



Transitional Safeguarding

Deep Dive - September 2021

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Executive Summary

Transitional Safeguarding is about a wide range of issues that affect a young person's safety and wellbeing. It is an *"approach to safeguarding adolescents and young adults fluidly across developmental stages which builds on the best available evidence, learns from both children's and adult safeguarding practice and which prepares young people for their adult lives."*¹ It focuses on safeguarding young people from adolescence into adulthood, recognising transitions is a journey and not an event, and every young person will experience this journey differently. Local and national SCRs and SARs have spotlighted issues around young people transitioning from different services, education providers and locations and the need for bespoke safeguarding provision for young people transitioning into adulthood. It is difficult to draw up a complete picture of transitional safeguarding because it incorporates an array of risks that young people may face that are reflective of their environment or upbringing such as gang or sexual exploitation. Transitional safeguarding is not simply around a transition from children to adult care services

Consequently, a task & finish group was convened with the agreed purpose to increase awareness and ensure sustained practice and system change, including increasing inter-agency working and breaking down the barriers that young people vulnerable to exploitation and risk might face when transitioning to adulthood. To inform recommendations:

- An analysis of the national case for change and best practice around transitional safeguarding was scrutinised
- Young people and professionals were consulted at the BSCP Professional and Young person's forum
- A case reflection session of a selection of young people was undertaken.

At the forum a Barnet young person stated how stepping up into adulthood and independence can be difficult and more support with life skills and emotional support is needed. The deep dive showed that there were gaps in transitional safeguarding for young people who do not meet eligibility criteria for statutory services, particularly those who have not had diagnoses for mental health and/or learning disabilities. Provision in Barnet does not always meet the transitional safeguarding needs for young people with complex care needs or those who have had complex backgrounds and upbringings. Evidence showed that confusion and lack of information, as well as not having a lead trusted professional meant that young people and their families did not always feel safely transitioned into adulthood.

Differences in child/adult safeguarding practice and siloed working, complex contextual safeguarding needs of adolescents, structural and socio-economic barriers, fixed thresholds, legal frameworks and statutory support are what research shows are barriers to transitional safeguarding. Successful approaches for better transitional safeguarding are as follows, Making Safeguarding Personal, joint strategic visions and adopting same safeguarding principles across services, learning from SARs, co-production and centring processes around the individual young person, ensuring processes are developmentally appropriate and

¹ Chief Social Workers Knowledge Briefing June (2021)



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investing in prevention and planning when young teens to avoid safeguarding and financial costs at a later date.

The following recommendations were produced to inform change and raise awareness:

1. Share learning with professionals and operational staff across the partnership, including around trauma-informed practice and risks. To ensure learning filters down, we must have buy-in from strategic managers.
2. Roll out AMBIT framework training across the partnership and VCS to increase awareness among practitioners around building services around relationships.
3. Guidance on diagnosis for young people with learning difficulties and suffering from mental health conditions to aid smooth transitions.
4. Trusted relationship transition conference where young people feedback on transitional safeguarding.
5. Influence policy improvement across disciplines and increase cross boundary communication nationally about transitional safeguarding.
6. BSCP and BSAB will work closer together to bridge the gap for young people facing potential safeguarding issues when transitioning to adulthood. Progress will also be monitored through the Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy action plan and the outcomes set out for transitional safeguarding.

Further, it has been agreed through the BSCP that the monitoring of actions recommended within this report (page 15 onwards) are to be monitored through the Vulnerable Adolescents Community Partnership as all the necessary local authority, health, police and VCS stakeholders are represented. The progress of the action plan will be brought back to the Performance and Quality Assurance arm of the BSCP and reported upon within the annual Vulnerable Adolescents strategy.



Why a transitional safeguarding deep dive in Barnet

The transitional safeguarding deep dive was made a priority for both the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership and Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board in 2020. The topic is in the spotlight on the national safeguarding agenda and the vulnerable adolescents, looked after children and other workstreams in Barnet have highlighted the importance of transitional safeguarding. Furthermore, local and national serious child case reviews and safeguarding adult reviews highlighted issues around young people transitioning from different services, education providers and locations and the need for bespoke safeguarding provision for young people transitioning into adulthood. The Chief Social Worker for Adults has recently published a knowledge briefing highlighting that *'abuse and exploitation does not end at 18 years of age, and yet many of our services for adults are designed to support only those people with ongoing care and support needs.'*² The briefing challenges us all to 'think more widely about our safeguarding responsibilities to young people who find themselves continuing to face harm having lost all the support they once had'. In Barnet our Safeguarding Adults Board and Children Partnership have come together to review how effectively we identify those young people at risk, what support we currently offer and explore opportunities so that we can share effective and promising practises to positivity impact on young people's lives and help them to stay safe into adulthood.

Picture of transitional safeguarding in Barnet

It is difficult to draw up a complete picture of transitional safeguarding nationally and therefore difficult to visualise in Barnet. This is because transitional safeguarding incorporates an array of risks that young people may face that are reflective of their environment or upbringing such as gang or sexual exploitation. Transitional safeguarding is not simply around a transition from children to adult care services

