Education, Police and Children's Services.

This year has seen changes to the Partnership board. Jane Sivakumar has moved on from her Integrated Care Board delegated statutory/executive partner role, which has been taken up by Alun Windle. David Radford, our Independent Chair and Scrutineer departed in March 2024. We are preparing new scrutiny arrangements later this year, in line with the changes in Working Together 2023.

Whilst last year was a period of significant change in the Partnership, this yearly report reflects the growth and development arising from those changes, to deliver more effective services to Barnsley children and their families. The Children's Services Development Board stood down in April 2024, after signing-off its ambitious improvement programme. The governance of the Development Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership has been coordinated to avoid duplication and ensure joint working across shared areas. Last year's JTAI workplan was signed-off in November 2023. The development of a multiagency team at the Integrated Front Door and the launch of the combined Children's and Police Bsafe team, to meet the risks that children experience outside of the home, have brought positive impact to the lives of Barnsley's children and young people. The HMIP inspection of the Youth Justice Service was published in July 2023 and was judged to be 'Good', which is a credit to the new team. The Ofsted local authority inspection in September 2023 judged the service as 'good', which is a notable achievement given pressures in public funding and has been a major focus this year. The progress of the four ensuing recommendations show that whilst we have areas for improvement, we are becoming more effective in providing help and protection to children and their families.

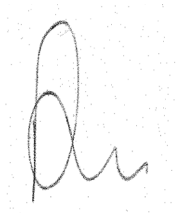
The national introduction of Integrated Care Boards in September 2022 has continued to drive significant organisational change. The ICB has been restructured and is now in a process of co-design to develop new ways of working. New models of working are being developed across the ICB (including safeguarding). The new model will retain a strong presence at Place and commitment to Partnership working and will work more effectively and robustly at a system level. During these changes, Health agencies have and will continue to maintain their commitment to both regional and local partnership working to safeguard children.

Our third statutory Safeguarding Partner, South Yorkshire Police are preparing for an HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in autumn 2024. The Yorkshire and Humber Probation Service are preparing for inspection in summer 24.

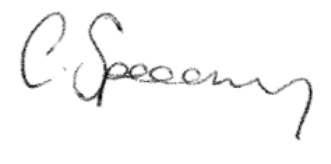
The Government reforms for Children's Social Care, including Working Together 23, were published in December 2023 and the Partnership is working together to plan and implement its significant raft of changes that will be captured in our multiagency safeguarding arrangements in December 2024.

Our yearly report recognises the progress that has been made in working together to keep children safe from harm, the challenges that have been met and the work ahead of us. We are grateful to all of our partners and their dedicated front-line staff for their support and steadfast commitment to safeguarding children in Barnsley.

Alun Windle
Chief Nurse (Barnsley), NHS
South Yorkshire Integrated
Care Board



Carly Speechley
Executive Director of
Children's Services, Barnsley
Council



Simon Wanless
Chief Superintendent
Barnsley District Commander,
South Yorkshire Police



Role of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP)

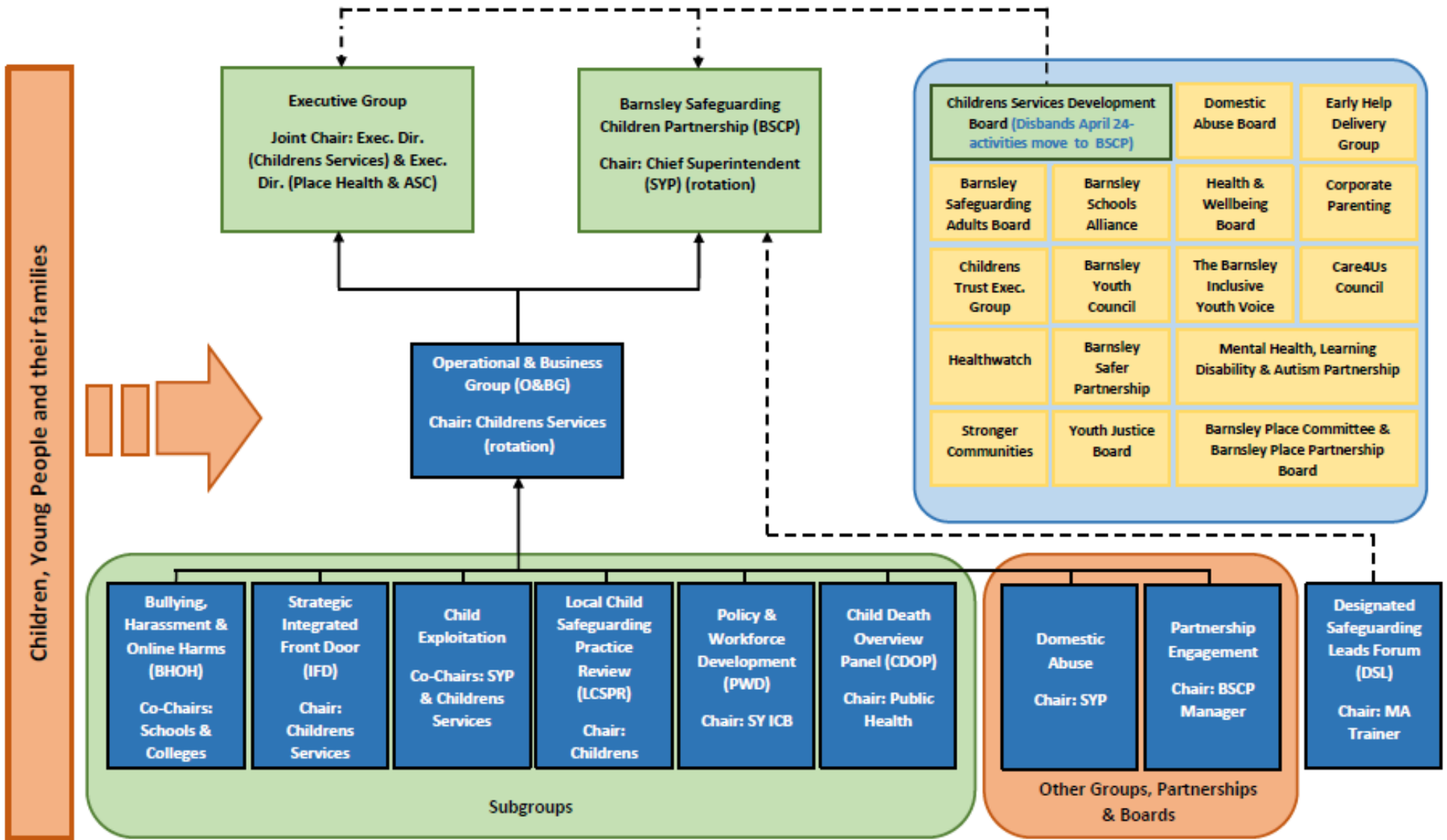
Barnsley's Safeguarding Children Partnership brings together three statutory partners (Children's Services, Police and Health (South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to plan and collaborate with all partner agencies who work with children and families. Our partnership was established in 2019 following the Wood Review and the revised Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). In December the government produced Working Together 23 as part of its social care reforms. Work to implement its requirements is underway. We will publish new multiagency safeguarding arrangements in December 2024. Our aim is to be more effective together than we are as separate agencies in our shared and equal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people of Barnsley. The purpose of our yearly report is to reflect upon the effectiveness of services and the impact we have made together in the past year.

How the Partnership works together

This yearly report sets out national and local contexts; it includes what has been achieved in our strategic priorities and workplans and summarises joint activities across the Early Help to Care Leavers spectrum. It includes key findings from external inspections, scrutiny reports and the steps we have taken in response. Recommendations from child practice reviews have been applied to learning. It links in with the work of other Barnsley partnerships and platforms the voices of children and young people. Our quality assurance work is led by the principles of learning, impact, evidence and improvement. Performance data helps identify where we are doing well and where we can do better. Data for this year's report has improved but continues to be affected by the transition between Children's Services case management systems and partnership resourcing, which will be resolved in the coming year, enabling us to finalise our partnership performance scorecard and meet our ambition for a multiagency dashboard.

The Children's Services Development Board (CSDB) brought oversight to Partnership work, where workstreams that overlapped with BSCP business had monthly challenge from senior leaders. It completed its plan in March 2024, with an organised handover of partnership workstreams. The Ofsted inspection in September 2023 rated the service as 'good' and reflected CSDB-led improvements in amongst others, the development of the Integrated Front Door as a partnership single point of access, progress in Contextual Safeguarding and quality assurance. One of 4 recommendations, to improve the engagement of multi-agency partners, in key decision-making meetings for children in need of help and protection, and the quality of referrals, is being progressed by a multiagency task & finish group, with improving outcomes. The re-introduction of an Operational and Business group has provided drive for our business plan. This has included focused work for a new strategic priority, through a task & finish group, in response to the high numbers of children experiencing domestic abuse. The plan is to align the work of the group into the Domestic Abuse Partnership, to bring a fully coordinated response to the needs of children, families and adults in Barnsley, affected by domestic abuse.

Governance Structure



2. What have we done this year?

Working Together 2023

Working Together 2023 (WT23) is one of four Department of Education reforms introduced in December 23 that will shape how safeguarding children partnerships and social care deliver services and define their priorities, to children and families.

All children should be able to live happy, rewarding, and fulfilling lives. We want to transform children's social care, so that families get the help they need when they need it, children are safe and supported by their family network and children in care and care leavers have stable and loving homes.

Children's Social Care: Reform statement. DfE December 2023

Working Together is a key piece of statutory guidance for partnerships and the latest version brings significant changes. Headline changes include:

- Closer partnership working to deliver for children and young people, so that we are more effective together than we are as separate organisations.
- Education to be an essential strategic partner to achieve joint working.
- From senior leaders to the frontline, it lays out expectations for anybody who works or volunteers with children, in relation to safeguarding and child protection, including charities, sports and faith groups. We share the same goals and will promote a culture where we learn with and from each other; have resources to help families; acknowledge and appreciate difference; provide engagement and positive challenge.
- Empower parents and carers to participate in decision-making equip them with information, keep them updated and direct them to further resources.
- Involve parents and carers in the design of services and processes that affect them.
- National standards will provide help, support and protection to children and young people.
- Stay in touch with care leavers up to 21 years.
- Stronger emphasis on learning from child safeguarding practice reviews.

[You can read Working Together 2023 here.](#)

Outcomes for children and their families

Children, young people and families stay together and receive the help they need.

Children and young people are supported by their family network.

Children and young people are safe both in and outside of their homes.

Children in care and young people leaving care have stable, loving homes.

Preparing for Implementation

From January 23 the Business Unit presented briefings across the Partnership and to other boards, of the Working Together 23 changes. An independent evaluation of our partnership is underway, to help us to meet the requirements of all DfE social care reforms including Working together 23

We plan to hold 3 multiagency development sessions: one in May 24 to bring the Partnership together including voluntary, faith, sports and social enterprise agencies for the first time, to explore implementation of WT23 and its impact for change on multiagency working. A 2nd session in autumn 24 will develop our shared vision for the partnership and focus on strategic priorities, shaping them based on local intelligence, what children and families tell us and fit with the Barnsley Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). We will share ideas for our new multiagency safeguarding arrangements. A 3rd development session in early 2025 will assess progress and will be an opportunity to reflect on delivery and impact and complete fine tuning, to ensure our priorities are effective in keeping children safe who are in need of help and protection

Discussions are underway in Barnsley and across strategic South Yorkshire partnerships to address the new responsibilities for Lead and Delegate Safeguarding Partners. The Executive group will use the findings from independent evaluation to lead a review of Partnership governance in summer 24, to ensure we have an effective structure to deliver our priorities and that strong links, clear reporting and lines of communication between strategic and operational groups are in place. Safeguarding Partners have agreed a yearly rotation of the Partnership chair, and an independent scrutineer has been appointed. Workplans to deliver WT23 and all DfE changes are in place. The quarterly multiagency Partnership meeting will have a sharper purpose to deliver on our ambitions.

Our new multiagency safeguarding arrangements will be published in December 2024. Whilst the yearly report is not required to comply with all aspects of WT23 until 2024/25, we have applied the principles of learning, impact, evidence and improvement, to this year's report.

Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)

Last year's JTAI inspection of how the partnership works together in our Front Door services to identify the risk of harm in children and young people, was a key area for improvement. Last year's annual report gave details of our activities and impact to meet the JTAI's 7 recommendations. Work has continued into 2023/24. The JTAI action plan was signed off in November 2023. The two remaining actions, for a partnership performance framework and development of multiagency data scorecard, were taken up by the Operational & Business Group, to drive forward.

This year we have:

- **The quality and consistency of all agencies gathering, recording and responding to the expressed wishes of children and young people with whom they work** – has continued to improve. There is greater scrutiny in child protection plans, midway checks between conferences to ensure progress and remove barriers, have increased. There is earlier escalation of non-engagement and dispute resolution. Children's lived experience is a standard line of enquiry in all multiagency audits. The impact has been that direct work with children and young people and the quality of recording is evident
- **The impact of multiagency representation at the IFD has improved information sharing between partners to enable coordinated responses to a child's needs.** Education has been joined this year by Probation, Early Help representatives. Plans are in place for permanent representation from domestic abuse services (IDAS) and Adult Social Care. A multiagency Daily Briefing meeting is embedded to jointly review with Police, Early Help, Health, IDVAs, Education, all high-risk domestic abuse crime incidents and all 'child protection' incidents reported to police in the previous 24 hours, including children in custody. It has enabled swift identification and response to children in need of help or protection, in relation to domestic abuse incidents in the previous 24 hours. Greater collaborative working has improved the quality and timeliness of referrals.
- **A children dedicated out of hours Emergency Duty Team** has been recruited and is ready to launch with a new case management system in test. Ofsted assessed the new provision to be an effective service to children, families partner agencies. From May 24 the new dedicated call centre means that calls are answered in good time and social workers are alerted, with greater accountability and consistency, via clear pathways. Planned requests for support and out of hours visits take place in quieter periods. It has allowed us to be more available so that the service offers greater support to children. Swifter response to police colleagues has strengthened professional relationships.
- **Police training is in place to improve coordination with social workers prior to use of police powers.** Proportionate responses have improved and is anticipated will continue to do so, once the EDT is fully operational. Creation of a Memorandum of Understanding is planned for Sept 24 between social care, police and health. The Emergency Duty Team will co-locate at Wombwell, based with the daytime Integrated Front Door. There will also be a presence at

Churchfields Police HQ to link with police and the Hub. Performance data from the dedicated, 24-hour service will be tracked in the coming months and will be produced in next years' yearly report.

