



**BARKING &
DAGENHAM
SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN
PARTNERSHIP**

**Barking & Dagenham
Safeguarding Children Partnership
Annual Report
2023/24**

Foreword – voices of children, young people and families

The voices and involvement of children, young people and their families are at the heart of everything we do. During 2023/24 a range of participation and engagement work took place with children and young people across the partnership that can help inform our work moving forward.

The BAD Youth Forum worked during 2023/24 to consider a range of issues including sexual harassment, gangs, cost of living, mental health awareness, crime, education, and health inequality. Their work included a big focus on sexual behaviours and harassment:

- Completed by 108 children and young people.
- Over 55% of respondents reported experience of being sexually harassed, or assaulted
- Group concluded that there was a need for more education and tools around recognising sexual harassment.
- Successfully secured funding to produce awareness raising products.
- Completed 16 days of activity promoting and educating children and young people on the issues.





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Introduction

We are pleased to present the annual report of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Board for the period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024. This report is presented on behalf of the statutory partners and the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The annual report outlines the key activities and achievements of the Board and its partners over the past year. Despite several changes and restructures within key agencies, including changes in key personnel, safeguarding has remained a priority. Agencies have continued to protect children and young people in our area amidst these changes.

Safeguarding is about people, their safety, wishes, aspirations, and needs. This year, we have continued to focus on our priority areas. Progress has been made in the Neglect, Child Exploitation, and Child Sexual Abuse subgroups, with new strategies developed and processes revised. The aim for the next year is to implement and evaluate these initiatives. Multi-agency safeguarding training has continued to grow, being developed from the learning from Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and overseen by the Practice and Learning subgroup.

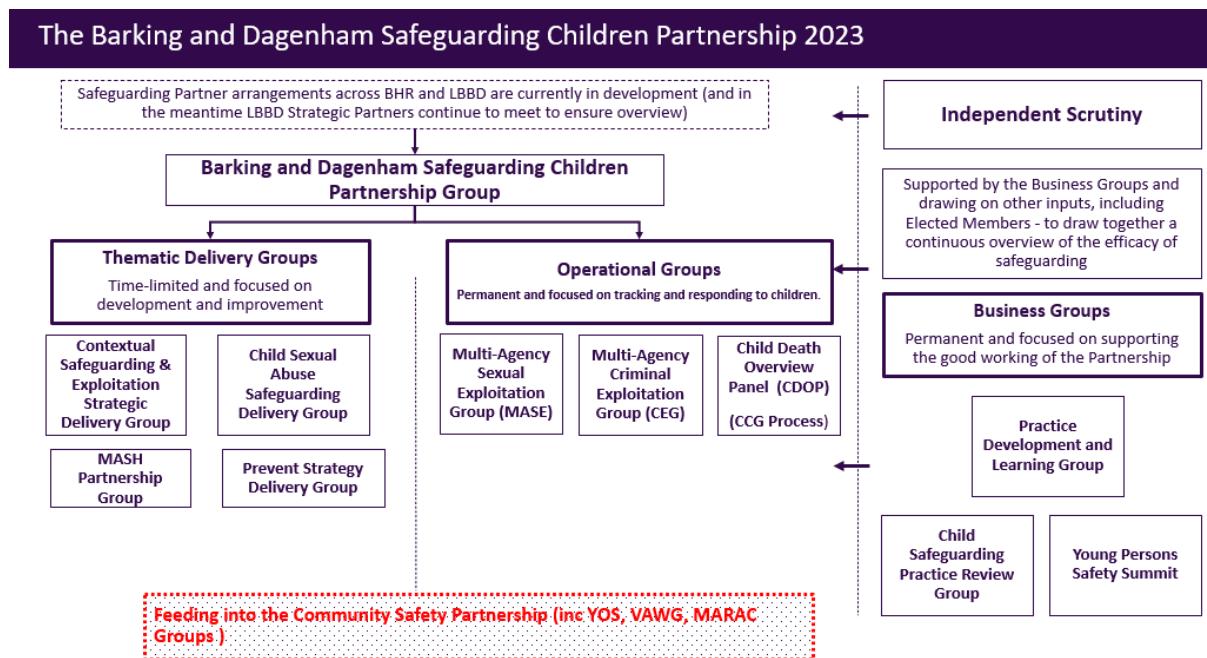
In July 2023, the Local Authority Children's Services also received an Ofsted Inspection (ILACS), which focuses on the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers. The outcome of the four-week inspection was LBBD Children's Services were graded as Requires Improvement to be Good. From this outcome, a clear and detailed Improvement plan was agreed, including support and input from the wider safeguarding partnership.

