HSCP
Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership



Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2025-2026

METROPOLITAN POLICE

NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board

Haringey LONDON

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Foreword

Welcome to the HSCP Annual Report 2025/26

Welcome to the Annual Report for the Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) for April 2025 to March 2026. 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 bring people together to coordinate services, address needs, conduct Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews, implement learning, 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.

In January 2026 OFSTED inspected our Children's Services and in February 2026 the London Borough of Haringey achieved an **Outstanding grading**. Whilst the inspection focus was on Children's Services, we acknowledge the contributions which were made and continue to be made by our partners. It must also be acknowledged that the outstanding grading was the first in the history of Haringey Children's Services and we are so proud of this achievement.

Safeguarding children is a shared responsibility, with their welfare 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 of Haringey. Throughout this period of time, we have worked diligently to continue to implement and strengthen the Working Together Guidance 2023 requirements. Looking ahead, the HSCP will continue to focus on embedding our robust safeguarding arrangements and supporting the Partnership to deliver our key strategic priorities.

METROPOLITAN POLICE

NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board

Haringey LONDON

Introduction

The Haringey Safeguarding Partnership (HSCP) publishes an Annual Report in line with its statutory duties under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, please note that Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 was published on 31/03/2026. Reporting on the implementation of the new guidance will be highlighted in next years' annual report. 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. This report assesses the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, highlighting their impact on children, young people, and families. Evidence is drawn from subgroup activities, training evaluations, and the voices of children, families, and staff. Learning is gathered from Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews, audits, local performance data, scrutiny, challenge and monitoring activities.

This Annual Report reaffirms the HSCP's commitment to continuous learning and development, alongside its strategic leadership vision Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements document (MASA):

The Partnership will continue to provide the strategic leadership, vision and influence which ensures:

- That at every opportunity the lived experience of children and young people (CYP) continues to be integral to how we safeguard and protect.
- That we further develop positive outcomes through strengthening Partnership workforce and community resilience; and
- Our relationship-based practice continues to develop, demonstrating sustained improvement.

The Partnership has continued to support the vision by:

- Continued use of digital technology and building workforce development.
- Continuing to have in place a range of agreed policies and procedures that supports us to work together consistently as one strong Partnership.
- Striving to further reduce bureaucracy and doing what is best for children; and
- Proactively and continually assessing the needs for safeguarding services in Haringey and ensuring that these needs are met within the resources we have available.



Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs)

Following the publication of Working Together 2023 Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) has transitioned to Chief Executives of the Local Authority and ICB, and the Assistant Commissioner for Front line Policing (London MPS). Each LSP has now appointed a 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 three statutory Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) are:

- Andy Donald, Chief Executive, Haringey Local Authority
- Matt Twist, Assistant Commissioner for Frontline Policing, Metropolitan Police Service
- Frances O'Callaghan, Chief Executive, North Central London Integrated Care Board (ICB) now replaced by Katie Fisher.

On 12 March 2025, all Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) were advised of the requirement to reduce operational budgets by 50%. This was followed by publication of the Model ICB Blueprint which set out the first stage of a national programme to reshape the focus, role and functions of ICBs in preparation for delivery of the 10-Year Health Plan. Sir James Mackey Chief Executive of NHS England advised that "Reducing costs of ICBs by 50% will be a challenge, but its important we move on this as quickly as possible to retain talent and seize the opportunities of ICBs acting primarily as strategic commissioners. He added that "working together in 2025/26 to lay the foundations for reform"'.

In July 2025, the Boards of both NHS North West London Integrated Care Board (NWL ICB) and NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) made the decision to merge their organisations as a significant part of the response to the national Model. As strategic commissioners, ICBs will continue to play a key role in improving population health, reducing inequalities and ensuring more equitable access to consistently high-quality care. Ensuring that the merger establishes an effective and sustainable organisation, capable of delivering these priorities, is therefore a critical success factor. Safeguarding expertise is provided through borough-based Designated Safeguarding Nurses for children, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children, Named GPs for safeguarding children and Designated Children Looked After/Care Experienced Professionals support our looked after children population from a Health perspective.

We must acknowledge that as of 1 April 2026, the North Central London ICB will no longer exist. New arrangements have been agreed, and the Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership will be aligned with the West and North London ICB. The new Chief Executive has confirmed as Katie Fisher, therefore she will also take on the role of our Lead Safeguarding Partner (LSP).

The Executive Group (DSPs)

The HSCP Executive Group remains the high-level, overarching local governance for the Partnership that continues to have the primary focus on safeguarding systems, performance and resourcing. The membership of the Executive Group is the three statutory partner agencies under the new arrangements will be known as Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) who will report to their Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs). In addition to those members, there will be an Independent Scrutineer, but this role will not be part of the chairing arrangements or decision making.

The Executive Group continues to have:

- Strategic ownership of the safeguarding arrangements in Haringey, with a strong joint responsibility for the whole system.
- The responsibility for financial, strategic and reputational risk.
- The responsibility for ensuring cross-Partnership collaboration and agency participation, convening and supporting participation in the HSCP Leadership group.
- The responsibility for ensuring that independent scrutiny of the Partnership's effectiveness is regular and has impact.
- Oversight of progress against the HSCP agreed priorities; and
- Regular updates by senior officers on the effectiveness of the partner's safeguarding arrangements for children and young people within their respective agency.

Membership – The membership of the Executive Group in line with the requirements of Working Together 2026 will be the three Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs):

- Anna McCartney, Detective Chief Superintendent North Area Borough Commander (Haringey and Enfield), Metropolitan Police Service
- David Pennington Director of Safeguarding and Looked After Children for North Central London Integrated Care Board
- Ann Graham, Corporate Director of Children's Services, Haringey Local Authority
- Jane Edwards Director of Schools and Learning later replaced by Jack Newton
- David Archibald, Independent Scrutineer - attends in his role not as a decision maker, but as a critical friend. He also provides support and challenge and will hold agencies to account when it is necessary to do so.

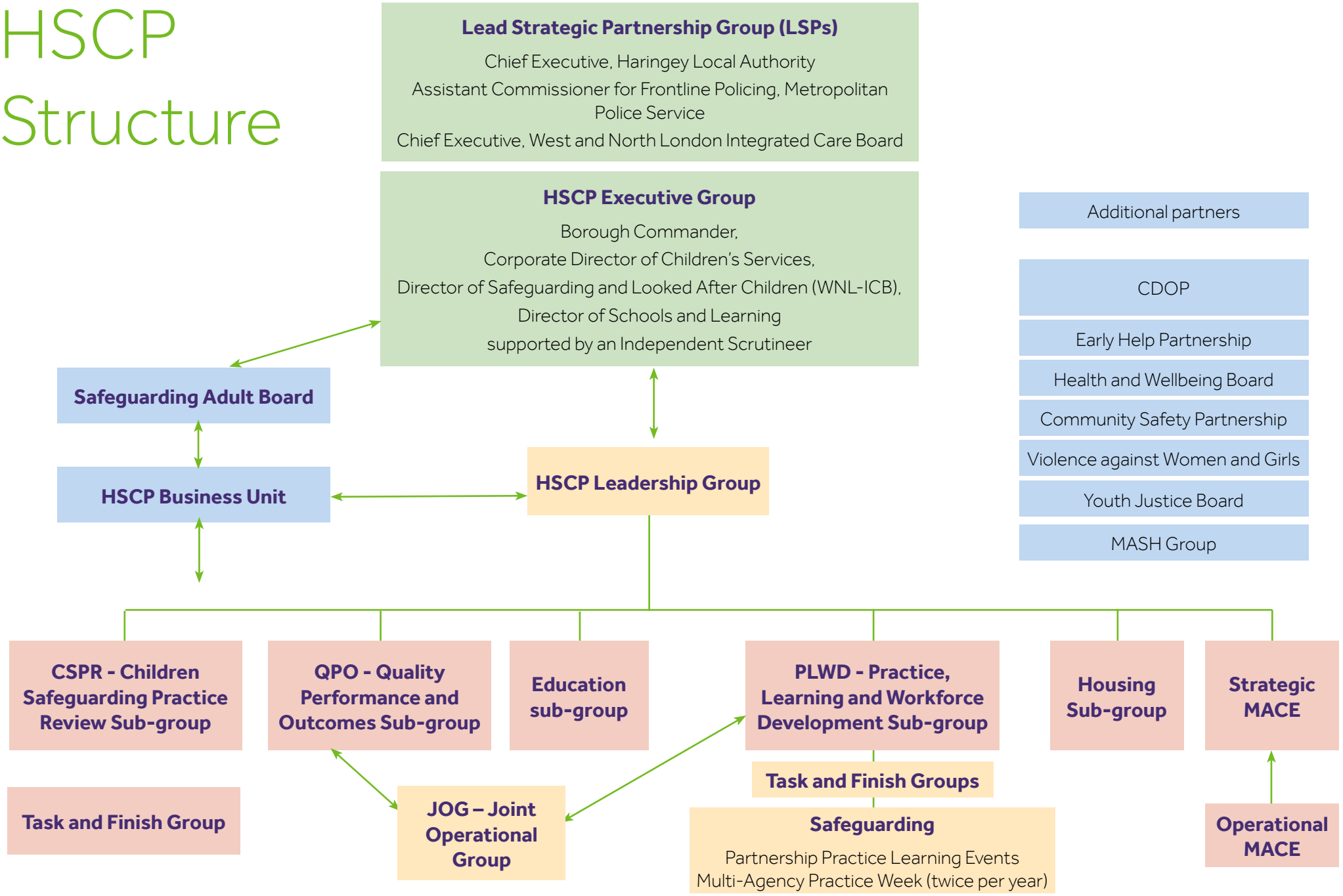
The Executive Group provides strong, unified leadership and is committed to reviewing and improving practices and building on existing strengths and innovation within the Partnership.

This Annual Report serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment of all partners to safeguarding. The partners' focus remains on understanding the lived experiences of children and young people, ensuring they receive the best possible support and thrive in their communities.

The Leadership Group

The HSCP's Leadership Group was chaired by the Corporate Director of Children's Services and then as part of the rotational agreement from January 2026 it was chaired by the Director of Safeguarding and Looked After Children for North Central London Integrated Care Board. This arrangement will then change in 2027 when the Police will take on the role as chair. In addition, attendees are representatives from across the Partnership including the Independent Scrutineer and 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 2025-26, 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 subgroups and task-specific groups.

HSCP Structure



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 was developed in partnership with all agencies and will continue to progress a range of improvements. Progress against each element of our Business Plan will be monitored by our subgroups 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, building and sharing good practice and helping to keep the children and young people in Haringey safe.

Currently we are in discussions across the Partnership about the review of our existing Business Plan. We will need to consider whether we retain the 3 key priorities outlined below and whether we have an additional fourth key priority which will focus on child sexual abuse. The HSCP has in fact commenced activity across the Partnership to look at the 6 recommendations contained in the National Panel report 'I wanted them to notice'. There will be more reference to this work further in this annual report.

2024-27 Key priorities

Children impacted by mental ill health

Rationale: The Haringey Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) report 2024 highlighted that in 2022/23, 2.4% (912 pupils) of school age pupils in Haringey had a social, emotional and mental health need. In Haringey in 2022/23, the rate of hospital admissions for self-harm in children and young people aged 10 to 24 years was 186 per 100,000 or 85 admissions. The Children's Commissioner Vulnerability profile was first published in 2020. However, this is a live, evolving resource which is periodically refreshed. In 2025, this document tells us that 160 per 1000 0–17-year-olds are living in households in Haringey where their parents experience severe mental ill health.

Local learning from reviews highlights the vulnerability of these children and young people, their increased risk of exploitation and the need for stronger, child-focused safeguarding approaches within complex family situations and Partnership working.

Children impacted 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 will continue to further embed our HSCP Neglect Strategy, Guidance, Toolkit and Checklist across the Partnership.

Children impacted by domestic abuse

Rationale: Children affected by domestic abuse can experience long and short term physical and mental health challenges. The Children's Commissioner Vulnerability Profile projects that the percentage of children in households where an adult experienced domestic abuse in the last year is 85.5 per 1000 0–17-year-olds. The prevalence of domestic abuse in Haringey suggests that we remain in the higher bracket compared to other Local Authorities.

Local Background and Context

At the time of writing this report, these were the most up-to-date figures available that we have in our State of the Borough document. This data was refreshed in May 2025.

