



**Bexley Local Safeguarding Children
Board**

Annual Report

2010 - 2011

Contents

Introduction by Chairman of Bexley LSCB	3
Summary of Key Issues Covered in the Annual Report	4
Section 1 Governance & Accountancy	
1.1 Membership	5
1.2 LSCB Structure 2010-11	6
1.3 Membership & Attendance	7
1.4 Governance Arrangements	7
1.5 Relationship with the Children's Trust	8
1.6 Pooled Budget	9
Section 2 Quality & Effectiveness of Safeguarding Work in Bexley	
2.1 Quality & Effectiveness Plan	9
2.2 Child protection Performance Management	9
2.3 Priorities Identified in Business Plan 2009-12	9
2.4 Single Agency Safeguarding Quality & Effectiveness	12
2.5 Areas of Strengths & Areas for Improvement in Safeguarding	15
Section 3 Serious Case Reviews	
3.1 Panel Arrangements	17
3.2 SCRs Undertaken During the Year	17
Section 4 Child Death Overview Panel	
4.1 Panel Arrangements	17
4.2 Child Death Data	17
4.3 Learning from CDOP Cases	17
Section 5 Standing Work of the LSCB in Relation to its Functions	
5.1 Thresholds, Policies & Procedures	18
5.2 Safer Recruitment & Managing Allegations	18
5.3 Safeguarding in Education	19
5.4 Private Fostering	19
5.5 Youth Justice	20
5.6 Adult Services/Mental Health	20
5.7 Adult Drugs & Alcohol Services	21
5.8 Training	21
Section 6 Progress on Strategic Priorities	
6.1 Progress in Achieving Objectives	22
6.2 Targeted Safeguarding	23
Section 7 Conclusions & Recommendations	
7.1 Conclusions	25
7.2 Issues & Recommendations	25
7.3 Issues for Children's Trust	25
7.4 Updated Business Plan 2011-12	25
Appendix 1 Financial Statement	27
Appendix 2 Performance Management & Data	28
Appendix 3 LSCB Work Plan	33

Introduction - Independent Chairman of Bexley LSCB Brian Boxall

I am writing this introduction as the new chairman of Bexley LSCB. I am very privileged to have been selected as the board's first independent chairman. I would like to acknowledge the work of Dr Deborah Absalom both in her role as my predecessor, and that of Director of Children Services in Bexley, a post she has recently left.

As will be set out in the annual report, the LSCB has undertaken a significant amount of work across agencies, over the past few years, in order to protect children and to promote their welfare. This year has seen the publication of two serious case reviews, commenced in 2009. Important lessons were identified and the LSCB will continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations from the reviews.

The LSCB has continued to develop multi-agency performance indicators that focus on demonstrating improved outcomes for children in our priority areas. The challenge for the coming year, is to develop even further, an outcome based approach so that quality and effectiveness of child protection, rather than just targets, can be tested. To assist with this development, Bexley LSCB have been accepted as one of the pilot boards to test and develop an outcome approach process.

This new approach will require input from recipients of services, including children and young people. I have had the opportunity of meeting with Youth Council Chairs and I was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the young people, and their commitment to help support the LSCB. The LSCB's involvement with the youth of Bexley needs to be further strengthened over the coming year.

As can be witnessed by my appointment, the LSCB has continued to look to become more independent in order for it to be better equipped to both support and challenge partner agencies. The ability to challenge will be tested over the coming year.

The new coalition government has introduced significant changes, not only in respect of funding but also with regard to processes. The Munro Review of Child Protection is due to be published shortly. The interim report has indicated that the role of the LSCB is to be strengthened. What this exactly means for the LSCB, is yet to become clear.

Partner agencies are facing significant challenges; all have had to make very difficult decisions as a result of reductions in budgets. Some agencies, such as Health and Education, are also facing major structural changes. These changes may have a knock on effect for our important voluntary agencies that face uncertainty in respect of future funding.

The LSCB will need to ensure that it continues to work closely, as a group of partners, so that we fully understand, support, monitor, and if necessary challenge, in order to ensure that child protection remains a priority.

I have been very impressed by the commitment of all our partners; the importance of this cannot be underestimated. I would like to thank all our partners for their hard work during the past year and their continued commitment to the challenges we face.

Summary of Key Issues Covered in this Annual Report

This is the 5th Annual Report produced by the Bexley LSCB since its formation in 2006. The report will cover the key priorities for the year 2010-11 and how these have been met. Bexley LSCB has a 3 year business plan and this report will also address the progress of the work under that plan and update and change any priorities based on current information. The report is split into 7 Sections:

- Governance and accountability
- Quality & effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements
- Learning from Serious Case Reviews
- Child Death Overview Process
- Standing Work of the LSCB in relation to its functions
- Progress on specific priority areas
- Issues and challenges ahead for the LSCB and the Children's Trust

The LSCB has progressed its work on the governance of the Board and its reporting mechanisms. There is ongoing work to increase the scrutiny and challenge role.

In this year the LSCB has seen the publication, on completion of the criminal proceedings, of the Executive Summaries of the 2 serious case reviews undertaken in 2009. A further serious case review has been initiated in 2011.

The work of the LSCB has focused on the Business Plan 2009-12 and has seen progress in all areas of its work. The report does highlight those areas that require ongoing commitment. The performance management and quality and effectiveness roles of the LSCB have seen particular development with the auditing activity increasing. The work to move to a more outcome based approach has also been taken forward.

The Annual Report does have to consider the challenges that are ahead as well as consider any issues identified from reviewing its work. The changes in the public sector in particular health and education as well as the financial constraints facing all organisations will have an impact on the work of the LSCB and this will require particular focus in the coming year. The priorities identified include:

- Further work on the governance of the LSCB
- Work to develop an outcomes based approach with effective performance management
- Priority areas of need including:
 - Domestic Violence
 - Alcohol misuse by young people
 - Early intervention including the CAF and Police Merlins
 - Engagement with Adult Drug and Alcohol Services
 - Information sharing

The close working relationship between the LSCB and the Children's Trust has allowed for a good level of communication and challenge throughout the year. The issues that continue to require the attention of both Boards are:

- Impact of public services changes, legislation changes and financial constraints on children's services including safeguarding
- Embedding of early intervention, the common assessment and team around the child and the mapping of services

Section 1 – Governance and Accountability

1.1 Membership of the LSCB

Chairman:

Dr Deborah Absalom
Director of Children & Young People's Services (until August 2010)

Brian Boxall
Independent Chairman (since August 2010)

Lead Member for Children Services:

Councillor June Slaughter

Children & Young People's Services:

Sheila Murphy
Deputy Director, Social Care & SEN

Linda Tottman
Deputy Director, Youth & Inclusion

Adult Services:

Rosemary England
Deputy Director
Social & Community Services

Health Services:

Jonathan Webster
Director
Bexley Care Trust

Sian Therese
Director of Provider Services
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Wilf Bardsley (until December 2010)
Director of Nursing & Governance
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Jennie Hall (until February 2011)
Director of Nursing
South London Healthcare NHS Trust

Avey Bhatia (from February 2011)
Acting Director of Nursing
South London Healthcare NHS Trust

Metropolitan Police Services:

Glyn Jones (until December 2010)
Superintendent, Bexley Borough

Darren Williams (from January 2011)
Superintendent, Bexley Borough

Justin Armstrong
Detective Inspector
Child Abuse Investigation Team

Schools:

Pat Slonecki
Headteacher (secondary)

Fiona Dear
Headteacher (primary)

Voluntary Sector:

Julie Bristow
Partnership Officer
Bexley Voluntary Services Council

Probation Service:

Janett Brown (until September 2010)
Assistant Chief Probation Officer

Rob Clarke (from December 2010)
Assistant Chief Probation Officer

CAFCASS:

Martin Harris
Head of Service

LSCB Officers:

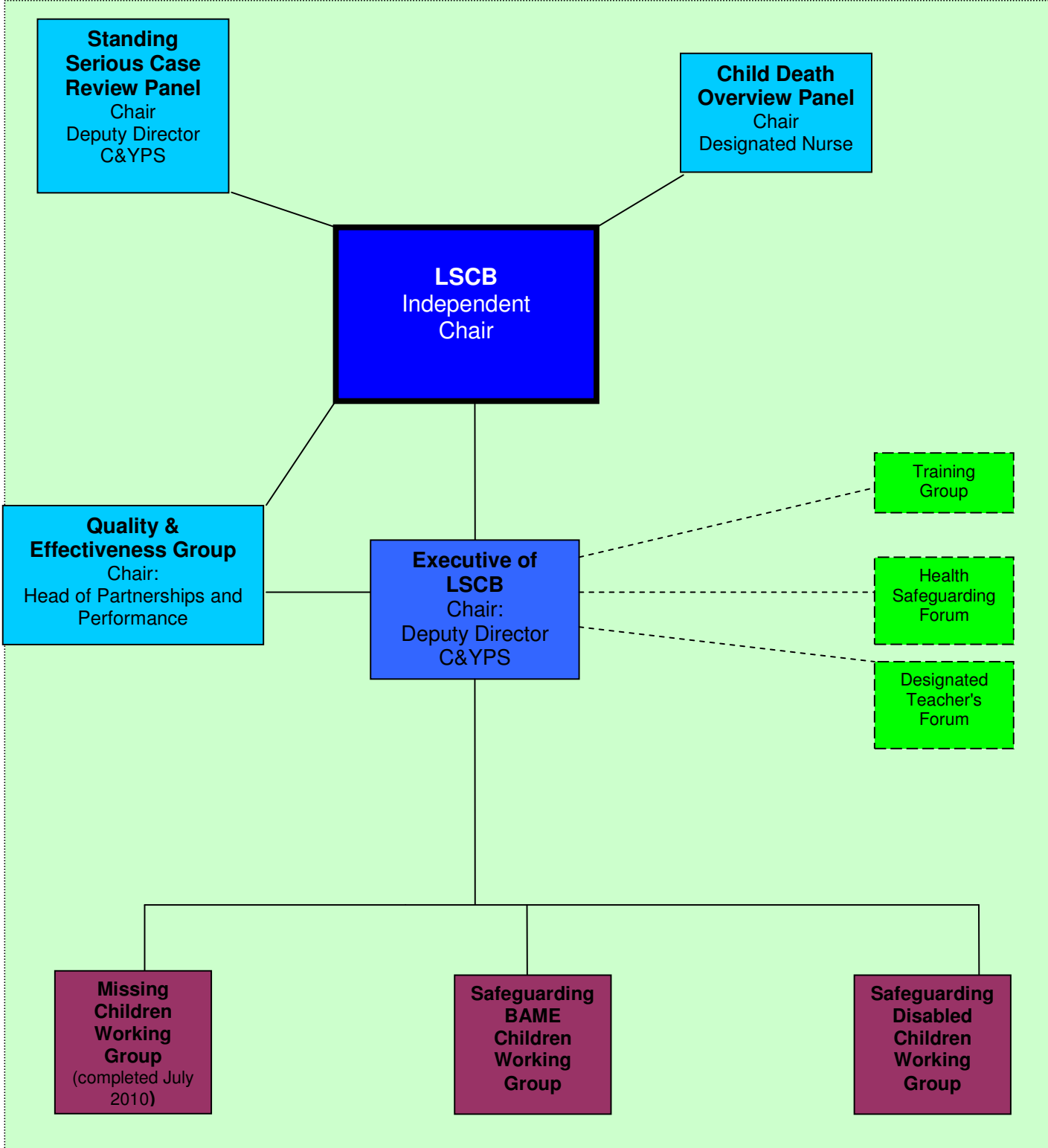
Liz Allen
LSCB Manager

Judi Moylan
LSCB Business Officer

The Executive of the LSCB has representatives from all partner agencies at senior manager level.

