

Barking and Dagenham  
Local Safeguarding Children Board  
**Annual Report 2008-09**







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# Introduction

## Simon N Hart

Independent Chair

Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board

I am pleased to be able to report on the activity of the Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board over the course of 2008/09 and would like to thank all of those agencies, individuals and young people who have contributed to the Boards important work.

Once again, the Board has enjoyed good support from partner organisations, and whilst agency re-organisations and role changes have resulted in several revisions in Board membership, attendances have been consistently strong throughout the year. It has also been possible to strengthen the membership of non-statutory partners which has helped to give the Boards work a broader focus. The Board has also continued to enjoy the support of committed and industrious Sub Committees, including the Young Peoples Safety Group and their work has significantly contributed to the Boards effort in making Barking & Dagenham a safer place for children, young people and their families. Illustrations of their work appear later in this report.

Last year the Board set out a challenging work programme with a particular emphasis on developing the impact of effective partnership working with important contributions through;

- a successful multi-agency safeguarding conference which will become an annual event
- strengthening links with faith groups leading to development of child protection guidelines for Mosques and Madrassahs
- commissioning of a community paediatric team with a specific role in safeguarding
- agreement of the Public Service Board to give priority attention to the impact of domestic violence and parental mental health on child protection
- development of a locality approach to develop preventative services and support families whose needs do not meet statutory thresholds

The Board has also attached importance to supporting work at a regional level and contributes significantly to the work of the London Safeguarding Board.



Are you a professional needing to make a referral to the Assessment Team? Complete a Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF) by visiting [www.bardag-lscb.co.uk](http://www.bardag-lscb.co.uk)



The Board has also been concerned to strengthen arrangements to support front line casework through more robust monitoring and audit. The Performance Sub Committee has been able to commission a full audit of Safe Recruitment arrangements within the Local Authority, who have also agreed that the audit will, in future, form part of the annual audit programme. Plans have also been developed to implement independent casework audits, which will take place over the coming year.

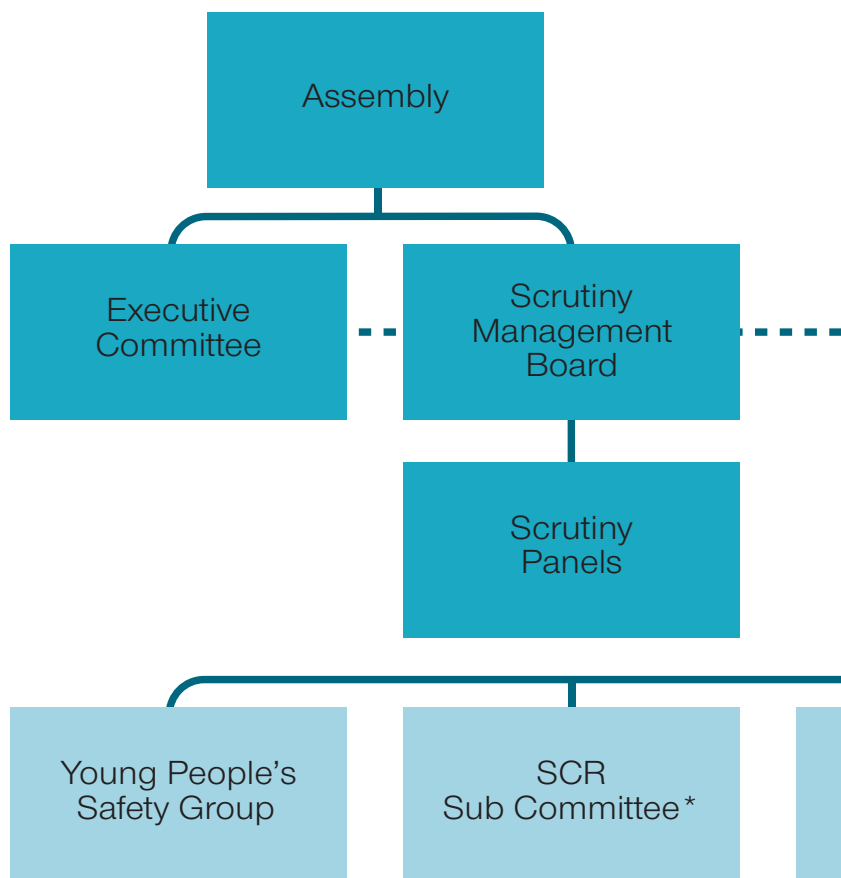
Monitoring of inspection and review action plans continues to be rigorous and is monitored by the Board and of course it has been necessary to closely follow the work of Lord Laming leading up to the publication of his report 'The Protection of Children in England; A Progress Report'. The adoption of Lord Lamings recommendations by Government and proposed revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children have, and will continue to be, a focus for the Boards work during the coming year.

The Board is grateful for the continued support and co-operation of all partners, for the opportunity to influence strategic priorities through the Public Service Board and looks forward to the challenge of addressing the expected revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children in the coming year

## Governance Framework

**Key:**

- \* Serious Case Review Sub Committee
- † Child Death Overview Panel
- ‡ Policies, Procedures and Practices Sub Committee





## The Executive Board

In 2008/09, the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board has continued to develop and strengthen its position within the borough, ensuring that strategic and operational plans and policies to safeguard children are in place and implemented effectively.

During the year, the Executive Board met on five separate occasions and Simon Hart continued as Independent Chair. The Vice Chair is Roger Leighton, Head Teacher of Sydney Russell School.