- **Multiagency audits test the accuracy of thresholds applied to referrals, consent and the overall quality of information, so they can progress, getting it right first time.** Multiagency audits show that the application of thresholds and overall quality of referrals is improving. Details of multiagency audits are at [page 32](#).
- The new BSafe service, a joint Children Services and Police contextual safeguarding team, was launched in October 23. Launch events celebrated the opening of the Hub facility for young people and promoted the new CS tool across the partnership


Ofsted Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Inspection

A full Ofsted ILACs inspection in September 2023 was a major focus. The 'Good' outcome reflected the investment, energy and commitment that has been brought through the development board,


partnership and children's workforce in the preceding 12 months and recognises the hard work and cultural shift, to ensure that we are child-centred in delivering help and protection to Barnsley children. The Signs of Safety model equipped teams to bring a strengths-based child-focused approach to planning that involves the wider family.

Ofsted ILACs Inspection Feedback

Children at risk of exploitation benefit




from creative interventions





'You know your children well and what life is like for them'


'You are keen to ensure children reconnect with their family'




There is a real persistence at building positive relationships

Care leavers are receiving the right levels of support without becoming reliant





'You are passionate and successful with engagement'

Whilst Ofsted feedback noted many strengths during their visit, they were also clear that children's services should continue driving forward improvements in practice, particularly in relation to help and protection which was judged to require improvement.

They identified that Children's services need to continue to recruit permanent experienced staff, reduce the number of agency workers, improve recording of management direction, provide more local placements for children and young people, and further develop data and intelligence to enable the service to plan, predict and forecast future demand. They also identified that the engagement of multi-agency partners, including in key decision-making meetings for children in need of help and protection, and the quality of referrals they make to children's social care also required improvement. There were 4 recommendations:

Ofsted Recommendations

Recommendation 1: The engagement of multi-agency partners, including in key decision-making meetings for children in need of help and protection, and the quality of referrals they make to children's social care.

We have set up a multiagency task & finish group where agencies meet every month to drive improvements in engagement in key decision-making meetings for children in need of help and protection.

- Tracked attendance through January – March 2024 has evidenced significant improvement in conferencing whilst core groups still have some way to go.
- The group is preparing practice guidance for families, children and practitioners which launches in autumn 2024.
- ICB leads have promoted GP attendance and reporting at GP surgeries, with positive results. Child protection conference managers have delivered training to Probation colleagues.
- Our multiagency training programme has increased its ‘How to make a good referral’ courses and the IFD education coordinator has delivered sessions to designated safeguarding leads in education settings. Improvements in the quality of referrals are evident.
- Increased the number of multiagency training sessions for Attending Case Conferences, with good take up. Further promotion is required for Re-energised Core Groups sessions.
- Professional Curiosity 7-minute briefing circulated and added to BSCP website.
- Where gaps in representation in key decision-making meetings have been identified, discussions with individual agencies have secured their engagement and expectations for participation.
- Family Hubs track attendance at key decision-making meetings.
- There is an ongoing discussion about the quality of Police contacts at the IFD. It is also being addressed via SY strategic Safeguarding forums.
- Cleaner lines of communication developed to ensure the right services are invited to the right meetings and that minutes are circulated promptly to relevant services and families.

Next Steps

- A multiagency audit of 80 referrals will test the Quality of referrals in Q1. IFD, Education, Police, Police, Barnsley Hospital and 0-19s taking part.
- A follow up attendance tracker for conferences and core groups to be completed in Q2 to test for further improvement.
- All partnership agencies to track their organisations’ attendance at groups and conferences.
- Refresh the 0-19s PHNS agreement, to be written in collaboration with CPC and core group leads.
- Address the issue of schools’ capacity for attendance at conferences during school summer holidays.
- Complete Practice Guidance pack, including guidance to conference chairs, good meeting guides, familiarisation for children and families in multi-media format.
- A further audit to be carried out for the quality of police contacts. The aim is fewer contacts and more first-time-right referrals.
- Evaluation of multiagency training delivery and impact.
- Gather feedback from children and families of the support and guidance they are offered for key decision-making meetings and effectiveness of plans.

Recommendation 2: The quality of recorded management direction to social workers at the point of referral and within screening

Daily managers meetings monitor the timeliness of contacts and referrals throughput. A process has been established for weekly audits with all partners in the IFD and assessment teams, with the purpose of reviewing the quality of information given, the quality of the work undertaken, analysis, management oversight and outcome. Recording of management direction has improved at the IFD, evidenced through oversight that adds value and management perspective. Team managers return contacts that do not meet the standard for further work. A dip sample audit is planned for April 2024.

Recommendation 3: The identification and response to children who live in private fostering arrangements

A review of private fostering has been undertaken and recruitment to a dedicated Private Fostering independent reviewing officer is underway. The Private Fostering policy, processes and pathways have been reviewed and updated. Training for internal and external stakeholders has been provided, literature has been updated and Private Fostering has been promoted on social media and BSCP's website. Following the completion of the transformation review, additional training will be run in 2024/25, and consideration is being given to presentation of Private Fostering assessments and reviews to Foster Panel.

Recommendation 4: The record of achievements and targets within personal education plans (PEPs).

Work has been undertaken to ensure that there is increased visibility of the PEP's process. A student voice and Motional target has also been introduced to ensure student voice is monitored and actioned along with checking Motional progress more formally. A process for quality assuring PEPs has been introduced and has provided a greater understanding of the schools, professionals and Social Workers who require additional support and training around their target setting. Education Advocates provide direct support to social workers and Designated teachers to improve the quality of PEPs where appropriate. There has been a return to allocating the Designated teacher role to qualified teachers rather than pastoral staff, which has had a noted impact on the quality of targets set.

Progress for the 4 Ofsted's recommendations and plans are monitored through CSC's Directorate Management Team. Oversight of the Partnership recommendation also takes place through the Safeguarding Children Partnership governance.

The Integrated Front Door (IFD)

The JTAI and Ofsted inspections and development board programme had a shared focus on the Integrated Front Door, as the primary multiagency point of contact for Barnsley families and professionals who work with children.

Significant progress has been made during the year for the timeliness of work and the quality of screening by social workers, with the purpose of achieving robust decision-making for child protection. Engagement has strengthened between partners, in terms of information-sharing and decision-making at the earliest opportunity, through strong links with targeted early help and family hubs, to ensure that children receive the right help at the right time in the right place. This has been delivered by;

- Workforce stability. All posts are fully recruited to with permanent staff.
- New approaches and solutions to respond to emerging challenges.
- Empowering staff to make sustainable changes to our practice.
- Building confidence and encouraging workers to take on more responsibility and show initiative.
- Targeted work to develop professional curiosity, triangulation and critical analysis in the screening team.
- Developing stronger relationships with partners and a shared aspiration to become a truly Integrated Front Door.

The Ofsted ILAC inspection report gave assurance that decision making in the front door is appropriate and safe; *"Triage decisions are made by social workers who have the necessary skills and experience. Referrals are appropriately screened, and thresholds to access statutory services are generally applied consistently and appropriately."*

However, the inspection also identified that the quality of management direction to social workers at the point of referral and within screening was not always consistent and needed to be improved (see page 9). These have been addressed through practice discussion, development of a manager’s oversight template, regular weekly multi-agency audits which focus on management understanding, guidance and decision-making as well as 2 thematic audits in November 2023 and January 2024.

What difference has it made?

- Audits demonstrate that management oversight, understanding and decision-making is evident on children’s files.
- There is increased consistency in the application of thresholds.
- Oversight is not a repeat of social worker analysis - it brings added value and management perspective.
- Evidence that team managers return contacts to screening staff when contacts are not of the right quality or thoroughness.

Demand for service

The development of an integrated front door provided the opportunity for early help provision to become fully aligned with statutory social work, linking up with partner agencies in Health, Education, Probation and the Police. It has resulted in an increase in contacts that are referred to the front door for early help intervention or for advice, guidance and sign posting. This is aligned to our aspirations to ‘rebalance’ the system safely and appropriately, away from statutory and specialist services, to working with children and families early in the life of a problem. The approach is crucial in improving outcomes for children and their families as well as managing demand and cost pressures.

2023/2024	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Contacts	935	1150	1186	1032	900	881	780	630	528	659	673	652
Contacts advice and guidance	436	464	487	668	710	713	740	706	601	691	755	796
Total Demand	1371	1614	1673	1700	1610	1594	1520	1336	1129	1350	1428	1448

Total demand in 2022/23 at the IFD was **10791** contacts. 2023/24 increased by **67%** to **17773**.

We want to encourage dialogue rather than simply exchanging forms, allowing social workers to use their professional curiosity and skills. The model provides a specific methodology for holding coaching conversations and is an evolution of appreciative inquiry. “Coaching conversations” help increase the confidence and capability of all professionals about “holding the risk” appropriately. The impact of this approach is evident in the data above, with an increase in contacts for advice and guidance.

Our aim is to deliver the right service at the right time to help children to thrive. Previous data showed that Barnsley had a higher number of referrals at s.47 stepped down at first review, suggesting we had too many strategy meetings without an identified threshold. Additional multiagency and training for IFD and assessment managers was delivered, of what is meant by ‘significant harm’. Latest data indicates fewer strategy meetings without outcomes.

The Multiagency Daily Briefing Meeting enables swift identification, information sharing and response to children in need of support or at risk of harm for domestic abuse incidents and provides a coordinated response to children’s needs. The development and operational launch of new pathways and protocols in relation to Child Exploitation, Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Educational Neglect have streamlined and assisted overall effectiveness.

Education settings benefit from support and advice and guidance provided by the Education practitioner based in the IFD. The role provides oversight of vulnerable children and those not in

mainstream schools. It has contributed to the efficiency of IFD screening to improve the quality of referrals from schools and has delivered training to raise awareness of the role and functions of the IFD, to over 300 professionals. This is enhanced by a Team Around the School approach with all schools now having an identified link targeted early help worker.

Children's Services Development Programme

The Development Programme began in November 2022, following the Executive Director of Children's Services' review of operations and findings from inspections and independent reviews, reported in detail in last years' BSCP yearly report.

The Council agreed an additional financial commitment of £13.5m in 2022 – 23, to enable the service to respond to the findings and improve outcomes for children in need of help and protection. A comprehensive development plan drove service improvements in the following areas:

- Workforce
- Performance and data
- Quality assurance and practice improvement
- Sufficiency
- Enabler and Infrastructure
- Contextual Safeguarding
- The Integrated front Door

The development programme progressed sufficiently by March 2024 for the board to sign it off and hand over remaining workstreams, which were integrated either into Partnership governance through the Operational & Business Group or through monthly reporting of CSC workstreams to DMT.

Leadership and Governance

The Development board provided strategic leadership, governance and scrutiny of delivery of the programme. It was drawn from political, corporate and strategic leaders across the council and partner agencies. to provide support and challenge for the delivery of the plan, whilst operating in a challenging economic operating environment and the cost-of-living crisis.

Development Plan

Phase 1 of the Development Plan was signed-off in October 23 with 99 completed activities. Phase 2 of the plan took forward remaining activity from phase 1 and incorporated the improvement work identified in the Ofsted inspection, September 2023.

The main phase 2 workstreams were:

- Governance and Partnership.
- Experience and progress of children who need help and protection.
- Experience and progress of Children in Care and Care Leavers.
- Impact of leaders on practice with Children and Families.

Most activities were completed by March 2024 and the remaining ones were taken forward into Social Care and Partnership and workstreams with clear governance and reporting.

Ofsted Inspection September 2023

The Ofsted report can be found [here](#). Results for Ofsted are on pages 9-11

Caseloads and workforce capacity

Caseloads have continued to fluctuate, attributable primarily to vacancies and use of agency workers across the service. Higher caseloads reduce opportunities to build relationships and undertake

effective direct work with children, young people and families. We know that there is more work to do.

An improved agency monitoring, and approvals process was introduced this year. It has been effective, with a reduction of 48 agency workers from Nov 2023 to March 2024, including two full front line social care teams. 28 agency workers have successfully converted to permanent employees. The service is committed to reducing the number of over-establishment agency workers by the end of 2024/25. It will be managed sensitively and be monitored for impact. A review of the Workforce Delivery Plan in March 2024 focused on retention and a continuing recruitment drive for Social Care staff, reducing vacancies and a review of existing job profiles in service.

Performance and Quality Assurance

Ofsted told us that we have a robust Quality Assurance Framework to assure ourselves of the quality of practice and services delivered to children and families. Findings inform service delivery and the continuous improvement of practice in Barnsley. The alignment of Practice Development Hub with quality assurance work has targeted support and training packages to where they are most needed. The closing the learning loop monthly sessions highlight findings of audit and practice support, leading to better outcomes for our children and families.

CSC internal audit gradings were mostly either good or requires improvement. There is strong evidence of good or outstanding features of social work practice with children, young people, and families. There is a robust audit moderation system in place. Examples of good and outstanding practice are celebrated and used as best practice examples to support whole service practice improvement work. Feedback from children and families helps to measure the quality and impact of services provided and to develop service and practice improvement initiatives.

Practice Development Hub

The Practice Development Hub supports workforce development and is responsible for the Practice Standards across Children's Services. It includes targeted training, informed by quality assurance findings, for specialist social work areas of practice, including a team manager training programme in June 2023, to drive good outcomes for children and lead a positive culture. It has continued with the signs of Safety roll-out, including a 6-day leadership training programme for children's services and multiagency partnership and systems preparations.

Looked After Children Commissioning / Sufficiency

The purpose of our sufficiency strategy is to provide sufficient, safe, secure, and appropriate placements for Children in Care over the next 3 years, with support for children and young people to stay with their families where it is safe to do so. The Sufficiency Steering Group drives its implementation. A Planning for Permanency Strategy is in place, to ensure that children and young people in care, are appropriately supported and only remain in care for as long as is necessary.