1.2 LSCB Structure 2010 - 11

Figure 1



1.3 Membership & Attendance

In August 2010 Brian Boxall was appointed as the Independent Chairman of the LSCB. This is under a 2 year contract.

As part of its governance arrangements attendance at the LSCB and its Executive is monitored and reported to the Board half yearly.

Attendance at the LSCB has been good with an average agency attendance of 80%, a slight improvement on the previous year. There has been with a turnover of agency representatives and this is likely to continue into the coming year as the changes in organisations brought about by restructuring planned by the Government and the current financial restraints. The commitment of agencies to ensure that they are represented at meetings is good however the impact of inconsistent membership will be monitored to ensure the effectiveness of the Board is not compromised. Unfortunately full membership from the Probation Service was not achieved in this year, in part due to the restructuring of the probation Service. This was taken forward by the Chairman and membership has been agreed.

The issues raised in the last Annual Report about the attendance at the Executive of the LSCB has continued with an average attendance of 59%. As with last year the attendance by all the main agencies has been good, however the engagement with the wider partnership continues to need more work. The membership of the Executive will be reviewed as the restructuring within agencies takes place over the coming year to ensure that these issues are addressed in a positive way.

Changes in the membership of both the Board and the Executive to ensure

that the requirements of Working Together 2010 are met have been achieved. The appointment of Lay Members is progressing and it is planned to have lay membership in place by April 2011 dependent on the suitability of those applying to join.

1.4 Governance Arrangements

T

The Governance Handbook, first produced in 2009, has been updated to take into account the appointment of the independent chairman and the changes to Working Together 2010. All Board and Executive Members are provided with a copy and it is available on the LSCB website.

Induction of new Board members has proved difficult because of the turnover of representatives and substitute members. An Induction Pack will be produced to ensure that all new members receive the correct documentation and they will continue to be offered an Induction Meeting. It is Board Members' responsibility to ensure that any substitute is fully briefed and aware of their role and responsibility when attending LSCB meetings.

Following the Training Needs Survey undertaken early in 2010 it was agreed that Board and Executive Members should have undertaken the following training in the last 2 years:

- Introduction to Safeguarding (available through ELearning)
- The required level of safeguarding training for their professional role
- Senior Managers Safeguarding Training

A follow up survey of training will be undertaken in April 2011 to gauge take up of training. Unfortunately the Senior Managers Training planned for 2010 had to be cancelled due to adverse

weather. A training plan for Lay Members has been agreed.

1.5 Relationship with the Children's Trust

Although there has been a change in the status of the Children's Trust it does continue to operate in Bexley. There is a commitment to an ongoing strong partnership for children and links with the shadow Health & Wellbeing Board are being developed.

The strengthening of the relationship has been taken forward in 2010-11 and will continue into the new arrangements as they develop. The LSCB Chairman sits on the CT Board and the LSCB Manager CT Executive Board.

The Annual Report and Business Plan of the LSCB is presented annually to the CT Board and it is also presented to the relevant LB Bexley Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The challenges outlined in the last LSCB Annual Report have been addressed through the work of CT and the working groups of the LSCB.

To strengthen the quality assurance arrangements between the LSCB & CT a framework has been developed to ensure that the work of the 2 Boards is co-ordinated and that areas for improvement are identified early without necessarily having to be taken forward formally through the Annual Report process. The details of this are covered in the Quality & Effectiveness section of this report. The Framework can be represented in figure 2.

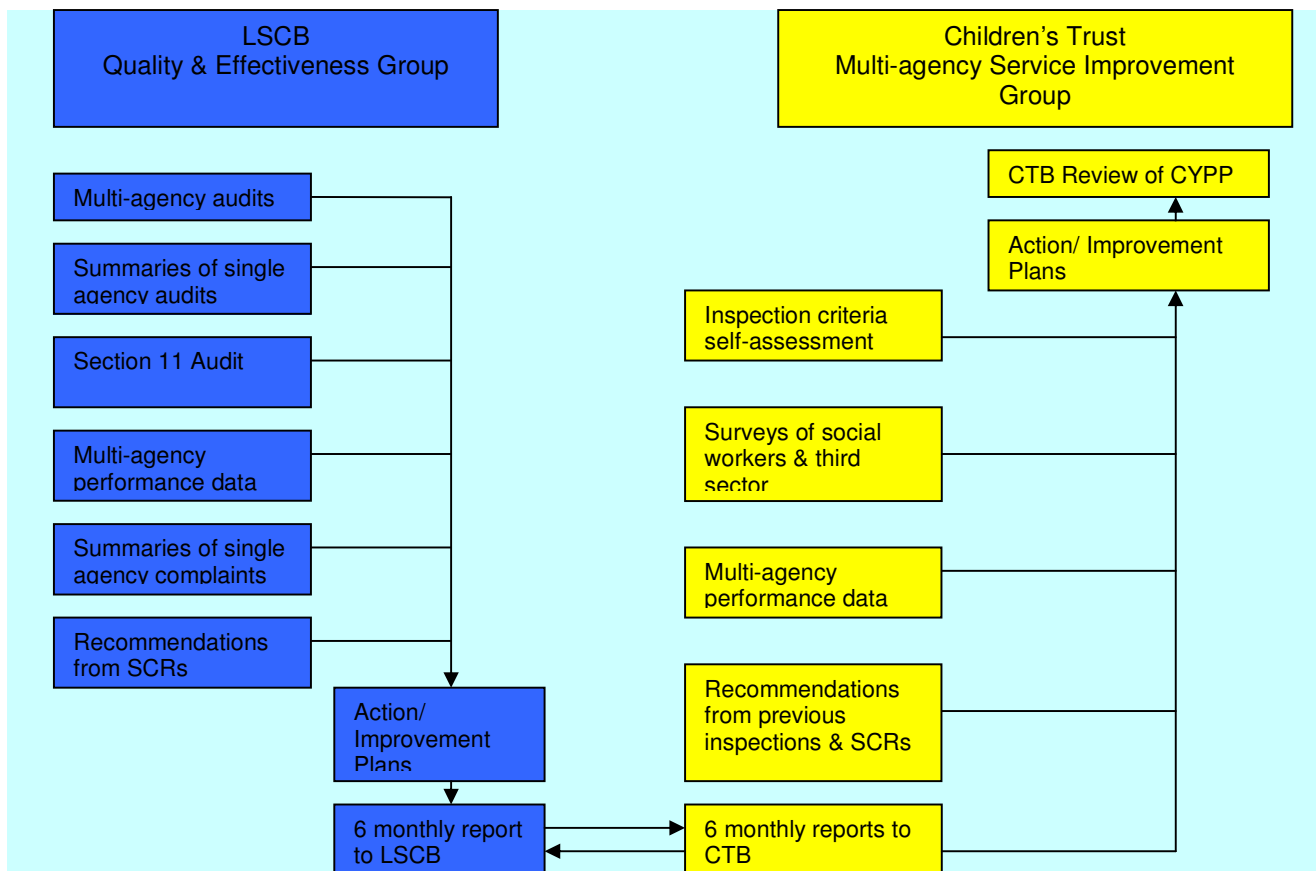


Figure 2

1.6 Pooled Budget

The LSCB operates a legally constituted Pooled Budget with contributions from the Council, Health, Community Safety Partnership, Metropolitan Police Authority, Probation and CAFCASS.

The contributions to the Pooled Budget are reviewed annually and it was agreed at the LSCB meeting in December 2010 that the contributions would be maintained at the 2009-10 level for the coming year. The impact of undertaking a Serious Case Review on the Pooled Budget will be regularly reviewed and any shortfall in the budget will be notified to the Chairman and Board Members.

The LSCB has joined the Bexley Schools Network for traded services in respect of the safeguarding training provided to schools. Charges will now be made for Academies, Independent Schools, the Further Education College and private providers attending LSCB training. Maintained schools will not be charged because of existing contributions. Charges for non-attendance at training is applied to all agencies excluding the voluntary sector.

The budget summary for 2010-11 is attached in appendix 1.

Section 2 – Quality and Effectiveness of Safeguarding in Bexley

This work is managed through the Quality & Effectiveness (Q&E) Group with the LSCB Manager overseeing the processes involved. The links with the Children's Trust quality assurance work is set out in figure 2 on page 8.

2.1 Q&E Strategic Plan

In September 2010 the LSCB reviewed its Q&E Strategic Plan. This review considered how to take forward the learning from the Q&E work undertaken and how to better embed an outcomes based approach. The cycle is represented in figure 3 on page 10.

The LSCB has undertaken to join the Local Government Improvement & Development (LGiD) Quality Assurance Framework that is being piloted across London. This will support the LSCB in developing this work further and agreeing outcomes statements for the work that can be measured. This work will provide a baseline for the coming year.

