

# Overview & Scrutiny

## Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission

All Members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission are requested to attend the meeting of the Commission to be held as follows

**Tuesday, 30th April, 2019**

**7.00 pm**

**Room 102, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA**

Contact:

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**Tim Shields**

Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney

**Members:** Cllr Margaret Gordon (Vice-Chair), Cllr Sophie Conway (Chair),  
Cllr Katie Hanson, Cllr Soraya Adejare, Cllr Ajay Chauhan,  
Cllr Humaira Garasia, Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr James Peters,  
Cllr Clare Potter and Cllr Caroline Woodley

**Co-optees:** Graham Hunter, Michael Lobenstein, Jane Heffernan, Jo Macleod, Ernell  
Watson, Shuja Shaikh, Sevdie Sali Ali, Jodine Clarke, Maariyah Patel and  
Aleigha Reeves

## Agenda

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 3 Urgent Items / Order of Business**
- 4 Review Update - Unregistered Educational Settings** (Pages 1 - 28)
- 5 City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board** (Pages 29 - 124)
- 6 Outcome of School Exclusions** (Pages 125 - 126)
- 7 Work Programme (Current and Future)** (Pages 127 - 140)
- 8 Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 141 - 158)
- 9 Any Other Business**

To include updates on children and young people related issues from other scrutiny commissions



## Access and Information

### Getting to the Town Hall

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### Accessibility

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Induction loop facilities are available in the Assembly Halls and the Council Chamber. Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

### Further Information about the Commission

If you would like any more information about the Scrutiny Commission, including the membership details, meeting dates and previous reviews, please visit the website or use this QR Code (accessible via phone or tablet 'app')

<http://www.hackney.gov.uk/individual-scrutiny-commissions-children-and-young-people.htm>



### Public Involvement and Recording

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Those wishing to film, photograph or audio record a meeting are asked to notify the Council's Monitoring Officer by noon on the day of the meeting, if possible, or any time prior to the start of the meeting or notify the Chair at the start of the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer, or the Chair of the meeting, may designate a set area from which all recording must take place at a meeting.

The Council will endeavour to provide reasonable space and seating to view, hear and record the meeting. If those intending to record a meeting require any other reasonable facilities, notice should be given to the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting and will only be provided if practicable to do so.

The Chair shall have discretion to regulate the behaviour of all those present recording a meeting in the interests of the efficient conduct of the meeting. Anyone acting in a disruptive manner may be required by the Chair to cease recording or may be excluded from the meeting. Disruptive behaviour may include: moving from any designated recording area; causing excessive noise; intrusive lighting; interrupting the meeting; or filming members of the public who have asked not to be filmed.

All those visually recording a meeting are requested to only focus on recording councillors, officers and the public who are directly involved in the conduct of the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will ask any members of the public present if they have objections to being visually recorded. Those visually recording a meeting are asked to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed or photographed. Failure by someone recording a meeting to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed and photographed may result in the Chair instructing them to cease recording or in their exclusion from the meeting.

If a meeting passes a motion to exclude the press and public then in order to consider confidential or exempt information, all recording must cease and all recording equipment must be removed from the meeting room. The press and public are not permitted to use any means which might enable them to see or hear the proceedings whilst they are excluded from a meeting and confidential or exempt information is under consideration.

Providing oral commentary during a meeting is not permitted.



<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 2019</b> <b>Item 4 – Review Update - Unregistered Educational Settings</b>	<b>Item No</b> <b>4</b>
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### **Outline**

In 2017/18 the Commission undertook an in-depth review into unregistered educational settings in Hackney. The report was published January 2018 and the Executive response received in September 2018.

This item is a progress report on how Council is meeting the recommendations set out and agreed in this review. A cover report and a recommendation tracker report are attached.

Anne Canning, Group Director Children, Families & Community Health  
Andrew Lee, Assistant Director, Education Services, Hackney Learning Trust

### **Action**

Members are requested to review the progress made in meeting recommendations set out in the review.

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# Children & Young People's Scrutiny Commission

Update on the Unregistered Educational Settings

Tuesday 30 April 2019

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Commission on the progress made to date in respect of Unregistered Educational Settings (UES).

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The investigation by the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Commission into UES in Hackney made a total of ten recommendations. It was published in January 2018 with the Executive providing its first formal update in September 2018.
- 2.2 This report by the Executive included the Council's strategy aimed at providing a comprehensive, consistent and transparent approach to UES, particularly within the Charedi Orthodox Jewish Community. The strategy clearly sets out the Council's determination to ensure that every child in Hackney receives the appropriate educational opportunities in a safe, secure and suitable environment. It further recognises the fundamental value of co-production and constructive engagement with relevant community groups in achieving this aim.
- 2.3 The Executive report also reiterated the necessity for government to implement a legal framework. This is required to ensure the regulatory consistency of UES and to close the evident 'loopholes' as identified by the Commission's investigation.

## 3. Recommendation

- 3.1 **The Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission is asked to note the update on progress against the recommendations on Unregistered Educational Settings between September 2018 and April 2019.**

## 4. Overview on progress

- 4.1 There has been some notable progress over the last six months in the context of various government initiatives and consultations being held to address some of the matters highlighted by the Commission. In this sense, there is a degree of optimism that some of the long-standing issues might finally be gaining some traction at a national level.
- 4.2 Furthermore, there has also been some encouraging dialogue with community representatives, that whilst recent, has the potential to put some firm shape around what a safeguarding reassurance process might look like and how this might work exclusively for Yeshivas.
- 4.3 Notwithstanding the above, there remain some significant barriers in response to the overarching message of the Commission's investigation. Indeed, attendance at unregistered educational settings remains a sensitive issue for many of Hackney's residents from the Charedi Orthodox Jewish communities, who want to educate their children within the traditions of their community. It is difficult to envisage any voluntary change from this approach, with an inherent distrust of Ofsted and an opposition to teaching certain subject matters reinforcing this position.
- 4.4 **Lobbying for government action**
- 4.5 The Council has continued to lobby for change, engaging with key stakeholders that have included the Department for Education, Ofsted, and community leaders. Independent to all agencies, the Chair of the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) has also

continued in his efforts to seek a meaningful resolution to some of the legislative inconsistencies that in his view, create a two-tier approach to safeguarding children in educational settings.

- 4.6 Three areas of development are worthy of note:
- 4.7 First, in March 2018, the government published its Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper. In the context of issues related to UES, the green paper sets out a range of action intended in respect of Unregistered Schools, Out of School Settings and Home Education.
- 4.8 In respect of Unregistered Schools, the green paper sets out the following:
- 4.9 *We believe that all full time independent education settings should be registered and regulated, no matter what curriculum they offer. Currently, some cannot be registered because of the restricted range of their curriculum. This is unacceptable given the need to protect the welfare and education of the children involved. We intend to amend the registration requirement for independent education settings so that all such settings which children attend full- time during the school day have to register, and we will consult in due course on detailed proposals.*
- 4.10 Second, with regard Out of School Settings (OOSS), the Department of Education held a recent consultation running from 2 December 2018 to 24 February 2019. This related to the introduction of a voluntary safeguarding code of practice for OOSS, plus accompanying guidance for parents, which sets out the key questions they may wish to consider when choosing such a setting for their child. The government is currently analysing consultation responses.
- 4.11 Locally, the CHSCB has already produced and circulated a guidance leaflet for parents / carers. The content of the voluntary code of practice itself is helpful and provides good information through which organisations can improve their own safeguarding arrangements.
- 4.12 Third, in respect of Home Education, on 2 April 2019, the Secretary of State for Education announced plans to introduce a compulsory register of home schooled children. The government's consultation focuses on a local authority registration system for children who do not attend state-funded or registered independent schools. The consultation proposes:
- (i) A duty on local authorities to maintain a register of children of compulsory school age who do not attend schools of a specified type (mostly state-funded or registered independent schools).
  - (ii) A duty on parents to inform their local authority when their child falls within scope of such a register.
  - (iii) A duty on settings attended by the children on the register to respond to enquiries from local authorities as to whether a specific child attends that setting. This would not include those providing supplementary education outside school hours.
  - (iv) A duty on local authorities to provide support to home educating families – if requested by such families.
- 4.13 Councillor Bramble, in her role as Chair of the LGA's Children & Young People Board, welcomed the announcement: *"A register will help councils to monitor how children are being educated and prevent them from disappearing from the oversight of services designed to keep them safe."* She also called on the Government to go further and *"change the law to give councils the powers and appropriate funding to enter homes or other premises to check a child's schooling."*

4.14 This statement similarly reflects one of the key areas identified by the Commission. Indeed, whilst welcome progress, there is no suggestion of a change in legislation to give councils the necessary powers and accompanying funding to check a child's schooling or intervene if there are concerns.

### **4.15 Safeguarding in unregistered settings**

4.16 Over the last reporting period, little progress has been made against this recommendation. In Hackney, large numbers of local children continue to attend Yeshivas and remain outside the line of sight of safeguarding professionals.

4.17 The safeguarding partnership continues to have no direct mechanism to ensure that the premises within which children congregate are safe; that the infrastructure is sound; environment appropriate or that contemporary safer recruitment practices are being applied to those working frequently and routinely with children.

4.18 However, a constructive meeting was recently held on 9 April 2019, between the CHSCB's Independent Chair and Senior Professional Advisor (SPA) with community representatives. Whilst revisiting many of the difficult issues, those engaged were positive about the idea of potentially creating a safeguarding committee for Yeshivas. This committee would be chaired by the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations (UOHC) and populated with relevant individuals with some external element of support / specialist advice provided. This could have the potential to lead to the development of a consistent safeguarding children (in Yeshivas) policy and the equivalent of Section 157/175 audits and reassurance engagement with the multi-agency partnership.

4.19 Furthermore, whilst the Yeshivas were 'on a break' as families prepared for Passover, the Chair and SPA did undertake an unannounced visit to the local Synagogue (which was operating in the same way as a Yeshiva). There was no indication that the young people were in fact prepared for this visit and a number of boys were spoken to randomly.

4.20 The community leaders voiced support for the 'pure safeguarding' approach, but remain fundamentally opposed to the imposition of curriculum-based changes. The Independent Chair maintains his view that the only way to resolve this issue is through legislative change.

4.21 In respect of other progress, a conference was hosted with the Local Government Association, which saw other local authorities share their concerns about how similar issues were playing out in their areas.

4.22 The Council has also formed working groups with other councils, regularly met with the DfE and Ofsted, and engaged key agencies to share relevant information.

4.23 The Council is also liaising directly with the community and registered settings. Most recently, Council staff met on 11 March 2019 to discuss issues arising from Ofsted visits to two settings, Getters Talmud Torah and Talmud Torah Yetev Lev. A set of actions were agreed which will require multi agency support.

## **5. Conclusion**

5.1 It is without doubt that the issue of UES remains complex and there are no easy solutions. The Council and its partners will continue to provide focus and maximum effort in responding to the Commission's recommendations.

5.2 Independent from the Council, the Chair of the CHSCB will also continue in his lobbying and engagement of relevant stakeholders, including the community, central government and local agencies as necessary.

5.3 Whilst progress is slow, there is progress and this needs to be acknowledged. However, it would be disingenuous to ignore what are some stubborn and intractable differences that will ultimately require legislation to resolve.

**Report author:** Neil Weeks, Policy & Governance Officer, HLT  
Thursday 11 April 2019

**Reviewed by and comments received from:**

Rory McCallum, Senior Professional Advisor, City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board

Andrew Lee, Assistant Director, Education Services, HLT

Helen Clark, Strategic Communications Manager, LBH

**Approved by:**

Anne Canning, Group Director Children, Adults & Community Health Directorate

Tuesday 16 April 2019



**Young People Scrutiny Commission Review: Unregistered Educational Settings**

**Cabinet Response: July 2018**

**Scrutiny Commission Update: April 2019**

Recommendation One	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p><b>Unregistered Educational Settings Strategy</b></p> <p>To formalise and build on the work that has already been undertaken locally, it is recommended that the Council develop and publish a strategy that clearly sets out its approach to UES in the borough. Such a strategy will help to develop a comprehensive, consistent and transparent approach to UES, particularly within the Orthodox Jewish Community in Hackney</p>	<p>A strategy has been developed, setting out the Council’s approach to Unregistered Educational Settings (UES) in the borough. This is attached as Appendix 1 to the Cabinet Response.</p> <p>The strategy aims for all educational settings in Hackney to be registered, and have clear safeguarding processes in place that are open to external validation, in line with other settings in the borough.</p> <p>The Council and partner agencies have legal duties to ensure that children in Hackney are taught in safe and hygienic conditions, that there are rigorous safeguarding protocols in place, that their well-being is promoted and that the curriculum taught conforms to agreed standards.</p> <p>The Council will continue to encourage unregistered educational settings to register as schools to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Operate legally as education establishments,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Following completion and sign-off, the UES strategy was launched in September 2018. It will be reviewed annually to ensure its ongoing relevance and effectiveness.</p> <p>Despite being limited, there have been some areas of progress and this needs to be acknowledged. However, it would be disingenuous to ignore what are some deep-rooted challenges that cannot unilaterally be resolved by the Council.</p> <p>The issue of UES remains complex and there are no easy solutions. The Council and its partners continue to provide focus and maximum effort in translating the strategy into tangible actions that make a positive difference to children and young people.</p> <p>Greater detail is provided throughout this report, but in summary, many of the issues</p>

Recommendation One	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
	<p>(ii) Be open to independent external validation, for example through inspections by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) or Ofsted,</p> <p>(iii) Be clear about expectations regarding safeguarding,</p> <p>(iv) Ensure the curriculum taught conforms to agreed standards which will support with raising educational outcomes for children and young people,</p> <p>(v) Ensure educational settings share information with the local authority about the number of pupils and pupil destinations (in line with other schools in the borough) to allow for improved planning, safeguarding and support for children,</p> <p>(vi) Ensure schools and settings in any community meet national safeguarding standards and processes that other schools comply with (for example as outlined in the statutory guidance documents - Working Together to Safeguard Children and Keeping Children Safe in Education).</p>	<p>highlighted in last year's scrutiny report remain.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>Regular dialogue with the following agencies remains ongoing to ensure that the implementation of any actions are aligned with the Council's wider Borough engagement strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Families Service, LBH</li> <li>• Hackney Learning Trust</li> <li>• City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board</li> <li>• Policy and Partnerships, LBH</li> <li>• Legal Services, LBH</li> <li>• Environmental Health, LBH</li> <li>• Metropolitan Police</li> <li>• London Fire Brigade</li> <li>• Interlink</li> </ul> <p>The Council continues to lobby the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted on issues relating to the legality and inspection of settings and how the curriculum is being taught.</p> <p>Independent from the Council, the Chair of the CHSCB has also continued in his lobbying and engagement of relevant stakeholders, including the community, central government and local</p>

Recommendation One	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
		agencies as necessary.

Recommendation Two	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p><b>Charedi Orthodox Jewish community developing cooperation with the Local Safeguarding Children Board to establish a safeguarding process</b></p> <p>Whilst the Commission acknowledges the challenges in developing meaningful engagement and involvement with the Charedi Orthodox Jewish community, this remains the only way to secure consensual and lasting change and to bring UES into regulatory compliance in Hackney. The Commission therefore recommend that engagement efforts are renewed, and that a contact group be established between Community leaders, including the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations, Interlink, Head Teachers of Registered Independent Schools and Chief Rabbis of all Charedi sects operating yeshivas in Hackney, and the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (or its equivalent</p>	<p>The Independent Chair of the City &amp; Hackney Safeguarding Children Board, Jim Gamble QPM, has agreed to this recommendation. Actions are underway to establish the contact group and engage relevant partners/individuals. The CHSCB will work with LBH to ensure there is a coherent approach aligned to the Borough engagement strategy</p> <p>The Chair and Senior Professional Advisor, Rory McCallum, met with Mr Myer Rothfeld to further discuss the proposals for a safeguarding reassurance process in UES, which, consistent with this recommendation, will form the basis of the functions and outcomes that the contact group will seek to achieve.</p> <p>Jim Gamble attended a meeting at the DfE in July chaired by Lord Agnew and including Lord Pollock, Amanda Spielman and a delegation from the Charedi community, accompanied by Mr Rothfeld and a lawyer, Mr Greenberg. At this meeting, Lord Agnew made clear that legislation requiring unregistered</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Over the last reporting period, little progress has been made against this recommendation. In Hackney, large numbers of local children continue to attend Yeshivas and remain outside the line of sight of safeguarding professionals.</p> <p>The safeguarding partnership continues to have no direct mechanism to ensure that the premises within which children congregate are safe; that the infrastructure is sound; environment appropriate or that contemporary safer recruitment practices are being applied to those working frequently and routinely with children.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>Since the initial meeting in February 2018 with the UOHC nominated 'health &amp; safety' link for Yeshivas, , the Independent Chair has written on seven occasions seeking to take this</p>

Recommendation Two	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p>successor organisation) to support the development of a safeguarding reassurance process.</p> <p>The establishment of such a contact group would help to build trust and confidence, and demonstrate a commitment to improve understanding of those issues pertaining to UES and to develop shared solutions to improved safeguarding arrangements for children that attend such settings. It is recommended that the contact group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is led by the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Board and therefore free from involvement of any other statutory body including e.g. Hackney Council, the Metropolitan Police or Ofsted;</li> <li>b. Should develop a clear remit and terms of reference which should: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Set out those measures that will build confidence between and among various representative including how UES will be engaged and</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>settings to register was coming, although he did not put a timescale on when this would be introduced.</p> <p>Having established a relationship with Mr Rothfeld, the CHSCB will engage with him to encourage the community to work with LBH on safeguarding matters.</p> <p>After several follow-up letters, Mr Rothfeld has agreed to meet with Jim Gamble and Rory McCallum after the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Tabernacles. Mr Greenberg will also be contacted with an offer to discuss ways in which engagement with the Charedi community can be constructively pursued.</p> <p>Jim Gamble has agreed to the <i>Jewish Chronicle's</i> request for an interview, in which he will address the issues and progress to date.</p> <p>The guidance to parents (appendix 2 of the Cabinet Response) will be placed in the public domain.</p>	<p>recommendation forward (5 March 2018 / 6 June 2018 / 3 September 2018 / 26 November 2018 (x2) / 13 February 2019 and most recently 26 March 2019.).</p> <p>The Independent Chair has also contacted Mr Greenberg (the Barrister who attended the meeting with Lord Agnew in July 2018) in September 2018. Mr Greenberg has confirmed he is happy to attend any future meetings if deemed helpful).</p> <p>Whilst noting the delay in taking this recommendation forward, a constructive meeting was recently held between the CHSCB's Independent Chair and Senior Professional Advisor (SPA) with community representatives on 9 April 2019.</p> <p>Whilst revisiting many of the difficult issues, those engaged were positive about the idea of potentially creating a safeguarding committee for Yeshivas. This committee would be chaired by the UOHC and populated with relevant individuals (with some external element of support / specialist advice being provided). This could have the potential to lead to the development of a consistent safeguarding children (in Yeshivas) policy and the equivalent</p>

Recommendation Two	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p>involved;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Agree the nature of safeguarding standards to be established in UES (for example DBS checks on staff, staff awareness and training in safeguarding, anti-bullying, complaints procedures, whistleblowing, health and safety);</li> <li>iii. Identify those systems and processes that will provide assurance that identified safeguarding standards are being met within UES (e.g. health checks, piloting and peer assessment and assurance) and acknowledge that this will be an incremental process;</li> <li>iv. Agree key milestones and outcomes (both process and safeguarding practice) and the timeframe for their implementation within UES in</li> </ul>		<p>of Section 157/175 audits and reassurance engagement with the multi-agency partnership.</p> <p>Furthermore, whilst the Yeshivas were ‘on a break’ as families prepared for Passover, the Chair and SPA did undertake an unannounced visit to the local Synagogue (which was operating in the same way as a Yeshiva). There was no indication that the young people were in fact prepared for this visit and a number of boys were spoken to randomly.</p> <p>Community leaders continue to voice their support for the ‘pure safeguarding’ approach, but remain fundamentally opposed to the imposition of curriculum-based changes. The Independent Chair maintains his view that the only way to resolve this issue is through legislative change.</p>

Recommendation Two	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p>Hackney.</p> <p>Report back progress of its work twice yearly to the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Commission and annually within the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report.</p>		

Recommendation Three	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p><b>Lobbying for an effective legislative framework for UES</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the Mayor and Chief Officers within the Council continue to robustly press the Secretary of State for Education for a more effective legislative framework for UES. Government should review its legislative timetable and produce a 'statement of intent' about how it plans to close the evident legal loopholes that allow UES to operate with impunity. Specific improvements required of such new legislation would be to:</p>	<p>The Independent Chair of the CHSCB has continued to lobby the government to introduce effective legislation. As noted above, he met with Lord Agnew at the DfE in July. Lord Pollock, Amanda Spielman and a delegation from the Charedi community, accompanied by Mr Rothfeld and a lawyer, Mr Greenberg also attended. At this meeting, Lord Agnew made clear that legislation requiring unregistered settings to register was coming, although he did not put a timescale on when this would be introduced.</p> <p>Hackney Learning Trust has submitted a response to the DfE's call for evidence – 'Operating the Independent School Regulatory system' (closing date</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Three areas of development are worthy of note in the context of ongoing lobbying:</p> <p>In March 2018, the government published its Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper. In the context of issues related to UES, the green paper sets out a range of action intended in respect of Unregistered Schools, Out of School Settings and Home Education.</p> <p>In respect of Unregistered Schools, the green paper sets out the government's intention to amend the registration requirement for</p>

