



## Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

**Monday 16 March 2020 at 6.00 pm**

Boardrooms 3 - 5 - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,  
Wembley, HA9 0FJ

### Membership:

#### Members

Councillors:

Ketan Sheth (Chair)  
Colwill (Vice-Chair)  
Afzal  
Ethapemi  
Hector  
Knight  
Shahzad  
Stephens  
Thakkar

#### Substitute Members

Councillors:

Aden, S Butt, S Choudhary, Gbajumo, Gill, Johnson,  
Kabir, Kelcher, Mashari and Nerva

Councillors:

Kansagra and Maurice

#### Co-opted Members

Helen Askwith, Church of England Schools  
Dinah Walker, Parent Governor Representative  
Simon Goulden, Jewish Faith Schools  
Sayed Jaffar Milani, Muslim Faith Schools  
Alloysius Frederick, Roman Catholic Diocese Schools

#### Observers

Brent Youth Parliament  
John Roche, Jenny Cooper and Azra Haque

**For further information contact:** Hannah O'Brien, Governance Officer  
Tel: 020 8937 1339; Email: [Hannah.O'Brien@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.O'Brien@brent.gov.uk)

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**The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting**

## **Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:**

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest\*\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also significant enough to affect your judgement of a public interest and either it affects a financial position or relates to a regulatory matter then after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

### **\*Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences**- Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

### **\*\*Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:
  - To which you are appointed by the council;
  - which exercises functions of a public nature;
  - which is directed is to charitable purposes;
  - whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).

- (b) The interests a of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who is the subject of a registrable personal interest

# Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item	Page
<b>1 Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members</b>	
<b>2 Declarations of interests</b>	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, the nature and existence of any relevant disclosable pecuniary or personal interests in the items on this agenda and to specify the item(s) to which they relate.	
<b>3 Deputations (if any)</b>	
To hear any deputations received from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 67.	
<b>4 Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	To Follow
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 February 2020 as a correct record.	
<b>5 Matters arising (if any)</b>	
<b>6 To consider the local response to Coronavirus (COVID-90)</b>	
To receive a verbal update from the Director of Public Health and a representative from Brent CCG on the local response to Coronavirus (Covid 90) by Public Health and Brent's local NHS.	
<b>7 Overview and Scrutiny Task Group Report: Childhood Obesity</b>	To Follow
This report presents the final outcomes and recommendations from the Scrutiny Task Group set up to review childhood obesity.	
<b>8 Brent Youth Offending Service HMIP Inspection</b>	1 - 20
This report updates the Committee on the outcome of the Youth Offending Service inspection, undertaken in August 2019 by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). It outlines progress made in relation to the implementation of the inspection recommendations and provides information on the performance of Brent Youth Offending Service in general.	

## 9 Contextual Safeguarding Task Group: One-Year Update

21 - 36

Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 18 March 2019 considered a Task Group Report on the development of contextual safeguarding in Brent.

This report provides an update for the Committee on the progress being made in developing contextual safeguarding in Brent one year on and updates on progress on the recommendations made by the committee.

## 10 Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee - Recommendation Tracker To Follow

This report enables Members to track the progress of recommendations made by the Committee.


## 11 Any other urgent business

Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Head of Executive and Member Services or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 60.

**Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 22 April 2020**



- Please remember to **SWITCH OFF** your mobile phone during the meeting.
- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</b> 16 March 2020
	<b>Report from the Head of Early Help</b>
<b>Inspection of Youth Offending Services in Brent</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	1 Appendix 1: Performance Information
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Sue Gates Head of Early Help, Children and Young People <a href="mailto:Sue.gates@brent.gov.uk">Sue.gates@brent.gov.uk</a> 0208 937 2710

## 1.0 SUMMARY

This report will update members of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee about the outcome of the Youth Offending Service inspection, undertaken in August 2019 by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). It outlines progress made in relation to the implementation of the inspection recommendations and provides information on the performance of Brent Youth Offending Service in general.

### HMIP Inspection

1.1 Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) carried out an inspection of Brent Youth Offending Service (YOS) in August 2019, published on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/brentyos/>

1.2 The overall rating for Brent YOS is ‘good’.

1.3 The Chief Inspector of Probation in his foreword to the main report commented,

*“...managers have produced a risk profile that highlights the work needed to manage and reduce the significant proportion of children who pose a high risk of serious harm – just over 50 per cent of the YOS caseload, one of the highest proportions of any YOS we have inspected.”*

*“Brent YOS is a good, well-led service with a stable, committed workforce, intent on improving outcomes for a vulnerable and high-risk group of children and young people”.*

*“We have concluded the YOS is doing a good job in a tough environment.”*

1.4 The table below provides an overview summary of the inspection ratings:

## A summary of the ratings

<b>Overall rating for the Brent Youth Service Team</b> <b>Fieldwork 19<sup>th</sup>-23rd August 2019</b>	<b>Good</b>
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<b>1</b>	<b>Organisational delivery</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Governance and leadership</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Partnerships and services</b>	<b>Requires improvement</b>
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Information and facilities</b>	<b>Requires Improvement</b>

<b>2</b>	<b>Court disposals</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Implementation and delivery</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Reviewing</b>	<b>Good</b>

<b>3</b>	<b>Out-of-court disposals</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Implementation and delivery</b>	<b>Requires improvement</b>
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Joint working</b>	<b>Good</b>

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members of the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment on the content of this report.

## 3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires each local authority in England and Wales to deliver youth justice services in line with a statutory framework that outlines YOS responsibilities.

The Brent Youth Offending Service is a multidisciplinary, multi-agency service that works with children and young people aged 10-18 years and their families to deliver statutory responsibilities in relation to a wide range of provision. This includes out of court disposals, court work, bail and remand, group work and interventions, as well as work with young people who are in custody.

Comprised of representatives from the local authority, Police, National Probation Service, CAMHS, health, education and local service providers, the YOS supervises 10–18 year-olds who have:

- (a) either received a court sentence, or
- (b) have come to the attention of the police because of their offending behaviour but have not been charged – “out of court” policing powers are used as an alternative to being prosecuted by the courts.

*The YOS also focuses on achieving three Youth Justice Outcomes:*

- Reduction in youth re-offending.
- Reduction in the numbers of first time entrants to the justice system.
- Reduction in the use of youth custody.

### **3.2 Local context**

Brent YOS is based in the Children and Young People department and is managed by the Head of Early Help. The focus is on early intervention, reflecting the widespread recognition that it is better to identify and deal with problems early rather than respond when difficulties have become acute and demand action by statutory or more intensive services.

Governance of the YOS is the responsibility of the YOS Management Board, which meets every quarter and is chaired by the Operational Director, Integration and Improved Outcomes. The YOS board reports regularly to the Safer Brent Partnership.

Brent’s Children and Young People’s department Practice Framework provides a foundation for how the YOS works with children, young people and their families and carers in Brent. This includes the learning and development offer for staff. A trauma informed approach is being added to the practice framework in 2020 in order to promote meaningful contact and trusting relationships, the removal of any unconscious bias and supporting interventions that influence and manage offending behaviours.

The YOS supports effective multi-agency partnership working to support the development of contextual safeguarding approaches in Brent. For example, the YOS is leading CYP departmental approaches in relation to safety mapping with young people.

The work of Brent YOS is delivered in accordance with the Brent Borough Plan (2019-23) strategic theme: A Borough Where We Can All Feel Safe, Secure, Happy and Healthy. Progress in relation to the below two outcomes is reported quarterly:

#### **Strategic Theme: A Borough Where We Can All Feel Safe, Secure, Happy and Healthy**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>YOS Key Performance Indicator</b>
Reduction in anti-social behaviour, the risk of harm and re-offending	Rate of youth reoffending in Brent
Reduction in violent crime, including gang and knife crime	Number of young people in Brent who are first-time entrants to the youth justice system.

### 3.3 What HMIP does

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) is the independent inspector of youth offending and probation services in England and Wales. They provide assurance on the effectiveness of work with adults and children who have offended to implement orders of the court, reduce reoffending, protect the public and safeguard the vulnerable. They inspect these services and publish inspection reports. They highlight good and poor practice, and use data and information to encourage good-quality services. There have been eight inspections in London during the current inspection cycle. Three local authorities (including Brent) have been judged "Good", and a further four "Requires Improvement". One judgement is awaiting publication.

### 3.4 How the inspection was structured.

Inspectors focused on areas within each of three domains. Scoring within Domain 1 (Organisational Delivery) was determined through an examination of policies, procedures and the effectiveness of partnership working. Findings were further examined in a series of focus group meetings involving operational and strategic staff and partners.