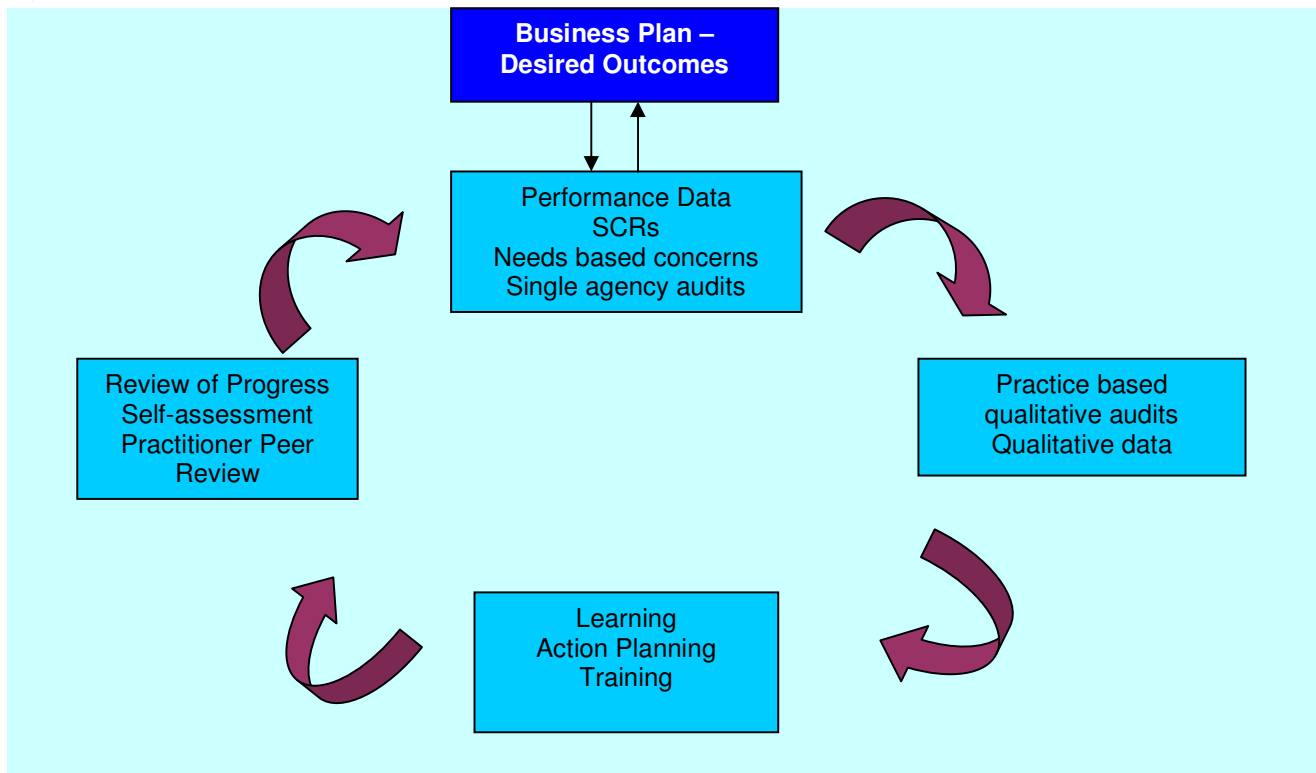
2.2 Child Protection Performance Management and Data

Appendix 2 includes child protection performance information and data and analysis. This data includes statistical neighbours comparison.

2.3 Priorities Identified in the Business Plan 2009-12

This report focuses on the work undertaken during this reporting year with reference to previous achievements reported in the first year of this plan as necessary.

Figure 3



2.3.1 Section 11 Audit

The LSCB has a responsibility to ensure partner agencies are discharging their duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and undertakes a biennial audit to scrutinise these arrangements.

Following the full audit undertaken in the autumn of 2009 a follow up audit was completed in May 2010. The resultant action plans have been monitored through the Q&E Group and signed off. Follow up visits by the LSCB Manager have been undertaken where it was identified specific support or advice would be helpful. Training needs have also been addressed.

The biennial audit will be repeated in the autumn of 2011. The audit will again take the form of self-assessment but will include questions on how agencies are

contributing to the business priorities and outcomes as well as procedures and processes. The requirements for evidence to support the audit will be tightened.

The section 11 audit is also complimented by annual safeguarding reports from partner agencies to the LSCB; Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust and Bexley Care Trust already provide these reports and opportunities to expand this annual reporting will be explored during 2011. This will be increasingly important as the restructuring of services and the financial pressures develop over the coming year.

Both these streams of information will provide the LSCB with evidence for decision making, planning and challenge across partner agencies.

2.3.2 Monitoring key outcomes and indicators on the strategic priorities

During 2010-11 the LSCB has developed a Safeguarding Report Book based on the priorities and outcomes set out in the current Business Plan. The data collected does have some multi-agency input as well as using the National Indicators. The Report Book is monitored through the Q&E Group and the first year's data will be used as the baseline for future analysis and planning. It is presented half-yearly to the LSCB.

As the reporting requirements from central government become clearer the performance data collected will be refined. This will enable the LSCB to agree with partner agencies the information that can/should be gathered to assist the LSCB in assessing the effectiveness of safeguarding in Bexley and progress against the agreed priorities. Joining the LGiD Quality The progress in the priority areas is considered in section 6.

2.3.3 Undertaking Practice Audits in relation to Responsive Safeguarding Priorities

The LSCB Business Plan is a 3 year plan with audits to be undertaken as the plan develops. To date the following work has been undertaken:

i) Planned Audit of Children under 2 years Presenting in A&E with Injuries.

This audit was completed in June 2010 and resulted from the findings of the serious case reviews. This audit was small scale and no child protection concerns were identified in the cases audited or in the larger sample from which these cases were taken. Overall practice was good particularly in relation to the appropriateness of referrals made and the response to those referrals by Children Social Care (CSC). The responses and decision making by CSC

was generally good. However there were areas for development.

The main area for development came from the lack of evidence of step up/step down processes. This impacted on both opportunities for early intervention and follow up planning after the incident that led to the A&E presentation. There was a lack of evidence of appropriate information sharing with the key professional i.e. the health visitor.

There were opportunities for joint working between health, particularly health visitors, and CSC in the assessments undertaken by CSC however it was not evidenced that this was happening in all cases.

The audit also identified an area of development in relation to the management of domestic abuse:

- Assessment of impact of domestic abuse on a child at an early intervention stage
- Analysis of the escalating nature of the domestic abuse and impact on children
- Analysis of risk factors

The learning from this review has been shared across agencies. The issues are being addressed through training and briefings. Management of domestic abuse and safeguarding is being taken forward as a priority area for the LSCB.

ii) Local Government Improvement & Development (LGiD) Peer Review

LB Bexley participated in the LGiD Peer Review programme in October 2010.

The LSCB fully participated in this review and co-led the multi-agency case mapping exercise. The key findings of the review for the LSCB included:

- Positive relationships between partners in the LSCB

- Established strong LSCB platform – structure, membership, reporting and governance
- Good investment in training and SCRs

However:

- The LSCB should provide a more strategic lead in raising aspirations of partners
- Partners need to provide each other with greater assurance and challenge
- More consideration of the ‘future landscape’ within which the LSCB is operating
- Consider opportunities for cross borough working

The findings showed a strong basis for safeguarding services in the Council and across the partnerships identifying

- good policy and planning
- strong leadership
- stable workforce
- effective practice.

Areas for ongoing development included:

- Need to ensure policy is consistently reflected in frontline services
- Forward planning is sufficiently robust to tackle emerging issues
- Equality and diversity practice needs to be more consistently applied
- Further development of strategic risk management
- Urgent need to address long-term ICT issues
- Improve engagement with schools in the safeguarding agenda
- Increase involvement of children and young people in service design
- Consistent application of thresholds and feedback to referrers
- Development of CAF through support and leadership
- Embedding of a more consistent approach to demonstrating outcomes for children

iii) Audit of Neglect Cases in Primary Age Children

This audit was delayed from the autumn to allow time to participate in the Peer Review and is now being completed in February/March 2011. The audit is involving 14 cases at 3 levels of interventions:

- 4 CAF cases
- 5 Section 17 cases
- 5 cases subject to Child Protection Plans

The audit will include health services, schools and children social care.

2.4 Single Agency Safeguarding Quality & Effectiveness Work

The Q&E Plan includes the reporting of single agency safeguarding audit outcomes that are reported to the LSCB in the notes of those meetings. This has so far included reports from health partners and local authority complaints. Further reports from agencies are timetabled for the year.

2.4.1 Health

Health services in Bexley have continued to experience exceptional change and transition to new organisations which will continue throughout 2011 and beyond. Inevitably this has challenged the stability of safeguarding arrangements and triggered closer scrutiny and inspection of them by the individual organisations, Bexley Care Trust as the commissioner, and the strategic health authority which will continue for the foreseeable future.

New arrangements for the commissioning of healthcare locally through the establishment of GP consortia is underway in preparation for the abolition of PCT's in 2013. Legislation will ensure section 11 duties are extended to the consortia. A shadow Health & Wellbeing Board has been set up.

South London Healthcare NHS Trust (SLHT) has continued to develop its services as a single hospital on three sites. Emergency services, midwifery and children's inpatient services have been moved from Queen Mary's Hospital (QMS) in Bexley to its Bromley and Woolwich hospital sites. An Urgent Care Centre and paediatric assessment unit have been developed at QMS. SLHT has increased resources to safeguarding children and continues to embed new arrangements across the organisation.

Universal children's services (health visiting and school nursing) separated entirely from Bexley Care Trust and merged with Oxleas Foundation NHS Trust in July 2010. An integration plan ensured the smooth merger of community provider services safeguarding arrangements. The integration presents new opportunities for joint working across Bexley to more effectively support families and safeguard children.

It is critical that local health services continue to assure the LSCB of safeguarding children accountability, safety, scrutiny and standards during and after transition to new arrangements. All provider trusts have an established programme of audit.

As part of the range of responses to the children's safeguarding agenda post baby Peter, NHS London established a Safeguarding Improvement Team (SIT). The aim of the initiative was to support the local NHS to maximise its work on safeguarding children and through a series of discussions, interviews and visits, to look at what is happening in practice, and to offer an outside perspective on any improvements that might be made.

The 2 day visit in February 2010 was hosted by Bexley Care Trust but also involved South London Healthcare NHS Trust (SLHT), Oxleas Foundation NHS Trust, Bexley Community Provider Unit and GP's. There was also involvement from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Executive Chairman, the Deputy Director for Children's Services at LB Bexley and senior social workers. The focus was specifically on the NHS response, in terms of improved services for children and improved assurance of good practice. Interface issues were discussed.

Overall the review team felt that services were safe. The team found a considerable commitment to safeguarding, with underlying stability around safeguarding. The team singled out particular services for praise:

- The Urgent Care Centre (at QMS) approach to risks with adolescents seeking sexual health advice
- The Pregnancy Support Team and the associated targeted antenatal visits by health visitors
- The developing assurance frameworks
- Training content and the focus on learning from recent serious case reviews.
- The Adult Mental Health attitude to and processes on safeguarding

Safeguarding children service standards are monitored in all GP practices. All practices have identified a lead GP for safeguarding and have appropriate procedures in place. 90% of GP's have attended safeguarding children training. Bexley Care Trust also commission/ contract services from dentists, pharmacists, optometrists. These services have been sent details of arrangements which need to be in place and flow charts detailing who to contact if they have a concern about a child.

2.4.2 Children Social Care

To improve the outcomes for children and young people, a programme of monitoring performance data and auditing continues to underpin the work of Children's Social Care. This includes monthly performance monitoring meetings with Child Care Unit managers chaired by Head of Service and a monthly meeting of all Children's Social Care managers to consider performance issues. This programme is designed to be more effective in monitoring safeguarding practice, performance and outcomes for children, and identify any areas of concern or development at an earlier stage. The Partnerships & Performance Team provide data giving real time progress in relation to National Indicators, enabling managers to take appropriate actions where necessary.

Audit activity with Children Social Care has included:

- Monthly programme of Senior Manager Audits undertaken by Deputy Directors and Heads of Service in Children's Social Care meeting with staff to review randomly selected cases and discuss the work being undertaken. This process has also involved senior managers meeting with young people on a 1-1 basis to talk about their experience of being looked after by the Council.
- Audit by Service Manager for Quality Assurance of all Privately Fostered case files found that they were in line with legislative expectations
- Auditing work in the Disabled Children's Service, the Child Care Units and in the preparation work for the anticipated inspection of Fostering Services.