Recommendation Three	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p>a. Extend the definition of a school, or a part- time school, to include settings where only religious studies are taught and this is a child’s main educational experience;</p> <p>b. Expand the powers of entry, inspection and enforcement of UES to give local authorities greater powers to regulate and improve such settings, particularly in relation to health and safety and the safeguarding of children;</p> <p>c. Improve regulation around home schooling, specifically making it a legal requirement for parents to notify the local authority if their child is being electively home educated, and additional powers for the local authority to ensure the quality of education where children are home schooled;</p> <p>d. Improved statutory guidance for how local statutory agencies work in partnership to improve safeguarding of local children (sharing of inspection</p>	<p>5<sup>th</sup> June 2018). In this submission, HLT made clear that any such guidance must be statutory in nature, and opposed the DfE’s proposal that this guidance be non- statutory. The issues regarding engagement and registration for unregistered educational settings is referenced within the HLT’s response to the call for evidence.</p> <p>Actions taken in response to the specific recommendations raised by the CYP Scrutiny Commission are detailed in the Cabinet Response.</p>	<p>independent education settings, so that all such settings which children attend full- time during the school day have to register. The government will consult in due course on detailed proposals.</p> <p>With regard Out of School Settings (OOSS), the DfE held a recent consultation running from 2 December 2018 to 24 February 2019. This related to the introduction of a voluntary safeguarding code of practice for OOSS, plus accompanying guidance for parents, which sets out the key questions they may wish to consider when choosing such a setting for their child. The government is currently analysing consultation responses.</p> <p>In respect of Home Education, on 2 April 2019, the Secretary of State for Education announced plans to introduce a compulsory register of home schooled children. The government’s consultation focuses on a local authority registration system for children who do not attend state-funded or registered independent schools.</p>

Recommendation Three	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p>data, shared intelligence);</p> <p>e. Improve statutory guidance and powers to help local authorities track those children missing from education – with a duty of cooperation among partners (see recommendation 6);</p> <p>f. Provide further clarification about the introduction of a system of regulation for out of-school settings (including for example, the maintenance of a central register and being subject to inspection and sanctions for those not meeting required standards).</p>		<p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>The Council and the Independent Chair of the CHSCB have continued to separately lobby the government for an effective legislative framework for UES.</p> <p>Feedback from the Conference jointly hosted by the Council and the Local Government Association last summer has fed into the LGA’s lobbying plans and has been shared with the DfE.</p> <p>In her role as Chair of the LGA’s Children and Young People Board, Deputy Mayor Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, has spoken on issues raised by home schooling legislation.</p> <p>The Council responded in detail to the consultation on elective home education. The Government’s announcement of plans for a compulsory register of home-schooled children is welcome and will address recommendation 3 (e).</p>



Recommendation Four	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p><b>Development of a local authority alliance</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the Council should take the lead in developing an alliance with those authorities which experience similar issues with UES. Such an alliance will facilitate the sharing of good practice and help to develop a common approach to resolving those concerns with UES. In addition, such an alliance will aid the collection of evidence and strengthen the position of those authorities to lobby for legislative change with the Secretary of State for Education and other governmental departments. To support this recommendation the Council should consider hosting a UES conference for local authorities as this will help to maintain the public profile of this issue, assist in identifying the legislative reforms required and help to identify common ways forward for local authorities</p>	<p>Hackney Council will continue to build on and develop the work currently undertaken to share information and good practice with other local authorities in England who also have experience of dealing with the particular circumstances of unregistered educational settings.</p> <p>The Council has hosted at least three discussion forums with a range of authorities to share experiences and will continue to play an instrumental role in ensuring this networking continues to find ways to share good practice, through regular on-line exchanges and, where appropriate, through focused workshops.</p> <p>Following the publication of the Scrutiny Commission's report, the Local Government Association (LGA) co-hosted with Hackney a conference on unregistered schools and home schooling. This was held on 14 June, with an opening address from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Bramble. Sir Alan Wood chaired the event.</p> <p>This was well attended, with representatives from Ofsted and local authorities, as well as representatives from the Home Education sector. The event comprised of two panel discussions and workshops which focussed on:</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>The Council continues to engage with other local authorities. The current focus is on a local alliance through the Out Of School Settings project which is a one year DfE funded project to advance safeguarding practices in OOSS. There are nine East London boroughs participating.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>Following the Conference, hosted with the LGA last summer, the Council has made contact with a number of authorities who are concerned about existing legislation – although it's important to note that Hackney's concerns are very distinct and different to those of other councils.</p> <p>The Council successfully bid for and is in receipt of funding for an Out of Schools Settings project.</p> <p>This is part of a wider East London network. The project is aimed at providing these settings with information and guidance on safeguarding issues and helping the settings to minimise any potential risks to themselves and young people.</p> <p>The Council is currently recruiting to two posts to undertake this piece of proactive work. It is</p>

Recommendation Four	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
	<p>(i) Integration and dealing with isolated communities and,</p> <p>(ii) Dealing with illegal schools.</p> <p>The LGA will follow up some of the key findings and concerns with Government and will continue to liaise with the Council over this.</p>	<p>anticipated that in Hackney a significant proportion of this resource will be directed to supporting Yeshivas and using this as an avenue for engagement.</p>

Recommendation Five	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p><b>Improved partnership working among regulatory partners</b></p> <p>The Commission noted evidence of positive collaboration among regulatory partners, though it is apparent that such partnerships between the Council (Planning, Learning Trust, Children &amp; Families and Food Safety) and statutory partners (Health &amp; Safety Executive, Fire Service, Ofsted) could be improved and formalised to help strengthen and improve the regulatory framework for UES. To support this process, it is recommended that a Memorandum of</p>	<p>The overriding aim of partnership working must be to ensure the safeguarding of young people.</p> <p>Consequently, it has been agreed that until such time as a yeshiva becomes recognised as a separate entity from schools, the Council should use integrated multi agency approaches to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage known unregistered settings to register, and</li> <li>2. Require and enforce compliance with statutory requirements e.g. safeguarding, health and safety, fire regulations.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Positive collaboration remains across a range of local agencies and services involved with UES. The Council also continues to engage with Ofsted and DfE. The most recent meeting was held on 11<sup>TH</sup> March 2019, which focused on issues arising from Ofsted visits to two settings. Getters Talmud Torah and Talmud Torah Yetev Lev. A set of actions was agreed to deliver multi agency support to these settings.</p>

Recommendation Five	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p>Understanding or similarly agreed protocol is developed across these agencies to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a common approach and priorities for UES – e.g. child safeguarding;</li> <li>Share data and intelligence about UES across statutory partners (e.g. location, number of children in attendance, health and safety concerns etc.);</li> <li>Undertake joint holistic inspection and assessments of UES;</li> </ol> <p>Develop a coordinated response and interventions where such settings are uncovered, and do not meet regulatory standards.</p>	<p>It is proposed that a small group of representatives is co-ordinated, from Police, London Fire Brigade, HLT, Hackney Planning Control, Children &amp; Family Services (CFS) and CHSCB to discuss how each agency will work cohesively.</p> <p>The working party on unregistered educational settings will co-ordinate the work of partner agencies to address the perceived lack of statutory education, and substantial concerns about wellbeing and safety for young people attending premises that appear hazardous and unhygienic.</p>	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>Senior officers from directorates across the Council regularly meet with colleagues from other service areas and authorities to share data, concerns and intelligence. There is a good working relationship, but existing legislation and differing priorities of external partners have prevented the Council from setting up a working party.</p> <p>The Council is confident that information is being shared between key partners through established routes.</p> <p>The proposed representative group has not met as it was felt it would be more productive to have a specific issue to address.</p> <p>An example is the most recent meeting with Ofsted focused on the two school settings.</p> <p>An officer also recently met with a DfE representative to discuss issues round the powers of Ofsted inspectors and what improvement or changes might be necessary to the Ofsted inspection guidance.</p> <p>Suggestions included:</p>

Recommendation Five	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amending the current process whereby an inspector can visit but leave without making a decision about whether the setting is a school or not.</li> <li>• The possibility of inspectors visiting alongside local authority officers and other partner agencies to ensure the range of possible issues are addressed in one visit - thus enabling a more coordinated debrief and follow up of actions.</li> </ul>

Recommendation Six	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p><b>Children Missing Education</b></p> <p>Understanding that a significant number of Charedi Orthodox Jewish children are able to remain outside the registered school sector and therefore unknown to the Council and other regulatory partners, the Commission recommends that the Council must improve those systems for identifying and tracking children missing from education. Improved tracking and identification processes are central to developing an informed and proportionate response to UES, and will help</p>	<p>HLT responded to the DfE call for evidence in regard to Elective Home Education. HLT has also met with London Councils in order to inform and assist the consultation response from this body on this issue. In drafting this response to the DfE, officers have emphasised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HLT respects the right of parents to educate at home. Many parents provide a suitable educational programme, insofar as it is possible to assess and determine this, given the vague nature of the existing guidance</li> <li>• The role of the Council is significantly undermined</li> </ul>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>The statement by the Secretary of State for Education on 1 April 2019 announcing a compulsory register of all children who are not educated in school is welcome.</p> <p>This is likely to assist councils as they work to identify children who are at risk and/or those children not in receipt of a good standard of education.</p> <p>The Education Secretary recognised that the term 'home education' has now acquired a much</p>

Recommendation Six	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p>to establish a clearer picture of the nature and scale of UES and the children that attend them, and to guide and support regulatory and enforcement action. To this end it is recommended that the Council:</p> <p>a. Lobby for legislative change that legally requires parents to notify their LA if their child is electively home educated (as in 3 above);</p> <p>b. In line with statutory requirements, ensure that all local Independent Schools notify the LA of those children that enter or leave the school register at standard transition points;</p> <p>c. In line with statutory requirements ensure that all local Independent Schools notify the local authority when a child leaves or is placed on the central school register outside transition points;</p> <p>d. In line with statutory guidance, raise awareness of the Council’s children missing education procedures and notification processes with local agencies including schools, GPs, other health professionals (Health Visitors), clinical</p>	<p>in this area, with all rights conferred on parents, but very few responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The latest guidance remains passive in nature and still falls far short of that required to ensure that all children are adequately safeguarded</li> <li>• The lack of a clear legal definition in regard to what constitutes efficient, suitable and full- time education is unacceptable. This, again, undermines the role of the Council when it comes to fulfilling our responsibilities.</li> <li>• That it is impossible to know how many children may be Electively Home Education without mandatory registration.</li> <li>• That (yet again) the voice of the child is not adequately referenced</li> <li>• That the learning and recommendations from Serious Case Reviews in Birmingham and Pembrokeshire and the Laming Review are contrary to the Departments view that ‘... <i>there is no proven correlation between home education and safeguarding risk</i>’</li> </ul> <p>Actions taken in response to the specific recommendations raised by the CYP Scrutiny</p>	<p>broader meaning, and is now “a catch-all phrase, used to refer to all children not in a registered school.”</p> <p>The consultation seeks views on proposals for legislation to enable the registering of all children not in a registered school, and the way in which those proposals would be implemented. This includes the introduction of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A duty on local authorities to maintain a register of children of compulsory school age who do not attend schools of a specified type (mostly state-funded or registered independent schools)</li> <li>• A duty on parents to inform their local authority when their child falls within scope of such a register</li> <li>• A duty on settings attended by the children on the register to respond to enquiries from local authorities as to whether a specific child attends that setting. This would not include those providing supplementary education outside school hours.</li> <li>• A duty on local authorities to provide support to home educating families – if requested by such families.</li> </ul>

Recommendation Six	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p>commissioning groups, police and other emergency services, housing agencies and voluntary sector groups;</p> <p>e. Given the possible numbers of children involved (1,000-1,500), ensure that the Children Missing Education Service is adequately resourced and supported to undertake systematic identification, tracking and enforcement procedures;</p> <p>With improved detection of those children missing education, introduce a more robust policy of administering enforcement notices and School Attendance Orders.</p>	<p>Commission are detailed in the Cabinet Response.</p>	<p>A compulsory register will greater oversight on how many children are being electively home educated, whether or not children are receiving an education at all, or being educated in illegal schools where they might be vulnerable to dangerous influences.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, chair of the LGA Children and Young People Board welcomed the announcement, commenting that councils <i>“fully support the rights of parents to educate their children in the best way that they see fit,”</i> but for the <i>“minority”</i> of children not provided a good education, <i>“councils need to be able to check a child's schooling, to make sure they are being taught a suitable and appropriate education in a safe environment.”</i></p> <p>The Council is in the process of recruiting to a new post in order to provide an additional resource to ensure that notifications of pupil movements are closely tracked. In addition to this, the Learning Trust are undertaking a review of the Council's position on and advice about, Elective Home Education. This was already in progress and the new announcement is timely and welcome. This new initiative will no doubt help inform this review.</p>

Recommendation Seven	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p><b>Relationship with registered schools within the Independent Sector</b></p> <p>Although there are limited statutory duties and responsibilities for the Council in respect of registered schools within the independent school sector, given a) the interrelationship between this sector and the children that attend them and UES and b) the number of local independent schools which are not reaching the required standards or where explicit safeguarding concerns have been raised; it is recommended that engagement and liaison with the local independent school sector by the Council should be strengthened. Improved relationships will help build links, trust, and confidence and help to establish those systems and processes which ensure local children are taught in safe conditions, that their welfare is safeguarded and they obtain the best possible educational outcomes.</p>	<p>Hackney Council will continue to engage with registered schools within the independent sector. We have already sought to establish the means by which a constructive dialogue with independent registered schools can be pursued.</p> <p>There is a standing invitation to Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinators (SENDCOs) in these schools to attend events such as the termly SENDCO forum and annual conference that SENDCOs from the maintained sector attend. Independent schools are also encouraged to purchase traded services from HLT in the same way that maintained schools do.</p> <p>In addition to these established activities, HLT has contacted registered independent settings to discuss with them the establishment of an independent school forum.</p> <p>This forum's membership would include partner agencies, such as Public Health. The aim of this forum would be to meet – on a termly basis - to discuss issues that are of concern to the settings and which HLT may be able to advise on; and to establish lines of communication by which good practice can be</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>There continues to be a standing invitation to Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinators (SENDCOs) from independent sector schools to attend events such as the termly SENDCO forum and annual conference that SENDCOs from the maintained sector attend.</p> <p>Independent schools have the same opportunity as maintained schools to purchase services from the Council under the traded services arrangements.</p> <p>In this regard the Council would welcome approaches from the independent sector and is open to suggestions from the Charedi community about the way in which they wish to engage.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Officers from Hackney Learning Trust (HLT) has initiated and hosted a regular Orthodox Jewish specific SENDCO forum to which a range of speakers have been invited.</p> <p>Independent schools are encouraged to purchase</p>

Recommendation Seven	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
	<p>shared.</p> <p>This forum will provide an opportunity for HLT to share information with settings and update them on new initiatives and expectations, such as the requirement to inform the local authority when pupils go on and off roll.</p> <p>The forum also affords independent schools the opportunity to hear of practices within the maintained sector, such as safeguarding audits, that it would be beneficial for them to adopt.</p>	<p>traded services from HLT in the same way that maintained schools do.</p> <p>There are ongoing liaison meetings between council officers and representative groups of the community, for example Interlink.</p> <p>Council officers and partner agencies continue to work with representatives and organisations within the Charedi community, exploring how they may best be able to support the development of schools forums and the delivery of training, advice and information about safeguarding children in schools.</p> <p>Any initiative from the Charedi community to establish forums relating to health, wellbeing and safeguarding would receive the active support, advice and guidance from Hackney Council and partner agencies.</p>

Recommendation Eight	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<b>Enabling parents within the Orthodox Jewish</b>	This action is being taken forward by the CHSCB's	<b>Overview</b>



Recommendation Eight	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p><b>Community to provide challenge to UES</b></p> <p>Parents are ultimately responsible for the safety and welfare of their child and legally obliged to ensure that they are in receipt of appropriate full-time education. It is recommended therefore that the Council should engage and involve parents within the Charedi Orthodox Jewish community, to inform them of relevant statutory health and safety regulations (e.g. fire safety) and safeguarding standards (e.g. DBS checks) required for their child's schooling, with the intention of supporting parental enquiry and challenge to local UES. It is recommended that the Council should start to engage directly with parents in the Charedi community, rather than relying on intermediary bodies.</p>	<p>community &amp; engagement sub group (CEG).</p> <p>A document providing guidance for parents and carers has been developed in consultation with the CEG.</p> <p>This guidance (appendix 2 to the Cabinet Response) covers key issues relating to the safety of children in a range of different settings. This guidance will not be unique to UES, but is relevant in the context of setting out a range of issues that parents and carers should be aware of, and alert to, whenever they are leaving their children in the care of an organisation.</p>	<p>At present this recommendation has been initially responded to through the development of a parental leaflet. It has been developed by the CHSCB as a practical method of concisely capturing the key issues that a parent / carer should know when their child attends a setting. It has already been circulated to some parents / carers in Hackney.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>A wider communication plan, being supported by the Council's Communication team, will see the leaflets circulated within Hackney Today and made available at local public access points – i.e. GP Surgery's / Children's Centres / etc.</p> <p>The guidance has been cross-referenced with that set out within the government's consultation on a voluntary safeguarding code of practice and remains fit for purpose.</p> <p>The guidance document was provided to parents of pupils attending Getters <b>Talmud Torah</b> to assist them in their choice of setting for their children.</p> <p>The Out of School Settings project will be reviewing this key recommendation as it will be a</p>

Recommendation Eight	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
		cornerstone of the work of the project – that is empowering and increasing parental awareness as much as awareness of proprietors and group leaders

Recommendation Nine	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p><b>Curriculum in UES</b></p> <p>Whilst it was broadly recognised that child safeguarding must take a priority for the Council and other regulatory bodies, there was widespread recognition that specific issues with the curriculum at yeshivas remained which could not be ignored and not addressed given the marked differences in educational attainment and the work and training outcomes that result for the Orthodox Jewish Community (particularly among males).</p> <p>It is the belief of the Commission that there will be a significant benefit for the Charedi Orthodox Jewish community if English and</p>	<p>The Council has established a positive working relationship with maintained Orthodox Jewish schools and will ensure that it offers support to any setting that wishes to secure the status of a registered independent school.</p> <p>HLT will continue to encourage and broker, where appropriate, contact between the DfE and the Orthodox Jewish Community to work towards UES becoming registered schools.</p> <p>In addition HLT will, where appropriate, support settings wishing to register, by signposting relevant information relating to curriculum requirements, for example, and brokering support from registered settings, linking the setting to a potential support network and providing generic advice about</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>It is clear from those community leaders engaged to date that there is marked opposition to any imposition of curriculum-based changes.</p> <p>HLT will continue signposting UES to where they can find guidance should there be contact. This is, however, dependent on settings making contact with HLT and seeking our support.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>The Council’s recent primary and secondary curriculum conference was very well attended. This was advertised widely and would have been an opportunity for UESs to have established links with schools and HLT’s school improvement</p>

Recommendation Nine	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p>STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths) were taught in parallel with religious studies, and in advance of likely changes to legislation.</p> <p>Specifications and standards for any school curriculum, irrespective of setting, are however determined and regulated by the Department of Education and this is an area over which the Council has no powers. In addition, the Department of Education and Ofsted are responsible for inspection, compliance and enforcement of the curriculum quality and standards within all educational settings.</p> <p>In this context, the Commission recommend that the DfE and Ofsted work with the Charedi Orthodox Jewish Community to identify those processes which can lead to a pathway to compliance for UES, in which the curriculum taught is balanced, of sufficient quality and provides outcomes for children which enable them to achieve better outcomes for themselves and their families. The Commission recognise that the Council has no direct role here, but recommends that the Council should facilitate this work and help to</p>	safeguarding audit processes.	team.

Recommendation Nine	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
move this issue forward wherever possible.		