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

- In 2024/25, 18.5% of children in Haringey lived in relative poverty, close to the London average but lower than similar areas. This is the 13th-highest rate in London
- Haringey has the highest alcohol sales per adult in London, with a significantly higher rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions
- 1% of Haringey's working-age population claim Employment Support Allowance for mental health and behavioural disorders, the fifth highest rate in London (Aug-25)
- The borough has the 15th highest rate of domestic abuse with injury in London (2025)
- Haringey ranks 10th in London for households in temporary accommodation, an improvement from 5th the previous year (Q2 2025)

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 most recent figures (2024) showed that 3% of babies born in Haringey had a low birth weight, compared to London's 3.5% and England's 3%.
- Obesity rates among Reception and Year 6 students are significant (2024/25). 22.9% of Reception students and 38.4% of Year 6 Students are classified as Overweight or Obese.
- The proportion of students with social, emotional, and mental health needs is below the national average and the London average (Haringey – 2.9%, London – 3.4%, England – 4%)
- Haringey continued its success in education results for young people. KS2 results were above the London average in all categories (2024/25).
- 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:

- Greater London Authority population projections made in 2022 forecasted that there would be 51,696 children in 2026 aged 0-17, representing 19% of the population, slightly below the London average
- Nearly half of Haringey's students speak a language other than English at home, with Turkish, Spanish, Polish, Bulgarian, Romanian, Albanian, Portuguese and Somali being the most common.
- A key challenge remains inequality in outcomes, with poverty being a significant factor. Haringey is the fourth most deprived borough in London, with childhood deprivation concentrated in the northeast.

Dataset 2025/26

We received 13,246 contacts compared to 13,958 contacts received in 2024/25. The highest proportion of contacts come from the police (26%), followed by health services (20%) and schools (14%).

13,246 CONTACTS

3,166 referrals were received in the last 12 months compared to 3,312 referrals received in 2024/25.

Of the referrals received, 18% were rereferrals. This has remained the same as last year.

3,116 REFERRALS

3,329 assessments were completed in 2025/26 compared to 3,540 in 2024/25.

91% of assessments were completed wtihin 45 working days; up on 2024/25 when 86% were completed within 45 working days.

3,329 ASSESSMENTS

There were 4,671 Children in Need who had received a service at any point within 2025/26 compared with 4,976 CiN in 2024/25. On 31/03/2026 2,089 children had an open of Children in Need episode.

4,671 CHILDREN IN NEED

At 31 March 2026 there were 296 Children Looked After.

As at March 2026 the rate of CLA was 55 per 10,000 children in Haringey, down from 61 per 10,000 in 2024/25.

296 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

232 children were the subject of a Child Protection Plan at 31 March 2026. A 19% increase from the number of children at the end of 2025 (195).
301 children started and 264 ceased a CP plan in 2025/26.

232 CHILD PROTECTION

1,920 Early Help Assessments were completed. 71% of the families engaging with EH were closed with outcomes achieved or signposted to other agencies, compared to last year when this was 70%.

1,920 EARLY HELP

1,328 children were the subject of a Section 47 enquiry in 2025/26.

This equates to a rate of 248 children with a S47 enquiry per 10,000 children in 2025/26, an increase of 18% on the rate last year (210).

1,328 S47

There were 359 Initial Child Protection Conferences in 2025/26, up on last year when 250 ICPCs were completed.

84% of these resulted in a child protection plan. ICPC rate has increased to 67 per 10,000 children from 47.

359 ICPCS

1,557 assessments were identified to have either Domestic Violence, Mental Health or Substance misuse factors at the end of the assessment in 2025/26.

1,557 TRIO OF VULNERABILITIES

At the end of March 2026, 251 children were supported by the Youth Justice Service. The number of children with their Asset Plus Plans up to date was 69%, up from 65% at the end of 2024/25. The average number of active young people on case load has increased from 66 to 73.

251 YOUTH JUSTICE

51% of 19-21 year old care leavers are in education, employment or training compared with 54% in 2024/25 (Haringey SNs 58% 2024/25).

93% are in suitable accommodation, up on last year (90%) and SNs (89% 2024/25).

51% CARE LEAVERS EET

In 2025 there were 565 Education, Health and Care Plans requested, which is up on 2024 (539).

As of 1 April, there were 3,077 children with an EHCP.

86% of EHCPs were finalised in 20 weeks, compared to 87% being finalised in 20 weeks in 2024.

3,077 EHCPS

Children in Care Attainment 8 achievements has increased with Haringey CiC having an average attainment 8 score of 24.2. An increase on the previous year when Haringey CiC had an average attainment 8 score of 20.6.

24.2 CLA ATTAINMENT 8

Of the children who ceased to be CLA in 2025/26, 11 (7%) were adopted and 6 (4%) were subject to a Special Guardianship Order.

Haringey SNs acheieved 7% adoptions and 10% SGOs previously.

13 PERMANENCY ORDERS

What progress have we made against our priorities

This section highlights work undertaken on child safeguarding practice reviews and serious incidents, in which we:

- Continued to ensure that children remain the focus on everything that we do and that we always consider the experiences of children and young people i.e. trauma informed approaches
- Continue to concentrate on children's cultural identity and heritage and how this intersects with other demographics such as race, religion, gender and beliefs and have considered the impact of these on the child's life and how these issues have helped to shape our safeguarding practice
- Developed clear recommendations that outline how we will influence change to our safeguarding practice by embedding the learning from our reviews and how this impact will be evaluated

For 2025-26, we have continued to deliver on our three key priorities:

- Children impacted by mental ill health
- Children affected by neglect
- Children affected by domestic abuse

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

- The voice of the child and harmful behaviours.
- The impact on housing and education.
- The impact of the Think Family approach and joint working of the HSCP and
- Haringey Safeguarding Adult Board (HSAB). Further joint working with the Adult Board to include transitional safeguarding.
- National drivers, such as lessons learned from safeguarding reviews.
- Emerging issues or areas of concern identified by safeguarding partners and relevant agencies.
- Findings from external inspections including OFSTED or peer reviews.

In addition, the HSCP MASA Document comprises of four key elements:

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

HSCP Priority 1

Children impacted by mental ill health

Rationale and Evidence Base

All agencies continue to see an increase in demand for support. This is even more pronounced in the area of mental ill health which has continued to impact on children, particularly focused around anxiety, depression, and / or other mental health issues. Evidence from a specific piece of work undertaken by the HSCP focused on local Rapid Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews over a period of 7 years. Findings from this work indicated a consistent theme of mental ill health which ranged from depression, anxiety, multi complex needs and suicidal ideation which provided evidence of the significant importance for the HSCP to retain our focus on the impact of mental ill health. In view of this evidence and the learning that we have taken forward as a Partnership, the HSCP continued to support this priority as one of our focus areas through to 2030.

Key Impact and Outcomes – A Snapshot

There continues to be improved access to our Mental Health Services following the implementation of a Single Point of Access (SPoA), the 'no wrong door' approach which became live on 1 April 2024 but has since continued to strengthen equity of access to CAMHS services across the tri-borough of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

The delivery of mental health services to children and young people has improved, with more Haringey children engaged with CAMHS. Across the Partnership, we have a stronger understanding of the impact of mental health issues on young people and how this service continues to respond to children in crisis.

Improved training and awareness: The HSCP continues to be committed to facilitating continued professional development through training, awareness sessions, and Lunch and Learn sessions on a regular basis, all of which are opportunities for our workforce to develop new skills, knowledge and expertise in this complex area of work. In addition, these opportunities have also enabled our practitioners to have a broader awareness of the impact on young people of not only parental mental ill health issues but also neglect and domestic abuse.

Inclusion of fathers: Last year the HSCP facilitated specific training for a range of our workforce to help ensure that fathers who do not reside in the family home are included in assessment work and the decision-making process where appropriate. This particular area of work has been further complemented by Early Help who have delivered the Caring Dads programme. In addition, the inclusion of fathers is explored within all HSCP audits to provide us with assurance that this theme remains a constant focus across Partnership.

Culture and Diversity: The National Panel review entitled **'It is Silent' (March 2025)** provides a powerful reflective account of the silence on the role of racism and structural and institutional biases that exist within society and their interface with child safeguarding practice. Race, racism, and racial bias are factors which influence how professionals identify, acknowledge and intervene in the lives of Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage children and families when harm is present. In response to this, the HSCP formed a Task and Finish Group, with a specific focus on the themes which are identified in the National Panel report.

The HSCP are currently finalising an Anti-Racist Charter which all partners will commit to embedding in their everyday practice which children, young people and families. In addition, the Task and Finish Group is working on an action plan to help us ensure there is a focus on:

- Reviewing local strategies and approaches to address race, racism, and racial bias in our work with Black, Asian, and Mixed Heritage children.
- Ensuring the voice of children and young people is at the heart of the work that we undertake across the Partnership, including consultation where appropriate.
- Helping to ensure that there are safe spaces for self-reflection and learning from practitioner examples.
- Helping to ensure appropriate internal structures are in place to support practitioners in recognising, discussing, and challenging internal and institutional racism.

- Further consideration of opportunities for scrutiny of the quality of interactions with children and young people of the global majority who use our services in Haringey.

Embedded Learning: Our multi agency learning from both local and national Safeguarding Practice Reviews have been integrated into local practice, which has enabled us to improve responses to those children and young people with mental ill health. On 20 November 2025 the HSCP hosted a multi-agency safeguarding event for up to 200 practitioners from across the Partnership. Part of this event focused on the learning from our local Rapid Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews where the key theme was the impact of mental ill health on children and families. This enabled us to share the learning to a wide audience and explore how this learning has been embedded in practice and process. As this will continue to be one of the priorities for the HSCP, we are now looking at next steps going forward.

Child assessments and outcome-based plans continue to demonstrate positive progress and practical partnership working addressing children's mental health needs, particularly during the transition process to adult mental health services. The impact of a robust transition process has helped to reduce anxiety for a number of young people in addition to helping to lay the foundations for positive future outcomes.

From a school's perspective we are proud of the work that has been undertaken so far, this has included:

- Schools implementing structured pupil voice mechanisms (e.g. school councils, wellbeing ambassadors, surveys) to gather the lived experiences of children and young people in relation to mental ill health and wellbeing.
- Schools maintaining and regularly updating a directory of local mental health and wellbeing services and ensuring this is accessible to staff, pupils and families.
- Supporting children and young people during key transition points (e.g. primary to secondary, secondary to post-16/adult services) through information sharing, transition meetings and pastoral support.
- The continuation of robust contributions to multi-agency planning which help to ensure continuity of support.
- The Anchor Programme continues to be embedded in our schools as a trauma informed response to children.

Key activities (How we influenced outcomes)

- We continue to have robust strategic links with the Haringey Safeguarding Adult Board (HSAB), Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and Transitional Safeguarding who offer early support to older young people living with mental ill health issues. This work helps these young people to live their best lives and reach their full potential when transitioning into adulthood.
- There is consistent multi agency information sharing about families affected by child mental ill health, leading to timely early interventions that ensure the right support is provided at the right time to improve outcomes.
- **Diversity Focus:** Enhanced collaboration with statutory agencies and community services for global majority populations, improving mental health service access and referral pathways for mental health services as a preventive measure rather than at a crisis point.
- Regular reporting on families where child mental ill health is a concern are discussed at a range of multi-agency partnership meetings. This assists with a joined-up approach and collective decision making.
- The provision of a CAMHS Practitioner in the Youth Justice Service has enabled young people with varying degrees of mental ill health to receive a robust service at the earliest opportunity to support their additional mental health needs whilst enhancing the work that has been undertaken by the Youth Justice Service. From April 25 to March 26 78% of the assessments (using the Asset Plus assessment document) of children have identified a mental health need and of these children, 70% of them were referred to the CAMHS Practitioner.
- North London Foundation Trust (NLFT) and Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust are working together to consider the protocol for children in need of joint assessment of both ADHD and Autism, to streamline the process for all children and reduce duplication. This will be incorporated into a pathway and review later in the year 2026.
- The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) continues to strengthen its response to mental ill health as a safeguarding issue, recognising its impact on both children and families. This work aligns with the MPS's Child First approach, ensuring that children's needs, voice and vulnerability are central to operational decision making.