Over the past year, Safeguarding children remains a key focus for agencies across the borough, wherein we are committed to continue our strong communication and robust challenge, focusing on future demand, learning and development, and the impact of our interventions on supporting children and young people to be safe, well, and achieve their potential. This includes implementing changes identified within Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023).

Finally, we would like to thank our partners for their professionalism, commitment, and support, particularly the Safeguarding Partnership Board Business Unit. We also extend our gratitude to all frontline staff for their incredible work in keeping children and young people safe from abuse and neglect in Barking and Dagenham.

Our Structure

The diagram below outlines the BDSCP's structure agreed to deliver its business and progress its priorities during 2023/24.



During this period, it was clear that in response to the direction of the BDSCP and Working Together the partnership needed to review and strengthen its governance arrangements moving into 2024/25. The work of these groups is detailed throughout this report.

Whilst business, operational and thematic groups aimed to progress the business and priorities, the structure was very resource intensive for the partnership. Therefore, following the LGA peer review, plans were put in place to reduce the number of delivery and operational groups, to make the partnership function more streamlined and effective.

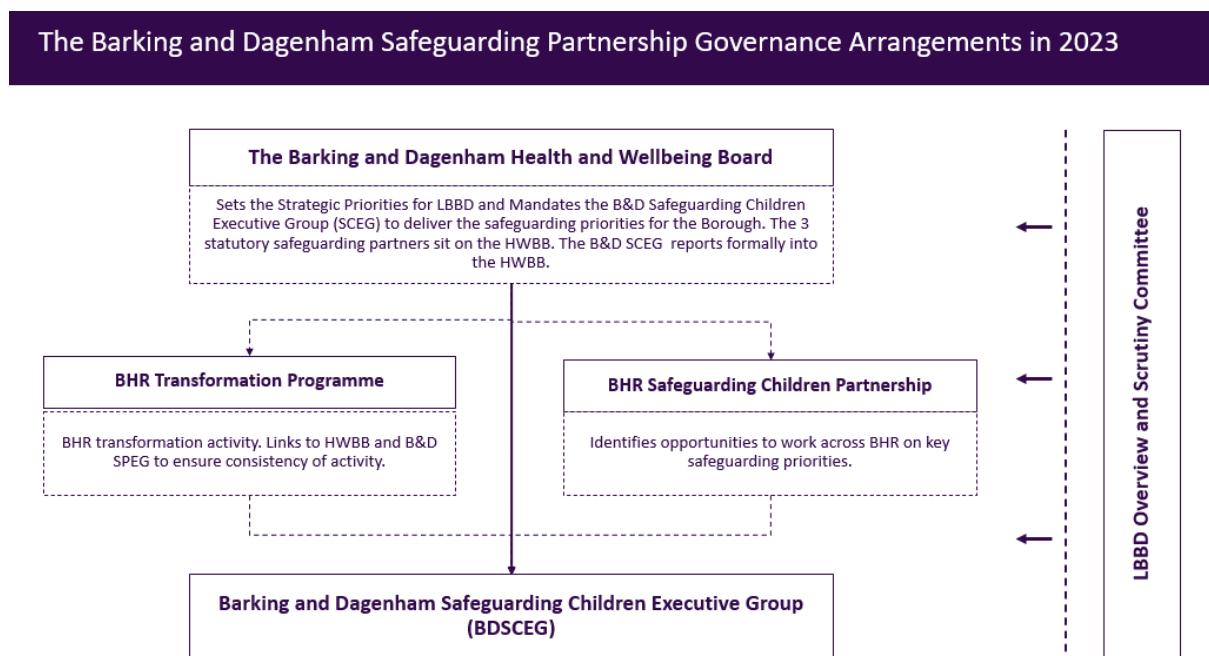
Plans are in place to develop a 'One Panel' with the Community Safeguarding Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board to replace the CSPR Review group to ensure a more consistent approach to reviews including CSPR's, SARs and DHRs.