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) colleagues and Children's services have collaborated effectively to support children and young people eligible for Continuing Care. A Resource Allocation Officer took up their new role in February '24, working closely with the ICB to identify, monitor and track eligibility for Continuing Care. They provide support to social workers to ensure inclusion and compliance in relation to Continuing Healthcare (CHC), Decision Support Tool (DST) and Section 117 Processes.

Next Steps

The development plan is regularly reviewed through the Directorate Management Team and quarterly reports to BSCP. To realise our ambition for consistently good practice across services for children and families, the next steps are to:

- Continue to develop a collaborative culture rooted in effective support and challenge.
- Ensure that caseloads are monitored and remain manageable through effective recruitment, retention and workforce development.
- Address Ofsted inspection recommendations through collaboration with partners, to help and protect children and young people.
- Develop a robust action plan to meet the DfE's Children's Social Care reforms.
- Further improve the performance framework to inform practice and effective interventions.
- Develop our intelligence data to allow us to plan, predict and forecast future demand.
- Embed our preferred practice model, Signs of Safety.
- Develop our Edge of Care services.
- In collaboration with partners, finalise and launch our to develop our contextual safeguarding strategy.
- Increase local placements so that children stay close to their local communities.

Strategic Priorities 2023 - 24

Neglect

Why: Neglect is the most frequent reason for referrals to the Integrated Front Door. Over 54% of Barnsley's Child Protection plans due to neglect. We recognise there is a clear distinction between poverty and neglect and that both are major adverse childhood experiences in young people's lives that can affect their futures.

Our aim is for intervention to be provided at the earliest opportunity, to ensure that professionals work together positively to achieve the best outcomes for children. We aim to provide the right level of intervention to families from the right lead professionals, resulting in a reduction in referrals and re-referrals for families with a social care history.

Activities/Deliverables/ What worked Well

- The Ofsted identified the following:
 - *Work is, in the main, evidencing a timely and thorough response to addressing concerns relating to neglect. More recently, when children's lives are not improving, they are benefiting from earlier authoritative decisions to escalate into pre-proceedings and swift applications to initiate care proceedings. Within the last six months, senior managers have strengthened the Public Law Outline process through the introduction of review mechanisms, and increased monitoring to minimise drift and delay for children.*
- Approximately 800 professionals have been trained in GCP2, including all IFD, assessment team, CYPT and the Disabled Childrens team.
- GCP2 training is offered to all professionals working with children in Barnsley.
- Practitioners are asked to complete GCP2 prior to key meetings and points of escalation.
- An additional field has been added to the mosaic case management system, to record and monitor use of GCP2 in Early Help and statutory interventions

Our Next Steps

- A multiagency audit is planned for Q2, to measure the use of the GCP2 tool in neglect cases for targeted early help, or where children are in need of help or protection. Findings will inform further activity to ensure it is used consistently to support positive outcomes for children and young people.
- Continue to promote the use of GCP2 as a key element of Early Help practice, to it is used at the earliest opportunity as a meaningful tool to identify need. Deliver the right help from the right service, at the right time.
- Investigation into the category of 'neglect' for child protection plans as a primary category to assure it is not used as a 'catch all' for other concerns.
- CYPT teams to review plans to ensure the right help is delivered by the right service at the earliest opportunity.

- Collaborative work between Social Care and Health to investigate the benefit of paediatric assessment of children in need of protection due to Neglect.

Develop the next phase of the Neglect priority to:

- Strengthen joint working to ensure clear pathways between services that support families coping with absolute poverty and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis - such as housing services, schools, Early Help, family hubs and welfare support.
- Address the impact of Neglect on children's health, those missing in education and risks of harm outside the home.

Child Exploitation/ Contextual Safeguarding

Why: National and local reports inform us of a significant increase in all areas of Child Exploitation as communities emerged from the pandemic lockdown. We identified risk of harm outside of home as a priority in Barnsley, based on local findings.

Our aim is to improve outcomes for children and young people at risk of exploitation and harm outside of home. We aim for the partnership to be assured that we have clear governance and strategies in place, and that children and their families tell us they feel safer outside of the home. This commitment is reinforced through the additional investment this year from Childrens Services and SY police to fund specialist posts in the BSafe team and vulnerable adolescents Hub which will focus on risk in relation to contextual safeguarding.

The subgroup is aligned with the Development Board contextual safeguarding workstream to ensure co-ordinated multiagency working across all areas including child exploitation. From January 2023 the subgroup was re-named **Contextual Safeguarding** as the remit developed to include the wider contextual safeguarding agenda for harm outside the home.

Activities/Deliverables/ What worked Well:

- Vulnerability Hub established with the BSafe multi-agency team co-located at Barnsley Town Hall. Specialist posts will be in place in summer 2023, including a team manager and advanced practitioners, and a specialist post for Harmful Sexual Behaviour.
- Launch of SYP's Child Exploitation team in September 2023, which is co-located led by a subject matter expert in MACE, County Lines and CE. This is allowing us to improve engagement with victims/potential victims, focus upon problem solving, targeting perpetrators and more holistic protective/prevention work, such as education/diversion work in schools.
- Joint operations have been conducted which involved SY Police working with the contextual safeguarding team, focusing on our most high-risk victims. MACE jointly chaired by Team Manager in BSafe and SYP DSI.
- The Hub at Commerce House was launched in August 2023 as a child friendly delivery space for Youth Justice, Care Leavers and Future Directions.
- Interim Contextual Safeguarding Strategy and delivery plan was developed, and Harmful Sexual Behaviours Pathway and associated guidance documents developed and launched.
- A robust Multiagency Child Exploitation Sexual Abuse Pathway was implemented to ensure that children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse are referred appropriately, and in a timely way, for medical treatment and ongoing support.
- MACE guidance, contextual safeguarding screening tools and a referral pathway were developed and launched to pursue and locate those exploiting children and young people.
- The police introduced the Child Exploitation Tasking Group (CETG).
- The role of SYP's Child Exploitation link officer (SPOC) continues to be highly effective and links across BCSP subgroups and DSLs.

- Harmful Sexual Behaviour strategy has been implemented including a model of support for professionals based on consultation, advice and guidance to the wider workforce. It links into the practice development hub for Children's Services. Fortnightly HSB Panel is now in place.
- Direct interventions are delivered for children presenting with the most acute HSB risk.
- BSCP procedures have been updated to include the new HSB pathway.

Our Next Steps:

- Review of the BSafe model to be undertaken in Autumn 2024 to assess impact and any learning 12 months after implementation of this approach.
- Finalise the Contextual Safeguarding Strategy and delivery plan by September 2024.
- Update B-Safe operating guidance to reflect co-location model.
- Review capacity and develop HSB knowledge and skills across the wider workforce, to extend the training and development offer.
- Deliver a targeted programme of development with schools specifically in relation to nude image sharing of under 18's, to avoid criminalisation of children unnecessarily.
- Further review of referral, assessment and intervention processes, in particular the role of the integrated front door, referral partners and assessment team. This will include pre-screening/pre-MACE information gathering and CE Risk assessments, and attendance/participation of relevant professionals at MACE meetings on a consistent basis.
- Update the training offer for children's social care in relation to exploitation and contextualized safeguarding. Training offer to be rolled out to partner agencies in relation to the new CE Risk Assessment, so it is completed with each referral and to enable key agencies to review and monitor CE risk levels.
- Secure additional staffing and wider resources to add further resilience to the BSafe delivery model.
- HSB support model to be further embedded in practice and reviewed in response to demand for support and assessment.
- Development of Edge of Care Service alongside this team will see expansion of some Family Group Conferencing and intensive prevention worker capacity to strengthen the BSafe model.
- A rolling programme of comprehensive training will be offered from Autumn 2024, encompassing all elements of exploitation and contextual harm.
- Develop practice guidance for specific partner agencies and functions e.g. IFD, Schools, Police
- Embed Return Home Interviews response into BSafe. Review and develop missing response and associated decision making/risk management
- Feed into a review of the daily briefing meetings to ensure focus on the most complex children.

Bullying, Harassment & Online Harms

Why: Barnsley Youth Forum and BSCP s.175 school's self-assessment audit told us that Bullying and Online Harm are consistently high areas of activity and concern. Online Harms reporting has escalated as a post-pandemic safeguarding area.

Our aims are to ensure that children and young people feel safer, are confident that bullying is addressed and know how to keep themselves safe online.

Activities/ Deliverables/ What worked well:

- Increase in participation in BSCP's Anti-bullying Commitment: S.175 audit 2022/23 found that 78% of schools promote the commitment, compared with 51% of schools in 2021/22. A refreshed version of the commitment, the updated anti-bullying strategy and a certificate to display in settings was distributed, along with two surveys, designed by youth groups, for school self-assessment use.
- Collaborative work with the Education DSL forum, including a presentation on Bullying in the Community, Hate Crime and community cohesion, in January 24.

- Collaborative work with the 'Healthier Futures Barnsley' Accreditation Team to promote the incentive / display BHOH resources and links on the HF website.
- Young people attended 3 BHOH sub-group meetings to present safeguarding activities, such as promoting inclusion and diversity, they lead in their settings. Youth groups told us what was important to them and how the subgroup can amplify their views and provide support.
- Co-production with Youth Council, Care 4 Us council and Compass Be Young Commissioners in the following resources:
- Creation of 'Anti-bullying and Online Harms toolkits' for education staff, parents and students. This included promotion of accredited programmes such as the Diana Award and free online resources.
- Research undertaken in all Barnsley secondary schools, about phone apps that young people used most frequently. Based on findings, two booklets were co-produced with youth groups, titled 'Keeping Safe Online': one for young people and one for parents / carers.
- Safeguarding Awareness Week 2023: A key theme was Online Harms. An 8-minute video was created, for social media and in-school settings, relating to six popular online apps and their risks, with an accompanying resource signposting support relating to the issues raised.
- Created guidance and a walk-through webinar for reporting bullying, violent and online harms incidents to support completion of the s.175 self-assessment. As a result, the standard of self-assessment completion improved, with richer data from schools and colleges.
- Produced and promoted anti-radicalisation and extremism guidance.

Our Next Steps:

- Roll-out of the *Stop Bullying in Barnsley* Survey to assess impact of BHOH work and identify areas for continued improvement, based on youth voice.
- Continued work with the Schools' Alliance in how best to remove barriers to partnership engagement, with schools that are not currently engaged with local initiatives or processes.
- Schools' Alliance cluster leads to agree shared terminology relating to bullying incidents and reporting.

Domestic Abuse

Why: Domestic abuse is a recurring theme in the lives of many Barnsley children and young people., with 26% of referrals for safeguarding concerns relating to it. The national picture tells us that 60% of children live in households where domestic abuse is reported ([SafeLives](#)). The National Panel recorded 50% of serious harm or child deaths in rapid reviews occurred in households where domestic abuse was present (view their 2022/23 Annual Report [here](#)). It is a source of anxiety and poor mental health amongst school age children and can have life-long impact in terms of healthy relationships. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identified children as victims if they see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse. As such, child protection systems should link safety plans for adults with child protection assessments and responses (*Myth of Invisible Men (CSPRP, 2021b)*). In September 2023, the Partnership agreed to add Children and Young People experiencing domestic abuse to our priorities and established a multiagency task & finish group from November 2023 to lead the work.

Our aim is to improve outcomes for children and young people who experience domestic abuse, providing help and protection. We aim for the partnership to be assured that we have clear governance and strategies in place, and that children and their families tell us they feel safer, that services and interventions bring positive outcomes. This commitment is reinforced through additional investment this year from the Safer Barnsley Partnership, in Safe and Together training. The model is based upon creation of domestic abuse informed systems, where the focus is on changes in perpetrators' behaviour rather than survivor's decisions, voice of the child, skills for practitioners and effective outcomes for children and their families.

To achieve our aim, we will work together with multiagency partnerships, boards and domestic abuse specialist organisations to effect a coordinated response to domestic abuse in Barnsley.

Activities/Deliverables/ What is working Well:

- A service mapping exercise was completed to identify the offer from agency and commissioned services to families, schools and communities.
- Work is in hand to identify available multiagency datasets and performance indicators to inform positive outcomes.
- Explored the option, with Childrens, Adults and Safer Barnsley Partnerships, of establishing a Multiagency Domestic Abuse meetings (MADA) at the Integrated Front Door. It would share information about high-risk cases for children and young people, in the previous 24 hours and agree safety plans/ next steps.
- Cross-board agreement reached about the benefits of a MADA. Implementation will be determined by funding, which has been escalated through South Yorkshire Police.
- An IDAS representative is co-located at Churchfields to provide frontline support to police and survivors of domestic abuse.
- Operation Encompass, led by SY police, has had a positive impact in schools. Police reps attend the Schools Designated Safeguarding Leads forum and through direct schools links.
- A multiagency domestic abuse training programme is in development that will include Safe & Together and IDAS-commissioned delivery.
- Joint work between Compass.be, Spectrum and IDAS to map and coordinate domestic abuse-related support offered in education settings.
- Work on governance coordination is underway between BSCP and the DA partnership, including a review of the Domestic Abuse strategy and a combined work plan.
- GP engagement in domestic abuse-related referrals identified as an area for improvement. ICB representatives have raised it at the GP forum, promoted via communications and all GPs have been offered training via IDAS and BSARCS. IDAS video circulated to GP surgeries. ICB reps have promoted it in all Barnsley practices visits. Whilst DA-related referrals numbers from GPs remain low, they have doubled from Q4 2023 to Q4 2024.

Our Next Steps:

- Implement and evaluate the Domestic Abuse training programme in 2024/25.
- Agree and implement cross-board governance and performance framework in autumn 2024.
- Complete review of the domestic abuse strategy and work plan in autumn 2024.
- Develop and implement a MADA at the IFD.
- If MADA funding is secured, assess and implement knock-on changes to MARAC arrangements.
- IDAS representative to be co-located at the IFD.
- Impact of Domestic Abuse conference in Safeguarding Awareness Week, November 2024.
- Establish direct links with children and young people who experience domestic abuse, to inform our practice and commissioning.
- Link in with Barnsley survivors' groups to inform practice and commissioning.
- Audit Child Protection and Adults pathways to assure that adults safety plans link with child protection assessments and plans AND VICE VERSA.
- Continue to support improvements in GP engagement for domestic abuse-related referrals.
- Promote and build practitioner skills and awareness in Early Help work.
- Carry out Ofsted's JTAI benchmarking of how local safeguarding partners work together to help and protect children who are victims of domestic abuse.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Data 2023-2024

Between April 2023 and March 2024, 28 cases were reviewed with the aim of understanding how and why children die and to inform future prevention work. Most deaths were in babies aged under a month and were due to medical causes or being born very prematurely. No other themes have been identified in this period. Changes in chairing arrangements this year has been positive, bringing a fresh perspective to the Panel. After many years without a key worker, we have also now secured this position with the CDOP administrator taking on the additional role of key worker. They will support families in helping them understand and be heard in the CDOP process at a devastating time.