Children's Services has also commissioned two pieces of work from the London Regional Safeguarding Advisor (LRSA) at London Councils. In August 2010 the LRSA, in conjunction

with the Service Manager Quality Assurance, undertook a review of the Duty Teams in both Child Care Units, following up from the findings of the 2009 Ofsted unannounced inspection. The findings were that there continued to be:

- Good morale
- Positive team behaviour
- Generally stable workforce
- Good support, especially for NQSW's
- Generally good relationships with partners
- Evidence of a learning culture and commitment to continuous improvement.

In November the LRSA undertook a review of the fostering service as a precursor to the Ofsted Fostering Inspection expected in 2011, resulting in a comprehensive support plan to address areas for development. Measuring against the National Minimum Standards, the headline findings were:

- Service was well organised and provided a wide range of evidence for the review.
- Many safeguarding elements were met but there are some National Standards for which better evidence is required
- There is an urgent need for a comprehensive needs analysis to underpin the development of a sufficiency statement and both recruitment of carers by the LA to meet need and relationships with independent sector providers.

The second unannounced Ofsted Inspection of Contact, Referral & Assessment took place in October 2010. There were no priority areas identified, some areas for development but predominantly the following strengths were noted:

- The design and delivery of the contact and assessment service ensures very effective and timely support from senior staff to front line practitioners. This enables robust decision making and prompt responses to referrals about the safeguarding needs of children and young people.
- The local authority gives priority to high quality training and induction. These developmental opportunities are valued by staff and they contribute to updating.

As outlined above LB Bexley commissioned a 5 day Peer Review from Local Government Improvement & Development in October 2010, it's key finding was that:

“Overall performance is strong and we saw nothing during the onsite work to contradict that view. Therefore the focus of our feedback was on assisting you to both sustain and enhance your current levels of performance.”

Children's Services across Bexley will be subject to a 10 day Announced Inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in the next twelve months examining safeguarding services and those to Looked After Children and the Council are working with partner agencies to prepare for this inspection

2.4.3 Schools

Schools that had not participated in the first audit under Section 175 Education Act 2002 (equivalent to S11) were invited to do so in May 2010 resulting in 70% of schools participating in the audit. All schools that participated are working to address any issues raised and in most cases actions are complete. Those schools that did not participate will be offered a safeguarding visit by the Safeguarding Children (education) Co-

ordinator to discuss their safeguarding arrangements.

Work on the quality assurance of schools' safeguarding policies and procedures has continued, this has included ensuring that the policies and procedures used by special schools are sufficiently robust to address any additional needs of their students.

2.4.4 Voluntary Sector

The involvement of the voluntary sector in the LSCB through Bexley Voluntary Service Council has remained high with representation on the LSCB, its Executive, Standing SCR Panel and the Quality & Effectiveness Group as well as working groups. BVSC Partnership Officer has been working on safeguarding standards for affiliated organisations which will lead to the awarding of a local safeguarding kitemark for those who meet the Safe Network Standards.

2.5 Areas of Strengths and Areas for Improvement in Safeguarding

The work of the LSCB in respect of quality and effectiveness has been focused, over the past year, on improving safeguarding across the range of presenting needs. The focus provided by the 3 year Business Plan has allowed for a planned approach. However it must be acknowledged that this work can only continue with the commitment from partner agencies to provide staff and resources with which to undertake this work. The capacity of all partner agencies in the last year has been stretched by the demands from an increasing local level of need and the demands placed on them by central government and inspection regimes. This is now compounded by the pressure from the fast moving changes in structure being brought about by the government e.g. the Health White Paper, School White Paper and the

financial constraints. This has led to some delay in implementing planned audits and realistic timescales for the work of the LSCB do need to be in place. The plans set out in this report take into account the capacity of the LSCB to undertake this work and consider priorities over the coming year.

The work of the Q&E Group, the findings of the Peer Review and the Unannounced Inspection of Contact , Referral and Assessment Arrangements has shown a good level of safeguarding practice on which to build. The application of thresholds and the quality of assessment is at a good level however these processes have identified areas for further work, these include:

- Early intervention – relatively low levels of CAF, improved evidence on effectiveness of CAFs and outcomes for children
- Police Merlins – a system for the sharing of information contained in Merlins that do not meet the criteria for Children Social Care (CSC) with the relevant agency is not yet fully in place with the responsibility remaining with CSC to process all Merlins including those that do not meet their thresholds

- Domestic Abuse – management of cases and care planning for children who live with domestic abuse
- Alcohol & substance misuse by young people – the Substance Misuse Strategy highlights the need for engagement with A&E staff in the care pathway to be strengthened.

The work being undertaken by the LSCB on the Quality Assurance Framework will support the development of clear outcomes for these areas that can be monitored to demonstrate improvement.

Section 3 Serious Case Reviews (SCR)

3.1 Panel Arrangements

The Standing Serious Case Review (SCR) Panel has met regularly in 2010-11. The independent audit of a case started early in 2010 by the Standing SCR Panel has been completed. This case did not meet the criteria for an SCR however the Panel felt there was learning to be achieved in respect of the management of the case. The findings of this case audit were shared with Greenwich LSCB because of cross borough issues.

The Panel has monitored the Action Plans from the previous SCRs completed in 2009 and recommended their signing off. It has also overseen the publication of the Executive Summaries of these SCRs on the completion of the criminal proceedings.

3.2 SCR's Undertaken during the Year

The decision to undertake a SCR has been made in February 2011 and an SCR Panel has established with an independent chairman. The SCR will be completed in August 2011.

Section 4 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

4.1 Panel Arrangements

The CDOP has met quarterly through the year. There continues to be a vacancy in Public Health and the chairing has been taken over by the Designated Nurse.

4.2 CDOP Annual Report

The CDOP provided an Annual Report that was considered by the LSCB in December 2010. This report considered all deaths notified since the introduction of CDOP in April 2008 in order to provide an overview of any trends. The main findings of this report included:

- Aggregated learning is limited because of low numbers
- Quality of reports to CDOP were variable
- Poor recording of ethnicity
- Need to develop the database for child deaths to allow for systematic recording of the CDOP considerations
- Trends are difficult to identify because of the small numbers but family vulnerability, co-sleeping and temporary accommodation may be a common contributory factor in unexpected deaths

4.3 Child Death Data 2010-2011

Number of Deaths - April 10-Feb '11		8
Deaths Deemed to be Unexpected		4
Deaths Deemed to be Expected		4
Gender		F 5 M 3
Age	Ethnicity	
Birth - 2 Years	White/British	4
	Black/African	1
2-5 years	Mixed heritage	1
5-10 years	White/British	1
	Black/African	1
10-18 years	White/British	0

During this year CDOP has considered 13 child deaths, this includes 8 cases where the death occurred in the previous year. Of these 4 deaths were considered to have modifiable factors that may have reduced the risk of dying.

4.4 Learning From CDOP Cases

As the number of child deaths in the borough is low learning from trends is difficult, however, there have been individual cases that have highlighted specific areas from which learning could be drawn. Professional briefings have been provided to address specific issues:

- Falls from windows
- Dangers of garden ponds and drowning

If there are safeguarding practice issues identified this information is shared with the Training Group to ensure any learning is embedded in the LSCB Training Courses.

Section 5 Standing Work of the LSCB in Relation to its Functions

5.1 Thresholds, Policies and Procedures

The LSCB has continued to review all its policies, procedures and professional guidance to ensure that it is up to date and fit for purpose. The following have been produced this year:

- Inter-agency Protocol for Working with Children Living with Domestic Violence
- Problem Solving Protocol between all Agencies and Children Social Care
- Children Social Care & Adult Mental Health – Working Together to Meet the Needs of Children & their Families – Information for Professionals
- Child Protection – What has it got to do with you? A guide for parents when disciplining their children.

The following procedures have been revised and updated:

- Multi-agency Protocol to Safeguard Children whose Parents have Mental Health Problems
- Managing Allegations Protocols and Procedures

Further work is ongoing to develop multi-agency protocols for safeguarding children whose parents misuse substances.

As well as being on the LSCB website all LSCB policies and procedures are now available on the children social care Tri-X web-based procedures, updated 6 monthly, and the LB Bexley schools' portal, this includes the safeguarding procedure templates for schools.

The LSCB has ensured all agencies and organisations have been made aware of the changes to the London Child Protection Procedures (version 4) made in November 2010 and the LSCB Training Officer has provided briefings when requested.

5.2 Safer Recruitment and Managing Allegations

The LSCB has continued to offer training on both these areas. The Section 11 audit covers these areas of responsibility and any follow up recommended has been completed through the Action Plan.

5.2.1 Managing Allegations data

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) presented the half-yearly report on managing allegations in December 2010. The main findings identified in this report included:

- Number of referrals relating to allegations against those working with children has decreased slightly in the period (see table on page 19)
- The percentage of cases that lead to the allegation being proven is low with the majority either not being accepted as an allegation referral following consultation with the LADO or that they are unfounded or unsubstantiated
- Schools and foster carers tend to have the highest referral rate because of the nature of their work i.e. direct work with children and young people.

Recommendations included:

- All LSCB organisations to assure themselves that they have robust policies in place to meet statutory requirements
- Fostering Panel to review cases where there has been an allegation against a foster carer in a timely way
- Undertake a promotion campaign across agencies lead by the LADO

Managing Allegation Data April-December

	April – December	2009	2010
	Total Number of referrals/consultations	42	39
Source of Referral	Early Years	10	3
	Schools	10	12
	Health	3	1
	Social Care	0	0
	Sport Settings	2	2
	Residential Units	4	0
	Foster Carers	9	9
	Transport	3	0
	Other	1	12
Outcome	Not accepted as Allegation Referral	7	8
	Unfounded	9	6
	Unsubstantiated	5	6
	Malicious	1	6
	Sec 47 Enquiry	7	19
	Police/prosecution	1	1
	HR Action/Training	6	5
	Suspended during enquiries	9	12
	Referred to Ofsted/Fostering Panel etc	11	6
	Referred to ISA	0	4
Category NB Not reported in 2009	Emotional		2
	Neglect		2
	Physical		20
	Sexual		14
Timescale in which Enquiries Completed	1-4 weeks	27	24
	4-8 weeks	1	3
	8-12 weeks	1	5
	3-6 months	2	5
	Incomplete	11	7

5.3 Safeguarding in Education

5.3.1 Training and Development

The high level of engagement of schools through the role of the Safeguarding Children (Education) Co-ordinator has continued. 99% of schools have accessed whole school training through the Co-ordinator in the last 3 years and 80% Designated Child Protection (CP) Teachers have undertaken Group C training in the last 2 years. There is now a rolling programme in place to ensure schools can access training and plan effectively. All new staff joining schools in the

intervening period, including NQTs, are offered safeguarding training through joint school sessions. 99.5% of school staff evaluated training as good or excellent.