- Officers are guided by the THRIVE+ risk assessment framework, enabling more consistent identification of children at risk where mental ill health is a factor, whether the child is directly experiencing mental ill health or living with a parent or carer who is unwell.
- The MPS has further developed multi agency working, including close partnership with health services through mental health triage, liaison arrangements and information sharing pathways. This supports earlier intervention and helps ensure children and families receive the most appropriate response at the earliest opportunity.
- In line with national priorities, the MPS has embedded Right Care, Right Person principles, clarifying the role of policing and ensuring that children affected by mental ill health are supported by the most appropriate agency, while Police activity remains focused on safeguarding, risk management and criminal harm.
- The MPS has continued to increase investigative activity where children are at risk of significant harm, including incidents where mental ill health is a contributing factor such as domestic abuse, neglect, exploitation or missing episodes.
- Specialist training and professional development for officers and staff has been maintained, with enhanced focus on recognising mental ill health, trauma informed practice, and understanding the cumulative impact of adversity on children's safety and wellbeing.
- The "A New Met for London: Phase 2" programme further reinforces the MPS's focus on public protection, trust and partnership working, which directly supports its approach to safeguarding children affected by mental ill health. Phase 2 emphasises stronger leadership, improved culture and more consistent, empathetic frontline practice, helping officers better recognise vulnerability, manage risk and work effectively with partner agencies to protect children and families.
- In response to a number of Rapid Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews (SPR), one of which focused on the tragic death of a young person by suicide, and others which had a common theme of self-harm, the Partnership embarked on developing two multi agency documents in order to help practitioners to identify signs of self-harm and suicide idealisation:
  - Haringey Self-Harm Safety Assessment and Plan Guidance
  - Haringey Suicide Safety Assessment and Plan Guidance

The documents above were formally launched at our MASA conference on 20th November 2025 with a multi-agency audience of circa 200 delegates. This was received very positively across the Partnership and there was a pledge that the document would be promoted and embedded across agency settings.

Our aim is to support staff when working with children and young people where either suicide or self-harm is of a concern. Additionally, these 2 documents also provide staff with guidance and information on where to seek support for themselves given the emotive subject matter.

Actions for Improvement and Forward Planning on Priority 1 Children Impacted by Mental Ill Health

- Ongoing specialist professional development will strengthen practitioners' ability to identify mental ill health in children and have a better understanding of the impact of their experience. This enhances the effectiveness of mental health service delivery and supports closer collaboration with key partner agencies such as CAMHS.
- Plans going forward in 2026/27 include specific training with a focus on 3 aspects of mental health, primary age children, adolescents and parental mental ill health. These will be delivered on behalf of the HSCP by CAMHS, Tavistock and Portman (due to become part of North London Foundation Trust in Spring 2026) and Open Door. This will complement the training already delivered on perinatal mental health by the Parent Infant Psychology Service (PIPS) at The Whittington.
- The HSCP will need to further strengthen the performance framework to capture the data points across all the agencies such as focusing on disproportionality, repeat referrals relating to children with mental ill health and waiting times for hospital provision. This will allow us to identify emerging trends of concern and, therefore, going forward into 2026/27, the HSCP will be able to measure the impact of interventions. This work will continue to be supported by the engagement of a CAMHS Analyst.

HSCP Priority 2

Neglect and Early Intervention

Rationale and Evidence Base

Early identification of the signs that neglect may be occurring is crucial and will enable the right support to be put in place to prevent further ongoing neglect, which we know has a significant impact in a child's life and into their adulthood. Universal services who are involved with a child, young person and their families play a crucial role in this early identification, and it is important that other agencies come together to form a Team around the Family and address the causes of the neglect in these early stages.

Recent research consistently highlights the long-term benefits of investing in prevention and early intervention, 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 ill health, 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 ill health issues—factors that can negatively affect children's well-being. Feedback from service users and partners emphasise 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.

Neglect is the most common reason for taking child protection action. It can cause long standing harm to children's wellbeing and development. However, with robust multi-agency working, assessment, planning and intervention, the most harmful effects of neglect can be reduced.

Key Impact and Outcomes - A Snapshot

- **Earlier Support:** We continue to strengthen our 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:** Partners continue to work collaboratively to prevent the escalation of needs towards statutory services, with increased involvement of external partners taking the lead to co-ordinate services with a focus on the Think Family approach.
- **Community Engagement:** Through the continued promotion of HSCP Neglect Strategy complemented by the neglect campaign, there has been a heightened awareness of identifying the signs of neglect. The impact of this work has supported early identification of neglect helping to ensure that appropriate support services are provided which will help our children and young people to achieve positive outcomes.
- **Training and Development:** The HSCP multi-agency training on neglect continues to be embedded and promoted across the Partnership. This work is also complemented by bespoke awareness raising sessions to multi agency audiences on the use of the Neglect Toolkit, Guidance and Checklist. This has enabled us to raise awareness with new staff coming into the Partnership and further reinforce the benefits of identifying neglect at the earliest opportunity for our children, young people and families. A good example of this work has been the engagement with the Voluntary Sector who have received a tailored session to help awareness across the community.
- Continued engagement in safeguarding supervision across the Partnership using the neglect checklist has resulted in improved managerial oversight and a better understanding of emerging concerns for families.
- The HSCP performance framework continues to capture a range of robust data analysis and narrative relating to neglect. This provides us with a measure of the extent of neglect in Haringey.

- The MPS continue to provide evidence of improved outcomes in safeguarding practices, such as increased identification of neglect and more effective interventions. To build on this, between February and March 2026, representatives from the Partnership delivered 2 sessions to the Response Officers in the borough which focused on the important role that they play in the community in identifying neglect at the earliest opportunity.
- The MPS safeguarding campaign Operation Makesafe continues to help identify and report signs of neglect and exploitation. This then alerts other agencies within our Partnership where interventions / support is required.
- The Partnership continues to work with our housing colleagues to increase their awareness of the signs of neglect. A recent audit in February 2026 indicated that referrals from our housing colleagues were relatively low, however, what we were able to be assured about was that all referrals that went to MASH were appropriate and of good quality. During 2026/27 there will be a particular focus on this issue which includes bespoke training for housing staff, including Registered Providers, Local Authority staff and subcontractors, with a specific lens on those who go into family homes.
- The HSCP will continue to deliver bespoke "Lite Bite" sessions in relation to thresholds which are facilitated by the MASH Service Manager and the Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Co-Ordinator (MPS). The purpose of these training opportunities is to upskill our staff to be able to identify areas of concern and be confident to make a referral. This is already resulting in a more confident approach in identifying safeguarding concerns and making referrals.
- Through audits and management oversight completed by the Youth Justice Service, it was evident that MASH referrals were appropriate, and neglect is included in court reports to provide context of the lived experiences of the child.
- The GP forum continues to be an arena where the learning from safeguarding reviews is shared by the named GP on behalf of the Partnership. Through additional training for GPs this has enhanced their skills and knowledge and enabled them to identify early signs of neglect even when the presenting issue is not neglect.
- By recognising early signs of neglect, children, young people and their families attending the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust can be supported to engage in the appropriate services in order to achieve better life outcomes.
- Chronologies continue to be routinely completed by frontline staff at The Whittington to enable early identification of patterns of chronic neglect. These have directly supported successful case escalations, ensuring appropriate and timely intervention.

Key activities (how we influenced outcomes)

- We have continued to promote the Think Family approach across the Partnership. This then promotes resilience and optimises outcomes through a seamless service between children's and adult services.
- The 3 Family Hubs (Muswell Hill, Eric Allin and Rising Green) continue to promote and facilitate a "no wrong door" approach. This results in families receiving effective care and support in the community provided to some of our most vulnerable families.
- Health Visitors continue to remain vigilant, offering support, advice, and guidance to universal services, signposting to other services, or considering Early Help or statutory intervention where the need arises. In addition, Health Visitors actively use the Neglect Checklist during supervision.
- We have education representation from the Local Authority Schools and Learning Service on a number of HSCP subgroups. The interaction between staff and pupils provide us with a unique perspective on neglect which includes observing children missing education, physical neglect and emotional neglect.
- Schools continue to make referrals to Early Help. Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) within schools continue to help to ensure that there is a robust understanding of the Early Help offer strengthening support to our vulnerable children, young people and families.
- The Children Missing Education (CME) team continues to support those children who the Local Authority are aware are educated at home. In addition, they are mindful of the new legislation, which is expected at some point in 2026, and will therefore implement appropriate changes to their work in practice as required. Partners continue to support the Children Missing Education Policy and Procedure.

- The voluntary sector remains central in providing training and support within the Haringey community. During 2025/26 the HSCP facilitated a number of sessions tailored to the needs of the voluntary and community sector which was well received.
- Royal Free London Foundation Trust (RFLFT) have a "Was Not Brought / Left Before Treatment" policy that helps identify medical neglect. RFLFT has promoted this issue throughout 2025/26 and the result being evidence of a remarkable increase of MASH referrals in Q4 (Jan-March 2026) by 30.3% compared to reduction in Q2 & Q3. RFLFT inform us that among other factors, this could be attributed in part to the utilisation of the "Was Not Brought / Left Before Treatment" pathway by frontline staff.
- Strategic links to the Early Help Strategic Partnership Board and The Health and Wellbeing Board will continue throughout 2026/27.

Actions for Improvement and Forward Planning on Priority 2 Neglect and Early Intervention

- Children's Services will continue to ensure that new staff are upskilled in the complex area of neglect. Whilst this has been a consistent area of work in 2025/26, they will continue to facilitate briefings and training sessions for staff across their service setting during 2026/27.
- The housing department will need to continue to promote neglect as a child safeguarding concern. New staff into the department will need to engage in the appropriate training either single agency or through the multi-agency partnership. The housing department will now continue to prioritise the training for those staff having direct access into family homes. This work will be implemented during 2026/27.
- A new development in 2026/27 involves Registered Providers who will now be engaged in upskilling their own staff via Lunch and Learn sessions and bespoke awareness raising sessions co-ordinated by the Housing Partnerships Officer.
- Our health colleagues will need to continue to provide us with assurance that the Neglect checklist has been further embedded across the appropriate health family.
- The HSCP performance framework will be strengthened to include chronic health impact indicators associated with neglect (e.g. failure to thrive, dental decay), by demographic group.
- NLFT completed an audit on the use of the HSCP Neglect Toolkit, however, as a result, additional awareness raising sessions will be facilitated and to complement these sessions, a set of learning slides have been developed on the use of the Neglect toolkit/ checklist. Since March 2026 these are being shared with all teams during Quarter 1 of supervision and have been well received.
- To follow on the work in 2025/26 with the Voluntary and Community Sector, the HSCP will facilitate bespoke sessions for their service setting with a focus on an introduction to safeguarding and neglect. This will need to be widely promoted throughout 2026/27 so that we can get positive engagement and maximum attendance.



HSCP Priority 3

Children impacted by domestic abuse

Rationale and Evidence Base

Domestic abuse (DA) severely undermines a child's need for safety and security, impacting their behaviour, brain development, education, and overall wellbeing. It is a significant risk factor for all children, including adolescents, and is legally recognised as harmful. DA disrupts a child's development, affecting their environment, stability, attachment to caregivers, and physical, mental, and emotional health. The perpetrator's abusive behaviours can also hinder the non-abusing parent's ability to provide care, making the protection and empowerment of the non-abusing parent crucial for the child's safety. Interventions to protect children from DA must be carefully managed to avoid escalating the abuse. Non-abusing parents and professionals can help minimise the impact, especially for younger children who are more exposed and less able to process the abuse. The effects of domestic abuse can be far reaching for children, and this can depend on a number of factors including their specific circumstances, and the support they receive to recover from the trauma of having been exposed to this. Recognising the perpetrator's coercive control and working in partnership with the non-abusing parent are essential for effective intervention.



Key Impact and Outcomes – A Snapshot

- Robust multi-agency training opportunities have provided a consistent multiagency response to practice challenges where domestic abuse is evident.
- We have recognised that our multi-agency approach is imperative when trying to address the needs of children and young people who are suffering from domestic abuse, and our audits highlighted some important themes which the HSCP have continued to work to address.
- We are able to evidence areas of strength across the Partnership in responding to domestic abuse, such as good multi-agency working and information sharing. Our practitioners have a greater understanding of the emotional impact which domestic abuse has on children, this in turn helps in securing appropriate support services and interventions where necessary.