For domains 2 and 3, HMIP conducted a detailed examination of a sample of 29 court disposal cases and 20 out-of-court disposals. Inspectors considered a number of key questions about different aspects of quality, including whether there was sufficient analysis of the factors related to offending; the extent to which young offenders were involved in assessment and planning; and whether enough was done to assess the level of risk of harm posed – and to manage that risk.

## 4.0 KEY FINDINGS

### 4.1 Domain 1: Organisational delivery.

**Organisational delivery.** Key findings included:

- Leadership and management are clear and accessible, focus on service improvement and work to a proven evidence base. There is good use of data and information to analyse crime trends and design service delivery.
- The YOS invests in resources to support the family and prevent siblings from becoming involved in crime.
- There is effective joint working across the partnership at strategic, operational and frontline practice levels.
- Children benefit from a skilled, well-trained and stable workforce. Staff safety is given prominence, including the use of technology to keep staff safe.
- The views of children and young people are actively sought, and used to inform senior leaders about their experiences of services.

*But:*

- There are risks with the out-of-court disposal cases, both in terms of capacity and processes. The board is not given information on the potential for unnecessary criminalisation of children
- The number of children not in post-16 education or employment is too high and needs to be reduced. There are plans to provide services to these children in the future, but these services are not yet in place



- The venues where children can be seen are limited, and links to community support are underdeveloped.

#### **4.2 Domain 2: Court Disposals.** Key findings included:

- Assessments to identify children's desistance (the cessation of offending or other antisocial behaviour) and safety and wellbeing needs are routinely completed to a good standard, including additional assessments of safety related to serious youth violence
- Planning to promote desistance and keep children safe is very good, and proportionate to assessed need. It sets out the interventions and actions that would best help the child or young person. Planning to manage risk is also good
- Interventions and services designed to promote desistance are delivered well. Children can access a wide range of interventions and services that help them to understand why they have offended, and the impact on other people. Work with children who are on court orders to support desistance is the strongest area, followed by work to promote safety and wellbeing and then work to reduce and manage risk of harm
- Reviewing is an active and helpful process, undertaken by case managers, team leaders and partner agencies.

*But:*

- Assessments of risk of harm to others are not as strong
- Planning does not always focus on the expressed needs of victims or provide clear contingency arrangements
- Reviews of safety and wellbeing sometimes do not reflect changes to the child's circumstances.

#### **4.3 Domain 3: Out of Court Disposals.** Key findings included:

- Overall, the quality of assessments in out-of-court disposal cases is good
- Planning is good overall.

*But:*

- There is potential for some children and young people to be unnecessarily criminalised when they have high levels of welfare and safety issues. A smaller number of youth cautions is being used, and this may be a contributory factor, limiting the range of options open to the decision-making panel
- There is a marked difference in quality between assessments for children on youth conditional cautions and those for children subject to community resolutions, known in Brent as 'triage cases'
- The implementation and delivery of services was rated as 'Requires improvement', owing to the inconsistent use and delivery of interventions to promote desistance and to address risk of harm. No interventions were delivered to reduce or manage risk of harm in any of the triage cases that were assessed.

- 4.4 Overall, the inspection noted favourably the approach taken to support the whole family, including siblings who were recognised as having a higher chance of becoming involved in offending. Referrals of siblings for early help are seen routinely. This is a key learning point for all partners as the journey to whole family

working and early intervention, led by the Troubled Families' initiative has taken time to be embedded. The inspection outcome provides additional evidence of the benefits of taking an early intervention approach with families.

## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLANNING

5.1 HMIP made four recommendations to the YOS in order to further improve the quality of youth offending services in Brent:

1. Review and monitor decision-making in out-of-court disposals to ensure that there is no unnecessary criminalisation of children with high levels of welfare needs.
2. Review the resources available to assess, plan and then meet the needs of children and young people who receive a community resolution.
3. Provide services to children and young people who are not in education, training and employment (NEET).
4. Provide suitable and sufficient places for children and young people to be seen and supervised.

5.2 Actions are being taken to address each of the recommendations, monitored by the YOS Management Board.

1. *Decision making in out of court disposals:* Since the inspection there has been an increase in the number of youth cautions issued and the police have stopped using street cautions, effective from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Decision-making by the out-of-court disposal panel, established in early 2019, is monitored more closely to ensure that children are not unnecessarily criminalised. The OOC Panel Terms of Reference and Procedures were revised in November 2019. A report including a case study is now presented to the YOS Management Board at each meeting. In addition, external scrutiny is provided by the recently formed North West London OOC Scrutiny Panel, led by the Police. They meet every six months to scrutinise a sample of OOCs from Barnet, Harrow and Brent. The panel consists of senior police, magistrates, YJB, MOPAC and YOS representatives.

The MPS 'Turning Point' programme, a deferred prosecution scheme was introduced into Brent in January 2020 with the intention of reducing disproportionality in youth justice outcomes and is available to professionals in defined circumstances. This process allows out of court disposals to be available to young people who do not admit guilt or provide no comment interviews. This reduces the risk of young people entering the Youth Justice System for minor offences. Young people often do not appreciate the consequences of no comment interviews.

2. *Resources available for community resolution cases:* Some additional resource (see Finance section below) has been obtained and this has been focused into the community resolution area in order to create capacity to improve assessments and planning at the Triage stage and to increase family support work. This will also give increased capacity to vary and increase the interventions available. The YOS management board partnership will be seeking continued commitment to maintain this level of support given the high levels of risk being managed by the YOS, evidenced within the inspection.

Practice development sessions will focus on OOC quality assurance

processes for Team Managers. An early help panel officer has been recruited to support connectivity and throughput to services. A restructure of YOS management, implemented in January 2020 now allows for increased management oversight of all aspects of OOD assessment, planning and delivery. Increased capacity will allow for identification of appropriate interventions working closely with community partners using a trauma informed approach.

3. *Services for children who are NEET*: 35% of YOS children over statutory school age are currently NEET compared to 2.4% of the general Brent population. This equates to 31 of 88 young people (January 2020). The long-term poor educational history of many of the young people who require YOS intervention makes this a challenging issue to overcome. There is a dedicated 'Connexions' worker based within the YOS and there is YOS management direct involvement in contract monitoring. Capacity will be increased by the end of March 2020 with the addition of an education lead worker to improve transition arrangements from year 11. The Management Board will receive a quarterly progress report. All staff have been made aware of the importance of this area in planning activity and the importance of ensuring accuracy of recording. The establishment of the Roundwood Alternative Provision school with wraparound youth provision in January 2021 will be an additional resource to improve this outcome.
4. *Sufficient places to see children and young people*: Brent Strategic Property services and the Police have been asked by the YOS Management Board Chair to explore alternative, safe locations to see young people from in the south of the borough and for this to be available from spring 2020. This planning will take place with the involvement of young people using a safety mapping approach. The creation of Family Hubs from existing Children's Centres from September 2020 will provide more capacity and the involvement of the Young Brent Foundation on the YOS Management Board from autumn 2019 will create further opportunities.

### 5.3 **How improvement will be monitored**

Progress updates, against a detailed improvement plan, are presented at quarterly meetings of the YOS Management Board. Key partners as detailed in the plan will take a lead in each improvement action and feedback to the monthly YOS management meetings and the partnership board operational meetings.

- 5.4 It is likely to be a minimum of four years before HMIP undertake their next inspection of Brent YOS.

## 6.0 **PREVENTION AND EARLY HELP INITIATIVES**

- 6.1 In 2016, following an internal restructure, Brent YOS was positioned within the Early Help service. This has enabled greater collaborative working with initiatives such as the Troubled Families' Programme, Family Solutions and the Accelerated Support Team (to prevent children from entering the care system). This has led to a substantial increase in the level of services and access to other resources that YOS young people and their families receive.

- 6.2 HMIP inspectors praised Brent for ensuring that wider early help provision is accessible to YOS service users. It was highlighted that this was very important in Brent as YOS staff are managing higher levels of risk of harm than other local

authorities inspected to date. There are however continuing challenges to provide the resources necessary to deliver the level of individual support recommended by HMIP in relation to out of court disposal, victims, and NEET work. Partnership contributions are vital if these areas are to improve further.

6.3 The Early Help service has been proactive in identifying and obtaining additional external funding. This includes securing three-year funding from the Mayor's Young Londoners Fund, to work with young people between 10 and 18 years, who are at risk of becoming involved in crime, not achieving their educational potential and at risk of poor health outcomes. The project adopts a whole family, trauma informed approach to address the underlying issues and build family resilience to improve the likelihood of young people fulfilling their potential or improving their life chances.