The One Panel will be the central point of examining referrals into the different safeguarding boards as well as overseeing and approving the Serious Incident notifications to the National

Panel and then agreeing any Rapid reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Review and Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Governance

The chart below outlines the agreed governance arrangements for BDSCP in 2023/24 which were changed during the year.



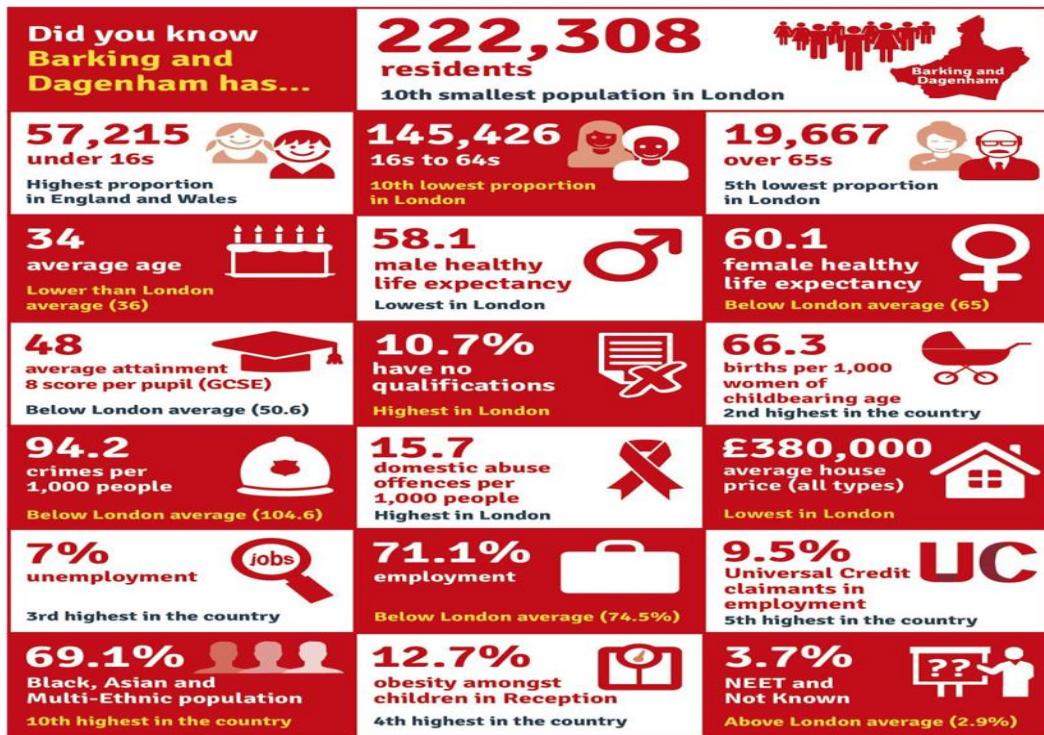
During this period the tri-borough arrangements with neighbouring Havering and Redbridge Safeguarding partnerships ceased. The new partnership MASA will outline the shape, function and structure of the safeguarding partnership following the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 updates and requirements.

Also, during this period, the Independent Scrutineer of the BDSCP Partnership ended their tenure in March 2024, wherein the partnership has a formal recruitment process in place to secure an Independent Scrutineer to meet new requirements of WT 23 during early 2024/25.

The Barking and Dagenham Context

Barking and Dagenham is a borough with many strengths, and many challenges:

- **Child poverty** is amongst the highest in London boroughs: 50% of children live in households on the poverty line.
- **Poor quality of housing:** Waiting lists for housing are some of the largest in the country.
- **Highest under 18 years conception** rate in London.
- **Highest premature mortality** in the borough in London, with 404 deaths per 100,000 people aged below 75, compared to 299 for London overall.
- **Highest proportion of children (0-17) in the UK:** almost three in ten residents (29.8%) are under 18.
- **Highest proportion of under 5s** in the UK: 9.4%.
- **Higher than national average of young carers in B&D:** approx. 1,800 young carers in B&D; 1 in 12 secondary school aged children are young carers.
- **Highest levels of Year 6 obesity** in England.
- **High levels of domestic abuse:** there is an estimate of 75.43 per 1000, 0-4 yr. olds live in households where a parent is suffering domestic abuse, and no early help offer in place to address.
- **High levels** of 16–17-year-olds not in education, employment or training
- **Increased number of children with learning disabilities Autistic Spectrum** Disorder is the most common primary need identified in EHCPs. High level of EHCP need is between 5 - 15-year-olds, above England and statistical neighbours.
- **Higher numbers of children and young people have a diagnosable mental health problems**
- **Higher numbers in LBBD for youth offending** compared to national average of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time.
- **Lowest life expectancies** in London for both women and men.
- **High demand for children's social care - a growth rate in excess of population growth.**