- The impact of Operation Encompass has improved information sharing between the Police and school settings, the purpose being to alert staff of an incident of domestic abuse in a child's home. This then helps teaching staff to identify any additional support needs for a particular child. It is acknowledged the take up of Operation Encompass across Haringey is exceptionally good.
- Increased capacity in the MPS domestic abuse team has helped to ensure a timely and effective response to domestic abuse incidents.
- The MPS campaigns on domestic abuse continue to inform the public and encourage reporting of concerns. In line with the national picture, Haringey has seen an increase in domestic abuse reports being made to the police, indicating that the MPS campaigns are having the desired impact of victims / survivors coming forward to report an incident.
- The MPS have received positive feedback from children, families, and partner organisations which indicates that the Met's efforts are making a difference in addressing the impact of domestic abuse on children.
- There is a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) via MARAC, a model that unites services to keep survivors safe, hold abusers accountable, and help to prevent incidents of domestic abuse.
- The continued efforts of the Early Help service have helped to prevent the need for statutory intervention from Children Social Care.
- The housing directorate continue to work towards the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA). This accreditation is a very intensive and robust process that ensures standards of good practice are embedded within services. Being DAHA accredited means that survivors and their families are safer, perpetrators are held to account, and all those impacted by domestic abuse receive a coherent response that positively affects them. Mock case dip accreditations are scheduled to take place in June 2026, and the full accreditation process will commence following the conclusion of the regulator inspection.
- The Whittington and Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust reported positive outcomes from the Non-Fatal Strangulation pathway, with one example being an individual receiving stroke prevention measures; further development will continue into 2025/26. It is highlighted that the Whittington and Royal Free have been influential in developing this pathway and 123 survivors that have attended the clinic.
- Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust has commissioned Barnardo's to deliver a service in A&E to support parents which continues to be well received.

Key activities (How we influenced outcomes)

- The HSCP has facilitated a themed practice week in March 2025 with a focus specifically on domestic abuse and its impact. Across the week, we had 180 professionals attending the various sessions on offer.
- During HSCP practice week partner agencies audited the files of 10 children and young people, where domestic abuse was the prevalent concern. Each partner agency provided an audit outcome from their agency perspective using a mutually devised audit tool. This highlighted the need for further training in this particular area, and the HSCP responded by commissioning a range of training provided by VAWG during 2025/26 which was well received.
- Continued development of training opportunities for front line staff have taken place during 2025/26 around coercive control and the use of the DASH Risk Assessment tool. This work has culminated in practitioners being able to identify signs of coercive control at the earliest opportunity.
- The Caring Dad's programme has continued to support fathers to find alternative ways to manage personal relationships, in order to help divert them from situations that escalate into domestic abuse incidents.
- Work around the non-fatal strangulation pathway continues, ensuring that we have the intervention locally.
- Whittington Health continues to implement routine enquiries for domestic abuse (DA) during all relevant client contact, particularly with women accessing maternity, health visiting, and other frontline services. This includes direct, sensitive questioning about safety at home and past or present experiences of abuse. Staff are trained to recognise the signs of abuse and respond in a trauma informed manner.

Actions for Improvement and Forward Planning on Priority 3 Children impacted by domestic abuse

While the Partnership has made good progress in strengthening its response to domestic abuse, partners recognise the need to better evidence the impact of this work on children, victims, and families. During 2026/27, alongside monitoring activity and compliance measures, the Partnership will place greater emphasis on understanding outcomes, including whether interventions lead to increased safety, reduced risk, improved engagement with support services, and better experiences for children affected by domestic abuse.

- The DASH Toolkit to be further embedded across the Partnership.
- Consideration about how chronic neglect and domestic abuse interlink and for this to be addressed holistically.
- Initially, the DASH risk assessments were not being completed routinely and shared. However, since compiling this Annual Report, the HSCP commissioned a range of training for our frontline staff across the Partnership. This has resulted in practitioners gaining additional skill and knowledge to continue to help them identify signs of domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity.
- During a range of audit activity across the Partnership, it is recognised that fathers' views were not always included in assessments. In order to address this, a range of practitioners have undertaken bespoke training led by their agencies to promote the importance of involving fathers in the decision-making process where appropriate which includes those fathers who live outside the family home.
- The Police are looking at ways to obtain school information when they are called out to a domestic abuse incident. Clearly, this is not an issue affecting Haringey alone but is a national issue, as very often the Police are reliant on the family to provide information who at times are reluctant to do so.
- Partner agencies will continue to offer support to victims / survivors of domestic abuse and by working with perpetrators through various programmes in order to reduce risk and achieve positive outcomes for the family as a whole

Emerging and Ongoing Safeguarding Risks

Whilst the Partnership's current priority areas are neglect, domestic abuse, mental health, and intra-familial child sexual abuse, partners remain vigilant to other significant safeguarding threats affecting children and young people. These include child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, grooming, and harm associated with gangs, serious violence, and county lines activity. Agencies will continue to work collaboratively to identify vulnerable children, share information effectively, disrupt perpetrators, and provide timely safeguarding and support interventions, ensuring that emerging risks are monitored and responded to through established multi-agency arrangements.

Our Response to National Publications

National Panel Review into Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse 'I wanted them all to notice'

Since the publication of the above report, the HSCP have actively looked at the 6 recommendations which are directed specifically to Partnerships nationally. We have brought together representatives from across our Partnership to form a child sexual abuse Task and Finish group led by the Director of Safeguarding and Social Care to address this national issue. From the overarching Task and Finish Group at the time of writing this Annual Report there are 2 strands of work which are making good progress:

- **Performance strand** – This workstream focuses on the multi-agency data that the Partnership need to collect for us to gain a robust picture of the prevalence of intrafamilial child sexual abuse in Haringey. We are currently monitoring / gathering data in relation to child sexual abuse i.e. numbers of strategy meetings, assessments completed with CSA as a risk factor and number of Child Protection plans, Child in Need plans, Children Looked After, Early Help and the number of prosecutions to understand the level of need in Haringey and use this to guide our practice approaches and response.
- **Training strand** – It was highlighted in the report that a lack of training for professionals has become a barrier in identifying and understanding child sexual abuse as either intra- or extra- familial abuse. Therefore, this workstream is focusing on understanding the current training need, specially around child sexual abuse across the Partnership. It is recognised that staff across the Partnership are required to engage in training specific to their role and agency setting. This work is ongoing throughout 2026/27.

The HSCP is currently developing a child sexual abuse strategy with the expectation that this will be formally agreed by the HSCP Executive Group. Currently, the draft of this document has been circulated for further input from partners and should be in place by the end of 2026. Throughout 2026/27 the HSCP is committed to working on the other 4 recommendations contained in the National Panel report. A detailed update on progress will be included in the HSCP Annual Report 2026/27.

It should be noted that the HSCP Executive Group have formally agreed that child sexual abuse will be our fourth priority going forward into 2026/27.

In addition, Operation Makesafe, led by the MPS, has been developed in partnership with the London boroughs to raise awareness of child exploitation in the business community, such as hotels, licensed premises, taxi companies, shops, and care homes. Historically, Operation Makesafe was specific to child sexual exploitation (CSE) but now incorporates all forms of child exploitation, including sexual and criminal (CCE).

Race, Racism and Safeguarding Children – 'It is Silent'

The National Panel review entitled **'It is Silent' (March 2025)** led Jahnine Davis provide a powerful reflective account of the silence on the role of racism and structural and institutional biases that exist within society and their interface with child safeguarding practice. Race, racism, and racial bias are factors which influence how professionals identify, acknowledge and intervene in the lives of Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage children and families when harm is present.

A lack of consideration of these factors in our practice results in an incomplete understanding of the lived experience of children and young people of the global majority. The term referred to in the National Panel review as 'Invisibilisation' describes the way in which Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage children are hyper visible to services for the harm posed to others, whilst being invisible with regard to the harm they experience.

In July 2025, the HSCP formed a Task and Finish Group to specifically examine the themes and recommendations raised and how Haringey can address this. To date, the Group consists of representatives from across the Partnership. It is expected the life of this Task and Finish Group will run until the end of 2027. Currently, the

HSCP is finalising an Anti-Racist Charter and considering the best way to bring together professionals from across the Partnership to support each other in safe spaces.

Sara Sharif Safeguarding Practice Review – Learning Event

On 10 March 2026, the HSCP Business Unit hosted a Learning Event to promote the learning from the Sara Sharif independent review. We used the published report as the basis for the event. The full review report provides more detailed information, clarifying what happened to Sara throughout her short life. As this was a Partnership event, we had guest speakers from:

- VAWG who outlined the local domestic abuse support services in Haringey
- A domestic abuse provider IMECE who highlighted the impact on children where domestic abuse occurs within the home and also provided a perpetrator lens
- Recognising the importance of explicit exploration of race, culture, religion or heritage in all safeguarding practice
- A representative from our Elective Home Education team who highlighted the risks when children become "invisible"
- Representatives from a social work team and legal team to enable colleagues to better understand the Family Court process
- A Child Protection and Conference Service Manager to help practitioners understand the impact of neglect on children and young people
- An Early Help Partnership Strategic Lead reminded practitioners of professional curiosity.

This Learning Event was attended by 180 colleagues from across our Partnership and the feedback received was extremely positive.



Haringey Safeguarding Children Subgroups

Quality Performance and Outcome (QPO) Subgroup

The Quality, Performance, and Outcome (QPO) Subgroup has a specific focus on Partnership performance utilising the performance framework. In addition, the Subgroup conducts a range of audit exercises, both single and multi-agency and this includes discussions with practitioners. The HSCP has an agreed audit cycle, covering 2025/26 across a range of themes including:

- Youth at Risk – Knife Crime victims and perpetrators
- Children with disabilities
- Child sexual abuse
- Children and young people with significant mental ill health needs, including children looked after by the local authority and those on the edge of care who face barriers to accessing services.
- Domestic Abuse
- Neglect

Partnership Quality Assurance and Performance 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. Over the past year, partners have continued to strengthen evidence-based decision-making for Haringey's children, leveraging the HSCP Performance Framework to identify successes and areas requiring further attention.

The framework has evolved into a critical tool for tracking trends, fostering meaningful discussions, and driving improvements across agencies. These discussions not only address underlying concerns but also lead to targeted solutions that enhance safeguarding practices. We are now utilising long-term trend analysis, downloading published data where available, to provide deeper insights into patterns of concern and progress. By incorporating historical performance trends, agencies can make proactive and informed decisions to refine their safeguarding strategies.

Impact, outcomes and key achievements:

- **Strengthening Multi-Agency Learning:** Professionals across the Partnership have engaged in targeted training to expand their knowledge and expertise. This has been informed by the performance framework insights.
- **Data-Driven Accountability:** Up-to-date performance data now supports the Executive Group and wider Partnership in identifying trends, assessing effectiveness, and prioritising improvements in either practice and / or process at an early stage.
- **Audit-Informed Action Plans:** Insights from thematic audits have been integrated into structured action plans to help to refine frontline practice where required.
- **Ongoing Assurance and Learning:** Progress against specific action items have been closely monitored, ensuring that key findings are shared and embedded within day-to-day operations.
- **Enhanced Accessibility and Engagement:** At each Executive Group, Leadership Group and QPO meeting, members are provided with structured presentations to ensure that senior leaders across the Partnership have continuous oversight on Haringey performance. This results in the ability to take direct action when an issue is raised using evidence-based data, analysis and narrative. In addition, this allows the 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.

- Multi-agency learning continues to enable professionals across all organisations to enhance their safeguarding knowledge and skills. The golden thread between the QPO and Practice Learning Workforce Development (PLWD) subgroup is able to evidence where there is a training need for our practitioners. An example of this was the identification from an audit themed on domestic abuse highlighted a need to practitioners to better understand the use of the DASH Risk Assessment Tool. The audit also identified a lack of confidence in working with perpetrators of domestic abuse. As a result, the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) service commissioned bespoke training sessions focused on the DASH risk assessment and Coercive Control. These new skills and knowledge have been adopted across front line practice.

QPO Workshop October 2025

This QPO session commenced with a workshop to identify potential ways to evidence and measure impact of the work undertaken against the 3 HSCP priorities. As a result, we agreed to:

- Continue to build on the multi-agency data and analysis captured in the Performance Framework.
- Going forward, we agreed to embed a series of new themes into our multi agency audit cycle which will be led by lead practitioners.
- Strengthen the work around the voice of children is now a mandatory element to cover in all audit templates.
- Help to ensure key findings from our audit activity are widely understood and acted upon. We have a range of tailored PowerPoint presentations which summarise key highlights, to encourage multi-agency and meaningful discussions across the Partnership.
- Implement one-to-one meetings with data providers and analysts in order to foster good relationships, multi-agency accountability, continue to strengthen the Performance Framework and help to ensure we have effective data interpretation.