Recommendation Ten	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p><b>Stamford Hill Area Action Plan</b></p> <p>The Commission noted that the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (SHAAP) is still in the process of development and finalisation, and as such represents an opportunity to address those education and training issues identified for the Orthodox Jewish Community within this review. It is recommended therefore that the Council ensures that the SHAAP makes sufficient provision in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capacity of educational settings to deal with future demand from the Orthodox Jewish community;</li> <li>▪ Availability of potential sites for registered education settings;</li> </ul> <p>Youth employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities for young</p>	<p>The Council published a Towards a Stamford Hill Plan for consultation in 2017 <a href="https://hackney.gov.uk/stamford-hill-aap">https://hackney.gov.uk/stamford-hill-aap</a> setting out the objectives for meeting the educational and community needs of the Community in Stamford Hill.</p> <p>The Plan aims to build social cohesion in Stamford Hill and facilitates integration, rather than segregation, between people of different social, ethnic and religious affiliations.</p> <p>It also seeks to provide additional school places for the Stamford Hill community, providing new opportunities for adult learning and to ensure that people who live and work in Stamford Hill have access to local educational, training, health and community facilities to meet their day-to-day needs.</p> <p>The Plan will set out the need for registered school places, seek to identify and allocate new sites for education use and set out the policies which will be</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>The Council published a Towards a Stamford Hill Plan for consultation in 2017 <a href="https://hackney.gov.uk/stamford-hill-aap">https://hackney.gov.uk/stamford-hill-aap</a> setting out the objectives for meeting the educational and community needs of the Community in Stamford Hill. Over 2000 people responded to the consultation and the Council is now in the process of gathering more evidence on the potential for extending existing housing and developing a scheme to improve the public realm.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>The Council has been running an award winning programme of Community Engagement on the Plan and is working with the whole Community to develop the next iteration of the plan which will be issued towards the end of 2019. There are ongoing meetings with the Orthodox Jewish</p>

Recommendation Ten	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
<p>people in the areas, particularly from the Orthodox Jewish community</p>	<p>used to assess future planning applications for new registered schools and extensions to existing registered school buildings.</p>	<p>Community on the needs for Community Infrastructure and the provision of schools, health facilities and other forms of social infrastructure which the plan will seek to address.</p> <p>Discussions with the Orthodox Jewish Community are ongoing via the Stamford Hill AAP Community Panel and the AAP Cross Party Members Steering group. The Strategic planning team arranged a Social Infrastructure meeting in September 2018 at Interlink to discuss how to take forward the social infrastructure needs of the Orthodox Jewish community in the next iteration of the AAP. The meeting was attended by Rabbi Pinter, local Ward Councillors and representatives of Satmar, Bobov, Aguidas Israel Housing Association and the UOHC. There was a wide ranging discussion on the needs for all forms of social infrastructure including schools, synagogues, health and community facilities.</p> <p>Further meetings are to be arranged over the coming months as the plan progresses. It was also agreed that a specific meeting be organised to discuss how the community can feed into the review of the Councils Infrastructure delivery plan (IDP) which is also taking place this year. This is likely to take place after the examination into</p>

Recommendation Ten	Cabinet Response July 2018	Update April 2019
		<p>Hackneys new Local Plan in June.</p> <p>'Towards a Stamford Hill Plan ' in 2017 included a '<i>call for sites</i>' exercise and identified the Ravensdale Industrial site as a potential development opportunity which could provide local training and educational infrastructure.</p> <p>The Strategic planning team are actively looking for more sites and also at the potential of other sites for intensification for inclusion in the next version of the draft plan, which will issued towards the end of this year.</p> <p>The final version of the Plan will be issued at the end of 2019 and will set out the need for registered school places, seek to identify and allocate new sites for education use and set out the policies which will be used to assess future planning applications for new registered schools and extensions to existing registered school buildings.</p> <p>Following a further public consultation, the Area Action Plan will be submitted for Public examination by a Government appointed Planning Inspector followed by formal adoption in early 2020.</p>



<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 2019</b> <b>Item 5 – City &amp; Hackney Safeguarding Children Board</b>	<b>Item No</b>  <b>5</b>
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## **Outline**

The annual report of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) is presented each year to the Commission.

The report sets out the governance and accountability arrangements for the CHSCB and the structures in place that enable the CHSCB to do its work effectively. The report sets out the context for safeguarding children and young people in both the City of London and London Borough of Hackney and provides a progress report on key local safeguarding issues.

- Jim Gamble, Independent Chair, City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board
- Rory McCallum, Senior Professional Adviser, City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board

## **Action**

The Commission is asked to review the report and to raise any questions that it may have.

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# City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017/18

“An Outstanding LSCB” Ofsted 2016



# Foreword by the Independent Chair

My foreword to this year's annual report is written at a time of significant change to the UK's child safeguarding architecture, the catalyst of which has been the Wood Report and the government response to it.

Locally, my views are well known, having already been set out in an open letter to professionals in January 2018. Since this time, my concerns however, haven't abated in respect of the likely consequences for our national safeguarding system.

As local areas plan for their new safeguarding arrangements, we have seen a flurry of activity. Activity that must not become a distraction at a time of increasing workloads and ongoing budget pressures.

'Early Adopter' LSCBs are being funded to develop, test and implement new arrangements for multi-agency safeguarding. I recognise that there may be potential benefits from this work, however I have not seen anything to date that either isn't already in place somewhere across the LSCB footprint or anything that I'm convinced will fundamentally make our children safer.

What I am seeing is disruption that risks causing confusion and a postcode lottery of provision. All of this is concerning given the expressed intention of the Wood report was moving the national safeguarding system to 'a new level of consistent effectiveness'.

I remain committed to reflecting on any evidence that suggests change could make a positive difference for our children and in that respect, I continue to work with our outstanding multi-agency leadership teams.

As a partnership, we are determined to retain our focus on the context of local children's lives, to ensure early help and the earliest possible interventions when they are required, and to deliver a leadership style that welcomes challenge and embraces positive change. Key to all of this is the health and well-being of our workforce, particularly the front-line staff in each service that the LSCB represents.

To that end, I am happy to report that the overwhelming majority of the workforce across both the City and Hackney feel supported, well led and have manageable workloads. Critically, I am still seeing their work deliver direct impact and make a difference to the lives of our children, young people and their families.

The body of this report provides many examples, including;

- Professionals and volunteers sustaining an effective early help response in both the City and Hackney.
- The good work on suicide prevention in the City being maintained.
- The contextual safeguarding project in Hackney continuing to test new ways in which vulnerable adolescents can be protected.
- Services with a focus on both adults and children continuing to 'think family' and provide support / protection from the harm caused by domestic violence and abuse, mental ill-health, harmful practices and radicalisation.

All of this and more has been achieved in the context of increasing demand and shrinking budgets for many. I therefore want to end by thanking all of our partners and their teams.

Over the last few years, often in difficult circumstances, I've seen them all go the extra mile, work the extra hours and do whatever it takes to support our most vulnerable families and their children across our entire geographic area of responsibility. For my part, I will continue to ask the difficult questions and ensure that the issues highlighted in our reviews, as well as the complex concerns we have regarding unregistered settings, will not be allowed to drift or be closed to challenge.

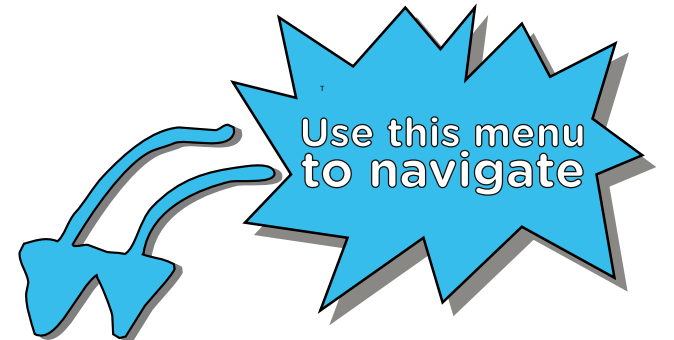
**Jim Gamble QPM**  
Independent Chair





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# The CHSCB annual report for 2017/18 is a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare across the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney.

The [CHSCB annual report 2017/18](#) sets out:

- The [governance and accountability](#) arrangements for the CHSCB. This section provides information about the structures in place that support the CHSCB to do its work.
- The context for safeguarding children and young people in the [City of London](#), highlighting the progress made by the City partnership over the last year and the challenges going forward.
- The context for safeguarding children and young people in the [London Borough of Hackney](#), highlighting the progress made by the Hackney partnership over the last year and the challenges going forward.
- The lessons that the CHSCB has identified through its [Learning & Improvement Framework](#) and the actions taken to improve child safeguarding and welfare as a result of this activity.
- The range and impact of the [multi-agency safeguarding training](#) delivered by the CHSCB and a brief account of the single agency training delivered by partners.
- The [priorities going forward](#) and the [key messages](#) from the Independent Chair of the CHSCB to key people involved in the safeguarding of children and young people.

In line with statutory requirements and best practice, the CHSCB annual report 2017/18 has been sent to the following:

## THE CITY OF LONDON

- The Chairman of The Policy and Resources Committee
- The Town Clerk
- The Lead Member for Children's Services
- The Director of Community and Children's Services
- The Chair of the City Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Chair of the Safer City Partnership

## THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

- The Mayor of Hackney
- The Chief Executive
- The Lead Member for Children's Services
- The Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services
- The Chair of the Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Chair of the Hackney Community Safety Partnership

## CITY & HACKNEY / OTHER

- The Independent Chair of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (CHSAB)
- Hackney's Youth Parliament and City Gateway
- The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime





# Glossary of Terms

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<b>ABH</b>	Actual Bodily Harm	<b>HCVS</b>	Hackney Council for Voluntary Service
<b>BME</b>	Black and Minority Ethnic	<b>HLT</b>	Hackney Learning Trust
<b>CAF</b>	Common Assessment Framework	<b>HUHFT</b>	Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust
<b>CAFCASS</b>	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	<b>IRI</b>	Independent Return Interview
<b>CAIT</b>	Child Abuse Investigation Team	<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	<b>LAC</b>	Looked After Child / Children
<b>CCG</b>	Clinical Commissioning Group	<b>LADO</b>	Local Authority Designated Officer
<b>CDOP</b>	Child Death Overview Panel	<b>LSCB</b>	Local Safeguarding Children Board
<b>CHSAB</b>	City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board	<b>MAP</b>	Multi Agency Panel
<b>CHSCB</b>	City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board	<b>MAPPA</b>	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
<b>CHYPS</b>	City and Hackney Young People's Service	<b>MARAC</b>	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
<b>CPA</b>	Community Partnership Advisor	<b>MASE</b>	Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation
<b>CPP</b>	Child Protection Plan	<b>MAT</b>	Multi Agency Team
<b>CRIS</b>	Crime Reporting Information System	<b>MPM</b>	Management Planning Meeting
<b>CSC</b>	Children's Social Care	<b>NHS</b>	National Health Service
<b>CSE</b>	Child Sexual Exploitation	<b>NSPCC</b>	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
<b>CYPPP</b>	Children and Young People's Partnership Panel	<b>OFSTED</b>	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
<b>DBS</b>	Disclosure and Barring Service	<b>PPU</b>	Public Protection Unit
<b>DfE</b>	Department for Education	<b>PSHE</b>	Personal, Social and Health Education
<b>DVIP</b>	Domestic Violence Intervention Project	<b>PSP</b>	Pupil Support Plans
<b>EIP</b>	Early Intervention and Prevention	<b>SCR</b>	Serious Case Review
<b>ELFT</b>	East London Foundation Trust	<b>SDVC</b>	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
<b>ESOL</b>	English for Speakers of Other Languages	<b>SEND</b>	Special Educational Needs and Disability
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation	<b>SLT</b>	Senior Leadership Team
<b>FGMPO</b>	Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order	<b>SRE</b>	Sex and Relationship Education
<b>FJR</b>	Family Justice Review	<b>TRA</b>	Tenant Resident Association
<b>FRT</b>	First Response Team	<b>TUSK</b>	Things You Should Know (CHSCB briefing)
<b>GLA</b>	Greater London Authority	<b>UASC</b>	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
<b>GP</b>	General Practitioner		





# The Board

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The CHSCB comprises senior leaders from a range of different organisations and has two basic objectives defined within the Children Act 2004; to co-ordinate the safeguarding work of agencies and to ensure that this work is effective. It is the key statutory body overseeing multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements across the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney. During 2017/18, it was governed by the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and the [Local Safeguarding Children Board \(LSCB\) Regulations 2006](#)

Over 2017/18, the CHSCB's business plan and underpinning strategies continued to drive a range of improvements to both the safety and welfare of children and young people. Key to the CHSCB's success has been its acute focus on the different safeguarding contexts that exist across the City and Hackney, with emphasis being placed on children and young people being safeguarded in the context of their lives at home, in their friendship circles, in health, in education and in the public spaces that they occupy both offline and on-line. Focussed leadership by the CHSCB has ensured the successful translation of the Board's vision into tangible actions that have made children and young people safer.

## Key Roles and Relationships

### THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR

Jim Gamble QPM has been the Independent Chair of the CHSCB since 2013. He is tasked with leading the Board and ensuring it fulfils its statutory objectives and functions. Key to this is the facilitation of a working culture of transparency, challenge and improvement across all partners with regards to their safeguarding arrangements. The Chair is accountable to both the Town Clerk of the City of London and the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Hackney and engaged with both leaders over the year. The Director of Community and Children's Services for the City and the Group Director of Children, Adults and Community Health for Hackney also continued to work closely with the Chair on related safeguarding challenges.

Whilst being unable to direct organisations, the CHSCB does have the power to influence and hold agencies to account for their role in safeguarding. This influence can touch on matters relating to both local and national arrangements that impact directly on the welfare of children and young people.



*In 2016, Ofsted noted that the Board was making a real difference to children's lives. An example given was the CHSCB chair's persistent escalation to the Home Office, the Department for Education and the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) of a recommendation from a Serious Case Review relating to the Home Office statutory guidance on the disclosure of soft intelligence.*

*Of continuing concern is the fact that this matter has yet to reach a satisfactory conclusion despite significant efforts by the CHSCB over the last three years. Despite the CHSCB providing suggestions for practice improvements and at the time, having confidence these would be taken forward, neither the Government nor the NPCC have progressed any substantial action.*

*The CHSCB chair has once again written to Edward Timpson, who now chairs the new Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. This panel has a role in identifying serious child safeguarding cases which the panel believe raise issues and themes that are complex or of national importance. It is the strong contention of the CHSCB that the issues relating to disclosure and vetting identified in the SCR meet both criteria and that there remains a need to review and amend the existing statutory guidance.*





## THE CHSCB TEAM

The CHSCB is supported by a dedicated group of staff that ensure the smooth running of the Board's day-to-day business. The team includes the Senior Professional Advisor, a Board Manager, a Business and Performance Manager, a Training Co-ordinator and a Board Co-ordinator. During 2017/18, the team also hosted Hackney's Community & Partnership Advisor, funded by the Local Authority.

## THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION AND HACKNEY COUNCIL

Both the City of London Corporation and Hackney Council are responsible for establishing a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in their area and ensuring that it is run effectively. A dual LSCB has been in operation for a number of years given the range of individual organisations that bridge both areas. The ultimate responsibility for the effectiveness of the CHSCB rests with the political leaders of both the City of London Corporation and Hackney Council. The Town Clerk in the City and the Chief Executive of Hackney are accountable to these roles. The Lead Members for Children's Services in both areas have the responsibility for making sure their respective organisations fulfil their legal responsibilities to safeguard children and young people. The Lead Members contribute to the CHSCB as participating observers and are not part of the decision-making process.

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*Following learning arising from the CHSCB multi-agency case audit process, the City of London Corporation commissioned Professor Claudia Bernard of Goldsmith's University to conduct research into neglect and affluence. 'An Exploration of How Social Workers Engage Neglectful Parents from Affluent Backgrounds in the Child Protection System' was published in December 2017. A launch event involving over 200 social workers helped disseminate the findings from this project to external colleagues, with further action being planned over 2018/19.*

## PARTNER AGENCIES

All partner agencies across the City of London and Hackney are committed to ensuring the effective operation of CHSCB. This is supported by a [Constitution](#) that defines the fundamental principles through which the CHSCB is governed. Members of the Board hold a strategic role within their organisations and are able to speak with authority, commit to matters of policy and hold their organisation to account.

*Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower in West London, the CHSCB discussed how risk was being effectively mitigated in the City & Hackney. One aspect related to fridge-freezers. The City of London Corporation circulated the [recommendations of Which](#) to all its tenants and leaseholders. Hackney Council similarly circulated advice available on its [Fire Safety](#) pages.*



*Following discussions between Hackney health professionals and social workers about how health professionals should respond to safeguarding disclosures, the CHSCB facilitated a meeting in December 2017 to resolve the professional differences that were being expressed. As a consequence of a thorough and open session involving all relevant parties, refreshed advice in the form of a new protocol was developed by the Head of Safeguarding at Homerton University Hospital.*

## DESIGNATED PROFESSIONALS

The Designated Doctor and Nurse take a strategic and professional lead on all aspects of the health service contribution to safeguarding children. Designated professionals are a vital source of professional advice. Across the range of CHSCB activities, these designated roles have continued to demonstrate their value in strengthening child safeguarding during 2017/18.

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER BOARDS


The CHSCB is a highly influential strategic arrangement that directly influences and improves performance in the care and protection of children. This is achieved through robust arrangements being sustained with key strategic bodies across the partnership.

During 2017/18, engagement continued with the City & Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (CHSAB) and the respective Health and Wellbeing Boards and Community Safety Partnerships across both the City of London and Hackney. There were also additional opportunities for the CHSCB to interface with elected members through the scrutiny functions operating in both the City and Hackney.




















[Inter-board protocols](#) for the City of London and Hackney set out the interface across these forums to ensure clarity of strategic alignment and management of risk. From the CHSCB's perspective, this has helped ensure that the voice of children and young people and their need for safeguarding has been kept firmly on the agenda in terms of multi-agency work involving vulnerable adults, health and wellbeing and the local response to crime.



## Board Membership & Attendance

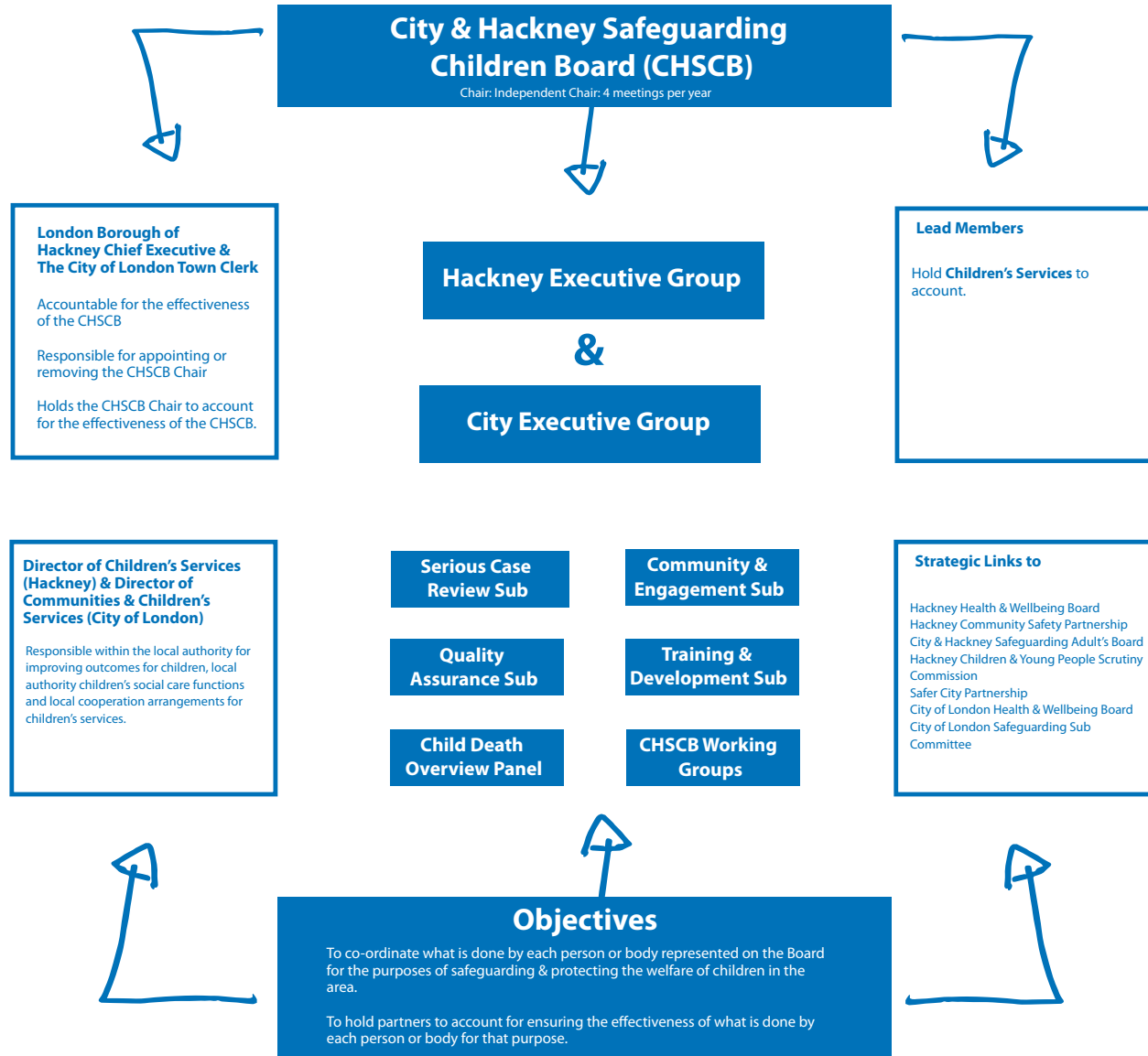
Safeguarding is a firm priority for all board members, demonstrated by consistently good levels of attendance, effective engagement in sub-groups, and a strong culture of constructive challenge and debate. Including a business planning session, the Board met four times during the 2017/18 and had a membership made up of representatives from all statutory partners and others relevant safeguarding agencies. A list of Board Members is set out at the back of this report. The attendance rates by agency for 2017/18 to the four full Board meetings are set out below. The  represents the number of seats per organisation.