Our Priorities

During this period the BDSCP had the following priorities:

- Healthy and Stable Workforce
- Domestic Abuse
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Child Exploitation

PRIORITY 1: The Health & Stability of the Safeguarding Workforce

Without a healthy and engaged workforce no agency can fully participate in and support the work of the Partnership. The Partnership will therefore seek to develop a better understanding of the pressures staff face and the steps that can be taken (including the application of identified good practice) to mitigate them. This will include reviewing information available to us from staff surveys and feedback forums, a greater understanding of case/workloads and supervision ratios as well as the impact of issues such as organisational change and restructure, reduced resourcing levels and increased demand.

PRIORITY 2: Domestic Abuse



Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse on our communities is key for Barking and Dagenham. We have the highest rates of domestic abuse in London, and it has a profound impact on our families.

Barking and Dagenham has been on a journey in recent years to achieve our aims and considerable work has already been done to strengthen our response to domestic abuse in our borough. The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration launched the first ever Independent Domestic Abuse Commission in February 2020. The Commission brought together twelve national experts to look consider domestic abuse in LBBD, and the partnership response to it. The Commission undertook significant engagement work with residents and stakeholders across the system and presented its findings in a final report.

In early 2022, the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Executive agreed to conduct a further end to end review of the domestic abuse system. The review involved

relevant internal council service leads, as well as across statutory partners, commissioned providers, the voluntary and community sector, and survivors to understand their views. The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Practice Review of Domestic Abuse in September 2022 was completed and highlights key strengths and areas for improvement. The priorities for action identified in these reviews were formed into the Domestic Abuse Improvement Plan (DAIP).

In order to effectively oversee delivery of this priority area, the Violence Against Women and Girl's Strategic Group (VAWGSG) was established. This group reports to the BDSCP and the BD Community Safety Partnership. Key progress made by the VAWGSG to deliver the DAIP in 2023/24 includes:

- Improving the shared understanding of domestic abuse across our workforces through a number of mechanisms:
 - A website for professionals to access, including a detailed guidance, information about available services and how to refer and
 - Roll out of approaches such as Safe and Together, as well as new shared risk assessment tools.
 - Roll out of a champions scheme and increasing the colocations of specialist services into key points of the system
 - Improving our learning and development offer, including a suite of new courses based on the findings of the BDSCP practice week in 2022.
- Increasing the service offer in Barking and Dagenham, with £1.2 million identified and invested in services for survivors, perpetrators and children and young people.
- Improved services, including the multi-agency Support 2 Safety service which works in a whole family approach to rapid risk assessment and triage to get families the right help, at the right time, from the right person

PRIORITY 3: Neglect



The BDSCP Executive agreed in October 2023 to increase their focus and resources on tackling neglect. The Neglect Improvement Programme Task and Finish Group (NIPT&FG) was established to respond at pace to the challenges we face to effectively tackle neglect and self-neglect. The NIPT&FG was given a clear mandate to:

- Ensure professionals working across Barking and Dagenham can confidently and competently recognise and identify neglect and self-neglect in all its forms as early as possible.
- Improving practice, ensuring the right help, at the right time, from the right person for those who need it.
- Improve the systems thinking across the statutory partnerships, ensuring professionals work together to take timely action to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

A Think Family approach has been developed to ensure we respond to the circumstances of families, particularly given the prevalence of long term, intergenerational neglect, and the NIPT&FG includes representatives from adults' services.

Rapid progress has been made in a number of areas:

- A new Neglect Strategy 2024-27, signed up to by the BDSCP and setting clear priorities, with an agreed Neglect Improvement Plan outlining how we will deliver the strategy
- Delivery of a Neglect Symposium and neglect roadshows – ensuring a shared understanding of neglect, how to identify neglect and what to do as a result.
- The development and launch of a new online Neglect Toolkit for all professionals – available on our intranet and internet sites, and providing resources for children's specialists, adult's specialists and all other professionals across the council who may come into contact with neglect.
- The development of new tools, including a Neglect Screening Tool for the workforce who are not trained to use the GCP2 (the NSPCC's Graded Care Profile neglect assessment tool which we have committed to using in LBBD) and successfully becoming an early adopter of the NSPCC's GCP2A – the antenatal version of the assessment tool.
- A quarterly in-depth review of partnership data sources related to neglect to ensure we are making progress – including the voice of children and young people through case studies.