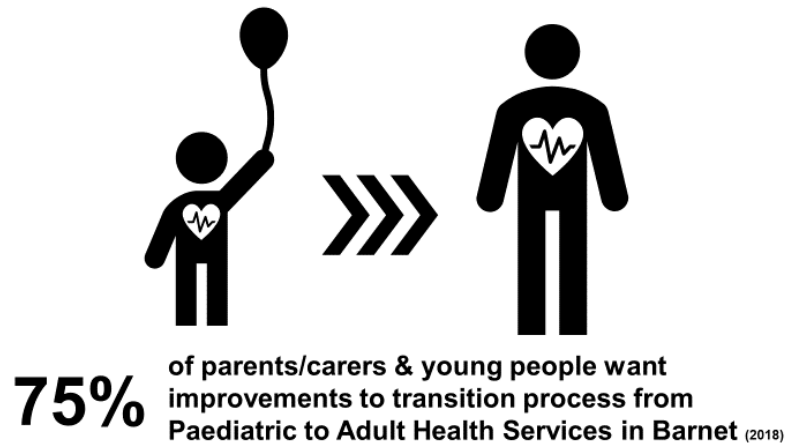
Interventions often end for many children and young people who have been on child in need or child protection plans prior to reaching 18 years old and if they do transition to adult social care this may be logged in case notes and so it is difficult to quantify and have a clearer picture of social care transitions in Barnet. One consultation from 2018 does offer us a some insight into the formal transition process between paediatric and adult healthcare services.³ Although there were only 21 responses and the large majority of these were parents/carers rather than the young people themselves, the answers give a strong indication that there was a lack of information and awareness around the transitions process. It highlighted that almost seventy-five percent of respondents thought there was a need to make improvements to the process of transition from paediatric to adult health services in Barnet. Furthermore, seventy-five percent of respondents thought 14-16 years was the right age to start thinking about and receiving information about transitions. Finally, almost seventy percent of respondents agreed

² Chief Social Workers Knowledge Briefing June (2021)

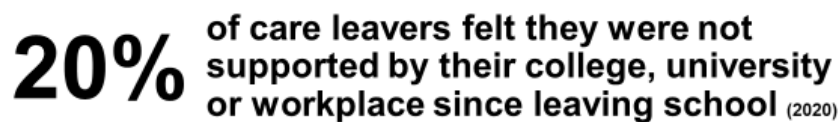
³Engage Barnet Consultation (2018)



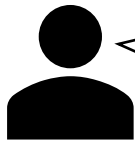
that the most important part of a good transition was having one lead professional guiding through the process.



The following statistics also illustrate the vulnerability of young people nearing adulthood and the need to understand the wider risks across the community to ensure young people feel safe into adulthood. Twenty percent of the small amount of care leavers consulted by Barnet in 2019-20 felt they were not supported by their college, university or workplace since leaving school⁴ and young people aged between 16-24 years account for 35% of all offences committed in the borough (2018/19) (VA strategy 2020).



⁴ Care Leavers consultation (2020)



**Barnet care
leaver (2021)**

“Feeling safe when turning 18 can be hard because it’s a big step up being independent. Support with life skills such as financial skills as well as emotional support is really important.”

Finally, evidence from a Barnet young person at the Professional and Young Person’s Forum in March 2021 illustrates how wider support is needed to prepare young people vulnerable to exploitation and risk for adulthood.

National picture of transitional safeguarding

There is little data on young people’s transitions from children to adult care, but there is evidence that cross-partner initiatives do make a difference to young people’s transitions⁵. One national consultation done by the Care Quality Commission⁶ (2014) of almost 200 young people with complex health needs showed that only fifty percent of young people and their parents said they had not received support from a lead professional during the process leading up to transition to adult services.

Focus and purpose of deep dive

Due to national research and evidence from SCRs/SARs and anecdotal evidence in Barnet, a task & finish group of strategic managers across different sectors convened and agreed on the following focus. Details of the task & finish group including membership and timeline can be found in appendices A and B.

The deep dive analysed how safeguarding services work together to recognise and respond to risk so vulnerable young people who are at the fringes of the care system are supported into adulthood. The task & finish group focused on young people approaching and post 18 years old, who are at risk of extra-familial abuse, and/or who have experienced long-term impact of adverse childhood experiences and trauma caused by extra-familial abuse, which often leads to long term harm to wellbeing.

The group decided to focus on preventative measure around transitions, the positive practices underlined by the ‘Making Safeguarding Personal’ principles applied to adult safeguarding duties and highlighted the importance of analysing contextual issues so that the young person complete picture was understood. For example, the impact that poverty, disability, race, gender and sexual orientation may have, the strength of their relationships and our wider community resilience that can support young people by recognising and reporting concerns. The group also underlined the impact and increased risks associated with the Covid-19 lockdown across the last year and how less face to face interaction with young people has meant less opportunity to spot signs of abuse.

⁵ Association for Young People’s Health (2019)

⁶ Care Quality Commission (2014)



The agreed purpose of the deep dive was to increase awareness and ensure sustained practice and system change, including increasing inter-agency working and breaking down the barriers that young people vulnerable to exploitation and risk might face when transitioning to adulthood. To inform recommendations to increase awareness and improve services, an analysis of the national case for change and best practice around transitional safeguarding was scrutinised, young people and professionals were consulted at the BSCP Professional and Young person's forum and a case reflection session of a selection of young people vulnerable to exploitation and risk was undertaken. Throughout, the task & finish group commented and analysed the findings to ensure recommendations were realistic and aligned to Barnet's needs.

Case for change and best practice

Definition of Transitional Safeguarding

Transitional Safeguarding is about a wide range of issues that affect a young person's safety and wellbeing. It is an *"approach to safeguarding adolescents and young adults fluidly across developmental stages which builds on the best available evidence, learns from both children's and adult safeguarding practice and which prepares young people for their adult lives."*⁷ It focuses on safeguarding young people from adolescence into adulthood, recognising transitions is a journey and not an event, and every young person will experience this journey differently.

Supporting young people's safety and wellbeing during transitions is not only morally and ethically important, it also offers potential economic benefits and is important for the future health of society and future generations. Safety and wellbeing needs intersect the life course; the interconnected nature of harms requires an integrated system of support. Investing in support to address harm and its impacts at this life stage can help to reduce the need for more costly and intrusive intervention later on in life.