	Attendance	Number of seats per organisation
Independent Chair	100%	
Lay Members	100%	
The City of London Community & Children's Service	100%	
The City of London Police	75%	
Hackney Children, Adults & Community Services	100%	
The Metropolitan Police (Child Abuse Investigation Team)	100%	
The Metropolitan Police - Hackney Borough	100%	
Hackney Learning Trust	75%	
Hackney Housing	100%	
Hackney Council for Voluntary Services	100%	
Hackney Primary School representative	50%	
The London Community Rehabilitation Company	0%	
The National Probation Service	50%	
Children & Family Court Advisory & Support Service	25%	
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	100%	
City & Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group	100%	
City & Hackney Public Health	75%	
East London NHS Foundation Trust	100%	
Whittington Health	75%	



# CHSCB Structure







# Financial Arrangements

Partner agencies continued to contribute to the CHSCB’s budget for 2017/18, in addition to providing a variety of resources, such as staff time and free venues for training. Total spending in 2017/18 totalled £351,132. This income ensured that the overall cost of running the CHSCB were met.

- Hackney Learning Trust and The City of London Corporation continued to provide access to free training venues to the CHSCB.
- The City of London Corporation covered the major costs for the 2017 Annual Conference.
- An additional £1500 shared between City of London Corporation and London Borough of Hackney was provided to meet the costs for membership of the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs.
- CHSCB staffing costs were lower than originally projected. This was due to the CHSCB team having vacant posts for part of the year.

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As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, [Ineqe Safeguarding Group](#) continues to support the CHSCB in the production of its annual report.





## Lay Members

The attendance of Lay Members at Board meetings and a variety of other forums has been key to offering a different perspective, helping everyone to stay in touch with local realities and the issues of concern in our communities.

The Lay Members for the CHSCB (Shirley Green and Sally Glen for Hackney and Belinda Blank for the City of London) have all provided critical influence to the functioning of the CHSCB over 2017/18. All have been engaged in a variety of different forums and continue to offer their unique perspective to the Board based on their regular engagement in the communities with whom they are intrinsically connected. All operate as full members of the CHSCB, participating as appropriate on the Board itself and in various projects. Lay members continue to make links between the CHSCB and community groups, support stronger public engagement in local child safety issues and developed an improved public understanding of the CHSCB's child protection work.

- All the CHSCB Lay Members have continued to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the work of the Board in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

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The CHSCB is hugely grateful to the Lay Members for their dedication, time and effort in promoting improved public engagement in the work of the CHSCB and the focus of the community of safeguarding children and young people.

- All regularly attended CHSCB meetings.
- All have participated fully in Board discussions, adding value and facilitating the professional network to reflect on the work they are doing and its relationship to the views that Lay Members have harnessed from their engagement work.



“Over the past two years I have developed a peer mentoring arrangement with two Lay Members of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB). This was at the request of the Independent Chair to help the BSCB improve after its judgment of requires improvement (and the LA's judgment of inadequate) as part of an Ofsted inspection in 2016. Bromley has, of course, a very different demographic profile to the City of London and Hackney, However, there are overlapping issues.

We meet approximately every six months and this provides mutual support through reflection on the impact of the role of the Lay Member and any impact on us personally, such as frustration and anxiety. We also use this confidential space to discuss what it means to be an effective Lay Member in application to specific situations. I believe this meeting has helped us all to maintain a positive attitude to the role, challenge ourselves and keep a firm focus on how we can help improve outcomes for children and young people locally.

Sally Glen - Hackney Lay Member







# The Community Partnership Advisor

The Community Partnership Advisor (CPA) is funded by Hackney Council to provide consultancy, support and specialist training to staff on behalf of the CHSCB. The CPA is a unique partnership role and is often called upon by other local authorities for assistance. Between April and September 2017, the CPA role was vacant.

Following appointment, the new CPA has further extended the CHSCB's reach into a range of faith and VCS organisations. This resulted in three introductory training sessions taking place. One of the sessions delivered led to a supplementary school appointing their first Designated Safeguarding lead and an agreement for ongoing support to improve their safeguarding practice and policies.

The CPA also delivered monthly safeguarding surgeries at Hackney Council for Voluntary Services, providing bespoke safeguarding support to VCS organisations and increasing the VCS sector's access to specialist safeguarding support. In the first two sessions, six VCS organisations received support on topics including setting up as a new organisation, policies on inclusion of children with disabilities, Section 11 audit support, appropriate record keeping, the role of the DSL, and safer recruitment.

The CPA delivered a session to Hackney Council policy and partnerships team in addition to representatives from three infrastructure organisations. This was done with the aim of strengthening the capacity of commissioners in carrying out due diligence on safeguarding policies of VCS organisations applying for grants. The CPA also updated the due diligence checklist to reflect contemporary safeguarding practice.

The CPA responded to 43 requests for consultations and safeguarding advice.



*Nearly half of all consultation requests related to Orthodox Jewish children. This may reflect knowledge by staff of the previous experience the current CPA has working with this community, a lack of confidence from professionals, greater public awareness of particular issues such as unregistered schools leading to referrals, or a combination of this and other concerns.*

*There was only one consultation in relation to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). There has been a general decrease in referrals to CFS related to FGM over the last two years. This may reflect a need for renewed training and awareness raising on this topic, but is also reflective of improved screening processes in health services. Training was delivered in March 2018 and will be repeated in the new training programme for 2018/19.*

*There were three consultations related to trafficking. The local protocol related to slavery and trafficking is currently being amended and as part of this, a new round of training and awareness raising will be scheduled.*

*Despite the range of issues presented, some of the advice from the CPA has been quite consistent, such as:*

- *Consider each family member's needs and do not presume they all have the same relationship with their culture / religion / heritage.*
- *Consider the protective factors and strength that the family's faith / culture / heritage provides them as well as risks.*
- *Challenge your own assumptions in relation to beliefs and experiences of this culture / religion.*





# Communications

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The CHSCB continues to promote its digital platforms and communications reach. The CHSCB website, designed during the 2015/16 period, has allowed for user-friendly content searches and accessible resources. Visits to the CHSCB website dipped slightly over 2017/18, although increases were noted in both the CHSCB Twitter account and TUSK briefing analytics.

## THE CHSCB WEBSITE [WWW.CHSCB.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CHSCB.ORG.UK)

- 45515 website page views.
- **Homepage** - 18% page views.
- **Training Calendar** - 15% page views.
- **Serious Case Reviews** - 4% page views.
- Those interacting with the website are professionals.
- The biggest spike in the number of users was generated on 11th April 2017 after the launch of the CHSCB training programme.

Other peaks were noted following communication about the CHSCB Annual Conference; the publication of the review into Chadrack Mbala-Mulo and the SCR into Child M.

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## TWITTER - [@LSCB\\_CHSCB](https://twitter.com/LSCB_CHSCB)

- CHSCB Tweets earned 34.2K impressions.
- The CHSCB Top Tweet on #CSEDay2018 earned 11849 impressions.

## TUSK BRIEFINGS

- The Board produces monthly e-briefings called Things You Should Know, more commonly referred to as 'TUSK briefings'. These are circulated to subscribers and also cascaded by Board members to staff within their organisations.
- There are 1304 subscribers to the TUSK.
- Things You Should Know briefings had an average open rate of 23.5% (increasing from 15.2%), and an average click rate of 10.2%. (increasing from 4%)





# A Healthy Workforce

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The CHSCB is clear that for all organisations involved with safeguarding children and young people, staff and volunteers are their most important asset. It is for this reason, that the CHSCB has applied a focus upon the health of the workforce during 2017/18. Testing this aspect, the CHSCB's staff survey focussed on this issue. Given the overall increase in activity across the partnership and the emotional complexity of many safeguarding cases, it is positive to note that when taking a measure of professional support, training, health and wellbeing, responses have been generally positive.



## CITY OF LONDON

247 responses from City of London.

51 working cross-borough.

52% increase in respondents from the 2016 survey.

87% have access to safeguarding supervision or support.

97% are supported with accessible and visible line management.

92% agreed in being able to escalate issues relating to the support they receive to more senior managers.

94% of respondents were allowed time off to attend safeguarding training.

87% felt their workload was manageable.



77% felt that their organisation was effective at ensuring their workload is manageable.

91% indicated they had access to professional support to help them cope with emotional issues that arise as a result of their work.

85% agreed or strongly agreed that they felt confident to access support at work if, for any reason, they felt unsafe from the children, young people or families they work with.






## HACKNEY

394 responses from City of London.

51 working cross-borough.

 42% increase in respondents from the 2016 survey.

85% have access to safeguarding supervision or support.

85% indicated that they are supported with accessible and visible  
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e management.

87% agreed in being able to escalate issues relating to the support they receive to more senior managers if required.

90% of respondents were allowed time off to attend safeguarding training.

83% felt their workload was manageable.

71% felt that their organisation was effective at ensuring their workload is manageable.



84% indicated they had access to professional support to help them cope with emotional issues that arise as a result of their work.

79% agreed or strongly agreed that they felt confident to access support at work if, for any reason, they felt unsafe from the children, young people or families they work with.





# Technology and Social Media

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The CHSCB's overarching aim is to ensure that children and young people are seen, heard and helped. Critically, that they are seen, heard and helped in the context of their lives in both the offline and online places and spaces that they occupy.

With the growing use of technology and social media, all professionals need to adopt a much more sophisticated approach to their safeguarding responsibilities. They need to reflect on the changing nature of communication and how this impacts on practice issues, particularly those focused on the identification and assessment of potential risk.

To do this successfully, professionals need to recognize that children and young people do not use technology and social media in isolation. Their offline and online worlds are converged and both need to be understood when trying to identify the type of support that a child, young person and their family might need. The importance of this escalates whenever there are concerns about children and young people suffering or being likely to suffer significant harm. In such circumstances, it is essential that both the offline and online risks are accurately assessed and effectively mitigated.

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*Over 2017/18, the CHSCB continued to promote a range of documentation to support professionals safeguard children in the context of their access to technology and their use of Social Media.*

**The CHSCB Strategy** - sets out the CHSCB's ambition to ensure that children and young people are effectively safeguarded in the context of their access to technology and use of social media.

**Handbook** - provides safeguarding professionals with a range of tools that can help identify and mitigate any risks arising from a child or young person's access to technology and/ or use of social media.

**Appropriate Use Policy** - outlines the CHSCB's minimum standards regarding the responsibilities of all staff and partners when using social media in a **personal capacity**.

**Authorised Use Policy** - authorised safeguarding partners are required to comply with this Policy when using CHSCB Social Media accounts.

All these documents can be found on the [CHSCB website](#) and training sessions are being scheduled for 2019. In July 2017, the links to these documents were disseminated to all agencies, including schools, via the TUSK briefing.





# Safeguarding Context in the City of London

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# The City Safeguarding Snapshot 2017/18

**11, 254** children and young people under 18

**16.3%** of total population

**11%** of children living in in poverty

**11.3%** of children in primary schools in receipt of free school meals (national average 13.7%)

**18** cases referred to the City's Early Help Team (and 13 cases stepped down)

**29** Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings held

**0** City children and young people identified as being at risk of CSE

**13** children and young people not resident in the City identified at risk of CSE by the Police - protected with liaison with home authority.

There are **39** domestic violence incidents where there are known children in the household.

**8** incidents of children & young people going missing from care (3 older children).

**0** incidents of children & young people missing from home.

**476** contacts to the City Children & Families Team Hub.

**55** referrals.

**12.7%** re-referrals.

**39** statutory social work assessments started by The City Children & Families Team.

**42** days – average timeliness of assessments.

**11** child protection investigations.

**4** children on a Child Protection Plan as of March 2018.

**8** open Children in Need cases (excl. those in assessment, CP Plan and LAC) as of March 2018.

**216** children and young people receiving services through Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) support.



**13** resident children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan to support their needs.

**10** children & young people looked after as of March 2018.

**1** MARAC meeting involving children.

**4** allegations against staff working with children and young people.

**0** Private Fostering arrangements as of March 2018.



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The categories and themes set out in this section do not cover all the factors influencing the risk to children and young people within the City of London. The focus is on key local vulnerabilities and related themes, about which the CHSCB needs to have heightened scrutiny in terms of effective multi-agency practice to protect children and young people.

## City Demographics

The City of London has an estimated resident population of about 9,400 and a transient daytime working population of around 330,000. Of the resident population, approximately 13% are children and young people.

The City of London is an economically diverse area, with its population characterised by areas of affluence and poverty. Within the Square Mile, there are large disparities. The Barbican West and East residential areas are among the 20% most affluent areas in England. Portsoken ward, however, is among the 40% most deprived areas in England. According to the national figures, 110 Page 55 of London children (14%) were living in poverty in 2011, with Portsoken ward having the highest levels of child poverty. An estimated 78% of the City of London population is White British; however, approximately 40% of children are from Black or ethnic minority groups compared to 21% nationally. The Bangladeshi community makes up 4% of the total population.

Domestic abuse remains a key issue in the City with the majority of child protection investigations in the City involving domestic abuse concerns. There are no children involved in the criminal justice system currently and no teenage pregnancies. Academic attainment for City resident children is higher than the national average. The numbers of children and young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), obesity rates, infant deaths and underweight babies, hospital admissions for self-harm, deliberate injury, alcohol-related injury and the number of pregnant smokers are all low with numbers ranging from 0 to 5 in each category. There are no children currently identified as victims of child sexual exploitation who live in the City. Very few children are reported missing from home or care during the year.

Within the City, there is one maintained primary school (with a Children's Centre attached), four independent schools and several higher educational establishments. It has no maintained secondary schools. The majority of children attending these schools come from other boroughs and most of the

local authority's secondary school age children go to school outside of the City. 10.2% of City children are living in poverty.

## Contacts, Referrals & Assessments

The Children and Families Team Hub acts as a single point of contact for referrals to both Early Help Services and Children's Social Care (CSC) in the City. It provides responsive screening activities and ensures all contacts are immediately progressed as a referral if the threshold for a statutory social work assessment is met. Signposting activity requires staff to have a continually updated knowledge of local services alongside a comprehensive understanding of the City of London Thresholds of Need.

The 476 contacts made to the Children and Families Hub remained in line with 2016/17 figures. However, fewer (55) of these contacts converted to a referral (93 in 2016/17) at a rate of 438.6 per 10,000 CYP.

The maintenance of high contact levels reflects the agreement that the City of London Police will notify CSC of all contacts, including those involving non-resident children. The reduction in referrals is partly explained through an increase in early help activity and the rate is now more in line with statistical neighbours (497.7).



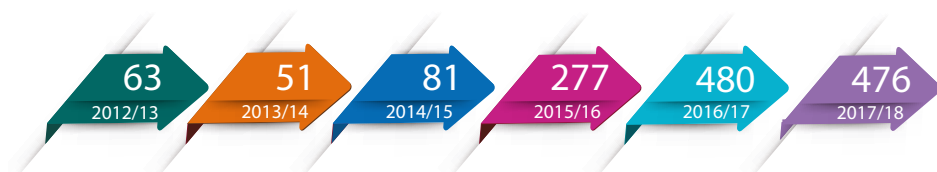
*In 2017/18 a new protocol was introduced under which CFT Hub is only notified about interventions with out-of-borough residents under 18 years old if the safeguarding threshold has been met. That is, the police now undertake their own triage so that only those non-City residents 'of concern' are notified to the CFT Hub rather than all those 'coming to notice'. As a result, the number of overall contacts received from the police is expected to decline next year.*

The re-referral rate in the City of London was 12.7%, a reduction of the 16.1% from 2016/17. This aspect remained subject to ongoing scrutiny by the CHSCB and it is positive to note improvements in this regard. Overall, the performance data in the City continues to be indicative of high quality social work assessments and timely access to appropriate support that helps children and their families.

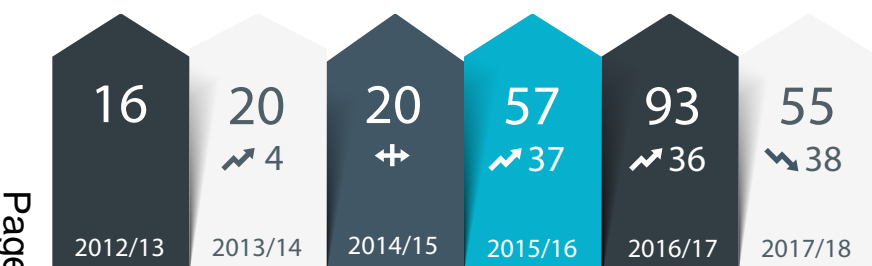




## CONTACTS

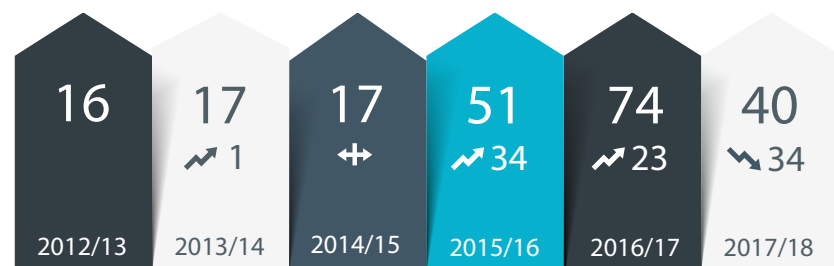


## REFFERALS



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## ASSESSMENTS



The Children and Families Team Hub aims to ensure that only those children meeting thresholds for statutory assessments are progressed as referrals. Local Authorities undertake these assessments to determine what services to provide and what action to take. The full set of statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 can be found [here](#).

The Children and Families Team completed 40 assessments during 2017/18. 74.3% of assessments undertaken in the City were completed within 45 days or

less, with average timeliness being 42 days. This performance was worse than 2016/17, although by Q2 of 2018/19, assessment timeliness was back to 100%. Despite this, the majority of children and families continue to receive a timely service in this aspect of intervention.

The rate of child protection (Section 47) enquiries in 2016/17 was 87.7 per 10,000, similar to 85.8 in 2016/17. The threshold for Section 47 enquiries in the City is appropriate. Children are not being unnecessarily subjected to child protection intervention and practice is proportionate to the presenting need. Where a child protection response is required, these are all completed in a timely manner. 100% of Initial Child Protection Conferences take place within 15 days of the strategy meeting where the decision was taken to convene an enquiry. This means that in the City of London, children receive a swift service when safeguarding concerns are apparent.

All Section 47 enquiries undertaken in the City are led by a suitably qualified and experienced registered social worker. Audit activity by the CHSCB and the City of London confirms that the findings from child protection enquiries are clear and that decisive action is taken when required. The City of London has an extremely low requirement to implement immediate protection arrangements.

## Children on Child Protection Plans

Following a child protection enquiry, where concerns of significant harm are substantiated and the child is judged to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, social workers and their managers should convene an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). An ICPC brings together family members (and children / young people where appropriate) with supporters, advocates and professionals to analyse information and plan how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child / young person. If the ICPC considers that the child / young person is at a continuing risk of significant harm, they will be made the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP).

Children who have a CPP are considered to be in need of protection from either neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse; or a combination of one or more of these. The CPP details the main areas of concern, what action will be taken to reduce those concerns and by whom, and how professionals, the family and the child or young person (where appropriate) will know when progress is being made.





Four children were subject to a CPP in the City at the end of 2017/18. Whilst numbers are low, caution should be observed in analysing these figures because variations of one or two children on a CP plan can have a major impact on the rate per 10,000 and this performance can therefore fluctuate. In 2017/18, 100% of children on child protection plans were reviewed and visited on time and in accordance with their plan. No children were on a child protection plan for over 2 years. One child had been previously subject to a child protection plan. Where children were deplaned, they received a child in need plan with support which was effective. This is very good performance and means that the work with children at risk of significant harm is timely and effective and that children are not subject to case work drift.

## Looked After Children

A child or young person who is “looked after” is in the care of the local authority. They can be placed in care voluntarily by parents struggling to cope, they can be unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; or in other circumstances, The City of London Corporation and partners will intervene because the child or young person is at risk of significant harm.

As of 31 March 2018, the City was responsible for looking after 10 children and young people. Rates are in line with 2016/17. Whilst numbers are low, the City of London’s rate for looked after children (103 per 10,000) is well above statistical neighbours and the England average. Proportionately, this reflects a high volume of work for the City of London social workers.

