



# Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023-2024



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# Foreword

Welcome to the Annual Report for the Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) for April 2023 to March 2024. This report highlights our efforts to safeguard Haringey's children and young people. The HSCP serves as the collaborative framework for statutory partners and agencies to protect children. We coordinate services, address needs, conduct Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews, implement learnings, and scrutinise safeguarding processes to ensure effectiveness.

As safeguarding partners, we are committed to working together effectively, embracing challenges, celebrating successes, and fostering continuous learning across the system to drive improvement.

Safeguarding children is a shared responsibility, with their welfare as the top priority. Every child deserves a safe, stable, and loving environment. By collaborating across organisations and agencies, we ensure that everyone recognises their role and fulfils their responsibilities to safeguard and support children effectively.

Over the past year, the HSCP has remained responsive, providing necessary support and coordinating new multi-agency initiatives—an achievement given the economic challenges and growing needs. We have also begun preparing to implement the new Working Together Guidance 2023, which will replace the 2018 guidance.

In this challenging environment, we focused on early intervention and prevention, implementing a "Think Family" approach and establishing early support mechanisms. We prioritised support for older children needing help and protection,

addressing issues like contextual safeguarding, exploitation, and mental health. Our investment in our annual programme and scrutiny processes has strengthened partnerships and momentum. This report also includes insights from our Chair, Partners, and the children and families we serve.

In October 2023, we held an Executive Away Day, reinforcing our commitment to partnership working and assessing our current Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) to set future priorities. Achieving these goals is only possible with the dedication of our local partners, whose collaboration enables us to reach more children and families, making the HSCP a valuable asset for Haringey.

Looking ahead, the HSCP will continue focusing on implementing the new Working Together Guidance 2023 and supporting the new Children's Social Care National Framework. We are deeply grateful to our Independent Chair and Scrutineer, David Archibald, for his challenge, accountability, and expertise.

## **The Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive**



# Welcome

I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report for 2023-24 of Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership. The three Statutory Safeguarding Partners (Integrated Care Board, Metropolitan Police Service and Haringey Children's Services) have continued to work extremely closely together to further develop and improve multi-agency safeguarding in Haringey.

One important aspect of the new 2019 national arrangements was to give the three Statutory Safeguarding Partners joint and equal accountability for safeguarding children and young people in Haringey. This change was implemented rigorously and effectively and there is clear joint and equal accountability embraced and displayed by the three agencies. This joint and equal accountability has been maintained and further developed and is a crucial foundation of the partnership.

Over the last year, these strong partnerships have continued to respond effectively to a range of challenges which have emerged. The partnership has responded rapidly and worked effectively together to ensure the effective safeguarding of children and young people. This strong joint response has in turn further strengthened the partnership, laying strong foundations for future joint working.

The partnership has continued to develop its effective and impactful partnership with Haringey's Safeguarding Adults Board, and has agreed several areas for joint work, with good progress being made on Transitional Safeguarding and Think Family, where there is good scope for further improvements in services and outcomes.

Following the publication of Working Together 2023 in December 2023, during the period covered by this annual report, the 3 statutory partners, and HSCP, have set in motion detailed preparation for implementing Working Together 2023. This is, and will continue to be, a major focus for the partnership in 2024-25 and beyond.

As Independent Chair and Scrutineer, I continue to work closely with the three Statutory Partners in the decisions they make concerning Rapid Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews, providing both independent challenge and scrutiny.

The HSCP and the safeguarding system across Haringey have performed well during this period and are in a strong position to continue to do so.

**David Archibald**  
**Independent Chair and Scrutineer**

# Introduction

The Haringey Safeguarding Partnership (HSCP) publishes an Annual Report in line with its statutory duties under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. Safeguarding partners must jointly report on their activities over 12 months, ensuring transparency and accessibility for families and professionals. The report should focus on multi-agency priorities, learning, impact, evidence, and improvement.<sup>1</sup>

This report assesses the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, highlighting their impact on children, young people, and families. Evidence is drawn from sub-group activities, training evaluations, and the voices of children and families and staff. Learning is gathered from Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews, audits, local data, scrutiny, and monitoring activities.

Annual Reports must detail what actions partnerships have taken due to these arrangements, including child safeguarding practice reviews, and evaluate their effectiveness in practice. The report should also include:

- Each safeguarding partner's contribution
- Themes from aggregated scrutiny methods
- Evidence of the impact of safeguarding partners and relevant agencies
- Analysis of areas with little or no progress on agreed priorities
- Learning from serious incidents
- Key decisions and actions taken by safeguarding partners, including implementation of recommendations from local and national reviews and their impact

- How safeguarding partners have sought and used feedback from children and families
- Breakdown of costs, including partners' financial contributions, impact, and value for money
- Evidence of adequate representation from education
- Overview of how data is used to support learning
- Review of the impact and learning from independent scrutiny
- Updates to the published arrangement
- Evidence of implementing national reforms

This Annual Report reaffirms the HSCP's commitment to continuous learning and development, alongside its strategic leadership vision:

- The lived experience of children, young people, and families is central to safeguarding and protection.
- Improved outcomes are achieved through stronger partnerships, workforce, and community resilience.
- Our relationship-based practice is continually improving, showing ongoing development.

## **The Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive**

<sup>1</sup> We have made effort to include relevant impact and outcomes measures for the period 2023-24 in this report. However, as the WT to Safeguard Children 2023 guidance was launched in Quarter 4 of 2023, some data is not yet available and will be available in our next annual report.

# The Executive Group

The Executive Group comprises three equal partners:

- Haringey Local Authority
- NCL Integrated Care Board
- Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

The Group provides strong, unified leadership. It is committed to reviewing and improving practices and building on existing strengths and innovation within the partnership.

As the strategic leadership body, these safeguarding partners oversee the Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP). The Executive Group governs local safeguarding systems, performance, and resources, holding statutory accountability for children's safeguarding in Haringey. In 2023-24, six meetings were held, focusing on swift, decisive action to protect children, young people, and at-risk families.

Members must hold strategic roles, speak with authority, commit to policies, and hold their organisations accountable. Each partner shares equal responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements, including scrutiny and assurance.

Following the 2023 Working Together Guidance, Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) will transition to:

- Chief Executive of the London Borough of Haringey - Andy Donald
- Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police - Louisa Rolfe
- Chief Executive Officer NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) - Frances O'Callaghan

Each LSP has appointed a named Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP) to act on their behalf. DSPs are sufficiently senior to speak with authority, make decisions, and hold their sectors accountable.

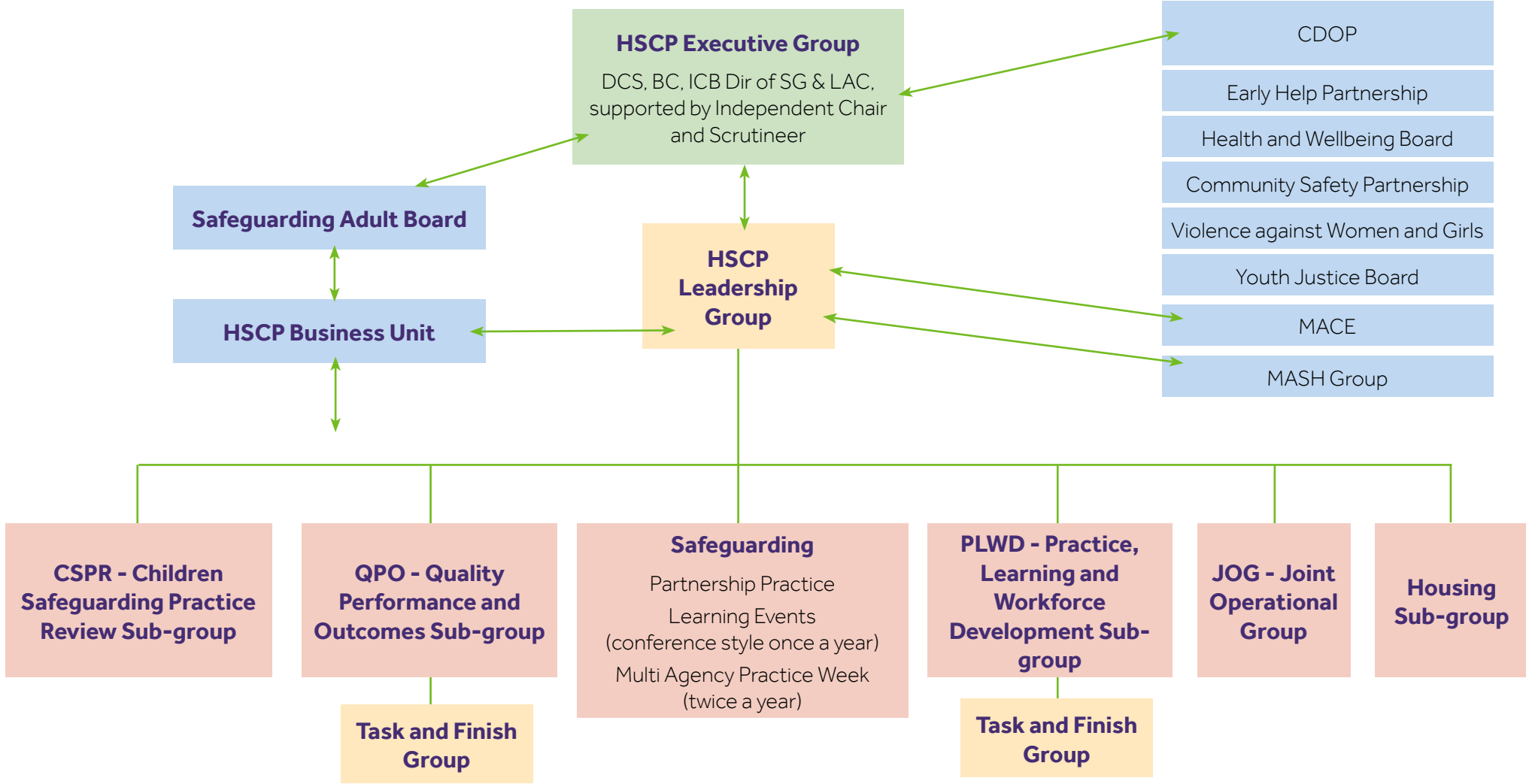
# The Leadership Group

The Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership's Leadership Group, including Lead Safeguarding Partners, the Independent Chair, and the Scrutineer, acts as the partnership's 'engine room'. Senior officers from statutory partners and relevant agencies approve the policies, strategies, and guidance needed to support priorities and effective safeguarding.

In 2023-24, the Leadership Group held six meetings on local and national safeguarding priorities, informed by data, audits, and performance, focusing on

learning and outcomes. The Group reports to the HSCP Executive Group and drives work through five sub-groups and task-specific groups.

# HSCP Structure



# Strategic Partnerships





# Local Background and Context

At the time of writing, these were the most up-to-date figures available.

## **The partnership continues to address high levels of need and complexity in Haringey families due to several challenges:**

- In 2023, 17.3% of children in Haringey lived in relative poverty, close to the London average but lower than similar areas. This is the 11th-highest rate in London
- Haringey has the highest alcohol sales per adult in London, with a significantly higher rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions
- 2% of Haringey's working-age population claim Employment Support Allowance for mental health and behavioural disorders, the fifth highest rate in London (2023)
- The borough has the eighth highest rate of domestic abuse with injury in London (2023)
- Haringey ranks 8th in London for households in temporary accommodation, an improvement from 5th the previous year (2023)

## **Despite these challenges, Haringey has many positives for children:**

- Ofsted rated 98% of all Haringey Schools as 'good' or 'outstanding'
- Ofsted rated 98-99% of Early Years settings as 'good' or 'outstanding'
- The borough is culturally diverse, with over 180 languages spoken.
- Over a quarter of the borough is green space – with 25 Green Flag Parks and 120 venues where cultural activities take place. It will be the London Borough of Culture in 2027
- Residents report good relations between different ethnic and religious communities and solid social ties

## **Outcomes for children and young people:**

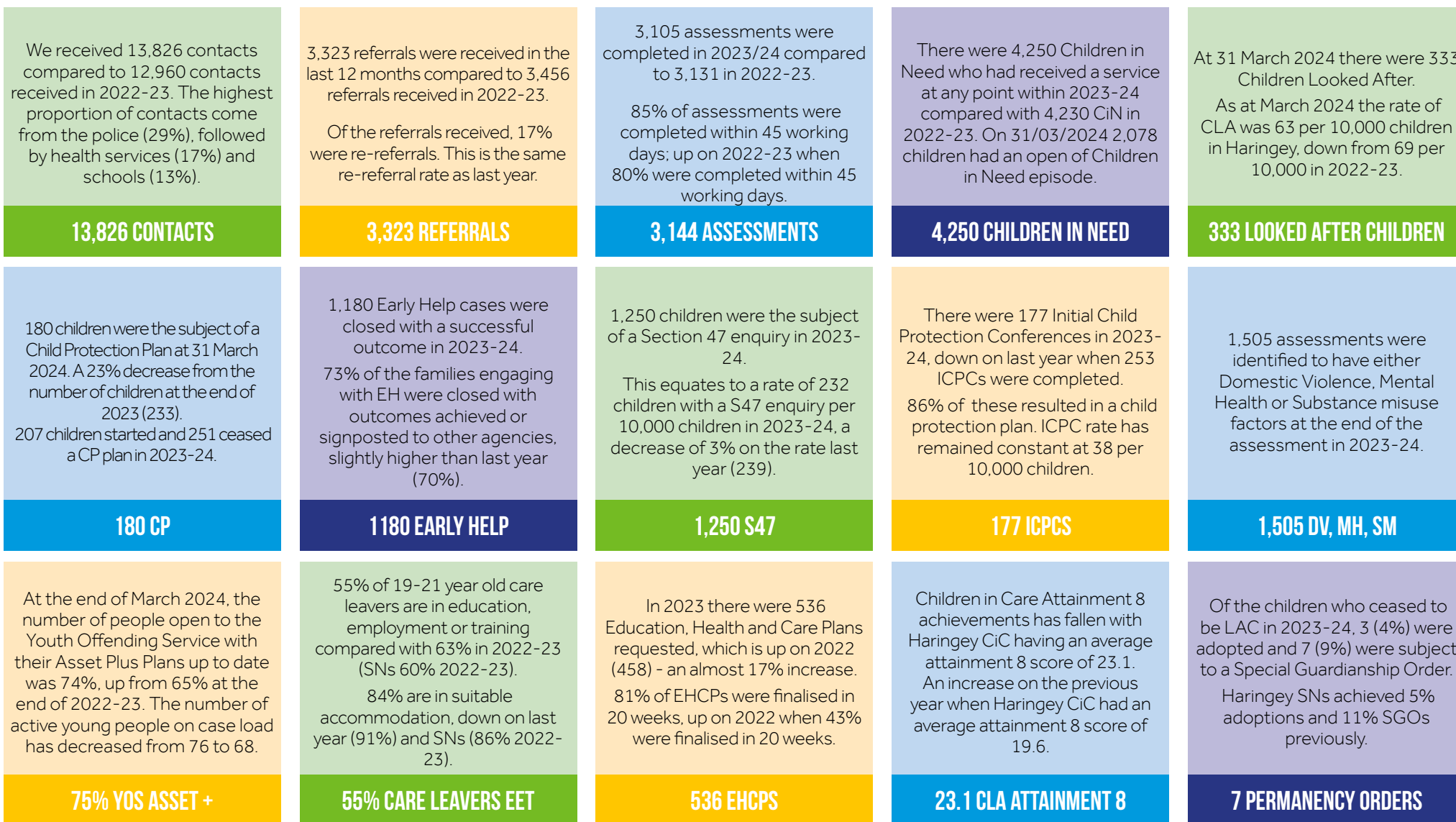
- The percentage of babies with a low birth weight in Haringey is lower than the London and England averages (2021).
- Obesity rates among Reception and Year 6 students are significant (2022-23).
- The proportion of students with social, emotional, and mental health needs is below the national average but slightly above the London average.
- Haringey achieved its best ever education results for young people, with all primary measures scoring above the national average. KS2 results met the London average for the first time (2023).
- GCSE attainment has improved but remains slightly below the London average, there are notable attainment gaps. Boys have lower attainment scores in general.

