



Bromley Safeguarding Children Board

Business Plan 2017-2019

September 2017

Vision

“Children and young people in Bromley are seen, heard and helped; they are effectively safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together.”

The Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Business Plan sets out the strategic intent of the BSCB in making this vision a reality. It underlines the statutory objectives of the BSCB to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

This Business Plan for 2017-19 replaces the Business Plan 2015-18 as part of the review and reconfiguration of the BSCB following the Ofsted inspection of 2016 which graded the BSCB as ‘requires improvement’. It acknowledges the inadequacy of previous approaches which lacked strategic oversight. The BSCB is moving away from monitoring the functions of the board and will now shift its focus more firmly on the context of the lives of our children in Bromley and demonstrate a commitment to grip, pace and impact.

In the context of impending change, the structure of this Business Plan will allow us flex to meet the challenges and embrace the opportunities of the Children and Social Work Bill.

Our Principles

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

- To foster a single child-centred culture, that focusses all of our work on the safeguarding needs of vulnerable children and young people and improving their outcomes.
- At the core of our safeguarding and child protection work is the commitment to ensuring that children and young people are seen, heard and helped
 - **Seen in the context** of their lives at home, in friendship circles, health, education and public spaces (including social media).
 - **Heard** through professionals taking the time to listen to what children and young people are saying, putting themselves in the child or young person’s shoes and thinking deeply about what their life might truly be like.
 - **Helped** by remaining professionally curious and by implementing effective and imaginative solutions that make children and young people safer.
- To understand the quality of a child or young person’s individual experience in the unique context of their lives within Bromley.
- To learn from these experiences and ensure that all of our work has a positive impact upon young lives.
- To foster a culture of continuous review and learning with evidence based practice.
- To characterise our work by an attitude of constructive professional challenge.

Priorities

The BSCB Business Plan 2017-2019 is intentionally brief and focused on **strategic priorities** that form the basis of the work of the Board over the next two years.

These priorities support the statutory functions of the BSCB and the partnership response to protecting vulnerable children and young people, preventing harm and promoting their welfare.

For this plan, the BSCB is enhancing its focus on responding to the **priorities of children and young people** that live in Bromley, what they have specifically told us matters most to them and what needs to happen to make them feel safer and be safer. These priorities will remain flexible for the duration of this Business Plan and will be sharpened through the BSCB's ongoing engagement with children and young people.

Annually, the BSCB will identify the specific actions required against each of these priorities with the detail being set out in the specific work plans of the Board's sub groups and working groups.

Priorities of Children & Young People

The views and experiences of children and young people are currently captured through a range of different mechanisms used by both individual agencies and the BSCB. Over 2017-19, the BSCB is eager to capture the **authentic voice of children and young people**. We will do this through:

- Ad-hoc engagement based on specific projects
- Continuing to capture the voice of children and young people through well-established forums such as Bromley Youth Council and the Living in Care Council.
- Implementing a range of new mechanisms designed at widening our reach and learning about what matters most to children and young people in the area that they live and in the context of how they live their lives.

The Bromley Youth Council was directed, as a result of the Manifesto Event 2017, to campaign and facilitate positive changes for young people in Bromley on the following issues:

- Primary area: young people's sexuality and identity
- Secondary campaign: youth crime and gang culture

The BSCB will support the Bromley Youth Council by focussing on oversight and challenge of their key areas of concerns below:

- **Young People's Identity and Sexuality:** services available to young people, their families, friends and their schools around identity, sexuality and wellbeing; support offered by schools in Bromley and the extent to which sex education covers sexuality, gender and identity.
- **Crime and Gang Culture:** awareness and education around joining gangs and becoming involved in criminal activities; carrying weapons; engaging in inappropriate relationships; Bromley as an emerging gang borough and the data / information behind this; how schools, Safeguarding Officers, the police, youth offending service and local services come together to share intelligence on vulnerable young people joining gangs and gang activity and the prevention work carried out.

Priorities of the Partnership

Based on our own learning and that arising from a range of external inspections of Board partners, all of our work is underpinned by a focus on making sure that **Basic Practice** (as prescribed within statutory guidance and local procedures) is effective and of high quality.

Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context
Priority 2: Early Help & Early Intervention
Priority 3: Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership
Priority 4: A Healthy Workforce

A key focus within Priority 3 is how the BSCB and partner agencies commit to **“Making the Invisible Visible.”** This reflects the importance that the BSCB and partner agencies apply to **ALL** children and young people living in Bromley and our collective focus on hard-to-reach groups and communities that are less engaged with public safeguarding services.

Strategic Priority	Outcome	Actions 2017-19
The Local Safeguarding Context	Children and young people at risk of specific vulnerabilities in Bromley are seen, heard and helped. They are effectively protected from harm by robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support. The BSCB and partner agencies focus on how to safeguard children and young people in the context of their lives and in the context of what matters most in the areas that they live – context is key	To monitor the ongoing effectiveness and impact of the partnership in responding to previous Business Plan priorities of CSE, Missing, Gangs, Domestic Violence, Neglect, Radicalisation and FGM. To work with partners to deliver comprehensive, multi-agency arrangements that tackle the identified safeguarding priorities set out below; and to evaluate their impact on children and young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence (abusive relationships linked to CSE and Gangs) • Mental Health • Authentic voice of Children with special and educational needs • Authentic voice of Children Looked After
Early Help & Early Intervention	Children and young people receive effective early help and appropriate interventions when needs are identified and/or problems arise.	To evaluate the effectiveness of early help arrangements Bromley
Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership	Following the Ofsted inspection in 2016, the BSCB supports the partnership in its improvement journey. The BSCB leads the safeguarding agenda, is professionally curious and challenges the work of partner organisations, and commits to an approach that learns lessons, embeds good practice and is continually influenced by children, young people and their families.	In the context of the Children and Social Work Bill and the proposed abolition of LSCBs, partner agencies will continue to commit to engaging in robust arrangements that coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of how children and young people are safeguarded. The BSCB and partners successfully deliver against the Business Plan and associated work plans set for the BSCB and its sub groups / working groups. Continue to strengthen the governance interface between the BSCB and other

	<p>Making the Invisible Visible: ALL children and young people are seen, heard and helped; with the public and professionals alike being alert to risk, being able to identify it and knowing how to respond to make sure children are safeguarded.</p>	<p>key strategic forums and Chairs. Maintain the BSCB Learning & Improvement Framework; scrutinise & challenge performance; identify, disseminate and embed lessons; engage with children, young people and families and evaluate the impact on outcomes.</p> <p>To communicate and raise awareness about safeguarding to individuals, organisations and communities.</p> <p>To consistently promote the importance of effective and swift information sharing, promoting a culture that puts the protection of children before the protection of information.</p>
<p>A Healthy Workforce</p>	<p>In the context of reducing public sector funding, the BSCB listens to partners and seeks reassurance that agencies have in place effective arrangements to support their staff deliver high quality safeguarding practice.</p>	<p>The BSCB sets up a task and finish group to lead on designing and implementing a thorough health check of the organisational arrangements in place to support effective safeguarding practice.</p>