## Placements

In 2017/18, 30% of children looked after by the City had three or more changes of placement over the year. This is similar to 2016/17 and relates to a small cohort. This continues to broadly reflect good performance and means that children looked after by the City tend to enjoy good stability and placements that meet their needs well. The number of young people in care in the same placement for two and half years or higher reduced further from 67% at the end of March 2017 to 33.3% in 2018.

The local authority does not have its own fostering service due to the size of the looked after children population, but spot purchases from the Pan London consortium. Ofsted rates all independent fostering agencies used by the City

either Good or Outstanding. There are sufficient suitable placements available to meet the needs of the City’s looked after children and young people. All placements are outside of the local authority with no young person being placed over 20 miles from the City.

## Domestic Violence and Abuse

The Safer City Partnership has continued to develop its strategic response to this issue with local partners. Domestic Violence and Abuse remains subject to ongoing scrutiny by the CHSCB in terms of its influence on arrangements to safeguard children and young people.

- One MARAC meeting involving children
- 37% of social work assessments in 2017/18 featured domestic violence as an issue.

## Child Sexual Exploitation

Multi-agency work to identify children and young people who may be at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) across the City of London continues to be driven as a priority for the CHSCB and partner agencies. No child sexual exploitation cases involving a City resident child were identified in 2017/18. The City of London Police engaged a further 13 young people at risk of CSE who were not City residents. Swift and appropriate communication as made to the home authorities of the children concerned.

## Missing Children

In 2017/18, no children were reported missing from home or education. There were eight incidents of children & young people going missing from care (three older children with eight incidents between them).

## Elective Home Education

At the end of March 2018, there were 4 children identified as being educated at home in the City of London. Children subject to these arrangements are closely monitored in the City, with staff visiting those who are educated at home on a six-monthly basis (the requirement being annually), to ensure they are accessing



the educational requirements, and making good progress.

## Private Fostering

A child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) who is cared for and provided with accommodation by someone other than a parent, person with parental responsibility or a close relative for 28 days or more is privately fostered. The arrangements for managing private fostering in the City accord with statutory requirements. One notification was received during 2017/18, although this had ended by year end. The City of London Private Fostering App continues to be promoted as an awareness raising tool. This App, which includes confidence testing and a training facility has been downloaded over 1700 times since launch.

## SEND

Since the introduction of the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms in September 2014, the City of London Corporation has made good progress in implementing these. All former Statements of Special Educational Needs were transferred to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans well in advance of the national deadline of 1 April 2018. All statutory assessments are completed within 20 weeks (the statutory timeframe) compared with 59% nationally and 70% across London as a whole.

There is a very high level of satisfaction rate amongst families accessing the City of London's services and their view of multi-agency working is good. The SEND Joint Strategy and self-evaluation form (SEF) has been developed with both partners and families to set out the City's priorities and to highlight the areas where the most progress is being made. The areas for development and plans going forward are underway to enhance service impact and reach.

All but one of the schools in the City of London are in the independent sector and there are no special schools in the City of London. 219 children and young people receive SEND support because they either live in the City of London or go to school in the City of London. The progress of children and young people with SEND attending the City of London's maintained school, Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, is reported regularly and is very good. The majority of children and young people with an EHC plan attend schools and colleges outside of the City of London; most are in mainstream settings and all but two live at home. The schools attended are rated either good or outstanding by Ofsted,

where Ofsted is the inspecting body. The majority of the children and young people who have an EHC Plan are on the autistic spectrum.

## MAPPA

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are the statutory measures for managing sexual and violent offenders. The Police, Prison and Probation Services (Responsible Authority) have the duty and responsibility to ensure MAPPA are established in their area and for the assessment and management of risk of all identified MAPPA offenders. The purpose of MAPPA is to help reduce the re-offending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders in order to protect the public from serious harm, by ensuring all agencies work together effectively.


Across London on 31 March 2018, there were 6317 Category 1 'Registered Sex Offenders' (RSOs) (an increase of 322 from 2016/17), 3833 Category 2 'Violent Offenders' (and increase of 163 from 2016/17) and 24 Category 3 'Other Dangerous Offenders' (an increase of 3 from 2016/17). Further information is available in the [MAPPA Annual report for 2017/18](#) for London.





# Progress in the City of London

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	The Board	Communication	A Healthy Workforce	Technology & Social Media	City Safeguarding Context	Progress in the City 17/18	Hackney Safeguarding Context	Progress in Hackney 17/18	Learning & Improvement	The Child Death Overview Panel	Training & Development	Priorities or next year & beyond	What you need to know	CHSCB Membership	29
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## Early Help

Early help services across the City of London are delivered by People's Services and a range of partners, including schools, children centres, one GP surgery and health colleagues as well as other local service providers, including the community and voluntary sector. They are effective, and some are particularly strong. The range of services available to children, young people and their families are set out within the City of London Resource guide for Practitioners and these continue to adapt and evolve based on the needs of the local population.

The early help arrangements in the City have been in place now for a number of years and are embedded with agencies. The Children and Families Team comprises social workers, early help workers and Family Intervention Practitioners who work attached to the Children's Centre at John Cass Primary School. The interface between early help and child in need/child protection is clear through the management of all referrals via the Children and Families Team Hub. The duty social worker takes all referrals and is able to step down cases for an early help response easily and rapidly where this is appropriate. The Early Help team is well

resourced and trained in the Solihull approach for working with hard to engage families. They take on the lead professional role for local agencies and co-ordinate the Team Around the Child (TAC).



*A permanent Early Help Support Worker joined the team in September 2017 and is line managed by the Early Help Co-ordinator. The previous worker was also employed on statutory social care cases. Returning to a structure with a dedicated Early Help Worker has increased capacity within the team. There is also evidence of increased movement of cases since the permanent Early Help Support Worker has been in post.*

All children needing an early help service in the City receive a well-resourced, dedicated service, which is provided by trained staff, supervised by a Social Work Team Manager. This arrangement also enables the Team Manager to oversee the step up and step-down process and decision making to ensure that they are appropriate and reflect the needs of the child.

The Early Help Strategy for the City of London has continued to drive partnership improvements. With a focus on ensuring the right help is provided at the right time and in the right place, the strategy is focussed on five key strategic objectives and continues to be coordinated by the Early Help Sub Group of the City CHSCB Executive group. The strategy's ambitions complement a range of existing enhanced universal and targeted services supporting early help that include:

- ***A Family and Young People's Information Service who seek to visit all children born in the City and make parents aware of the Early Help services available.***
- ***A Family Information Service Directory.***
- ***Outreach by the Family Information Service.***
- ***A range of parenting, literacy, numeracy, and speech and language classes/courses for parents.***
- ***Short Breaks scheme.***
- ***Educational opportunities for families in the library settings.***
- ***Free child care for 2-14 year olds.***
- ***Every Child a Talker programme.***
- ***The HENRY Course to promote healthy eating, nutrition and good parenting.***



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- **All new parents receive an early help visit. This is often a joint visit by a family intervention worker and a health visitor. Such early identification has led to a complete take-up of two-year-old children's free childcare places.**
- **Families have access to a wide range of helpful services. The 'friendly dentist' scheme provides dental checks for all under-fives.**
- **Parenting support is available from a child psychologist through a commissioned service, while weekly speech and language sessions, 'stay and play' and other activities are available through the City's children's centre.**
- **Parents are well supported with benefits advice and debt counselling by a commissioned service.**
- **The 'nanny network', to establish links between the City's early help services and this large group of private childcare providers, runs weekly 'stay and play' sessions for approximately 10 nannies and the children for whom they care.**
- **There have been no teenage pregnancies in the City for a number of years, which is due in part to the preventative programme led by City Gateway.**



*Early Help has offered support and involvement with the Tenancy Visits Programme to profile and highlight the City of London's local offer in terms of services for children, young people and their families.*

### THE MULTI-AGENCY PRACTITIONERS FORUM

Supporting the partnership understanding of early help, a monthly meeting for practitioners delivering early help services continued in the City. This Multi-Agency Practitioners forum (MAPF) provides an opportunity for front-line staff within a multi-agency context to discuss practice matters, encouraging consistent and effective service delivery. Attendance has averaged 12 over the past two years, with representation from a range of partners.

The MAPF actively contributes to service development in a number of different ways. It is often the first group to be consulted on each of the Early Help Action Plan priorities and MAPF workshop minutes and outcomes are regularly incorporated into review papers.



*An exam stress webinar for years 10 to 13, facilitated by First Steps in the Easter holidays, was first discussed at the Early Help Sub-group. Meetings between Early Help, First Steps, Youth providers (Tower Hamlets and Prospects) and the Education and Early Years Team followed to discuss how to best implement the webinar within the City.*

Positively, the number of referrals allocated to Early Help have increased by more than 50% compared to 2016/17 and are also higher than numbers seen in 2015/16. Over the year, there were a total of 30 cases active and open to Early Help.

Direct work with children and young people continues to be co-ordinated through effective CAF and TAC mechanisms. While partner agencies have been encouraged to complete CAFs and to lead TAC meetings, there were no external CAFs completed in 2017/18.

Multi-agency partners do, however, continue to make a significant contribution to the Common Assessment Frameworks (CAF) completed by the Early Help Support Worker. They also make a significant contribution to the TAC review meetings. All TAC review meetings take place outside of the Guildhall, usually in school for school-age children, although sometimes in the home (when requested by the family).





## Vulnerable Adolescents

Understanding the context in which children and young people live their lives is an essential feature of effective multi-agency intervention. For the CHSCB, this issue remains central to our overall approach in making children and young people safer. **Context is key.**

During 2017/18, the CHSCB implemented [a revised strategy](#) to cover vulnerable adolescents. This strategy builds on the significant progress made by the CHSCB and partners in safeguarding children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and those missing from home, care and education. It was developed in parallel to our improved understanding of the issues facing young people; established through focused problem profiles, national and local learning and intelligence pictures involving vulnerable adolescents.

The strategy draws on evidence about effective practice from contemporary research. It is a focussed document that sets the parameters for developing our understanding of the complexities of young people's vulnerabilities and finding more effective multi-agency responses to these issues. The strategy maintains an unwavering focus on making sure that professionals are getting the basics right whilst striving to develop best practice in terms of the following priorities:

- **Knowing our Problem, Knowing our Response**
- **Strong Leadership**
- **Prevention and Early Intervention**
- **Protection and Support**
- **Disruption and Prosecution**

Factors in scope within the strategy include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Child Sexual Exploitation (including Harmful Sexual Behaviours)**
- **Children missing from home, care and education**
- **Children and young people exposed to risk through gang involvement, county lines, trafficking and serious youth violence.**
- **Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA)**
- **Adolescent Neglect**
- **Self-harm and Suicide**
- **Substance Misuse**
- **Radicalisation**

- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

### CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Understanding the nature and prevalence of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) and ensuring that partner agencies provide appropriate safeguarding responses and interventions remains a priority. In February 2017, government issued a revised definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):

**“ Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.” DfE 2017**

CSE also needs to be placed firmly in the context of abusive relationships and specifically; the impact that domestic violence can have on how a child or young person views relationships. For a child or young person growing up in such an environment, the impact of their experiences can create limited and limiting expectations with regards to what constitutes a healthy relationship; thus increasing their susceptibility to exploitation in the future.

The CHSCB has continued to robustly promote an improved understanding of CSE in the City and to prevent, identify and tackle the problem. The [CHSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy](#) was implemented and subject to detailed scrutiny through the City & Hackney CSE Working Group. During 2016/17, this group evolved into the City Vulnerable Adolescents Steering Group and is operating to a work plan that focuses on the wider set of vulnerabilities and exploitation that young people in the City can be exposed to.

### THE CITY OF LONDON CSE PROFILE

The City of London continue to experience a low number of cases relating to Child Sexual Exploitation. Over the last 2 years, the crimes relating to CSE that have been recorded by the City Police include rape, sexual activity and possession of





engaged. Following securing their immediate protection, relevant and appropriate communication was made with the home authorities where the young people lived.

Partner agencies engaged in the City continue to share intelligence that may influence the knowledge of the CSE profile. Of significance is the City's location as a major transport hub and the successful engagement of British Transport Police to share information with the MASE. The CHSCB was also represented on Transport for London's Safeguarding Children Board to help further develop the response to tackle this issue. A quarterly data set of over twenty indicators produced for the MASE Group supplements the information provided by the City Police. This informs understanding, and the identification of risk indicators. However, trend analysis is limited due to the relatively low numbers of crimes and intelligence reports recorded.

### MULTI-AGENCY SEXUAL EXPLOITATION MEETINGS

Operationally, monthly Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meetings have enabled partner agencies to develop their understanding of the extent and nature of CSE through sharing intelligence and identifying local themes and trends. Attendance at the MASE is good and reflects the strong and long-term commitment given by all agencies to tackling CSE. The Hackney CYPS analyst has been a major asset to the work on CSE.



*An average of 35-50 cases were being tracked by the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) group at any one point during the year. Analysis is being used to support the MASE restructure to broaden its remit to address a wider range of vulnerabilities and exploitation types (e.g. 'county lines', missing episodes), to allow for a more holistic focus on vulnerable adolescents, and to facilitate and support a transition to focusing on broader thematic issues.*

### CHILDREN MISSING FROM HOME, CARE AND EDUCATION

Ensuring that partner agencies provide the most appropriate safeguarding response for children who go missing from home, care and education remains a priority for the CHSCB. In 2015, the London Safeguarding Children Board updated the London Child Protection Procedures and Guidance and agreed a protocol for children missing from care, home and education. According with statutory guidance, the City of London Corporation agreed to adopt the pan-London work as the basis for the local protocol that includes City specific guidance.

The City Police lead on all children who go missing from home or care and a coordinated response takes place with the City Children and Families team, working closely with the child's parents or carers. Numbers of children who go missing in the City of London are very low. There have been no children missing from home reported in the last 12 months with 3 children missing from care (8 episodes).

NCH Action for Children is commissioned by the City of London Corporation to give missing children a return home interview within 72 hours. These interviews are followed up with therapeutic support depending on the outcome to address risk-taking behaviour. This is in line with statutory guidance published by the

Department of Education in 2014. Return home interviews are reviewed and used by the City Executive Group to understand the reasons why children go missing and inform strategy and service delivery.

Since 2015, the City of London Corporation has implemented a rigorous system to identify all children of statutory school age and where they attend school. The City of London maintains this record of where children are placed through the primary and secondary transitions process. A school tracker is updated and reviewed regularly.



*Currently, it is estimated that there are 540 children of statutory school age. Of those, during the current annual census, the service has so far identified 392 children, who attend both maintained and independent schools. Some 280 of these children attend maintained primary and secondary schools. This figure has been substantiated by Department for Education data produced in 2017. The City of London is satisfied that it has identified all the children and young people of statutory school age in the maintained sector.*

### GANG INVOLVEMENT, COUNTY LINES, TRAFFICKING AND SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE

There are a number of ways in which young people can be put at risk by gang activity, both through participation in and as victims of gang violence which can be in relation to their peers or to a gang-involved adult in their household. Over 2017/18, the CHSCB's focus on this aspect in the context of vulnerable adolescents was further developed.



Briefings, issued by the [Government](#) and the [National Crime Agency](#), were circulated to partners in July and November 2017 respectively. A decision was made by the CHSCB that the 2018/19 conference would focus on the criminal exploitation of young people and that this would be the precursor to the CHSCB training programme rolling out more detailed training in this regard.



*There are no children involved in gangs in the City, or any known gangs within the City itself, although gangs are known to cross the boundaries and travel through the square mile. Gang activity and risk to young people is closely monitored through the use of Police, Youth Service and Safer City Partnership data. Intelligence links with other LAs and the Police in these areas are being developed to ensure good co-ordination and sharing of information.*

### ADOLESCENT NEGLECT

Like younger children, adolescents are more likely to experience neglect at home than any other form of child harm. A recent report by the [Children's Society](#) into adolescents and neglect found that there was evidence that professionals struggle to identify adolescent neglect and are unsure what to do when they come across it. This has partly been based on misconceptions, including that adolescents become resilient to neglect and that neglect is less harmful than other forms of maltreatment. Neglect has been linked to a variety of problems for adolescents, including to 'challenging' behaviours e.g. poor engagement with education, violence and aggression, increased risk-taking (offending or anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, early sexual intercourse). It can lead to poor physical health, difficulties with relationships (with peers and adults) and be behind 'internalised' problems – e.g. low levels of well-being or mental ill health.



*Recognising the importance of this aspect, the CHSCB focussed on adolescent neglect in its 2017 Annual Conference in the City of London*

### SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE

The partnership's focus on self-harm and suicide accelerated over 2017/18 as a consequence of the deaths of three young people from Hackney. Developments remain ongoing and learning identified from three reviews undertaken by the CHSCB is due to be published shortly.

### PREVENTING RADICALISATION

Radicalisation is driven by an ideology that sanctions the use of violence and encourages the rejection of a cohesive and integrated society. Often those who are most vulnerable are deliberately targeted through a narrative that makes this ideology seem as both attractive and compelling. The City of London has experienced first-hand the devastating effects of radicalisation in recent years. In order to protect our communities, partner agencies in the City must provide those at risk of radicalisation with the support and guidance needed to turn away from violence.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act received Royal Assent on 12th February 2015. Prevent was placed on a statutory footing in July 2015 to ensure all specified authorities in local areas, as a minimum, understand the local threat and take action to address it, assess if local frontline staff need training to recognise radicalisation, and to ensure that all of those who need to work together to deliver the programme do so in the most effective way. The City of London has not been identified as a Priority Area and as such, receives no additional Home Office funding to deliver its Prevent programme. The Safer City Partnership (SCP) retains overall governance of this agenda, which includes a focus on ensuring there are sufficient arrangements in place to safeguard children and young people. The CHSCB identified the threat of radicalisation as a priority area for its business planning going forward. The CHSCB continued to monitor the progress of the SCP in responding to the threat of radicalisation in 2017/18 and will continue to do so going forward.



*One young person resident in the City was identified at risk of radicalisation in 2017/18 and referred to the City's Channel Panel.*





## Violence Against Women and Girls

Children and young people who are exposed to domestic violence and abuse can grow up in a vacuum of what is expected in terms of a positive and healthy relationship. This can create additional vulnerabilities and/or harmful behaviours. It is estimated that 7.1% of women and 4.4% of men have experienced intimate violence. Applying these figures to local populations would suggest that 200 women and 100 men in the City of London have experienced intimate violence in the past year.

Responding proactively and in collaboration with the Safer City Partnership (SCP) remains a key priority for the CHSCB, recognising both the short and long-term

impact on the safety and welfare of children and young people. During 2017/18, the SCP continued its focus on developing services through implementing the [City's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(DASV\) strategy](#) and action plan via the DASV Forum.

### MARAC

Operational arrangements for MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment case conference) processes are clearly defined in the City. The City MARAC operates a lower threshold than in other local authorities and takes cases where a preventative approach would be helpful. This is good practice and enables children with these families to have a better co-ordinated multi agency service. In 2017/18, one MARAC was held where children were involved.

### IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL TO IMPROVE SAFETY (IRIS) PROGRAMME

The [Identification and Referral to Improve Safety \(IRIS\)](#) programme was established in 2007 in response to evidence indicating a high prevalence of domestic violence among women attending GP surgeries. The programme trains primary health care professionals to identify domestic violence and abuse and creates a mechanism so women can be referred to specialist domestic violence services. Since July 2014, all City and Hackney GPs have signed up to the service, which is delivered by Nia, a voluntary sector organisation.

- **171 IRIS referrals received across City & Hackney in 2017/18 (176 in 2016/17).**
- **The CCG continue to fund the MARAC Liaison Nurse who has proved to be a pivotal link between health and the VAWG sector.**

### FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION & HARMFUL PRACTICES

In April 2014, it became mandatory for NHS healthcare professionals to record Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in a patient's healthcare record, if they identify that a woman or girl has had FGM. In September 2014, it also became mandatory for Acute Trusts to collate and submit basic anonymised details about the number of patients who have had FGM to the Department of Health. Changes to the Serious Crime Act mean that health care professionals, teachers and social care workers are required to report 'known' cases of FGM – visually confirmed or revealed by a girl (under the age of 18) affected – to the police. Working closely with Public Health, partner agencies and the Health and Wellbeing Board, the CHSCB continued to influence and monitor the effectiveness of the partnership response to FGM.

In January 2016, the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board formally agreed the City and Hackney FGM Strategy and associated action plan. A steering group was subsequently established and this continues to coordinate the strong progress made on this issue to date. The document '[Tackling and Preventing FGM: City and Hackney Strategy 2016-2019](#)' was published in January 2016 and its overarching aim is to promote the welfare of girls and women by preventing FGM and reducing the impact of the practice, by knowing and understanding the issue locally, providing strong leadership, prevention initiatives, protection and support to those who need it the most. The strategy focuses on the following three priorities:

- **prevention and early intervention**
- **strong and effective leadership**
- **effective protection and provision**

The strategy is monitored by the City and Hackney FGM Steering Group, which is chaired by the Director of Public Health and includes officers from the CHSCB, Hackney Learning Trust, VAWG specialist organisations, the CCG and HUHFT.