## **Haringey's child population:**

- There are 54,422 children aged 0-17, representing 21% of the population, similar to other London areas
- Nearly half of Haringey's students speak a language other than English at home, with Turkish, Spanish, Polish, Bulgarian, and Somali being the most common.

A key challenge remains inequality in outcomes, with poverty being a significant factor. Haringey is the 4th most deprived borough in London, with childhood deprivation concentrated in the northeast.

# Children's Social Care Dataset 2023/24



# What we have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews and analysis of learning from serious incidents

This report section provides a snapshot of what we have achieved due to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) arrangements, highlighting progress against our three priority areas. It also covers the impact of our five sub-groups, joint work between the HSCP and the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), the annual MASA conference, and LADO activities. The remainder of the report outlines further significant achievements resulting from the arrangements.

## **This year we:**

- Used evidence to demonstrate the value or rationale behind each initiative
- Continued to provide information on the impact of our activities and interventions on the well-being and safety of children and families
- Went beyond simply describing approaches and activities by emphasising the reasoning and evidence behind our priority areas, the actions taken, and their impact

## **This section also includes work carried out on child safeguarding practice reviews and serious incidents, in which we:**

- Continued to sharpen our focus on understanding the 'why'
- Developed clear recommendations that outline how we will impact practice and how this will be evaluated
- Included key demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, and ethnicity, and have considered the impact on the child's life and practice

Priority objectives, key activities, learning, impact, evidence, and areas of improvement

## **For 2023-24, we continued to deliver on our three key priorities:**

- Children living with mental health issues
- Prevention and early intervention
- Older children in need of help and protection, including contextual safeguarding and exploitation

In addition, the HSCP MASA Focus and Strategy comprises four key elements:

- Measuring impact linked to practice
- A strong evidence base
- Workforce development
- Sustainability

## **Within these areas, there will also be consideration of:**

- Transitional safeguarding with the Safeguarding Adults Board
- Neglect with the Early Help and Health & Wellbeing Boards
- Systems for managing the risk to children who go missing, including developing the Missing Prevention App.

# Priority 1

## Children Living with Mental Health Issues

### Rationale and Evidence Base

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a marked increase in anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues among children and young people. Schools reported a rise in emotional and behavioural challenges, particularly among those with special educational needs and disabilities. Feedback from service users and partners underscores the urgent need for targeted preventative measures.

### Key Impact and Outcomes

- Improved Mental Health Services: The delivery of mental health services to children and young people has improved, with more Haringey children engaged with CAMHS. We have a better understanding of the impact on young people of parental mental health issues, neglect, domestic abuse, and substance misuse
- Enhanced Family Support: Better awareness of the impact of parental mental health issues, neglect, domestic abuse, and substance misuse on young people and inclusion of fathers
- Frontline Practice: Improved delivery of mental health services. Partners have a greater understanding of the risks to young people related to mental health and gaps in service provision
- Tailored Services: Engagement with children, young people, and their families has become more effective, helping to understand the impact and their lived experiences better and reshaping services based on feedback
- Culture and Diversity: Partners increasingly recognise that cultural factors

might affect individuals with mental illness, improve engagement with diverse communities, and reduce barriers to mental health support

- Embedded Learning: Lessons from Safeguarding Practice Reviews have been integrated into local practice, improving responses to mental health issues

### Key activities (How we influenced outcomes)

- Conferences & Training: Hosted the HCPC Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Annual Conference on children's mental health
- Thrive: We regularly promote the mental health offer to practitioners through children's services. Assistant Director weekly sessions are open to partners, and we work strategically through Start Well to ensure young people can access the support they need. The wider offer is also set out in our Thrive framework
- Partners have expanded mental health provision, including the Perinatal Mental Health Services in Family Hubs, BEH collaborates on improved CAMHS pathways, crisis developments, and services across the borough and NCL, ensuring that frontline practitioners are well-informed about available mental health services. First Step and First Step Plus, services run by Tavistock, are commissioned to meet the emotional, behavioural, and mental health needs of Children-in-Care (CIC), including those living out of the borough
- Strategic links with the HSAB, SEND, and Transitional Safeguarding offering early support to older young people living with mental health issues
- Strategic School-Based Projects: Supported the effective CAMHS trailblazer

project and Social Workers in Schools (SWIS project); rolled out the successful Anchor Approach in some Haringey schools, leading to reduced suspensions and increased staff confidence in emotional communication and additional counselling and therapies and on-site provision now standard in Haringey schools

- Diversity Focus: Enhanced collaboration with statutory agencies and community services for BAME populations, improving mental health service access and referral pathways for mental health services as a preventive measure rather than at a crisis point

## Evidence

- Child assessments and outcome-based plans demonstrate positive progress and practical partnership work addressing children’s mental health, including smoother transitions to adult services.

- Tracking data shows that the number of children accessing Trailblazers and the SWIS initiative has increased, significantly impacting schools and outcomes.
- Schools report improved outcomes due to additional counselling and therapies. The Anchor Approach has reduced suspensions by over 60% and boosted staff confidence in emotionally supportive communication (90.3%). External evaluations note that “kindness is evident, disruption to learning in lessons is exceedingly rare... pupils who struggle to regulate their emotions or display challenging behaviours receive exceptional levels of care and support”.
- The annual school safeguarding audit consistently monitors the availability and needs of mental health support across schools
- Staff feedback from the MASA conference indicates a better understanding of collaborative approaches to addressing mental health issues

Additional Key Activities	Learning	Impact	Additional Evidence	Areas for Improvement
Regular reporting on families where child Mental Health issues are prominent is discussed at Partnership meetings.	Child Mental Health has overtaken parental Mental Health as the most prevalent factor at the assessment stage in Early Help Service.	Improved identification and treatment of 'self-harm'  Staff training has resulted in more staff administering the right level of support.	The rise in mental health cases is attributed to training and empowering workers to identify child mental health.  The rate of hospital admissions for self-harm in 10–24-year-olds was 186 per 100,000, a decrease from last year (211 per 100,000) but remaining above the London average (160 per 100,000).	Further training to embed a skillset for identifying mental health in children will further improve the delivery of mental health services to children, including close collaboration with key partner agencies such as CAMHS.
Trauma-based approaches in schools.	Improved pupil behaviour, academic performance, and emotional resilience	Improvement in pupil's emotional well-being and performance	Ofsted recognition has been noted in schools that have been inspected during 2023-24	Further evaluation of learning from trauma-informed approaches is needed.

Additional Key Activities	Learning	Impact	Additional Evidence	Areas for Improvement
North Middlesex Hospital have an additional children's safeguarding Doctor in A and E.	Improved mandatory training and oversight of YP at earliest point	Early Help interventions have reduced referrals to MASH by 35%	Improved training and early identification of Mental Health, especially in Child Exploitation, have reduced referrals to MASH by 35%	Continue to inform and train professionals in recognising signs and symptoms of Child Exploitation and include contextual safeguarding.  Work towards a further decrease in referrals to MASH from 35%
NA BCU Right Care, Right Person approach  Child Mental Health practitioner is available in Custody Suites.	Percentage reductions comparing data from Feb 2023 against Feb 2024  Improved support to children in custody in and out of hours.	The significant drop in the use of S136 shows that officers used the least restrictive option when an individual was in a Mental Health crisis.  Reduction in individuals detained under S136 of the Mental Health Act	We continue to see a slight reduction in the use of S135 Mental Health Act Warrants conducted in the borough of Haringey, down by 7%.	Mental Health Warrants decreased by 7%, and further training is needed to improve stats.
Graduated Response pathway for children with SEMH (social, emotional and mental health needs in Haringey schools) and EBSA (Emotion-Based School Avoidance) Conference	Improved outcomes for children and parents who have experienced Emotion-Based School Avoidance	Improved systems, understanding and pathways for children who experience Emotion-Based School Avoidance	The proportion of Haringey pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental health needs in Haringey has fallen to below the England average but is just above the London average.  Improved attendance for some children.	The pathway is due to be launched in September 2024  Improved processes and training in relation to this cohort
Recruitment of the Youth Justice Service CAMHS nurse  Improved clinical consultations	Unmet needs receiving child-centred responsive support.	More children will now be screened.  Reduced waiting times for CAMHS interventions	Data over the past six months suggests increased screening, assessments and interventions with children.	Improvement in screening of child mental health  Continued implementation of the Youth Justice Service CAMHS nurse  Emotional and Wellbeing workshop for parents and carers

# HSCP Priority 2

## Prevention and Early Intervention and / or Early help

### Rationale and Evidence Base

Research consistently highlights the long-term benefits of investing in prevention, showing that early intervention during childhood and adolescence can significantly reduce the likelihood of more severe issues later in life. This approach mitigates the impact of mental health problems, substance misuse, and criminality, leading to better outcomes in adulthood while strengthening families and communities. Data from Haringey indicates a growing number of children and families facing challenges that could be alleviated through early help, including high levels of poverty, domestic violence, and parental mental health issues—factors that can negatively affect children’s well-being. Feedback from service users and partners underscores the crucial role of prevention and early help in achieving more sustainable outcomes. Furthermore, investing in prevention and early help is often more cost-effective.

### Key Impact and Outcomes

- Earlier Support: Strengthened efforts to ensure children, young people, and families receive the right services at the right time, focusing on Universal services to prevent escalation of needs.
- Prevention: All partners work collaboratively to prevent the escalation of needs towards statutory services, with increased involvement of external partners taking the lead in the Team Around the Family (TAF) approach.
- Community Engagement: Through HCPC engagement, local communities experience enhanced confidence and awareness, leading to greater engagement with Universal and Early Help services and helping to prevent the need for statutory intervention.
- Training and Development: HSCP multi-agency training is embedded in the Learning & Development (L&D) offer

### Key activities (How we influenced outcomes)

- Continued embedding the Think Family approach, promoting resilience and optimising outcomes through a seamless service between children and adult services
- Development of Family Hubs following a “no wrong door” approach, with the first Family Hub implemented in the borough and three more planned to open by March 2025
- Developed a concise Early Help Offer on a single page for easy reference
- Health Visitors remain vigilant, offering support, advice, and guidance to universal services, signposting to other services, or considering early help or statutory services
- Education Representation on the HSPC and all sub-groups. Schools continue to make referrals to Early Help. Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) within schools ensure an understanding of the Early Help Offer, strengthening support.
- The Children Missing Education (CME) team is embedded in the MASH and works in partnership with community agencies. Partners closely supported the [Children Missing Education Policy](#) and Procedure and [flyer](#).
- The HSCP Business Unit promotes the Early Help Service, including updating relevant policies and procedures
- The voluntary sector remains central in providing training and support within the Haringey community
- Strategic links to the Early Help Strategic Partnership Board and The Health and Wellbeing Board

## Evidence

- The Early Help Panel biannual data reports highlight positive results in agency participation and utilisation
- There has been a notable increase in the uptake of mandated health visits and in families receiving perinatal Health Visitor contacts effectively addressing early concerns. Clinic attendance rates have shown positive growth, immunisation uptake rates have improved, and Developmental checks (ASQ) are regularly monitored, with referrals to additional services tracked and reported
- Health Commissioning collaborative efforts have led to the development of dashboards for sharing information between partners
- Practitioner engagement in safeguarding supervision has increased, enhancing the review of emerging concerns for families
- Schools report improved family engagement with Early Help, with significant improvements in case acceptance flexibility, enabling timely support for more children. The Education Lead for Safeguarding conducts regular meetings with schools, using structured safeguarding questions, including inquiries about Early Help services.
- The new Children Missing Education Partnership Panel includes Early Help, Children's Social Care, Health, Temporary Housing, SEND, Connected Communities, Community Safety & Enforcement, Early Years team, Children's Centres, Educational Psychology Service, Citizens Advice Bureau, Youth Service, Youth Justice Service, Domestic Violence Agency
- The number of children and young people suspended or permanently excluded from school in Haringey is at its lowest since current records began six years ago

Additional Key Activities	Learning	Impact	Additional Evidence	Areas for Improvement
Early Help and Prevention Services offer higher quality and a broader range of training.	Improved and earlier identification of risk across the Partnership.	Better outcomes for children and families resulting in greater Payment by Results yields for the National Supporting Families Programme.  Haringey achieved 100% of the allocated target for 2022-23 and 2023-24.	Greater PBR yields have enabled re-investment in Early Help and preventative services, thus providing more training and upskilling of staff.	Improved recording of the Supporting Families achievements and outcomes to become embedded across the broader partnership.
Further development of the placement of Social Workers in Schools (SWIS)	SWIS is crucial in providing support and resources to pupils facing challenges. Improved safeguarding practice.	SWIS impacts include pupil well-being, better attendance, academic performance, enhanced emotional resilience, and stronger family-school connections.	An extensive review was undertaken in all the SWIS schools. Impact data and case studies were thoroughly explored.  School social workers help create a supportive and inclusive educational environment by addressing mental health, behavioural problems, and socio-economic barriers.	Funding restrictions put the SWIS programme under threat.  Further meetings with DFE have been arranged to further this quite brilliant initiative.



Additional Key Activities	Learning	Impact	Additional Evidence	Areas for Improvement
NA BCU (North Area Basic Command Unit)  Operation Encompass is currently being embedded.	Operation Encompass aims to reduce the long-term impacts of domestic abuse by providing early intervention support and training.	<a href="https://www.operationencompass.org">https://www.operationencompass.org</a>	Currently subject to evaluation	No current data available
Youth Justice Service has increased Out of Court Disposals (OOCd) and the Turnaround programme (children not yet open to the YJS)	Increased professional interventions targeting youths away from the Youth Justice System	Upward trend of OOCds	There was a 71% increase in OOCds (previously 61%) compared to 2022-23 and  34% increase (prev. 81) since 2020-21.	Continue upward trend in OOCd's from current 71%
Whittington Health has strengthened learning systems and knowledge to frontline staff to support local families.	Learning is now shared across other community healthcare teams for earlier interventions.  Using local community voluntary groups	Collection of referral outcomes to ascertain if families accept early health.	Work to collect and collate data and statistics for reporting and monitoring with routine analysis to help understand local safeguarding needs.	The collection of referral outcomes to ascertain if families accept early health is in its infancy, and no data is available.

## Additional area of focus – Neglect

- All partners have highlighted their active involvement in helping to develop the HSCP Neglect Guidance, Toolkit and Checklist, that has been supported by the roll-out programme of awareness raising sessions. These sessions have been facilitated and delivered by representatives from across the partnership. This work has received positive feedback, and the new process continues to be embedded and promoted.
- This work was supported by the launch of a Neglect Strategy in November 2023 at the annual MASA conference involving the community as well as practitioners across the borough of Haringey.

# HSCP Priority 3

## Older children in need of help and protection, and contextual safeguarding, including exploitation

### Rationale and Evidence Base

Older children are more likely to experience harm outside the family home, in contexts such as peer groups, schools, and communities. Contextual safeguarding approaches are more effective, ensuring interventions extend beyond traditional safeguarding practices. Adolescence is a critical period where young people are particularly vulnerable to external influences and risks, including the rise of social media and digital platforms and new forms of exploitation and abuse, including cyberbullying, grooming, and radicalisation. Older children often present with a range of more complex needs, including mental health challenges, substance misuse, and disengagement from education. These intersecting issues require a coordinated, multi-agency response.