Areas for Development 2026/27

In preparing for Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, the Partnership recognises the increased emphasis on:

- The purposeful use of data
- Measuring impact, not just activity
- Understanding and addressing disproportionality

Over the next year, the Partnership will further strengthen its data driven approach by:

- Developing more sophisticated analysis of disproportionality, including by ethnicity, disability, age, and geography
- Embedding the evidence that our data is telling us into the Partnership executive decision making arena and for additional independent scrutiny
- Improving the ability to link safeguarding activity to outcomes for children, not just process measures

This work will support the Partnership in understanding who is most affected by safeguarding systems, why, and what needs to change, helping to ensure that interventions are both effective and equitable.

Overall, the data demonstrates a safeguarding system that is stable, improving, and increasingly reflective. The Partnership is clear that continued improvement will depend on how well data is used to understand impact, effectiveness, and disproportionality, in line with the expectations of Working Together 2026.

Practice, Learning and Workforce Development (PLWD) Subgroup

The subgroup is responsible for planning, organising, and evaluating multi-agency safeguarding learning and development activities, as well as challenging and supporting the training delivered by individual agencies. It ensures that identified multi-agency safeguarding learning needs are addressed for the Partnership's workforce, incorporating relevant research, national best practices, and learning from Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and audit activity. The Subgroup also maintains and develops the Partnership training pool, manages partnership communications, and oversees the HSCP website's development.

With the support of the expertise from partners, the Subgroup has developed and delivered a range of multi-agency training opportunities in 2025/26. The innovative use of utilising local skill sets has enabled us to offer a wide range of training opportunities whilst minimising the need to commission external trainers.

The courses offered in 2025-26 include:

- Learning from Safeguarding Practice Reviews (SPRs)
- Hate Crime Awareness Training
- An introduction to housing
- An introduction to health
- Threshold Guidance Lite Bite
- Using the Social Care guide to thresholds of need
- Introduction to Safeguarding for the Voluntary Sector
- An introduction to Intra-familial child sexual abuse – taking a multi-agency approach
- LADO Training and Workshop
- Prevent training
- Perinatal mental health awareness
- Safeguarding Level 3
- Youth at Risk: exploring the rise of incel ideology and extreme misogyny
- Extreme Right-Wing Awareness (ERW)Training
- Trusted Youth Ally Training
- Risk Picture Update: The Counter Terrorism Local Profile
- Youth Violence: New Forms of Radicalisation
- Child Exploitation Awareness Session
- Online gaming and Gambling Harm Prevention Workshop
- Online Safety and Early Signs of Radicalisation
- Identifying and Responding to Coercive Control
- DASH Checklist
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) delivered by Forward Trust
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Virginity testing, hymenoplasty
- Harmful Practices Training: Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage
- Active Bystander

In addition, and to complement the above, we have developed a suite of '7-minute' briefings on specific topics particularly responding to key messages arising from local and national safeguarding incidents, audits and reviews.

From October 2025, we introduced a monthly Lunch and Learn session facilitated by partners. These include:

- Case Conferences
- Harmful Practices
- Dynamic Support Register (DSR)
- The Missing Hub
- Indecent Images
- Perplexing Presentations

Impact, outcomes and key achievements:

During 2025–26, the Partnership delivered a comprehensive multi-agency training programme, comprising 47 sessions across 26 safeguarding topics, designed to strengthen workforce capability in both core safeguarding practice and early identification of emerging areas of risk. The programme attracted 1,133 bookings, with 692 practitioners attending, resulting in an overall attendance rate of 61%.

The training offer achieved a strong reach across the Partnership, particularly among frontline safeguarding services demonstrating that the programme is well aligned with practitioners working directly with children and families.

There is continued representation from the voluntary sector organisations, and wider partners, ensuring that training continued to support a multi-agency safeguarding response. While demand for training remained high, non-attendance accounted for 39% of bookings, highlighting an ongoing challenge in maximising workforce capacity and ensuring that training places are fully utilised.

Demand was strongest for both statutory safeguarding training and emerging risk themes. High-attendance courses included:

- Safeguarding Level 3
- LADO Training and Workshops
- Coercive Control
- Youth risk and extremism (including incel ideology and right-wing extremism)

This reflects the Partnership's ability to deliver a balanced programme that meets statutory requirements while also responding to evolving safeguarding risks, including online harm, radicalisation, and harmful practices.

Feedback from participants demonstrated a consistently high level of satisfaction with the training offer and is one measure of impact as the new skills and knowledge have been transferred into practice. Clearly, a skilled workforce will help to achieve better outcomes for our children, young people and families. The vast majority of respondents confirmed that learning objectives were fully met and training was frequently rated between 8 and 10 out of 10, reflecting strong confidence in both content and delivery.

These elements were particularly valued in complex areas such as coercive control, safeguarding thresholds, and child exploitation, where practical application and professional judgement are essential.

Feedback has provided strong evidence that the training programme is having a positive and tangible impact on professional practice across the Partnership. The impact and outcome evidenced from feedback has led to:

- Increased confidence in identifying and responding to safeguarding concerns
- Improved understanding of thresholds, referral pathways, and statutory processes (e.g. MASH, LADO, Prevent)
- Greater willingness to exercise professional curiosity and challenge decision-making
- Enhanced multi-agency working and information sharing

Many practitioners reported that they would actively cascade learning within their teams, review internal policies and procedures, and apply learning directly to casework. There was also a strong emphasis on earlier identification and escalation of risk, with practitioners noting increased confidence in making referrals and advocating for children where concerns are not sufficiently addressed.

A key strength of the programme is its contribution in helping to develop a learning culture across the Partnership. Training such as Safeguarding Practice Reviews (SPRs) and threshold sessions encouraged practitioners to:

- Reflect on their own decision-making
- Consider systemic issues
- Strengthen accountability across agencies

Participants demonstrated increased awareness that safeguarding is a shared responsibility, with feedback emphasising the importance of communication, timely information sharing, and coordinated multi-agency responses.

Overall, the multi-agency training programme continues to make a significant contribution to safeguarding effectiveness across the Partnership. It is equipping practitioners with the knowledge, confidence, and skills required to respond to both statutory safeguarding responsibilities and increasingly complex emerging risks. Additionally, the training programme is responsive to the themes from local and national reviews and fully encompasses the Partnership priorities.

Strong levels of satisfaction and clear evidence of impact on practice demonstrate that the programme is valued by the workforce and supporting improved outcomes for children and families. Continued focus on engagement, attendance, and targeted delivery will further strengthen the reach and effectiveness of the offer in the coming year.

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

Areas for Development 2026/27

While overall feedback was highly positive, several consistent themes for improvement were identified:

- Demand for longer or more in-depth sessions, particularly for complex topics.
- Greater inclusion of interactive elements and practical exercises.
- More tailored content for specific roles or sectors.
- Opportunities for face-to-face delivery where appropriate.
- Addressing non-attendance remains a priority to ensure that training capacity is maximised and demand is effectively managed.
- Explore additional domestic abuse training and awareness raising sessions to ensure our staff are upskilled and confident to identify coercive control,

misogyny and adultification, acknowledging that domestic abuse is one of our key priorities.

- Whilst we commissioned focused training on child sexual abuse following the publication of the National Panel's review into intrafamilial child sexual abuse in 2025/26, we will be looking to explore additional options during 2026/27 for further training.
- We will continue to increase our awareness raising sessions around neglect so that our practitioners have the skills and knowledge to identify signs of neglect at the earliest opportunity.
- We will continue to facilitate training opportunities which focus on the impact of mental ill health. This training will provide our practitioners with additional skills and knowledge to identify indicators of mental ill health and understand its impact on individuals and families.
- We intend to strengthen multiagency working by improving professional understanding of roles and services through a training series known as 'Introduction to...' We currently have sessions focused on Introduction to Health, Introduction to Housing and plan to add two more to this series in 2026/27 including Introduction to the Police and Introduction to the Probation Service.
- The existing Learning and Development Framework continues to be a 'live document' and helps us to consider the changing developmental needs of practitioners across the Partnership which emerge from learning from reviews and themed audits undertaken. Any commissioned trainers will continue to provide the HSCP with details of the course content that they facilitate as part of the HSCP Quality Assurance process.
- The HSCP website is a resource for all practitioners across the Partnership. The continued development of this resource will help to ensure that practitioners have access to a range of policies, procedures and up to date safeguarding information. This will include a section on the development of the Family First Programme and Social Care Reform in 2026/27.

Safeguarding Practice Review (SPR) Subgroup

- The SPR Subgroup, established in September 2023 and chaired by the Director of Children's Safeguarding and Social Care, aims to provide a dedicated space for key professionals to collaborate on SPRs in a multi-agency forum. It ensures timely completion of work and actions linked to recommendations from local SPRs and Rapid Reviews, holding agencies accountable for meeting deadlines and progressing specific work. The Subgroup focuses on embedding and monitoring actions and continuing to strengthen the golden thread between a number of HSCP subgroups to promote learning across the Partnership and encouraging cross-agency learning to better understand emerging trends and needs in safeguarding children and young people in Haringey.

Key Responsibilities of the SPR Subgroup

- Provide ongoing oversight and direction for Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Oversee local safeguarding reviews, including threshold meetings, Rapid Reviews, and individual agency reviews.
- Analyse emerging trends from local and national SPRs and Learning Reviews and embed this learning into practice and training plans.
- Receive and review the final action plans from completed SPRs, ensuring all actions are fully completed before submission to the HSCP Executive Group for formal sign off.
- Receive presentations in relation to Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and identify themes which impact on both adult and children.
- Remain accountable to the HSCP Executive where actions and recommendations are not progressed. This will then lead to further action by the HSCP Executive Group who will hold individual agencies to account where necessary.

Impact, outcomes and key achievements

- Following the publication of the National Panel report 'I wanted them all to notice', we have undertaken a huge amount of work across the Partnership to bring together a wide range of multi-agency senior managers and front-line practitioners to respond to the 6 recommendations contained in the report via a CSA Task and Finish Group. Currently, we are addressing recommendations focused on training need and a review of how the Partnership collects data where CSA is either evident or suspected. In order to progress this work, we now have 2 workstreams which are Training and Data and Performance. Whilst this is work in progress and will continue to be in 2026/27, please refer to areas for development at the end of this section.
- We will continue to consider the impact of racial, ethnic, and cultural identity on the lived experiences of children and families, which will always be a focus of our work.
- As part of our commissioning process for Independent Reviewers, we have continued to ensure that all Terms of Reference for our reviews now reflect the National Panel publication 'It is Silent' Race, Racism and Racial Bias and Safeguarding Children recommendations contained in this publication.
- Whilst reflecting on the themes that emerged from our audits, Rapid Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews, this has helped to drive the training needs scope across the Partnership so that the HSCP is assured that training offered to our practitioners is aligned and targeted to the findings of these reviews.
- The SPR Subgroup has continued to collaborate with the PLWD Subgroup to embed key learning and identify shortfalls in practitioner training. The outcome of this is that the learning and development framework is under continued review.
- We have revised the HSCP Threshold Criteria Decision Making Sheet for the 3 strategic safeguarding partners. As a result of this piece of work, we now have a more robust process in place to enable the strategic partners to both capture the evidence of their discussion and the rationale to help ensure that their decision making is consistent and also enable the HSCP to monitor the themes arising from Serious Incident Notifications.
- In response to a paper which was produced by the HSCP Business Unit highlighting the consistent themes from our SPRs and Rapid Reviews being mental ill health in young people as a predominant factor, the HSCP facilitated a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Conference (MASA) on 20th November 2025. Part of this event focused on the learning from 5 of our Rapid Reviews and SPRs where common denominator was complex mental ill health and its impact. The Conference enabled us to share the learning, look at changes to practice / process and remind colleagues of the importance of keeping the voice of the child at the centre of all that we do.
- We have revised the SPR Guidance document in alignment with Working Together 2026. This ensures that our process is compliant with the guidance document and that our practitioners have an awareness of the SPR process and their responsibilities.
- We also consider not only local reviews, but national reviews, including those which have a high media profile. An example of this is the Sara Sharif report which resulted in the HSCP facilitating a learning event which is referred to in this annual report. In addition, the HSCP Executive Group considered all the recommendations in the report to determine if these recommendations were relevant to existing practice in Haringey and whether there was a need to make any changes. The recommendations around Elective Home Education were focused on locally and whilst our processes are robust, it was acknowledged that further changes to legislation will enhance this.