6.4 Young people supported by the YOS and their families will receive access to all three strands of the project:

*Family coaches*

Family Coaches will build strong relationships with families, to understand the underlying issues through an Early Help Assessment. They will guide families through the trauma recovery model to help them accept and understand how their past experiences impact upon family life. By proactively using the Signs of Safety approach, families will be supported to improve their understanding of their strengths.

*Street Mentors for young people*

Male and female Street Mentors, work with at-risk young people (between 10 to 18 years). This includes work outside of traditional service hours in order to engage young people in areas and places they go. By establishing trusting relationships, mentors are able to assist young people to make good decisions that improve outcomes and keep them safe.

*Emotional well-being support*

A young person's mental health practitioner undertakes mental health assessments and direct interventions with vulnerable young people in families experiencing crisis. This complements YOS based mental health provision from CAMHS and CNWL, which is only available to young people arrested by the police or in receipt of a police or court youth justice disposal.

6.5 The introduction of Family Wellbeing Centres, resulting from the agreed re-purposing of some children's centres, will be operational from September 2020. They will offer a range of universal services and targeted support for families with 0-18 year olds, in partnership with Council, health and voluntary sector partners. It is likely that the YOS will maintain a group work and supervisory presence in line with contextual safeguarding and other needs.

6.6 Voluntary sector substance misuse services from Each Brent and the Westminster Drug Project are located within the YOS. A wide range of provision is delivered to tackle the many problems associated with young people involved in drug related crime and / or suffering from the harmful consequences of drug and alcohol usage. This includes counselling, key working, group work and family support.

6.7 Two Early Help Family Support workers offer assistance to families affected by crime or criminality within their family. Support has a particular focus on the younger

siblings of young people who are criminally exploited or entrenched in criminal gangs and other criminal networks.

## **7.0 JOINT WORKING ARRANGEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

- 7.1 Close alignment of work undertaken within the Children and Young People department has been instrumental in achieving positive outcomes. For example, a multi-disciplinary group of staff meet regularly to ensure that the accommodation and wider needs of young people due to be released from custody are identified early and planned for in a timely fashion. Managers also meet regularly to consider complex cases that require senior manager oversight and additional support.
- 7.2 A comprehensive joint working protocol between the YOS and children's social care services supports effective interventions relating to young people in police custody, the use of Appropriate Adults, remands to local authority accommodation and arrangements to support bail in the community.
- 7.3 All YOS staff have been trained to be Working with Families lead professionals (under the government funded Troubled Families Programme). Staff have also received Signs of Safety training and the approach has been adopted to support risk management in cases, and for staff supervision.
- 7.4 The YOS works closely with the police. There are three police officers based in the YOS. Procedures for jointly deciding and delivering all out of court disposal work are clearly outlined in an Out Of Court Disposal Joint Protocol. Key information sharing such as the provision of overnight arrests and police custody details is provided on a daily basis.
- 7.5 The YOS has developed close strategic and operational links with CAMHS. A Liaison and Diversion Officer offers mental health screening to all young people in police custody. A seconded CAMHS practitioner assesses and supports young people subject to court orders who have mental health needs.
- 7.6 The YOS works closely with Council's Community Protection services. Information and intelligence sharing, including safety mapping, gangs information and other contextual safeguarding work is a key element in managing safety and the public protection risks.
- 7.7 The Violence and Vulnerability Programme (VVP) focuses on reducing re-offending and serious youth violence through a coordinated, multi-agency and intelligence led approach. This includes a specific focus on a cohort not yet known to statutory services, increasing earlier intervention and identification of an unknown potentially younger cohort. The programme consists of prolific offenders, weapon carriers, domestic abuse perpetrators and those affiliated, or at risk of affiliation, with gangs. Brent YOS attends VVP meetings and identify, monitor, divert, disrupt and enforce those on the cohort through facilitating information sharing and ensuring that the most appropriate interventions are in place.
- 7.8 The YOS Risk and Safety and Wellbeing Risk Management Forum is a partnership meeting that provides oversight of YOS children and young people assessed as high and very high risk of serious harm or safety and well-being. The overarching aim of all work of the group is to prevent children and young people from committing serious harm or further offences. The group shares relevant information and reviews risk management plans. There are clear referral pathways to other

partnership risk forums including VVP, Integrated Offender Management and MAPPA Level 2 and 3.

7.9 The YOS attends daily Integrated Risk Management meetings. This is a police led panel that provides immediate risk management in response to incidents involving young people that have recently occurred – usually within the last 24 hours.

## 8.0 FINANCE

8.1 Additional resources have been enabled by the Community Safety Team to address the acute pressure affecting OOC work. This was possible due to an increase in MOPAC funding and the decommissioning of a council programme. It will provide funding for the next two financial years.

8.2 Partners, via the Management Board, will be asked to commit resources in the form of diversionary activities. This provision is needed to broaden the offer as required by HMIP.

8.3 Total budgets for the last three financial years, and the budget proposed for 2020/21 are provided in the following table:

Year	Total Amount
2016/2017	£1,332,714
2017/2018	£1,184,931
2018/2019	£1,361,913
2019/2020	£1,336,851

## 9.0 LEGAL

9.1 Formation of Local Youth Offending Teams: The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires each local authority in England and Wales to deliver youth justice services in line with a statutory framework that outlines YOS responsibilities in relation to out of Court disposals, Court work, bail and remand, the assessment of young people who offend, the provision of Court reports, the delivery of community interventions, and custody and resettlement.

9.2 National Standards Governing Youth Justice in define the minimum required level of service provision. They are set by the Secretary of State for Justice on advice from the YJB. They cover a range of different areas of practice and are designed to assist public protection, safeguard children and young people, and ensure the delivery of effective services.

## 10.0 EQUALITIES

10.1 There are patterns of over representation in the 153 young people known to Brent's YOS between April 2019 and January 2020 for the following ethnicities as categorised by the DfE: Any Other Black Background, Any Other Ethnic Group and Black Caribbean heritage.

10.2 Quarterly reports provided to the YOS Management Board include information on ethnicity data to ensure senior management and partnership oversight. The YOS disproportionality live tracker tool allows all YOS in England to compare their level

of disproportionality with that of other areas. This toolkit was originally made available to all Youth Offending Services in 2015, and newer versions were provided with updated data in 2016, 2017 and 2018. The tracker evidences professional understanding of need and disproportionality and is used to inform commissioning decisions and discussions with other stakeholders, including the police, courts and community safety partnerships. Current actions being undertaken in response to the data identified in the tracker include:

- Improving data recording and analysis to identify disproportionality at an early stage, to inform Brent's Early Help offer and the development of Family Well-being Centres, the contextual safeguarding approach with vulnerable adolescents and the emerging approach to reduce serious youth violence.
- Establishment of a youth justice service focus group of BAME parents within the Brent YOS to explore issues and provide insight and support
- Continuing the rollout of Trauma Informed practice training
- Introduction of the 'Turning Point' project by the Metropolitan Police Service in Brent for Brent young people known to YOS, in partnership with the Police.
- Brent Youth Parliament undertook an engagement and planning session in March 2019 to inform the Brent Council Knife Crime Strategy Action Plan. The session was facilitated by United Borders and identified the development of positive peer relationships and positive media presence as priorities for the plan. The Blueprint Collective, working with Vice as part of the London Borough of Culture, are developing opportunities for Brent young people to promote positive role models throughout 2020, with a focus on priority groups.

## **11.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

11.1 The Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care took part in the inspection process, meeting with the inspection team and providing details of how borough priorities placed high importance in supporting the work of the YOS.

## **12.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

12.1 N/A

Related Document:

[2019 Report: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation \(HMIP\) Inspection of Youth Offending Services in Brent](#)

**Report sign off:**

Nigel Chapman

Operational Director, Integration and Improved Outcomes

Children and Young People

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## APPENDIX 1 – PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

### 1. Local and national overview

Since the introduction of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) the youth justice system has seen significant reductions in the number of children entering the system and a reduction in the numbers sentenced to custody.

2. Compared to a decade ago, the youth justice system is now supporting a smaller cohort of children who are more vulnerable and more likely to have committed serious offences. This requires a greater degree of specialist support by council and partner services.

### 3. Statistical Neighbours / YOS Family

When using Youth Justice Board (YJB) terminology, statistical neighbours are referred to as YOT families. This method for grouping local authorities is based on the Department for Education, Children's Services, *Statistical Neighbour Benchmarking Model*.

4. Brent YOS focuses on achieving good performance in relation to the three national Youth Justice outcomes - each of which is reported quarterly to the Youth Justice Board.