- Haringey has the second highest rate of drug use (excluding Cannabis) among 15-year-olds in all London boroughs. The borough also has a higher-than-average rate of young people cautioned or sentenced
- Haringey continues to have proportionately higher numbers of 16–17-year-olds whose activity is unknown (2.8%) compared with 1.8% for London and 2.4% for England; there has been a significant improvement with a reduction from 6.6% last year

### Key Impact and Outcomes

- Improved early identification by professionals regarding extra familial harm/abuse (EFH) and timely responses to needs

- Put a **Safeguarding perspective on the police practice of Stop & Search** and the impact in terms of disproportionality and racial disparity
- The **Haringey Youth Justice Service** are a key HSCP partner and works in a systemic way to prevent children and young people from offending and reoffending.
- More effective mapping and strategies to identify potential risks children and young people may face through EFH and increasingly more effective partnership measures employed to prevent, divert, and disrupt EFH
- The partnership continues to collectively reduce episodes of missing children and young people and reduce the length of time they may be missing.
- All partners are increasingly demonstrating a trauma-informed approach when working with suspected and identified children and young people who have experienced EFH

### Key activities (How we influenced outcomes)

- Haringey has piloted work on Police Stop and Search. Haringey Council's Children's Services and the North Area Basic Command Unit (BCU) of the Metropolitan Police Service jointly held a 'Stop & Search through a Safeguarding lens' conference in Haringey (2023). The abiding recommendation is that Stop & Search should be utilised more as an early intervention measure rather than a punitive action that can have long-lasting psychological and traumatic effects for young people who experience it

- Following learning from the Child Q Review, Haringey Partners are piloting work on Police Stop and Search / Strip Searches and Children's Services developed and implemented anti-racist practice standards being a voice and force for change.
- The launch of the Missing App by the INEQE Safeguarding Group
- Delivered the joint HSCP and HSAB action plan focusing on transitional safeguarding
- The Education lead audited schools' safeguarding approaches, discussing safety with students
- Launched the Everyone's Invited website, with schools integrating academies and independent schools into the DSL network
- Mapping processes, including MACE and VVE Panel, were strengthened to identify hotspots better
- SWIS Scheme in secondary schools including during school holidays, improved the response safeguarding older young people
- Early Help & Prevention Service expanded to include the Targeted Youth Service, and First Step Plus expanded to support at-risk youth
- The Met Police's Exploitation team increased its capacity to respond to and divert young people from exploitation
- The Youth Service mapped youth needs and risks within the Borough
- HSCP delivered the "Youth at Risk" training, focusing on incel ideology and extreme misogyny
- There were 40 serious youth violence offences in the last year – a reduction of 18% since last year and a reduction of 56% over the last five years
- Haringey has more young people participating in education and training, and we have significantly reduced the number of young people with unknown activities or destinations
- In response to HMICFRS recommendations, a new Child Exploitation/Missing Person Joint Working Protocol was introduced in January 2024 for the North Area BCU. This protocol prioritises children who are missing and potentially at risk of exploitation as high risk. The protocol has led to a significant increase in the volume of cases. To manage this, a designated officer is now available daily to assist with inquiries, enhanced collaboration between the Child Exploitation Team (CET) and Missing Person Unit (MPU) has been achieved, and bespoke training for CET officers has been implemented to manage high-risk missing persons effectively.
- School visits yielded mixed feedback, with all Haringey schools visited by July 2024 and some revisited. Contextual safeguarding feedback was shared with the DSL Forum and CS Steering Group. All schools are now invited to the DSL network, and attendance improved to 70-80%.
- Higher quality interventions are available for adolescent Children in Care through access to First Step Plus.
- MACE and the Early Help Strategic Partnership Board increasingly highlight positive interventions.
- Frontline practitioners are better equipped to identify extra-familial harm/abuse (EFH) early.
- Good joint working between Children and Adults Services, Health and Housing to deliver on the Haringey SEND Strategic Preparation for Adulthood Plan.
- Outreach work with schools to support vulnerable adolescents and reduce suspensions and exclusions continues through the Haringey Learning Partnership (HLP).

## Evidence

- Ofsted reported that 'Senior leaders have aligned information to monitor better and assess the impact of work with vulnerable adolescents and children at risk of exploitation. The Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation team provides intensive wraparound support that reduces risks to children who go missing or who are at risk of exploitation. Professionals identify risks to young people early by using screening tools and swiftly sharing information with multi-agency partners.' (2023)
- The groundbreaking Stop and Search work and pilot instigated and spurred on by the council's Children's Services team is hoped to be rolled out beyond Haringey, across the capital and even further afield

Most students, over 60, returned to mainstream school. HLP students were entered for an average of 6.5 qualifications, with some taking as many as 12. This is considerably higher than the national average of 2.2 for alternative provision schools and settings. The latest GCSE results saw more pupils achieving better grades than in previous years (2022/23).

Further Key Activities	Learning	Impact	Further Evidence	Areas for Improvement
Children's Services Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Service and Early Help Youth Contextual Safeguarding Team deliver support to older children and their families.	Improved identification and response to children at risk across the partnership.	The Contextual Safeguarding Team have improved the percentage of successful outcomes from 34% in 2023-24 to 50% in Q1 2024-25.	The increase in successful outcomes percentages has indicated a steady improvement in service delivery to older children and families.	To improve the percentage of outcomes further to a target of 80%.
North Middlesex Hospital focused on transitional safeguarding—additional training for staff in ED for 16-17-year-old vulnerabilities.	Safeguarding case-based discussions, participating in simulation teaching around safeguarding and CAMHS topics, and participating in ED and Integrated Training Events.	Increased oversight of YP who have experienced Child Exploitation and better training	35% decrease in referrals to MASH  Named nurse contributes to multi agency Child Exploitation Panel	Continue to inform and train professionals in recognising signs and symptoms of Child Exploitation and include contextual safeguarding.  Work towards a further decrease in referrals to MASH from 35%
NA BCU (North Area Basic Command Unit)  Operation Makesafe	Ongoing operation to close local Drug Lines	Hotels and taxi companies engaged with and information shared regarding exploitation.  Large amounts of drugs and weapons seized	Activities were shutting down drug lines and seizing drugs and weapons.	Ongoing evaluation
Serious Youth Violence Training for staff across the Partnership  National Referral Mechanism (NRM) joint audit with exploitation service	Increase in NRM used for learning and oversight by MACE  Multi-professional working with consortiums with Redbridge, Tower Hamlet and Northants	Increase in NRMs  Increase the use of specialist tools, such as mapping and identification.	Externally evaluated under the Youth Endowment fund and showing an increase in NRMs	Follow the national NRMS trend in line with government data of a 33% increase.
Whittington Health Team have initiated collecting data on referrals into children's social care to enable further analysis	Analysis of trends and outcomes will support learning for older young people	More awareness within the safeguarding workforce	Quality of referrals from frontline staff	The collection of data is over various systems and is in its infancy.

# Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership Sub-groups

## Quality Performance and Outcome (QPO) Sub-group

The Quality, Performance, and Outcome (QPO) sub-group organises and conducts audit exercises, including case audit consultations and discussions with practitioners, maintaining strong links with the PLWD sub-group. The Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Young People from the Integrated Care Board chairs the group. The HSCP operates a multi-agency audit cycle, focusing on agreed priority areas. The QPO's Terms of Reference have been reviewed and strengthened to align with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, driving improvements in capturing the lived experiences of children and young people and addressing issues of disproportionality and inequity in service delivery and access.

### Themed Audits

The QPO completed two impactful themed audits on Housing and Serious Youth Violence & Mental Health, chaired by Health and Police representatives.

### Partnership Quality Assurance Framework

The HSCP continues to refine the Partnership Quality Assurance Framework, which outlines our partnership practice standards, how we monitor our impact, and use information to enhance services. The performance framework has been updated to provide meaningful data aligned with HSCP's priorities.

### Performance Framework

Over the past year, partners have embraced evidence-based decision-making for Haringey's children, utilising the new HSCP Performance Framework to highlight "good news stories" and "areas of concern," prompting significant discussions across the partnership. These discussions address the root causes of concerns and seek solutions. Plans are underway to align this framework with the national DfE dataset. The exceptional work of health colleagues in child protection medicals has been a particular highlight. The HSCP Performance Framework now delivers meaningful data, with named individuals responsible for accompanying narratives. This approach allows the QPO to interrogate data, analyse trends, hold agencies accountable, and ensure continued stakeholder engagement and data refinement to capture key activities and opportunities.

### Impact:

- Multi-agency learning has enabled professionals across all organisations to enhance their safeguarding knowledge and skills. HSCP training has incorporated insights gained from this sub-group
- The developed Performance Framework has provided members of the Executive Group and the broader partnership with up-to-date performance data, analysis, and narrative. This allows partnership performance to be thoroughly examined to identify specific trends and areas for improvement as early as possible and to recognise what we are doing well and why
- We developed an action plan to capture learning identified through thematic audits to improve practice
- We have monitored progress against these actions, and the QPO has sought assurance that learning from audit activities is consistently shared and embedded in practice

- We have continued to respond to the recommendations in Action Plans (arising from reviews) to develop frontline practice further and ensure better outcomes for children, young people, and their families

### **We continue to strengthen our response by:**

- Further embedding the Performance Framework
- Continuing to develop a Quality Assurance Framework
- Implementing a Multi-agency Annual Audit and Quality Assurance Programme
- Developing a calendar of assurance and a forward plan
- Creating a Multi-agency policy register
- Establishing an action plan and KPIs for the HSCP 3-year Business Plan
- Reviewing the impact and outcomes of what has been implemented

## The Joint Operational Group (JOG) – Scrutiny

The Joint Operational Group (JOG), chaired by the Principal Social Worker, audits and reviews complex cases requiring a multi-agency perspective. The JOG audit process occurs bi-annually, providing a platform for professionals to collaborate, share information, and develop a shared understanding of service quality. This process allows for learning from best practices, strengthening professional relationships, and fostering multi-agency ownership, ultimately leading to positive changes in practice and a beneficial impact on children and young people. The group identifies themes and patterns, disseminates critical learnings across the partnership, and establishes an action plan for each partner to implement. Progress on the action plan is monitored by the QPO sub-group and is cross-referenced with insights from all quality assurance activities, including SPRs, thematic audits, and Practice Week. The HSCP also considers multi-agency workshops to embed this learning effectively.

Case Themes for the Year of 2023-2024 - Physical abuse and injury in non-mobile

infants (September 2023) and - Mental Health and Transitions (February 2024)

### **Key Learning for Partners - Areas of Good Practice**

- The mother engaged positively with all professionals
- CSC effectively utilised the escalation policy when needed
- The voices of children and young people were actively listened to
- The allocated Social Worker demonstrated determination and commitment
- Tavistock's role was maintained while awaiting the Care Act Assessment.
- Police successfully de-escalated a challenging situation with a young adult
- Missing episodes were promptly reported, and all agencies followed the appropriate processes
- The Exploitation Panel was used effectively to discuss CSE concerns.
- SWIS (Social Workers in Schools) had background knowledge of a younger sibling and ensured he received the necessary support

### **Areas for Further Development**

- Strengthen timely communication between CSC and Housing by reducing email reliance and increasing telephone contact
- Ensure relevant housing departments, such as Children in Need and Child Protection, are invited to CSC statutory meetings
- Utilise review strategy meetings when there are questions about explaining an injury
- Follow up non-attendance of health appointments for families open to CSC
- Foster greater professional curiosity among all professionals
- Enhance partnership knowledge of housing pathways
- Improve understanding of pathways for Care Act Assessments
- Address delays in completing Care Act Assessments

- Review the practice of sending warning letters to young adults by GPs.
- Avoid blaming language (e.g., "will not engage")
- Reduce the number of professionals involved at one time for a child.

## Recommendations

- Housing will facilitate training on pathways
- The Relevant Housing department will be invited to Child Protection Conferences when there is a concern about accommodation, such as mould and dampness.
- Health to Jointly Facilitate a DNA Multiple Non-attendance Workshop
- Police will attend the site of a S.47 investigation, where there are concerns about inconsistency in the story about non-accidental injury
- CSC to consider introducing after-school sessions for all DSLs
- Neglect Tool Training- ongoing
- Health and Police should consider conducting a joint audit of burn cases.
- The Right Care/Right People policy- Police to ensure this is well disseminated and understood across the Partnership

Training Recommendations (HSCP) - Trauma-informed Practice, Language that Cares, Housing Pathways & Neglect Toolkit.

# Practice, Learning and Workforce Development (PLWD)

The sub-group is responsible for planning, organising, and evaluating appropriate multi-agency safeguarding learning and development activities and challenging, supporting or influencing the training delivered by individual agencies. The group ensures identified multi-agency safeguarding learning needs are addressed for the agency's workforces and that learning, and development activities incorporate relevant research, good national practice and learning from case reviews and safeguarding adult reviews. The group also takes ownership for maintaining and further developing the partnership training pool and managing partnership communications. In addition, the PLWD continue to oversee the further development of the HSCP website. Through the support of our expert partners, we have developed and delivered a range of multi-agency training opportunities.

In 2023/24 the HSCP continued to offer a range of multi-agency training opportunities informed by the learning needs of the partnership and designed to continue to upskill our frontline workforce. Courses in the main are facilitated by partner representatives who bring in their local expertise and knowledge. The courses offered in 2023-24 include

- Learning from Safeguarding Practice Reviews (SPRs)
- Cultural Boundaries Training
- Hate Crime Awareness Training
- Improving Housing Standards in the Private Rented Sector
- LADO Training and Workshop
- Liquidlogic Portal Training
- Prevent training
- Safeguarding Level 3
- Social Care Thresholds

→ When is it Safeguarding?

→ Youth at Risk: exploring the rise of incel ideology and extreme misogyny

The HSCP offered 33 training opportunities for all partnership staff as well as other members of our Haringey community who work with children, young people and their families.

→ The existing Learning and Development Framework continues to be a 'live document' to consider the changing developmental needs of staff across the partnership which emerge from learning gleaned from reviews and themed audits undertaken.

→ Commissioned trainers provide the HSCP with details of the course content that they facilitate as part of the HSCP Quality Assurance process.

## Impact

→ Practitioners have a greater awareness and understanding of safeguarding and have applied their developed skills and knowledge to inform an improved identification and response to children at risk across the partnership

→ Raised awareness of HSCP training and ensured that opportunities beyond the HSCP training offer were also shared with partners

→ Increased attendance at multi-agency training has resulted in upskilling the partnership workforce

→ Higher quality and a broader range of training delivered by local partnership staff has received very positive feedback

→ We continue to measure the impact of training on frontline practice by 'interrogating' and analysing feedback from delegates on how they are transferring learning into practice and how this makes a difference to children and families

→ Promoted training opportunities across the partnership & developed a suite of '7-minute' briefings on specific topics particularly responding to key messages arising from local cases

→ Targeted workshops in conjunction with The Haringey Childrens Academy to bring front line professionals together

→ Continued to develop the HSCP website

→ Considered the training needs of the partnership workforce for 2024-54 and beyond

## Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) Sub-group

The CSPR sub-group was newly established in September 2023. The sub-group is chaired by the Assistant Director, Children's Safeguarding and Social Care. The sub-group was established to achieve the following outcomes:

→ Provide a dedicated space for key professionals to come together in relation to CSPRs in a partnership multi-agency forum

→ Ensure that the work and actions coming out of CSPRs and Rapid Reviews are dealt with in a timely manner,

→ Ensure actions and learning emerging from these cases is harnessed, embedded, and monitored.

→ Through oversight of CSPRs, encourage learning across agencies in order to ascertain a more accurate picture of emerging trends and needs in Haringey in relation to safeguarding children and young people.

→ Develop a culture of continuous learning

→ Continue the embedding of the Think Family Approach championed across children and adults safeguarding in Haringey

The CSPR sub-group monitors action plans, takes updates on ongoing CSPRs and develops an annual update outlining key themes arising from discussions. shared with the HSCP Executive for implementation through the PLWD (Practice Learning and Workforce Development) Subgroup.



## Key Responsibilities of the CSPR Sub-Group

- Provide ongoing oversight and direction for Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Oversee local safeguarding reviews, including threshold meetings, rapid reviews, and individual agency reviews
- Analyse emerging trends from CSPRs and Learning Reviews, share insights with leadership and embed them into priorities and training plans
- Receive and review the final action plan from completed CSPRs, ensuring all actions are fully completed before submission to the HSCP Executive Group
- Apply the Think Family approach, including reviewing Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and identifying relevant themes
- Receive and consider Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Annual Reports
- Remain accountable to the HSCP Executive

## Impact and Achievements

- Considered the impact of racial, ethnic, and cultural identity on the lived experiences of children and families
- Developed a CSPR tracker to capture key learning, themes, and associated costs
- Proposed a new model for CSPRs that is both cost-effective and promotes early learning
- Collaborated with the PLWD Sub-Group to embed key learnings
- Revised the existing HSCP Serious Incident Notification form
- Currently revising the CSPR Guidance document in alignment with Working Together 2023
- Clarified the CSPR process for agencies, focusing on the composition and remit of the Virtual Threshold meeting
- Developed a CSPR complaints policy

## We continue to strengthen our response by:

- Embedding learning from serious incidents, rapid reviews, and CSPRs
- Finalising the group's first annual update, highlighting key themes from our discussions
- Further developing the CSPR tracker
- Identifying cross-cutting themes and learning across systems
- Focusing on systems leadership to drive continuous improvement

## Housing Sub-group

The Housing Sub-Group, established in September 2023, operates jointly under the HSCP (Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership) and HSAB (Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board). The Director of Housing chairs the group, with the Head of Community Safety as vice-chair. Initially, the sub-group met monthly to establish its work programme; now, it convenes quarterly.