Some of the key areas of work undertaken by the Executive Board during the year are as follows:

- The strategic and governance framework continues to be strong. Clear governance arrangements were maintained in relation to the Children's Trust and Local Strategic Partnership. Throughout the year, Simon Hart met regularly with the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board. He also took on the role of Chair of the Serious Case Review Sub Group of the London Safeguarding Children Board.
- The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board maintained good links with ContactPoint, the Safeguarding Adults Board, the Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Strategy Group and the Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospital Trust Safeguarding Board. This was achieved through joint membership and regular reports to the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board.
- The Child Death Overview Panel was established in partnership with Havering and became operational on 1st April 2008. The panel had its inaugural meeting on 14th April 2008 and has been chaired throughout the year by Dr Justin Varney, of the Primary Care Trust.
- In October 2008, the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board hosted a multi agency conference and two half-day briefings to share lessons learned from the Serious Case Review, signed off by the Board in January 2008. The events were highly successful with over 200 professionals attending. As a result, the Executive Board has agreed that Barking and Dagenham shall host a conference each year.
- In 2008/09, the Shadow Safeguarding Board voted to change its title to the Young People's Safety Group. During the year, the Group held two meetings, which were well attended by over 80 young people. The Government Office for London has expressed an interest in the group and is considering it as an example of best practice. The group has been involved in several projects this year including a poster campaign to raise public awareness after the Serious Case Review.
- The Board welcomed and supported the introduction of the Public Protection Desk, established April 2008. Due to capacity implications across the partnership, the Board planned to provide financial support for additional posts required to meet demand.
- The Board commissioned an internal audit of safer recruitment in the Local Authority, due to report September 2009. The Board has agreed to conduct a safer recruitment audit annually.
- The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board signed off on the 2007/08 Annual Report and agreed the 2008/09 budget.
- The Terms of Reference for the Quality Assurance Sub Committee were reviewed with a view to strengthening the effectiveness of the performance management framework.
- Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board led on Phase 2 of the Pan London dataset, which is due to conclude in May 2009. Key achievements of the project include:
  - Developing an interagency safeguarding performance management framework across the domains of health, protection and emotional wellbeing;
  - Creating a proforma for successful data collection;
  - Securing eleven pilot boroughs to identify communication pathways and populate the dataset;
  - Securing agreement from the Pan London Chair's network and the Chief Executives' group for the roll out of the dataset across all London Boroughs. This will commence in June 2009.

The work of the sub committees continued to support the Executive Board in driving the safeguarding agenda forwards. Two new sub committees were formed in 2008-9, the Child Death Overview Panel and the Young People's Safety Group. The former was developed in recognition of the importance of listening to the views of children and young people, and the latter in response to Chapter 7 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006).

The work of all the sub committees continues to serve as key mechanisms in ensuring that the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board meets its statutory requirements. The Executive Board has, and will continue to, receive regular updates at Board meetings as laid out in the work plan.

The membership attendance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board is identified in the table below:

Agency	Number of seats at board	% of meetings attended by an agency representative
Independent Chair	1	5/5 (100%)
Children's Services – Local Authority	2	5/5 (100%)
Children's Services – Secondary School (Vice Chair)	1	2/5 (40%)
Children's Services – Junior Schools	1	4/5 (80%)
Children's Services – Participation Lead	1	4/5 (80%)
Police – Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT)	1	5/5 (100%)
Police – Borough	1	3/5 (60%)
Primary Care Trust (PCT)	1	4/5 (80%)
Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust (BHRUHT)	1	4/5 (80%)
North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT)	1	5/5 (100%)
Voluntary Sector	2	3/5 (60%) <sup>1</sup>
Legal Services- Local Authority	1	3/5 (60%)
Connexions	1	5/5 (100%)
Probation	1	3/5 (60%)
Faith Groups	1	1/5 (20%) <sup>2</sup>
Leisure Services	1	1/5 (20%) <sup>3</sup>
Adults and Community Services (ACS)	2	3/5 (60%)
Child and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)	1	1/5 (20%) <sup>4</sup>
Housing	1	5/5 (100%)
Chair of Practice, Policies and Procedures Sub Committee	1	5/5 (100%)
Chair of Serious Case Review Sub Committee	1	5/5 (100%)
Chair of Professional Development Sub Committee	1	5/5 (100%)
Chair of Performance Management Sub Committee	1	5/5 (100%)
Business Support – Children's Services	1	5/5 (100%)

1 Member resigned - new representative joins Board for 09-10

2 Member resigned - new representative joins Board for 09-10

3 New member joined Board in December 2008

4 New member joined Board in October 2008



**A full breakdown of agency attendance by name and agency can be located at the LSCB website at:**  
[www.bardag-lscb.co.uk](http://www.bardag-lscb.co.uk)

## Priorities for 2009-10

During 2009/10, there will be a number of key areas for the Board to assess, review and action, which include:

- A review of the current Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan and Constitution for 2009-12;
- The evaluation of the impact of Section 11 assessment process and multi agency systematic audits;
- Responding to external inspection- Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and Laming recommendations;
- Regard and response to the Ofsted's new Safeguarding Inspection Framework;
- A response to the launch of the new Independent Safeguarding Authority;
- The delivery of an annual safeguarding conference;
- Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board response to the new Children and Young People's Delivery Plan 2009-2011;
- Focus on child safety and well being in respect of domestic violence and parental mental health;
- Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board response to localities structure within the borough;
- The impact of the Continuum of Needs and Services Model and roll out of Common Assessment Framework (CAF).