#### (a) Reduction in youth re-offending.

#### Latest Available Data and Statistical Neighbours Comparison

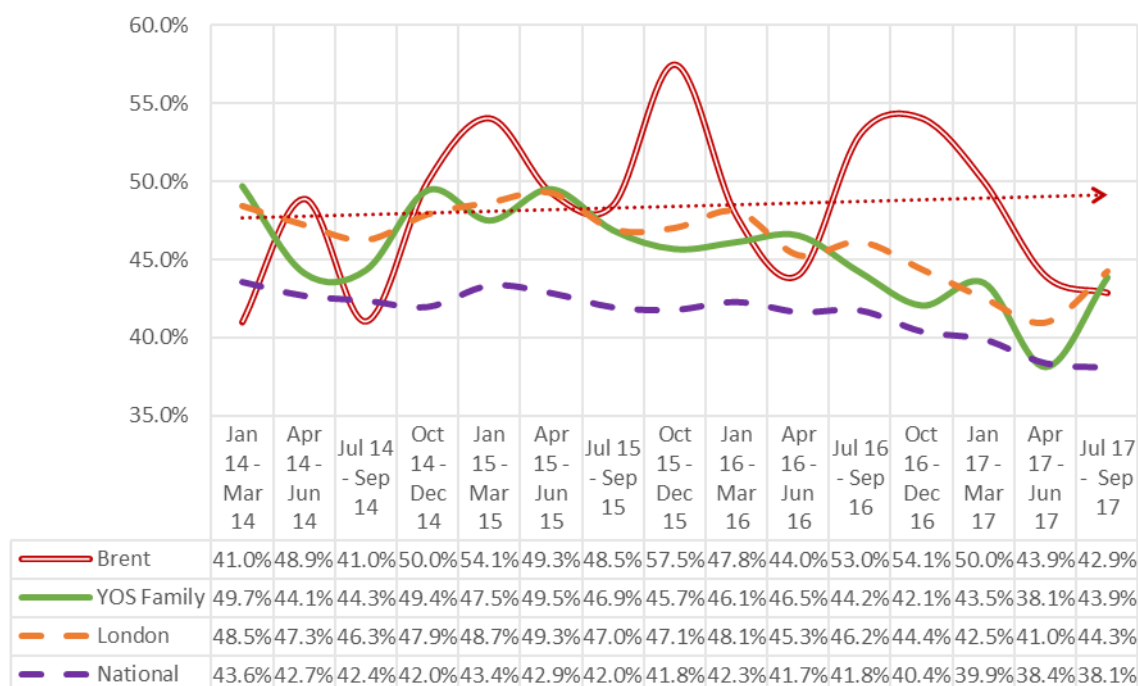
	Reoffending – Baseline			Reoffending – Current		
	Jul 16 - Sep 16			Jul 17 - Sep 17		
	No. in the cohort	No. of reoffenders	% Reoffending	No. in the cohort	No. of reoffenders	% Reoffending
<b>Brent</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>53.0%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>42.9%</b>
<b>YOS Family</b>						
Ealing	51	19	37.3%	37	17	45.9%
Waltham Forest	39	20	51.3%	60	29	48.3%
Croydon	104	51	49.0%	111	46	41.4%
Haringey	48	27	56.3%	52	25	48.1%
Enfield	60	22	36.7%	62	27	43.5%
Newham	62	24	38.7%	37	19	51.4%
Hounslow	55	16	29.1%	49	14	28.6%
Greenwich	48	26	54.2%	52	19	36.5%
Lewisham	67	33	49.3%	74	32	43.2%
Hackney	50	20	40.0%	33	17	51.5%
<b>Family Average</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>44.2%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>43.9%</b>

The period July to September 2017 is the most recent date range from which reoffending can be measured. The reasons for this are as follows: **Page 13**

- Measuring reoffending requires the collection and uploading of Police National Computer (PNC) offence data. This is a large dataset and there is inevitably a time delay between processing and publishing all national crime data.
- The cohort consists of all young people who received a pre-court or court disposal in the most recent date range – currently July to September 2017. The cohort is monitored for 12-months in order to determine how many proven re-offences occurring within this period lead to a court conviction or caution.
- There is then a further six-month waiting period to allow time for offences to be proven in court.
- Additionally, the publication of PNC data is currently six months behind normal deadlines due to technical issues affecting police data.

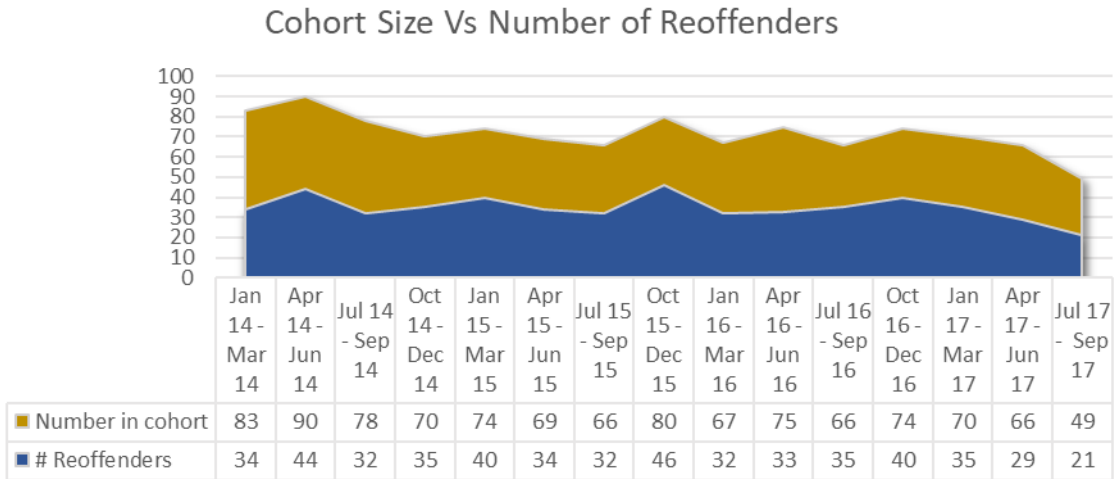
## Reoffending – January 2014 to September 2017

Binary Reoffending Rate (3 month cohort)



- Whilst there has been a significant long-term reduction in FTEs and the number of children in custody, the rate of youth reoffending in Brent continues to fluctuate. This is because as the cohort has shrunk, young people with most prolific offending behaviours have remained in the system.
- Brent's rate remains volatile, ranging significantly from a low of 41% and a high of 57.5%.
- For the third reporting period in a row, the rate has reduced, currently standing at 42.9%.
- The rate is currently below both the London and YOT family rates for the latest reporting period.
- Brent's overall trend, using annual weighted averages, suggest that, despite the smaller cohort, reoffending rates appear to be stabilising. Due to the volatility of the indicator, future increases in Brent's reoffending rate may occur.

## Reoffending – Cohort Size



- The above chart shows the proportion of reoffenders for each three-month cohort. The volatile nature of the reoffending rate can be partly attributed to the smaller cohort size. As the cohort is small, slight changes in the numbers of reoffenders have a large effect on the reoffending rate.
- The chart demonstrates that the number of reoffenders mostly correlates with the overall cohort size.
- As young people in this cohort are those who are at greatest risk of offending, a high proportion of case and risk management resources are used supporting this group. Live tracking of offending behaviour, trauma informed practice and multi-agency risk oversight are three of the methods that have the greatest impact on improving outcomes for this group. HMIP recognised the effectiveness of this work by rating the work of the YOS good in all four Domain 2 (Court Orders) sections: assessment, planning, implementation and delivery, and reviewing.

**(b) Reduction in the numbers of first time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system.**

*Local Trends*

- Mirroring the national picture, the number of FTEs in Brent has dropped significantly.
- In the period January 2008-December 2008 there were 412 FTEs. Ten years on the figure was 87 (January 2018-December 2018), a 79% decrease.
- In recent reporting periods, Brent has performed stronger in comparison with its statistical neighbours with its rate lower than statistical neighbours in 9 of the last 10 reporting periods.
- Brent has also shown a larger decrease in the past five years in comparison with its statistical neighbours, a 46% reduction between 2013/14 and 2018/19. The average statistical neighbours rate declined by 38% in the same period.