The HSCP acknowledges that the right to a home is a fundamental human right. A high-quality, secure home enables individuals to establish roots within their community, access local employment, and provide children with a safe environment to play and learn. Good housing is integral to physical and mental health, and well-designed homes foster pleasant, secure neighbourhoods where residents can thrive. The Housing Sub-Group was created to achieve the following outcomes:

## Purpose

- To safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable children and adults and to gain assurance that safeguarding arrangements are effective across the housing sector in Haringey, providing assurance to the HSCP and HSAB in relation to Housing and Safeguarding
- To enable representatives to meet together to fulfil responsibilities to safeguard adults and children and to give housing a strategic voice on the HSCP & HSAB.
- The sub-group chair, with support from Safeguarding ADs for Adults

and Children's Services, will bring housing-related safeguarding issues to the partnership, ensuring a continuous flow of information. Customer feedback and staff insights will inform the HSCP and HSAB, influencing local safeguarding policy and responding to local and national Safeguarding Practice Reviews (SPRs) and Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) findings.

- Define a Work Programme and activities that enable the delivery of the HSCP's Safeguarding Strategy and Business Plan. This will aim to ensure consolidated learning, sharing of development opportunities and achievement of consistent outcomes over time for identified vulnerabilities.

## Impact and Achievements

- The first work programme was developed and approved by both the HSCP and HSAB
- Facilitated a housing email network to share updates, guidance, and best practices
- Collaborated with the Haringey Housing Repairs Service to address damp and mould issues through a dedicated team
- Implemented a Damp and Mould Policy
- Enhanced information sharing between children's and adult services, leading to more cases being flagged
- Provided regular updates to the HSCP on damp and mould cases
- Maintained effective liaison with the Haringey Damp and Mould Group
- Engaged health professionals and other frontline workers as identifiers of dampness and mould during home visits, contributing to improved living conditions
- Designed information packs for new landlords and private licensing to raise awareness of safeguarding responsibilities

## We continue to strengthen our response by:

- Further embedding learning from serious incidents, reviews, and CSPRs
- Collaborating with the council's pilot program for installing damp and mould sensors in tenants' homes
- Finalising the group's first annual update, highlighting key themes from our discussions
- Enhancing partnership knowledge of Housing Pathways

# Joint HSCP and Haringey Safeguarding Adult's Board

The HSCP and HSAB hold biannual meetings to ensure joint collaborative efforts to improve local safeguarding and promote the welfare of children and adults with care and support needs in Haringey. While both boards maintain their own lines of accountability for safeguarding and welfare promotion, they work together to enhance coordination and effectiveness. Some of the key issues discussed during the year include:

- Gambling Harms in Haringey
- Transitional Safeguarding
- Damp and Mould in Council and Housing Stock
- Right Care, Right Person; and
- Safe and well-being reviews

## Addressing Gambling Harm in Haringey

Problem gambling is a significant issue in Haringey. Nationally, an estimated 0.5% of the population are problem gamblers, rising to 1.8% in London. Applying this rate to Haringey suggests that approximately 4,070 residents might be problem gamblers. Each problem gambler typically affects six others, leading to broader social, economic, and emotional costs. Haringey has an average of 24 gambling premises per 100,000 residents, significantly above the national average of 16 and the third highest in London. This high density of gambling venues contributes to the accessibility and prevalence of gambling activities in the borough.

Impact on Children and Young People In Haringey, 5% of secondary school students have gambled in the past year, with boys (7%) more likely to gamble than girls (1%). While this is lower than the national average of 11% for 11-16-year-olds, exposure to gambling marketing is widespread, with 96% of surveyed 11-24-year-olds encountering gambling advertisements monthly. Despite this exposure, only

53% reported seeing age restriction messages, and 38% noticed safer gambling warnings. Additionally, 6% of young people follow gambling accounts on Snapchat, where some betting premises use QR codes to promote gambling.

## Haringey Gambling Harms Programme Design

To tackle gambling harm, Haringey has implemented a comprehensive Health in All Policies approach, focusing on six main elements:

- **Adult Co-produced Work:** Conducting literature reviews and focus groups with local residents to identify needs and solutions.
- **Youth Engagement:** Offering educational workshops and training for teachers and parents and working with the youth council.
- **Raising Awareness:** Running a borough-wide campaign with materials from national organizations like GamCare.
- **Delivering a Gambling Summit:** Hosting a professional conference on gambling-related harms, resulting in the formation of the Gambling Network.
- **Training Programme:** Providing training to statutory and voluntary sector staff, including council members and volunteers.
- **Sustainable Pathways Development:** Establishing a referral service and refining service pathways to ensure sustainability.

## Achievements to Date

- **Awareness Materials:** Development and distribution of leaflets with and Cost-of-Living Crisis Booklet

- **GamCare**, and inclusion of information on Haringey's webpages
- **Referral Pathways:** Establishing clinics in Wood Green and Northumberland Park and embedding pathways
- **Collaboration with MIND:** Developing joint initiatives to support affected individuals.
- Conducting **sessions in secondary schools and youth clubs**, including questions in the SHUE Survey (January 2024). Training to 68 staff members, council leaders, and volunteers, with bespoke training for specific services.
- Haringey's efforts in **addressing gambling harm** are a testament to the borough's commitment to mitigating the adverse effects of gambling on its residents and fostering a healthier, more aware community.

## Transitional Safeguarding: Collaborative Efforts between HSCP and HSAB

We distinguish between 'transitions' the process of changing from one state to another and 'Transitional Safeguarding,' which involves a needs-led, personalised approach that goes beyond traditional notions of both transitions and safeguarding and is an integral part of the Preparing for Adulthood Strategic Development.

### Work to Date

- Transitional Safeguarding Protocol Launch
- Involvement of the Parenting Advisory Committee and a Lead Member linked to colleges and housing to address the impact on parenting and Care Leavers.
- Transitional Safeguarding Action Plan

### Champions Model Workstream

- Individuals with lived experience expertise shape the Workstream
- Prioritising support for vulnerable young people

The collaborative efforts of HSCP and HSAB in Transitional Safeguarding highlight the importance of continued collaboration, active engagement with young people, and the integration of Transitional Safeguarding approaches into broader strategic development. The ongoing work and planned initiatives aim to ensure that vulnerable young people in Haringey receive the support they need as they transition into adulthood.

## Damp and mould in council and Housing Stock

Haringey Council has taken significant steps to address the issue of dampness and mould in its housing stock including:

- Establishment of a dedicated operational team within the Housing Repairs Service to prioritise and remediate these cases, with a tracker system implemented for monitoring purposes
- Introduction of a dedicated hotline and email address to streamline reporting and response
- Implementation of a comprehensive Damp and Mould Policy, approved by Cabinet, alongside a new Decant Policy to temporarily relocate residents while severe damp and mould issues are addressed
- Training for housing staff on the new policy, with specialised training to identify and assess hazards
- Efforts to engage and communicate with residents, including updates to the website, information leaflets, and consultations during the policy development phase

The council's efforts include improved information sharing with Adult and Children services to ensure prioritised responses to flagged cases. The volume of identified cases has increased as the stock condition survey progresses, and efforts are being made to ensure 100% stock survey completion. The council reported a reduction in Category 1 and 2 cases over the year and continues to validate and provide remedial works.

A new digital case management system is being implemented to enhance case management further, and a pilot programme for installing damp and mould sensors in tenants' homes has been initiated. Collaboration with public health entities and procuring additional specialist contractors are ongoing to support these initiatives.

The HSCP and HSAB are pivotal in tackling damp and mould issues. By working closely with the operational team, these boards can help ensure that vulnerable residents are identified promptly and referred for necessary interventions. Health professionals, including district nurses and health visitors, can serve as frontline identifiers of damp and mould conditions during their visits to residents' homes. This collaborative approach will enhance the council's ability to respond swiftly and effectively, improving the living conditions and overall health of vulnerable populations in Haringey.

# Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) Conference 2023

## Addressing Children's Mental Health Needs

### Our Annual MASA Conference 2023

Organised by the HSCP, our annual MASA Conference 2023 was a highlight of the year and a significant in-person event focused on "Young People's Mental Health." The conference also marked the launch of the Neglect Strategy, aligning with the HSCP's priorities for 2023-24. Research indicates that the mental health of children and adolescents in the UK has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, with rising rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. In Haringey, the need for targeted mental health support for young people has been recognised as critical. The conference aimed to deepen understanding of the challenges faced by young people and provided a platform for professionals to collaborate:

- 112 people attended the conference
- Attendees included representatives from CSC, police, schools, early help, Whittington Health, North London Mental Health Partnership, NCL ICB, VAWG, Sister System, Open Door, Private Fostering, and Vanguard
- 50 feedback forms were completed, with the majority of delegates rating the conference 9 or 10 out of 10 (10 being the highest score)

### Impact

- **Opening and Speakers:** The HSCP Independent Chair, David Archibald, and the HSCP Executive Partners opened the event. Key speakers included Dr Navin Chandra and Dr Ahmad Shatta from the North London Mental Health Partnership (BEH MHT), representatives from the Youth Justice Service, Tottenham Hotspur Foundation, and the Metropolitan Police
- **Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration:** The conference featured agency stalls that were a hub of activity and extensive networking among attendees, promoting best practices in supporting children's mental health, strengthening inter-agency relationships, and fostering a unified approach to addressing mental health issues
- **Focus on HSCP Priority Areas:** Discussions covered children's mental health, contextual safeguarding, early help and prevention, the different mental health needs of various age groups, effective interventions, support in schools, and the HSCP's role, as well as the prevention of neglect
- **Impact on Practice:** Practical workshops and discussions equipped attendees with strategies to implement in their respective roles, leading to improved practices and more effective mental health support across agencies
- **Enhanced Understanding of Mental Health Procedures and Pathways:** Participants gained insight into the latest research, policies, and practices, contributing to a more consistent and effective approach to supporting children's mental health and preventing neglect within Haringey
- **Staff Well-being:** A session of chairobics was highly valued by delegates

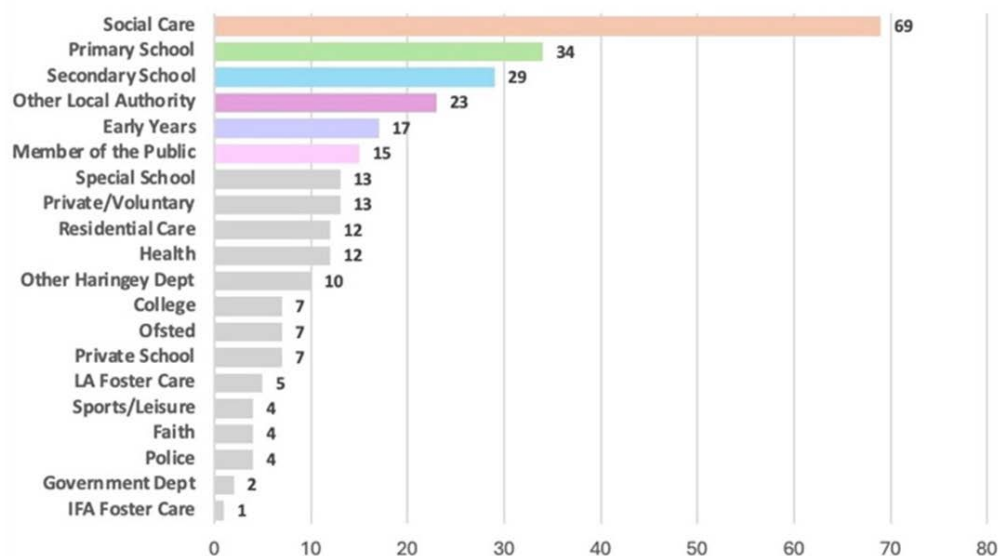
## Feedback Comments

- Considering other services in Haringey reignited my desire to make a change."
- "I loved the language in reframing the narratives from HYJS in particular and would like to think about how I can incorporate this into staff training in my school."
- "I genuinely thought it was fantastic."
- "Hearing a young person talk about working and being supported by THFC, and the internship she was offered, gave a personal insight."
- "I am a new starter to the borough, and I think this conference as part of an induction to Haringey would be really useful."
- "Very interesting to hear how police and YJS are person-centred in their approach... THFC's talk outlined a lot of services I didn't know they provided"

# Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Local authorities have LADOs responsible for coordinating the response to concerns involving individuals working with children who may have caused harm. The LADO Service in Haringey has expanded to address increasing demand. At least half of the work that comes to the LADO service is from Education.

Agency of Referrer



## Key findings

- 288 Consultations taking place in 2023-24 (60% of the work) and 480 total contacts an increase of 12% from 2021-22.
- 28.5% of the contacts LADO received met threshold to consider under the Allegations against Staff and Volunteers (ASV) process
- 47 notifications from Ofsted - an increase in notifications from Ofsted and the

DFE to LADO this year of 42%

- Allegations referrals have increased in complexity, a pattern being reflected by Safeguarding and Assessment teams
- Social Care remains the primary contact for LADO, followed by schools and colleges. There has been increased contact from a wider range of agencies, including the Faith sector and the public, indicating awareness of the LADO service. This also highlights the need for further training and publicity, particularly through the HSCP, to clarify the role and remit of LADO.
- 105/115 are concluded. A high proportion continue to be Unsubstantiated or Unfounded (33%) or not meeting threshold for formal process (34%).
- The highest percentage of Substantiated outcomes relates to physical and sexual harmfulness against children. Physical (n=60, 52%) and Sexual (n=21, 18%) harmfulness are most often referred. Out of 21 allegations of sexual harm, almost half (48%) have been Substantiated and 2 cases are pending conclusion. Out of 60 cases of physical harm, 35% have been Unsubstantiated and 31% have not met threshold: 23% have been Substantiated.

## What we have done in 2023-24

- Successfully recruited an Education Safeguarding Advisor/LADO with a focus on managing allegations in education
- Provided quarterly reports through LADO to identify themes and patterns
- Used data collection to inform practice improvements, including reducing response times for consultation enquiries and enhanced training and practice through participation in London and national LADO network meetings
- Carried out publicity efforts, including briefings and training for Social Work, Education, and Health teams to raise awareness of the LADO service

- Increased the focus on the voice of the child, particularly in addressing vulnerabilities and trauma within the ASV process
- Established positive professional relationships with Haringey police (CAIT) to ensure responsiveness to enquiries
- Conducted regular quarterly training with HSCP, providing additional or bespoke training to partner agencies as needed

## Plans in place for 2024-2025

Update LADO procedures, enhance collaboration with Faith Sectors, and provide bespoke training for DSLs, School Governors, Children's Services, Human Resources, and other services. Following the Hesley review, we will refine Borough Case Notifications and increase publicity on the requirement for children's social workers to notify LADO of all children, in residential homes in other LA's when there are allegations or safeguarding concerns. Implementing the Liquid Logic system will enable direct referrals from this system.



# Learning from Reviews: Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Serious Incidents

The HSCP continues to have a vital role in commissioning and coordinating learning from a range of reviews following a serious incident or in situations where sadly, children die. The two fundamental mechanisms that help us achieve this are Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) and Child Death Reviews.

## Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR)

Sometimes, a child suffers a serious injury or death due to abuse or neglect. Understanding what happened and why can help improve our response in the future. It is essential to understand the impact of different organisations and agencies on the child's life and the lives of their family, as well as whether other approaches or efforts may have resulted in a different outcome to improve our collective knowledge. In this way, we can make sound judgements about what might need to change locally or nationally. The HSCP plays an integral role in establishing a system of learning and reflection locally and must:

- identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their opinion, raise issues of importance in relation to their area
- commission and oversee the review of those cases if they consider it appropriate

HSCP is accountable for ensuring the implementation of learning from serious incidents. The impact of local and national reviews should be evidenced in the HSCP annual report and subjected to independent scrutiny.