Safeguarding for young people transitioning into adulthood refers to being mindful of the complex developmental social and contextual needs of young people before and after they are 18 years old⁸.

Case for change

There is extensive research done by Research in Practice as well as the academics, Holmes, Cocker Cooper and Bateman to illustrate why change is needed to better safeguard young people vulnerable to exploitation and risk who are transitioning into adulthood⁹. Key reasons are:

- **Child/adult binary in safeguarding practice and siloed working;** neither safeguarding system adequately meets the needs of young people. Services often use different databases, principles, ways of working and structures for safeguarding.
 - Children social care focus: protection of children from harm and risk management
 - Adult social care focus: wellbeing and risk enablement

⁷ Chief Social Workers Knowledge Briefing June (2021)

⁸ Holmes and Smale 2018 – Cocker (2020)

⁹ Cocker, Cooper, Holmes, Bateman (2021), Holmes (2020), Holmes (2018), Cocker (2020)



- Service managers in adults and Children health and social care services should work together in an integrated way
- **Complex contextual safeguarding needs** of adolescents
 - Shifts in social roles, changes in physical, biological and neurological development, puberty effects emotions and behaviour, wider social trends, parenting, partnering and economic independence.
 - Young people's brain development continues to mature cognitively and emotionally well into their twenties. Systems designed to protect us all fails sometimes to adapt to the impact that adverse childhood experiences, ongoing coercion or exploitation has. The transitional nature of maturation after 18 requires us to take a nuanced approach to the 'age of maturity' and to take account of young adults' individual experiences and circumstances in how we protect their rights and understand their capacity to take particular decisions.
 - For example, within the criminal justice system young people report they stop being seen as a victim overnight.
- **Structural and socio-economic barriers**, such as poverty and social isolation affect physical and mental health, opportunities for employment, puts young people at higher risk of sexual exploitation and many adverse implications of this.
- **Fixed thresholds**, legal frameworks and statutory support mean support may end for adolescents when turning 18. Whilst support for young people leaving care is offered for some until they reach 25 we know from consultation with our young residents that, like many areas in the UK, they can experience a very sudden change in how they are perceived or treated following their 18th birthday. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises the rights enshrined for all children globally up to the age of 18 (<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>)

Best Practice

- **Rights-based approaches, MSP (Making Safeguarding Personal), and wellbeing focus** in adult safeguarding could make adolescent transitional safeguarding better:
 - meet developmental needs of the individual
 - reflect the nature of harms young people face
 - services that meet local needs
 - Involving young people and carers in a personalised design, delivery and evaluation of transition
- **Strategic joint vision across Children and Adult safeguarding, health, social services and voluntary services** - some local areas have shared adult and child safeguarding boards and initiatives which expand across services and age ranges. This includes work around serious youth violence, exploitation and substance misuse.
- **Adopting the six safeguarding principles of the Care Act 2014** to help bridge the transitional safeguarding 'gap' between Children's and Adults Services (Cocker and Cooper, 2019 – Hertfordshire Learning Hub 2020).



- **Learning from young people Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)** – how thinking about transitional safeguarding could have supported those at risk. One of the key findings within SARs is the missed opportunities to pick up earlier on exploitation and the harm this causes.
 - For example, Colin, early 20s, had a learning disability and some physical problems, lived in supported accommodation, was in foster care as a child, on turning 18 made legal choice to go into community unaccompanied – was murdered by peers in local community
 - Further SARs that are pertinent to transitional safeguarding can be found in the extra reading below.¹⁰
 - Guidance around trauma-informed practice for health and social care and supporting young people at risk or experiencing substance misuse can also be found in extra reading below.

- **Co-production and centring process around the individual young person** - ensuring services are participative and responsive to the specific safeguarding needs of individual young people.
 - Best practice suggests that integrated adult and children social care practice, including nominated social workers for transitions and joint funding arrangements have been known to support young people to navigate the health and social care system. This could include training staff on importance and complexity of transitions.

- **Ensuring processes are developmentally appropriate and investing in prevention and planning when young teens** to avoid safeguarding and financial costs at a later date.

Scope of provision around Transitional Safeguarding in Barnet

A number of services and organisations provide services that prepare and support young people through safe transitions, as transitional safeguarding is so cross-disciplinary. The Vulnerable Adolescent's Strategy details an action plan for transitional safeguarding and having wider age group provision within family services such as the 0-19 preventative service and the SEND 0-25 service, provide wider support for young people around their 18th birthday. The youth justice plan and YOT team also work cross departmentally to protect adolescents vulnerable to exploitation and risk into adulthood. Wrap around services for substance misuse also have tailored approaches to young people nearing adulthood. Care leavers have bespoke support around housing and life skills. However, the statutory youth homelessness provision is only for 16/17 year olds, otherwise young people are signposted. BELS provide support for NEET young people into certain employment and educational paths, although it remains difficult to place those with risk profiles and with specific needs. Community groups such as Arts Against Knives are working across the partnership to provide good practice around trusted relationships for safe transitions. Finally, Adult Social