If you need advice or support regarding Domestic Violence, contact the Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Advocacy Service on 0208 724 1262 or visit [www.thehideout.org.uk](http://www.thehideout.org.uk)



# The Sub Committees

- Young People's Safety Group
- Practice, Policies and Procedures Sub Committee
- Professional Development Sub Committee
- Serious Case Review Sub Committee
- Performance Management Committee
- Child Death Overview Sub Panel



## Young People's Safety Group

The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board recognises the importance of listening to the views of children and young people on safety and safeguarding issues. Therefore, in October 2008, the Shadow Safeguarding Board, now known as the Young People's Safety Group, was established.

The Young People's Safety Group has had a successful first year. Through consultation, the Group developed an action plan of key issues young people want to discuss. Topics included knife crime, the impact of Baby P and the background to child protection and safeguarding in Barking and Dagenham.

**Some of the key areas of work undertaken by the Young People's Safety Group are as follows:**

- The recruitment and establishment of the Young People's Safety Group;
- Holding two Young People's Safety Group meetings which were well attended by 80 young people;
- Producing two evaluation reports following the meetings which have fed directly into strategic planning within both the Children's Trust and the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board;
- Leading on a campaign to raise public awareness following the Serious Case Review. This involved the design of posters, which were launched at the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board Conference;
- Presenting to the London-wide LSCB Chair's Network on the local marketing campaign and the establishment of the Young People's Safety Group.

In 2009/10, the Young People's Safety Group will continue to focus on engagement with young people in the borough and ensure their views are heard. Some of the key areas of work for the coming year include:

- Appointing a young person to chair the Young People's Safety Group;
- Training members of the Group with regard to the links they can forge with The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board and how as a shadow board they implement this;
- Holding a joint meeting between Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board and Young People's Safety Group;
- Organising a programme of inspirational speakers to attend secondary schools and youth settings to talk about safeguarding issues;
- We will also ensure the Group is involved in Peace Week 2009, which aims to promote greater community cohesion, safety and peace across London.

Having already made a strong start in 2008/09, the Young People's Safety Group is confident in achieving these aims and continuing to build on the strong attendance rates and positive outputs achieved during 2008/09.

## Practice, Policies and Procedures Sub Committee

The Practice, Policies and Procedures (PPP) Sub Committee meets on a monthly basis. Chris Pelham, Acting Head of Safeguarding and Rights, chaired the board until December 2008 when the role was filled by Alison Crowe, Group Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Review. Liz Doherty, Designated Nurse for Child Protection, PCT, acts as Vice Chair of the Group.

The membership consists mainly of the nominated Safeguarding Leads for each agency. The main priority for the Sub Committee is to oversee the day-to-day work of Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board and its Sub Committees, supporting the development and implementation of local policies and protocols and ensuring that the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board discharges its duties effectively.

**Some of the key areas of work undertaken by the Practice, Policies and Procedures Sub Committee during the year are as follows:**

- Facilitating the establishment of the Young People's Safety Group;
- Holding a multi agency conference and two briefing sessions in response to a Serious Case Review;
- A revised 'Safeguarding Alert' conflict resolution process was also signed off;
- A child protection policy for mosques and madrassahs was developed;
- The Continuum of Needs and Services model was launched.

In 2009/10 the Practice, Policies and Procedures Sub Committee will continue its work overseeing the work and development of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board. Areas of focus will include:

- Developing an E-Safety Strategy;
- Responding to external inspection and focusing on Comprehensive Area Assessment;
- Responding to the recommendations made in 'The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report' and the national stock take of Local Safeguarding Children Boards.



### For more information, contact:

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on 0208 227 5557  
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## Professional Development Sub Committee

In 2008/09, Alison Crowe, Group Manager, Safeguarding Quality and Review chaired the Professional Development Sub Committee, formerly known as the Training and Education Sub Committee. Linnett White, Interim Social Care Workforce Development Manager, was Vice Chair. Last year, the Committee met ten times.

As part of a continuous cycle of evaluation and improvement, a review of the Sub Committee was held in July 2008. Following the evaluation, the Training and Education Sub Committee was renamed the Professional Development Sub Committee. Revised Terms of Reference were produced and signed off by the Board.

The Sub Committee is proud to have developed a range of training throughout 2008/9, including:

- The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board multi disciplinary training programme;
- Twilight and weekend 'safer communities' training sessions for the voluntary sector; including a 'Train the Trainers' session which was attended by 8 voluntary sector personnel;
- 'Whole school' child protection training and safer recruitment training for head teachers and school governors;
- NCSL accredited safer recruitment training to school heads and governors;
- Safeguarding training as a component of the joint induction training with Health and Adult and Community Services.

In October 2008, the Committee delivered a 'Keeping Children Safe' multi disciplinary conference, which over 100 people attended. Pupils from Thomas Arnold and Jo Richardson Schools displayed their anti bullying campaign and the Children and Young People's Safety Group launched the safeguarding publicity materials they had designed.

The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board recognises its responsibility to help and encourage all member organisations to implement safe recruitment and selection processes. In 2008/09, the Sub Committee has helped to do this by developing an HR Safer Recruitment Strategy for the Council. It has also completed the annual internal safeguarding audit for the Council and reviewed progress using the DCSF 'Self Assessment Tool for Safer Recruitment and Selection'.

In 2009/10, the Sub Committee aims to continue its work supporting the professional development of Board Members and will work to ensure the Barking and Dagenham annual conference is a success. Kellie Ann Fitzgerald, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager has now taken over as Chair of the Sub Committee.