## New Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Subgroup

In September 2023, the HSCP established the Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Subgroup to provide a dedicated space for key professionals to come together in a partnership multi-agency forum regarding CSPRs (see the CSPR Subgroup report earlier in this report).

From 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the HSCP, including the CSPR Subgroup, received 11 notifications where a Virtual Threshold Meeting with Statutory Partners took place. Of the 11 cases referred to the HSCP, five resulted in a Rapid Review, and of these, two progressed to a CSPR; one CSPR is currently in progress, while another followed an alternative approach. In the latter case, instead of a full CSPR, a professional was commissioned to expand on the Rapid Review's findings, leading directly to learning surgeries. This method mirrors approaches used by other local authorities that conduct shorter reviews. In this case, to reduce costs and embed learning earlier, the subject matter expert conducted three learning events (with a fourth planned), incorporating insights from local and national CSPRs. The governance for the new approach is via the newly established SPR Sub-group.

Additionally, we are engaged in a further CSPR led by another local authority and will bring back learning relevant to Haringey. Additional CSPR reports were concluded during the reporting period and are awaiting publication due to criminal proceedings. Learning has been absorbed, and recommendations and action plans for these reviews are complete. The CSPR subgroup robustly monitors all current cases, and the executive group is appraised regularly regarding progress.

## Evidence Base Rapid Reviews

- 4 out of 5 Rapid Reviews were for young people aged 13 to 17
- 4 out of 5 were male

## Evidence Base CSPRs

- 2 out of 2 CSPRs were for young people aged 16 and 17
- 2 out of 2 were male
- 2 out of 2 were Black or Black British-Caribbean

### The primary concerns identified across the reviews were:

- Serious Youth Violence
- Parental Mental Health
- Self-Harm and Child Mental Health

## Learning from Safeguarding Practice Reviews in 2023-24

- **Stop and Search pathways to support:** A high frequency of police stops and searches can be a significant indicator of a young person struggling, yet this did not always trigger a referral to Children's Social Care or other interventions.
- **Commissioning and Discharge Pressures and Use of Seclusion:** The pressures of commissioning and discharge from agencies, both nationally and locally, were acknowledged, highlighting the absence of appropriate services and accommodation to support step-down from seclusion or Tier 4 units, as well as a general lack of suitable provision across the UK
- **Voice of the Child:** Emphasising the importance of considering the child's perspective in all decisions
- **Family Dynamics and Domestic Abuse:** Agency relationships with parents and addressing the impact and trauma of domestic abuse on children and families
- **Use of Escalation Policy:** Constructive professional challenge regarding medical

opinions and enhancing shared understanding of children's medical diagnoses

- **Prevention in Adolescent Mental Health:** Promote a deeper understanding of adolescent mental health prevention in Haringey

## CSPR Learning Events

- **Focus on the Child's Lived Experience:** Understanding the young person, focusing on their personal experiences and challenges
- **Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs):** Learning sessions concentrated on critical areas such as domestic abuse and parental mental health
- **Confidentiality vs Welfare Needs:** The balance between a young person's right to confidentiality and their welfare needs, highlighting the challenges professionals face in determining when to involve parents or the more comprehensive professional network to support a young person in distress
- **Impact of Post-COVID School Attendance:** One learning session addressed the changes in school attendance patterns post-COVID and the broader trend of disengagement from education post-COVID

## Combined learning, actions, and impact as a result of the CSPRs, learning reviews, and rapid reviews have included:

- Reviewed the referral process and data information sharing to support services for children subject to Stop & Search
- Reviewed the use of the section 85 process that requires local authorities to check on children living in residential education or hospital provision longer than 12 weeks
- Adaptations of the HSCP Escalation Policy to reflect escalating matters of concern earlier in the process
- Redrafting the restrictive practices document and reviewing the use of seclusion in a hospital setting for young people

- Funding for a dedicated post of a social worker in local hospitals
- Revision and Implementation of a Hospital Discharge Policy
- Raising awareness and developing skills and knowledge around adolescent mental health
- Further consideration of Intersectionality, Contextual Harm, and Adulthood
- 7-minute briefings for staff
- Continued review, development, and progression to improve information-sharing processes
- Further consideration of Trauma-Informed Practice supported by commissioned training opportunities
- Development of a complaint policy regarding CSCRs and Independent Reviewers
- A revised process for CSCR child-friendly reports
- Recommendation to review the whole prevention pathway for adolescent mental health

The HSCP is committed to learning and improvement, sustained through regular monitoring and follow-up actions. Hence, the findings from these reviews and national reviews impact improving outcomes for children, young people, and their families in Haringey. A combined Rapid Review and LSCPR action plan is in place to track actions and evidence the impact of implementing this learning across the partnership to ensure the reviews influence practice.

# Child Death Reviews

## North Central London Child Death Overview Panel (NCL CDOP)

Introduction: The Child Death Review (CDR) Partners (NCL Integrated Care Board and the five local authority areas for North Central London) continue to embed the child death review statutory guidance across NCL. The CDR Partners work closely together to ensure each child death in NCL is thoroughly reviewed and each family is allocated an identified keyworker.

The NCL Lead Nurse for Child Death is linked with each of the five Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs). In Haringey, the Lead Nurse is a member of the Practice, Learning & Workforce Development Group and the Quality Performance & Outcomes sub-groups.

In 2023-24, NCL CDOP received 92 notifications of child deaths. Of these cases, sixteen (16) were for Haringey children. Statutory guidance<sup>2</sup> defines an unexpected death as the death of a child that was not anticipated as a significant possibility 24 hours before the death.

### Joint Agency Response (JAR) meetings: A JAR meeting is convened for all unexpected deaths, ideally within 72 hours and is triggered if a child's death:

- is or could be due to external causes
- is sudden and there is no immediately apparent cause (including sudden unexpected death in infancy/childhood (SUDI/C).
- occurs in custody, or where the child was detained under the Mental Health Act.
- where the initial circumstances raise any suspicions that the death may not have been natural; or

→ in the case of a stillbirth where no healthcare professional was in attendance.

The reasons for JARs were Serious Youth Violence, Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy and unexpected acute collapse due to underlying medical conditions, however for confidentiality reasons and to avoid any possible identification of individual cases the exact numbers of the above reasons were redacted prior to publication of this report.

- Immediate safeguarding steps were taken where appropriate in relation to siblings and family support.
- Immediate learning highlights the ongoing need to raise awareness of the impact of serious youth violence
- Three cases were referred to the Safeguarding Children Partnership for the consideration of a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

**Learning from Child Death Review Meetings (CDRMs):** In 2023-24, 7 cases were reviewed at CDRMs where all the information gathered through the eCDOP is reviewed to identify local learning. Once the cases have been through the CDRM process, the independent panel (CDOP) will review and assesses modifiable and contributory factors. Of the cases reviewed at panel, 1 had modifiable factors noted. \*please use caution when referring to numbers >5

**Local Learning:** Thematic CDOPs. In 2023-24, NCL CDOP recognised that several child deaths would benefit from a specialist themed panel approach. As a result, a series of themed panels were put in place in 2023 – 2024. These specialist panels have included specialists in respective areas, allowed for in depth discussions and the sharing of practice across the system.

In October 2023, there was a panel specifically reviewing children who had sadly died and had a **learning disability**. Several **perinatal themed panels** have taken place which have reviewed all premature and neonatal cases. The learning has been shared across each of the five NCL Safeguarding Partnerships and NHS Trusts.

In June 2024, a **Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy Panel** took place and identified several learning points including the impact of the Covid – 19 pandemic and delayed contact with primary health care. A key theme that emerged related to co-sleeping and highlighted the need to ensure that relevant services:

- Include where the baby sleeps as a risk factor in assessments
- Ensure all family members caring for an infant overnight are reminded of the dangers of co-sleeping and taught safer sleeping
- Provide clear safety guidance to parents who choose to co-sleep

The panel recognised there was also several of the known risk factors including prematurity, parental smoking, and alcohol use, along with parental mental health.

A panel looking at **Serious Youth Violence** was held at the beginning of July 2024. The panel discussed seven cases. This panel used the opportunity to trial a screening tool that could be used across London to look at common risk factors in an attempt to identify trigger factors for early intervention. Several shared themes were identified across the children’s lives including adverse childhood experiences, bereavement and exposure to domestic violence in infancy. Members of the panel have agreed to reconvene to consider how the learning will be taken forwards.

Links with NCL networks. NCL CDOP has established four NCL network groups to support the dissemination of learning from CDOP within multi-agency services:

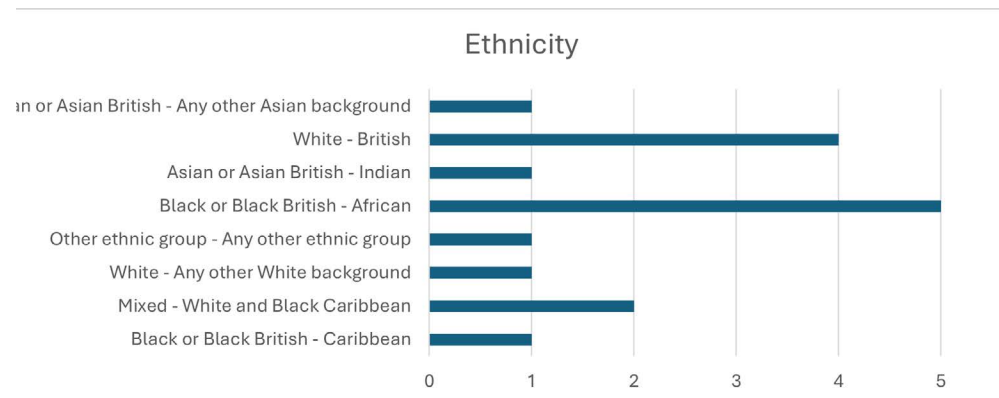
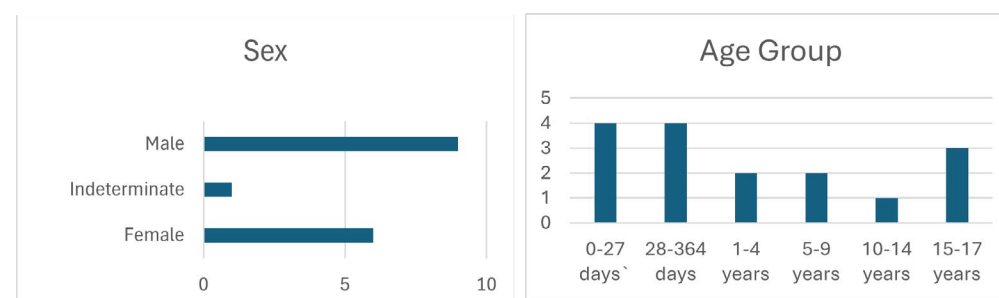
- Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs)
- Quality Assurance Managers in Children’s Services
- Education Leads
- LSCPs managers.

## National Learning

The eCDOP system has allowed for analysis of all child deaths by the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) team. The NCMD, commissioned by NHS England, published a number of thematic reports in 2023-24. NCL CDOP shared the learning and recommendations from these publications through the Practice, Learning & Workforce Development Group. NCL Partnership managers have developed an action plan to implement the specific Partnership recommendations and are due to report progress to NCL CDOP in September 2024.

## Haringey data analysis summary 2023-24

16** child deaths reported	0 overseas deaths	5 JARs
1 Rapid Review (Perinatal Mortality Review Tool meeting)	7 CDRM	1 PMRT



\*\*2 cases are currently under review

# How effective these arrangements have been in practice

The MASA arrangements have resulted in significant improvements for children, families, staff, and the local community. The following points, in addition to earlier evidence in the report, highlight the success and effectiveness of these arrangements:

- **Improved Outcomes for Children:** "Leaders have supported frontline staff to improve practice significantly... Multi-agency partnership work is effective in identifying children at risk of abuse or neglect and providing the right support at the right time... Services for children who need help and protection in Haringey are strong. Thresholds for intervention are understood across the partnership" (Ofsted 2023)
- **Recognition and Branding:** The MASA brand is now widely recognised across the Partnership, indicating strong visibility and awareness and instilling confidence in the community and among partners
- **Multi-Agency Engagement and Stronger Relationships:** There is significant multi-agency involvement in the chairing roles of various groups (e.g., PLWD, QPO, MACE, JOG, Housing), evidencing shared ownership and responsibility
- **Meeting Participation:** Attendance at Threshold meetings, Rapid Response Meetings, and Learning Reviews has been excellent, reflecting high levels of engagement and collaboration. Additionally, there is strong attendance at Leadership and Executive Meetings held regularly throughout the year by senior members across the Partnership
- **Rotational Leadership:** Effective rotation of chairing responsibilities among the three statutory partners at Threshold meetings and Rapid Reviews ensures balanced leadership and diverse perspectives
- **Shared Ownership of Learning:** There is a strong commitment across partners to learn from Reviews, with shared ownership in implementing lessons learned, leading to updated safeguarding policies and procedures based on findings from reviews and new legislative requirements
- **Innovation, Expertise, and Challenge:** Partners demonstrate innovation and bring expertise in their respective fields, contributing to quality conversations and respectfully challenging each other, promoting critical thinking and reflective practice. This dynamic fosters an environment where evidence-based practices are continuously evaluated and improved
- **Campaign and Initiative Support:** The Partnership showed strong engagement in promoting the Neglect & PANTS Campaign and the Think Family approach
- **Influence:** The arrangements have influenced national issues of importance, showcasing the Partnership's impact beyond the local community
- **Commitment to Safeguarding:** A strong commitment to safeguarding and a child-centred approach within a whole family focus is evident
- **Complaint Handling and Escalations:** Receiving and handling complaints from the public through the HSCP complaints process indicates an effective and well-known procedure, highlighting transparency and continuous improvement in safeguarding practices. Staff's more effective use of the escalation policy ensures prompt attention to concerns, fostering a culture of openness and accountability.
- **Training Facilitation:** Partners offer in-kind support and lead training sessions. The Bridge Renewal Trust, our VCS partner, has also delivered training to the voluntary and faith communities, enhancing overall safeguarding capacity and awareness in Haringey.
- **Annual MASA Conferences:** Focus on networking and shared safeguarding priorities, fostering continuous improvement and collaborative learning
- **Themed Audits:** Multi-agency commitment in HSCP and single-agency audits results in actionable learning embedded across systems and agencies
- **Practice Weeks:** Strong multi-agency commitment in two Practice Weeks further reinforce collaborative learning and practice improvement

# The contribution of each safeguarding partner to the functioning and structure of the HSCP

## The HSCP Partners include:

- Health
  - North London Mental Health Partnership (NLMHP)
  - North Middlesex University Hospital
  - North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB)
  - Whittington Health NHS Trust
- Police
- Children's Social Care (including exploitation services)
- Early help and Prevention including SEND
- Youth Offending Services
- Education
- Housing
- Community Safety Partnership
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Health and Well-Being Board
- Probation
- Voluntary Sector (Bridge Renewal Trust, Mind and Public Voice Community Interest Company)
- Adult Services

## Summary of safeguarding partner's contribution

- Statutory role and leadership
- Resource and expertise
- Auditing
- Data and performance frameworks
- Delivering multi-agency training
- Representation across all HSCP groups, including Executive, Leadership, and Sub-groups
- HSCP Business Unit manages administrative functions and support for the HSCP
- Partner of the Multi-agency Safeguarding HUB (MASH)
- Exchanging information to strengthen and clarify processes and responsibilities for child safeguarding
- Multi-agency collaboration and attendance at various meetings
- Chair, co-chair, and vice-chair roles in multi-agency HSCP groups, sub-groups, and task & finish groups
- Implementation and oversight of learning often via trackers
- Rotating chairs for Virtual Threshold Meetings and

## Rapid Reviews

- Continued partnerships
- Learning and development through regular training
- Campaigns and new initiatives
- Facilitation of learning opportunities, including bi-annual Practice Weeks
- Hosting "lunch and learn" sessions
- Participation in thematic audits and observations
- Agency locality teams involved in multi-agency audits, supporting borough-wide safeguarding
- Sharing information and reflecting on serious incidents, maximizing learning
- Implementing learned practices effectively
- Proactive stance against gender-based violence
- Facilitating new partnerships and sharing best practices
- Focus on children's voices, ensuring their views are heard and acted upon
- Involvement and delivery of multi-agency strategic plans
- Information sharing to enhance safeguarding knowledge
- Contributing to community safeguarding skills

# HSCP Multi-Agency Audits 2023-24

## Theme: Housing Poverty: June - September 2023

**Focus:** Health, Early Intervention & Prevention, emphasising children aged 0-5 years, housing poverty, and its impact.