Areas for Development 2026/27

- In recognition of the upcoming changes to legislation, preparations are underway to formulate an Elective Home Education (EHE) Task and Finish Group which will provide assurance to the HSCP that there are effective local multiagency systems in Haringey to safeguard children who are electively home educated. This Group is aimed at gaining a better understanding of everyone's role with children who are electively home educated, and it will produce a multi-agency guidance document on EHE. We will then consider training needs for the Partnership and any data sets that may be required to monitor the effectiveness and impact of any plans proposed.
- The CSA Task and Finish Group will continue to make progress against each of the recommendations contained in the National Panel report 'I wanted them all to notice' through 2026/27.
- Develop and agree a multi-agency Child Sexual Abuse Strategy. We will use the golden thread across all the subgroups to support the implementation of training and changes to policies, procedures and processes. This work will become clearer as evidence from the bespoke workstreams / task and finish groups emerge.

Learning from Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

- The HSCP plays a vital role in commissioning and coordinating learning from reviews following serious incidents or child deaths, using mechanisms like Rapid Reviews, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR), and Child Death Reviews. Understanding the circumstances of serious injuries or deaths due to abuse or neglect helps improve future responses by assessing the impact of various organisations on the child's life and family. This process acknowledges necessary changes to practices and processes, incorporates learning from national reviews, and embeds this knowledge across the Partnership. The HSCP is responsible for identifying and reviewing serious child safeguarding instances, commissioning, and overseeing the progress and outcomes of SPRs, and establishing a local system of learning and reflection. The HSCP is accountable for ensuring the implementation of learning from serious incidents.

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, the HSCP received one new serious incident notification, which resulted in a Virtual Threshold Discussion with statutory partners who were of the view that the circumstances of this case met the criteria to convene a Rapid Review. The outcome of the Rapid Review was that whilst this case did not warrant moving to a Safeguarding Practice Review there was a lot of learning, particularly for the local authority which placed this child in a private foster setting located in Haringey. At the time of writing this Annual Report there is an Action Plan a range of recommendations which are being progressed. A learning event will be facilitated by the placing local authority in 2026/27.

During the year, the HSCP continued to progress safeguarding incidents that had been referred in previous reporting periods. Five cases proceeded to a Rapid Review. Of these, one case progressed to a Safeguarding Practice Review (SPR), which remains ongoing, while three cases followed an alternative review approach. A further case, which was notified in February 2025, was progressed to an SPR and is still underway at the time this Annual Report was prepared.

Three SPRs were concluded during the reporting period, one independent review report has been published, but two independent review reports have not been published due to the families involved being at risk of identification and also due to the express wishes of the families.

Learning from completed reviews has been embedded, and all associated recommendations and action plans have been completed. The SPR Subgroup continues to provide robust oversight of all current reviews, while the Executive Group receives regular updates on progress at each of its meetings.

Rapid Reviews

1 Rapid Review in respect of a male, White British baby placed in an independent foster care placement situated in Haringey and placed by a neighbouring authority.

Themes included parental mental ill health, learning difficulties, history of domestic abuse, cross border working, physical abuse to the child.

Outcome: unanimous decision that whilst there was learning, the neighbouring authority who placed the child would lead on an action plan and facilitate a cross-border multi-agency learning event.

SPRs (Please note that 3 of the 4 SPRs commenced end of 2023/24)

We have undertaken 3 SPRs between 2023 and concluding in 2025.

We have undertaken 1 SPR in 2025 but due specific circumstances this SPR has not yet been concluded.

- 3 out of 4 SPRs were male, 1 female.
- 3 out of 4 were aged between 14 and 17 years old. 1 child was aged 3 years.
- 3 out of 4 identified as Black or Black British-Caribbean
- 1 out of 4 identified as White European

Themes included youth violence and knife crime, criminal child exploitation and contextual safeguarding, child death, neglect, stop and search, race and racism, physical abuse, complex child and parental mental ill health, domestic abuse, adultification, drug and alcohol use, suicide, parental separation, housing instability, cross border and transient family

Outcome: Specific action plans were agreed which included bespoke training on domestic abuse and a multi-agency conference which focused on mental ill health (November 2025).

Multi-agency Learning Event

Given the results of our analysis of the above SPRs the HSCP focused on child and parental mental ill health, we were able to take the learning from the above SPRs and the session was led by a guest speaker and Independent Reviewer.

Feedback from this event indicated that practitioners have been and will continue to be supported to further develop and improve our practice, knowledge and skills across the Partnership with a focus on the impact of mental ill health, race, racism, neurodiversity and adultification.

Impact and Next Steps

- The HSCP continues to capture the voice of the child in the work across the Partnership. As part of our SPR process the voice of the child and their family wherever possible is always included in the final independent review reports. The impact of listening to children and their families about their experiences when in receipt of support services will continue to inform us where changes to practice, policies and process are needed.
- The multi-agency conference has been a positive mechanism to get specific messages and learning across the Partnership and we will continue to build on this learning going forward. We have already delivered some lite bite sessions, lunch and learn sessions and commissioned training to focus on the key strategic priorities that have emerged from our Rapid Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

Housing Subgroup

The Housing Subgroup operates jointly under the HSCP (Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership) and HSAB (Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board), and the Subgroup is chaired by the Assistant Director of Housing. 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. However, it should also be acknowledged that the borough of Haringey is in a similar position to many local authorities across the country where housing demand is outstripping supply.

Impact, outcomes and key achievements

- We have extended our membership to include Registered Housing Providers and the Housing Partnership Officer. This has resulted in improved communication between the Local Authority and registered providers / housing associations to embed safeguarding messages and practices.
- The Named Doctor for the HSCP has delivered a bespoke awareness raising session to a range of housing colleagues that focuses on bruising in non-mobile babies as a safeguarding concern. Staff were provided with information that equip them to identify, seek advice and refer confidently and timely to MASH.
- Registered Housing Providers now attend a range of safeguarding training opportunities. Improved knowledge and awareness around safeguarding

issues has helped to enable and encourage staff to seek advice and / or make a safeguarding referral to MASH. The impact of this will be those areas of concern such as neglect, domestic abuse, bruising in non-mobile babies will be identified earlier.

- A recent audit of housing referrals sent to MASH concluded that whilst the numbers were relatively low, all referrals that were sent were of good quality and appropriate.
- Housing Partnerships Officer has confirmed that Registered Housing Providers have been accessing Lunch and Learn sessions on specific safeguarding themes. These sessions are devised to raise the profile of safeguarding which is significant given that their staff are in a unique position as they regularly enter families' homes in the borough and may identify safeguarding concerns.
- Data sharing initiative with the London Fire Brigade to identify and prioritise overcrowded and vulnerable tenants for fire safety visits.
- A direct impact of the work of the Subgroup has led to a review of families presenting with high needs in temporary accommodation. This ensured that these families were appropriately supported and were a priority to re-house more quickly.
- Following the implementation of the Damp and Mould Policy which originated from new legislation Awaab's Law, there is now a process whereby the repairs service is required to prioritise the severity of damp and mould in the homes of residents including those living in Housing Association properties within set timescales. Clearly, by following Awaab's law, this has resulted in residents receiving a much-improved service under swift timescales and thus preventing an escalation of safeguarding concerns where children are involved.
- We have increased awareness across the Partnership of the role that housing plays in working with families in the borough via the 'Introduction to Housing' briefings which has been available across the Partnership. This has helped staff unfamiliar with the role of our housing colleagues to have a better understanding which in turn has supported the sharing of information and improved communication.
- The repairs service in the Local Authority has been delivering neglect briefings to their staff to help ensure that they can spot the signs of neglect at the earliest opportunity. This then enables support mechanisms to be triggered to prevent escalation into the statutory arena.
- Through a Partnership with the London Fire Brigade, the Housing Subgroup tasked members from housing to identify a list of vulnerable families in overcrowded households and to share this with the London Fire Brigade. This ensured that these families could receive the best available support and target resources to those most at risk in order to improve outcomes.

Areas for Development 2026/27

- Whilst we have previously alluded to the audit of MASH referrals sent by housing colleagues, we recognise that there is more work to do to improve the referral rates. Since identifying this issue, work started immediately and we will continue to raise the profile of safeguarding, upskill our housing colleagues with a range of knowledge and additional expertise to support them in the early identification of safeguarding concerns.
- The Head of Wellbeing and Support will during 2026/27 produce a training programme tailored to the needs of local authority housing colleagues and Registered Housing Providers with a strong focus on safeguarding. With a particular emphasis on:
    - How to recognise abuse/neglect
    - How to report concerns
    - Legal duties (e.g., Care Act, Children Act)
- The housing directorate are currently working towards Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA). This accreditation is a very intensive and robust process that ensures standards of good practice are embedded within services. Being DAHA accredited means that survivors and their families are safer, perpetrators are held to account, and all those impacted by domestic abuse receive a coherent response that positively affects them. Work to achieve DAHA accreditation within the housing service is progressing. Mock case dip accreditations are scheduled to take place in June. The full accreditation process will commence following the conclusion of the regulator inspection.

Education Subgroup

The HSCP Executive Group have welcomed the Director of Schools and Learning (Local Authority) as a fourth partner. Following this decision, it was agreed that a new subgroup will be set up during 2026/27. The role of Haringey Education Safeguarding Subgroup is to:

- Promote and influence effective safeguarding practice in all educational settings from Early Years to post 16.
- Promote effective inter-agency working that keeps the child or young person at the centre of everything we do
- Be responsive to local and/or national emerging needs and patterns (multi-agency)

The Haringey Education Safeguarding Subgroup will report to the Corporate Director of Children's Services and operate as a subgroup connecting with the Haringey Safeguarding Partnership through the Leadership Group and the Executive Group ensuring effective strategic influence / representation and communication.

A full report on the work and progress of this Subgroup will be included in the HSCP Annual Report 2026/27.

Operational MACE and Strategic MACE

During the end of December 2025, new guidance was released which required the HSCP to change our existing MACE arrangements. The Haringey Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) arrangements comprise two connected but distinct panel and meeting:

- Operational MACE, and
- Strategic MACE

The Operational Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panel (Operational MACE) is a multi-agency tactical forum responsible for coordinating safeguarding responses to children and young people assessed as experiencing significant risk outside the home (ROTH).

Together, with the Strategic MACE, these arenas provide a coherent, child-first, multi-agency safeguarding response to children and young people experiencing harm outside the family home, in line with Safeguarding Adolescents in London (SAIL) guidance and Children's Social Care Reform.

Operational MACE will focus on case-level risk management, safety planning and disruption with a transitional safeguarding lens, while Strategic MACE will provide a strategic oversight, assurance, system learning and commissioning direction. For further scrutiny, our Independent Scrutineer will be a member. These two arenas will continue to be further developed and embedded through 2026/27.

A full report on the work and progress of this Subgroup will be included in the HSCP Annual Report 2026/27.

Joint HSCP and Haringey Safeguarding Adult's Board

The Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) and the Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) hold 2 joint meetings per year to help make sure that safeguarding work is joined up across the spectrum of all ages. By coming together, partners can better understand the needs of whole families, share information, and respond more effectively. This joint approach is especially important for young people moving into adulthood, for families with complex needs, and where risks such as domestic abuse, exploitation, or mental ill health affect more than one person in a household. By practitioners working together this clearly enables agency settings to provide help and support at the earliest opportunity, thus avoiding gaps in support and delivering a more consistent approach to the family's needs. For residents in Haringey, this means a more co-ordinated system that is focused on helping to keep people safe at every stage of life.

Impact, outcomes and key achievements

Supporting Young People into Adulthood

A key focus of 2025/26 was improving support for young people as they move from children's services into adult services. The joint Transitions Programme (Steps to Adulthood) supports young people aged 14–25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), mental health needs, or care experience. This work has focused on:

- Improve planning for independence, ensuring young people and families understand future options and support pathways
- Completing Care Act assessments and support plans in advance of adulthood, reducing delays in accessing adult services
- Strengthen understanding of legal frameworks such as the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)
- Housing pathways, including supported living, Shared Lives placements, and independent living options

A new multi disciplinary team (MDT) has strengthened this work, offering short term mental health and early intervention support to young people who might otherwise struggle to engage with education or transition planning.