The Committee's strong focus on training will also continue and it aims to develop training in response to Serious Case Reviews. The Committee will continue to adopt a cross borough, multi agency approach to training. It will also enhance the training programme by including safer recruitment training for all recruiting managers across the Partnership.



**If you have any questions about the work of the PPP Sub Committee, please contact:**

Alison Crowe  
on 020 8227 2318  
or [alison.crowe@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:alison.crowe@lbbd.gov.uk)

**Local policies and procedures can also be accessed via the LSCB website at:**

[www.bardag-lscb.co.uk](http://www.bardag-lscb.co.uk)

**Training programme attendance  
2008-09**

Organisation	Number attended
Safeguarding & Rights	98
Early Years	323
Education (schools)	12
Education (other)	16
PCT	13
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospital Trust (BHRUHT)	1
North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT)	7
Adult & Community Services	35
Customer Services	8
Regeneration Housing	6
Regeneration other	9
Resources	0
Connexions	0
Police Borough	4
Police Child Abuse Investigation Team	0
Police Community Safety Unit	0
Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)	0
Probation	0
Voluntary	17
Faith Forum	1
Other	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>

**Conference Attendance**

Organisation	Number attended
Children's Services	83
Police	7
Primary Care Trust	6
NELFT	9
Faith Groups	6
Voluntary Sector	8
Connexions	4
Housing	8
Education	1
Youth Offending Service	2
Adult and Community Service	4
BHRUHT	1
Haringey LSCB	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>

**Attendance at Serious Case  
Review briefings**

Organisation	Number attended
NHS	2
Children's Services	94
Primary Care Trust	28
Faith	4
NELFT	24
Met Police	12
Legal Services	2
Voluntary Sector	2
<b>Total number of attendees</b>	<b>168</b>



**You can access the LSCB training programme at:**  
[www.bardag-lscb.co.uk](http://www.bardag-lscb.co.uk)

**If you have any questions you can contact:**  
Joanne Deverill (LSCB Training Business Support)  
0208 227 2839

## Serious Case Review Sub Committee

The Serious Case Review Sub Committee is concerned with policy and practice development based on lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews and other serious cases brought to the Sub Committee. In 2008/09, it continued to be chaired by Tolis Vouyioukas, Divisional Director of Safeguarding and Rights, Children's Services.

Following a process of consultation by the Independent Chair of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board, new terms of reference for the Serious Case Review Sub Committee were implemented in December 2008.

In the event that a Serious Case Review is commissioned, this Sub Committee, with some amendment to membership, will become the case review group overseeing the completion of the Serious Case Review. The process of commissioning a Serious Case Review is triggered by a serious incident that requires an emergency meeting of Chief Executives/Officers from all relevant Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board member agencies, to be chaired by the Independent Chair of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board. This group will consider the known circumstances of the case and advise whether the criteria for a Serious Case Review (as set out in Working Together) are met. The decision to initiate a Serious Case Review rests finally with the Independent Chair in accordance with Section 19 of the London Child Protection Procedures.

In March 2008, Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board signed off the multi agency Serious Case Review Action Plan developed following the tragic death of a two year old girl in Barking. The implementation of this action plan was the key focus of the Sub Committee in 2008/09.

The Multi Agency Serious Case Review Report and Action Plan received an Ofsted rating of 'good' and received positive feedback from Government Offices for London for its thorough translation of lessons into action.

Alongside identified improvements across agencies, Ofsted highlighted the need to promote safeguarding awareness to members of the public. The Serious Case Review Sub Committee commissioned a project group to develop a Safeguarding Children Week, which took place in October 2008. During the week, activities included training, information sharing and awareness raising activities that would reach both professionals and the public. Other activities included two briefing events and a one-day conference attended by over 300 practitioners from across the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board partner agencies.

An information leaflet and poster campaign was designed and launched in consultation with children and young people. This highlighted the crucial role of neighbours, and family members in identifying children and young people at risk of harm and the appropriate action to take.

As a result of Lord Laming's inquiry into child protection procedures and his recommendations to make serious case reviews more effective, the Serious Case Review Working Group reviewed Barking and Dagenham's processes and systems in respect of internal agency reviews and serious case reviews. The purpose of this was to ensure that maximum learning will be gained through multi agency planning.



**You can access the LSCB Performance Dataset at the LSCB website:**

[www.bardag-lscb.co.uk](http://www.bardag-lscb.co.uk)

**If you require any information on the above you can contact:**

Kellie Ann Fitzgerald

on 020 8227 3578

or [kellie.fitzgerald@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:kellie.fitzgerald@lbbd.gov.uk)

## Performance Management Sub Committee

In 2008/09, the Committee was chaired by Tolis Vouyioukas, Divisional Director, Safeguarding and Rights supported by Jacquie Mowbray, Operational Director for Mental Health as Vice Chair. The Committee's key functions are to review and scrutinise safeguarding children performance across all Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board member agencies; to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding children activities undertaken by the agencies constituent to the Board and to offer advice on areas for improvement and development.

In May 2008, in order to reflect and promote the scrutiny and advisory function placed upon Local Safeguarding Children Boards, the Quality Assurance Sub Committee was restructured and became the Performance Management Sub Committee. Membership was restructured and now consists of a core group of multi agency performance leads who meet quarterly. Partner agencies not represented contribute as necessary in order to update the Sub Committee with their agency's safeguarding activities. The Sub Committee chair shares findings with the Board through a six-month summary report.