**Cohort:** Open to CSC/Early Help, with housing needs impacting the health of children, mental health concerns, and children with additional needs living in homes that do not meet their requirements, lack adaptability, or have poor accessibility.

### Key messages/findings:

- Domestic abuse, mental health issues, and drug use are contributing factors in the cases audited
- Continuous interagency collaboration beyond the three statutory partners, including housing and cross-boundary cooperation, is of key importance
- Some examples of good practice were highlighted that should be harnessed and promoted
- The voice of the child must remain a central focus in all our work

### What's working well:

The following are examples where partners recognised safeguarding concerns, acted, and shared information appropriately:

- Effective liaison was noted across the partnership in many of the cases reviewed
- In two instances, housing teams provided exceptional support to the families
- Evidence throughout these audits showed that agencies were considering the broader context for children within the families

### Areas we want to take action to improve partnership working:

The following were noted:

- Further information should be sought from agencies outside of Haringey
- Review information sharing from agencies to GPs to ensure information is routinely shared at key points, as also highlighted in the Section 11 audit. An audit to be considered
- GP forum to discuss training on coding incoming safeguarding information. In 2023, all Haringey GPs received updated coding information aligned with the National Safeguarding Network and some locally developed systems. This was discussed at the GP Forum and uploaded to the NCLICB website in August 2023. The update reinforced existing safeguarding practices in GP surgeries
- Agencies should commit to using the audit reflection tool

### Audit recommendations:

It is recommended that the learning from these audits be shared with the following sub-groups/services/agencies to be considered within their ongoing work: PLWD, QPO, Housing, Children's Social Care, GPs, Police, Voluntary Sector, NL MHP, Early Help. Others are:

- All agencies should consider the voice of the children, being mindful when working with families where English is not the first language
- When the audit tool is being populated by CSC, siblings' schools should be included
- PLWD to consider developing a case scenario that promotes good partnerships working between agencies where housing and poverty are a theme



## Audit Theme: Children impacted by mental health, contextual safeguarding and serious violence – November 23 – January 24

**Focus:** Understanding services for children affected by mental health issues and serious youth violence in Haringey and identifying service gaps

**Cohort:** Children aged 10+ involved in serious youth violence, mental health issues, and contextual safeguarding across ten agencies

### Key messages/findings:

- Need for better partnership between Mental Health services and other agencies
- Lack of understanding of interagency services, processes, and policies
- Concern over the absence of a CAMHS clinician in the YOT team (now has interim cover)
- Education's role in a child's life is crucial; there is a need for more input from Education
- Mental health must be considered in all safeguarding cases
- Improve information sharing, especially for out-of-borough looked-after children
- Domestic abuse affected children in most cases reviewed

### What's working well:

- Good information sharing and liaison noted in learning events
- Strong audit responses from Health (GP), Children's Social Care, and Youth Justice, fully utilising reflection templates
- CS CIN pathway effectively supported at-risk children
- Agencies show a strong understanding of child exploitation

### Areas for improvement:

- Improve understanding of how a child's life story and trauma affect mental health and behaviour
- Better promotion of CAMHS services and accurate recording of referrals
- Promote the CS CIN pathway more effectively
- Adopt trauma-informed language across the partnership
- Increase collaboration between Mental Health services and other agencies
- Better use of interventions for children affected by domestic abuse

### Audit recommendations:

- Circulate the timeline for the next audit to ensure partner engagement
- CAMHS to review referral pathways and engagement policies and attend contextual safeguarding meetings for vulnerable children
- Agencies should showcase their services to improve understanding (PLWD subgroup to explore)
- Ensure interventions for children experiencing domestic abuse, with separate and joint support for non-abusive parents if safe
- Promote the CS CIN pathway across agencies
- Encourage the use of the Haringey Missing app where relevant
- Ensure a child's life story is shared when necessary and consistently document the child's voice across all agencies, using 'language that cares'

# Practice Week February 2024

A Practice Week held twice yearly strengthens multi-agency collaboration, enhances service quality, and drives practice improvement for systems change. Key activities include observations, audits, joint training, and audits.

**Evidence base:** Recognising the signs of domestic abuse and its impact on children is crucial. Symptoms like anxiety, depression, aggression, and difficulty concentrating may indicate exposure. Adults working with children should be vigilant and proactive in protecting those at risk.

**Methodology:** The Practice Week opened with a pre-recorded video by Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker. Participants reflected on learning from the [National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson](#). They discussed the application of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 across services and partnerships.

## Good practice:

- Meetings are well-led, focused, and inclusive, ensuring all voices are heard
- Child-centred meetings with evidence of solid practice when working with children and families
- Robust scrutiny and challenge, with children's voices central to discussions
- Positive use of SMART planning and outcomes
- Regular discussions on equality of opportunity
- Benefits of multi-agency attendance at meetings

## Learning points:

- Increased use of Family Group Conferences
- A clearer understanding of when to conduct a CP medical during domestic abuse incidents involving children
- Improved collaboration and information sharing at an earlier stage

- Missed opportunities to engage fathers in understanding the impact of their behaviour on children
- Greater consideration of the child's lived experience and trauma before referral
- Identification and provision of necessary training
- Exploration of culture, religion, and belief systems of parents

## Joint Training:

Five Lite Bite Sessions were informative and well-attended, with 345 attendees from seven HSCP agencies. Training covered models such as:

- **The Bridge** – Duluth Model: An inter-agency approach to coordinating responses to domestic violence
- **MARAC** - Coordinated Community Response (CCR): A model that unites services to keep survivors safe, hold abusers accountable, and prevent domestic abuse
- **RCP** – Are you Curious?: A model helping practitioners explore family life under three headings: Home, Relationship, and Experience
- **SASH (Screening Assessment of Stalking and Harassment)**: A tool aiding professionals in decision-making regarding stalking cases
- **DART (Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together)**: An intervention to strengthen the mother-child relationship post-abuse

## Main outcomes:

- Strong partnership contribution to Haringey's multi-agency practice during the week
- Highlighted effective responses to domestic abuse across agencies
- Shared learning on Haringey's multi-agency approach to child wellbeing in domestic abuse cases
- Partners agreed on maintaining a focus on children and addressing trauma before behavioural or mental health issues arise

## Recommendations and Next steps:

- Develop a support pathway for Haringey children in domestic abuse situations, considering their lived experience
- Coordinate commissioning of services for children and families, including non-engaging parents, invisible parents, and extended family members
- Strengthen service provision to ensure equality of access and opportunity
- Conduct a Domestic Abuse Training needs analysis across the partnership

## Practice week September 2023

**Theme:** Physical Abuse Injury in children with a focus 0 to 11-year-olds.

**Evidence Base:** Incorporating the learning from the reviews of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson.

### Good Practice:

- Language that cares was clearly evidenced, and the child was kept at the centre of decision making.
- The link between agencies was clear and gave good over-sight of how challenges were considered as partnership.
- Child focused home visit, where the children appeared very comfortable with the allocated worker.
- Each family's needs were considered with all agencies contributing to discussions, sharing information and offering suggestions regarding how they could best be supported going forward
- Practice was adapted to meet the needs of the children.
- There was good evidence of multi-agency discussion. Actions were taken from school and children services regarding predicted grades and possible ASD
- There was a good flow of communication with no single agency dominating the discussions; thus, the balance was appropriate for each family under consideration.

## Learning points

- One agency highlighted a cultural barrier where English is not the first language; therefore ensure referrals for families to relevant community support
- The Importance of continued multi-agency working, to effect positive change
- It is important to raise timely alerts and document concerns so that a clear audit trail can add value to safeguarding children
- Invisible Fathers; the Importance of Involving fathers.
- Ensure the child has a consistent, safe space to speak to safe adults when needed.
- There is a need to monitor the progress of the child's plan, as a partnership (ensuring no drift and maximum impact).
- To ensure all health staff know and follow the 'Child was not bought' policy.
- There was evidence of professional curiosity, but the partnership felt this could be developed even further.
- More consideration of parental/carer mental health needs – life experience and parenting skills with regards to their own history.
- The importance of the acceptance and timeliness of a referral when conducting an autism assessment.

## Joint Training – 10 Lite Bite Sessions

- Sessions were held each day of practice week led by specialist workers which were informative and well attended. 707 attendees from 6 HSCP agencies.
- A selection of sessions included: Injury in children the evidence base, national guidance and learning from Star and Arthur by the Haringey Designated Doctor, Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) and being Curious, Common Assault vs. Child Cruelty by Police, National Probation Service, Public Law Outline, Escalation Policy, Case Studies by Schools, Speech and Language Pupil Education Plan for Children Looked After.

## Main outcomes

- Strong effective partnership commitment in Haringey's second multi agency practice week.
- Audits evidenced a multi-agency approach and commitment to partnership working when safeguarding children who have sustained an injury, taking into consideration co-existing factors.
- The auditors reflected on their own contribution and the joint response to a child presenting with an injury.
- The practice week evidence a clear understanding of their role when responding to children who sustain a worrying injury.
- Partners feel strongly that we need to ensure that parents who misuse alcohol and or suffer from mental ill health are well supported and encouraged to receive the correct support/attend relevant appointments.

## Recommendations and Next steps

- Joined up commissioning of services for families affected by physical abuse, including working with non-engaging, invisible parents, extended family members and communities.
- Non-accidental injury policy to be re-disseminated to the Health Partnership
- Strengthen the provision of services to ensure equal access and opportunity; particularly for our families whose first language is not English.
- Non-accidental Injury Training to be mandatory for all frontline practitioners across the partnership.
- Professional curiosity audit to be undertaken across the partnership to test how well this has been achieved.
- The quality performance and outcomes subgroup will monitor physical abuse indicators included in the performance framework and will escalate any areas of concern to the HSCP executive group.

# Themes emanating from aggregated methods of scrutiny, for example, reviews and scrutineer activity and multi-agency audits

## Aggregated Cross-Cutting Themes and Learning

From the reviews, scrutiny, and multi-agency audits, several key themes have emerged, highlighting overarching lessons and guiding future actions:

- **Complexity:** Domestic abuse, child and parental mental health issues, substance misuse, and contextual safeguarding often intersect. Addressing these interconnected factors requires integrated and comprehensive approaches
- **Importance of Multi-Agency Collaboration:** Effective safeguarding depends on collaboration beyond core statutory partners, including housing, the voluntary sector, and other relevant agencies. Successful outcomes demonstrate the value of working across and beyond local boundaries to address complex safeguarding concerns
- **Adolescents with Complex Mental Health Needs:** There is a notable prevalence of mental health issues among teenagers
- **Understanding Children's Lives:** Emphasising the need to fully understand children's lived experiences and those of their families to improve safeguarding and support
- **Leadership and Commitment:** Strong leadership and governance are evident, with established processes and high standards in safeguarding training. Effective leadership supports critical thinking and constructive professional challenge
- **Effective Information Sharing:** The success of information-sharing arrangements like the MASH highlights the importance of effective communication among partners, creating a shared understanding and response
- **Holistic View of Children:** Agencies are increasingly able to understand and address the broader context of children's lives, including complex factors like domestic abuse and mental health issues, beyond immediate concerns
- **Cultural Considerations:** There is an increasing understanding of the need to consider racial, ethnic, and cultural identities and how these factors impact children and families
- **Whole Family Approach:** The understanding and application of a whole family approach to risk assessment has improved. Expanding the involvement of absent parents and extended family members will further enhance support
- **Parental Mental Health:** Increased attention to the impact of parental mental health on parenting capacity will further strengthen support

# Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families

## Learning and Development

- **Leadership:** Senior managers across the partnership demonstrate strong safeguarding understanding, embrace innovation, and focus on continuous improvement, showing ambition and a commitment to excellence
- **Training Offer:** A comprehensive Training Needs Analysis has been completed, with 2024-25 planning underway. The multi-agency training pool remains robust, with targeted sessions addressing specific needs. Partners actively shape and deliver these opportunities, which are highly valued, as evidenced by feedback
- **Innovation:** The GP forum exemplifies how large cohorts of staff receive training on the latest safeguarding arrangements, considering changes in practice, process, and legislation
- **The Bridge Renewal Trust:** Continues to promote Basics Safeguarding Awareness Training, enhancing the knowledge of Haringey's voluntary and community sector. In 2023-24, 265 people completed the training

## Impact of Training

- All agencies are aware of and able to access the HSCP training offers
- 33 courses were provided on topics such as Learning from CSPRs, Cultural Boundaries, Thresholds, Hate Crime, and Housing Standards

- Safeguarding Level 3 was the most popular course, followed by LADO Training and Social Care Thresholds
- 7-minute briefings effectively raised awareness of issues like bruising in non-mobile babies and neglect, and the vital link between the HSCP and Haringey Academy was recognised

## Feedback

- High standards of facilitation, with attendees reporting positive impacts on their practice
- Sessions provided a safe forum for discussion and learning, with interactive elements and well-chosen scenarios
- Attendees appreciated the smaller group settings and the range of participants

## Examples of Improved Practices and Awareness

- Neglect Awareness: New guidance, toolkits, and a strategic campaign have increased awareness and early identification of neglect
- NSPCC PANTS Campaign: Promoted across schools to educate children about personal safety
- Guidance on Bruises/Injury in Non-Mobile Infants: The HSCP audited the new policy's implementation to ensure its effectiveness

- Professional Curiosity: Emphasised through Practice Week, particularly concerning absent fathers and female perpetrators
- Strengthening Representation: Improved collaboration with Housing and Education partners
- Work with North Area BCU Child Exploitation Team: Led to improvements like the Child Exploitation Policy Document, targeted operations, and the design and implementation of the Proactivity Panel

## Systems Learning Improvements

- **Rapid Reviews:** The CSPR sub-group has enhanced the effectiveness and timeliness of Rapid Response processes
- **Learning and Feedback:** Insights from Rapid Reviews and CSPRs are fed back to identify training needs
- **Performance Framework:** Further developed to monitor key priorities effectively
- **CSPR and Housing Subgroups:** Facilitated focused discussions on priorities and engaged in national efforts
- **Haringey Youth at Risk Strategy:** Workforce Development Training addressing serious youth violence was delivered in partnership with SOLVE CYVC

## Conferences and Policy Updates

- **MASA Conference:** Focused on raising mental health awareness across the partnership
- **Young People at Risk Strategy Conference:** Addressed serious youth violence, voluntary sector engagement, and Stop & Search/Missing App initiatives

- **Escalation Policy:** Recently reviewed to ensure timely and effective safeguarding responses
- **Integrated Safeguarding:** Progress made in integrating responses to domestic abuse, physical abuse, neglect, children's mental health, and contextual safeguarding through multi-agency reviews, learning events, and early intervention

## Impacting Beyond Our Boundaries

The HSCP's influence extends beyond Haringey, with cross-borough projects tackling unemployment, health disparities, poverty, and crime. Strengthened alliances and innovative, locally-led solutions continue addressing challenges affecting Haringey's children and young people.

# Analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities

Over the past year, the HSCP has made significant progress in addressing all its agreed priorities, proactively implementing action plans to enhance safeguarding practices and improve outcomes for children and families.

## Action Plans and Progress Monitoring

- The HSCP has established comprehensive action plans, regularly monitored to ensure alignment with set objectives
- Continuous evaluation and assessment processes, including audits, feedback mechanisms, and performance data, are in place to review the effectiveness of these plans, track progress, and identify emerging challenges

## Addressing Challenges

- Targeted Interventions: In areas where progress has been less evident, the HSCP has implemented targeted interventions to address specific concerns, enhance practice, close gaps, and ensure all priorities are met.