¹⁰ Bath & Somerset, Richmond, Havering and Portsmouth SARs



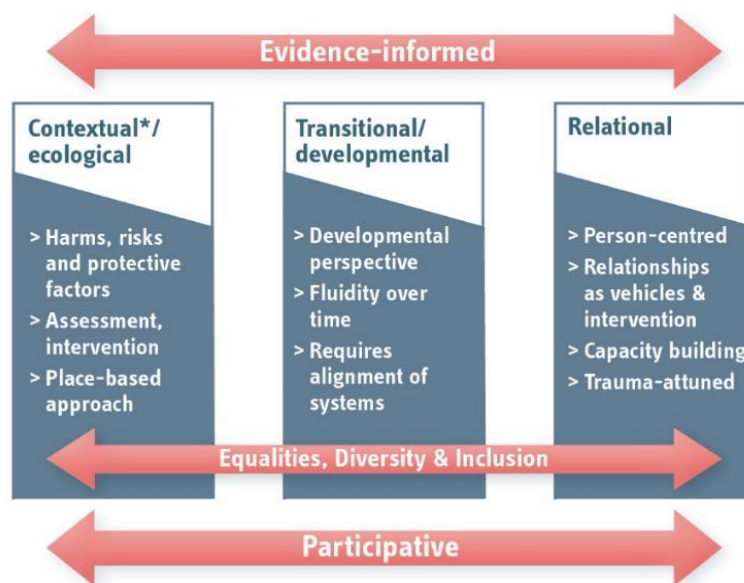
Care are supporting on the 0-25 SEND service and critiquing their reablement offer to support young people and carers into adulthood.

See appendix c for the full scope of provision around transitional safeguarding in Barnet.

Learnings from deep dive

Learning from BSCP Professional and Young People’s Forum March 2021

Dez Holmes (Research in Practice) underlined that there are three principles to successful transitional safeguarding. See below diagram (Holmes 2018):



See Firmin’s work:
www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk

Adi Cooper and Christine Cooper (researchers in transitional safeguarding) highlighted the need for children and adult social workers to work more collaboratively and to match the key principles from the children act and care act, using the making safeguarding personal approach as a framework.

There were 72 attendees at the PYPF, most of these being practitioners in adults and children social care. Voices of young people were included in a question and answer session with a Barnet care leaver and through young people who had experienced adverse childhood experiences and interaction with Arts Against Knives.

The informal interview with a Barnet care leaver as well as evidence from Art against knives illustrated that the whole picture of a young person is not always taken into account, for example if they have care out of borough or protected characteristics. Furthermore, it was underlined that one trusted relationship with a young person and their family really helps to



communicate and ensure young people are aware about what transitions involve. The Barnet care leaver did say that the future plan did start early, and the team were very supportive, but more could have been done around life skills for example support with finances and emotional support. Furthermore, they noted that it was often difficult to keep their life story alive and keep in contact with friends when moving placements all around the country.

Case reflection session key themes & task & finish group

Five cases were nominated by service leads for consideration as part of the deep dive. These cases came from the Vulnerable Adolescents team, SEN and adult social care and covered a number of themes including safeguarding issues, building independence for adulthood, learning disabilities and physical health conditions. These are complex cases with transitions between placements, adult and children's services and multiple agencies involved in coordinating support.

On 20 April 2021 we held a case reflection session with frontline practitioners across partner agencies who had been involved in these cases. We worked through a series of questions to explore the individuals¹¹, their needs and where the local system could have more effectively worked together to support transitions.

The key themes with task & finish group reflections are as follows:

1. Missed diagnosis

For some of these young people, concerns were raised about undiagnosed learning disabilities, possible autism spectrum disorder, or issues around emotional regulation. Particularly where the young person had other more severe/apparent support needs (eg physical health) professionals felt that their other conditions were not always given sufficient thought. There were mentions in records of historic diagnoses, but these were not always shared with all professionals involved, leading to confusion and possible issues with eligibility for services.

The task & finish group highlighted about how retrospective diagnosis and knowledge and understanding around conditions such as ADHD are more attuned now than they were a few years ago. However, CAHMS are wary of diagnosing young people because of stigmas around certain mental health conditions and this affecting them in the long run. But equally, mental health professionals in the meeting understood how a lack of diagnosis may make it more difficult for the young person as other services won't necessarily understand how they need to adjust their offer of support to take into account the young person's mental health needs. Furthermore, it was noted that some parents pushed for a diagnosis so that their children were eligible to receive extra support when not always necessary. The contextual and cultural background of the young person also comes into play with different cultural understandings and acceptances of mental health conditions and the stigmas that surround this. It is important to champion and advocate for diagnosis and normalise mental health conditions in a targeted manner.

A lot of research links adverse childhood experience to personality disorders and there is not necessarily a clear route to diagnosis; this becomes even more difficult if a young person starts

¹¹ See full question in appendix E



losing access to education. Furthermore, it is unclear what the treatment plan for Barnet residents is if they are placed out of borough and data shows that often young males interacting with the YOT service are out of mainstream support and education – over fifty percent follow this pattern and without an ECP plan it is difficult to support them in finding suitable education, placements etc.

Culturally targeted awareness around mental health stigma and the positive impact of having a diagnosis, equally services should be flexible so that access is determined by needs and the impact on the young person's wellbeing of not having support, rather than formal diagnosis. Having a clear pathway for young people vulnerable to exploitation and risk such as those presenting to the YOT team and those who have experienced adverse childhood experience for diagnosis and accessing education/services.

2. Whole family picture and context of family including protected characteristic

The case reflection group discussed the importance of understanding the whole picture around these individuals, including their relationships with siblings and parents, who often have their own support needs. It is crucial that professionals are aware of the support/interventions going on with other family members and consider how this interacts with their work with the individual young person. The wider context of the young person's life, including cultural heritage and any protected characteristics that may make them more vulnerable or in need of a more bespoke approach to safeguard them through their transition.

The task & finish group highlighted the importance of understanding where young people might be getting support from and identifying their key trusted relationships are integral to providing the best support. These key people in their lives should be included in assessment and support planning discussions; they should have a 'team around the trusted person' so that they can seek advice and support from those with specialist knowledge. BEHMT have a workstream working with identifying key carers.