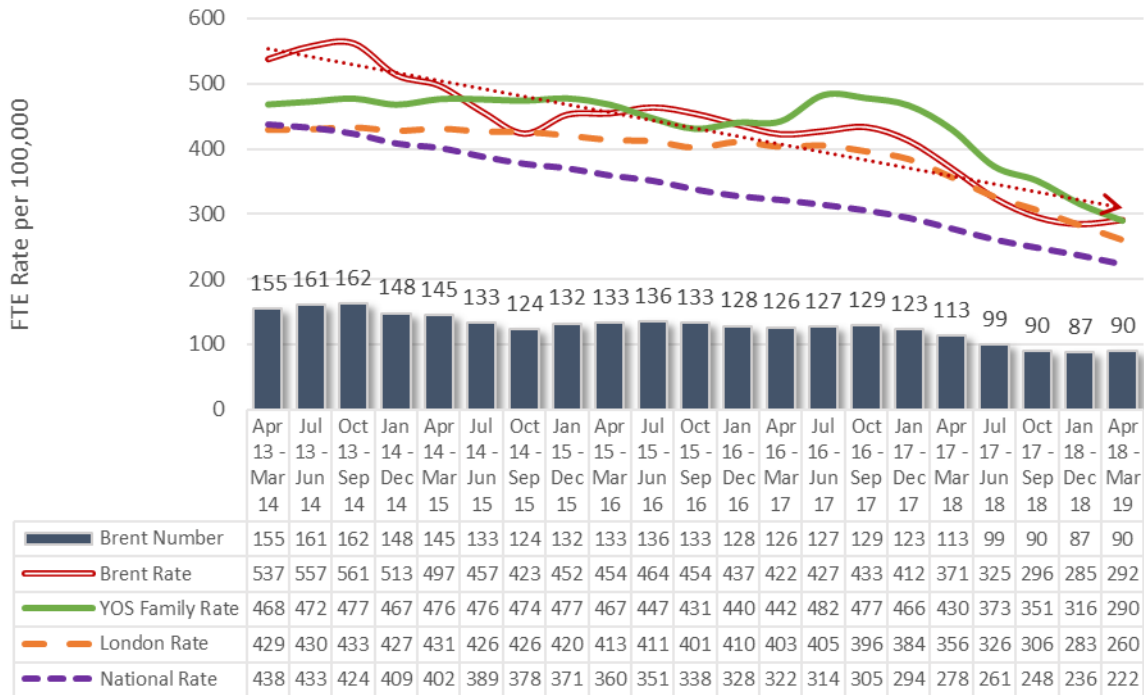
**Latest Available Data and Statistical Neighbours Comparison**

	First Time Entrants - Baseline			First Time Entrants Current		
	Apr 17 – Mar 18			Apr 18 – Mar 19		
	Number	2017 Population	Rate per 100,000	Number	2018 Population	Rate per 100,000
<b>Brent</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>30,488</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>30,864</b>	<b>292</b>
<b>YOS Family</b>						
Ealing	88	31,947	275	70	32,662	214
Waltham Forest	115	25,012	460	104	25,505	408
Croydon	207	38,596	536	140	39,334	356
Haringey	112	24,784	452	71	24,826	286
Enfield	132	34,476	383	105	35,229	298
Newham	120	32,685	367	98	33,347	294
Hounslow	96	23,820	403	51	24,664	207
Greenwich	108	25,594	422	63	26,380	239
Lewisham	151	25,570	591	85	26,269	324
Hackney	99	24,244	408	69	24,818	278
<b>Family Average</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>28,673</b>	<b>430*</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>29,303</b>	<b>290*</b>

\* Average of the statistical neighbour rate

### First Time Entrants: April 2013 to March 2019

The data for this indicator comes from the Police National Computer. The data is shown in rolling full-years. The latest published data is for **April 2018 to March 2019**. The bars represent Brent's absolute number whilst the lines represent the rates (Brent, Statistical Family, London and National).



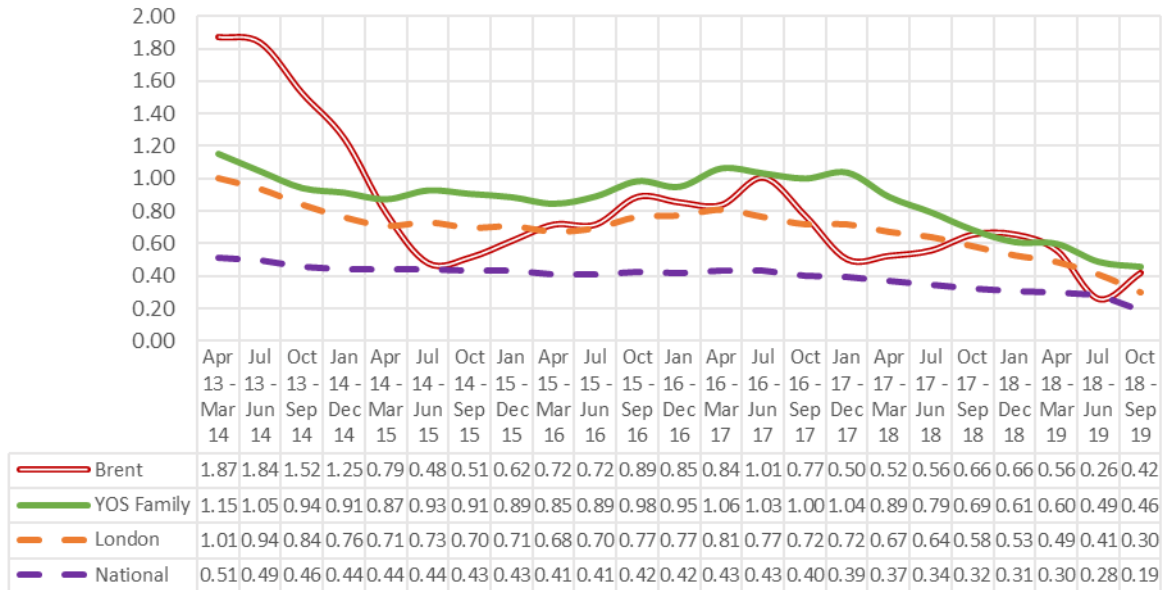
(c) Reduction in the use of youth custody

Latest Available Data and Statistical Neighbours Comparison

	Custody – Baseline			Custody – Current		
	Jul 17 - Jun 18			Oct 18 - Sep 19		
	Number	2016 Population	Rate per 1,000	Number	2017 Population	Rate per 1,000
<b>Brent</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30,488</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>30,864</b>	<b>0.42</b>
<b>YOS Family</b>						
Ealing	8	31,947	0.25	12	32,662	0.37
Waltham Forest	23	25,012	0.92	11	25,505	0.43
Croydon	77	38,596	2.00	19	39,334	0.48
Haringey	19	24,784	0.77	10	24,826	0.40
Enfield	21	34,476	0.61	16	35,229	0.45
Newham	21	32,685	0.64	17	33,347	0.51
Hounslow	13	23,820	0.55	10	24,664	0.41
Greenwich	21	25,594	0.82	10	26,380	0.38
Lewisham	27	25,570	1.06	14	26,269	0.53
Hackney	8	24,244	0.33	15	24,818	0.60
<b>Family Average</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>28,673</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>29,303</b>	<b>0.46</b>

## Custody: April 2013 to September 2019


### Custody Rate per 1,000 Young People Aged 10-17



- Nationally, the youth custodial population has dropped by 70%. This is reflected in Brent's custody rate. In the period October 2012 to September 2013 there were 47 custodial sentences for Brent children and young people. For the same period in 2018/19 there were 13, a 72% reduction.
- With the exception of one reporting period, Brent's custody rate has consistently remained below that of its statistical neighbours.
- The decline of Brent's custody rate is more substantial than both the drops in the statistical neighbours and London rates. Since April 2013 - March 2014, Brent's rate has reduced by 77.5%, the statistical neighbour's rate by 60% and the London rate 70.2%.

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	<p align="center"><b>Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</b> 16 March 2020</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People</b></p>
<p><b>Contextual Safeguarding in Brent</b></p>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	N/A
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Contextual Safeguarding in Brent - An Overview and Scrutiny Task Group Report March 2019
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Sonya Kalyniak, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance 020 8937 5809 Sonia.kalyniak@brent.gov.uk

## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 18 March 2019 considered a Task Group Report on the development of contextual safeguarding in Brent.
- 1.2 This report provides an update requested by the committee on the progress being made developing contextual safeguarding in Brent one year on and updates on progress on the recommendations made by the committee.

## 2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Committee members are recommended to consider this update on contextual safeguarding in Brent and to provide comment on next steps.

## 3 Overview of contextual safeguarding in Brent

- 3.1 Safeguarding incidents including county lines and knife crime have become established components of the risks that can be experienced by young people nationally. Young people who go missing from home or care are particularly vulnerable to risks of harm from their environment and associations outside of their family. A contextual safeguarding approach recognises that in these cases, parents and carers may be limited in their ability to protect against these external influences. This requires us to look beyond the family to the young person's peer group, associations, neighbourhood, schools and colleges and

public spaces where young people develop relationships and spend their leisure time.