In 2008/09, the Sub Committee progressed in the following areas:

- The collection, analysis and reporting of social care and core child protection information has been significantly developed through the implementation of the Pan London and Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Board Datasets;
- An audit of safer recruitment arrangements, commissioned by the Local Authority;
- Support for the ongoing process to complete multi agency Section 11 audits;
- Contribution to the work of London Councils in developing high level performance management information to act as early indicators for Elected Members and Chief Executives.

In the coming year, the Sub Committee will continue to broaden its focus to include the wider safeguarding activities and contributions of the partnership. This will include the collation and analysis of the Section 11 audit returns and ensuring members and partners perform joint audits of case files.

To ensure safeguarding practices are as effective as possible, the Chair of the Performance Management Sub Committee, in partnership with the Local Authority Chief Executive, commissioned an independent audit of safeguarding to commence in September 2009. The audit will assess the quality of case management, record keeping, information sharing and decision making for children receiving support under the Common Assessment Framework, children subject to Child Protection Plans and children in care.

## Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) was established in April 2008 as a partnership between the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham and Havering. The Panel meets quarterly to review all child deaths occurring in both boroughs that have been notified to the CDOP team and have completed the Rapid Response process.

The Child Death Overview Panel has made a strong start and substantial work has been undertaken to ensure robust governance and partnership working.

The Panel has two main functions:

- Identifying any case that meets the threshold for a serious case review; any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area and public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or pattern of deaths;
- Implementing procedures to ensure a co-ordinated response by the authority and its LSCB partners.

The Child Death Overview Panel has made recommendations to the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board on actions that could be taken to prevent future child deaths based on the evidence presented to them.

In the coming year key areas of focus will be:

- Continuing the close working relationship with neighbouring boroughs, particularly around rapid response meetings to minimise the pressure on BHRUT and NELFT;
- Strengthening the working relationship with the coroner;
- Developing information resources for parents that communicate the role and function of the panel and the rapid response team;
- Forging a stronger relationship with the LSCB to ensure recommendations move forward in a timely manner.

In 2009/10, the panel is in a strong position to move forward and continue to develop this work in Barking and Dagenham.

# Other key developments and updates

The following sections highlight the contributions from our partners in 2008/09 and some of the diverse projects Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board has supported throughout the year.

- **Police**
- **Health**
- **Schools**
- **Faith, Community and Voluntary Sector Organisations**
- **Private Fostering**
- **Integrated Services and Localities**
- **Continuum of Needs and Services**
- **Common Assessment Framework**
- **Contact Point**
- **Child Protection Procedures**



## Barking and Dagenham Police The Public Protection Desk DCI Andy Goddard

As an organisation, the Metropolitan Police Service has a responsibility to ensure that it is able to meet the needs of children and young people. In April 2008, in response to this duty the Public Protection Desk was established to enable the gathering, analysis and sharing of information about children and young people at a local level.

The Public Protection Desk is a specialist unit managing referrals of children and young people who come to the attention of police during the course of their work. It also deals with referrals from outside agencies. Officers complete a report concerning the child and their circumstances on the MERLIN System. This document, known as the Pre Assessment Check (PAC), is forwarded to the Public Protection Desk where it is quality assured and disseminated to appropriate members of the Partnership for action. This is in addition to any frontline immediate action that officers may need to initiate to safeguard a child in an emergency.

Since its accreditation in October 2008, the Public Protection Desk has dealt with over 5000 referrals. In 2009/10, the Barking and Dagenham Police aim to increase the volume of business. Early identification and management of risk will also be a key focus.

A continued focus for Barking and Dagenham Police has been to ensure that officers have the training, knowledge and skills to identify issues that may affect a child's well-being and safety. In 2008/09, as part of the 'Every Child Matters' programme and the requirements of Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, Barking and Dagenham police officers received training specifically about improving the life chances of children, young people and families and the five key outcomes.



For support, intervention  
and information on  
teenage pregnancy, visit  
[www.youngpeoplefriendly.co.uk](http://www.youngpeoplefriendly.co.uk)



## Health Liz Doherty

Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospital NHS Trust is committed to ensuring that paediatricians are trained in examining, identifying and assessing children and young people, who may be experiencing abuse or neglect. BHRUT are also committed to ensuring all necessary equipment and staff expertise should be available for undertaking forensic medical examination. This also forms one of the requirements within the guidance Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2006).

In 2008/09, the Trust commissioned a Community Paediatric Team with a specific role in safeguarding. One consultant paediatrician is the 'Designated Doctor' for safeguarding, children in care and unexpected child deaths. The team, consisting of two consultants and three staff grade paediatricians, carry out Child Protection Examinations and provide appropriate reports, depending on the circumstances of the case. In 2008/09, the team conducted 65 child protection examinations.

The safety and well-being of children in care continues to be an area of focus for Barking and Dagenham Local Safeguarding Children Board. In 2008/09, 36 health reviews were provided for children in care aged 0-5 years and those with complex medical needs.

Another requirement of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) is the joint commissioning of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for the examination of children and young people who have been acutely affected by sexual assault. This service is provided at the Sexual Assault Follow-up Examination (SAFE) Clinic, which is part of the Horizon Centre. In 2008/09, nine children were seen at the SAFE Clinic for follow-up screening and courses of vaccination.

## Schools Gary Wilder

In 2008/09, one of the key developments has been that Schools have greater regard for and are promoting good safeguarding principles in the extended schools curriculum and localities framework.