- **From the data available, it is clear that very few City resident women and girls are at risk of FGM and there are no high-risk communities living in the City of London.**
- **Despite there being no referrals, an FGM flag on the casework management system in the City will ensure the monitoring, recording and consideration of FGM as and when required.**
- **A FGM single point of contact (SPOC) in the Police Public Protection Unit is established. The SPOC has been trained and works with the Met**





*Police on operations at airports during summer holidays to identify those at risk.*

- *Discussions held with the Police and Community Safety have led to the Vulnerable Victims Advocate organising alternative locations for weekly surgeries on key safeguarding issues – including FGM.*
- *FGM training is included in the City of London Police induction.*
- *Health professionals covering the City of London received training on FGM, with all health visitors continuing to receive this as part of their mandatory Level 3 training.*
- *GPs have a mandatory coding for FGM and this is shared with midwives and health visitors.*

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Between 12 March 2018 and 16 March 2018, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted [a joint inspection of the local area of The City of London](#) to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

Inspectors spoke with children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities, parents and carers, local authority and National Health Service (NHS) officers. They visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they were implementing the special educational needs reforms. Inspectors looked at a range of information about the performance of the local area, including the local area's self-evaluation. Inspectors met with leaders from the local area for health, social care and education. They reviewed performance data and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning. A range of positive findings reflect the strengths of the local safeguarding response to children and young people with SEND.

Some are set out below:

- Children and young people **feel safe** and gave examples of how they know **to keep themselves safe**. They also said that they feel welcome when using leisure and health facilities.

- Leaders have ensured that there is **effective multi-agency working**.
- Professionals and leaders have a clear **understanding of the risks** facing children and young people.
- Leaders and professionals have a detailed understanding of the needs of children, young people and their families. Professionals involved in meeting the needs of children and young people work well together, sharing information and communicating effectively. Strong support is also provided to parents and carers where needed.
- The views of children and young people and their parents are fully collated and considered.
- Families across the City receive **timely and appropriate advice and interventions** in relation to health needs.
- Parents, health professionals and early years staff are **complimentary about the range of services** being provided at Hackney Ark...This co-location means that a swift and efficient process is in place for vulnerable children.
- There is a range of ways to engage parents and carers in the early years, including fail-safes to make sure that any vulnerable children do not 'fall through the net'. Information-sharing in the early years is plentiful.

Some relevant areas for development include:

- Improve the City's **data collection** with providers that educate City children outside of the local area.
- ...build on initial work to identify any children or young people who may have a social, psychological or emotional **health need**, particularly for those aged 13 to 19. Their recent research has suggested that this needs to be explored further.
- **Co-production** (a way of working where children and young people, families and those that provide the services work together to create a decision







or a service which works for them all) is at an early stage of development, for example collating and analysing their feedback as part of the transition process so that any improvements made reflect their views and opinions.

- The **targets** that health professionals set for children and young people are not always included in EHC plans in their entirety. This means that families and professionals are unable to focus on the very specific outcomes that have been identified, for example in relation to speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.
- Some parents expressed some dissatisfaction with the timeliness of **follow-up to concerns**. However, this was not commonplace among the views expressed by the wide range of parents spoken to during the inspection.

## Safer Workforce

All LSCBs have responsibility for ensuring that there are effective procedures in place for investigating allegations against people who work with children. The Designated Officer (known as the LADO) should be informed of all such allegations and provide advice and guidance to ensure individual cases are resolved as quickly as possible. Reporting to the Assistant Director of People Services, the LADO role in the City is held by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager. LADO referrals in the City are dealt with in accordance to statutory guidance, in a timely way and have been effective in protecting children.

- There were four Referrals to the LADO in 2017/18, a reduction from seven in 2016/17 and eleven in 2015/16.
- Overall numbers remain relatively low.
- Three of the four referrals met the threshold for LADO involvement and proportionate increase on 2016/17 (only one of seven met the threshold).
- There were no criminal prosecutions.
- Similar to previous years, there were no LADO referrals from the Police. The City of London, Public Protection Unit (PPU) has identified that there have been no professional allegations for the City of London that would have met the threshold for a professional allegation.

### CATEGORIES OF CONCERN

Over the last six years, the highest number of referrals have been made relating to those in the education sector. The next highest referral category has concerned professionals / volunteers in Early Years' settings and Teaching agencies. This overall trend continues.

### THEMES

There appears to be a direct correlation between high-profile cases of abuse being in the press and an increase in historical allegations. Research identifies that victims of abuse often find it difficult to disclose and this is often exacerbated if they are the only victim to come forward. The historical allegation in 2017/18 was precipitated by the disclosures against Harvey Weinstein, and the second victim only came forward once they knew they were not the only person.

### AWARENESS RAISING

Awareness raising activities by both the CHSCB and the City of London continued during 2017/18. This was achieved through the following:

- **Submitting the [LADO Annual report for 2017/18](#) to a range of City and CHSCB committees.**
- **The City of London delivering focussed training on the LADO role and professional allegations.**
- **Safer Recruitment training being delivered by the CHSCB.**

*In 2016/2017 it was identified that there was limited regulation around nannies and au-pairs. Parents and carers were often employing nannies and au pairs with limited knowledge on the safer recruitment process. Often individuals in these roles will be working and living in the family's home, having unsupervised access to young children. This became a priority for 2017/18 and guidance, in the form of a postcard, was developed and distributed to families through various networks.*



*Information on the postcard highlighted key areas around safer recruitment and how to register nannies and au-pairs on Ofsted's voluntary register. Details were also provided on who to contact should they have any concerns about someone caring for their child, with details on how to contact the LADO within the City of London. The card was co-produced by the City of London Corporation and the CHSCB and has been distributed to schools through the Safeguarding Education Forum and Early Years Settings in March 2018. The impact of this initiative will be reviewed in the LADO report for 2018/2019.*





# Safeguarding Context in Hackney

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The Board

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Technology &  
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Hackney  
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Progress in Hackney  
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Learning &  
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Priorities or next  
year & beyond

What you need  
to know

CHSCB  
Membership



# Hackney Safeguarding Snapshot 2017/18

Approximately **63,048** children and young people under 18.

**23%** of total population.

**28%** of children living in in poverty.

**26%** of children in primary schools in receipt of free school meals (national average 13.7%)

**29.7%** of children in secondary schools in receipt of free school meals (national average 14.4%)

**69.4%** education settings graded outstanding / **50%** graded good / **1.3%** requires improvement / **1.3%** inadequate for personal development.

**437** children were subject to a CAF and MAT intervention in 2017/18.

**271** new early help cases identified and supported through the MAT process.

Young Hackney are working with **600** young people though Early Help Teams, providing tailored support.

Approximately **165,283** attendances at

activities delivered by Young Hackney from young people throughout the year.

**35-50** young people at risk of CSE being monitored by the MASE at any one point throughout the year during 2017-18.

**78** children missing from home / **162** episodes of children going missing from home.

**78** children missing from care / **555** episodes of children going missing from care.

**13,802** contacts to Hackney CFS.

**4,433** referrals.

**15.6%** re-referrals.

**4,438** assessments completed by Hackney CFS.

**44.7** days – average timeliness of assessments.

**987** child protection investigations.

**200** Children on a Child Protection Plan as of March 2018.

**2806** open Children in Need cases as of March 2018 (excl. those in assessment, CP Plan and LAC).

**241** children with a disability (open to Disabled Children Service).

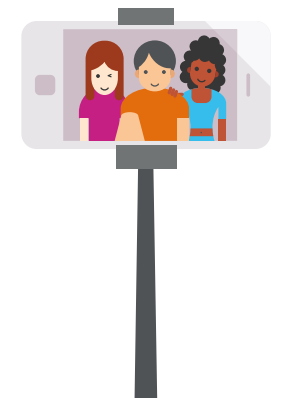
**381** children & young people looked after as of March 2018.

**230** MARAC meetings involving children and young people living in families with domestic violence.

**332** individual cases open to Hackney Council's Domestic Violence and Abuse Team as of March 2018.

**165** allegations against staff working with children and young people.

Around **700** children & young people receiving help from CAMHS at any given time.



The categories and themes set out in this section do not cover all the factors influencing the risk to children and young people within the London Borough of Hackney. The focus is on key local vulnerabilities and related themes, about which the CHSCB needs to have heightened scrutiny in terms of effective multi-agency practice to protect children and young people.

## Hackney Demographics

The London Borough of Hackney is an inner-city London borough. There are approximately 60,000 children and young people under the age of 18 years, representing 4% of the total population. Of these, around 19,000 are aged less than five years. Over 58% of children and young people living in Hackney belong to black or other minority ethnic backgrounds, compared with 21.5% in the country as a whole.

It is a richly diverse community with significant numbers of Asian, Black African, Black Caribbean, Black British, Turkish, Kurdish and Charedi Jewish children. Hackney's Orthodox Jewish Community population of around 30,000 represents more than 10% of Hackney's total population and around 50% of the community is under the age of 19 years. There are over 180 languages spoken in the borough. Hackney is ranked the second most deprived borough in England and it is estimated that 35.6% of children and young people in Hackney are living in poverty, with around 28-32% eligible for and in receipt of free school meals.

## Contacts, Referrals & Assessments

The First Access Screening Team (FAST) is the multi-agency team that records all "contacts" made to them regarding concerns for children and young people. Any of these contacts can progress to a referral and if appropriate, an assessment, if the concerns suggest that the statutory involvement of Hackney Children and Families Service (CFS) is required. If a statutory response by CFS is not required, the FAST ensures swift signposting and engagement as necessary with early help services.

In 2017/18, FAST received 13802 contacts from a range of sources of which 4563 were accepted as a referral to CFS. This was an 16% increase in the number of referrals compared to 2016/17. The number of referrals per 10,000 increased in Hackney from 631.5 in 2016/17 to 710.4 in 2017/18. This is significantly higher than the rate for statistical neighbours (555) and the England average (552.2). The

FAST continues to support high quality of decision making in respect of risk and need.

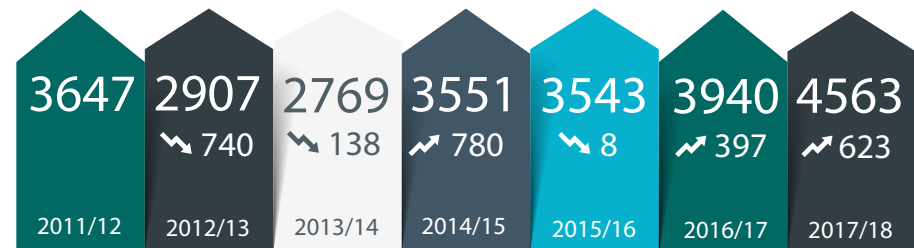
### CONTACTS PER WEEK



### CONTACTS PER YEAR



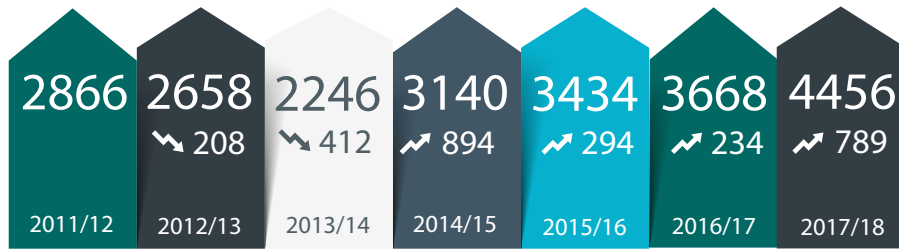
### REFERRALS







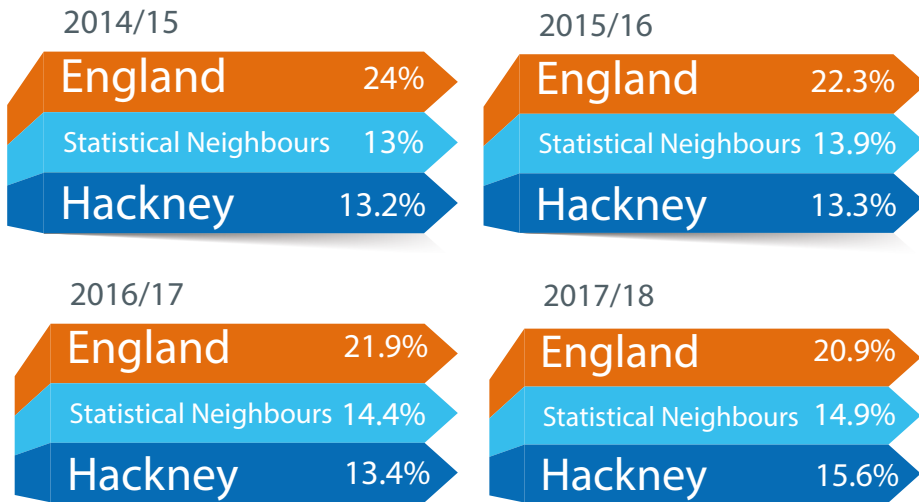
## ASSESSMENTS



The percentage of re-referrals increased from 13.4% to 15.6%, significantly lower than the national average (20.9%) and marginally higher than Statistical Neighbours (14.9%). This lower than average repeat referral rate, combined with the overall increase in referrals, continues to point towards children, young people and their families receiving effective social work support and that this support, when needed, is sustained by partner agencies once a case is closed to CFS.

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### PERCENTAGE OF RE-REFERRALS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF A PREVIOUS REFERRAL



Following contact, the FAST aims to ensure that only those children meeting thresholds for statutory assessments are progressed as referrals to CFS. Local Authorities undertake these assessments to determine what services to provide and what action to take. The full set of statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 can be found [here](#).

4456 assessments were completed in 2017/18 – a 22% increase from 2016/17.

The number of strategy discussions held in 2017/18 decreased from 1356 in 2016/17 to 1182. However, this data continues to reflect a continued focus on children and young people suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, with Hackney CFS continuing to work hard over to ensure there is better engagement with health professionals in those discussions. The number of child protection enquiries following strategy discussions reduced to 156.5 per 10,000 remaining lower than Statistical neighbour (184.1) and England (166.9) averages.

In terms of the timeliness of assessments, Hackney CFS continues to exercise dispensation, agreed by the Department for Education, for statutory assessment timescales, which has enabled CFS to adopt a proportionate and flexible approach with families during assessment. The average length of assessment in 2017/18 was 44.7 days, continuing the trend of this improving. Hackney largely remains close to the 45 day national assessment timeframe and in the context of increasing demand, this is reflective of focussed practice by front-line staff and their managers.

The Ofsted inspection in 2016 noted that in just over a quarter of cases seen, assessments were not completed within a timescale that was meeting individual children's needs.





## Children on Child Protection Plans

Hackney CYPS initiated work over 2016/17 to improve both the quality and management oversight of assessment activity undertaken.



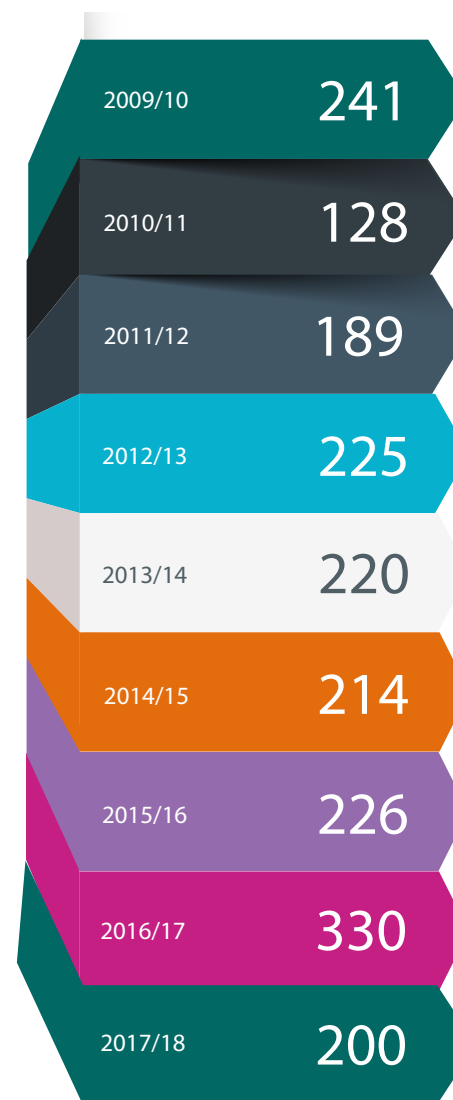
*Plans and timescales for assessment are now set at the start of an assessment and are reviewed at unit meetings. Assessments open for longer than average are now audited by a service manager. Average assessment timescales have decreased year on year since the inspection. Hackney CFS Full year report to members 2017/18.*

Following a child protection enquiry, where concerns of significant harm are substantiated and the child is judged to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, social workers and their managers should convene an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). An ICPC brings together family members (and children / young people where appropriate) with supporters, advocates and professionals to analyse information and plan how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child / young person. If the ICPC considers that the child / young person is at a continuing risk of significant harm, they will be made the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP).

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From 2011 to 2017, there has been an increasing trend in the number of children and young people subject to a CPP in Hackney. However, following a 30% increase seen between 2016 and 2017, there has been a significant swing, with CP Plans decreasing by 39% as at the end of March 2018 (from 330 to 200). Noting the rationale for this below, the CHSCB has committed to undertake further auditing of the decision making in this regard.

*Considerable work took place in 2017/18, led by the Managing Demands Group that was established by Hackney CFS in July 2017, to understand and address the increase in Child Protection Plans in 2016/17. This has now decreased significantly to a level in line with the number of plans in the years prior to 2016/17. Extensive audits have taken place and these have led to the re-introduction of a consultation stage allowing practitioners to have conversations with Independent Chairs around the rationale for recommending a Child Protection Plan, and more consideration is given about whether it is appropriate for all children from a large sibling group to be on a Child Protection Plan and on identifying alternative types of plans and support that may be more appropriate for young people aged over 16. Hackney CFS Full year report to members 2017/18.*





Monitoring of CPPs lasting two years or more is used to indicate the effectiveness of the CPP in eliminating or significantly reducing the risk of significant harm. Hackney CYPS maintained a robust monitoring process for these cases, with the percentage of children subject to a CPP for more than 2 years remaining at 3% at 31 March 2018. This is good practice and reflects strong quality assurance activity in respect of the planning on long-terms cases.

Related to this indicator is the number of children subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time. This measure is used as a potential indicator as to whether a CPP has been successful in effectively reducing risk. During 2017/18, the percentage of children being subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time decreased again from 16% to 13.1%. This additional improvement in performance is positive and continues to be supported by a robust oversight process involving relevant senior managers.

At the end of March 2018, despite a slight reduction, Emotional Abuse (50.5%) continues to exceed Neglect (38.5%) as the highest category CPP category. Scrutiny by the CHSCB has established the likely rationale for this change being linked more specific categorising by Child Protection Conference Chairs. The associated cause is likely to relate to the number of cases where domestic violence and abuse is an issue.

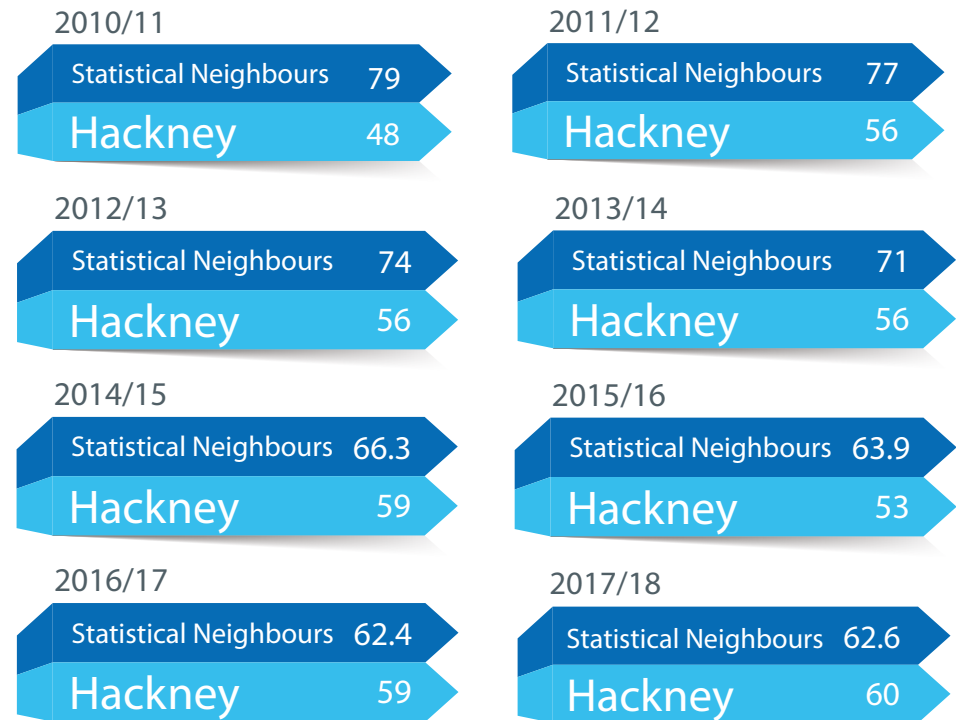
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## Looked After Children

A child or young person who is “looked after” is in the care of the local authority. They can be placed in care voluntarily by parents struggling to cope, they can be unaccompanied asylum seeking children; or in other circumstances, Hackney CFS and partners will intervene because the child or young person is at risk of significant harm.