3.2 The Brent contextual safeguarding approach has developed over the past year, based on the following principles:

- The views of children and young people and their families are of paramount importance. The Brent approach to contextual safeguarding is built from listening to children and families through everything we do.
- Identification of and targeted response to the needs of children and families is best met through a multi-disciplinary partnership approach.
- Developing and upskilling staff, building on the Brent Practice Framework including Signs of Safety, with strong links to the Contextual Safeguarding Network based at Bedfordshire University.

3.3 The Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS), working together as the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance, has identified adolescent safeguarding, including contextual safeguarding as a key area of development. To understand strengths and areas for development, each local authority has been invited to complete a self-evaluation identifying local contexts, key issues, emerging themes, areas of focus, quality of practice, strengths and improvement priorities which inform local and London-wide development of contextual safeguarding in 2020.

3.4 Brent's self-evaluation includes the following strengths:

- A strong political and senior officer leadership focus on children's services with good oversight and challenge through the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny committee, Corporate Parenting committee and Cabinet members.
- A Council wide approach being applied to contextual safeguarding, to identify and respond to extra-familial risks for vulnerable adolescents.
- The Vulnerable Adolescents Panel, which drives a strategic multi-agency response to vulnerable adolescents.
- A strong and developing range of services to support vulnerable adolescents.

3.5 The development of contextual safeguarding is led at a senior level in the Council. A six-monthly update on safeguarding vulnerable adolescents and developing contextual safeguarding in Brent is presented to the Corporate Management Team by the Strategic Director, Children and Young People. This update sets out trends in the needs, vulnerabilities and risks young people in Brent experience and the developing Council-wide contextual safeguarding response to these needs, vulnerabilities and risks.

- 3.6 The Vulnerable Adolescents Panel, chaired by the Operational Director, Integration and Improved Outcomes is driving forward the contextual safeguarding approach in Brent.

#### **4 How contextual safeguarding has been adapted to presenting risks and vulnerabilities in Brent**

- 4.1 The main extra-familial risks to children and young people include youth violence, gang involvement, and child exploitation, including sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation such as county lines. Learning from the Vulnerable Adolescents Panel over the past year has identified the following themes regarding risks and vulnerabilities to which Brent's contextual safeguarding approach has been tailored in response.
- 4.2 *Social Networks* – Mapping a vulnerable young person's peer groups and relationships is important in understanding that young person's risks and vulnerabilities. An emphasis has been put on this mapping in order to gather understanding with relevant professionals, including school and college staff and the police, in order to explore both positive and negative relationships. This allows a deeper understanding of contextual concerns which can inform intervention. These mapping sessions have helped to identify young people who are at risk who otherwise may not have been identified as being vulnerable. This has allowed targeted safeguarding intervention to take place, particularly when used in conjunction with safety mapping to identify areas of the borough where young people feel safe and unsafe.
- 4.3 *Multiple vulnerabilities* - Young people often have more than one vulnerability or risk factor. Young people experiencing multiple vulnerabilities are being better understood through on particular cohorts and triangulation of data, including exclusions data, missing episodes, Child Sex Exploitation risk, county lines activity, children missing education, and care status. Nearly two thirds (62%) of the young people with most multiple vulnerabilities are Black or Black British. This includes 25% of young people with the most multiple vulnerabilities who are from a Black Caribbean background. The Vulnerable Adolescents Panel has been ensuring that targeted interventions respond appropriately to this disproportionate representation.
- 4.4 *County Lines* – the committee was advised last year of the successful Brent Council-led bid to the Mayors' Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) for a pan-London service to respond to the increasing levels of county lines exploitation. In September 2019 a review of the first year of the Rescue and Response County Lines Project was released. The assessment provides an early understanding of county lines exploitation and of the reach and type of county lines activity that London individuals are experiencing. Next steps for the programme are:
- Continued development of the quality of referrals in to the project to ensure that appropriate support is in place for young people who are experiencing exploitation on county lines

- Increased identification of exploitation victims and exploiters by developing understanding of the networks linked to the Rescue and Response cohort; through the use of network analysis, open source research and the increased recording of soft intelligence
- Training and development of the project's engagement with wider partners, to increase awareness and the sharing of relevant information.

4.5 *Substance Misuse and Missing Episodes* – It has been identified that a high proportion of young people reported missing in Brent also have experienced substance misuse issues. When mapping these young people within the borough, a high proportion of those with substance misuse issues who have been missing reside in specific hotspots associated with gang involvement and criminality. A review of cases where substance misuse issues have arisen has been undertaken with partners to ensure appropriate referrals are being made. In regards to locations, the Vulnerable Adolescents Panel is overseeing a range of outreach interventions being used to determine those that are most effective.

4.6 *Social Media* – As new trends, information and interventions regarding social media are being developed, these are shared with school Designated Safeguarding Leads. Brent Council's Digital Strategy 2019-23 includes objectives to increase positive community connectivity and coordination as described in Section 7 below.

## **5 Joint working with partner agencies around contextual safeguarding including the new safeguarding children arrangements and the Safer Brent Partnership.**

5.1 There is strong multi-agency and partnership working supporting the development of contextual safeguarding in Brent, led by contributions from the Local Authority Children and Young People Department and Community Protection Team.

5.2 Partnership working for vulnerable adolescents is supported by Brent's multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements and the Safer Brent Partnership. The Safer Brent Partnership are committed to developing contextual safeguarding approaches. A key action in the Community Safety Strategy 2018-21 is to ensure a shared approach to contextual safeguarding.

5.3 The new Brent Safeguarding Children Forum has played an active role in developing practice around contextual safeguarding, establishing in 2019 a Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Priority Group formed with multi-agency membership. The group is exploring how information can be shared across agencies to support joined up interventions and support for young people.

5.4 Brent Children's Trust, Safeguarding Adults Board, and Safeguarding Children Forum jointly sponsored a workshop on 7 November 2019 to explore opportunities for improvement in terms of supporting young people in the key areas of transitions, including looked after young people/leaving care, young adults, education/learning, learning disability, young offenders and

safeguarding. The workshop considered the distinct contextual safeguarding needs and vulnerabilities of adolescents, which may continue after they are 18. The Children's Trust is reviewing the outcomes from this workshop to agree actions to develop transitional safeguarding arrangements across partnerships. These actions will further support the development of Brent's contextual safeguarding approach.

## **6 How practitioners are being supported to develop their contextual safeguarding practice**

6.1 Management oversight of practice has been developed in response to a deeper understanding of risks and vulnerabilities. In September 2019 a merger of different professional decision-making panels identifying and reviewing support for children missing and child exploitation took place in recognition that there is often a correlation between children who regularly go missing from home and care and the risks associated with child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation. This joined up management oversight is supporting the coordination of practitioner actions.

6.2 Key developments in developing contextual safeguarding practice when there are known extra-familial risk factors include the following:

- The development of a Vulnerable Adolescents Risk Assessment for practitioners to use when they are concerned that a young person they are working with is at risk of extra-familial harm.
- In October 2019 managers and senior leaders in the Brent Children and Young People Department received bespoke training from Dr Carlene Firmin, Principal Research Fellow at the University of Bedfordshire and, Dr Helen Beckett, Director of The International Centre: Researching Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence and Trafficking. The training has supported a cross-Department understanding around contextual safeguarding.
- The Youth Offending Service are carrying out safety mapping with individual young people in their service. This involves identifying locations in the borough where young people feel safe or at risk and identifying hotspots which are used to inform community based strategies and interventions. This area of good practice is being shared with other areas of the Children and Young People Department.
- The Youth Offending Service has trained its staff on utilising best practice from the Trauma Informed approach for its young people. This was introduced as an approach to add to the Brent Practice Framework at the Children and Young People Department staff conference in November 2019. This has been complemented by Dr Karen Treisman providing training on trauma informed direct work.
- Evidence of the positive impact of this development of practice for Brent young people can be seen in the August 2019 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation inspection of Youth Offending Services in Brent. This inspection judged the services as Good. The inspection report comments positively on the effective management by the Youth Offending Service of high levels of risk regarding vulnerable adolescents. More detail can be

found in the March 2020 report on the Youth Offending Service inspection being considered by Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny committee.