It should be recognised, however, that thankfully Barnsley numbers are low. Consequently, we are looking to strengthen our role in working with partners across South Yorkshire to identify regional trends and identify where action can be taken to prevent further deaths.

Learning from Child Deaths and Action Taken

After the significantly high numbers of deaths from Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI) in 2020 when we had 5 deaths, we had a period of 4 years with no SUDI deaths (we would normally average 1-3 per year). Unfortunately, since the beginning of this year we have had two deaths where initial findings suggest these will be classed as SUDI. This emphasises the need to continue with the multiagency work and public awareness campaigns of the past 4 years, to reduce these and promote safe sleep.

For more information on safe sleep please visit [How to reduce the risk of SIDS for your baby - The Lullaby Trust](#)

The full SY CDOP annual report for 22/23, including Barnsley data for 23/24, can be viewed [here](#).

Education

Section 175 Self-Assessment Audits

Schools and colleges have a statutory duty under the Education Act (2002) to provide assurance to the BSCP about arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, primarily provided through completion of the yearly self-assessed Section 175 safeguarding audit. Analysis of the s.175 audit returns enable the Partnership to review compliance and the effectiveness of schools' safeguarding arrangements, to gather local data from settings across the borough, and to identify trends and areas for improvement.

The self-assessment is devised and aligned to statutory guidance by BSCP's business unit. The unit supports schools to complete their findings and produces the final report. An intensive preparation package and positive DSL's engagement delivered a 100% return from all 92 settings.

Key points / findings:

- Challenges from missing data last year have been largely overcome by 95% of schools submitting their audit via Smart Survey. Variability was reduced this year through guidance to accompany the audit link, which included definitions of terms such as 'bullying' and 'online harms'. A webinar walk-through was created and offered to Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) to support them with their self-assessments.
- A great deal of positive change is clear from analysis of 2022/23 data, when compared to that captured for the 2021/22 academic year; for example, the number of settings with up-to-date policies has risen from 43% to 78%.
- The main theme from this year's report is that no single area stands out as being an area for blanket intervention, as Online Harms did last year; improvements moving forward will be gained through targeted work from partners with a small number of individual schools.

- Much restorative work is being done across the borough to tackle bullying, at both strategic and practical levels. The number of schools launching their involvement with the BSCP Anti-bullying Commitment has increased as 78% of schools now promote the commitment, compared with 51% of schools last year. Narratives show that schools are taking the wishes and feelings of victims into account.
- Before finalisation of the findings report, a preview session was offered to selected DSLs to help shape recommendations. The meeting was productive and resulted in several developments.
- All settings were sent their individual results in April 2024, a new 'closing the loop' activity which brought positive results after the 2021/22 audit. 46 schools improved their safeguarding provision between audits. The BSCP has again created a tracking document for progress of individual schools against their actions, which has been shared with the Schools' Alliance to take forward.

See the full s.175 report [here](#).

Schools Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Forum

It is well-attended, dynamic forum for designated safeguarding leads in education, led by the Partnership multiagency trainer, that offers guidance, information and networking opportunities throughout 2023/24. Recent key topics include:

- The Local Drugs Information System.
- The effects of Ketamine, presented by a Consultant Urological Surgeon.
- Changes to Early Help.
- Hate Crime and Bullying in the Community, presented jointly by BMBC and SYP.
- Youth Justice Turnaround Programme.
- Support for self-harming children, presented by SWYFT.
- Services provided by YGAM (Young Gamblers and Gamers Trust) and Humankind.
- LGBTQIA+ Health Needs Assessment Report.
- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- Standing items: updates from the LADO, SYP and the IFD to discuss emerging risks / trends.

Feedback from DSL forum:

"I just wanted to email so say how valuable I find these meetings each term and I appreciate the time and effort you put in, sourcing and organising those who present."

- *Designated Safeguarding Lead – Primary Setting*

"A packed agenda, as ever - what a great job you do each term of bringing everyone together with such relevant updates. We really do appreciate this!"

- *Designated Safeguarding Lead - Primary Setting*

Barnsley Schools' Alliance

Attendance, Elective Home Education and school exclusions remain a high priority of the Alliance, and work is taking place with CEO's of academy trusts, to strengthen inclusion. The Alliance and the Education Welfare Service are working together with schools to identify students that require additional support. The Early Intervention Panel wraps services around pupils with high levels of suspension, specific resources are being placed in areas of need, and data is analysed to ensure that

services and challenge are directed appropriately. Pupil and family voices are collected at the point of exclusion and EHE, which is used to influence change with leaders and encourage participation in the creation of core principles for inclusion.

The Schools' Alliance helped organise three safeguarding development sessions to 37 school governors, to raise awareness, strengthen practice and increase critical peer-challenge. Governor services have rolled out 'Governor Hub', an online platform available to schools who subscribe to the traded governor clerking service. The platform enables important safeguarding messages to be disseminated, along with best practice and legislative changes. The evaluation and recommendations in the Section 175 audit report were shared through the Governor Newsletter, communications and forums.

Elective Home Education (EHE)

The Education Welfare Service (EWS) works in partnership with schools, families and agencies to identify and understand why parents chose to electively home educate and records reasons in line with DfE guidance. They strive to ensure that all children receive a suitable education through attendance at school or otherwise, and strongly believe that engagement in education provides the best possible outcomes for young people, significantly reducing their risk of harm.

Resources are focused on working with families at the earliest point of EHE to understand the reasons for choosing EHE and to swiftly remove any barriers to return to school-based learning, when this is in the best interests of the child. The service always seeks to capture the pupils voice to ensure that EHE is also their choice, and so that they understand that they can access support as they could when they were at school. Additional investment in staffing and resources has enabled effective tracking of pupils, with focus on the most vulnerable. Work with families has resulted in 95 pupils returning to school-based education this academic year. Continued work in 2024, in partnership with the Schools' Alliance and CEO's, will focus on inclusion in schools to ensure that parents are not choosing EHE because they feel that they have no other alternative.

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Improvement Service

The SEND improvement service has undergone significant development over the past year, increasing capacity by recruiting a team of 6 SEND Improvement Officers and 2 Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) specialist teachers. Every school and setting in Barnsley now has an allocated officer as their designated contact in joining up partnership services to better support young people with SEND. All educational settings have met with their SEND Improvement officer and 65 schools have taken part in a whole school SEND audit to improve provision and outcomes for children. Early Years settings will be able to book SEND audits from September, with a view to increase understanding of timely identification in early years and support for transitioning into primary education. Special Education Mental Health teachers now have caseloads of more than 120 children and young people across the borough. Latest data demonstrates positive impact from this service in reducing the number of suspensions, exclusions and partial timetables, as well as increasing the attendance of pupils with SEND and supporting those who have received a permanent exclusion back into mainstream education.

Barnsley College

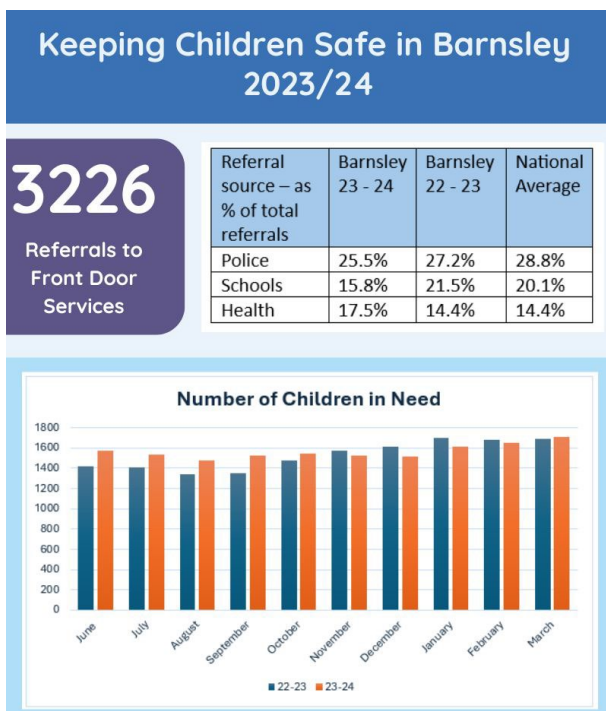
During 2023/24 academic year, Barnsley College won two accolades from the Association of Colleges' annual Beacon Awards – one being for the College's outstanding commitment to the mental health of students. Senior leaders created well-being spaces and learning environments that develop and support students' and members of staff's well-being; For example, a well-being garden provides a

space where students can access support and can sit in peace and quiet. In addition, the Health & Wellbeing Centre in College provides a range of services including counselling, resilience building sessions and 'Wellbeing Wednesdays'.

3. Are we making progress on protecting children?

Data Landscape of Barnsley – what do the numbers tell us?

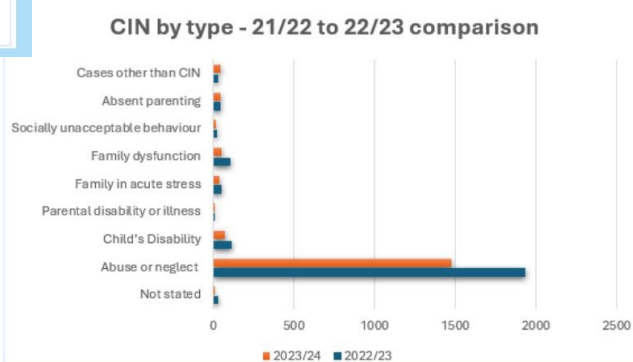
The 2021 census showed a growing number of young people live in Barnsley, with numbers rising by over 4,000 for 0-19s compared to 2019, in a total population of 244,600.



Children’s Social Care

The number of children who are open to Children’s Social Care has remained generally consistent over the last year. Social care intervention for the category of neglect remains by far the most significant reason for intervention. Work has been completed across the partnership to drive the Neglect Strategy and use of the Graded Care Profile 2 tool. The number of children with a Child In Need Plan has decreased from 509 in July 2023 to 426 in March 2024. This is reflective of the work being completed in Children’s Social Care and Targeted Early Help to ensure that intervention is appropriate and at the right threshold, and that escalations and de-escalations into and out of social care are robust.

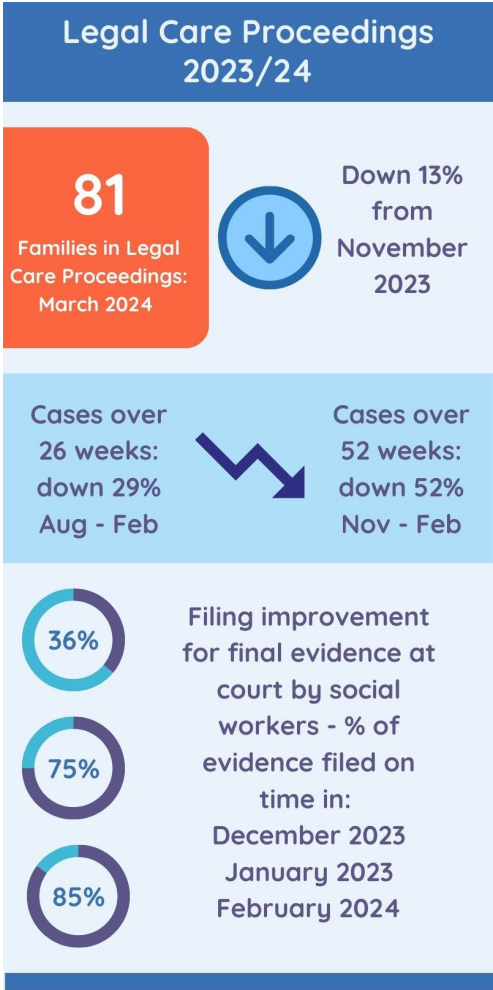
On the 31 March 2024, there were 365 children subject to child protection plans compared to 314 the previous year, an increase of 16.24%. The trajectory since 2021 shows an annual increase of the number of children in Barnsley who are subject to child protection planning. Barnsley remain in line with their statistical neighbours for the percentage of children subject to child protection planning and is above the national average. The average number of children subject to child protection planning each month in 2023/24 was 328.



Neglect continues to be the most prevalent reason for a child being subject to a child protection plan. The Neglect strategy recognises the wider context of poverty and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on families (see pages 15-16). Barnsley is currently ranked as the 44th most income deprived local authority area in England with clear clusters of deprivation across the borough. 51 of Barnsley’s 147 neighbourhood areas are in the top 20% of the most income deprived areas in England. Only 9 areas are in the 20% least income deprived.



Legal Care Proceedings



The number of families in legal care proceedings decreased during the second half of 2023/24, from 93 in November to 81 in March, which moves Barnsley closer to comparable neighbours Rotherham and Doncaster, who issued approx. 75 public proceedings applications in the last financial year. It is hoped that these numbers will further decrease as legacy cases are concluded and new case rates reduce. Current ongoing proceedings have also decreased substantially: for those over 26 weeks, cases have decreased from 48 in August to 34 in February, with those over 52 weeks falling from 25 in November to 12 in February.

The filing of final evidence at court by social workers has significantly improved from December 2023, where only 36% of evidence was filed on time, to February 2024, where 85% was filed on time. Monthly tracker meetings are held, with scheduled prompts for management checking / legal time. Training is offered bi-monthly on legal requirements to assessment teams and data is reviewed at Legal Gateway business meetings to ensure issues are proactively managed.

Children in Care (CIC), Children Looked After (CLA) & Care Leavers

The number of children in care has reduced during 2023/24, to 408 in March 2024. This success is due to a greater focus on permanence and the promotion of Special

Guardianship and Child Arrangements Orders with carers and on rehab work to return children back to the care of their parents when it is safe to do so.