We are seeing changes in practice as a result of this work, including improved partnership working and pathways and improved understanding across workforces. We expect to see more impact in 2024/25, as we deliver the Neglect Improvement Programme Action Plan.

PRIORITY 4: Child Sexual Abuse

The Child Sexual Abuse Safeguarding Delivery Group takes place quarterly and is chaired by the Operational Director for Children's Care and Support (LBBD) and attended by a wide partnership; Police, Social Care, Education, Health (ICB and NELFT), CSA Centre of Expertise ,Barnardo's, Sunshine Hub , CAMHS, CCG, legal, Performance and Training and Development

Sexual abuse can impact on every area of a child's development; psychological, cognitive, social, emotional, behavioural, physical, and sexual. Improving the professional response to child sexual abuse is a key priority in LBBD both in terms of reducing the long-term impact of sexual abuse on individuals and their families but also on public services and society as a whole. Our vision is to ensure that Barking & Dagenham children who are victims and survivors of sexual abuse receive the best possible medical, emotional, and social support, and advocacy to support them through their recovery and that they get justice for the crimes committed against them. To ensure appropriate prevention work and early identification, reducing CSA incidences by empowering children to speak out and perpetrators to seek help early on.

Our 2023/24 priorities:

- Relentless focus on improving identification, assessment and interventions with children and their families who have suffered CSA
- To improve data sharing amongst partners to understand prevalence, profile and outcomes
- Continue promoting the implementation of the new tools and practice framework arising from the second CoE pilot programme
- Develop a CSA Strategy
- Disseminate learning and deliver improvements from the BHR CSA Audit 22-23
- Understand the child's lived experience by creating opportunities for their feedback
- CSA Medical training offered to 40 Partners delivered by the Havens, due to take place in 2023.
- Transformation and launch of the NEL CSA hub –increasing and improving referral pathways and children accessing the right medical and emotional support at the right time
- Consider issues of intersectionality and how children from certain groups may be less likely to disclose the sexual abuse they are suffering - how do we provide all children a space to be heard
- Support schools in tackling young people's perceptions, attitudes and everyday language with a zero tolerance to sexual aggression.
- Increase understanding of the complexities of technology assisted abuse (online harm).
- Ensure ongoing audit programme to test impact

PRIORITY 5: Child Exploitation.

The Adolescent Safety and Wellbeing Strategic Group is in place to ensure coordinated multi-agency responses to reduce experiences of significant harm such as child criminal & sexual exploitation and serious youth violence that tends to happen in contexts outside the family home i.e. within peer groups, schools' settings, online and neighbourhoods.

We aim to give children and young people hope, aspiration and opportunity and celebrate their success .We will work to change, challenge and support young people to be the best they can be and feel connected to their community .We will provide and improve access to services for young people to divert them from harm and exploitation and to help them to achieve their goals and aspirations .We aim to provide a service where children feel safe, listened to, supported to be brilliant and understood to be the experts through their own experiences.

The key priority for 2023/2024 was to drive forward the vision and priorities as outlined in the Adolescent Safety & wellbeing strategy 2023-2026.

This Partnership met in January 2023 for a Workshop and reflected on our journey travelled, our successes and challenges and set out our priorities for the next 3 years. We used the Tackling

exploitation Support programme: Joining the Dots framework to steer the discussions. The most powerful part of the day was taking into consideration messages from young people and their carers. It was their lived experiences that mattered most and is what needs to continue driving us going forward to a place where we are bridging boundaries and leading with care whilst we work with complexity, curiosity, and uncertainty. This strategy aims to reflect our journey, vision, practice principles, context, messages from young people and our approach.