### ***Contextual safeguarding put into practice case study: Case mapping***

*A peer mapping session was undertaken around a group of vulnerable young people who attended a Pupil Referral Unit. Concerns were discussed around potential gang involvement and criminality, and representatives from the school, Children and Young People Department and police were present. In the course of the session, the knowledge and intelligence which came from the multiple agencies represented meant that new information around various tensions/rivalries between young people was shared. The multi-agency representation allowed interventions to be planned and actions to be taken forward to explore the risks for these young people further and put in place support to keep them all safe. Positive relationships were also identified as protective factors for young people and were supported.*

*The sessions have received positive feedback from professionals involved for supporting effective sharing of information, increasing professionals understanding of wider contextual issues within Brent and ensuring the continued safeguarding of these particular young people. The risks and vulnerabilities of this group of young people have been reduced by the support provided and positive relationships between young people have been developed.*

## **7 How the local authority has influenced locally different 'contexts'**

- 7.1 As part of targeted intervention and preventative work, locations where child exploitation has occurred or that are linked to child exploitation are reviewed through the Vulnerable Adolescents Panel and targeted activity undertaken to make these areas safer for children. As a result of oversight of this work through the Vulnerable Adolescents Panel, this work is better coordinated to ensure information sharing and coordinated outreach in emerging hotspots.
- 7.2 In September 2018, as reported to the Scrutiny committee, a group of pupils from Newman Catholic College asked at Full Council for support for better lighting in a well-used stretch of Roundwood Park, on the Roundwood Park Annex path, which runs between the Doyle Gardens entrance and Longstone Avenue. The council agreed to take action and lights were installed in December 2019. The group of pupils hosted a visit from the Leader of the Council, Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care and Lead Member for Environment on 4 March 2020. Pupils fed back they were proud to have worked on the campaign and were pleased to report feeling safer walking along the path after dark.
- 7.3 Brent has been successful in being selected to be involved in the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime Supporting Inclusive Schools Programme. Commencing in spring 2020, this programme brings together a group of school based initiatives, aimed at developing healthy relationships, supporting successful

transitions to secondary school and developing whole school approaches to reduce exclusions. Brent is working in partnership with two primary and two secondary schools and their primary feeder schools in Brent where there are higher rates of exclusion, to reduce the overall rate of exclusions, using a contextual safeguarding approach.

- 7.4 As part of the London Borough of Culture 2020, the Seen and Heard research project is being developed in partnership with LSE Cities to explore the relationship between Brent's young people and urban development in the area, developing a new approach to youth-centred design. The project is creating a Charter and policy guidelines and a newly designed public space will be delivered post 2020.
- 7.5 In addition to the actions being led by Vulnerable Adolescents Panel on social media set out in section 4 above, Brent Council's Digital Strategy 2019-23 includes objectives to increase positive community connectivity and coordination, including for young people, using technology to put people in touch with and make more effective contributions to their local community. It includes working with and building the capacity of young people to co-design and co-produce peer-to-peer platforms for sharing skills and expertise; identifying and responding to need at a neighbourhood level and coordinating community and voluntary group initiatives for the highest impact.
- 7.6 From September 2020, relationships education will be compulsory for all primary school children and relationships and sex education will be compulsory for all secondary school children. This comes 20 years after the government last made changes to health, relationships and sex education and is in the context of a world that looks significantly different to children, with significant changes for how children develop their relationships, including understanding the risks for children online and the development of social media as a key feature in the majority of children's lives. Brent launched in January 2020 a Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education framework to support schools. It sets out the national policy, Brent's position and schools' responsibilities relating to the delivery of Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education to ensure that there is clarity and consistency of the reasons why these changes are being made and why they are important. This framework was developed by Brent Council officers in consultation with a working group of Brent headteachers in response to the discussion on RSE at the autumn term 2019 Brent senior officers meeting with headteachers, the autumn term meeting with chairs and vice chairs of governors, and an elected member learning and development session in October 2019.
- 7.7 Examples of how the local authority has influenced the school context for young people to deliver the commitments set out in the Borough Plan 2019-23 is set out in the following section of this report.

## **8 How contextual safeguarding has helped the local authority to reach its commitments in the Brent Borough Plan 2019-2023**

8.1 Education outcomes are a protective factor for young people. For this reason, Brent has identified raising the educational achievement of boys of Black Caribbean heritage as a Borough plan priority. In Brent, the attainment of boys of Black Caribbean heritage has been consistently well below that of pupils nationally at the end of EYFS, Key Stage 1, 2 and 4 over the past five years. Dual heritage Black Caribbean boys are also under-achieving at a similar level. Brent's actions to improve these outcomes are informed by a contextual safeguarding approach to deliver this priority which recognises that the different relationships young people form in their neighbourhoods and schools can affect them.

8.2 The Brent Borough Plan Delivery Plan update reported to Brent Cabinet in January 2020 highlighted the range of Council-wide work to support raising the attainment of boys of Black Caribbean heritage, taking a contextual safeguarding approach. These include the following:

- Development of Family Hubs (Family Wellbeing Centres): On 14 October 2019, Brent Council Cabinet agreed to the development into Family Hubs of sites identified through statutory consultation and through a range of engagement meetings with Brent families and stakeholders. Cabinet also agreed to the tendering for specific services to support the delivery of Family Hubs. A plan has been established which will develop a new family hub model as Family Wellbeing Centres to be effective from September 2020.
- Supporting parents of boys of Black Caribbean heritage to access support including early years and free childcare. Funding has been secured from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for a project to identify and support priority families, including families of boys of Black Caribbean Heritage. The "Superheroes" project commenced in autumn 2019 and will support children at Key Stage1 (nursery). Working with Libraries, the Children and Young People Department have launched a ward level project within early years settings to promote access to entitlements. Home learning sessions have been provided, targeted for families of boys of Black Caribbean heritage to improve the take up of entitlements and enhance parents understanding of the importance of early learning.
- Working with the Young Brent Foundation to develop positive opportunities for Brent young people. An Alternative Provision school with integrated youth provision is being established on the Roundwood site within existing buildings from early 2021. The Young Brent Foundation is working with the school provider to secure access to an exciting, supportive and expanded youth offer in the afternoons, evenings, weekends and school holidays from the same site. Brent Council have also partnered with Young Brent Foundation in a Young Londoners' funding bid which has secured new funding from the Mayor's Office to



carry out preventative work with vulnerable children and young people at risk of becoming involved in crime, not achieving their educational potential and at risk of poor health outcomes in adulthood.

8.3 As part of this Council wide focus, the Brent Strategic School Effectiveness Partnership Board, chaired by the Strategic Director Children and Young People, secured funding from the Schools Forum in June 2018 to support a project to raise the achievement of boys of Black Caribbean heritage in Brent schools through delivery of the following provision:

- A supported rigorous and robust analysis of the performance of pupils of Black Caribbean heritage, and the effectiveness of key aspects of schools' practice to ensure pupils of Black Caribbean heritage achieve well.
- The designation of a Black Caribbean Achievement (BCA) Champion in every school in Brent for a period of two years.
- A programme of half-termly training for the BCA Champion to ensure high levels of skills and competencies to deliver the role effectively leading to real impact on outcomes in schools.
- A programme of training for school staff and governors.
- The development of online resources for parents on strengthening their role and contribution to improving their children's learning and progress, and reducing the likelihood of their children being excluded from schools.

8.4 This schools focused project is overseen by a steering group. This group consists of governors, headteachers or senior representatives from schools across all phases, the local authority, Woodfield and Brent Teaching School Alliances, and the Brent Schools Partnership. Schools in Brent have been actively supported to participate in the programme.

8.5 This focus, informed by contextual safeguarding, has had a very positive impact on the attainment for this group of pupils in Brent.

- The 2018/19 validated data for the end of Key Stage 2 shows significant narrowing of gaps between the attainment of boys of Black Caribbean heritage and all pupils. In reading, writing and mathematics (RWM) combined there has been an improvement of 16 percentage points (pcp) representing a remarkable 70% fall in the size of the gap. The gap now remaining is 7pcp. Based on this level of improvement there is a real possibility that the attainment gap for RWM combined at the end of Key Stage 2 will be closed in Brent. The end of key stage performance in Brent is an indication of underachievement over time, and not just the performance of pupils in their end of key stage year group.
- Detailed analysis of the performance data at Key Stage 2 shows that boys of Black Caribbean heritage without SEND attain broadly in line with, or better than standards achieved by all pupils. However, data shows that the percentage of boys of Black Caribbean heritage identified as having

SEND is significantly higher than the percentage of all pupils identified as having SEND. This applies to both boys of Black Caribbean heritage with education, health and care plans, and pupils with SEN support.

- Significant improvement can also be seen in the data for the end of Early Years Foundation Stage. There has been an improvement of 6pcp in the year 2018/19 bringing the gap down to 2pcp between boys of Black Caribbean heritage and all pupils. This is a 75 per cent reduction in the gap. Based on this rate of improvement there is potential for the gap to be closed in 2019/20.
- A breakdown of the validated data for Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 at the end of 2018/19 shows an improvement of four points, reducing the gaps between boys of Black Caribbean heritage and all pupils down from 12 points to 8 points.