The Designated CP Teacher's Forum continues to meet termly and has developed into a very active group with opportunity for briefings and sharing of good practice. Workshops are also offered on a half-termly basis on specific safeguarding issues. The support provided by the Co-ordinator has been included in the Bexley Schools' Network brochure, there will be a charge for Academies, the FE College and Independent schools from 1 April 2011 to contribute to salary cost recovery.

5.3.2 Quality & Effectiveness

80% of schools inspected since June 2009 when the safeguarding element of the inspection was strengthened have been evaluated as being good or outstanding for safeguarding, none have been found to be inadequate.

The requirements of safeguarding policies and procedures for special schools has been reviewed and updated templates have been provided for all special schools in the borough. A regular safeguarding meeting between special schools and Children Social Care has been established facilitated by the Co-ordinator.

The Action Plan from the Section 175 Education Act 2002 Audit (s11 CA 2004) has been monitored and action completed by schools. 70% of schools contributed to the audit, those that did not are to be offered a safeguarding visit and invited to contribute to the next audit planned for the autumn of 2011.

5.4 Private Fostering

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, for 28 days or more. The LSCB has a responsibility to monitor the arrangements for private fostering to ensure children in this group are safeguarded. Private fostering arrangements are often transient with children moving in and

out of the definition due to changes in their circumstances. Private fostering arrangements can end due to a variety of reasons, the most common being: returning home to a birth parent, the child reaching 16 years old, the person caring for them making an application to the Family Court and attaining a Residence Order or Special Guardianship Order which confers parental responsibility on the carer and thus ends the arrangement.

The LB Bexley currently has five children recorded as being privately fostered. Four of these children have been privately fostered for over one year and of these, two have been privately fostered for more than four years. The most recent addition is a child who has moved into the area with his carer from another local authority. The ages of the children range from 7 years old to 15 years old. The children are from a range of ethnic backgrounds. None of the children is registered disabled.

The reasons for the children being privately fostered include: a mother with mental health difficulties unable to care for her child and the child being brought up by the extended family; an adult relationship breaking down in which the male carer had parental responsibility for the child but the child has remained living with the female carer; a child with a mother in prison abroad with no details known about the father.

The cases are held in the Child Care Units and are subject to regular visits by allocated workers. In one case the local authority has assisted the family in making an application to court to obtain a Residence Order. As stated above all cases involving private fostering have been audited in the past year by the Quality Assurance Manager.

There is ongoing work to publicise the duties in respect of private fostering through briefings to practitioners and agencies as well as through training and information on the Council website. A protocol for the monitoring of possible cases of private fostering for the Schools Admission Team has been developed, this will be launched early in 2011-12.

5.5 Youth Justice

In order to strengthen arrangements the Deputy Director from LB Bexley responsible for Youth & Inclusion Services has joined the LSCB.

In 2010-11 Bexley Youth Offending (YOT) submitted its capacity and capability self-assessment to the Youth Justice Board (YJB). Following this YOT was visited by the YJB as part of the validation process and judged to be '*performing well against National Indicators with good capacity to sustain and improve*'. As part of the self-assessment the YOT Management Board identified a number of areas for improvement which informed the strategic priorities within the 2010-11 Youth Justice Strategic Plan and the operational action plans underpinning it. The ongoing work includes better use of data analysis to manage risk, vulnerability and service resources for young offenders and to improve the use of these reports to inform key services and Boards including the LSCB.

This year also saw the introduction and implementation of the YOT Triage One Project which offers an alternative to a police reprimand for young people arrested for the first time for less serious offences. This presents a real opportunity to increase restorative justice to victims whilst enabling intervention at an earlier stage to assess the needs of these young people, ultimately with the aim to keep them out of the criminal justice system and to keep them safe. Early results of triage look positive with a total of 50 young people receiving a triage assessment and intervention and offering a restorative outcome to their victims.

5.6 Adult Mental Health

Children Social Care (CSC) and Adult Mental Health Services have worked together to produce the leaflet "*Children's Social Care and Adult Mental Health, Working together to meet the needs of Children and their Families - Information for Professionals*". This work was publicised through team meeting exchanges. Joint seminars have been planned for the coming year to address the following issues:

- Impact of parental mental health on childhood development
- Adolescent mental health and substance misuse

In January 2011 Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust held its first practitioner's forum for children's champions. There are now children's champions in most integrated teams and on the wards. The forum will provide the opportunity to share best practice and to ensure children's issues are raised in all practice areas.

5.7 Adult Drug & Alcohol Services

Work has been undertaken to strengthen the LSCB's links with Adult Drug & Alcohol Services and an inter-agency protocol is being developed. The representative on the LSCB has remained with the Deputy Director for Social & Community Services however the manager of a provider service has now joined the Executive of the LSCB. This is an area for further development in 2011-12.

5.8 Training

The high take up of LSCB multi-agency training has continued with 950 delegates accessing training. Although this is a slight reduction on last year it can be explained by achieving a 'catch up' in staff trained in the previous year that had resulted additional training sessions being provided. Over 95% of courses have been evaluated as good or outstanding and follow up surveys on the impact of training are being undertaken but with low return rates, this is being addressed by personal follow up by the LSCB Training Officer. Non attendance on training remains high with 20% of delegates either cancelling or failing to attend.

The multi-agency Training Group works with the LSCB Training Officer to co-ordinate and ensure consistency across all the training provided, the LSCB does rely heavily on its partner agencies to provide staff time to deliver the level of training we are able to offer.

It has been possible to commission extra and new training while keeping within the budget for two reasons. Firstly, in agreement with the

training group, freelance trainers fees have been capped at £600 daily, there were 3 trainers charging above that. 1 provider has been lost as a result however they have been replaced. Secondly our charging for non-attendance policy has been more rigorously enforced this year- charging £50 per day for non-attenders. Money coming in to the budget throughout the year has allowed us some flexibility (e.g. commissioning an extra Group C for March 2010 to meet extra demand)

Progress includes:

- The Group B has been condensed into 1 day to enable more people to participate. A Group B refresher course is being written as a response to feedback about need for updating training.
- Group A and C refreshers introduced.
- A new course on Safeguarding and Early Intervention will be introduced in 2011-12
- The course on Safeguarding for Supervisors will be run in two parts - an introductory training followed 6 months later by a higher level supervising complex safeguarding practice course.
- Work on the Common Induction will continue in 2011-12, this is being undertaken with Children's Workforce Development. An induction package for all new council employees will include completing the six Safeguarding Children modules on ilearn
- Due to staff turnover the LSCB has lost some experienced trainers but 3 new trainers have completed the Train the Trainer course. A further Train the Trainer course has been jointly commissioned with Bromley, Lewisham and Greenwich. Participants have been identified from health, children centres and fostering and adoption
- Child Sexual Exploitation training will be increased to a full day. The training will also focus on gang culture
- 1 day course on HIV awareness with a focus on safeguarding children and the impact on parenting has been commissioned.

The Training Brochure & Business Plan will be available on the LSCB website from April 2011.

Section 6 Progress On Strategic Priorities

The LSCB is working to its 3 year Business Plan and the priorities were identified, these were initially reviewed in the last Annual Report. A summary of ongoing progress is included below. The LSCB is working to develop the outcomes based approach to assessing what difference its work achieves.

At the Annual Report and Business Planning workshop held by the LSCB in February 2011 a full assessment of progress against the priorities was made using an outcomes analysis. This document will provide the basis for further development under the LGiD Quality Assurance Framework pilot.

6.1 Progress in Achieving Our Objectives

Objectives	Planned Actions	Progress to date
1. Safeguarding as a priority for all working with children and adults who may be parents/carers enhanced by good access to LSCB Multi-agency Training	Increase the availability and take up of training.	Small decrease in take up of training 100% increase in take up of E learning package Review of courses to ensure they are up to date & fit for purpose Whole school programme in place Designated CP Teacher's Training
2. Provision of clear information on Thresholds	Development of Continuum of Need Approach	Embedding of Continuum of Need To be reviewed & updated by September 2011 Ongoing work to embed an early intervention response to Police Merlins through agency single points of contact and effective triaging
3. Development of a clear set of standards for CAFs ensuring a holistic child focused approach is taken to the assessment of risk and need. Increasing the number of CAFs completed.	Review of CAF in Bexley completed Recommendations agreed in principal by LSCB & CT Integration of CA & TAC into safeguarding training	CAF database established on Education Management System with LB Bexley Enabling quality reports to be run & monitored CAF process being streamlined- launch delayed until Munro reports in April 2011 Additional training course on early intervention to be included in LSCB programme 2011-12
4. Continue work to improve joint assessment between adult services and those for children	Training Protocols Practice Guidance	LSCB Training Programme Inter-agency Protocol for Working with Children Living with Domestic Violence Children Social Care & Adult Mental Health, Working Together to Meet the Needs of Children & their Families – Information for Professionals Following procedures have been revised and updated: Multi-agency Protocol to Safeguard Children whose Parents have Mental Health Problems LSCB linked with Domestic Violence Forum and MARAC Further work with Adult Drug & Alcohol services is required
5. Embedding the use of risk assessment tools such as the Domestic Abuse Matrix	Briefings & Training	Ongoing work to raise awareness of DV Risk Assessment Training in LSCB Training Programme

Objectives	Planned Actions	Progress to date
		See also point 4 above
6. Ensuring quality of social work assessment & multi-agency interventions remains at a high standard	Training Audits	LSCB Training Programme Quality & Effectiveness Multi-agency auditing CSC Audits
7. Checklist for health professionals for assessment of young children particularly those with injuries	Bexley Care Trust to develop checklist	Checklist in place and now adopted by SLHT for use in A&E
8. Improved use of chronologies across agencies to record history of concerns	Agreed standard format to be explored and rolled out	Key Incident front sheet produced for use in schools Also being developed by Children Centres
9. Undertaking appropriate auditing of safeguarding practice at different levels of need	Quality & Effectiveness Group to lead on this work	A&E Audit Peer Review Mapping Neglect Audit
10. Undertake a section 11 Children Act 2004 audit in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children	Quality & Effectiveness Group to lead on this work	Completed see section 2 To be repeated in autumn 2011

6.2 Targeted Safeguarding

Targeted safeguarding includes groups of children who have additional needs that may make them more at risk of harm and for whom targeted policies and services are required to keep them safe and reduce the risk of their problems escalating.