As at 31st March 2018, Hackney was responsible for looking after 381 children and young people compared to 371 at the end of March 2017. 217 children and young people entered care in the year, a 12% decrease compared to 2016/17. Overall numbers have increased since 2011 (270), and whilst Hackney has historically had lower numbers of children in care per 10,000 population under age 18 than the England average and statistical neighbours, this gap is closing.

The number of young people aged 14-17 entering care has increased since 2014 and accounts for the largest proportion of admissions to care each year (49% in 2017/18). However, during 2017/18 a reduction of 14% was experienced.



\*Rate by 10,000

## Placements

On the whole, stability is associated with better outcomes for children. Proper assessment of a child’s needs and a sufficient choice of placements to meet the varied and specific needs of different children are essential if appropriate stable placements are to be achieved. Inappropriate placements tend to break down and lead to frequent moves. The percentage of looked after children with three or more placements in one year decreased in 2017/18 from 18% to 11%. This is now in line with the statistical neighbour average and national performance on this indicator. The children who experienced multiple placement moves were generally aged over 13 years; their placement changes were associated with issues linked to higher levels of need and complexity related to adolescence. Hackney CFS developed a specific placement strategy to respond to this challenge, with relevant actions being implemented over 2017/18.





*Hackney's multi-strand placement stability strategy has led to improved performance over the past year. It has promoted the importance of placement stability with staff, encouraging them to build a 'team around the placement' which aims to identify placement fragility early on in order to devise a response to make placements more resilient and prevent break down. Hackney CFS Full year report to members 2017/18.*

The percentage of looked after children aged under 16 looked after continuously for at least 2½ years who have been living in the same placement for at least 2 years (or placed for adoption and their adoptive placement together with previous placement lasting for at least 2 years) as at 31st March 2018 was 62%, a reduction from 69% in the previous year. This fall is considered to be associated with a number of young people reaching adolescence and their carers struggling to cope with increasingly complex behaviour.

Most placement moves are carefully planned, with the majority of children continuing to reside in their new placement more than 12 months after the move. This cohort is largely made up of children and young people who entered care at a younger age, and this is a clear factor that contributes towards improved stability.

Similar to earlier years, the vast majority of looked after children are in foster placements (72%). Hackney has seen an increase in the use of residential placements (children's homes), with approximately 25 children living in residential placements at the end of March 2018 (an increase from 4 in the previous year). No young person was placed in secure accommodation. Again, the use of residential placements is likely to reflect the children in care cohort being more complex, with more challenging needs that foster placements are unable to manage.

Of the 381 children looked after by Hackney at March 2018, 23% were placed in Hackney, 2% down on the year before. 80% of the total looked after children were placed in London local authorities (including Hackney, and neighbouring and non-neighbouring boroughs). 18% were placed in neighbouring local authorities (Waltham Forest, Newham, Haringey, Islington, Tower Hamlets or City), and 39% were placed in other London local authorities. 10% were placed in non-neighbouring local authorities, classified as being 'at a distance'. The majority of looked after children in placements classified as being 'at a distance' are placed in local authorities adjoining London, such as Essex, Kent and Hertfordshire. These figures are consistent with other London boroughs.

## Care Proceedings

The rate of care proceeding applications in Hackney fell slightly from 15.8 per 10,000 in 2016/17 to 14 per 10,000 in 2017/18. This rate remains just above the national average (12.2 per 10,000).

## Domestic Violence and Abuse

Ensuring a co-ordinated and robust response to domestic violence and abuse is a priority for the CHSCB. A comprehensive review of the response to domestic violence and abuse was initiated in 2014. A new local Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy continues to be implemented by the partnership. The Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) became part of the CFS Early Help and Prevention Service in April 2017. DAIS works with anyone experiencing domestic abuse who is living in Hackney, aged 16 or over, of any sex and gender, and of any sexual orientation. The service assesses need; provides information and support on legal and housing rights; and supports service users with court attendance and to obtain legal protection. The service also works with perpetrators of domestic abuse to try to reduce risk.

- DAIS received 1,165 referrals in 2017/18. There has been a year on year increase in the number of referrals the service receives with a 42% increase between 2015/16 and 2017/18.
- 477 cases were heard at MARAC in 2017/18, a decrease of 4% from 2016/17 when 497 cases were heard.
- 96 (20%) of the total number of cases heard at MARAC were 'repeat' referrals.
- In 230 of the 477 cases (48%) there were children in the household.
- A total of 406 children were potentially being impacted by high risk domestic abuse.





## Child Sexual Exploitation

Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Hackney is a priority for the CHSCB. The multi-agency work to tackle CSE, co-ordinated by the CHSCB Vulnerable Adolescents Steering Group, continued during 2016/17 with the range of achievements set out later in this report. Over the course of 2017/18, there were 71 children & young people at risk of CSE being monitored through the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation meetings.

## Missing Children

- 78 children missing from home
- 162 episodes of children going missing from home
- 78 children missing from care
- 555 episodes of children going missing from care
- In the 2017/18 academic year, the Children Missing Education Team (CME) received 1365 referrals, a slight decrease on 1399 referrals received in 2016/17 and 1013 referrals in 2015/16.

## Selective Home Education

As of July 2017, 341 children were registered as receiving elective home education compared to 281 the previous year. Numbers are showing year on year increases. A clear protocol exists between Hackney CSC and HLT to manage these arrangements. These arrangements remain subject to on-going and robust scrutiny by Hackney Learning Trust and the CHSCB.

## Private Fostering

A child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) who is cared for and provided with accommodation by someone other than a parent, person with parental responsibility or a close relative for 28 days or more is privately fostered. As at the end of March 2017 there were 21 children in private fostering arrangements in Hackney (an increase in 3 from 2016/17). Three of these arrangements were new in 2016/17. Comparison with national and statistical neighbours has not been undertaken following the DfE ceasing to publish statistics on notifications and closing the private fostering data collection for local authorities.

## Young Carers

Young carers are children and young people under 18 who provide regular or on-going care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances. A young carer becomes vulnerable when the level of care giving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes excessive or inappropriate for that child, risking impacting on his or her emotional or physical well-being or educational achievement and life chances'.



*At the end of March 2018, Hackney Young Carers Project, funded by Hackney CFS, was working with 185 young carers compared to an average of 209 in the previous year. The project provides a variety of support services which include group work, and one to one work with children in more complex situations.*

## SEND

At the end of March 2018, the Disabled Children Service in Hackney was working with 241 children and young people. The Disabled Children Service manages low level safeguarding concerns although where there are increased concerns or it becomes evident that a parent is unable to safeguard their child from harm; Hackney CSC will investigate the concerns. The Disabled Children's Service remains involved throughout. 4% of Child Protection Plans involved a child or young person with a disability at the end of 2017/18 – an increase from 2.1% in 2016/17.

## Youth Offending

The young people who are involved with Youth Justice in Hackney often have complex needs requiring significant support both in and out of custody. In 2017/18, there were 111 new entrants into the criminal justice system compared to 114 in 2016/17 and 103 in 2015/16. There has been an increase reduction in re-offending in 2017/18 (70) compared to 59 at the end of March 2017.

## Children's Mental Health

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in City and Hackney are provide by Homerton University NHS Foundation Trust (First Steps and the CAMHS disability team, a joint service with the ELFT CAMHS); Clinicians







employed by London Borough of Hackney's children's social care and the Referrals to ELFT CAMHS again increased during 2017/18 to 1320 from 1255 in 2016/17 and 1098 in 2015/16.

Specialist Service is provided by the East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT). ELFT CAMHS provides the specialist (tier 3) community based service, the CAMHS provision within the Young Hackney Service and a service for adolescents with more complex mental health needs, for example, first onset psychosis and complex eating disorders. East London NHS Foundation Trust also provides the inpatient service (tier 4) and the out-of-hours service for City and Hackney.

Referrals to ELFT CAMHS again increased during 2017/18 to 1320 from 1255 in 2016/17 and 1098 in 2015/16. The level of referrals to specialist CAMHS also further increased to 1445 from 1269 in 2016/17. The number of presentations by children and young people at A&E for self-harm reduced slightly to 32 from 41 in 2016/17.

For 2017/18 the total number of young people receiving inpatient care remained static at 31 cases. This group are supported by the Adolescent Team who provide assertive outreach, home treatment model of intervention in order to prevent young people from being admitted to inpatient (Tier 4) services and provide the support for them to be treated at home.

## Radicalisation

A key part of the Prevent programme is to stop people being drawn into supporting terrorism. In Hackney a multi-agency Channel panel, chaired by the Head of Safer Communities, works at the pre-criminal stage to support vulnerable individuals where a risk of radicalisation is assessed and a plan of action devised. There were 17 subjects referred to Hackney Channel Panel in 2017/18. Eight of these referrals involved young under 18.

## MAPPA

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are the statutory measures for managing sexual and violent offenders. The Police, Prison and Probation Services (Responsible Authority) have the duty and responsibility to ensure MAPPA are established in their area and for the assessment and

management of risk of all identified MAPPA offenders. The purpose of MAPPA is to help reduce the re-offending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders in order to protect the public from serious harm, by ensuring all agencies work together effectively. Across London on 31 March 2018, there were 6317 Category 1 'Registered Sex Offenders' (RSOs) (an increase of 322 from 2016/17), 3833 Category 2 'Violent Offenders' (and increase of 163 from 2016/17) and 24 Category 3 'Other Dangerous Offenders' (an increase of 3 from 2016/17). Further information is available in the [MAPPA Annual report for 2017/18](#) for London.

## Alcohol & Substance Misuse

Young Hackney provides specialist treatment for young people affected by substance misuse – either directly or because a family member is using drugs. The service also has a dedicated officer who provides support and interventions for young people in contact with youth justice. In 2017/18, the Substance Misuse Team worked with 202 young people on a targeted basis and delivered outreach sessions that attracted 5211 young people, 2000 more than the previous year.

## Mental Health

The prevalence of severe mental illness in Hackney and the City of London remains higher than that in comparable local authorities and significantly higher than the England average. In 2017/18, 1223 statutory assessments undertaken by Hackney CFS featured parental mental health as an issue (an increase from 1003 in 2016/17, 826 in 2015/16 and 694 recorded in 2014/15). These statistics reflect the ongoing importance of this issue to children and young people living in Hackney and the rationale behind the focus of partner agencies in developing a number of flagship projects to cater for mental health needs.





# Progress in Hackney

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	The Board	Communication	A Healthy Workforce	Technology & Social Media	City Safeguarding Context	Progress in the City 17/18	Hackney Safeguarding Context	<b>Progress in Hackney 17/18</b>	Learning & Improvement	The Child Death Overview Panel	Training & Development	Priorities or next year & beyond	What you need to know	CHSCB Membership	47
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# Unregistered Settings

“ Despite ongoing concerns about children and young people attending unregistered settings in Hackney, very little practical progress was made over 2017/18. Large numbers of local children continue to attend these settings, primarily Yeshivas and as such remain outside the line of sight of safeguarding professionals.

As a safeguarding partnership, we continue to have no direct mechanism to ensure that the premises within which children congregate are safe; that the infrastructure is sound; environment appropriate or that contemporary safer recruitment practices are being applied to those working frequently and routinely with children.

Disappointingly, despite repeated attempts to engage the community leaders and cooperate in the development of a safeguarding reassurance framework, there has been little progress.

In this sense, I return to what I have been advocating since 2014, that this matter can only be resolved through legislative change. It is now imperative that government act and act swiftly. Whilst acknowledging the impact of Brexit on Parliamentary time, government must implement its stated intentions as set out in the [Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper](#) published in March 2018, and force such settings into regulatory alignment.

Without this, the children and young people for whom we are equally responsible, will continue to be exposed to a two-tier safeguarding system that is simply unacceptable. Once again, I want to put it on record that I am not prepared to wait for the next scandal to happen (as seen in Australia and the USA) before this issue gains the traction that it warrants. When something goes wrong, as it inevitably will, people will understandably want to know who knew what and who did what.

Whilst the Local Authority leadership team and partners will continue to do what is within their power, this power is not sufficient to ensure effective safeguarding

arrangements in these settings and this need to change.

Both the ability and accountability for taking action right now remains firmly with central government. However, there is equal responsibility on the community itself to grasp the opportunities being offered and move beyond reassuring words to reassuring action.

## JIM GAMBLE QPM



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## Early Help

Children and young people in Hackney continue to have access to and benefit from an extremely wide range of early help services that are sharply focused on meeting the diverse needs of local communities. These services are delivered by the Hackney Children and Families Service, Hackney Learning Trust and a range of partners, including 74 schools, a network of 21 children centres delivering a range of services and working closely with schools, GPs and health colleagues as well as other local service providers, including the community and voluntary sector.

The framework supporting early help in Hackney has remained consistent since this inspection. The range of services available to children, young people and their families are set out within the Hackney Resource Guide and these continue to adapt and evolve based on the needs of the local population. The progress and impact of a range of local early help services are set out below:

### THE FIRST ACCESS SCREENING TEAM (FAST)

The First Access & Screening Team (FAST) acts as a single point of contact for referrals to Children's Social Care in Hackney and provides responsive screening activities. All contacts with FAST are immediately progressed as a referral to Children's Social Care if the threshold for a statutory assessment is met. Related signposting activity requires staff in FAST to have a continually updated knowledge of local services at their fingertips coupled with a sound understanding of the Hackney Child Wellbeing Framework.

The FAST ensures children are quickly allocated resources to meet their needs or safeguard their welfare, working to a principle of right service, first time. Like other Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) across London, FAST works alongside co-located partners from Hackney CFS, police, probation and health services to share information, jointly risk assess and promote access to services. This joined up approach enables proportionate and timely decisions about the type and level of services children need and facilitates timely access to resources. The FAST development continues to be co-ordinated by a multi-agency steering group of key partners. Hackney's FAST also supports children and young people to access universal and targeted early help provision including support via the allocation mechanisms of the Children's Centre Multi-Agency Team (MAT) meetings and the Children and Young People's Partnership Panel (CYPPP).



### CHILDREN'S CENTRE FAMILY SUPPORT AND MULTI-AGENCY TEAM (MAT) MEETINGS

Family support in children's centres seeks to improve parenting capacity, protect children from harm and neglect and improve outcomes for young children. Family support is part of the early help Universal Partnership Plus offer to families with children predominantly but not exclusively, under 6 years and is coordinated by the MAT (Multi-Agency Team meetings), underpinned by the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) early help assessment.

MAT meetings have continued to occur fortnightly in each of the six strategic Children's Centres in Hackney. Chaired by a qualified social worker employed by Hackney Learning Trust, MAT meetings are attended by a range of professionals including midwives, health visitors, Children's Centre family support teams, speech and language therapists and First Steps. Early help interventions delivered include: parenting programmes; individual and small group work to address family relationships and dynamics; support with: housing; finance; child behaviour; sleeping; toilet training; routines; and the transition to nursery and school.





- 437 children were subject to a CAF and MAT intervention in 2017/18 (271 new referrals).
- 266 cases were closed during this period.

### MULTI-AGENCY PANEL (MAP)

MAP meetings occur once per term in each school. Chaired and led by the school, MAPs focus on school and individual pupils who require additional support. MAPs are attended by a range of professionals. As part of Hackney's Common Support Framework, Pupil Support Plans (PSPs) are used as CAF-compliant assessments.

### YOUNG HACKNEY

Young Hackney provides early help, prevention and diversion service for children and young people aged 6-19 years old and up to 25 years if the young person has a special education need or disability. The service works with young people to support their development and transition to adulthood by intervening early to address adolescent risk, develop pro-social behaviours and build resilience. The service offers outcome-focused, time-limited interventions through universal plus and targeted services designed to reduce or prevent problems from escalating or becoming entrenched and then requiring intervention by Children's Social Care.

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65,672 attendances recorded at the 4 Young Hackney Hubs.

- 165,283 attendances (11% increase) at the wider youth provision delivered through Young Hackney and commissioned services for young people.
- At any one time, Young Hackney are working with approximately 600 young people through the Early Help teams, providing tailored individual support.



**'The majority of secondary schools in Hackney have an allocated Young Hackney team who will work with them to identify students who require additional support to participate and achieve. If schools identify students who would benefit**

**from individual support, Young Hackney will create an appropriate intervention with the school.'** Hackney CFS end of year report to members 2017/18

### FAMILY NURSE PARTNERSHIP

A Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) for City and Hackney began providing support to young first time mothers and their partners in May 2014. The FNP service supports young families by providing them with one-to-one support and advice

from pregnancy up until their child turns two. The programme is delivered by intensive and specially trained nurses, from a variety of backgrounds such as midwifery, health visiting and school nursing, who visit the family in their own home.

### THE PAUSE PROGRAMME

Pause works with women who have experienced or are at risk of having children removed from their care. By providing intensive individual support, the lives of those with whom it works are undoubtedly improving and significantly, the number of children needing to go into care has been reduced. Pause Hackney has continued to grow in strength and effectiveness in the borough. Pause Hackney brings together skills from clinical therapy, counselling, homeless outreach, substance misuse and criminology. Each practitioner holds a case load of between 6-8 women during an 18-month period of intensive, bespoke intervention tailored in accordance with the needs identified by the women and supported creatively by her practitioner with a strong emphasis being on the vital importance of relationship and strength based practice.

Founded in Hackney by Sophie Humphrey's, Pause now operates across 20 locations and during 2018, launched in both Scotland and Northern Ireland.



**"Every woman Pause works with we see as an individual and unique: we do not define them by their difficulties. Our relationship-based approach works, as this evaluation shows. We are extremely proud of the results we are seeing in our**

**Practices across the country, and to have this independent evaluation of the impact we're making is great."** Sophie Humphreys, Founding Chair of Pause





# Vulnerable Adolescents

Understanding the context in which children and young people live their lives is an essential feature of effective multi-agency intervention. For the CHSCB, this issue remains central to our overall approach in making children and young people safer. **Context is key.**

During 2017/18, the CHSCB implemented [a revised strategy](#) to cover vulnerable adolescents. This strategy builds on the significant progress made by the CHSCB and partners in safeguarding children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and those missing from home, care and education. It was developed in parallel to our improved understanding of the issues facing young people; established through focused problem profiles, national and local learning and intelligence pictures involving vulnerable adolescents. The strategy draws on evidence about effective practice from contemporary research. It is a focussed document that sets the parameters for developing our understanding of the complexities of young people's vulnerabilities and finding more effective multi-agency responses to these issues. The strategy maintains an unwavering focus on making sure that professionals are getting the basics right whilst striving to develop best practice in terms of the following priorities:

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- **Knowing our Problem, Knowing our Response**
- **Strong Leadership**
- **Prevention and Early Intervention**
- **Protection and Support**
- **Disruption and Prosecution**

Factors in scope within the strategy include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Child Sexual Exploitation (including Harmful Sexual Behaviours)**
- **Children missing from home, care and education**
- **Children and young people exposed to risk through gang involvement, county lines, trafficking and serious youth violence.**
- **Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA)**
- **Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)**
- **Adolescent Neglect**
- **Self-harm and suicide**
- **Substance Misuse**
- **Radicalisation**
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

## CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Understanding the nature and prevalence of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) and ensuring that partner agencies provide appropriate safeguarding responses and interventions remains a priority. In February 2017, a revised definition of CSE was issued by the Department for Education (DfE).



**'Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.'** DfE 2017

## THE HACKNEY CSE AND HSCB PROFILE

A detailed and comprehensive CSE and HSB dataset has been developed for the MASE (Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation group) by the Vulnerable Adolescents analyst which is being updated and analysed on an ongoing basis. The development of this dataset is in recognition of the ever-changing profile of CSE and HSB and acknowledges that traditional, periodically retrospective datasets, do not provide sufficient analysis of the current picture. The ongoing analysis of Hackney's dataset will enable identification of emerging themes which can inform service improvement. These themes are reported at the regular MASE meetings and actions are implemented as a result.