Key deliverables included:

- Appoint a lead for Youth services – developing the LBBD youth offer (from universal through to early help, targeted early help and specialist statutory services) so young people and their families know what services are available and how to access them
- Annual Safety summit for primary as well as secondary schools are held, introducing young people to services
- Refresh the Step up stay safe programme supporting schools with knife crime and reducing exclusions.
- Continuation of Lost hours campaign – staying connected with the community
- Engage with a Parents /community forum to engage the voices of the community.
- Enrol a young person to sit on the Vulnerable adolescent & wellbeing strategic group – ensuring the voice of young people is firmly at the table
- Co-commissioning – establish a partnership commissioning group to plan and track commissioning arrangements and Bid applications with priority focus on outreach work, peer mentors and emotional wellbeing services
- Establish an Exploitation lead in social care (without operational responsibilities) who can support the delivery of training, improved consistency of practice across all services and robust identification, assessment and tracking of young people at risk of exploitation.

MASH Partnership Board

The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Partnership Group is held quarterly chaired by the Director of Operations – Children’s Social Care. This group has wide partner engagement, including LA officers from Education, Safeguarding, Targeted Early Help, Childrens Care and Support, including Youth Offending, Specialist Intervention Services; Head Commissioners, Community Solutions, and partners: ICB, Police, NELFT, BHRUT, Refuge, Housing and Schools.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Partnership Board was set up with the primary purpose to drive forward service improvements in response to the feedback from the Ofsted focus visit in June 2021, to address the following:

- Despite the improvements at the front door in practice the MASH service operates primarily as a single agency social work service and the required level of partnership working is not yet

in evidence, partnership arrangements are not sufficiently strong, this is most notably with health but is relevant for all partners.

- Threshold decisions are mostly appropriate although there is more to do to have a collective understanding within the partnership – in particular step up and step-down decisions into Early Help.
- Partnerships are improving and there is still more to do to manage the impact of increasing demand.

The Partnership has remained committed to tackling the issues raised back in 2021 and improvement work in the last reporting period 2023/2024 has been informed by the findings from multi agency audit activity and the Ofsted ILACS inspection in July 2023

Our priorities have included.

- Ensuring meaningful partnership responses to referrals to MASH
- More consistent responses to families impacted by domestic abuse
- Thresholds that are well understood by all those working with children
- Strengthen the interface between early help and MASH so children are stepped up from Early help in a more timely way
- Strategy meetings are timely with appropriate representation from the wider partnership
- Regular multi agency audit activity
- Improve MASH to referrals re child sexual abuse in order that children receive the right medical / health response from the outset

Local Government Association (LGA) – Peer Challenge Review

To support the further development and Safeguarding partnership planning, the partnership invited the LGA to undertake an independent peer challenge review of the BDSCP arrangements between 6th to 9th June 2023. The review provided a critical friend approach and challenge to the BDSCP in assessing its strengths and helping to identify areas for improvement.

The team recommended six areas for the partnership which are being built into our plans for 24/25 activity.

Partnership Funding

Working in partnership requires organisations and agencies to collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements. The three safeguarding partners and relevant agencies within the local authority area should contribute towards the expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The safeguarding partners have agreed on the level of funding secured from each partner, ensuring

it is equitable and proportionate, along with any contributions from each relevant agency, to support the local arrangements. These contributions have all been received during the reporting period.

With due financial diligence, the funding has been sufficient to cover all key elements of the arrangements, including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews. The three Statutory Partner agencies have contributed to the BDSCP's budget, which funds the work of the BDSCP business unit who provides logistical support, administration, and development support.

For 2023/24 the BDSCP partners made the following contributions:

Agency	£
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Trust	£3716
Barking and Dagenham Council	£40,000
Police	£5,000
NorthEast London Foundation Trust	£3,716
NorthEast London ICB	£30,000
Schools	£13,422
Total	£95,848

Learning and Development

During 2023/24 800 the BDSCP promoted the training offer to the partnership workforce through publicity events, attending service meetings and more targeted publicity emails on specific courses. This resulted in over 800 delegates signing up to attend BDSCP training events which was more than double the number for 2022/23.