Working Groups were established to lead on this work and the progress is set out in the table below. The setting of performance measures for this work is a challenge and the LSCB has been working with the LB Bexley's Partnerships and Performance Manager to develop this and progress on this has been reported at the LSCB

Priority Areas	Progress
1. Children who Go Missing from Home or Care	LSCB Working Group has been 'mainstreamed' and is now chaired by Head of Service
2. E-safety & Safeguarding in the Digital World Work to be embedded in all aspects of safeguarding children Focus on safeguarding all children in relation to cyber-bullying Safeguarding referrals involving technology to be monitored	Included in the Strategy for Combating Bullying and Discriminatory Behaviour. Anti-bullying team now lead on this work Issues also being considered through Children with Disability Group & BAME Group Referrals on allegations being monitored – very low percentage Foster Carer's Conference on Safeguarding and Social Networking Not possible to run reports for referrals involving technology but this is not identified to be an issue at that level of intervention.
3. Safeguarding Needs of Disabled Children & Those with Complex Needs	Working Group now established, has several workstreams looking at different levels of need. Work to be completed by summer of 2011

Priority Areas	Progress
<p>4. Safeguarding Needs of BAME Children</p>	<p>Working Group now established, several workstreams being developed. Erith School leading on developing a PHSE module for use in secondary schools Contributing to pan London work with the Safeguarding Children (Education) Co-ordinator being seconded to London Councils 2 days per week.</p>
<p>5. Alcohol Misuse by Young People Development of care pathways for early intervention as well higher level services through CAF Developing links with schools, health and youth services to raise awareness of issues</p>	<p>This work was being lead by the Integrated Youth Service and the work of the CAMHS Joint Commissioning & the Youth Substance Misuse Boards - the number of young people requiring London Ambulance Services because of intoxication remains high in comparison with other London boroughs therefore this remains a priority for the LSCB.</p>

Section 7 Conclusions, Recommendations & Business Planning

7.1 Conclusions

Overall this year has been a productive and effective period for the LSCB. The work on improving governance has continued with the appointment of an independent chairman. The commitment of partners to the work of the LSCB remains high and the scrutiny and challenge role is developing more effectively.

The progress against the Business Plan has continued and work initiated by the LSCB has been mainstreamed where appropriate. The challenge remains to demonstrate improved outcomes as a result of the work of the LSCB, often these will be long term but short term achievements can also be measured and the participation in the LGiD Quality Assurance Framework will support the LSCB in this work.

The links with the Children's Trust particularly around multi-agency improvement has been beneficial and the work of the Quality & Effectiveness Group is key to this. This will continue with the wider partnership through any changes to Children's Trust and the development of the health & Wellbeing Board.

The LSCB continues to be a reflective body and is aware of the areas for development in its work. The challenges arising from the fast moving changes to public services will require a proactive response from partners to ensure that the high quality safeguarding work in Bexley is not compromised and remains a priority for all partner agencies. In response to this need the LSCB is developing a 'Risk Register' to monitor these strategic areas.

7.2 Issues and Recommendations

The work to safeguard children in Bexley is effective and there are examples of good practice and outcomes for children as borne out by the audits, Unannounced Inspection and Peer Review. However we do need to

continually re-appraise the work and consider where there are areas of development and improvement. The areas for development identified in the body of the report will be taken forward in the revised Business Plan outlined below. The recommendations include:

- Further work on the governance of the LSCB
- Continuation of the work to develop an outcomes based approach with effective performance management
- Priority areas of need including:
 - Domestic Violence
 - Alcohol misuse by young people
 - Early intervention including the CAF and Police Merlins
 - Engagement with Adult Drug and Alcohol Services
 - Information sharing

7.3 Issues to be Taken to Children's Trust

The closer working relationship between the LSCB and the Children's Trust has allowed for improved level of communication and challenge throughout the year. The issues that continue to require the attention of both Boards are:

- Impact of public services changes, legislation changes and financial constraints on children's services including safeguarding
- Embedding of early intervention, the common assessment and team around the child and the mapping of services

7.4 Updated Business Plan

The 3 year Business Plan developed in 2009 still has a year to run and its objectives and priorities in the main remain entirely appropriate. As outlined above there are some areas for change or development and the LSCB held a special workshop involving members of the Board and its Executive in February 2011 to consider this planning as well as reviewing progress to date.

7.4.1 Governance of LSCB

- Review of membership of the LSCB & Executive to take into account changes in public services to ensure all key partners are represented appropriately
- Poor attendance at Executive meetings to be addressed directly with those partners where an issue has been identified
- Improved induction with packs for all new Board members
- Training survey for LSCB & Executive members to be repeated to ensure training is up to date
- Consider how agendas for Board & Executive meetings can be better planned to reduce length of agendas/paperwork to ensure opportunity for discussion and challenge is in place.

7.4.2 Quality & Effectiveness Work

- Participation in the LGiD Quality Assurance Framework pilot and explore opportunities to agree joint outcomes with LSCBs in Greenwich and Bromley for partner agencies that span all 3 LSCBs
- Expand single agency reporting to the LSCB through Annual Safeguarding Reports
- Review performance indicators and further develop performance safeguarding dashboard

7.4.3 Areas of Priority Need

- **Domestic Violence**
Outcome: 'Children and their families are able to access support/help when domestic violence is first identified to reduce its impact'
 - Continue close working with DV Forum & MARAC
 - Work to improve response to domestic violence and in the planning of interventions
 - Agree outcomes statements that will enable the LSCB to monitor effectiveness of interventions

- **Alcohol Misuse in Young People**

Outcome: 'For all young people in Bexley to be knowledgeable about alcohol and its effects'

- Build on work being undertaken by Integrated Youth Services and CAMHS
- Work with schools & voluntary sector on alcohol education
- Establish care pathways for young people presenting in A&E intoxicated
- Agree outcomes statements that will enable the LSCB to monitor effectiveness of interventions

- **Early Identification of Need and Risk**

Outcome: 'Children are able to access support/help when they first need it in order to prevent future abuse'

- Lead strategic approach to embedding common assessment (dependent on outcome of Munro Report)
- Support development of virtual triaging of Merlins through single points of contact in key agencies
- Requesting the mapping of services through the Children's Trust
- Agree outcomes statements that will enable the LSCB to monitor effectiveness of interventions

- **Engagement with Adult Drug and Alcohol Services**

- Continue to work with adult services to develop and strengthen working relationship with children's services in particular in relation to the common assessment and Children Social Care

- **Information sharing**

- Review current information sharing protocols and revise to enable multi-agency triaging of early intervention and police merlins
- Review practice on information sharing that may be blocking effective processes such as step up/step down.

Appendix 1 – Financial Statement April 2010 – February 2011

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

POOLED FUND STATEMENT - 2010/11

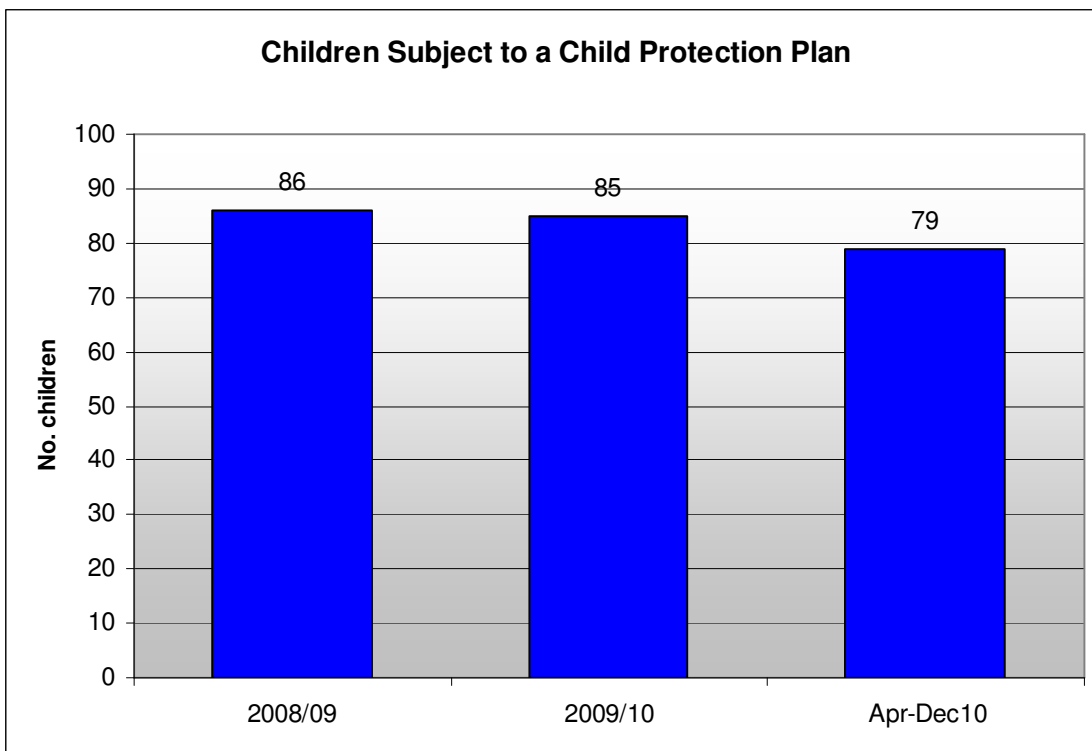
	BUDGET £	ACTUAL TO FEBRUARY 2011 £	PROJECTED OUTTURN £
<u>INCOME</u>			
Contributions from Partners:			
Children's and Young People's Services	-108,000	-108,000	-108,000
Community Safety	-10,000	0	-10,000
Bexley Care Trust	-41,000	-41,000	-41,000
Metropolitan Police	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000
Probation	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000
CAFCASS	-550	-550	-550
Other income			
TOTAL INCOME	-166,550	-156,550	-166,550
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Staff Costs	94,000	89,932	98,000
Training	17,000	13,214	17,000
Events and Publicity			
Conference	5,000	577	1,000
Publications	5,000		0
Publicity	1,500	774	1,500
Other	0	-467	-500
Serious Case Review	15,000	14,378	17,000
Commissioning	5,000		0
Independent Chair of LSCB	11,000	3,454	5,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	153,500	121,863	139,500
BUDGETED/ PROJECTED DEFICIT FOR YEAR	-13,050	-34,687	-27,050
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS B/FWD FROM 2009/10	-29,489	-29,489	-29,489
<u>NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURE FROM THE SURPLUS</u>			
To be determined			
PROJECTED SURPLUS / DEFICIT AS AT FEBRUARY 2011	-42,539	-64,176	-56,539

Appendix 2 – Child Protection Performance Management Data

The purpose of this section is to give an overview of performance in terms of child protection and some aspects of the wider safeguarding agenda covered by National Indicators. This is a snapshot of the data

available through the LB Bexley Partnerships and Performance Team. The LSCB has strong links with this team and the Head of Partnerships and Performance chairs the LSCB Quality & Effectiveness Group.

