

Welcome to the Autumn edition of, Focus; our Newsletter which aims to help inform you of developments around Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation in Barnet. My team can be contacted if you or your organisation have any questions or requires information and support, please do not hesitate to contact us on CEAM@Barnet.gov.uk

Adolescence represents an exciting time in which a child's world along with their autonomy and confidence significantly develops. If we think back to our own experiences, it's important to highlight that as adolescents we all naturally took risks during this time. Risk taking is generally a positive and important part of development. However, for some young people, this journey can also lead to increased risk of experiencing extra familial harm through coercion and control, which can exist in any relationships such as friendship groups, online platforms, or through adults or older peers.

In this edition we are focusing on the ideas of professional curiosity, engagement and intervention, and hope to set out some resources that will support you and your organisation.

Adolescents Safeguarding Handbook

The, '**Adolescent safeguarding in London, A Handbook for collaboration**'. Was released recently. The Handbook sets out approaches for both system / practice leaders and professionals who work directly with young people. The handbook is incredibly helpful in providing supporting information and guidance to managers and practitioners. It outlines the relationship between the stages of development of young people and the types of extra familial harm they may experience.

The handbook is also focused on young Londoners experiences pulls on local data. The Guidance provides best practice information over 5 key areas:

- **Context** – Contextual Safeguarding, Transitional safeguarding, disproportionality and minoritized groups including SEND, Parental and familial engagement. Community Development

- **Adolescents** – Stages of development, attachment, adverse childhood experiences
- **Strategy** – the importance of partnerships, how to develop safeguarding adolescents strategy
- **Practice** – how to identify extra familial harm outside of the family, promoting engagement and welfare of young people, self-efficacy, and working from a strengths-based perspective.
- **Reflection** – Reflective practice, supervision

The term handbook is a little misleading in that it is an extremely detailed resource, therefore we will be supporting its roll out by providing a range of briefings on the key highlights, on the 2 December and the 14 December. To book yourself on please email CEAM@Barnet.gov.uk

Contextual Frameworks

Young people need age specific interventions to encourage their engagement, without their engagement it is hard to effect change and risk management, and this can leave professionals feeling powerless and unclear as how to best manage this risk. The following principles should underpin our approaches to engagement, assessment, and intervention

- **Collaborative:** achieved through collaboration between professionals, children and young people, families and communities
- **Ecological:** considers the links between the spaces where young people experience harm and how these spaces are shaped by inequalities
- **Rights-based:** rooted in, and seek to protect, children's rights and human rights
- **Strengths-based:** builds on the strengths of individuals and communities to achieve change
- **Evidence-informed:** grounded in the reality of how life happens. Proposes solutions that are informed by the lived experiences of young people, families, communities and practitioners





Early Help CEAM and Intervention Tool

The beginning of the year saw the roll out of the 0-19 Early Help Child Exploitation and Missing Tool. The tool is split into two keys areas, the first is designed as an engagement tool that anyone can undertake with a young person to help gather their views on various factors of their lived experiences, such as; friends, relationships, home life experiences, areas and places that they hang out. The second part of the tool is a based on a professional meeting which pulls together information which is held by professionals and people that know the young person but also the young person views form the engagement tool.

The feedback has been positive from both young people and practitioners that have used the tool, and supports greater engagement and coproduction of a plan. A downloadable version of the tool, guidance and how to use them can each be found below:

[EH CEAM Pre-guidance](#) • [EH Professional' template](#) • [Young People Intervention Template](#)

Using Online Gaming as an intervention tool

Online gaming has becoming enormously popular, it was during the pandemic and social distancing measures that organisations were required to change their approaches to engaging with young people. At the time St. Christophers Fellowship were delivering the sibling mentoring project and like many projects the pandemic caused significant disruption to this. They therefore devised a manual on how their mentors can engage young people through online gaming which can be found here.