Gaps in the housing offer for young people was also identified, with the youth homelessness policy only applicable to 16- and 17-year olds therefore young people 18 and over lack this statutory support. Furthermore, certain groups of young people, particularly those identifying as LGBTQ+ have had little bespoke support for example when being made homeless when coming out as LGBTQ+ in their homes. Many come from homes where it is culturally not accepted to identify this way.

3. Building trusted relationships

It was agreed at the case reflection group that with a consistent and well-developed relationship with a particular practitioner, the young person and their family are able to establish trust and work together better. Several of the families had raised frustrations about having to repeat their story multiple times and trust in statutory services subsequently deteriorated. These trusted relationships or a 'key worker' style approach is particularly helpful for planning and coordinating transitions.

Discussions in the task & finish group were had about training across the board and group family conferences. Art Against Knives provide trusted relationship training using the AMBIT framework, which is around building services around a trusted relationship rather than young people having interactions with several different professionals. Furthermore, it was suggested



that using the family group conference model in a way that young people choose which adults are important to support them with a successful transition. It would be important to include those they trust in their community. Finally, it was noted the importance of understanding and utilising the Making Safeguarding Personal approaches to service provision when looking at transitions.

4. Working together with a wider range of services

The group discussed how some of these individuals had fallen through gaps, for example an individual with SEN who went to a mainstream school out of borough, or by accessing care and support from private or voluntary, community and faith sector providers. These different ways of accessing support meant that statutory services did not pick up on the individuals until later down the line, and families were not aware of all the support available to them. It is also important that we work with families to understand what is important to them, their religious/cultural identity, and how this may affect the services they want to access. All services working with the young person should be involved in transition planning and sharing information to coordinate support.

The task & finish group noted that care leavers have health passports that track their health needs, but other needs and support are not well tracked across other services. Consideration about how to build in 'trauma-informed practice' to health, social care, housing and other services is needed. It is important that all services that need to be aware of those at high risk of exploitation and abuse during adolescence. Definitions of vulnerability can be different for different services and organisations and this can mean eligibility for services and understanding services can be difficult for professionals as well as for the young person. Often services work in siloes and do not work more widely to understand the complex needs of young people. A case from the care leavers team illustrates how for example the housing offer does not always take into account the whole picture of the young person and how statutory housing provision may not always take into account their needs. Barnet's housing offer and youth homelessness policy does not cover all age groups at risk, for example the youth homelessness strategy is for 16-17 years olds.

CASE STUDY: *Amira, now 22 and her younger siblings became looked after by the local authority when she was 7 on account of parental neglect. Following completing her A-Levels she obtained a university place at Manchester where she successfully graduated with a 2:1 degree in 2020. She wished to remain in the Manchester area where she had developed links and local connections, however as her housing entitlement is linked to her status as a Barnet care leaver and therefore her right to social housing and her priority banding is linked to what is available through Barnet Homes, with the majority of homes being located within the Borough.*

Despite attempts to consider a reciprocal arrangement with Manchester City Council, this was not possible and the only option available to Amira would have been to explore private rental accommodation. Amira has returned to Barnet and she will be supported via Let 2 Barnet to procure rented accommodation.

- *Names and location have been changed for privacy.*



Fiona Bateman noted the importance of raising these issues at national forums such as the national adult safeguarding board. The group also underlined the importance of improving wrap around support for young people who may be at risk of homelessness, substance misuse or exploitation who are 18/19 or over 19 as the 0-19 offer supports up until then. Finally, the need for a shared purpose and understanding of young people vulnerable to exploitation and risk to include a trauma-informed approach. For example, setting dates early before 16th birthday to start having conversations around transitions and care plans and having buy in from all the relevant services.

5. Navigating service criteria

Strict service criteria or thresholds can generate confusion for families as the system is complex and it can be difficult for them to work out what support they are able to access. Young people can be caught in the gap between service eligibility and there are different age cut-offs for different services. Particular issues were raised in these cases in relation to progressive conditions, where the young person's eligibility changed quickly and forward planning was necessary. For some of the vulnerable adolescent cases, historic information created a risk profile (eg criminal history) that made many services refuse to offer support and created challenges in finding a suitable placement.

Adult Social Care are taking a unique approach to high-risk cases, which includes making teams aware of the preventative and wellbeing offer from voluntary and community care, meeting with key partners in education and health, and encouraging teams to work cross-disciplinarily to discuss case complexity and plan swift transfer to minimise case slipping through the net.

The task & finish group underlined the importance of having joint risk management planning between services to ensure all organisations are being risk adverse and planning well for transitions around the young person's network and trusted relationships. As well as championing prevention and a focus on wellbeing to prevent harm and allowing for flexibility in providing support to young people.

Conclusion

The deep dive showed that there were gaps in transitional safeguarding for young people who do not meet eligibility criteria for statutory services, particularly those who have not had diagnoses for mental health and/or learning disabilities. Provision in Barnet does not always meet the needs for young people with complex care needs or who have had complex backgrounds and upbringings. Evidence showed that confusion and lack of information, as well as not having a lead trusted professional meant that young people and their families did not always feel safely transitioned into adulthood.

The national statutory housing and education and employment provision does not always meet the needs for young people who are homeless, care leavers or NEET. Eligibility, availability and the profiles of certain young people creates barriers to successfully transitioning into adulthood. Furthermore, the landscape is confusing for young people with so many different changes to services and life when turning eighteen.

The recommendations from this report will be monitored through the PQA on the Safeguarding Children Partnership side and at the Safeguarding Adult Board to measure the



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impact and sustainability. Service leads of the strategic task & finish group will also be expected to feed in recommendations into their areas and the task & finish group will meet in six-months' time to update on the implementation of the recommendations.