Graph 1



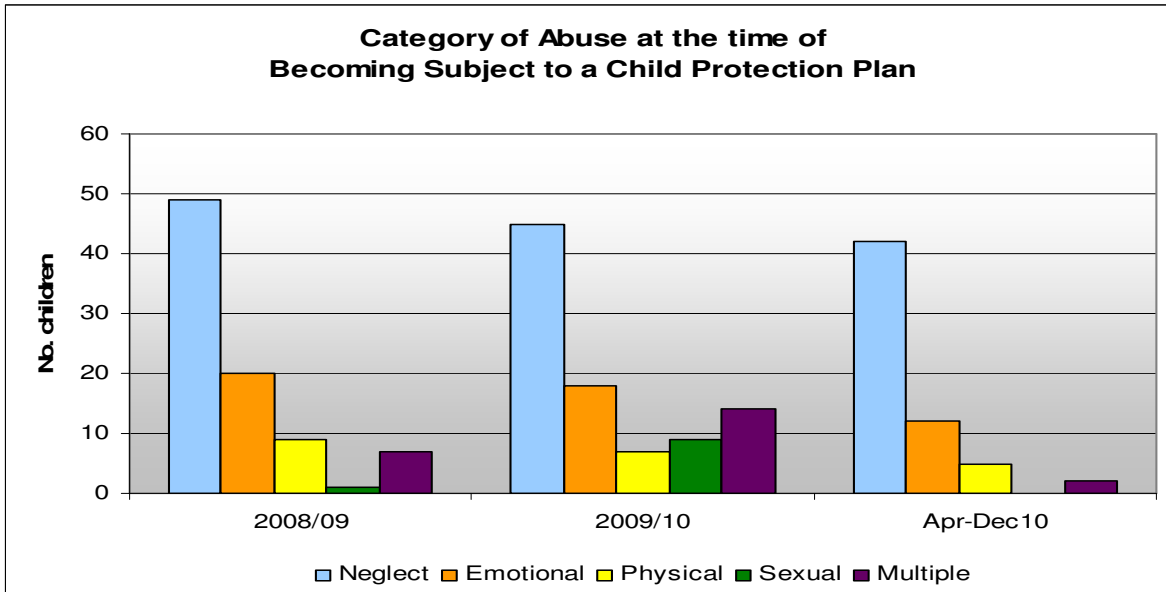
Following an increase in the numbers of children subject to a plan in previous years Graph 1 shows a slight decrease in these numbers as Children Social Care have

been more proactive in taking cases into proceedings to secure children's futures at an earlier stage.

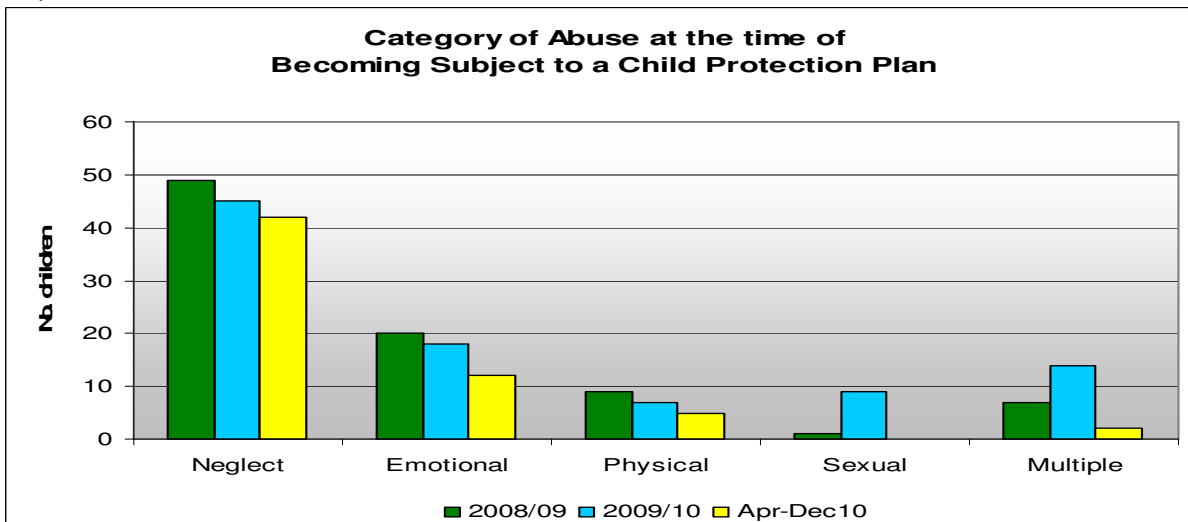
Graphs 2 & 3 provide information on the Child Protection Plan categories. The predominance of neglect as a category is in line with national figures. The reduction in

multiple reasons for registration may be accounted for by the more proactive actions outlined above that has resulted in the most complex cases entering proceedings

Graph 2



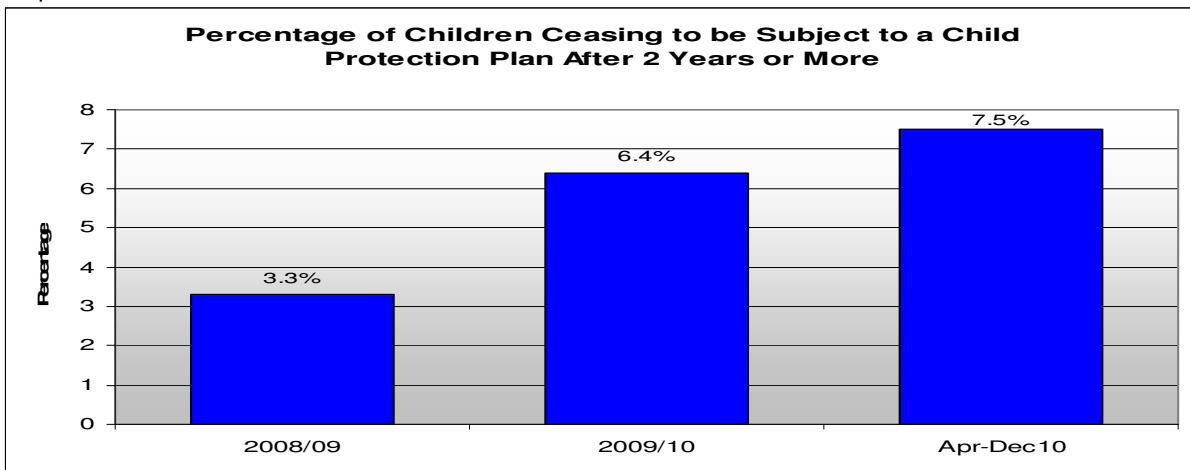
Graph 3



Graph 4 does show a very slight increase from a low base in the percentage of children who are subject to a plan for more than 2 years from 3.3% to 7.5%. Those cases where a child is subject to a plan for 18 months are monitored closely by senior managers and the reasons include large sibling group 'skewing' statistics and

children subject to Public Law Outline, the first stage of proceedings, where the child has to stay subject to a plan until the future is secured. These stages can be very lengthy. These percentages however do remain low and are in line with statistical neighbours.

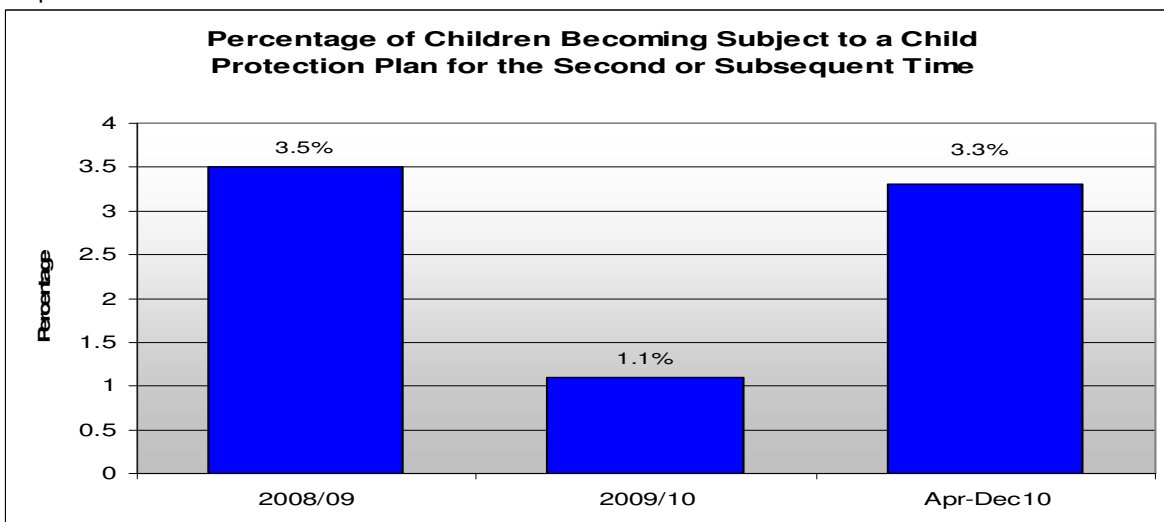
Graph 4



Graph 5 shows a consistent level of children becoming subject to a plan for a second

time. The numbers are very low and the slight drop last year represents only 1 child.

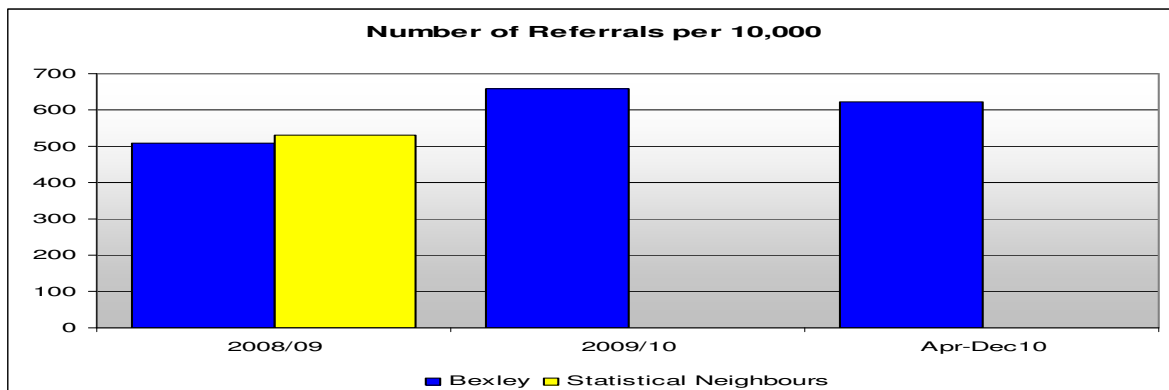
Graph 5



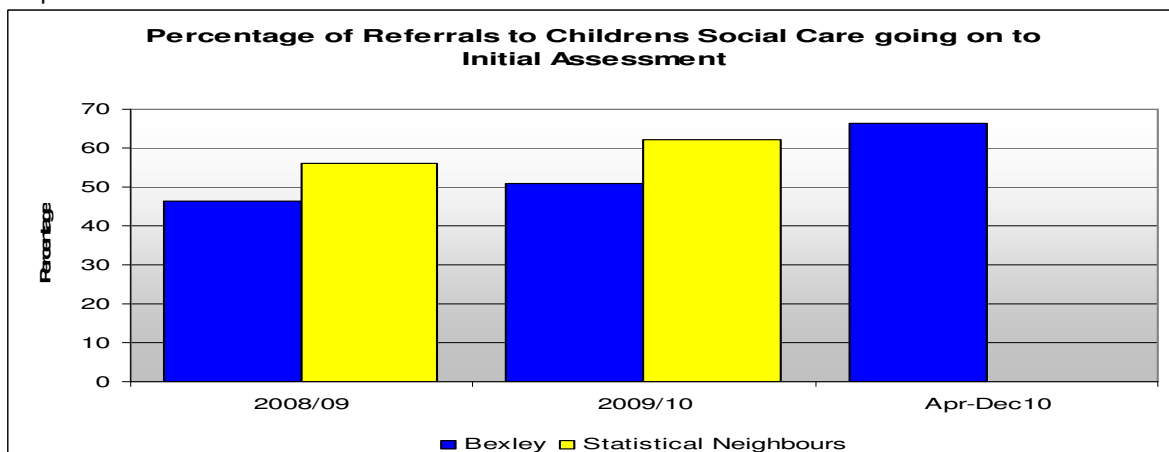
The National Indicators do provide information on how well child protection work is managed within the borough and some comparison with statistical neighbours were available. The graphs below show

referral levels and initial assessments. They do show some movement towards being more in line with that shown by statistical neighbours.