The Think Family approach remained a core principle underpinning joint work. This approach recognises that safeguarding cannot focus on one individual in isolation, particularly where families share environments, risks, and support needs. Across the year, partners have:

- Reviewed how well services identify and respond to the needs of adults within households where children are known to services
- Challenged each other to consider whether the needs of adults are being addressed when working with children, and vice versa
- Asked all agencies to strengthen staff training and report on how this approach is embedded

This work also linked to national reforms introducing a "Family First" model, the impact of this has resulted in directing services towards earlier help and stronger involvement of family networks in decision making.

Operational improvements included:

- Probation Services have strengthened home visit checks to better understand family dynamics in order to effectively manage risk of people on probation and report any concerns to Children's Services and / or Adult Services to facilitate action and intervention where appropriate. In these scenarios, Probation Service staff are now better equipped to identify early safeguarding concerns.

Strengthening Multi Agency Work on Complex Needs

The joint Board placed significant focus on improving how services respond to families with complex, overlapping needs, recognising that many safeguarding concerns requiring a co-ordinated response from housing, health, and social care together. Key areas included:

- Housing and Adult Social Care integration, bringing services together into a single directorate to improve coordination
- Legal literacy, with training for housing and social care managers to clarify roles, thresholds, and escalation routes
- We have identified hoarding as a major cross cutting safeguarding concern involving fire risk and mental ill health. The impact of our work has resulted in a better understanding of risk and during a multi agency learning event colleagues increased their knowledge around this area of concern and what action should be taken and when.
- Hospital discharge and community support, ensuring vulnerable people receive appropriate support when leaving care settings

A new Joint Housing and Adult Social Care Task and Finish Group was set up to improve how services share information, understand legal responsibilities, and respond consistently to risk. The impact of this work is helping to reduce duplication and improve the experience for families who may otherwise have to deal with several services separately.

Tackling Exploitation, Abuse, and Emerging Risks

The joint meetings considered a range of safeguarding risks affecting both children and adults, including:

- **Child sexual abuse and exploitation:** Partners reviewed national findings and local work to improve identification, information sharing, and support for victims / survivors.
- **Domestic abuse:** Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) highlighted the importance of recognising abuse in all age groups, including older people, and improving community awareness.
- **Gambling Harms:** A growing public health concern linked to mental health, exploitation, and financial hardship resulted in over 450 professionals trained locally, including Local Authority, Health, Police, schools, and voluntary organisations. The impact of this training as fed back from practitioners is that they have a greater awareness of the impact of gambling and how this affects families as whole.
- Online harms and exploitation: In addition to the above, the training facilitated during safer internet day by YGAM enabled colleagues to make the link between gaming and exposure to grooming from perpetrators on-line.



Responding to System Changes and National Developments

The joint Board also played an important role in understanding and responding to significant changes across partner agencies.

Police Reform and Safeguarding Practice

- Introduction of new models such as "Task Not Ask" deployment and expanded specialist safeguarding teams
- Increased focus on trauma informed practice, especially for children but with growing attention to adults
- Development of stronger links between police, schools, and safeguarding partners

Right Care, Right Person (RCRP)

- Changes to how police respond to health related incidents, aiming to ensure the right service responds to people in crisis
- Ongoing monitoring of the impact, particularly where there may be confusion around responsibilities or risk thresholds

Health System Restructuring

- Proposed changes to the Integrated Care Board (ICB), including workforce reductions and wider geographical coverage. Currently, the impact of these changes are being monitored.
- Concerns raised about safeguarding capacity, continuity, and maintaining strong local relationships.

Areas for Development 2026/27

- Plans to review and refresh the Think Family Protocol to reflect new ways of working and continue to strengthen the Think Family approach across all agencies
- Continue to monitor the impact of major system changes (police, health, and national reforms)
- Continue to embed and build upon improvements in transitions to adulthood and support for care leavers
- Develop clearer joint protocols, particularly between housing and safeguarding services
- Continue to bring learning from reviews (such as Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews) into everyday practice



Independent Scrutiny, Engagement and Collaboration

The HSCP helps to ensure that children's voices are listened to and acted on, as this is a key part of our role and leadership responsibilities. We use our skills and resources to build strong systems for tracking performance and delivering training across different agencies.

We monitor and support learning across the Partnership, helping services improve through training, campaigns, and new projects. We organise learning events such as Practice Weeks and take part in audits and observations. Local teams also contribute to joint audits to strengthen safeguarding across the borough. We review serious incidents together to learn lessons and improve future practice.

The HSCP recognises that safeguarding children requires strong Partnership working. This goes beyond the main statutory services and includes organisations such as housing, voluntary groups, and other agencies. Working together across different services—and even across local boundaries—has helped us achieve better outcomes for children.

Impact and learning from independent scrutiny arrangements

The Role of Our Independent Scrutineer and his activity in 2025/26

"Independent scrutiny should drive continuous improvement and provide assurance that arrangements are working effectively for children, families, and practitioners. It should also consider learning from local child safeguarding practice reviews, national reviews and thematic reports. The independent scrutineer or scrutiny group should be able to demonstrate knowledge, skills and expertise in the area being scrutinised and consequently add value to the work of local agencies." – Working Together 2026.

David Archibald, HSCP Independent Scrutineer:

The three Statutory partners were joined by the Director of Schools and Learning in March 2026 as part of our Executive Group. This is expected to enhance effective collaborative working to address issues identified and ensure the best outcomes are achieved for our most vulnerable families in Haringey. Over the last year, these strong partnerships have continued to respond effectively to a range of challenges.

The impact of independent scrutiny is increasingly evident across the partnership, particularly in strengthening collective accountability, improving the quality of decision-making, and ensuring a sharper focus on outcomes for children. Scrutiny activity has supported a stronger line of sight between frontline practice and strategic leadership, enabling partners to identify both strengths and areas for development more effectively.

David Archibald, the HSCP Independent Scrutineer is responsible for leading objective and rigorous analysis of the local multi-agency arrangements for the HSCP, ensuring the statutory duties of the HSCP are discharged alongside other relevant legislation. This will be undertaken through objective scrutiny, acting as a constructive critical friend, promoting reflection to drive improvements, and reporting how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership to fulfil their safeguarding children role. During 2024/25, it was agreed that our Independent Scrutineer would focus on the following areas during 2025/26:

- → Scrutinise the implementation and effectiveness of our Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements across the Partnership
- → Monitor and evaluate the implementation of recommendations from our Rapid Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- → Evaluate the quality and robustness of decision making with a particular focus on incidents where child sexual abuse is an indicator

As Independent Scrutineer of HSCP, I provide independent scrutiny and challenge to the partnership. I attend LSP meetings, DSP meetings (the Executive Group), and the Leadership Group. Overall, the Partnership performs well, with the three statutory safeguarding partners (Council, Police, and ICB) displaying joint and equal accountability for safeguarding children, as the legislation and guidance expects. Throughout 2025/26, the partnership has responded well to the issues and challenges which have emerged. The revised MASA document has been fully and effectively implemented. As a member of the Executive Group, I provide independent challenge and scrutiny of decisions in relation to Rapid Reviews, and SPRs. Throughout the year, the focus of scrutiny has been on improving practice, making the safeguarding system as safe as possible, and improving outcomes for children and young people in Haringey.

The partnership has continued to hold multiagency Practice Week events twice a year, with a range of excellent learning opportunities, good levels of engagement, and very positive feedback. HSCP also organised a major Conference, which was very well attended by staff across a wide range of agencies, with very positive feedback. Frontline staff enjoyed seeing their senior leaders, the DSPs, presenting together, and embodying their joint and equal accountability for safeguarding children in Haringey.

A clear culture of learning continues to develop within the partnership. Learning from Rapid Reviews, Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and national thematic reports is being embedded more consistently into practice, policy, and training. Importantly, there is evidence that learning is not only disseminated but also acted upon, with agencies demonstrating how changes in practice are being implemented and monitored over time.

HSCP continues to develop its effective and impactful partnership with the Safeguarding Adults Board, with good progress being made on Transitional Safeguarding, and Think Family.

One particular area of scrutiny agreed, concerned the National Panel's report on Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse, and implementation of the recommendations for MASAs. The HSCP has established a "task and finish" group to take this forward, with good multi-agency participation. It is recognised that it is vital to make early progress on this, while full implementation will take place over the medium term. I liaise regularly with the chair of this group and have agreed a process for me to monitor and scrutinise progress, while also adding value to the process. Good progress is being made on taking this forward at speed, and I attend some but not all meetings of the task and finish group to monitor and assist progress. In addition, I have agreed that, as Independent Scrutineer, I will be a member of the Strategic CSE group established under the London-wide protocol, which recommends the involvement of the Independent Scrutineer.

A further area of scrutiny for 2025/26 concerned implementation of recommendations for SPRs. There were 2 relevant reviews to consider, and actions plans and progress against them were carefully considered, scrutinised, and challenged. Good progress has been made against all recommendations, with all being green rated, a combination of completed, and work in progress. Many recommendations of course require implementation over a longer period. There is clearly a strong system in place for managing implementation, and the Safeguarding Practice Review subgroup manages this process effectively. The Business Manager and the Business Support team play an important part in managing and coordinating this work effectively and efficiently, on behalf of the Statutory Safeguarding Partners, and the broader HSCP.

Going forward, continued focus will be required to evidence the sustained impact of learning on outcomes for children and families, ensuring that improvements are not only implemented but embedded and resulting in tangible positive change. I will maintain oversight of this, supporting the partnership to further strengthen its learning culture and demonstrate measurable impact.

Finally, this Annual Report provides a comprehensive record of the activity of the Partnership over the year.

Additional Scrutiny

In addition to our independent scrutineer, in 2025, the HSCP commissioned a Local Government Advisor to review the work of our subgroups and how they interact with each other. We commissioned this work because, as a Partnership, we are committed to continued improvement and open to independent challenge. Whilst the final report on this work highlighted our strengths as a Partnership, it also provided us with areas that we can build upon; therefore, this work has informed our Business Plan going forward.

Practice Weeks: Sept 2025 & May 2026

During 2025/26, the HSCP facilitated 2 Practice Weeks which continue to provide an opportunity for a multi-agency collaborative lens on practice and audit activities on the agreed themes. The themes are related to a current and valuable area of safeguarding which would benefit from further consideration. Practice Weeks aim to highlight good practice, improve areas of frontline safeguarding, review audit themes, share learning across the partnership, whilst keeping children the focus of relationship-based practice. Clearly, Practice Weeks provide an opportunity to learn from each other and take this learning back into individual agency settings. During the Practice Week which was held in September 2025 we focused on child sexual abuse and a total of 485 practitioners attended from across the Partnership. The Practice Week which was held in May 2026 focused on child sexual exploitation and was attended once again by a large multi-agency audience representing their agency settings across the partnership.

Good practice and further work identified at the Practice Weeks

Areas for continued focus identified for ongoing development and strengthening:

- Ensuring mental health and cultural considerations are consistently integrated into safeguarding assessments.
- Embedding trauma-informed approaches within all multi-agency assessments.
- Reviewing and strengthening arrangements for the supervision of family time.
- Improving engagement with children with disabilities, ensuring their voices are effectively heard and represented.
- Providing further specialist training on sexual abuse, alongside clearer promotion of available support services for affected families.
- Addressing the impact of prolonged criminal proceedings on children and families.
- Clarifying agency responsibilities in relation to ensuring children receive appropriate medical care.
- Implementing stricter controls and safeguards to prevent perpetrators from contacting families.
- Recognising and responding to additional vulnerabilities linked to parental immigration status.
- Acknowledging the lifelong impact of sexual abuse on victims within assessment and support planning.
- Ensuring health professionals are consulted in all cases involving sexual abuse, particularly regarding decisions about medical examinations.
- Further develop the use of universal and targeted youth services, especially for disengaged young people.
- Improve understanding of additional needs and cultural contexts.
- Enhance analysis of missing episodes, peer groups, and contextual risks.
- Review screening tools to better inform care planning.
- Increase recognition of cumulative harm.

Good practice examples identifying effective practice were evident:

- Strong partnership working between Health, Education and Social Care.
- Effective involvement of Education in sharing the child's lived experience, alongside school-based emotional support.
- Timely application of safeguarding thresholds, including prompt Section 47 enquiries.
- Appropriate use of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) interview provision at the Lighthouse.
- Health professionals (including school nurses) engaging children in discussions around sexual safety planning.
- Clear evidence of a 'Think Family' approach, with Health services supporting parental mental health needs and considering siblings throughout assessments.
- Robust pre-birth assessment and planning, including the introduction of the Pre-birth Panel.
- Use of police digital forensics to support the child's account.