The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board has developed Section 11 audit (Children Act 2004) and self-assessment tools in conjunction with schools. This has led to Section 11 arrangements incorporated within school procedures.

In the coming year, further development work will continue to meet the new requirements for safeguarding in Ofsted inspections. Schools will be seeking support from the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board to support them in achieving good outcomes from these inspections.



**Guidance and information on the above can be found on the LSCB website at:**

[www.bardag-lscb.co.uk](http://www.bardag-lscb.co.uk)

**Guidance on Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with children and young people can also be found at the following:**

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/search/IG00311/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/search/IG00311/)

**For further information you can contact:**

Amana Gordon, Child Protection Adviser  
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or [amana.gordon@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:amana.gordon@lbbd.gov.uk)

Alison Crowe, Group Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Reviews  
on 0208 227 2318  
or [alison.crowe@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:alison.crowe@lbbd.gov.uk)

## Faith, Community and Voluntary Sector Organisations

In order to facilitate an ethos of joint working and to develop the trend towards locating greater responsibility for child protection and safeguarding in the community, it has been crucial for the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board to engage and support the faith, community and voluntary sector.

There are over two hundred and ninety voluntary sector agencies in Barking and Dagenham. Many of these organisations provide services to vulnerable groups; including asylum seeking children and disabled children and young people.

Many organisations rely heavily on their staff and volunteers to ensure service delivery and are not able to release staff for training during working hours. In response to these needs, in 2008/9 the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children

Board Development Officer worked with the sector to develop a programme of briefings and training events that could be held 'out of hours' and delivered directly to community organisations in community buildings. This responsive approach was successful and over 100 representatives attended briefings in 2008/09. A further eight representatives were trained to deliver safeguarding training within their own agencies, across the sector.

When considering the impact of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board's awareness raising and enabling strategies in generating effective safeguarding performance across the sector, it has been important to gain feedback from those working at the heart of these services and to capture their commitments to the safeguarding agenda.

### Joan Brandon Barking and Dagenham Volunteer Bureau



The Community and Voluntary Sector takes safeguarding children very seriously. The volunteer bureau has worked in partnership with the LSCB to distribute national and local safeguarding policies, including the London Child Protection Procedures to over 200 groups.

The volunteer bureau has undertaken a commitment as the registered organisation in Barking and Dagenham completing most group CRB checks and we have campaigned continuously to ensure that all groups working with children undertake Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks. We have trained organisations to ensure the relevant level of check is carried out and that the appropriate safeguarding policies are in place.

We have now developed a group of representatives from the Community Sector, serviced by Lifeline, to work directly alongside groups to give them the confidence to engage with the LSCB Board and its Sub Committees.



### Keith Smith PACT



We feel it is very important that our sector like others realise that safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. We intend to ensure that, where possible, the voluntary sector has access to training, policies and procedures to work towards ensuring a safer future for children living in Barking and Dagenham and beyond.

We intend to share information around legislation, policies, and conferences and share support materials to our colleagues in the voluntary sector. At all times, we highlight the need for everyone to be responsible for safeguarding children to ensure they reach their potential and are kept safe.

The voluntary sector is involved in many projects and activities with children in our borough and we want to be part of the LSCB to ensure their concerns around safeguarding are heard and shared and most importantly, changes are made to make the borough a safer place for everyone including our residents, organisations, employees and visitors.



The Board is especially grateful for the continued support of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Barking and Dagenham.

## Private Fostering

Joanne Tarbutt

Group Manager Placements

The Local Authority, supported by the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board has a duty to oversee the arrangements to promote the welfare of a privately fostered child and to ensure they are protected. In 2008/09, the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has continued to develop and enhance procedures to ensure the well-being of privately fostered children.

Children are privately fostered when they are cared for and provided with accommodation in the carer's own home, by a carer who is not their parent or a close relative, for a period of 28 days or more. The amount of children living in private fostering arrangements countrywide is unclear even though it is a legal requirement to inform the Local Authority of such an arrangement. The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham works closely with other agencies in the borough to ensure privately fostered children are referred to the Fostering Service. In 2008/09, the Fostering Service received 31 notifications for potential private fostering arrangements. Each case was looked into individually.

In order to ensure privately fostered children are safe, the designated lead for private fostering will ensure that the relevant checks are carried out on all private foster carers. A welfare report is compiled on the private fostering arrangement, which is subsequently presented to the Private Fostering Panel for approval. This Panel will also offer case discussion and guidance, with a particular focus on safeguarding issues that arise. Arrangements will not be formally approved until any safeguarding issues are addressed. To date, the panel has approved 10 cases.

Some of the key achievements with regard to Private Fostering in 2008/09 include:

- Establishment of a Private Fostering Panel with membership from senior managers in Safeguarding and Rights, Health, Education, Legal and a Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board representative;
- A dedicated social worker is now based in the Fostering Team to ensure rapid response to notifications;
- New leaflets for professionals, young people and private foster carers were designed, which have been distributed throughout the borough;
- The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Development Officer has briefed 25 voluntary sector and faith groups on private fostering.

In 2009/10, Placement Services will continue to raise awareness of the procedures relating to private fostering in order to ensure the welfare of privately fostered children. The service will achieve this through the development of a drama presentation to secondary schools in conjunction with ARC theatre and an ongoing advert in the Barking



If you require further information on private fostering, please go to:  
[www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk/6-social-services/fostering/ss-foster-private.html](http://www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk/6-social-services/fostering/ss-foster-private.html)



## Integrated services and localities

### Christine Pryor

Providing well-targeted, locally accessible and high quality services, focused on improving outcomes for children, young people and families is a key objective of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board. In 2008/09, good progress has been made in meeting this objective. Six multi-agency locality based teams across the borough have been agreed.