The training offered during 23/24:

Training
Supporting Recovery & Health of Children Affected by Child Sexual Abuse
Parental Mental Health and Safeguarding
Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Perinatal
Substance Misuse Awareness
Mental Health
Drug & Alcohol Awareness
Family Members
Multi-Agency Working with Men & Invisible
Multi-Agency Trauma-Informed & Relationship-Based Practice
Multi-Agency Safeguarding & Child Protection introduction
Managing Allegations and the Role of the LADO
Introduction to Prevent
Children Missing from Education & Elective Home Education
DSL Refresher
Designated Safeguarding Lead Certificate training

Consolidating Multi-agency Practice by enhancing Professional Curiosity
Child & Adolescent Neglect
Sudi and Safer Sleep for Babies
Attachment in Practice
Basic Safer Sleep

Of those who attended training and provided feedback:

- 85% rated the quality of training as excellent and the vast majority as good or very good. All would recommend the training to others.
- All felt their confidence and competence in the subject matter was good to excellent.
- Many were able to articulate how the training would impact on their future practice with children and families.

Learning from Reviews

During 2023/24 the following learning was identified within the CSPR processes:

- All practitioners require a basic understanding of perplexing presentations as this which can be an indicator of FII and know what action to take.
- Safeguarding Leads, CSC Frontline Managers, Community Paediatricians, require more in depth understanding and knowledge of relevant guidance to advise and support practitioners within their agencies and to liaise effectively across agencies regarding possible FII and follow procedures.
- Key role for strategy meetings in addition to professional meetings
- Importance of recording emerging concerns where there is discrepancy between parental reporting and clinical observations
- Education providers provide valuable information regarding child's health, development and behaviour.
- Use of chronologies to identify patterns and understand child's lived experience.
- Considering patterns for repeat referrals and giving anonymous referrals as much credibility as those from professionals.
- Practitioners should remain *professionally curious* if the children are to be safeguarded.
- Need for careful consideration of pre-birth risk assessments where there's concerns about parent's long-term mental health difficulties/eating disorders and its impact on their parenting capacity.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) overview

- CDOP met on 7 occasions to review the deaths of nine children from Barking and Dagenham where CDOP panel members categorise a child's death according to nationally defined categories determined by the Department of Health.
- CDOP reviewed two deaths categorised at SUDI/SUDC.
- Of reported deaths a higher percentage were male children, in keeping with the local trend over previous years and the national picture.
- Highest number of new notifications was for babies aged 0-27 days. This is similar to previous years; however, the number of neonatal deaths has increased across NEL leading to an ongoing review of these deaths to identify themes.
- Majority of deaths related to non-white British and non-white other children.

Learning outcome

A SUDI Prevention Task and Finish Group convened by North-East London CDOP teams, identified the need for multiagency partnership working to ensure that SUDI Prevention messages reach the most vulnerable families. It proposed North-East London adopts a 'Prevent and Protect Model' to ensure all relevant agencies/ practitioners have the necessary skills and knowledge to work with families where there is increased risk.

Private Fostering

Local authorities are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the needs of children who are privately fostered i.e. children who are under the age of 16, under 18 if disabled, and live with carers outside of their immediate family for 28 days or more.

During the period of 2023/2024:

- 37 private fostering notifications (similar number to 2022/2023). 4 met the criteria.
- Schools made the most notifications having made 20, then LBBD with 12, 3 young people self-referred and the remaining 2 were from Board Force UK.
- As of 31/03/24, the Fostering Team held 6 private fostering cases. Of these 6 children and young people
 - 4 were male; 2 were female
 - 1 was aged 12, 5 were aged 13 to 16 years.
- There was a *Private Fostering Awareness Campaign* aimed at residents, parents, families, and persons who are caring for someone else's child. The campaign aimed to increase awareness, and notifications, of private fostering arrangements by ensuring professionals were aware of their duty to report potential private fostering situations.
- Leaflets and posters were distributed at community centres, local authority buildings, sports centres, colleges, theatres, children's centres, and hospitals.
- LBBD's Communications Team promoted awareness via the Borough's Twitter account and internal communications

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is responsible for the management and oversight of all investigations into allegations against those working with and who volunteer with children and is responsible for preparing the annual report to the Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Partnership and establishing processes to disseminate learning to the children's workforce.

The 2023 Ofsted report highlights '*Local authority designated officer arrangements are effective and ensure that children are adequately safeguarded. Professionals have good technical knowledge and understanding of child safeguarding processes in this area of complexity. This is an area of strength and is seen as such by education partners*'.

There has been a 15% increase in total contacts to the LADO service in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23. Since the decline during the 2020/21 Covid period, contacts have continued to rise, now surpassing the peak seen in 2019/20. The percentage of contacts meeting the threshold has remained stable at approximately 10%.