You will hopefully find it a useful resource, included in the guidance are some of the key areas that practitioners should be inquisitive as many young people and children are exposed to the following themes;

- **Gambling and in game economies**
- **Poverty, debt, and influencers appearing on other platforms**
- **Gender and themes of misogyny and abuse**
- **Addiction**



Serious Adult Violence Panel

Serious Adult Violence panel has been running since May 2020 and has been functioning as a bridge between the children's and adult's world as well as giving LBB an oversight of Adult Serious Violence. SAV has a strong membership network of both external and internal services. In the last three months, we have temporarily revised SAV to case consultations. These consultations are quick in turn around and are still responsive to medium-long term need. We continue to support professionals with building supportive diversionary routes for adults who have been convicted of serious violence offences but also those who are on the periphery and or at risk of committing serious violence. This space can be used as a thinking space between professionals who need support with a case or it may be more practical support around accessing housing services, education, training and employment, historic information or intelligence. The referrals vary from those who are already subject to interventions through court disposals and others who are not open to services. We encourage professionals to not only consider the individuals they work with directly for case consultation, but also adults that may be associates, partners and/or family members. The threshold for SAV remains as drug trafficking, group/gang offending and weapons related behaviour. Please contact anika.cosgrove@barnet.gov.uk for further information.

Best Practice briefings

This year, we have begun to hold forums for our practitioners across children's and adult services to ensure that we are reflective in our practice and learning from previous professional experiences.

Here, we discuss issues and themes arising from our practice and look for solutions on how to tackle them. It functions as a professional thinking space as well as learning hub. So far this year we have held briefings in relation to 'PREVENT' and 'Considering SEN for adolescents and adults'. We have a membership of approximately 36 professionals from different sectors. Our membership is growing, and we hope by the end of the year our 'Best Practice series' will consist of a strong and diverse network of professionals both internally and externally.

Deep Dive - VVE Journey of the child	15 of February 2023
Mapping Training Webinar	25 January 2023
Staff Practice Support (drop in) Sessions	Wednesday 7 of December 2022 – 12noon – 1pm Wednesday 21 of December 2022 – 12noon – 1pm Wednesday 4 of January 2023 – 12noon – 1pm
Adolescent Safeguarding Handbook	2 of December 2022 – 12noon – 1pm 14 of December 2022 – 12noon – 1pm
Use Social Media Access - Dark Web stuff	20 January / 31 January 2023
VAWG -the root cause of violence against women, engaging men and boys and focusing on their responsibility	December 2023
Restorative Justice Best Practice Session	29 November 2022

These briefings are open and free to access for all partners working in Barnet, so all you need to do to book your self on is contact CEAM@Barnet.gov.uk, or Nimco.Mohammed@barnet.gov.uk

Victims Better Supported Project and The Barnet Victim Care Hub:

Through a successful funding bid Barnet children and families service have recently set up a, Victim Care Hub. This hub seeks to support young and adult victims of both reported and unreported crime, by providing information on their rights, signposting, and support services available to them based on their individual needs and requirements. The Hub can provide information and local signposting options to those who may have experienced crime indirectly, their

friends and family. The Hub will also function as a single point of contact for professionals seeking advice, support, and guidance for victims.

The Victim Care Hub is currently at a soft launch stage, thus allowing the identification of any potential issues prior to the launch with external stakeholders and members of the public towards the end of November.

How the Victim Care Hub can help and support:

- Explore together support services that meet victim needs and provide information on how to contact them and access support.
- Provide information on local organisations and support services.
- Provide information surrounding your rights as a victim. Victims Code of Practice
- Provide information surrounding the standards of care for witnesses in the criminal justice system. Witness Charter
- Where possible and with consent refer onto support local and regional services.
- Answer questions you may have local support services the support or the justice system

Below are some of the crime types that colleagues, and partners could find themselves supporting victims with.



Hate Crime	Anti- Social Behaviour	Stalking and Harassment	Domestic Abuse
Fraud	Sexual Assault/ violence/harassment	So called honour based violence	Burglary
Robbery	Any violent Crime		

The Hub will assist and guide them to create individual support plans, onward referrals, and signposting information to share with and help victims to cope and recover from the impact of crime and ensure they are aware of their rights.

**To contact or seek further information please contact our coordinator
Laurence.piemonte@barnet.gov.uk
 or call 020 8359 7210**





Restorative Justice coordinator

Restorative Justice allows people affected by crime to communicate with the person responsible in whatever medium is safest. It can often result in a face-to-face meeting. This gives both parties the opportunity to discuss the incident, explain how it has impacted them and seek assurances that it won't happen again. Restorative Justice has been known to support the decrease in re-offending, as it helps people who have committed crimes to recognise the harm they have caused. We are committed to supporting victims of crime (both reported and non-reported) by implementing the Victims Code of Practice, which cites access to RJ as a right.

