



**Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny  
Committee**  
16 March 2020

**Report from the Strategic Director  
of Children and Young People**

**Contextual Safeguarding in Brent**

<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
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**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>

Financial Year	Original Budget	In Year virements	Revised Budget
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