The long-term impact of the recommendations are to:

- Increase awareness and improve safeguarding services around the issues adolescents vulnerable to exploitation and risk might face when transitioning to adulthood
- Ensure sustained practice and system change, including increasing inter-agency working and breaking down the barriers for young people



Recommendations and action plan

Theme	Recommendation	Measurement	Additional tasks currently under action:	Owner & Timeframe	Progress (July 2021)	Desired outcome
1. Missed diagnosis	<p>Disseminate learning upon trauma informed practice across the Partnership</p> <p>7-minute briefing shared across partners to include important information around transitional safeguarding including how panels and boards link up around transitions.</p> <p>Services need to do more in order to support young people experiencing a range of issues such as: loneliness, isolation, poor physical/mental wellbeing, substance misuse, managing negative peer behaviour, coping skills and resilience development.</p>	<p>Gather practitioner feedback to assess where practice has been informed.</p> <p>BSCP to deliver learning events over Autumn/ Winter 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure that current Vulnerable Adolescents training is reflective of the wider contextual factors that can lead to increase risk of exploitation, and how practitioners can work and plan with young people to help support a young person. - To work with mental health services, BICS and establish consistent SPOC to attend VARP, and can help support transition to Adults services and the SAV panel, MARAC and VAWG - To develop a independence checklist for Vulnerable Adolescents who are approaching young people who are approaching 18+ 	Vulnerable Adolescents / Leaving Care / BICS/ Adults – Assessment and Prevention	Feedback gathered from PYPF Forum in March 2021 where clear evidence gathered upon the knowledge transfer gained. (see appendix F)	Improve practitioner knowledge and ability to effectively safeguard young people transitioning to adulthood.
2. Whole family assessment including protected characteristics	<p>Guidance on diagnosis for young people with learning difficulties and suffering from mental health conditions to aid smooth transitions.</p> <p>Services need to be developed to enable young people reaching adulthood to be better supported to foster positive relationships and promote health mental wellbeing.</p>	Use internal audit tools and service user feedback to evaluate if the workshop and briefing have informed practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a working group with young adults who have transitioned to adulthood, regarding their experience and how services can be developed to support others. - To review the current Vulnerable Adolescent Service directory and with advice from the working group identify and incorporate services and programmes (such as HMPPS Choices and Changes) 	Vulnerable Adolescents / Leaving Care / BICS/ Adults – Assessment and Prevention		More holistic consideration of young people’s needs leads to a greater level of support for young people experiencing transitions



			<p>who can assist with transitions and who can continue to work with young people post 18.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with family group conference services to explore and potentially pilot a transitional family group conference with families whom have a vulnerable adolescent who is becoming 18. - To continue to liaise with Colleges in Barnet in which young people are enrolled to attend, and ensure that they are included in planning meetings and forums such as SEAMs, VARP, and they are aware of the additional support needs of young people. 		
3. Building trusted relationships	<p>Provide AMBIT framework training across the Partnership to increase knowledge on importance of trusted relationships</p> <p>Trusted relationship transition conference where young people feedback on transitional safeguarding.</p>	<p>Seek to secure X number of professionals having undergone training</p> <p>Secure broad engagement across the Partnership within the AMBIT training</p>		Vulnerable Adolescents / Leaving Care / BICS/ Adults – Assessment and Prevention	Transitional safeguarding becomes a part of transition processes and there is more awareness of its importance.
4. Multi-agency working	<p>BSCP and BSAB will work closer together to bridge the gap for young people facing potential safeguarding issues when transitioning to adulthood.</p> <p>Young people need inter-agency support at a more intensive level in order to navigate the complexities of housing . ETE, finances and further agency support.</p>	<p>BSCP and BSAB will seek assurance that there are measures in place to demonstrate practice change and that work plans across Barnet actively consider and address transitional safeguarding. Events will also be co-produced and shared between partners to ensure shared learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be clear connections and case transfers between VARP, High Risk Panel (Care Leavers), Serious Adult Violence Panel, MARAC, and VAWG. This will be reflected within a workflow diagrams and terms of reference. - That the relationship between independence and potential increased vulnerability to exploitation should be considered within "All about me" and 	Vulnerable Adolescents / Leaving Care / BICS/ Adults – Assessment and Prevention	More effective information sharing across multi-agency settings



		Vulnerable Adolescent leads will align outcomes in the strategy to the tangible recommendations and feed into the wider strategy work.	<p>Pathway plans, which can help in assessing the support needs of these key transition points. Working with the Head of Service for CIC and O&U, case tracking and auditing will look at the current practice and strength of planning during this time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop with young people and to promote the use of a "Independence checklist" that professional can undertake with young people who are identified to be vulnerable to exploitation and are transitioning to adult services. - As part of Early Help planning and under Troubled Families to consideration to what support can be offered to young adults with needs in financial literacy, housing and employment and to support in helping and strengthen resilience to exploitation. - To ensure that there is regular representation at the Serious Adult Violence Panel by the VA team, to enable effective transfer of cases from VARP and that the contextual support needs of young adults is promoted and incorporated into SAV planning. 		
5. Service thresholds	<p>Influence policy improvement across disciplines and increase cross boundary communication nationally about transitional safeguarding.</p> <p>Agencies need to work together to create an environment of structured support and young</p>	<p>Fiona Bateman to raise at the London Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and national chairs network for escalation to the department of health and social care.</p> <p>Transitional safeguarding workstream will remain in BSCP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To identify young people who are open to social care, YOS and early help, that are at risk of exploitation and approaching critical transition points. This data will be used to ensure that transitional planning is promoted and reflected in care plans. - Ensure that at transition points such as case closing to social care or Early Help 	Fiona Bateman – Adults Safeguarding Board / BICS / VA / Leaving Care	