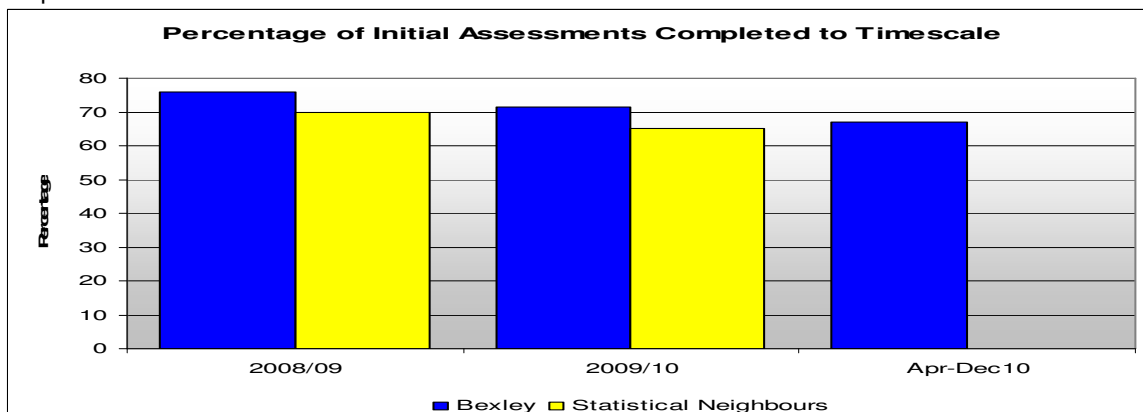
Graph 6 (NB Statistical neighbour data for 2009-10 has not been published)



Graph 7



Graph 8



Common Assessment Framework Data

A common assessment should be completed by universal services on all children who have additional needs requiring services from more than one agency. The figures for CAFs being completed remain low however there has

been a 50% increase in those completed in 2010 but comparisons undertaken with other London Boroughs show this figure remains low. This data is not included in the National Indicators so it is not possible to provide a published comparison with those statistical neighbours.

2010	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
CAF	7	14	16	7	0	8	21	19	10	14	12	128

CAF – by Agency April 2010 –Feb 11

Early Intervention Team	2
Health (Midwifery)	4
Health (Primary)	7
Health (Hospital)	2
Health (Adult Services)	2
Education (Special)	11
Education (Secondary)	36
Education (Primary)	57
Total	128

The largest increase has come from schools and there is now a large group of schools that are committed to using CAF. Other groups such as health have not taken this way of working on board and will need additional support and advice in order to adapt to its use. Those using CAF and most importantly the Team Around the Child approach are reporting better outcomes for children. This will be explored through quality assurance work in 2011-12.

During the later part of 2010 the LSCB has been working with LB Bexley to streamline the CA process and to improve data collection. From this work higher quality reports that include outcomes for children will be available to managers across children's services.

Appendix 3 LSCB Work Plan 2010-11

Work Area	Plan	Lead	Timescale	Progress
Governance	Appointment of Independent Chairman	Deborah Absalom	July 2010	GREEN Brian Boxall appointed & took up post 1 August 2010
	Revision of Governance Handbook in line with WT 2010	Liz Allen	August 2010	GREEN Completed
	Monitor attendance at LSCB & Executive	Liz Allen Brian Boxall Sheila Murphy	Throughout year	GREEN Half yearly reports Attendance April- December 2010 LSCB - 80% Executive - 59% Attendance issues addressed directly with agency involved
	Consider links with Adult Safeguarding	Liz Allen Malcolm Bainsfair	Throughout year	GREEN Regular meetings established Malcolm Bainsfair invited to Executive - Not yet achieved Joint initiatives to be considered - including training, publicity, safeguarding & disability (transition)
Quality & Effectiveness	Standing Group to meet 2 monthly	Julia Webb Liz Allen	Throughout year	GREEN Meetings timetabled All meeting held except January 2011
	Establish quarterly data dashboard for performance management	Julia Webb Liz Allen	June 2010	AMBER Established First report – September 2010 Report for Q3 available Ongoing consideration - is correct data is being collected? some data identified as required is unavailable
	Review Q&E Strategy	Liz Allen	September 2010	GREEN Completed – presented to LSCB September 2010
	Follow up to Sec 11 Audit & monitoring of Action Plan	Liz Allen	July 2010	GREEN Complete Ongoing work on Action Plan

Work Area	Plan	Lead	Timescale	Progress
	Undertake 2 multi-agency audits on topics agreed by Executive based on performance data, SCRs, single agency audits etc	Q&E Group	Throughout year	GREEN A&E Audit completed June 2010 Neglect Audit January 2011 - planning underway, to be completed in February 2011 Participated in Peer Review Mapping September 2010
	Monitoring of resultant action plans	Liz Allen	Throughout year	GREEN Action Plan in place following A&E Audit
	Establish a plan for reports of single agency audits to be considered by the Executive & LSCB	Liz Allen	September 2010	GREEN Timetable for reports included in Q&E Strategy
	Ensure links with CT Performance Management & Service Improvement	Julia Webb Liz Allen	July 2010	AMBER Reporting process in place however further development is required
	Improved use of chronologies across agencies working with children to ensure repeat incidents are identified	Agency leads Liz Allen	Ongoing	GREEN Template for schools has been launched and is available for use. Children centres developing a significant issues frontsheet for all staff regardless of agency
Policy & Procedures	Produce Inter-Agency Protocol – Domestic Abuse	Jill May Liz Allen	June 2010	GREEN Completed May 2010
	Review Inter-Agency Protocol – Managing Allegations	Garry Smale Liz Allen	June 2010	GREEN Completed May 2010 Small scale audit should be undertaken in Spring 2011 to assess how well this is embedded
	Develop Inter-Agency Protocol – Drug & Alcohol	Liz Allen Julie Tilbrook	February 2011	AMBER First discussions underway, draft planned but yet to be completed. D&A representative joined Executive in November 2010
	Produce Guidance on assessment of fathers, partners and extended families	Liz Allen	July 2010	GREEN Completed – leaflet published All audits to consider if fathers were involved in assessment

Work Area	Plan	Lead	Timescale	Progress
	Guidance leaflet for CSC & Adult Mental Health staff	Ruth Murdock Margaret Anderson	October 2010	GREEN Completed
Working Groups	Continue Domestic Violence Working Group	Jill May Liz Allen	Ongoing	AMBER Meeting have not been re-established however the safeguarding work through DV Forum has continued. Inter-agency protocol published
	Establish Safeguarding BAME Children WG	Emma Aiyere	Ongoing	GREEN Meetings established & workstreams progressing
	Establish Safeguarding Disabled Children WG	Liz Allen	Ongoing	GREEN Meetings established & workstreams progressing
	Children who Go Missing WG to be mainstreamed	Ruth Murdock	July 2010	GREEN Completed
Training	Business Plan for Training – including revision of some courses, impact of training survey etc	Teresa Doherty	April 2010	GREEN Completed
	Training programme published	Teresa Doherty	April 2010	GREEN Completed
	Training Group meets quarterly	Teresa Doherty	Ongoing	GREEN In place
	Train the trainer course to increase trainers available	Teresa Doherty	July 2010	GREEN 1 Completed - 2nd course being run jointly with Greenwich, Bromley & Lewisham to reduce cost
	Additional Safer Recruitment Training for C&YPS staff	Teresa Doherty Jerry Tosswell	September 2010	GREEN Completed
	6 monthly seminar for CSC Managers	Liz Allen Teresa Doherty	October 2010 March 2011	GREEN Delayed because of Peer Review – date booked for Nov 2010 had to be postponed until 16 February
	Additional workshops to be organised as required	Teresa Doherty	As required	GREEN Additional training on HIV commissioned.

Work Area	Plan	Lead	Timescale	Progress
				Workshops on revised London procedures held
	Annual Conference – combined this year with CT	Liz Allen Teresa Doherty Lorraine Harker	November 2010	GREEN Held 9 November 2010
Standing Serious Case Review Panel	Manage media response to SCRs completed in 2009	Sheila Murphy	August 2010	GREEN Completed
	Publish Executive Summaries of SCRs	Sheila Murphy	May & August 2010	GREEN Completed
	Monitor Action Plans from SCRs	Liz Allen	July 2010	GREEN Both Action Plans signed off as complete by LSCB in June & September 2010. SSCRP will consider any resultant audits at February meeting
	Consider any cases that may meet criteria for SCR or 'near miss'	Sheila Murphy Liz Allen	Ongoing	
	Consideration of Near Miss case initiated in Dec 2009	Jill May Wendy Murray Liz Allen	November 2010	GREEN Review completed April 2010 Action Plan monitored
Child Death Overview Panel	Meeting quarterly – interim chairing arrangements ongoing	Jill May Liz Allen	Ongoing	
	Public health analysis of deaths reviewed to date	Jill May	December 2010	GREEN Consultant commissioned - report presented to LSCB - December 2010
Specific Work Areas	Commission report on Issues relating to CAF & Early Intervention	Liz Allen	September 2010	GREEN Work undertaken directly by Liz Allen – considered by LSCB & CTEB in September 2010, CTB October 2010. Further work on taking forward work
	Establish strengthened relationship with youth services	Linda Tottman Jackie Larkin Charlotte Shrimpton	Ongoing	GREEN Linda Tottman joined LSCB – September 2010 YOT reports to Executive 6 monthly Substance Misuse reports 6 monthly
	Establish strengthened links with Adult Drug & Alcohol Services	Liz Allen Julie Tilbrook	Ongoing	AMBER Initial meetings held D&A provider rep to join Executive by

Work Area	Plan	Lead	Timescale	Progress
				February 2011 - represented identified and appointed to Executive in November 2010
Safeguarding In Schools	Training programme in place for all schools	Emma Aiyere	Ongoing	GREEN Complete Specialist Safeguarding BAME training for schools being rolled out
	Quality assurance of policy & procedures	Emma Aiyere	September 2010	GREEN Ongoing work Sec 175 Audit - action plan being monitored
	Termly Designated Teachers Forum	Emma Aiyere	Throughout year	GREEN In place