The revised Legal Gateway process promotes greater use of the pre-proceedings Public Law Outline (PLO) as a ‘last chance’ for parents before care proceedings are instigated. Fewer care proceedings has reduced the number of children admitted into Care and will be enhanced by the launch of the new Edge of Care Service in summer 24. Better management means Permanence Plans are implemented more quickly. In November 2023, 41 cases had exceeded the 26-week timescale, but reduced to 32 by April 24.

The Ofsted Inspection 23 concluded that the experiences and progress of both children in care and care leavers was ‘Good’ with no specific identified areas for improvement. However, scarcity of available placements nationally, continues to exert significant pressures on appropriate care planning and the placement budget. One local initiative is the Care Leaver Accommodation project, launched in March 2024. A strong partnership with Berneslai Homes, will develop good working relationships with private landlords and establish a BMBC accommodation portfolio, in co-production with care leavers, to build local 16+ provision.

Recruitment of foster carers remains challenging, with only 11 mainstream carers and 7 connected carers recruited throughout 23/24. The commissioning of Bright Sparks to improve marketing and recruitment practices is anticipated to improve performance over the next 2 years.

Barnsley is part of One Adoption South Yorkshire. The numbers of children in Barnsley adopted in 2023/24 increased from 16 to 25 compared with 2022/23. As of 31st of March 2024 there were 17 children in the adoption process. 2 children had disrupted adoptive placements and whilst a potentially

traumatic experience for the children involved, is a relatively positive performance overall. 33 children were discharged from care via Special Guardianship Orders made in favour either of their mainstream foster carers or Family and Friends carers, evidencing strong permanence planning by the service.

In the past year, the Legal Gateway Planning Meeting has identified shortfalls in pre-birth planning processes, with several late presentations to Panel and 'near-misses', where the local authority was only just able to submit its application for an interim care order and removal prior to the birth of the baby. As a result, key areas of focus this year will be to embed the pre-birth toolkit and revise the pre-birth assessment template, to support improved practice.

Child Protection Conferences

The number of children subject to child protection plans varies each month and is in line with national trends. Numbers increase in July and October when children break up and return from the school summer. On the 31 March 2024, there were 365 children subject to child protection plans compared to 314 the previous year, an increase of 16.24%. The trajectory since 2021 shows an annual increase in the number of Barnsley children who are subject to child protection planning. It is in line with statistical neighbours for the percentage of children subject to child protection planning and, however, is above the national average.

All increases in the child protection population are subject to dip sampling to understand those trends and ensure thresholds are being appropriately applied. There have been 438 child protection plans successfully ended in 2023/2024 following a reduction of risk and increased safety for young people and 502 new protection plans have commenced.

There is a concerted effort in the service to ensure that the child's voice is heard. Conference chairs ensure that the child's voice and their lived experience is at the centre of all conferences. Barnardo's advocacy service offers support to children in protection plans and 311 children used the service during the year. They develop child friendly child protection plans and share these with children to ensure they understand the concerns and what support is in place to protect them.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Barnsley LADOs have continued to embed effective processes to keep children safe from harm. It is the first full year where the service has had the resources of two full time colleagues, an increase from one part time colleague in December 2022. The service has had an effective awareness-raising drive this year, resulting in a 60% increase in contacts to LADO in the last 12 months, a 90% increase in advice requests and a 15% increase for referrals, professionals and services.

The direct work completed with services includes:

- Monthly training delivered to passenger assistants and taxi drivers.
- Half termly meetings with the Wellspring Trust.
- Termly attendance at the DSL forum.
- Presentation at a Social Work development forum.
- Briefings for targeted respite centres, children's homes, care staff, nurseries, secondary schools, newly qualified / trainee Social Workers, IFD staff, Barnsley Fostering Team and partner agencies, such as Chilypep.

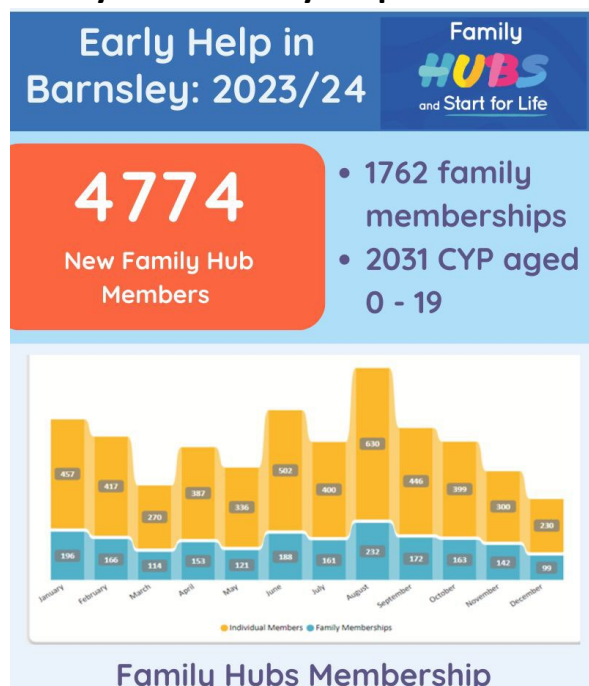
Based on the average numbers of staff attending these sessions, we estimate **that face to face contact with 350 professionals** has been achieved during the year.

	Advice	Referrals	Total Contacts
2023-2024	371	144	515
2022-2023	195	126	321

The increase in contacts is due to greater awareness of the role and increased LADO availability. The most significant rise is in requests for advice that do not meet the threshold for ongoing consideration, which suggests increasing awareness of the service and professional curiosity. More cases are overseen by the LADO, who manage any investigations to ensure the child's safety. The increase in advice matters demonstrates that more cases are being brought to the attention of the LADO at an early stage, which evidences effective information sharing and consideration of threshold.

There is a concerted effort to ensure that the child's voice is heard in the allegations management process. It is the role of the LADO to ensure that there is an accurate account provided by the child - whether this is taken by the employer of the setting where the subject works, a police officer or social worker. There is also increased focus to ensure that children and young people are given age-appropriate feedback about what action has been taken in relation to their concern.

Family Hubs & Early Help



Family Hubs Membership
with children aged 0-19 (25 years with SEND).

The family hubs offer continues to be developed, including the introduction of evidence-based interventions such as the antenatal parenting group 'Welcome to the World'.

A total of 9324 sessions of family hubs and start for life activities were attended in 2023/24, the most attended activity being ['Rose Voucher'](#) sessions; families attending these sessions received vouchers to purchase fruit and vegetables each week to spend at Barnsley Market and shops. As well as supporting families to have a healthy balanced diet, the scheme provides opportunities to access targeted early help support via family hubs.

Throughout 2023/24 BMBC has continued to make good progress on their family hubs transformation journey. Following public consultation and cabinet approval, the family hubs model of delivery was agreed and has seen the establishment of six designated family hubs (one located in each area council) and the launch of an online virtual family hub. These aim to provide a range of early help information and advice and support to families



Total Activities Attended

1305

Parent education sessions attended



9324

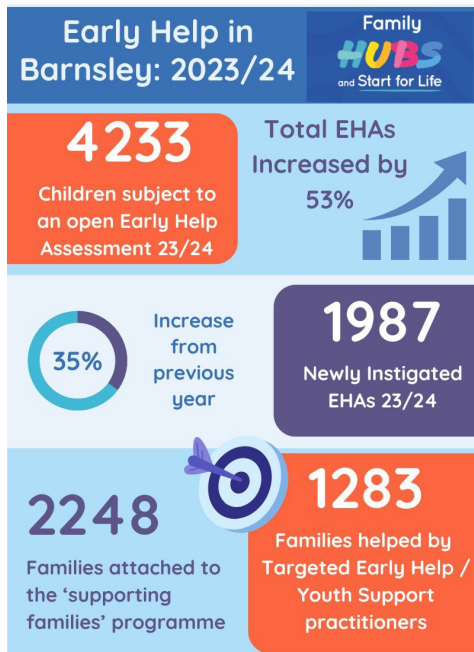
Activity sessions attended



Rose voucher collections by month

7454

Total attendance for Rose vouchers



A total of 1305 parent education sessions were attended in the year, including Welcome to the World (antenatal), Talking Teens, Sleep Tight and [Webster Stratton](#) Programmes.

Early Help Assessment (EHA)

Early Help Assessment (EHA) activity has been strengthened in education settings, with training and improvements in recording / monitoring. This has resulted in a sustained increase in the number of schools initiating assessments: 1544 children and young people have had new EHAs in educational settings in 2023/24, which accounted for 54% of all EHAs.

Early Help Assessments have increased by 53%, delivering support plans to more families this year. The main reason for EHAs that were initiated in the past year is emotional wellbeing (at 65.6% of newly instigated cases).

Supporting Families

Supporting Families focuses on providing help to vulnerable families with multiple / complex needs to prevent escalation into crises. A lead worker supports the needs of the whole family, building a relationship and encouraging positive change.

In 2023/24, 2248 families were identified that could be attached to the programme (through meeting 3 of the 10 key support principles for eligibility). Of these families, 434 were recorded as having positive outcomes. This resulted in a £347,200 payment being claimed, which will be re-invested to help more families in future.

Targeted Early Help

The Targeted Early Help Service works with families where it is identified that there are support needs that can't be met by universal services. By using thresholds of 'Getting Help' and 'Getting More Help', the Early Help Assessment is used to identify current strengths and needs within the whole family. A team of professionals around the family provide support.

In 2023/24, 1283 families were helped by Targeted Early Help Support or Targeted Youth Support Practitioners. Referrals were received from a wide range of services, including Social Care, Education and directly from families themselves.

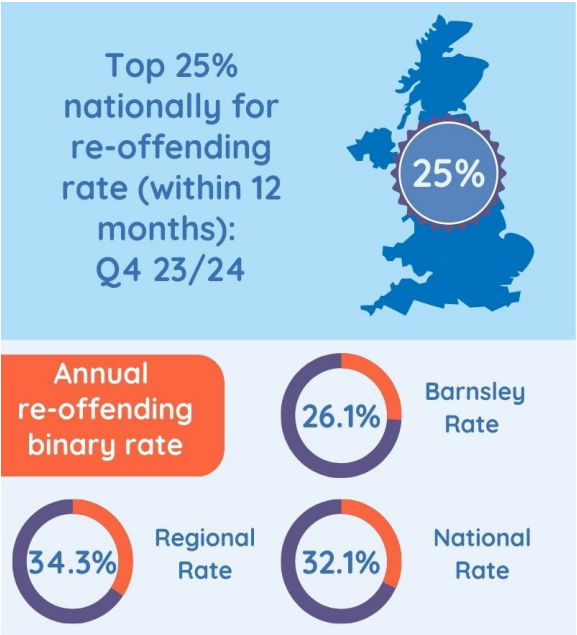


Youth Justice Service (YJS)

The HMIP inspection of the Youth Justice Service in March & April 2023 published their report on 19th July 2023 and assessed the service as ‘Good’. The resettlement practice and the assessment activity specific to court orders were judged to be ‘Outstanding’. The service developed an action plan (now completed), that included a Partnership review of Out-of-Court provision, diversification of

the volunteer panel members pool and improved data in reports to the Youth Crime and ASB Board.

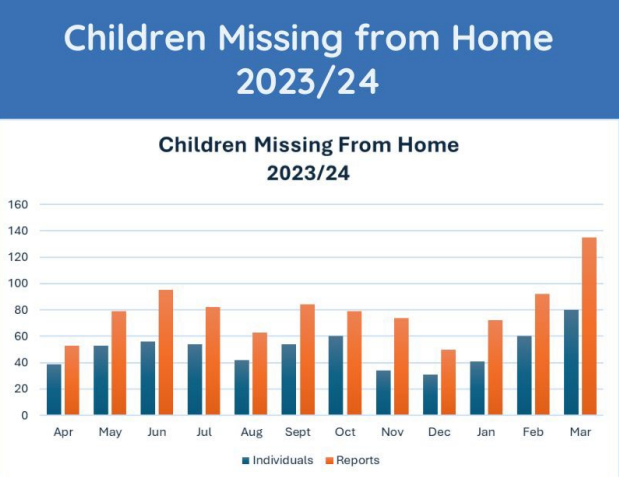
The First Time Entrants cohort has increased during 2023, placing Barnsley in the top 83% nationally (previously top 40%). Analysis points to the impact of Covid-19 in these figures, such as court closures. The re-offending rate is 16.4%, and live tracking of data provides reassurance that the figure is reducing. Data recording has changed this year, so direct comparisons with 2019 data would not be as useful. The annual re-offending binary rate for Barnsley continues to be lower than regional and national rates.



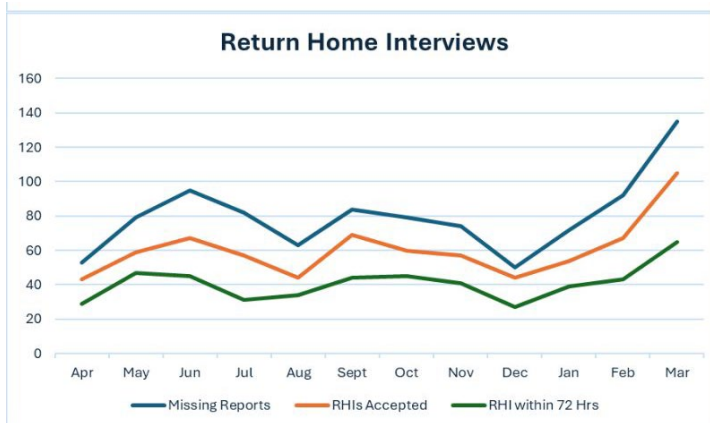
Missing from Home (MFH) & Return Home Interviews (RHI)

The Targeted Youth Support Service offers an impartial Return Home Interview to young people who go missing from home. It gives the young person an opportunity to share the circumstances of their missing event with someone independent from their care, which can help identify the reasons for leaving.

A Return Home Interview Officer explores factors that led to the missing episode and whether a young person came to any harm. They ensure that the young person’s voice is captured with a view to preventing further episodes. The team can help to broker additional support as well as provide advice and guidance to the family to build resilience and reduce future risk.



The number of young people reported missing remains relatively consistent, with some seasonal variation. The relatively low numbers overall, can be affected by multiple missing episodes of one child.