- Completion of thorough and effective risk assessments.
- Strong multi-agency collaboration, particularly with JIGSAW and Probation services.
- Positive engagement from parents.
- Effective direct work undertaken with children.
- Strong recognition of CSE risk factors by agencies.
- Effective multi-agency communication.
- Positive police engagement with young people, including video interviews.
- Proactive disruption activity (e.g. CAWNs).
- Consistent trauma-informed practice.
- Prompt responses to concerns, including timely referrals.
- High-quality direct work with children and families.
- Broad shared understanding of risk across agencies.

It can be difficult for society to talk about sexual abuse / exploitation of children within families, which can limit how well we identify and respond to it. Disbelief and denial within families and communities mean these types of abuse are often hidden. For this reason, improving our understanding of the signs and impact of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation is a key priority for the Haringey Safeguarding Children's Partnership (HSCP). Strong communication and information sharing between agencies such as health, education, housing, police, and social care are essential, as no single service can address these complex issues alone.

There are clear strengths across the Partnership, including effective multi-agency working, good information sharing, strong participation in child protection conferences, and a focus on capturing children's voices through a "Think Family" approach. However, there are also areas for improvement, such as developing stronger safety planning for families, better supporting parents to understand and respond to trauma, and making greater use of tools to help practitioners identify abuse earlier and support children more effectively.

The Joint Operational Group (JOG) – Scrutiny and Assurance

The Joint Operational Group (JOG), chaired by the Principal Social Worker, conducts bi-annual audits and reviews of complex families / individuals from a multi-agency perspective, fostering collaboration, information sharing, and a shared understanding of service quality. This process promotes best practices, strengthens professional relationships, and encourages multi-agency ownership, leading to positive changes in practice and benefits for children and young people. The Group identifies themes, disseminates critical learnings, and establishes action plans for partners, with progress monitored by the QPO Subgroup and cross-referenced with other quality assurance activities. The HSCP also considers multiagency workshops to effectively embed this learning.

Case Themes for the Year of 2025-2026

1) September 2025 – Child with disabilities

2) March 2026 – Domestic Abuse

1. Child With Disabilities: Key Learning for Partners – Areas of Good Practice

- There was evidence of good engagement at multi-agency meetings.
- Clear attempts were made by the educational welfare team to explore alternative educational provisions for the child.
- The dedication of individuals who went above and beyond to help and support the child.
- The partnership working between Haringey social care and CAMHS was very strong and showed compassion
- Health and CAMHS had a robust plan in place for the child's re-admission and had a robust plan for discharge.

Areas that require further development

- There needs to be more consistent evidence of liaison with the school nurse and health visitor when there has been an attendance at A&E.
- Communication will continue to be strengthened in relation to the cross-border referrals.
- The consideration of cultural identity should be further embedded into practice.
- GPs should flag when a child is vulnerable and highlight to services when a child is not registered with a GP.
- The HSCP Neglect Toolkit must continue to be used and further embedded by all professionals when there are concerns around neglect.

2) Domestic Abuse: Key Learning for Partners – Areas of Good Practice

- Using CP medicals to better understand and respond to safeguarding concerns.
- Evidence of multi agency information sharing at ICPC.
- Use of escalation protocol where there were concerns regarding the decision not to continue a CP Plan.
- The need to consider intergenerational and cumulative risk.
- Professionals acknowledged the children's heritage, faith and context, demonstrating culturally informed safeguarding reflection.
- Police engagement in achieving disclosure.

Areas that require further development

- Consistently capturing and evidencing children's voices in assessments and plans.
- Strengthening professional curiosity and challenge in complex cases.
- Developing a robust safeguarding approach to Elective Home Education.
- Improving information sharing across agencies and geographical boundaries.
- Ensuring effective safeguarding when families move between areas.
- Enhancing responses to risks arising from violence and adult substance misuse.
- Strengthening health-based safeguarding alerts and follow-up for vulnerable children.
- Improving consideration of wider family and household risks.
- Better integrating housing intelligence into safeguarding assessments.
- Embedding culturally informed and identity-aware safeguarding practice.

Multi Agency Themed Audit: Knife Crime

This multi-agency audit examined 6 children from Haringey between the ages of 15 to 17 years who presented to either North Middlesex Hospital (part of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust) or Royal London Hospital A&E department in the last 12 months due to knife injury.

This audit has highlighted the importance of early, coordinated, and culturally sensitive intervention in victims knife crime.

Recommendations

All Partner Agencies:

- To utilise the Race, Racial Bias and Safeguarding Children Working Group, established in July 2025, to develop a culturally competent practice framework for implementation across the Partnership.
- To develop the training offer further for staff across the Partnership to increase awareness of the intersectionality of cultural humility and anti-adultification practices.
- Agencies involved in the audits will consider what action they can take in their respective organisations to ensure that identity, race, culture and responding to children's neurodiverse needs thread through their work, in particular to victims of serious youth violence. All of the audit templates have now been revised to ensure that our audit activity must consider the "whole child" including their racial identity and cultural background.
- Agencies to be aware and make use of the commissioned services available in Haringey such as "UpSkill U Mentoring" and other voluntary community sector organisations. This should also be considered for siblings of the victims.
- To consider an improved systems approach to peer mapping and safety planning under the Social Care Reforms when a child is a victim of serious youth violence.

Since 2020 the London Borough of Haringey Children's Services and the Metropolitan Police Service (North Area BCU) have delivered a phased programme to strengthen safeguarding responses for children subject to Stop and Search. This work continues to focus on maximising the safeguarding potential of Stop and Search encounters – ensuring that where wider concerns are identified, children receive timely, appropriate support and intervention. The Stop and Search project has been further developed with the involvement all 32 London Local Authorities providing audits for analysis supported by Professor Carlene Firmine and the Met's Strategic Intelligence Unit. A final report on the project will be published in Autumn 2026.

Multi Agency Themed Audit: Mental Ill Health

This audit focused on young people experiencing poor mental health and examined a number of complex cases involving children and young people with significant mental health needs. Some children were looked after by the Local Authority, while others were on the edge of care and experienced barriers that limited their engagement with support services. The audit sought to understand how well agencies recognised and responded to these barriers, and whether services were sufficiently flexible and accessible to meet the needs of this vulnerable group.

Children aged between 13 to 17 who had experienced mental ill health and presented with self-harm or self-neglect were selected for a qualitative audit. Children selected included children looked after and the wider population. The audit drew on multi agency case discussions across health, children's social care, police and partner agencies, with a particular focus on engagement, safeguarding effectiveness and system response.

Findings

- The findings have presented a clear opportunity for the Safeguarding Partnership to use this learning to inform system reform, commissioning decisions and joint accountability for children whose needs do not fit existing pathways.
- There was strong evidence and effort across all agencies of persistence and reflective practice, often in extremely constrained circumstances.
- Key transition points—particularly ages 16 and 18 – are potential vulnerability points. Positive practice was identified where transitions from CAMHS to adult mental health services were actively planned and supported.
- While risk was often well identified, sustained and coordinated therapeutic responses were harder to maintain, particularly where engagement was inconsistent.

- Children with the most complex presentations were commonly those least able to engage with traditional, appointment based and clinic centred services. Children are not "hard to reach"; services are often hard to reach for traumatised young people.
- The audit identified a number of positive and protective practices, including:
  - Proactive police safeguarding actions (e.g. MARAC, Claire's Law, exploitation disruption)
  - Strong information sharing and use of multi agency forums
  - Trauma informed practice by individual practitioners, particularly where relationships were prioritised
  - Efforts to keep families together safely and to consider sibling impact
  - Continued attempts to engage children even when close to transition into adulthood
  - Effective transition planning between CAMHS and adult mental health services

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 which has received positive feedback.

Our Partnership Commitment has made a commitment to the use of Language that Cares. This approach has involved working with children and young people to gather their views on the jargon and labels that professionals use in their practice. As such, we pledge to:

- Speak in plain, clear language
- Reduce use of acronyms and jargon
- Centre the voice of children and young people
- Promote respect, dignity and understanding

Our Goal is to create a culture where every child, young person and family feels:

Heard • Respected • Empowered

What children and young people have told us included:

- **"moving to a new house, a fresh chapter or a new start"** instead of "moving placements"
- **"reflection time"** instead of "not isolation"
- **"foster Dad, foster Mum, people who care about me. My new family. The family that chose us"** instead of "foster carers"
- A **"child's file"** instead of "a case file"

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 wellbeing, empowering young people to lead healthy, happy lives

Capturing the Voices and Lived Experiences of Young People

- 55% of children attend CS-CIN meetings in person and 80% contribute to their plan either via their attendance in person or by speaking to their Child Protection Advisor.
- Children who are subject to Child Protection Plans are able to speak directly to their Child Protection Advisor and where age appropriate are encouraged to attend – this often works well if they attend virtually supported by school as they are then able to directly share their views, wishes and feelings with all the multi-agency partners attending the conference.
- Children can share their views via the completion of a document with their Social Worker who shares the document with their Child Protection Advisor.
- Children's voices are also heard via every professional who attends the conference and has directly spoken to the child to gain their views.
- 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 neurodivergent children and children with disabilities
- **Multi Agency and Single Agency Audit Activity:** Evidence a clear focus on the voice of the child across the Partnership

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 70 plus participants
- **Child-Friendly Documents:** A range of agencies across the Partnership have published specific documents in "easy read" format designed specifically for children and young people.
- **IT Adaptations:** Agencies continue to improve existing systems to facilitate better recording of the Voice of the Child, improving staff's ability to capture and use feedback effectively
- **Youth Council:** The implementation of a new Haringey Youth Council which held their first Youth Cabinet session with elected members.



Social Care Reform

The Partnership is actively engaged in progressing the requirements set out in the Social Care Reform agenda. The Government's vision for change highlights a rebalancing of the children's social care system, moving away from crisis intervention towards a whole-family approach that focuses on prevention, early help, and family-led solutions.

A key element of the reforms is the greater use of family networks, with an emphasis on supporting families to identify areas of concern, recognise their strengths, and develop their own solutions wherever possible. This approach aims to strengthen family resilience, prevent the escalation of need, and promote meaningful participation in decision-making. It also provides an opportunity to consider how the Family First reforms align with the Partnership's Think Family Protocol.

The Partnership is currently exploring the design of a new service delivery model, including the development of multi-agency child protection teams. Central to this work is a whole-family approach that reflects the core principles and key deliverables of the reform programme.

The Operational Steering Group (OSG) provides oversight, coordination, and assurance across the four FFC programme workstreams (Family Help, Family Group Decision-Making, Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams, and Education/ Safeguarding). It ensures delivery is joined-up, risks are managed, and learning is shared. The OSG is the key operational forum sitting between the Programme Board and the workstreams.



Funding Arrangements

Working Together 2026 mandates that funding from safeguarding partners should be equitable and agreed upon by the Partnership.

Partner Contributions and Budget Overview

In 2025/26, 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, introducing a new role to focus on Quality Assurance Improvement and Training, chairing subgroups, facilitating training 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.

The following Partners make contributions into the HSCP budget:

- Haringey Local Authority
- North London Foundation Trust (NLFT) (formally North London Mental Health Partnership)
- Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) / Metropolitan Police
- Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust (formally North Middlesex University Hospital)
- Probation Service
- West and North London Integrated Care Board (WNLICB)
- Tottenham Hotspur Foundation
- Whittington Health



Closing Statement

Throughout 2025/26, partners across Haringey have continued to demonstrate a shared commitment to safeguarding children and young people. We have learned from experience, strengthened our practice, and worked together to improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.

Behind every statistic in this report is a child, a young person, or a family. Every conversation, every act of professional curiosity, and every intervention has the potential to make a lasting difference. Our ambition is that children are never defined by the challenges they face, but by the opportunities, support, and protection they receive.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to listening to children, learning from evidence and lived experience, addressing inequality, and responding to emerging safeguarding risks. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and the difference between vulnerability and safety can often be one professional asking one more question or one agency sharing one vital piece of information.

Together, we will continue to ensure that no child becomes invisible, no child's voice goes unheard, and no opportunity to protect a child is missed. Every child in Haringey deserves to be safe, valued, heard, and able to achieve their full potential.