	<p>person focussed goals that are developed in partnership with young people.</p>	<p>(through the relevant strategic forums underneath) and BSAB business plan and vulnerable adolescent action plan.</p>	<p>that a Closure SEAM is completed, enabling a holistic review of a young persons contextual vulnerabilities and clarity on which agencies will continue to work with the young person. Full range of relevant partners remain part of any transitions meetings to ensure we are able to receive all information required with regards to the young person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To work with the advisory boards, and social care in ascertaining and strengthening the transition of Tier 3 CAMHS to adults services. 			
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Appendices

Appendix A Membership of strategic task & finish group

Monica Przyzycka	Adult Social Care lead (co-chair)
Sarah Marshall Chris Kelly	Family services leads (co-chair)
Amelia Stanley	Project Lead (BSCP)
Anna Jennings	Partnership Manager BSCP
Fiona Bateman	BSAB Independent Chair
Joyce Mbewe	BSAB Business Manager
Kate Jeffrey	Family Services (Corporate Parenting)
Linda Orr	Family Services (SEND)
Anika Cosgrove	Community Safety
Sharon Smith Jayne Abbott	Public Health
Jane Morris Jasmine West	Education/BELS
Tony Bellis	Police
Helen Swarbrick Christine Jenkinson Mary Smithers	Health
Sian Carter-Jones Ginika Achokwu	Mental Health
Tony Lewis	UNITAS Youth Zone
Zoe Kattah	Community Barnet
Sally Zlotowitz/Rox Horton	Art Against Knives
Tanya Lisak / Jayne Kaye	Barnet CGL
Ian Heckle	Housing

Appendix B: Deep dive timeline: Information gathering and developing understanding

1	Best practice analysed and mapped out current provisions and services supporting young people vulnerable to exploitation and risk transitioning to adulthood in Barnet	Feb 2021
3	Consultation with Young People at BSCP Professional & Young Person's Forum	March 2021
5	Case reflection session with operational practitioners of 5 cases - 2 Young People from Vulnerable Adolescents, 2 from SEN and 1 family from ASC.	April 2021
6	Key themes from case reflection session shared with task & finish group and direction set for actions going forward	May 2021
7	Report shared including background research, scope of current workstreams under key themes and recommendations	June 2021



8	Insight from housing, substance misuse and education particularly around housing offer for LAC and barriers to further education for YP with risk profile	June 2021
9	Further consultation with young people, potentially including those who are were reflected on in case reflections	TBC

Appendix C: Scope of current provision around transitional safeguarding in Barnet

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	INFO AROUND TRANSITIONAL SAFEGUARDING
Multi-Agency	SEND Partnership Board	Barnet Multi-Agency Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) Protocol First Review 2020-23 for young people aged 14-25 with complex learning difficulties, disabilities, additional needs or mental health needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supporting young people preparing for employment, independent living, participating in society, being healthy
	YOT team strategic priority	Youth Justice Plan 2021-2023 states improving the lives of vulnerable adolescents and supporting young people to successfully transition to adulthood. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Priority 8 is Resettlement and Transitional Safeguarding, which involved support young people from custody and to probation.
	Trusted relationship partnership	LBB & Art Against Knives – foster positive relationships between young people and services; to reduce risk of criminal and sexual exploitation; to bridge relationships between voluntary and statutory services; and to develop psychologically informed environments
	Sibling Mentoring Project	Vulnerable Adolescents
LBB Family Services	Vulnerable Adolescent Community Partnership - Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy	Focus on safeguarding CYP from the physiological and physical harm caused by sexual and criminal exploitation and involvement in gangs and serious youth violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Priority 7: Transitional Safeguarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ‘evidence of young people who are victims of exploitation or at risk of involvement in criminal activity often having had adverse childhood experiences including poverty, exposure to violence in the home,



		<p>educational exclusion, poor access to mental health services and positive activities. The absence of these structural factors is linked with multiple crime related outcomes (Graif et al 2014).'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited holistic wrap around support, cliff edge where both services and intensity of support falls away at 18yo – which can render YP unprepared for adulthood & thresholds for adult services do not typically lend themselves to delivering Transitional Safeguarding support - See appendix 4 for outcomes sought for Transitional Safeguarding
	SEN disability 0-25 service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Project around 18-25 supported living ➢ Support into adulthood only for those with complex needs, NEET need to be considered ➢ Thresholds need to be considered
	Transitions from 0-19 service into Wellbeing Hubs	Inclusion Barnet at 18 years+
	<u>Care Leavers local offer</u> 'Onwards & Upwards'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Includes support from ages 21-25 ➢ Moving forward & stepladder programmes – preparing for independence and housing options
LBB Adult Social Care / Commissioning	Reablement offer	Convening health, education and occupational therapy to clarify roles and responsibilities to support young people and young carers who require functional assessment.
	0-25 disability service	Combines the previous 0-18 Disabled Children's Team and the Transitions team. Supporting the team to access prevention and wellbeing offer to broaden knowledge on voluntary care sector and community care. To ensure high risks cases are transferred promptly 0-25 service is starting a regular meetings with older adults and physical disability team to discuss its case complexity and plan swift transfer. This will minimise the likelihood of cases slipping through the net.