The six localities are based on ward boundaries and are consistent with the boundaries used by health, the police and neighbourhood management. In 2008/09, we developed a comprehensive needs profile for each locality. This needs assessment is being used to inform planning and commissioning of services.

In Barking and Dagenham, universal and specialist services are robust. However, provision for children with additional needs is fragmented. A localities approach is crucial in order to prevent families with additional needs from simply falling into the gap between universal and specialist services. A localities approach aims to ensure that children and families get the help they need at an early stage through close working and information sharing across the Council and with partners in the maintained, private and voluntary sectors.

We have also successfully put in place the infrastructure to support locality working through Children's Centres and extended schools. Most schools in the borough have embraced extended services, working closely with children's centres thus providing a joined up approach to providing local services. By locating children's centres on school sites and planning services together, we have created an effective model of developing integrated and seamless services for the community as a whole.

In 2009, the borough was also successful in winning a bid from the government's co-location fund. This funding will significantly improve the accommodation for co-located teams, made up of health advisors, parent support advisors, social workers, mental health workers, youth workers and police officers. This will form the basis of much work over the next year.

In September 2009, the first three multi-agency locality teams, 2 based in secondary school sites, will go live.

## Continuum of Needs and Services

In July 2008, the Children's Trust, with the support of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board launched the Continuum of Needs and Services (CNS). This practical document, for use by all agencies, sets out a common model of children and young peoples' indicators of need. It has been used to assist agencies in working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and support them in achieving positive outcomes.

Since its introduction last year, we have seen the gradual use of this model to identify needs, strengths, and interventions such as the use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), integrated targeted support, or referral into Social Care.

All agencies are being encouraged to use the model to identify appropriate early interventions and prevent needs escalating to concerns that are more serious. Ultimately, the use of the Continuum of Needs and Services enables children, young people and families to be supported in achieving positive outcomes in a timely way.

**Over the last year, where it has been used, the Continuum of Needs and Services has:**

- Contributed to early identification of needs or risk. It has provided the basis for common agreement about indicators of needs that require early action;
- Provided a tool couched in a common language that can be understood by all practitioners;
- Assisted practitioners and managers to link identified needs with specific action and intervention;
- Assisted practitioners and managers to clarify the circumstances where targeted support, specialist or statutory agencies should be used for children and young people and their families;
- Enabled appropriate targeted intervention, thus avoiding delays in service delivery and inefficient use of resources.

In 2009/10, work will continue in order to embed further the Continuum of Needs and Services into everyday working practices across all agencies. The more practitioners use the Continuum of Needs and Services to support their professional judgements, the better they will become at making accurate assessments of need/situation and, therefore, taking appropriate action or referring to additional needs or complex needs services. The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board is fully signed up to the work of the Continuum of Needs and Services and will continue to support its development in the coming year.

## Common Assessment Framework Jan McColm

Prevention and early intervention is vital to safeguarding children and young people. In Barking and Dagenham, our prevention and intervention work has been strengthened by introducing the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) across all agencies and localities.

The CAF is used to trigger interventions for children and young people with additional needs. It provides effective inter-agency working through a holistic assessment, improved coordination and cooperation and effective information sharing between agencies. In 2008/09, the CAF has progressed well. It is now in place for 272 children, young people and their families in Barking and Dagenham, and is becoming more embedded in local services.

An estimated 20-30 per cent of children and young people have additional needs at some point in their lives, requiring extra support from targeted services in addition to universal service provision.

The targeted and integrated approach to meeting additional needs through the Team Alongside the Family (TAF) is a positive experience for both practitioners and families. Positive outcomes are being experienced and observed as part of the support and monitoring provided by the Information Sharing and Assessment Team.

In 2009/10, we plan to undertake a qualitative research project to explore the views and experiences of parents on the impact of Common Assessment Framework. The London Common Assessment Framework protocol has been developed after consultation, and will be rolled out in the coming year.

## Contact Point Jan McColm

Contact Point is a national online directory of all children up to the age of 18 residing in England. There is a steady and incremental approach to deploying Contact Point nationally, and this is our approach in Barking and Dagenham. Pre-deployment activities have been taking place since April 2006 and LBBD is now moving into the second delivery phase. Barking and Dagenham has undertaken the critical phase of shielding child records and put in place processes to deal with further requests for shielding in the future. The Contact Point Team have also undertaken vital Readiness Assessments and have met IISAM milestones. The borough is well placed to deploy Contact Point in 2009.

In 2009/10, a key priority is to begin training external partners such as Health, Schools and Voluntary Organisations, as well as Children's Service social care teams and Domestic Violence Teams.



**If you require any additional information on the Continuum of Needs and Services Model or ContactPoint please contact:**

Jan McColm or any of the ISA team  
on 020 8227 3219  
or [jan.mccolm@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:jan.mccolm@lbbd.gov.uk)

## Child Protection Procedures

Alison Crowe

The Child Protection Register ceased from 1 April 2008, with a view to its functionality being replaced by the Integrated Children's System (ICS) and through the existence of a Child Protection Plan. ICS enables the Performance, Policy and Planning service to provide monthly reports for this cohort. From April 2009, these reports will be circulated to all Board members for information.