# Record of key decisions and actions including implementing the recommendations from local and national child safeguarding practice reviews and impact

Key decisions and actions	Impact
Embedding Think Family Approach Across the Partnership and Early Help	A more unified trauma informed systems-based approach across services, resulting in improved family support and better outcomes for children and adults.
Stop and Search Pilot Study	This groundbreaking work instigated and spurred on by the council's Children's Services team aims to be rolled out beyond Haringey, across the capital and even further afield.
Deliver Neglect Campaign and Strategy	This will increase awareness and understanding of neglect, leading to better identification and support for at-risk children. The toolkit's integration into training will standardised neglect responses across the partnership. Campaign launch due September 2024 is underway.
Agreed NCL Discharge Policy and Hospital Social Work Post	The policy will be disseminated across the NCL to improve discharge planning
Approval: Multi-Agency Guidance on Bruises/Injury in Non-Mobile Infants	The HSCP signed off on revisions to the multi-agency guidance addressing serious injuries in non-mobile infants. Improved protocols and responses to serious injuries in non-mobile infants, enhancing child protection measures.
Child Scrutiny Review & Action Plan on Child Poverty	Considered the findings and created a strategic framework for addressing child poverty, resulting in more accessible services and improved housing support for affected families.
Considered VAWG is Everyone's Business: Health Summit	These initiatives have strengthened the support framework for survivors of domestic abuse, promoting prevention and early intervention, and addressing perpetrator behaviour.
Improved DBS Checks and Safer Recruitment	50% of schools were visited to review practice. The standardized DBS check process will enhance safeguarding practices within schools, ensuring a safer environment for students.
Reviewed Safeguarding Concerns Relating to Strip Searches of Children	Following concerns raised by the Child Q review, the Police have reviewed their strip search practices locally and nationally enhancing the protection of children's rights and fostered better community relations in Haringey.

Key decisions and actions	Impact
Considered Prevent Work in Haringey	The Education Prevent Officer and Prevent Lead for Haringey Counter Terrorism strategy outlined ongoing efforts to counter radicalisation in collaboration with Cornell University. The multi-agency Prevent Strategy has effectively reduced radicalisation risks and provided robust support for schools and young people.
Reviewed the London Fire Brigade (LFB) Home Fire Safety Checks	LFB implemented new approach to home fire safety checks from April 2023 improving fire safety awareness and preparedness, particularly among high-risk populations with a focus on environmental sustainability.
Reviewed DfE Serious Youth Violence Research and Education	The DfE's Serious Youth Violence data was reviewed, highlighting need for safeguarding partnerships to assist in populating/sharing local intelligence. The help will inform local planning to address youth violence.
Reviewed the Police & Crime Committee – Missing Children in London Report	Revisions to the Haringey Missing Protocol and improved data sharing will strengthen the support and protection for missing children.
Requested partners to cascade learning via 7-Minute Briefings	Increased awareness and understanding of key issues and cascading learning across Partners, leading to better identification and support for at-risk children and families.
Agency Inspection Updates	Enhanced preparedness for inspections, ensuring compliance and improved service delivery. Haringey Children's Services graded "Good" by Ofsted and the Ofsted/ CQC Inspection demonstrated good practice and implementation of the SEND reforms
Development and Approval of Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Complaints Policy	Following a cluster of complaints relating to CSPR report authors, the HSCP developed a Complaints Policy addressing a three-stage process for resolving issues providing a clear pathway to handling complaints, improving transparency and accountability.
Development of a HSCP Dispute Resolution Flow Chart	The dispute resolution flow chart complements the existing Escalation Policy. This flow chart provides clear, concise guidance on the stages of escalation for resolving disputes. The flow has streamlined dispute resolution, ensuring clear understanding and efficient handling of escalations within the partnership.
Considered Impact of Serious Youth Violence and Vision	The HSCP considered the Haringey Youth at Risk Plan and agreed to use the executive summary as a key vision to continue the focus on serious youth violence ensuring coordinated efforts across agencies.
Changes to School Nursing Attendance at CP Conferences	Improved resource allocation and clarification of school nurse roles, enhancing tailored support for children and teachers across the child protection system.
Accommodation for Asylum Seekers in Haringey	The HSCP/HSAB considered challenges around vulnerable adults processed by the Home Office being left in Haringey hotels, improving support and accommodations for vulnerable adults, ensuring safety and well-being
Consideration of a Children's Shadow Board	The HSCP discussed funding a Children's Shadow Board. Until such time as this model is funded established the HSCP agreed to draw on existing forums from ASPIRE, schools, the voluntary sector, and health. Improved youth engagement and representation in HSCP and safeguarding strategic discussions, ensuring their voices are heard.

Key decisions and actions	Impact
Implementation of the Working Together Guidance 2023	The HSCP structure was discussed during 2023-24, including roles of Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP) and Designated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) and agreed to retain current Executive Group, as DSPs. Role of Independent Chair will transition to Independent Scrutineer by end of 2024. The HSCP will invest in the Business Unit, expanding capacity, reviewing the budget and resources. This will lead to improved governance and support structures, ensuring compliance with the Working Together Guidance 2023.
Establishment of a CSPR Sub-Group	Enhanced oversight and monitoring of safeguarding practice reviews, ensuring timely and effective responses.
Inclusion of a Costs Column in the CSPR Tracker	Improved financial oversight and cost management for safeguarding practice reviews.
Discussion of the Right Care Right Person Initiative	The HSCP discussed this initiative, which aims to free up police officer time by reducing attendance at mental health incident calls. The initiative was agreed nationally and is being implemented locally. The HSCP agreed to monitor impact of this to ensure there are no unintended consequences.

# Key Actions and Recommendations from Local and National Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and the Impact

## National Reviews

**Star and Arthur Review:** The HSCP has embedded the learning from these cases, addressing recommendations through systematic reviews and publishing a statement on our website.

**Impact:** Enhanced multi-agency collaboration, resource allocation, and information sharing, improving child protection measures

**National Safeguarding Practice Review into Safeguarding Children with Disabilities and Complex Needs in Residential Settings:** The review highlighted challenges such as the lack of children's voices and closed cultures. Actions taken include:

- Joint work with the ICB to review the quality of care for children placed out of the borough
- Increased advocacy capacity and collaboration with Barnardo's
- Developed 7 Key Learning points for children with disabilities in residential settings
- Strengthened LADO processes

**Impact:** Improved care and support for children with disabilities, ensuring their voices are heard. In Haringey, there is improved recognition and awareness, a slight increase in allegations against residential support staff, a significant rise in referrals concerning auxiliary staff in childcare settings, and more referrals involving unqualified or less formally trained staff

## Local Reviews

→ **Action Plans:** Significant progress has been made on the action plans of historic CSPRs, with work nearing completion. The new CSPR Sub-Group monitors Serious Incidents, Rapid Reviews, and CSPRs

→ **Impact:** Enhanced oversight and timely responses to safeguarding reviews, ensuring continuous improvement

## Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR)

→ **Steve SAR Report:** The HSCP reviewed the Steve SAR Report, summarising the case and its learning. The recommendations are being progressed, and the report is available on the Haringey website

→ **Impact:** Improved awareness and understanding of safeguarding adult issues, leading to better joint working and outcomes for vulnerable children and adults

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# Feedback from children and families influencing service provision

## Listening and Responding to the Voices of Children, Young People, and Families

All staff and partner agencies are responsible for listening to and responding to the voices of children, young people, and families. This makes our services more responsive, efficient, and engaging, ultimately leading to better outcomes. Staff are encouraged to attend the "Language that Cares" and "Voice of the Child" training.

## Champions Model

Young People Champions, each representing a crucial aspect of our vision:

- **Transitional Safeguarding:** Ensuring smooth, safe transitions into new life phases
- **Accommodation and Life Skills:** Navigating housing and life skills, supporting independent living
- **Education, Training, and Employment:** Guiding young people toward education, training, and employment opportunities
- **Health and Emotional Well-being:** Supporting physical and emotional well-being, empowering young people to lead healthy, happy lives

## Capturing the Voices and Lived Experiences of Young People

- **S11 Audits:** This year's audits show significant progress in integrating young people's voices into practice, with innovations like a child-friendly complaints process positively influencing services

- **Children in Care Reviews:** Encouraging children and young people to chair their own reviews where appropriate
- **Voice of the Child:** Reinforced focus on capturing the voice of children, especially those with neurodiversity

## Youth Engagement Initiatives

- **Aspire Group:** A youth-led group for those aged 9-25 in care or leaving care, meeting monthly to engage with leadership and discuss emerging themes, now with approximately 50 participants
- **Child-Friendly Complaints Process:** North Middlesex Hospital's child-friendly complaints process has led to positive outcomes, with case examples demonstrating its impact
- **IT Adaptations:** Updated systems to facilitate better recording of the Voice of the Child, improving staff's ability to capture and use feedback effectively

## Education and Feedback Mechanisms

- **Feedback Systems:** Anonymous questionnaires and pupil voice initiatives gather feedback from children
- **Safeguarding Audits:** Now include pupil views as part of comprehensive assessments
- **VAWG Initiative:** Pupils actively shape the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Met Police promise initiative, ensuring relevant and impactful measures

## Strategic Planning and Impact

- **Strategic Integration:** Feedback from children and families is reviewed and integrated into strategic planning, ensuring policies are responsive to evolving needs
- **Youth Justice Service:** Exit questionnaires show that 87% of young people felt involved in their plans
- **Early Help:** Feedback from families is collected via questionnaires and follow-up calls, driving service improvements
- **SEND Participation:** The SEND youth participation team, Elevated Youth, regularly updates the Haringey SEND executive, ensuring service developments reflect user perspectives
- **Probation Service:** Annual Offender Surveys lead to improvements in sentence planning and increased service user involvement

## Learning

While jargon use has decreased, terms like LAC, NEET, ICO, and ICPC are still not always understood by children and may need further simplification.

### Children and Young People's Contributions – What They Said

- Thanks for helping me with my family and helping with trust."
- "I now think about what will happen in the future, caring about my education and thinking about my family."
- "I cannot wait until the next session"
- "I wanted easier access to leisure activities in the borough" (Response: All children in care and young care leavers in Haringey now have free swimming lessons and gym memberships)
- "Staff teach us to be kind" (The Anchor Approach and gender empowerment programme in Haringey schools)

# Funding Arrangements

## Funding and Financial Contributions

Working Together 2023 mandates that funding from safeguarding partners should be equitable and agreed upon by the Partnership. The annual report must include a breakdown of costs for delivering the arrangements, detailing individual partners' financial contributions, any changes to funding, and an assessment of the impact and value for money.

## Partner Contributions and Budget Overview

In 2023-24, partner agencies continued to contribute to the HSCP budget, both financially and through 'in-kind' support. Efforts are ongoing to address equitable funding across the Partnership. Partners have found innovative ways to contribute, such as seconding a police staff member to the HSCP for 2.5 days per week, facilitating training, chairing sub-groups, and engaging in broader partnership work.

The partners in Haringey acknowledge the financial challenges frontline services face, the increasing complexity of need, demand, and reduced central government funding.

## Financial Summary

The total cost of delivering the HSCP arrangements for 2023-24 was £265,543, reflecting good value for money for Haringey residents through high-quality partnership work and community benefits. Individual partner contributions totalled £218,243, with the only significant change being the absence of a contribution from the London Fire Brigade this year. The HSCP is assessed to provide good value for money, reducing costs through a new approach to CSPRs. Salaries, the largest expense, are determined by market data, skills, and experience. The MASA venue was accessible this year, with no additional costs incurred for speakers.

HARINGEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP OUTTURN REPORT 2023/24			
Description	Outturn	Description	Outturn
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Contribution from Strategic Partners		Employee Costs	
Haringey Council	184,137	Business Support Unit Staffing Costs including Independent Scouting	244,874
Police (Mayors Office for Policing & Crime)	5,000		<b>244,874</b>
Health Authority		Supplies & Services	
NHS North Central London ICB	5,115	Office Expenses	14,578
NHS North Central London ICB	4,300	Serious Case Review/SPRs	15,799
Barnet, Enfield & Haringey MHT	5,115	Conference Expenses	1,335
Whittington Hospital Trust	5,115	Total Supplies & Services	<b>31,712</b>
North Middlesex University Hospital	5,115	Third Party Payments	
	<b>213,897</b>	Website Design & Maintenance	2,007
Local Strategic Partnership		Total Third Party Payments	<b>2,007</b>
National Probation Service London	2,846	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	
Tottenham Hotspur	1,500		<b>265,543</b>
	<b>4,346</b>		
Total Strategic Partners	<b>198,243</b>		
Government Grants			
Grant - Dept Educ & Skills : General	47,300		
	<b>47,300</b>		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>265,543</b>		

# Representation and input of education at both the operational and strategic levels of the arrangements

Schools, colleges, early years and childcare settings, and other educational providers (including alternative provision) play a crucial role in safeguarding children. Education is well-represented across the HSCP, and initiatives in 2023-24 have significantly strengthened the safeguarding framework within schools, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration.

## Key updates in the 2023-24 period

- An Education Consultant, a former headteacher, was invited to the Partnership and Leadership Group to enhance school involvement in decision-making and to liaise with and represent schools' views. Further engagement with other headteachers is planned
- Established the DSL Network, meeting four times annually, with participation from nearly all schools, creating a strong collaborative platform
- Developed the bi-monthly Haringey Safeguarding newsletter, distributed to all DSLs and headteachers, providing valuable information and resources for safeguarding practices
- Appointed an Education Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

## Engagement and Collaboration at the Operational Level

- HSCP education representatives are present in all sub-groups and networks, including multi-agency auditing groups, practice weeks, and conferences
- Safeguarding audits are systematically conducted across all educational settings in Haringey, involving a full day at each school, leading to consistent improvements

- Schools are supported to ensure their policies align with MASA arrangements and relevant legislation
- Staff and governor training is provided to meet local and national safeguarding requirements
- DSLs and designated teachers receive training from HSCP, fostering a shared understanding of levels of need and responses
- The HSCP Escalation Policy is in place for schools, with evidence of its effective use

## Strategic Level Engagement

- Education providers have a voice at the strategic decision-making level, with education representatives on the HSCP leadership group providing updates to the HSCP Executive
- Feedback from children, young people, and families, captured through education representatives, is integrated into strategic planning

## Forward Plan

- Enhance the representation of Education at the highest level of strategic decision-making, reflecting this in our structure and MASA
- Implement WT 2023 guidance about Education
- Continue safeguarding audits, which play a pivotal role in driving ongoing improvements within schools



# Data and Information Sharing: Learning, Practice and Outcomes

The HSCP has effectively managed its performance against the Business Plan through a comprehensive set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These KPIs are drawn from various sources, including multi-agency local service data and publicly available national indicators. The selected Performance Indicators align closely with the HSCP's business priorities, offering a clear measure of progress and facilitating comparison with past performance. The KPIs are reported quarterly.

Partner agencies have positively received the continued development of the HSCP Performance Framework. This framework, aligned with HSCP priorities, was developed collaboratively, with input from all relevant stakeholders. The HSCP has fostered a sense of responsibility and ownership among partners by involving agencies in the decision-making process regarding data collection. This collaborative approach ensures that the data collected reflects current safeguarding trends and aligns with government data requirements. The Performance Framework will continue to evolve to capture current safeguarding trends, align with government data requirements, and incorporate data and narratives that agencies feel the partnership should be aware of.

The framework is regularly reviewed and discussed at the Quality, Performance, and Outcomes (QPO) meetings. This process has proven beneficial for encouraging learning and enhancing practice. By identifying patterns and trends, partners can develop timely and effective responses to emerging needs. The data and accompanying narrative clearly understand what works well and highlight areas requiring further attention.

**Additional Agency Indicators:** New Neglect and Domestic Abuse indicators are being integrated into the Performance Framework. These enhancements, prompted by Practice Week recommendations, aim to offer a more comprehensive understanding of safeguarding trends and support more targeted interventions.

## Information Sharing and Its Impact on Practice

→ The MASH arrangement continues to work well, with good, proactive communication and information sharing occurring daily. The MASH is now widely recognised as the "front door" between partner agencies, and MASH

colleagues are regularly approached by front-line staff for advice and guidance on a range of safeguarding issues.