	Accommodation & Support service	Contract due for renewal on 31 st March 2022– LOT Support living young adults in transitions from residential college/accommodation into a supported living environment.
Community Safety	<u>Community Safety Plan</u>	A focus on young people as victims and offenders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The Safer Community partnership ensures the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults affected by crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. ➢ Troubled families project ➢ Serious Adults Violence Panel (SAV) – reviewing cases of individuals over 18 who are at risk either as a victim or a perpetrator
Public Health		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Prevention and awareness raising around sexual health and positive relationships ➢ Asylum seekers and mental health ➢ Resilient schools
Health & Wellbeing	Transitions from paediatric to adult health services	Consultation in 2018 about improving process led by CCG and The Local Offer More info on transitions in health
	BEH & NHSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Support where young people might be at risk ➢ Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) on future health ➢ Transition and planning with YP with special needs a constant issue
	CAMHS	Unique process for each young person
Police		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Turning Point Project ➢ Reducing criminal exploitation
VCFS	Art Against Knives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Trusted Relationships programme and Role Models
	Community Barnet	18-25 programme early intervention mental health support
	UNITAS	Provider of universal youth provision for young people aged 8 – 19 (or 25 with SEND) – support for LGBTQI+ YP facing difficulty in accessing services and personalising interventions
	Youth Realities	Teenage relationship abuse
Housing	Joint protocol for Youth Homelessness	Statutory provision for young people 16/17 year old who are homeless



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Otherwise signposting and advice given to young people who are over 18. There are not pathways for supported accommodation for young people generally. <p>Supported living for care leavers</p>
Education and employment	BELS Post 16	<p>Statutory education and training provision for young people 16-18 years old, or up to 24 years old if they have a special education plan or are care leavers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Since Covid-19 have received more funding to provide services for youth offenders and young people suffering from mental health issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision for those with a criminal background and care leavers by Cherry Tree Foundation ➤ Options to young people with high SEN needs and those with criminal backgrounds communicated in advance. There are barriers to certain industries but some particular pathways into construction, engineering, hospitality. Choices are limited for mainstream education providers due to safeguarding of other young people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Routes into construction programme for 16-24 NEETs ➤ Specialist industries or courses may be more difficult to get onto because of availability and challenges with being out of borough.
Substance misuse	Change Grow Live	<p>They have a young People's team who work up to age 25 and adult service starts from age 18. New referrals are decided which service is appropriate on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Most young people are discharged from the young people's service but where there is a continued treatment need past 25 we will transfer to the adult service.</p>

Appendix D: Questions used for first task & finish group discussion (February 2021)

- Scoping – what current projects are supporting vulnerable young people transitioning into adulthood
- Where do we feel we are working well to safeguard these young people?



- What do we think needs to improve to make young people in Barnet better safeguarded in transitions to adulthood?
- What current strategies and protocols need to be aligned to this work?
- How do we propose to get the voice of young people? Surveys? PYPF forum?
- What case studies can we use?
- Can care users be used as pilot group for transitional safeguarding? They come into contact with a range of services *including housing, health, employment, and education, yet they are often not recognised as a priority group for services. Better integrated/partnership working could be key*¹².
- Are risk management and multi-agency responses flexible enough currently to support those who do not have 'care leaver' status but are at high risk of sexual and criminal exploitation, what early intervention support is available to prevent an escalation of need?
- How well do practitioners from across the health, mental health, social care and criminal justice agencies understand the impact of trauma and coercion on decision making?
- How protected characteristics and the impact they make upon transitional safeguarding are important. Do all young adults receive the same support regardless of their background? Do they face unconscious bias?

Appendix E: Questions used for case reflection session (April 2021)

1. What was the young person's experience of transitioning between services and the change in service thresholds on their 18th birthday? (where possible from speaking to the young person and any comments they shared), and how were they involved in the transition process?
2. How were the six principles of Making Safeguarding Personal applied in this case?
3. How were the pathways for referral and multi-agency risk assessment used so that adult services (LBB, health, voluntary sector etc) were involved early in assessing and supporting an effective transition?
4. Was the approach to transition trauma-informed? Did it take into account the experiences of the young person and adjust for inequalities (eg poverty, protected characteristics, disability)?
5. What were the strengths and areas for development in relation to the multi-agency working around the transition in this case? Can you identify any learning or suggestions for improvement?
6. What was the outcome – how did the way transition was approached, managed and service criteria impact on the young person? Is there any learning for how this could be improved?

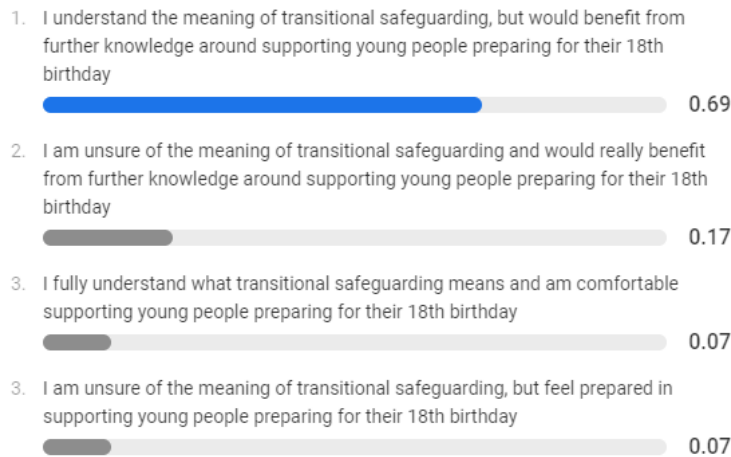
¹²

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/266484/Care_Leaver_Strategy.pdf



Appendix F: Results from PYPF polls March 2021

Start of session: How well do you understand the topic of transitional safeguarding and supporting young people preparing for their 18th birthday?



End of session: How well do you now understand the topic of transitional safeguarding and supporting young people preparing for their 18th birthday?