In January 2009, the Safeguarding and Rights Operational Management Team signed off transfer protocols to enable child protection cases to transfer safely and effectively across borough boundaries. The neighbouring boroughs of Redbridge, Newham and Havering have agreed to consult with their governing bodies with a view to adopting the protocols.

In 2008/09, the Safeguarding, Quality and Review service introduced strategies to support the reduction of the number of children who have been subject to a child protection plan for more than 24 months (National Indicator 64) and those becoming subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time (National Indicator 65). The former are scrutinised by a panel of Child Protection Chairs once they have had a Child Protection Plan for 18 months, and the latter are scrutinised by the team manager of the Child Protection and Reviewing Service.

Following publication of the 'London Child Protection Procedures (3rd Edition)' in September 2007, the local conflict resolution process was revised in August 2008. The Practice Policy and Procedures Sub Committee signed off the safeguarding alert process, which was developed as a result. This process enables Conference Chairs to alert partner agencies where there are deficits in service provision that affect the progress of the plan or place a child at increased risk.

In 2009/10, a key area of work will be the development of the safeguarding alert to enable all professionals to challenge poor practice across Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board's partner agencies.



Do you know of any young people 13 - 19 years old (up to 25 with Special Education Needs) needing information, advice and career guidance? Contact Connexions on 020 8591 9999 or email [Barking&Dagenham@vtplc.com](mailto:Barking&Dagenham@vtplc.com)



# Finance and Performance

- Budget
- Performance



## Finance

### 2008/09

#### Income

Agency Contribution	Amount
Council - Safeguarding & Rights	91,998
Council - Housing	8,671
Council - Leisure	8,671
Council - Community Safety	1,051
Council - Youth Offending Team (YOT)	1,051
Council - Drug & Alcohol Abuse Team (DAAT)	1,051
Primary Care Trust	14,451
BHRT	3,152
NELMHT	3,152
CAFCASS	550
Metropolitan Police	5,000
Probation	1,000
<b>Total Contribution</b>	<b>139,798</b>
Local Safeguarding Children Board	139,798
Under spend carried over	104,160
<b>Total</b>	<b>243,958</b>

#### Expenditure

Agency Contribution	Amount
Independent Chair	14,400
Development Worker	50,500
Training Administrator	8,797
Recruitment	0
Training	39,496
Policy and Procedures	6,164
Serious Case Reviews	5,706
Child Death Overview Panel	15,000
Young people's safety group	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>145,063</b>
Over/(under) spend	(98,895)

## Performance

In addition to the performance information of individual agencies, the development and work of the LSCB has been carried out within the action plan framework included in the 2006-09 Business Plan.

Of the 23 recommendations set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children for LSCBs to implement, 19 had been fully completed by end of 2008-09 and four had progressed towards full implementation and will be ongoing in the Business plan for 2010.



**The Business Plan and the updated action plan can be viewed on the website:**

[www.bardag-lscb.co.uk/13-local-policy.html](http://www.bardag-lscb.co.uk/13-local-policy.html)

## Local Safeguarding Children Board Board Members in 2008/09

### Independent Chair

**Simon Hart**

Independent Chair of LSCB

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### Children's Services

**Roger Luxton**

Corporate Director of Children's Services (LBBD)

**Tolis Vouyioukas**

Divisional Director of Safeguarding and Rights (LBBD)

**Gary Wilder**

Head Teacher, Warren Junior School

**Roger Leighton**

Head Teacher, Sydney Russell Secondary School

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### Police

**Superintendent Dave Reed**

Metropolitan Police (Borough Police)

**Detective Inspector Andy Keen**

Metropolitan Police (Child Abuse Investigation Team)

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### Health

**Stephen Langford**

Chief Executive of PCT

**Jacque Mowbray**

Interim Director for LBBD North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT)

**Leila Francis**

Nurse Consultant Child Protection (BHRUHT)

**Liz Doherty**

Designated Nurse for Child Protection, PCT

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### Probation

**Carina Heckroodt**

Assistant Chief Officer

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### Housing

**Stephen Clarke**

Divisional Director of Housing Services

---

### CAFCASS

**Richard Walker**

Service Manager

---

### Adult and Community Services

**Glynis Rogers**

Head of Community Safety and Preventative Services

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### Connexions

**Nanette Higgins**

Area Manager

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### Leisure, Arts & Olympics

**Paul Hogan**

Head of Leisure, Arts and Olympics (LBBD)

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### Chair Children and Young People's Safety Group

**Chris O' Connor**

Group Manager, Engagement (LBBD)

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### Chair Professional Development Sub Committee

**Alison Crowe (part)**

Group Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Reviews, (LBBD)

**Kellie Ann Fitzgerald (part)**

Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager (LBBD)

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### Chair Child Death Overview Panel

**Dr. Justin Varney**

Director PCT

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### Chair Practice Policies and Procedures Sub Committee

**Chris Pelham (part)**

Group Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Reviews, now Acting Head, Safeguarding and Rights (LBBD)

**Alison Crowe (part)**

Group Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Reviews (LBBD)

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### LSCB Development Officer

**Kellie Ann Fitzgerald**

Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager (LBBD)

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### Legal Services

**Melanie Field**

Legal Practice Partner - Safeguarding and Partnership

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### Chief Executive Barking and Dagenham

**Rob Whiteman**

Non executive member

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### Faith Groups

**Reverend Jean Halliday (part)**

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### Community and Voluntary Sector

**Karen West Whyllie (part)**

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