However, there has been a 47% increase in contacts recorded as consultations, where concerns about a person's conduct related to children fall just below the allegation threshold. These matters may be managed internally by employers.

Of the 427 contacts, 98.4% were responded to within 24 hours. The 1.6% that fell outside this timeframe did not meet the allegations threshold and were not submitted via a formal referral form. Contacts meeting the threshold received a decision and LADO advice within 24 hours.

For contacts requiring an initial allegations meeting (ASV), 92.5% were held within 5 working days as per the London Safeguarding Children Procedures guidance. The remaining 7.5% were delayed due to professional availability but did not result in unmanaged risk. All threshold contacts ensured children were safeguarded and staff supported during allegations.

Physical harm remains the most referred matter into the LADO service, followed by emotional harm, defined as concerns about how a person has spoken to or treated a child. Education staff are the most referred professionals, followed by residential staff and foster carers, reflecting the size and complexity of the education workforce.

Of the referrals meeting the threshold, the largest proportion of allegations were 'Unsubstantiated' following investigation. Approximately 15% were 'Substantiated', indicating sufficient evidence on a balance of probabilities that a person working with children caused harm, committed an offence, or raised concerns about their suitability to work with children. Relevant referrals have been made to regulatory bodies for future safeguarding.

Performance

Targeted Early Help (TEH)

In Barking and Dagenham, the TEH includes Targeted Early Help Advisory Service (TEHAS), Rapid Response service, Baby Intervention Team and all other Targeted Early Help locality teams. :

- **Open to TEH** -783 children from 365 families (897 children from 407 families on 30/03/23)
- **New Targeted Early Help involvement during 2023/24** 3,085 children started a - no significant change from 3,057 episodes recorded in 2022/23.
- **Re-referral rate** is unchanged compared to the 14% reported for 2022/23.
- **Early Help Assessments**
 - 1,870 children from 854 families had a completed Early Help Assessment.
- **Targeted Early Help children and their presenting issues – during 2023/24:**
 - 669 children, with open Baby Intervention Team or Locality Teams within Targeted Early Help, had 1,153 recorded presenting issues.

Children's Social Care

Referrals

- Statutory referrals to social care decreased in 2023/24 by 16% (5541 in 2022/23 to 4638 in 2023/24). The rate per 10,000 has decreased from 875 to 724. Despite the decrease, we remain above all comparators - similar areas (654), London (570) and nationally (545).
- Education made 36% (1670), Police 32% (1796).
- 87% of referrals were completed within timescale compared to 82% in 2022/23.
- Repeat referral rate was 21% - compared to 26% previous year is in line with comparators.

Single Assessments

- 4837 single assessments were completed a decrease of 18% on previous year
- 88% of assessments were completed within 45 days compared. This is an increase from 79% in 2022/23.

Children in Need

- 580 children and young people were subject to CIN plans at the end of the year

Children in Care

- 436 children and young people in care (68 per 10,000 of LBBD population of 0- to 17-year-olds).

Children subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 (LBBD population 64,092)

- 36.9

Police Powers of Protection

- 22% (40) of children coming into care following emergency police protection same as previous year and is above all comparators (9-14%).

Strategy discussions

- 1962

Number of looked after children missing episodes (more than 24 hours)

- 269

Number and percentage of CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) contacts made to children's social care

- 341 (2.4%)

Agency Participation at CP Conferences (% shows those in attendance)

Agency	2023/24
Adult Mental Health	79% (22/28)
Police (ICPC))	TBC
Police (RCPC)	TBC
Drug and Alcohol Services	58% (7/12)
GP Representative	2% (6/319)
Health Visitor	77% (189/247)
Child Mental Health	64% (7/11)
Housing	58% (7/12)
School Nurse	86% (310/362)
Schools	91% (364/398)
Education (Excl. School)	90% (78/87)
Probation	92% (12/13)
Youth Offending Service (YOS)	71% (5/7)
Hospital	87% (52/60)
Domestic Violence Service	100% (5/5)
Vol Sector	100% (1/1)
Adults Services	0% (0/1)

Working Together 2023

The partnership is well-positioned to adopt the new governance requirements of Working Together 2023. The new Independent Scrutineer, once recruited, along with the Safeguarding Business Manager and the Executive Board will ensure we as a partnership deliver against the new expectations. Discussions between partners are taking place to identify key Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners as well as finalise the MASA arrangements moving into next year.