In March 2024, the individual number of young people going missing increased by 37%, with a 47% increase in episodes. March figures captured a few relatively unknown missing individuals, who would become part of the 'prolific' cohort. Between 70-80 % of young people accept a return home interview and most take place within the statutory 72 hours timeframe. The RHI Team work closely with SYP in multiagency daily briefings,

multiagency child exploitation (MACE) and contextual safeguarding meetings to identify local themes around missing children and support tactical responses based on intelligence and information.

South Yorkshire Police (SYP)

SYP and BSCP have agreed a quarterly report based on our strategic priorities this year, to provide data for children and young people in Barnsley affected by child exploitation, sexual abuse, online harm and domestic abuse. It helps build an accurate picture of children at risk in the borough and informs the work of schools and multiagency teams, including the Integrated Front Door, the Child Exploitation Task Group and the BSafe Team, who work with children at risk of harm outside the home.

Barnsley's Safeguarding Landscape

July 23 - March 24

Children with Missing Episodes

329

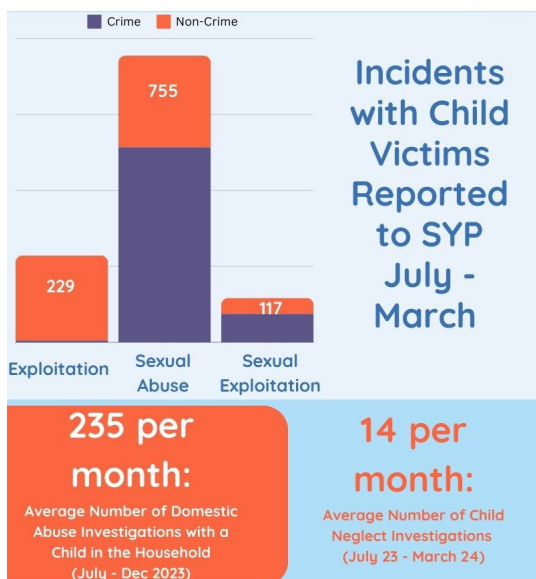
Child Victims of Incidents with an 'Online Indicator' (July - March)

July - Sept: 118		
Oct - Dec: 97		
Jan - March: 153		

Investigations with an Online Indicator: Child Victims

Police Data: Online Harms

Data for child victims of online harm is available from July 23 – March 24. The decrease should be treated with caution as there are also 541 'cyber-enabled' crime incidents recorded against under 18-year-olds for January – March 24. It is a broader definition. Although there may be some duplication of incidents, it suggests that the use of technology in crime against



young people is greater than the bar chart suggests. Work is in hand to improve the overall robustness of data.

Police Data: Domestic Abuse

The average number of domestic abuse investigations where at least one child lives in the household, has fallen from 251 per month in 2022 to 235 per month in 2023. Whilst this is a step in the right direction, it highlights the high numbers of children and young people who are potentially exposed to domestic abuse. The data reflects the high numbers of referrals received by the Integrated Front Door and reinforces domestic abuse as a continuing strategic priority for the partnership.

Police Data: Exploitation & Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse and child exploitation continue to be safeguarding areas for close attention. Girls were the majority of victims in child sexual exploitation. Boys are more likely to be victims of criminal exploitation, including county lines. Child sexual abuse is one of the National Panels' work themes this year and we have plans in place to conduct a multiagency deep dive once their findings are published.

The BSafe Team are preparing guidance for 2024/25 based on national police advice, for schools and colleges, to address the issue of indecent images consensually shared between older teens of a similar age ('sexting' / 'nudes'), where there are no other concerns or safeguarding risk. It will provide an appropriate, educative response with relevant guidance of how to stay safe online.

The figures for the criminal exploitation of children have risen by 23% this year, which may be attributed to the increased identification work of the BSafe Team, in combatting this type of crime.

Police Data: Neglect

Police data from July 2023 to March 2024 shows an average number of 14 investigations per month, following internal SYP training for recording neglect, the numbers increased to 16 per month from December - March 2024. Neglect remains one of the main reasons that children in Barnsley are placed in statutory protection measures, and triangulation of shared data helps the Partnership to understand the breadth and impact of one of its main strategic priorities in the year ahead.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (SYFR)

SYFR received 26 'Think Family' referrals in 2023/24. The 'Think Family' process is for children and young people who have a fascination with fire; SYFR offer a home fire safety visit, including providing fire advice. A Community Safety Officer will then work with the child or young person in school to help them understand the dangers of fire.

Over the past year, the SYFR Community Safety Watch Manager has sent out water safety video links, PowerPoints and communications for parents to all schools, with the aim of making parents aware of the dangers when children and young people enter open water.

SYFR also attended Emergency Services Day in Barnsley town centre, giving advice to the public.

Berneslai Homes – Tenants First

The Tenants First Service have supported 78 families in the last year where they have identified those families has having multiple and complex needs. They use evidence-based family intervention methodology, helping families to identify their problems at the root cause, and after initial assessments, provide the family with a realistic, tailored support plan.

The service carries out direct work with families around emotional wellbeing. They are trained to deliver the 'Freedom' programme to victims, perpetrators and children to reduce the impact of domestic abuse. Direct work is completed with children to talk about family life; topics include school and attendance, healthy relationship work, county lines, sexual exploitation, stranger danger and online safety. If needed, a Graded Care Profile 2 tool is completed to identify the level of neglect within the home and what support is needed, or if a referral to social care is necessary.

Tenants First attend multi-agency daily brief and MACE meetings to verify if a child (who is a child of a Berneslai homes tenant) is being supported or would need a referral into the service. If there are Anti-Social Behaviour issues identified, direct work is carried out on conflict resolution and keeping the family safe within the home, allowing them to maintain their tenancy.

Multiagency Quality Assurance

Quality assurance is provided through single and multiagency audits, the section 11 self-assessment audit, yearly s.175 self-assessments in education, escalation reporting and risk registers. Learning reviews provide challenge to practice and support continuous improvement. A positive challenge culture is encouraged. All are part of the draft Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement Framework prepared by the Independent Chair and Scrutineer in October 2023, shared with the Operational & Business Group. Work has continued for the multiagency scorecard, but better availability of data and resourcing are required to develop it further. Both issues have been escalated and are being addressed by delegate safeguarding partners.

The biannual section 11 audit began in January 24 with positive engagement by partners and full results will be in the 2024 - 25 yearly report. Based on 10 single agency self-assessment audits, a multiagency challenge event in May 24 and individual scrutiny meetings, it will evidence statutory compliance, where we work well together, the gaps for each agency, priorities for the partnership and celebrate best practice. Questions are tailored to include multiagency priorities and areas identified in inspections for development. Its findings will also inform our quality assurance work. The impact of poverty, Neglect and Domestic Abuse are emerging as headline themes from all agencies.

We regularly review our annual multiagency audit schedule to reflect themes identified in local and national reviews and to assure that processes are well embedded and working effectively. All audit findings inform the multiagency training programme, for continuous improvement and learning

- Audit of the quality of referrals from partner agencies to the Integrated front door (IFD): August 2023.
- Implementation of the Sudden Infant Death (SUDI) and Abusive Head Trauma (ICON) programmes by frontline practitioners in Children's Social Care, Health Visiting and Barnsley Hospital Maternity teams: September 2023.
- Audit of the use of the Graded Care Profile 2 tool for Neglect work by partner agencies: September 2023.
- Audit of 6 cases of concealed pregnancy in Summer 2023: November 2023.

What did we learn?

The Quality of Referrals

- Most referrals to the IFD audited had good demographic information and provided information on risk to the child for an initial decision to be made. These met the threshold for screening at the IFD. Compliance was high from health and education partners, allowing children at risk to be identified quickly.
- The Thresholds of Intervention need to be more firmly evidenced in referrals to the IFD from all agencies, to support both the timeliness and quality of referrals.
- All partners to provide greater evidence of work carried out prior to referral, and information about other services involved with the family, to ensure accurate decision-making at the IFD. This includes consent or a narrative where consent has been refused or not requested

Safer Sleep and ICON programmes

- Neither programme is consistently promoted across Children's Social Care, Health Visiting and BHNFT Maternity teams. Improvements include refresher training, supervision conversations, prompts added to case management systems, and regular monitoring.

Use of the Graded Care Profile 2 in Neglect

- Routine recording of GCP2 was not in place in Early Help or Children's Social Care case management systems. The systems themselves had no means to monitor its use.
- Case file audits suggest that the GCP2 is used intermittently across Partnership agencies.
- Police data suggests that the SHARED tool is well embedded as the services' neglect assessment tool.

Multiagency response to concealed Pregnancy

- The audit found that all cases were dealt with appropriately when services became aware. Professional curiosity was exercised appropriately, and safeguarding guidance was followed.

What did we do?

The Quality of Referrals

- The IFD has introduced a monthly meeting with all agency managers to discuss theme and gaps in referrals and IFD dip sampling results
- Ensured single agencies complete actions for training, audit activity and changes to processes. This included a detailed South Yorkshire audit with Police to improve consistency in contacts.
- Refreshed Thresholds of Intervention content in relevant courses including *Working Together to Safeguard Children* and *Education Designated Safeguarding Lead* training. Introduced a new training offer, *Understanding the Role of the IFD*, which covers quality referral guidance. Created a 'Top Referral Tips' guide, distributed across the Partnership and available on the BSCP website.

Safer Sleep and ICON programmes

- Developed SMART action plans with Children's Social Care, Health Visiting and BHNFT Maternity teams to embed ICON and Safe Sleep programmes. Action plan progress is shared with the Safeguarding First Year of Life Steering group and BSCP's Policy and Workforce Development subgroup.

Use of Graded Care Profile tool

- Added a field to capture use of the GCP to CSC's Mosaic case management system from January 2024. This will support tracking and audits and provide a prompt in Neglect cases.
- Added GCP2 Tool Use to the IFD Request for Service Form.
- Created GCP2 resources including a 7-minute briefing for the BSCP website and schools. Promoted training via BSCP newsletter, schools' bulletin and multiagency training calendar.
- Added use of GCP2 to the Section 175 Safeguarding Audit for the 2022/23 academic year
- Partner agencies have developed their own quality assurance for GCP2 tool use Progress is reported to the Policy and Workforce Development subgroup.

Multiagency Response to Concealed Pregnancy

- Consideration of the 'Pause' programme or similar in Barnsley. 'Pause' is a national charity that works to improve the lives of women who have had – or are at risk of having – more than one child removed from their care.

All

- Re-audits are scheduled for the Quality of Referrals to the IFD, GCP2 Tool use and implementation of the SUDI and ICON programmes in 2024/25 to assure progress.
- The impact of these actions is coordinated, multiagency working and consistent practice that supports good outcomes for children and their families.

4. Children and Young People's Voices

Youth Groups

Barnsley Inclusive Network Youth Voice and Participation

Barnsley has several well-established youth voice groups that support young people to have their voices heard. The Barnsley Youth Council, Care4Us Council and Inclusive Youth Voice (IYV) groups engage and consult with their peers in schools, college and the community to bring their voices to the Partnership. More information about their activities and safeguarding work is available in their annual report videos:

- [Barnsley Youth Council Annual Report 2023/24](#)
- [Care4Us Annual Report 2023/24](#)
- [Inclusive Youth Voice 2023/24](#)

Food for Learning Campaign

In October 2023 Barnsley Youth Council members hosted an event as part of the national 'Food for Learning' Campaign, for universal free school meals. It is led by the National Youth Parliament to raise awareness with local council members and senior leaders. Barnsley's Members of Barnsley Youth Parliament and Youth Council collected the views of their peers to provide evidence that young people locally are in favour of the call for action and will continue with the campaign.

Youth Council Election & Bi-Annual Make Your Mark Ballot (MYM)

The Youth Council is elected for a two-year term of office and earlier this year, 72 secondary-aged young people nominated themselves to stand for election, attended training events and recorded campaign manifestos. Youth Council members champion the voices of young people to inform strategic developments in local and national forums and collaborate with partners to effect change in the lives of young people in Barnsley.

In the 2024 vote for MYM and Youth Council there were a combined total of 16,259 votes cast with 9,951 individuals taking part (44.0% turnout), making Barnsley **top of the Yorkshire and Humber region** on both percentage turnout and number of votes and **6th nationally based on percentage turnout**. Barnsley's top three issues were Health & Wellbeing, Crime & Safety, and Culture, Media & Sport. These themes will form the basis of campaign work over the next 12 months.

The HUB



The Hub opened in August 2023. The building design and decoration was co-produced with young people who use the service. Targeted Youth Support have been offering a weekly drop-in session to speak to and offer advocacy support to care experienced young people. Good working relationships with the Future Directions service have been established, creating an increase in referrals into the Advocacy Service. To familiarise young people with the Hub, Care4Us sessions have relocated to this location to encourage more young people to become involved in their work.

SEND Conference



At the annual SEND conference in January 2024, members of the Inclusive Youth Voice Forum performed a presentation and took part in focus group work to share their views on how professionals can build and maintain positive relationships with young people with SEND, why this is so important, and the positive outcomes it fosters. Young people also closed the conference with two case studies that demonstrate the importance of positive relationships in educational settings.

Targeted Youth Support (TYS) in Communities

Our Targeted Youth Support Communities Team (TYS) provide building based, detached and outreach youth services for young people whose needs cannot always be met by family or universal service provision.

TYS have secured additional funding from the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit to deliver specific



work around Violence Against Women and Girls and Exploitation across schools and community settings in a joint initiative with the Safer Barnsley Partnership.

In March and November, the service held events to mark annual International Women's and International Men's Day, where gender-based activities and services were offered to young men and girls to promote access to signposting and support pathways in Barnsley.

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)

Children and their families are involved in the design, development and provision of services at Barnsley Hospital. A 'Young carers passport' has been co-produced with a young peoples' focus group. The passport was used to plan the admission of an adult for whom a young carer provided care, to ensure the voice of the young carer was included in admission and future care plans.

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)

The SWYPFT safeguarding team are well represented in BSCP subgroups where they have contributed to policy and guidance, including Self-Harm. They have participated in multiagency audits on the themes of serious youth violence, early help and criminal exploitation. Learning from reviews has led the team to focus on practitioner access to the safeguarding clinical system. Refreshed guidance for staff has been promoted, and a rolling audit for the use of the safeguarding system started in January 2024. Several SWYFT safeguarding audits (SBARS) have taken place, drawn from national guidance and lessons learned from local and national reviews. Topics include early help, Child in Need and non-accidental Injuries.