- Partner agencies referred to the 'Ask the AD' sessions facilitated by Children's Social Care. Partner agencies have been invited to attend some of the sessions to highlight areas of development in their settings, share examples of what is working well, promote new support services in the community and be open to challenges. On average, these weekly sessions are attended by 100+ professionals.
- Whittington Health confirmed that their database had been further developed, so information sharing has now improved. Health visitor and GP meetings have been embedded and are a positive arena for sharing information.
- The National Probation Service (NPS) representative highlighted a pilot scheme that is taking place in a neighbouring borough where their service has closer links to the MASH. NPS is currently exploring how to replicate this in Haringey to enable an even better network

### Other areas where the partnership provided evidence of positive information sharing were:

- Child in Need Meetings, Child Protection Conferences, Child in Care Reviews, Rapid Reviews, Safeguarding Practice Reviews, MASH Operational Group, The GP Forum

Challenges in information sharing have arisen from specific circumstances, such as discharge planning, unclear email communication, or a need to understand better when and how to share information about children, young people, and their families. Addressing these challenges remains a priority for the HSCP. An example of progress made through data and information sharing is seen in the analysis of GP referrals in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This assessed the process and identified improvements in how GPs could improve their referrals and how often GPs received feedback after making a referral. This audit aimed to enhance communication in both directions, with the findings shared at the GP Forum

# Impact and Learning from Independent Scrutiny

## Independent Scrutiny Arrangements: The HSPC Chair and scrutineer

- Attends the HSPC Executive and Leadership groups. contributed constructively during the review of findings
- Led challenge and support sessions during the Section 11 audit
- Opened Practice Week and Co-chaired joint adults board multi-agency meetings, raising key issues such as transitional safeguarding (convenes twice a year)

## Section 11 audit and Support and Challenge Sessions

The Section 11 (s11) audit assesses the effectiveness of safeguarding efforts by key organisations in the borough. Under the Children Act 2004, key organisations must self-assess their compliance with safeguarding standards. The HSCP monitors and evaluates these self-assessments, advising organisations on necessary improvements. The audit process includes submitting evidence, creating action plans, and scrutinising and challenging the final S11 findings.

Agencies were scrutinised during support and challenge sessions, where they reflected on their safeguarding governance, processes, and practices. The purpose was to interrogate the evidence provided by partners, identify areas for improvement, and highlight good practice where positive outcomes for children were evidenced.

## Section 11 Strengths across the Partnership 2023 and Scrutineer Feedback

- **Excellent Leadership and staff commitment to safeguarding:** Partners demonstrated a strong commitment to safeguarding via dedicated safeguarding teams/ officers' who provided clear accountable governance processes.
- Clear priorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children:** Partners demonstrated commitment to safeguarding policies and procedures

aligned with national guidance and local inter-agency protocols

- **Voice of the Child and Family:** Innovative work was highlighted to embed the "Voice of the Child further," "Lived Experience of the Child," and "Think Family" approaches across the partnership
- **Safeguarding Training:** All partners met the benchmark for staff safeguarding training
- **Safer recruitment:** Agencies revisited recruitment processes, allegations policies, and DBS checks, maintaining positive relationships with the LADO
- **Robust multi-agency sharing of information and data:** Including MASH arrangements, ask the AD sessions facilitated by Children's Social Care, improved database systems to improve information sharing and pilot schemes to strengthen links between Partners.

## Learning and Some Recommendations for the HSCP

1. Continue embedding the Neglect Guidance, Toolkit, Checklist, and promote the Neglect Strategy across the partnership
2. Improve links between agencies working with children, young people, and GPs, especially when cases are closed, ensuring GPs have up-to-date information
3. Promote HSCP training across various agencies
4. Implement local changes to practice and processes following the publication of Working Together 2023
5. Explore the possibility of replicating National Probation Service (NPS) work with neighbouring boroughs to improve information sharing with MASH
6. Develop closer links with the voluntary sector and faith groups across the borough
7. Ensure active Housing representation and engagement in HSCP subgroups and safeguarding workgroups

## Going forward

Plans are in place to expand the scrutineer function in line with WT 2023. We aim to extend this approach across the partnership by building on the successful model of the Education Consultant's scrutiny role within the education sector where they regularly meet with staff and pupils as well as carrying out observations of practice. This will involve visiting partner agencies, observing practice, engaging with staff, and speaking to children and young people while liaising on important issues on behalf of the partnership.

# Additional Scrutiny and External Assurance – Evidence of Impact and Outcomes

## Haringey Children and Young People Service in 2023

### Ofsted Inspection of Haringey Children's Services

In 2023, Ofsted inspectors rated Haringey Children's Services as "Good" for the first time. Focused on Children's Services, this achievement reflects the support and engagement of all partner agencies. Ofsted praised the strength of leadership and partnership in Haringey:

- "Staff at all levels are proud to work for Haringey, with a culture of appreciation, kindness, and support firmly embedded. Leaders care about their staff, listen, and take action, creating a loyal workforce with a strong sense of 'family.' This emotional safety enables staff to practice confidently and persistently, effecting change for children in challenging circumstances."
- "Leaders have collaborated with partners to set and pursue shared priorities informed by the experiences of local children and families, strengthening relationships and joint work across sectors. There is evidence of constructive professional challenge, joint training, auditing, and ongoing discussions to enhance multi-agency collaboration with justice, health, and education colleagues."
- "Mature relationships, underpinned by trust, enable leaders and elected members to hold each other accountable." [Full report here](#)

## Haringey Rated Highest for SEND Services in 2024

Haringey achieved the highest rating for delivering high-quality services for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) following a joint inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The report commended Haringey's commitment to inclusivity and the collaboration between the council, NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board (ICB), and education,

health, and care partners:

- "The voices and opinions of families 'are heard and acted on' by leaders who are 'ambitious and focused on improving the lives of children and young people.'"
- "Children and young people with SEND and their families benefit from a culture of listening, flexibility, and cooperation from professionals who prioritise their best interests. The outcomes and experiences of the most vulnerable are central to planning and decision-making in Haringey." [Full report here](#)

## Youth Justice Service

In May 2023, an external diagnostic review of the YJS, commissioned by the Assistant Director for Early Help, Prevention, and SEND, was conducted by experienced Youth Justice leaders. The review informed the development of the YJS's priorities and operational Improvement Plan for 2023-2025.

## Probation

The P Haringey Probation staff regularly audit child protection reviews, ensuring safeguarding checks are completed and required flags are updated in the case management system. They also complete an Offender Survey - the main findings from the last survey were to improve the way in which the service completes initial sentence plans and to further increase service user involvement in this process.

## Whittington CQC Inspection

In January 2023, the CQC rated Whittington Hospital's maternity services as 'requiring improvement.' A robust action plan is now in place, with progress reports regularly provided to the HSCP for assurance throughout 2023-24.

## Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

The Metropolitan Police Service continued to adhere to their new Performance Framework for Child Protection and Child Abuse investigations. The monthly audit regime led by the Public Protection Delivery Group remains ongoing. It includes the specific requirement to consider the Voice of the Child in every case, every time. Audits are carried out by the Dedicated Inspection Team (DIT).

To ensure the most appropriate and effective case disposal outcome for offenders of child abuse offences. NA BCU CAIT team is developing a new quarterly multiagency scrutiny panel with internal and external partners, including colleagues from North West BCU, the Met Police Continuous Improvement Team and Crown Prosecution Service. The purpose is to review and scrutinise outcomes of child abuse investigations when out of court disposal is used. The pilot of the panel was scheduled for July 2023.

## Internal Audits

Internal audits take place by a MPS dedicated inspection team across all investigations to provide feedback and learning where appropriate.

## Inspection

Internal audits by the MPS's dedicated inspection team provide feedback and learning across all investigations. The Operation Aegis Team, part of an organisation-wide improvement project, delivered deep-dive reviews, enhanced support, and coaching to officers, focusing on risk assessments and investigative strategies.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services recommendations / inspection on MPS's handling of the sexual and criminal exploitation of children

In response to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) recommendations, the North Area BCU improved its management of Missing Children by implementing a new Child Exploitation/Missing Person Joint Working Protocol in January 2024:

- Children who are missing and at risk of exploitation are now deemed high risk, leading to a significant increase in cases
- A designated officer is available daily to assist in locating and safeguarding children under the direction of the missing person unit DS
- The protocol has improved capacity and collaboration between the Child Exploitation Team and the Missing Person Unit
- All Child Exploitation team officers will receive bespoke training to manage and progress high-risk missing persons cases

# Updates to the published arrangement with the proposed timescale for implementation

The HSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) document is currently under review to align with the new Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 national requirements. The HSCP Chair has provided partners with an overview of the key changes.

In line with the WT 2023 guidance, the HSCP have spent time considering the substantive changes to the MASA to strengthen how local arrangements (the local authorities, integrated care board and the police) work to safeguard and protect children locally, including with our partner agencies. Changes include:

- Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of safeguarding partners, distinguishing between Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) and Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs). Partners identified the senior leaders who are likely to take the role of LSP for their sector and the options for the engagement between the DSPs and LSPs
- Introducing a new partnership chair role
- Emphasising the role of Education in safeguarding arrangements. The HSCP are committed to strengthening Education's role as a key strategic partner in the HSCP Executive group and further strengthening relationships between Health and Education. The HSCP assessed that Haringey is in a position of strength to build and elevate the roles of schools and is ahead of the curve due to an existing Education Consultant within the Leadership group and strong existing links to schools and the close working relationship between Children's Social Care and the DSL network. Additionally, strong links exist in Haringey to the DfE Pathfinder Group; Families First for Children, who are exploring the roles of Education and Safeguarding.
- Independent scrutiny and the Executive agreed to further invest in this function.

- Funding; and
- Reporting.

The HSCP is further considering the importance of voluntary, charity, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations within arrangements to improve oversight, engagement, and consistency. It is taking steps to consider naming and engaging voluntary, charity, and social enterprise organisations and sports clubs, as well as even more direct communication with our Health Providers and to establish a full Children's Shadow Board. The HSCP will revise the Terms of Reference for all sub-groups and update policy and procedures to reflect the changes.

The HSCP Executive held extraordinary meetings in 2023 and 2024 to thoroughly discuss the implementation of the new WT Guidance and MASA. The Leadership group continues to prioritise this topic as a standing agenda item. Executive meetings have been extended to support the transition, and an Implementation Action Plan was developed.

The revised MASA arrangements will be published and officially unveiled at an in-person workshop and launch event, after which the updated arrangements will be submitted to the Department for Education (DfE).

# Implementation of National Reforms: Key Actions and Challenges

## Embedding National Reforms: Key Highlights

- **Updates on New Guidance:** Partners have been informed about the new Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 guidelines
- **Ofsted/CQC Inspection:** Demonstrates effective implementation of SEND reforms and good practice
- **Education:**
  - Schools have successfully implemented several national reforms, maintaining high safeguarding standards.
  - A Model Safeguarding Policy has been provided for all schools, ensuring consistency and alignment with national guidelines.
  - Implementation of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2023 included multiple training sessions to ensure staff understand their responsibilities and the new standards
  - Targeted support was provided for schools responding to gender-questioning guidance, ensuring sensitive and effective handling of queries
  - Schools have begun strengthening collaborative efforts with external agencies, in line with WT 2023 guidance
- **North Middlesex Hospital:** The safeguarding children's team has increased oversight of young people, offering staff support and training to raise awareness of vulnerabilities and new reforms
- **Whittington Health:** Policies have been updated to align with WT 2023 guidance
- **Marriage & Civic Partnership Guidance:** Updated by the Marriage & Civic Partnership (Minimum Age) Act of 2022, raising the minimum age requirement
- **Threshold Matrix - London Safeguarding Children Procedures:** Changes were circulated, and workshops were held to address key areas. MASH received

training, and the Threshold document was reviewed and approved

- **Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel:** HSCP informed members about the national review into child sexual abuse within the family environment, sharing terms of reference and main lines of enquiry
- **PIPoT Protocol/Guidance:** A presentation on managing allegations against Persons in positions of trust (PIPoT) emphasised the requirements of the Care Act 2014. Agencies were reminded to have their PIPoT Policy & Procedures in place by July 2024
- **Pan London Accommodation Protocol for Children Leaving Custody:** This pathway was implemented, and HSCP Members were briefed on it. There is an interim evaluation and an audit is currently underway of the children accessing the pathway and accommodation.
- **Safeguarding Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs:** HSCP conducted a thorough review of local and national learning, completed an assurance report on independent visits to all Haringey children, and circulated a seven-point briefing to partners

## Challenges Addressed

- Adapting the Education Model Safeguarding Policy required targeted support for schools to update their procedures.
- Integrating the new KCSIE 2023 requirements posed challenges, particularly in delivering comprehensive staff training within tight timelines. A phased training approach was implemented to ensure compliance and deeper understanding over time

The HSCP remains committed to embedding national reforms through effective information sharing, regular updates, continuous monitoring, and evaluation processes

# HSCP Business Plan for 2024 – 2027

Our Business Plan aims to ensure that the partnership oversees and advances improvements in its core business. The Business Plan and work programme was developed in partnership with all agencies and will continued to progress a range of improvements. The Business Plan is supported by an Action Plan which will be monitored by the Quality, Performance and Outcomes subgroup and ultimately the Executive Group.

Impact beyond our boundaries - While much of the Partnership's focus is support to our resident population, our impact reaches beyond that, and will continue to do so in the coming years. The HSCP is committed to efficiency, integration and building and sharing good practice.

## 2024-27 Key priorities

### Children impacted by mental ill health

**Rationale:** The 2019 Haringey JSNA reports that 4800 children aged 5-15 and 5700 young people aged 16-25 in Haringey are estimated to have diagnosable mental health conditions. Local learning from reviews highlights the vulnerability of these children and young people, their increased risk of exploitation and the need for stronger, child-focussed safeguarding approaches within complex family situations and partnership working.

### Children affected by neglect

**Rationale:** Neglect has been at the forefront of the work the Partnership has undertaken. Our mission is to: Tackle Neglect at the earliest opportunity, prevent Neglect having a long-term impact and improve the lives of children and young people who are at risk of or have experienced neglect. Work is needed to continue to embed the newly reviewed HSCP Neglect Strategy, guidance, toolkit and checklist.

### Children affected by domestic abuse

**Rationale:** Children affected by domestic abuse can experience long and short terms physical and mental health challenges. The Children's Commissioner Vulnerability Profile projects that the % of children in households where an adult experienced domestic abuse in the last year is 8.55%. Haringey's rate of domestic violence with injury is slightly above the London. The HSPC has worked in 2022-24 in response to the National Review regarding Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Robson and the Domestic Abuse Act 202 and have agreed to continue working on improving outcomes for children impacted by domestic abuse

#### Within each of the above priority areas there are golden threads:

- the voice of the child
- harmful behaviours
- the impact on housing and education.
- the impact of the Think Family approach and
- joint working of the HSCP and Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB).



# Glossary

**AD** - Assistant Director

**BC** - Borough Commander

**CAFCASS** - The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

**CAIT** – Child Abuse Investigation Team

**CAMHS** - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

**CCE** - Child Criminal Exploitation

**CDOP** - Child Death Overview Panel

**CDR** - Child Death Review arrangements

**CRC** - Community Rehabilitation Company

**CSC** - Children's Social Care

**CSE** - Child Sexual Exploitation

**CSP** - Community Safety Partnership

**CYP** - Children and Young People

**DCI** - Detective Chief Inspector

**DCS** - Director Children's Services

**DSP** – Delegated Safeguarding Partner

**EDT**- Emergency Duty Team

**EFH**- Extra Familial Harm

**EH**- Early Help

**FGM**- Female Genital Mutilation

**HSCP**- Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership

**ICB**- Integrated Care Board

**JTAI** - Joint Targeted Area Inspection

**LA** - Local Authority

**LAC** - Looked After Child

**LCSPR** - Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

**LSCB** - Local Safeguarding Children's Board

**LSP**- Lead Safeguarding Partner

**MACE** - Multi-Agency (meeting for) Criminal Exploitation

**MASA** - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

**MARAC** - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

**MASH** - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

**MOPAC** - Mayors Office for Policing and Community

**MPS** - Metropolitan Police Service NCL

**NPS** - National Probation Service

**NCL**- North Central London (Haringey-Enfield-Barnet-Camden-Islington)

**NHS** - National Health Service

**OFSTED** - Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

**SAB** - Safeguarding Adults Board

**SCR** - Serious Case Review

**SEMH** – Social, Emotional and Mental Health

**SEND** - Special Educational Needs and Disability

**SYV** – Serious Youth Violence

**SSPM** - Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Manager

**VVE** – Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation

**WT 2018-2023** - Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018-2023

**YJS** - Youth Justice Service