We have received funding over three years from the London Crime Prevention Fund to support the implementation and development of Restorative Justice across the borough. This project aims to support the community to develop skills around conflict resolution, in an effort to prevent violent escalation and interventions from emergency services. If you are working with a victim or perpetrator of harm who could benefit from exploring how to repair harm, increase empathy or access support for trauma recovery, then please get in touch with anika.cosgrove@barnet.gov.uk. We will also soon be delivering three-day Restorative Justice training to schools, colleges, universities, early help parenting groups and various sectors within the council.

Summary snapshot of 2021 - 22

Each year we produce an annual report outlining the themes and information surround Child Exploitation, Serious youth violence and Trafficking. A full copy of the Report can be found here however some key highlights that you may find useful:

- Total missing episodes of young people were lowest since 2018,
- Children in Care are more likely to go missing than children from home.
- Young people are more likely to go missing in Summer months and schools holidays,
- There was an increase of young people identified to be at risk of criminal exploitation from previous years,
- The most common locations identified for young people to be exploited on county lines, is Ipswich, (Suffolk), Cambridge and Portsmouth.
- The numbers of young people at risk of sexual exploitation remains lower and has decreased from the previous year.
- The biggest themes of concerns from professionals regarding contextual risk factors are centred on the relationship that a young person has.
- Despite perception 2021 saw a decrease in the incidents of serious youth violence, however incidents involving a knife or bladed/pointed article remain the highest incident type.
- Unlike missing episodes there is no seasonal link to incidents of violence, but incidents of violence are link with ages and certain times such as after school between 3pm and 10pm (for school age young people).
- Most incidents of violence are victims based and the suspect is not known to the victim (as a result of robbery, in the wrong area)
- For a very small cohort, incidents of violence do link with rising tension and conflict.

Mapping

Intelligence mapping is a useful tool to visually map out a young person's associations and patterns in their behaviour (e.g. friendships, conflicts, missing patterns and locations). It allows us to gather and share intelligence and a contextual picture of the spaces that the young person occupies with partners, as well as identify trends and hotspots within the borough such as exploitation, antisocial behaviour, and emerging groups. This helps inform social care teams on what the concerns are for young people, as well as what risk management needs to happen to keep families safe. On the 23 January 2023 Nina will be running master classes initially for social workers and team managers on how to carry out child level intelligence mapping. For further details on these workshops or for general enquiries on intelligence mapping, please contact Nina.Teyara@Barnet.gov.uk.





Key Partners Focus Mentoring

No1 Fitness Academy

No1 Fitness Education Academy CIC works on reducing the number of young adults who are involved or at risk of being involved in any criminal activity.

Therefore, not only do we aim to reduce gang related crimes including drug related and serious crime by offering the individual a chance to better themselves, but we also aim to build the community into a place where residents feel safe going about their daily activities. We do this within our services we provide by offering mentoring, employability training and education opportunities into the fitness industry and we believe by doing this we empower our young people. We have undertaken a range of projects to support young adults within the local borough of Barnet and our track record has seen an average success rate of over 80% outcomes. We feel the reason to our success is due to the strong working relationships we have with our partners such as Barnet Council, Probation service, Department for Work and Pensions, Change Grow Live, Barnet Homes and The Metropolitan Police. Due to the rapport we have built with our partners and organisations we are able to provide support, assist and overcome any barriers that we encounter throughout the project in a timely, swift manner.

In order for a young adult to be referred to our programme they would need to be referred to the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) panel and would need to meet the criteria set out by the IOM framework. If an individual meets the criteria, they will then be given the opportunity to work alongside No1 Fitness Education Academy CIC for 16 weeks to gain a fitness qualification and better themselves.



The Vulnerable Adolescents Team can always be contacted if either you or a member of your staff are worried about a young person who may be experiencing exploitation.

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sonal.patel@barnet.gov.uk

amy.nowland@barnet.gov.uk

however if your concern relates to an immediate safeguarding concern then please contact. **MASH@barnet.gov.uk**

In future additions we would welcome partner contributions and updates so please forward these to CEAM@barnet.gov.uk