A multiagency safeguarding conference was hosted by SWYPFT and offered to wider partnership colleagues in 2023/24, including presentations from specialist speakers on self-neglect, alcohol use and contextualised safeguarding. The conference was evaluated positively by attendees.

The CAMHS service has worked jointly with young commissioners in Chilypap, listening to the voices of the young people in Barnsley to shape services better suited to their needs; one project co-produced a referral form for young people to self-refer to the Branching Minds service.

BMBC Public Health: Emotional Health and Wellbeing (EHWB) Subgroup

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing (EHWB) group (a multiagency group led by BMBC's Public Health Department) have achieved a number of successes in 2023/24:

- Training subgroup formed to produce a training package and directory around EHWB for practitioners and parents/carers. Planned to go live in 2024/25.
- A new monthly EHWB newsletter produced for practitioners.
- Mental Health Support Teams now have 100% borough coverage, offering support in schools for EHWB.

- The coproduction of an animation film (to view, [click here](#)) - is a collaboration between the CYP Public Health Team, Barnsley College, My Body is My Body and the Youth Association. The animation sets the Public Health System Analysis of EHWB Services in context and illustrates the issues impacting upon children and young people's EHWB. The animation was publicised to great reception, appearing on both the BBC ([click to view](#)) and the Barnsley Chronicle ([click to view](#)).



Here is what one of the young people had to say about being involved in the process:

"I feel that the animation was a good idea as people can connect and engage more meaningfully with a video that portrays emotion rather than a poster that everyone would overlook. Each week our feedback was taken into consideration instead of being brushed off, like we often are as young people. Throughout the entire process I felt seen and heard as I'd mention an idea one week and see it come to life the next. The project has helped young people realise they have a voice, and they will be heard."

Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Services (BSARCS)

The BSARCS children's service has received referrals for 316 children and young people in 2023/24, to offer wellbeing support and formal therapy alongside the Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (CISVA) provision. Of the 316 children and young people, 10% accessed Early Help services, 14% open to statutory safeguarding (CIN / CPP) and 10% were Looked After Children. Themes included self-harm (19%), substance use as a coping mechanism (17%) and describing thoughts of suicide (12%). BSARCS children's workers also carry out substantial advocacy with schools, seeking responses to young people's behaviour which are trauma informed rather than sanction based.

There has been a high engagement rate at 92%. From service evaluation forms, findings were also positive: all felt listened to, with 93% experiencing an improvement in emotional wellbeing, feeling more able to cope with everyday life, and feeling more empowered to make their own choices.

"My worker really helped me with my trauma in general and sexual trauma especially, it caused me a lot of stress and now I can say it doesn't cause me any stress because she helped me understand my own feelings and gave me healthy coping mechanisms that I need in my life."

"My worker made me feel safe going to school again and helped me improve my behaviour at school. I got all the support I needed"

"My worker helped me to be a braver and more confident person... I now live freely with no worries in life...I can talk to others around me without feeling shame"

Barnardo's Child Protection Advocacy

The Child Protection Advocacy service, delivered by Barnardo's on behalf of BMBC, advocated for 311 children and young people aged 8 – 17 years in 2023/24.

Face to Face advocacy is provide in schools, wherever possible. Home visits are provided for any children who are being home educated or are not in school.

Telephone and Virtual Advocacy is also provided when requested, or when late receipt of notification means that this would be the only opportunity of provision. Where possible and appropriate, Child Friendly Plans are produced with children and young people.

These support children and young people to better understand the child protection process. Feedback is also collected in a child-friendly way to continually improve their offer.

Your Conference
Did you attend your Conference?
Yes No

If you didn't, why not?

What do you think could make ~~your~~ **Advocacy** better?
~~I know we talked abt already, but~~ Ask more questions about whats going on -
I know we talked abt already, but talking is good to get it all out of my head - so

On a scale of 1 to 5 how much do you think you were listened to at your more Conference? (Please circle)
1 (Not listened to at all) 2 3 4 5 (Really listened to)
You listen to me all the time, you always do!

What did you think to your Feedback and Plan? Was it helpful?
Yes A little Not helpful
Its really helpful and it'll be good to look at it and remember like things

Any other thoughts you would like to share about your Child Friendly Plan?

Children's University

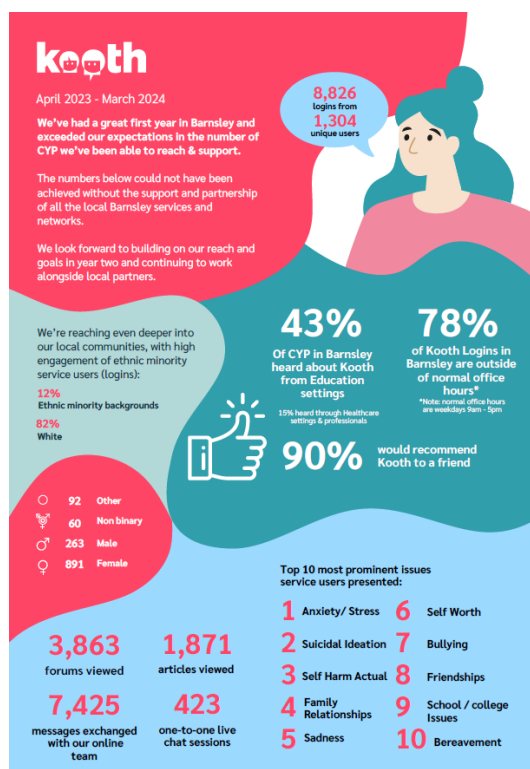
Children's University (CU) has recently been introduced in Barnsley in partnership with [South Yorkshire Children's University](#). CU aims to improve the aspirations and attainment of pupils by providing learning activities beyond the normal school day, such as community-based clubs, visits to universities, and 'social action' opportunities. The CU model includes a validation process for all non-school activities to ensure that providers have safeguarding standards in place. Once a club/activity is validated, it is added to Barnsley CU's list of recognised activities, where children receive credits for their participation.

CU has so far been introduced into 4 primary schools in Barnsley, with 696 children registered and over 12,000 hours of participation, resulting in 167 awards. Participation hours have been drawn from school clubs and from 26 validated external learning destinations. Growth of CU will continue in 2024/25 and will encourage more sign-ups and validation of recognised activities in the community for children and young people.

Kooth

Kooth, a digital mental health support commissioned service for young people aged 11 – 25, had a successful first year in Barnsley. Their support was accessed by hundreds of young people. Forums proved a popular platform with thousands of contacts throughout the year. Representatives have joined the Emotional Health & Wellbeing subgroup and the Self Harm task and finish group, with self-harm being the 3rd highest presenting issue in all age ranges from 10 – 25 in Barnsley.

The anonymous case study below is specific to Barnsley. Although a sensitive topic, it demonstrates how Kooth supports young people living in complex circumstances.



Amy first came to Kooth presenting with persistent suicidal thoughts. After some time building trust with the service, she disclosed that she had been groomed by an older man since the age of 14, being forced to have sex and carry drugs for him.

Amy was said she did not feel able to talk to anyone at school or share her personal information with Kooth.

Amy was offered long term, consistent support from a named counsellor; weekly sessions provided a safe space to talk about her experience and explore options for getting herself to safety.

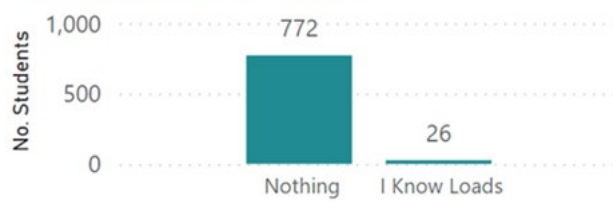
After several weeks where her named worker offered consistency and non-judgement while discussing her options, Amy felt able to disclose to a teacher. She was moved to a foster home and was protected from exploitation. Following her move, the focus of chats progressed to helping Amy manage the trauma of what she had been through and begin to trust adults around her who were there to help, especially her foster mum who is very supportive.

Spectrum Community Health CIC

Spectrum Community Health CIC deliver sexual health prevention and outreach activity offering universal, targeted and community-based services. All Barnsley schools are offered universal programmes and targeted support work.

Impact data for 2023/24 shows that at the beginning of the Year 9 Relationship & Sex Education (RSE) programme, students scored an average of 21 points on their baseline knowledge quiz. This increased to 88 points by their final lesson. In lesson 1, 17% of students can name a specialist sexual health service for help and advice, compared to 88% in lesson 5. In lesson 1, 6% of students can name facts about 4 or more contraceptives, compared to 95% of students in lesson 5.

Student Confidence (Lesson 1)



Student Confidence (Lesson 5)



“[I] liked not being put on the spot and we got to raise our hands when we felt more confident to ask a question”

“I now know how to protect myself”

Spectrum have prioritised safeguarding training sessions tailored to staff working in Sexual Health Services throughout 2023/24, ensuring that they are well equipped to identify and manage safeguarding concerns effectively and confidently. This included the launch of the internal “12 Days of Safeguarding” initiative: a daily series of posts on Spectrum’s intranet page over Christmas. Informative daily articles and links were published to educate and empower staff.

Several participants found *Advice on Handling Difficult Conversations in Training* sessions particularly valuable; real-life examples were cited as a significant strength.

“I found the training very informative, and it gave me a deeper understanding of Professional Curiosity.”

In 2023/24, Spectrum noted an increase in disclosed and reported cases of child exploitation in Barnsley. This trend indicates growing recognition of the issue, underscoring the need for continued vigilance, enhanced support, and comprehensive training; new training initiatives have been introduced to enhance the expertise of practitioners, such as 'Lunch & Learn' sessions, launched in March 2024.

Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS)

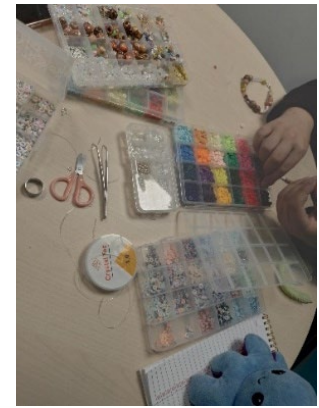
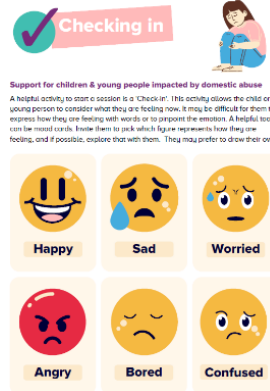
IDAS have delivered [the ‘Helping Hands’ programme](#) for professionals working with children and young people in 15 primary schools in 2023/24, with 67 children engaging in the programme. There are currently 10 further primary schools on the waiting list for Helping Hands who will access training over the next few months. The programme addresses challenging issues around personal space, safety planning and awareness of acceptable and unacceptable behaviours in others and themselves. Feedback from children, their parents and schools has been extremely positive:

“I have seen such a change in [my child] since you started to work with her, it’s like I have my daughter back.” – Parent.

“Joanne (IDAS) has been an extremely positive role model for the pupils... They have loved being part of a group and it has had an impact on their self-esteem and self-worth. We only wish we could keep Joanne for longer.” – School.

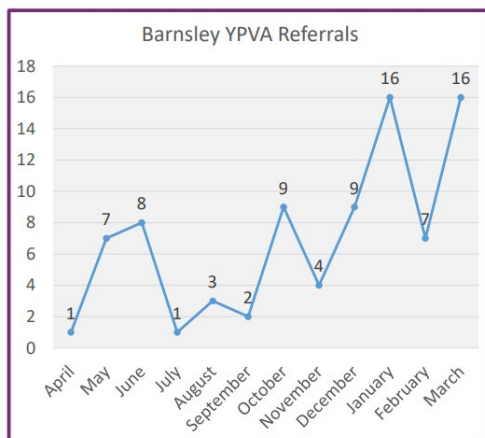
IDAS also provide one to one support to children aged 10 and over who witness or experience domestic abuse at home. They have worked with 44 children throughout 2023/24. Sessions include activities such as clay modelling, arts and crafts, trust bracelet making, talk cards and games.

In 2023/24, IDAS delivered healthy relationships talks and workshops, titled 'Thinking Big', in secondary schools, The Cube and Old Mill Lane Campus in Barnsley College to 71 students.



"It's weird to think that things I thought were normal in a relationship aren't normal. Like sharing each other's passwords: I never really thought it could be controlling behaviour."
- 17-year-old 'Thinking Big' workshop attendee.

IDAS held stalls at freshers' events and in Barnsley Market during Safeguarding Awareness Week, to raise awareness of the service which resulted an increase in interest and referrals



The numbers of referrals to IDAS from GP surgeries, whilst modest, have doubled in the past year. IDAS are working together with South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to offer training to GP surgeries in the signs and indicators of domestic abuse and how to make a referral for service. It includes a 4-minute video for GP surgery staff and a presentation on domestic abuse cases in Barnsley.

Chilypep

Chilypep (the Children and Young People's Empowerment Project) provides mental health and emotional wellbeing support through HOME (Helping Our Mental 'Ealth), which is an early support hub for young people aged 11 – 25. In January - March 24, HOME received 87 referrals from a variety of sources (including Barnsley CAMHS, Compass-Be, Schools and 0-19 Public Health Nurses). The largest source was self-referrals.

265 young people have engaged in the HOME Wellbeing Programme this year and 820 young people engaged through external wellbeing sessions in schools and college. Of the young people who completed surveys in the last quarter, 97% rated the service they received at HOME good or excellent

and showed increased improvement in all outcome measures, with at least a 1.5-point increase in resilience and emotional management.

In collaboration with South Yorkshire Public Health Leads, and co-produced by children and young people affected by suicide, Chilypep produced the [“Walk With Us” toolkit](#). The toolkit is designed to support children, young people and families, as well as being a guide for practitioners and professionals to support those affected or bereaved by suicide. It is the first of its kind produced nationally and would not have been possible without the bravery and resilience of the children and young people who contributed and shared their experiences.