8.6 Further information on this work and attainment data for all groups will be included in the School Standards and Achievement Report 2018-19, to be presented to Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny committee in April 2020.

## **9 Update on recommendations of the committee**

9.1 The Vulnerable Adolescents Panel action plan has incorporated the recommendations made by Scrutiny committee. In addition to the actions set out above in developing contextual safeguarding, further progress on recommendations are set out below.

9.2 **Recommendation 1:** To support bringing together representatives from Transport for London (TfL), bus companies, and employee representatives with schools, further education colleges, the council, and statutory Boards to address concerns about adolescents on the transportation and bus network.

9.3 The council's Highways Service and strategic transport planners meet on a quarterly cycle with representatives from TfL as a formal liaison to discuss a range of issues including the wellbeing of passengers on the bus and rail network. This includes addressing any arising concerns regarding adolescents and their safety on the transportation and bus network.

9.4 Safe school travel planning is informed by a contextual safeguarding approach and a formal audit of travel planning is being planned to enhance this work in spring 2020.

9.5 **Recommendation 2:** To further support organisations working with young people to promote and develop extra-school activities, particularly in the summer months, for Brent's adolescent children.

9.6 As part of the delivery of a new Alternative Provision School at the Roundwood site, the Young Brent Foundation will work closely with the Alternative Provision school provider to enhance the current youth offer from the site from early 2021.

- 9.7 The Supporting Inclusive Schools Programme described in section 7 is providing two summer schools in the summer of 2020 and access to additional positive activities from spring 2020, with focused positive activities for pupils attending Brent's Pupil Referral Units, Brent River College and Ashley College.
- 9.8 **Recommendation 3:** Brent's approach to contextual safeguarding should specifically develop its work with further education colleges to help address the risks faced by adolescent children in this context.
- 9.9 Representatives from United Colleges sit on the professional decision making panel identifying and reviewing support for children missing and child exploitation. Representatives are also members of the Vulnerable Adolescents Panel and the Children's Safeguarding Forum, through which they are supporting the contextual safeguarding approach in Brent.
- 9.10 United Colleges are engaged in a number of events raising contextual safeguarding awareness. United Colleges hosted a Brent Health and Wellbeing Board pop up on 11 September 2019 as part of their Freshers' Fair. The pop up raised awareness about mental health, alcohol and drugs, healthy relationships and how they impact on health. On March 18 2020, United Colleges are working with Brent Council on awareness raising activities to support the national Child Exploitation Awareness Day to highlight the issues surrounding Child Exploitation; encouraging everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children or children exploiting and abusing their peers.
- 9.11 **Recommendation 4:** A future Social Media Strategy should include how the local authority can work in partnership with external organisations or companies to address areas of concern in adolescents using social media and being online which are identified by Brent Council's approach to contextual safeguarding.
- 9.12 Actions being undertaken by Vulnerable Adolescents Panel and through Brent Council's Digital Strategy 2019-2023 to support adolescents in their use of social media and being online are set out in sections 4 and 7 above.
- 9.13 In addition, as part of Brent Council's Digital Strategy, Brent Council have commissioned a digital inclusion survey. Commencing in spring 2020, this survey will explore young people's safe use of social media and being online and how the wider community and peer networks can support safer social media interactions. The responses to this survey will inform future actions to address this area of concern.
- 9.14 **Recommendation 5:** To develop a one-off public information campaign working with partner organisations and the community to support the development of contextual safeguarding in Brent.
- 9.15 The "Time to Talk" series of radio shows on Beat FM discuss difficult to talk about subjects and actively involve young people. In the last year these subjects have included: cyberbullying; male mental health; healthy relationships; parental mental health and drugs. This is an ongoing radio

programme and will continue to be used to raise awareness around other difficult issues.

- 9.16 As part of the London Borough of Culture 2020, working with the VICE media platform, creative young people from across the borough are developing weekly podcasts addressing themes of healthy relationships, justice, safety, youth culture and current affairs in Brent.
- 9.17 Planning is underway with Community Protection to develop an information campaign around contextual safeguarding that aligns with a Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Knife Crime Task Group recommendation to develop a campaign around knife crime, to make best use of available resources. Initial planning is underway with an anticipated launch date of autumn 2020.

## **10 Next steps**

- 10.1 The following priority actions have been identified and are being taken forward by the Vulnerable Adolescents Panel to further develop our contextual safeguarding approach:
- Continue working with Council Departments to further develop the Brent contextual safeguarding approach.
  - Ensure that the multi-agency safeguarding training offer reflects the vulnerability themes identified, and that learning is shared and cascaded across partner agencies, with a particular focus on understanding the identification of and response to peer-to-peer, neighbourhood and school based contextual safeguarding risks for children and young people.
  - Supporting Family Wellbeing Centre development, ensuring it is informed regarding priority risks, vulnerabilities and issues for Brent adolescents.
  - Supporting the development of the Alternative Provision school being established on the Roundwood site
  - Consideration of options on further co-ordination preventative services that impact on serious youth violence.

## **11 Financial considerations**

- 11.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Costs associated with delivery of the services, have been managed within existing resources. The cost implications for priorities identified going forward, will also need to be managed within existing resources.
- 11.2 The table below reflects the current budget and future year's budgets for the Children and Young People department. It should be noted that budgets from 2021/22 onwards are based on estimates available at this stage factoring in proposed savings and estimated growth in line with the Medium Term Financial

Strategy (MTFS) assumptions. The 2020/21 budget was agreed at Full Council, full papers of which can be found through the link below.

<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=180&MId=5339&Ver=4>

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>In Year virements</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>
2019/20	£45.30m	£3.5m	£48.80m
2020/21	£45.50m	£1.7m	£47.20m
2021/22 (Estimate)	£46.08m	£0	£46.08m
2022/23 (Estimate)	£47.08m	£0	£47.08m

## **12 Legal considerations**

- 12.1 The Local Authority has statutory duties under the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004 to safeguard the welfare of children in the borough with the involvement of other statutory agencies. The Brent approach to contextual safeguarding is in line with the 2018 statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' that recognises the importance of social contexts outside the family.

## **13 Equality considerations**

- 13.1 There are patterns of over representation in risk and vulnerability areas identified in the cohort of young people supported through the Vulnerable Adolescents Panel. Interventions in response have been focused on an individual and family level rather than a community level. Through Brent's contextual safeguarding approach it is intended to consider responses that will achieve positive impact for priority groups at a population level. Examples of those response are included in this report.
- 13.2 As requested by committee, information regarding the demographics of Brent's adolescent population from the Greater London Authority 2018 mid-year population projection for the 13-18 cohort by age, ethnicity and gender is set out in the tables below.

## Ethnicity of Brent adolescents

Age 13-18	Total	%
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>	<b>7167</b>	<b>31.1%</b>
Bangladeshi	174	0.8%
Indian	2473	10.7%
Other Asian	2946	12.8%
Pakistani	1574	6.8%
<b>Black or Black British</b>	<b>5601</b>	<b>24.3%</b>
Black African	2968	12.9%
Black Caribbean	1312	5.7%
Other Black	1321	5.7%
<b>Chinese</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Other Ethnic Group</b>	<b>2248</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
<b>Mixed/Dual background</b>	<b>1891</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
White & Asian	469	2.0%
White & Black African	342	1.5%
White & Black Caribbean	454	2.0%
Other Mixed	626	2.7%
<b>White</b>	<b>5926</b>	<b>25.7%</b>
White British	2886	12.5%
White Irish	343	1.5%
Other White	2697	11.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23043</b>	

## Age and gender of Brent adolescents

Age	Female		Male		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
13	1918	17.4%	2130	17.7%	4048	17.6%
14	1908	17.4%	2048	17.0%	3956	17.2%
15	1802	16.4%	1919	15.9%	3721	16.1%
16	1825	16.6%	1994	16.5%	3819	16.6%
17	1815	16.5%	1992	16.5%	3807	16.5%
18	1726	15.7%	1969	16.3%	3695	16.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10994</b>	<b>47.7%</b>	<b>12052</b>	<b>52.3%</b>	<b>23046</b>	

## 14 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 14.1 The Brent contextual safeguarding approach has been informed by members, through the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Contextual Safeguarding Task Group report in March 2019 identifying recommendations which are reflected in Brent's contextual safeguarding approach.
- 14.2 As Brent has developed its approach, wider community engagement has been undertaken, building on established community engagement routes, including

Time To Talk events, Brent Youth Parliament, Brent Safer Neighbourhood Board and the Young Brent Foundation.

***REPORT SIGN-OFF***

***BRIAN GRADY***

Operational Director, Safeguarding, Partnerships and Strategy, Children and Young People

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