Chilypep have also been commissioned to work with the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Children and Young People’s Alliance, and the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. They have set up a network of workers from organisations working with young people to find ways to give them a greater voice in shaping the Health and Care services for young people, at a strategic regional level.

- Barnsley CAMHS have been working with the Young Commissioners to re-design the self-referral form through Branching Minds.
- Transitions, discharge and 0-25 pathways work has helped inform the Children in Care (CiC) 0-25 pathway in Barnsley.
- Barnsley Young Commissioners have reviewed the Children’s Emergency Department at Barnsley Hospital. The hospital’s patient experience team and governors have attended the Young Commissioner sessions on a regular basis. This has enabled a deeper understanding of the needs and expectations of young patients, and collaborative work with the Commissioners to ensure that these needs are met.
- 90 young people from South Yorkshire participated in the CYP Alliance ‘Breaking Cycles’ event.

Compass Be

Over the past year, Compass Be Mental Health Support Team have been commissioned to work with children, young people, and families in education settings to provide support, help and advice for issues related to mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Feedback this year:

What I learnt – Pupil: “Made me realise I won’t be alone [worrying] about secondary school... I was worried, now I’m not. It’s helped talking about it”

Teacher Feedback: “The workshop on social media and group chats has been immensely beneficial for the children. They have had lots of trouble with this lately.”

Teacher Feedback: “Thank you for your time, resources and strategies to help. The children will gain so much from being part of this workshop – ALL schools should do this!”

What I learnt – Pupil: “I will take things away from the workshop and use them... We know how to take care of the stress we have”

5. Implementing Learning and Raising Awareness

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs)

The Local Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) subgroup is responsible for arrangements for rapid and child practice reviews that meet the criteria outlined in Working Together 2023. It leads the action plans from completed reviews to ensure that all learning points are embedded, to improve our approach to safeguarding children in Barnsley and achieve better outcomes. The subgroup also explores themes and learning from local, regional and national practice reviews to consider policy, practice and system changes that support the protection of children in Barnsley.

In January 2024 the National Panel published its annual report. We created a presentation of its recommendations to be shared at all agencies' team meetings. We considered the Reports' key learning themes which agencies benchmarked themselves against, with positive findings. The Partnership had already identified several of the work strands in the report with activity underway to improve outcomes for children and their families.

A case of child sexual exploitation in June 2023 did not meet the criteria for a rapid review, however the group identified it as an opportunity for multiagency learning and a Lessons Learned Review for Child H was organised. Having carried out the review with 2 panel meetings and a family visit, the independent author was unable to produce their report due to illness. To avoid learning being lost, all agencies produced individual management reviews and action plans.

A refreshed multiagency process for incidents that do not meet the criteria for notifications to the National Panel was designed, to ensure learning and continuous improvement in practice. It enables the Partnership to better recognise themes and identify potential improvements at an early point.

The subgroup considered findings from BSCP's multiagency audit for the First Year of Life, led by Health partners. It challenged multiagency teams to review and reinvigorate their work in the reduction of sudden unexplained infant death (SUDI). An assurance audit considered concealed pregnancies, after several late presentations of pregnant women to Midwifery and Children's Social Care in summer 2023. Whilst the audit results themselves were positive, it prompted a review of the pre-birth pathway to support early intervention in cases where previous children have been removed through care proceedings. We know that early intervention leads to better outcomes for children in these circumstances.

Given media publicity this year about risks posed by XL-bully dogs, we considered a Doncaster practice review, from which we developed and shared new guidance, policy and assessment tools to support practitioners where there are concerns about dangerous dogs and gathered a short evaluation of their effectiveness.

In December 2023 we were sadly notified of the death in Leeds of child E, who was a Barnsley child. A rapid review was convened. The National Panel supported our recommendation that a joint Barnsley - Leeds CSPR take place. Arrangements are underway.

The subgroup has sampled child safeguarding practice reviews which link to our key priorities of neglect and domestic abuse, to identify learning and drive better outcomes for Barnsley children: a Bradford review and the Worcestershire 'Alfie' review. All agencies were positively engaged in the activity and drew key learning to assess against their own agency's policy, systems and current practice - and identify areas of improvement or gaps in systems, culture or learning.

As part of the Partnerships' wider response to DfE's reforms, the changes to statutory guidance identified in chapter 5 of WT23 will be evaluated by the group and implemented in the coming year.

The subgroup identified that further training and guidance is required for practitioners working with families where intrafamilial sexual abuse is suspected or known. This topic area is currently being reviewed by the National Panel and their findings will inform our practice.

First Year of Life

Safe sleep

Sadly in 2020, 5 babies died in Barnsley from sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI). This figure was statistically high and one the partnership was determined to reduce. Thankfully, the intervening three years have seen this figure drop to 0 (until this point there would be approx. 2 per year average). Sadly, there has been a further SUDI death recently in Barnsley, which serves as a reminder that we cannot reduce our efforts to prevent the modifiable factors that lead to sudden infant death.

Work continues on a multiagency basis to promote partnership guidance and training. The Partnership takes the approach that 'every contact counts', whether this be detailed information, assessment or support provided by a health visitor, or contact with a substance misuse worker. Health colleagues have led several public health awareness campaigns this year: the most recent included talking to the public in Meadowhall, lighting up its dome in the Lullaby Trust colours, and being interviewed for South Yorkshire radio.

For more information on safe sleep visit [The Lullaby Trust - Safer sleep for babies, Support for families.](#)

ICON (Infant crying is normal, Comforting methods can help, it's Ok to walk away, Never, ever shake a baby)

The same multiagency approach has been taken with the roll-out of the ICON programme in 2023/24, where the aim is to reduce deaths and significant disabilities caused by abusive head trauma.

The programme has been rolled out to core partners through training and promoting the programme to frontline staff. Several media campaigns have also been run in the past year, and it is pleasing to report no deaths relating to abusive head trauma since the work began in 2020. As with safe sleep, however, there is no room for complacency, and plans are underway for increased press coverage during ICON week in September. For more information, [Visit the ICON website.](#)

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

In the last 12 months, a new campaign called DryPregnancy has been developed, which aims to stop drinking in pregnancy and reduce the prevalence of FASD. Again, this has been a multiagency approach; a conference has been held, training promoted, and work developing more training options to raise awareness with frontline staff has been undertaken. Work will focus on improving discussions and recording in maternity systems, and the sharing of this with primary care. The Partnership engaged with pharmacies to encourage them to display FASD information and has contacted MPs to raise the profile of FASD and add messages to pregnancy / ovulation kits. Social media campaigns have been undertaken, along with radio coverage. A further public awareness campaign is planned for FASD week in September.

For more information, visit [Home - National FASD](#)

All three issues – Safe sleep, ICON and Dry Pregnancy, are being progressed collectively under the banner 'Safeguarding the first year of life'. An audit was carried out in 2023/24 to assess the effectiveness of the roll-out of ICON and Safe Sleep programmes – for further information, see page 32. A repeat audit is planned for 2024/25 to assess progress.

Multiagency Training Programme

The BCSP is committed to developing a continuous learning and improvement cycle as part of the multiagency workforce development programme. The BSCP Multiagency Trainer develops and delivers a wide range of safeguarding training and learning events, available to all practitioners working with children and families in Barnsley. Training is informed by partners, strategic priorities, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, local and national themes, data and feedback. It is responsive to emerging safeguarding trends. The training programme has been updated to reflect the direction given in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and the guidance will also be applied to all future multi-agency training. We utilise a blended delivery approach, offering access via Microsoft Teams, e-learning modules and face-to-face. Feedback shows that whilst attending virtual training is convenient, it does not support networking opportunities as well as face-to-face delivery.

The programme draws its strength from the support of partner agencies. Many courses have benefitted from the contributions of partners delivering or co-delivering training with the Multiagency Trainer. These include BHNFT, CAMHS, IDAS, BSARCS, Barnsley Place ICB, SWYFT and Humankind Recovery Steps.

The training programme has been reviewed this year and the range of courses reduced to a focus on partnership priorities. By utilising some of the income generated by specific training, other specialist training has been provided with no additional cost to the Partnership, such as the Online Harms Conference during Safeguarding Awareness Week, which had a 125 full capacity attendance. New courses introduced this year to aid continual development towards Partnership priorities include Understanding the Work of Our Integrated Front Door, Professional Curiosity and Challenge, and Understanding Social Care Thresholds.

Uptake of training has been good in 2023/24, although slightly lower than recent years. Contributory factors include agencies offering in-house training, high workloads inhibiting staff attendance and the training programme being too broad. **66 different courses** have been offered this year and attended by a total of **1836 multiagency practitioners**. The most popular courses have been Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, Graded Care Profile 2, Designated Safeguarding Lead training in Education, Understanding the Work of Our Integrated Front Door, Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences and Neurodiversity Awareness. Courses with the least uptake were Substance Misuse, Human Trafficking and Building Stronger Relationships.

[View our full training programme here](#)

Feedback from 2023/24:

"The training that Karen Harrison did yesterday was fantastic, and her local crime knowledge was so useful for us as an apprenticeship training provider... We will share our awareness of the crime risks to our apprentices."

From Child Criminal Exploitation, February 2024

"I have been so inspired today. I honestly could listen to you (Zoe Lodrick) on a daily basis. I wish I could bottle your energy and share it to the people who need it. Thank you."

"Very thought provoking – wish I'd had this training 20 years ago!"

- From Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences, February 2024

"I now have confidence to speak to parents about referral pathways and submit good quality referrals."

- From *Understanding the Work of Our Integrated Front Door*, January 2024

"Very Informative. I will be able to support Targeted Early Help and Social Workers to complete assessments or consider other sources of support to explore for families."

- From *Overview of the New Paediatric Autism Referral Pack*, February 2024

Whilst it is difficult to prove a direct link from training to improved outcomes for children, services report that since the promotion and increased training opportunities in use of the Graded Care Profile 2 tool, there has been a significant increase in its use in practice. Since the launch of the Understanding the Work of Our Integrated Front Door course, staff at the IFD report that the quality of referrals has improved. Signs of Safety and Signs of Wellbeing training will be offered during 2024, and all relevant training will be aligned to that model.

Safeguarding Awareness Week 2023 (SAW)

Every November, we join local and regional partners to celebrate SAW in Barnsley. Our key themes for 2023 in safeguarding children and young people were online harms, domestic abuse and the impact on children and young people, safeguarding in the first year of life, children not visible in education and trans awareness.



Our multiagency training programme ran courses throughout the week, with topics such as Elective Home Education, Challenging Victim Blaming and a Domestic Abuse Masterclass, delivered by retired Detective Inspector Adrienne Sheekey. Individual agencies also facilitated their own training and events: BHNFT launched an interactive activity called 'Reyt up your street' explaining various safeguarding scenarios, Spectrum offered CSE and Sexual Coercion training, and BSARCS held an open day to showcase the service.

In collaboration with Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board, agencies booked market stalls to provide information and promote services to the public. The 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service, Berneslai Homes and Compass Be were just a few agencies who held stalls throughout the week, and on Saturday morning, stalls by Kooth, Spectrum, IDAS and Youth Voice groups raised awareness with children and young people.

The Business Unit created an 8-minute video, in collaboration with the councils' Prevent Lead, which detailed six of the most popular apps that young people use, and how to stay safe on them: to view – [click here](#). It was distributed to all schools in Barnsley and promoted on social media. The Council's Youth Voice Team undertook online harms research activities in all secondary schools, which led to the co-production of two booklets, 'Keeping Safe Online' – one version for young people and one for parents / carers, which went out to schools in Spring 2024.

The highlight of SAW was Friday's Online Harms conference at Shaw Lane, hosted by Keynote speaker Cath Knibbs, an international technology expert. The conference was a 'sold out' success, with over 125 multi-agency professionals attending to learn more about online harms and trauma, the dark web, gaming and gambling, cyber-crime and sex offenders who use the internet.



6. Strategic Priorities 2024-2025

- Our strategic priorities for 2024 – 25 are Neglect, Contextual Safeguarding, Bullying Harassment & Online Harms and Domestic Abuse. These build on the work of this years' priorities (see pages 15-19). Neglect is an enduring priority and whilst we have laid firm foundations for our work, there is more to be done where neglect has an impact on the health, education and the risk of harm that children and young people face outside of the home.
- Partnership development sessions planned for 2024/25 will help us to develop our strategic priorities and identify governance and practice changes in WT23.
- Implement Working Together 23
- Build on our joint work this year, in response to inspections, reviews and learning, with focus on evidence, impact, improvement, assurance and learning.
- Partners will continue to improve the availability and quality of data available to the Partnership, to meet our ambition for a multiagency dashboard and quarterly scorecard.
- Continue to develop a Quality Assurance framework that measures the impact of our performance through data, audits, feedback from practitioners and the lived experiences of children and their families effectively, to assure that children and young people are helped, protected and safe from harm.
- Tailor our multiagency training programme and evaluate results, to support our strategic priorities.
- Learn from national and local reviews and best practice. Encourage positive challenge so that commissioned child safeguarding practice reviews provide relevant learning that is embedded across the multiagency partnership.

7. Accounts

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership Finance 2023-2024

Income & Expenditure Statement as of 31st March 2024

Income		
South Yorkshire ICB (Barnsley)	49,000	
Police & Crime Commissioner	19,441	
National Probation Service	-	
CAFCASS	-	
DfE WT23 grant	47,300	One year grant
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	95,717	
2022/23 Underspend	46,010	Funded temp role
Total Income	257,648	

Expenditure		
Employee Salary Cost	161,247	
Computers	400	
Statutory reviews	0	
General Expenses	7,949	
Professional Fees & Consultancy	27,900	
Independent evaluation & staff resources	47,300	WT23 Implementation
Total Expenditure	244,796	
Underspend	12,672	Earmarking request completed to request carry forward to 2024/25

In addition, training revenue yielded a net income of £9,145, paid to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

8. Our Partners

Our sincere thanks go out to all of our partners who work tirelessly to protect and keep children and young people safe in Barnsley:



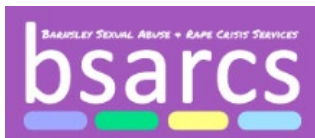
Barnsley – the place of possibilities.



South Yorkshire FIRE & RESCUE



Barnsley Mental Health Support Team



Changing childhoods. Changing lives.