Analytical research has been undertaken to interrogate data relating to CSE and HSB and to identify emerging themes and trends which inform service development. Research has drawn on referral data from FAST, Police data and on data gathered at CSE and HSB MAP meetings. This research has explored the overlap with the missing children cohort and started to quantify emerging themes such as domestic violence and parental drug misuse and to identify any reoccurring locations and patterns around dates and times of incidents. The research has highlighted three broad CSE profiles in Hackney:

- **CSE risk resulting from peer-on-peer abuse (sexual offences/ exploitation against one or more victims and usually perpetrated in a**







group setting)

- **CSE risk from an adult perpetrator (typically a young person believing themselves to be in a ‘relationship’ with an adult after being introduced to them by a normally vulnerable friend, or through online contact).**
- **Exploitation via social media (inciting or encouraging a victim to take and send explicit images of his/herself).**



*During 2017/18, there were 39 Multi-Agency Planning (MAP) meetings held to identify the level of risk and develop an intervention plan for young people at risk of CSE or displaying HSB.*

**MULTI-AGENCY SEXUAL EXPLOITATION MEETINGS**

Operationally, monthly Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meetings have enabled partner agencies to develop their understanding of the extent and nature of CSE through sharing intelligence and identifying local themes and trends. Attendance at the MASE is good and reflects the strong and long-term commitment given by all agencies to tackling CSE. The Hackney CYPS analyst has been a major asset to the work on CSE.



*An average of 35-50 cases were being tracked by the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) group at any one point during the year. Analysis is being used to support the MASE restructure to broaden its remit to address a wider range of vulnerabilities and exploitation types (e.g. ‘county lines’, missing episodes), to allow for a more holistic focus on vulnerable adolescents, and to facilitate and support a transition to focusing on broader thematic issues.*

**EMPOWER - THE SAFER LONDON FOUNDATION**

Commissioned by Hackney Council, the Safer London Foundation has continued to work closely with partner agencies; raising awareness of CSE and directly supporting young people experiencing or at risk of sexual violence and exploitation. During 2017/18, it has provided a range of services in Hackney. Evidence of the impact delivered by Safer London is available [here](#).

**CHILDREN MISSING FROM HOME, CARE AND EDUCATION**

Ensuring that partner agencies provide the most appropriate safeguarding response for children who go missing from home, care and education remains a priority for the CHSCB. In 2015, the London Safeguarding Children Board

updated the London Child Protection Procedures and Guidance and agreed a protocol for children missing from care, home and education. Hackney agencies agreed to adopt these procedures as the local protocol.

The Police lead on all children who go missing from home or care and a coordinated response takes place with Hackney CFS working closely with the child’s parents or carers. For those young people who repeatedly go missing this co-ordinated response often involves a lead professional from education, Young Hackney, Youth Justice Service and the Integrated Gangs Unit. Hackney CFS has led on strengthening the partnership’s understanding of and response to children and young people who go missing from home and care. Missing episodes are considered as part of a broader spectrum of vulnerabilities effecting adolescents which include CSE, harmful sexual behaviour (HSB), radicalisation and gang and youth violence.

In order to ensure young people who frequently go missing are supported and that the Director and senior managers are kept informed, fortnightly missing children meetings are convened whereby practitioners provide an overview of the risk in relation to the child, the circumstances around the current missing episode and actions being taken to address risk.

When a young person returns from an episode of going missing, they are offered an independent return home (IRH) interview by the Children’s Rights Service. The most prominent themes in reasons children and young people have been going missing is ‘difficulties at home or school’, with overcrowding being highlighted in a number of cases. Mental health and emotional wellbeing was also a key precipitating factor for missing episodes and additional learning needs whereby young people became confused with how to get home or made poor decisions due to peer influences. Dominant and reoccurring themes for young people who persistently go missing continue to include the following:

- **Parental conflict around boundaries and risky peer groups**
- **CSE & Gangs**
- **School Pressure**
- **Safe Space**
- **Migrated children**
- **Contact arrangements**

The HLT Children Missing Education (CME) Team continues to ensure that





Hackney Council is meeting its statutory responsibilities in regard to the identification, monitoring and tracking of children missing or not receiving a suitable education. This includes liaison with FAST when there are safeguarding concerns. The work of the CME team fits closely with other strands of work to support vulnerable pupils including supporting schools and families to prevent poor school attendance, truancy, exclusions and supporting schools and families to get children back to school once absence has occurred. The team liaises closely with HLT Education Attendance and Admissions services.



*Missing children recording guidance has been updated and was shared with practitioners in November 2017. Improved missing children reporting processes have been implemented that now allow*

*clear management oversight of missing episodes and return home interviews. There has been an overall improvement in the uptake of return home interviews by young people in 2017/18 with 55 (81%) of children/young people who went missing from home accepting a Return Home Interview (compared to 72% in 2016/17) and 51 (82%) children/young people who went missing from care accepting a Return Home Interview (compared to 32% in 2016/17). Hackney CFS end of year report to members.*

## GANG INVOLVEMENT, COUNTY LINES, TRAFFICKING AND SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE

There are a number of ways in which young people can be put at risk by gang activity, both through participation in and as victims of gang violence which can be in relation to their peers or to a gang-involved adult in their household. Over 2017/18, the CHSCB's focus on this aspect in the context of vulnerable adolescents was further developed.

Briefings, issued by the [Government](#) and the [National Crime Agency](#), were circulated to partners in July and November 2017 respectively. A decision was made by the CHSCB that the 2018/19 conference would focus on the criminal exploitation of young people and that this would be the precursor to the CHSCB training programme rolling out more detailed training in this regard.

## ADOLESCENT NEGLECT

Like younger children, adolescents are more likely to experience neglect at home than any other form of child harm. A recent report by the [Children's Society](#) into adolescents and neglect found that there was evidence that professionals struggle to identify adolescent neglect and are unsure what to do when they

come across it. This has partly been based on misconceptions, including that adolescents become resilient to neglect and that neglect is less harmful than other forms of maltreatment. Neglect has been linked to a variety of problems for adolescents, including to 'challenging' behaviours e.g. poor engagement with education, violence and aggression, increased risk-taking (offending or anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, early sexual intercourse). It can lead to poor physical health, difficulties with relationships (with peers and adults) and be behind 'internalised' problems – e.g. low levels of well-being or mental ill health.



*Recognising the importance of this aspect, the CHSCB focussed on adolescent neglect in its 2017 Annual Conference in the City of London.*

## SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE

The partnership's focus on self-harm and suicide accelerated over 2017/18 as a consequence of the deaths of three young people from Hackney. Developments are ongoing and learning identified from three reviews undertaken by the CHSCB is due to be published shortly.

## PREVENTING RADICALISATION

Statutory guidance expects Local Authorities to assess the threat of radicalisation in their areas and to take appropriate action. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) retains overall governance of this agenda, which includes a focus on ensuring there are sufficient arrangements in place to safeguard children and young people. The CHSCB is represented on the Prevent Partnership Group, which is comprised of key community and statutory services. The Prevent Strategy is a key part of the Government's counter-terrorism Contest strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and has three objectives:

- **Challenging ideology**
- **Supporting vulnerable individuals**
- **Working with sectors and institutions**

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act received Royal Assent on 12th February 2015. Prevent was placed on a statutory footing in July 2015 to ensure all specified authorities in local areas, as a minimum, understand the local threat and take action to address it, assess if local frontline staff need training to recognise radicalisation, and to ensure that all of those who need to work together





to deliver the programme do so in the most effective way. Hackney has been classed as a Tier 2 Prevent “priority” area and receives funding from the Home Office for a local Coordinator and for funding Prevent projects.

Aligned with the statutory duty, a strategic priority for Hackney’s Prevent work is to ensure the safeguarding of children and young people to prevent them becoming drawn into supporting terrorism. The following activities have taken place to embed Prevent safeguarding:

- **Dedicated Prevent leads identified for each council directorate to act as a single point of contact for embedding Prevent safeguarding**
- **Representation on Channel Panel includes expertise in relation to both youth offending and safeguarding.**
- **There is an agreed referral process for Prevent referrals involving children and young people.**
- **Support provided to Hackney Learning Trust lead officers representing schools, early years, Citizenship leads, to understand the Prevent agenda and signs of radicalisation/ extremism in terms of safeguarding.**
- **In February 2017, the Counter Extremism Unit allocated LBH funding to employ a Community Engagement Coordinator post, with the role to support building more resilient communities and tackling the harms extremist cause.**
- **Faith school youth workers, foster carers and childminders have attended dedicated Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP).**
- **WRAP sessions delivered to faith schools, academies and free schools and assistance to update existing safeguarding policies and protocols to include Prevent safeguarding.**
- **WRAP sessions delivered to Early years, CFS social workers and the community.**

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### CHANNEL PANEL

A key part of the Prevent programme is to stop people being drawn into supporting terrorism. In Hackney a multi-agency Channel Panel, chaired by the Head of Safer Communities, works at the pre-criminal stage to support vulnerable individuals where a risk of radicalisation is assessed and a plan of action devised.

There is a defined process for agreeing whether a Channel referral will be accepted by the Panel as a Channel case. The Panel is held monthly, with a

comprehensive vulnerability assessment for each case undertaken. Where an assessment does not reach the threshold for Channel, the case is referred to other services, safeguarding panels or to where other forms of support can be provided, through a series of minuted and reviewed actions.

### PREVENT SAFEGUARDING REFERRAL PROCESS

Hackney has in place clearly agreed referral mechanisms to raise a Prevent safeguarding concern. A Prevent related referral form is accessible on the Council’s and the Hackney Learning Trust Prevent dedicated webpages. Equally, the Prevent referral form has been widely communicated across Hackney key sector partners and community representatives. Where appropriate the referral process has been integrated within key sectors safeguarding policies including schools, early year’s settings, sixth form colleges, NHS Homerton and across council services. Assessments are undertaken on all valid referrals. The Channel referral process is aligned to existing referral mechanisms, to avoid duplication, for all referrals raised concerning a young person or where a young person resides in a household of an individual, this is referred to Hackney Children and Families Service to undergo Children and Young People – FAST assessment.



*A key part of the Prevent programme is to stop people being drawn into supporting terrorism. In Hackney a multi-agency Channel panel, chaired by the Head of Safer Communities, works at the pre-criminal stage to support vulnerable individuals where a risk of radicalisation is assessed and a plan of action devised. There were 17 subjects referred to Hackney Channel Panel in 2017/18. Eight of these referrals involved young under 18.*

Case referrals continue to cover a wide range of behaviours/ situations including:

- **Sharing of extremist online material**
- **Use of extremist language that harbours a sense of injustice**
- **Abusive household including, neglect, substance misuse or violence**
- **Association with extremist groups**
- **Referrals have been across a range of extremist activity including far right.**





## Violence Against Women and Girls

It is estimated that in the past year 7.1 per cent of women and 4.4 per cent of men have experienced intimate violence. Applying these figures to local populations would suggest that 6,400 women and 3,900 men in Hackney have experienced intimate violence in the past year. In Hackney, domestic violence and abuse accounts for one in five violent crimes, which is the second highest reported rate in London. Responding proactively and in collaboration with the Community Safety Partnership remains a key priority for the CHSCB, recognising both the short and long-term impact on the safety and welfare of children and young people. The CHSCB is represented on Violence Against Women and Girls operational and strategic panels, which is comprised of statutory and voluntary sector organisations.

The partnership in Hackney progressed its ambition to move from a strategy based on tackling DV to one that aims at a wider approach responding to all forms of VAWG. This development follows national and regional policy and aims to embrace all forms of violence that are committed against women and girls as they have a number of commonalities and therefore suggest a linked approach.

### HACKNEY DOMESTIC ABUSE AND INTERVENTION SERVICE

The new model of service delivery implemented in 2016/17 was further embedded over 2017/18. The Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) encompasses the following areas:

- **Intervention Officers.** The Intervention Officer posts allow for the recruitment of social workers, former police officers, probation officers as well as qualified domestic abuse advocates. This will build a service with a mix of skills and backgrounds who are experienced in assessing and managing risk.
- **Perpetrator interventions.** This model integrates allows for the flexibility for staff to engage with perpetrators directly as needed to deliver a responsive, holistic and victim-focused risk management service.
- **Operational and strategic management.** Managers are responsible for operational case work and for strategic / partnership working. This differs from the usual model whereby a 'VAWG co-ordinator' role sits separately from the delivery of risk management services working with clients.

From April 2017, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) joined the Children and Families Service as part of the Early Help and Prevention Service.

DAIS works with anyone experiencing domestic abuse who is living in Hackney, aged 16 or over, of any sex and gender, and of any sexual orientation. The service assesses need; provides information and support on legal and housing rights; supports service users with court attendance; supports service users to obtain legal protection; and works with service users and other professionals to address their needs. The service also works with perpetrators of domestic abuse to try to reduce risk. Information about the DAIS will be included in next year's annual report.







## MARAC

The number of cases considered at MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment case conference) continues to reflect a robust response to providing multi-agency support to victims and children at risk of domestic violence and abuse.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of cases referred to MARAC	304	308	422	506	497	477

The Hackney MARAC continues to meet frequently and is chaired by Police and Hackney Council Safer Communities. In approximately 48% of cases there were children in the household (49% in 2017/18).

MARAC case numbers are higher in Hackney than SafeLives guidance based on the number of adults in the borough. 2017/18 saw 477 cases discussed when the recommended level for Hackney is 400 – still more than expected.

## THE SPECIALIST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT (SDVC)

The SDVC is a joint initiative between Hackney Council and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. A SDVC sits two days a week, with a specially trained judiciary and wrap-around support for victims/ witnesses. It is a partnership approach to domestic abuse by the police, prosecutors, court staff, probation, local authorities and specialist support services for victims. Agencies share information to identify and risk-assess cases, support victims and their families and bring offenders to justice. It has resulted in an increase in prosecutions and convictions, and victim satisfaction rates are also improving. Just over half of the cases going to the specialist court are Hackney cases. On a regional performance, London continues to have the lowest conviction rate of all regions. This aspect is subject to further scrutiny by the VAWG Board.

## IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL TO IMPROVE SAFETY (IRIS) PROGRAMME

The Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) programme was established in 2007 in response to evidence indicating a high prevalence of domestic violence among women attending GP surgeries. The programme trains primary health care professionals to identify domestic violence and abuse and creates a mechanism so women can be referred to specialist domestic violence services. An evaluation reported that all women felt safer and 88 per cent had

a greater awareness of their options following referral to IRIS. Hackney is the top performing area nationally in respect of IRIS. The CCG Designated Nurse is working with Public Health to develop a specific set of DV outcome measures for this project. Since July 2014, all City and Hackney GPs have signed up to the service, which is delivered by Nia, a voluntary sector organisation.

- 171 IRIS referrals received across City & Hackney in 2017/18 (176 in 2016/17).
- The CCG continue to fund the MARAC Liaison Nurse who has proved to be a pivotal link between health and the VAWG sector.







## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

In April 2014, it became mandatory for NHS healthcare professionals to record Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in a patient's healthcare record, if they identify that a woman or girl has had FGM. In September 2014, it also became mandatory for Acute Trusts to collate and submit basic anonymised details about the number of patients who have had FGM to the Department of Health. A new mandatory duty to report female genital mutilation (FGM) came into force on 31st October 2015 under the Serious Crime Act (2015).

Regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales, including those working in private education and healthcare, are now required to report known cases of FGM in under 18-year-olds to the police. This is a personal duty (i.e. the responsibility is that of the individual not the organisation) and requires social workers to report a disclosure of FGM from a girl or young woman to the police, with failure to report meaning the professional is subject to disciplinary measures.

In 2017/18, the FGM steering group continued to coordinate the FGM Strategy and associated action plan to ensure there was strong progress made on this issue. Working closely with Public Health, partner agencies and the Health and Wellbeing Board, the CHSCB continued to influence and monitor the effectiveness of the partnership response to FGM.

- *Figures recorded for 2017/18 show that 22 children were identified via FGM referrals, which led to 6 assessments and 1 Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order (FGMPO).*
- *In 2016/17, there were 87 referrals, 6 assessments and 1 FGMPO.*
- *The drop in referrals is considered attributable to more sophisticated assessment and over time, mothers with multiple children will have previously accessed advice and guidance.*



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# Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Between 27 November 2017 and 1 December 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted [a joint inspection of the local area of Hackney](#) to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

Inspectors spoke with children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities, parents and carers, local authority and National Health Service (NHS) officers. They visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they were implementing the special educational needs reforms. Inspectors looked at a range of information about the performance of the local area, including the local area's self-evaluation. Inspectors met with leaders from the local area for health, social care and education.

They reviewed performance data and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning. A range of positive findings reflect the strengths of the local safeguarding response to children and young people with SEND. These include:

- The **safety, inclusion and well-being** of children and young people who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities is central to the work of leaders and providers in Hackney. Young people typically say that they feel safe. Some can explain how they have been better enabled to keep themselves safe from the risks they see as predominant in their lives, such as those posed by violent crime.
- A **wide range of clinical services, support and training** is offered to parents and families. As a result, there are different options available to meet varying health needs and parents are well supported.
- Leaders hold schools and settings systematically and rigorously to account for improving outcomes.
- **Co-production and collaboration** is typically strong.

- Area leaders have succeeded in ensuring that **children and young people participate well in society**. Children talk enthusiastically about enjoying a wealth of sporting, social and cultural activities.
- Pupils who have SEN and/or disabilities typically **sustain progress** from their starting points. This includes those who do not have an education, health and care plan (EHCP).

Some relevant areas for development include:

- Though there has been some improvement in meeting the **20-week assessment timescale**, too many assessments are still not completed quickly enough.
- There was **little input from social care** into EHCPs sampled during the inspection. Leaders of providers visited typically agreed that the greater involvement of social care is an area for development.
- EHCPs sampled did not always **reflect all the health needs** of children and young people. The range of health professionals already involved with a child included within this process was also not reflected. This means that important information may be missed and wider health needs may not be considered.
- **Health assessments** for children in care are not currently aligned with EHCP assessments. This means that information is collected twice and families have to tell their story again.
- The designated medical officer (DMO) does not have the capacity currently to undertake **quality assurance of medical assessments**. She does not have a comprehensive oversight of children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities within health services.
- There is no formal process to involve health visitors, school nurses and children's community nurses in the education, health and care assessment process nor the development of plans.





## Safer Workforce

All LSCBs have responsibility for ensuring that there are effective procedures in place for investigating allegations against people who work with children. The Designated Officer of the Local Authority (known as the LADO) should be informed of all such allegations and provide advice and guidance to ensure individual cases are resolved as quickly as possible. The governance of the LADO post sits under the management of the Safeguarding and Learning Service within Hackney CFS.

- 165 referrals.
- A decrease of 27% since 2016/17 and the first reduction since 2010/11.
- Overall numbers remain encouraging and continue to reflect a system actively identifying and referring issues of concern involving those who work with children.
- The LADO continues to offer advice and support to these settings in conjunction with HLT to help them deal with undertaking internal investigations.

There were 21 cases reaching LADO threshold for an Allegations Against Staff & Volunteers (ASV) Meeting.

With regards to the outcomes of those cases, nine were substantiated, seven were unsubstantiated, two had an 'unfounded' outcome, 1 did not progress to an ASV meeting and two are ongoing/awaiting actions.

- An ASV meeting was held in four cases where sexual abuse was alleged. The allegation was unfounded in two of these cases. The police investigated the other two cases, with no further action taken in one case and the outcome of the police investigation still awaited in the other.

**“During the year, consultations about cases which did not meet the LADO threshold were not recorded, where they had been recorded previously. A final decision around recording of information, informed by discussion with data protection colleagues has been to record all consultations, as this evidences the breadth of work of the LADO and provides thematic information about individuals and employers which is valuable in the case of future allegations.”**

Hackney CFS end of year report to members

## CATEGORIES OF CONCERN

- **The category of physical abuse remains the largest** in terms of overall numbers (46%) which mirrors previous years (48% in 2016/17 and 49% in 2015/16) and there was an increase in the category of 'behaviour which questions the person's suitability' (25%) when compared to 2016/17 (19%).
- **The percentage of sexual abuse allegations increased again in 2016/17**, accounting for 13% of primary categories in 2016/17, compared to 10% in 2016/17 and 6.8% in 2015/16. here has been an increase in reporting of sexual abuse allegations, partly due to a better awareness by professionals to follow up on concerns. All sexual abuse allegations are now routinely cross-referenced with information held by the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Forum so that patterns of grooming/ abuse can be identified if present.
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## THEMES

- There was an increase in the number of children in education settings being aware of what conduct from staff is impermissible or inappropriate. A subsequent theme to this is parental awareness, not only of the consequences that staff members may face when an allegation had been made, but also seeking direct advice or making use of the LADO service as an avenue to challenge schools' outcomes.
- A small number of referrals related to offences committed via social media which is likely to increase over time.
- There was an increase in managers seeking guidance on HR related matters in terms of performance. These matters demand a high volume of professional hours and raise anxiety of both the employer and employee. The threshold for the allegations being made from a safeguarding perspective is considerably low.
- There was an increase in referrals related to suitability where incidents involving safeguarding of staff members' own children raises concerns about whether or not they would pose any risk to children they work with. For the overwhelming majority, it could not be proved that what occurred in their personal lives in terms of child safeguarding suggested that they would be considered unsafe to work with children.





## AWARENESS RAISING

During 2017/18 fewer introduction/awareness raising events took place as head teachers and nursery managers became more familiar with the LADO.

The Safeguarding in Education Team run a comprehensive training programme that includes safeguarding and child protection training for HLT staff, Designated Safeguarding Leads for schools, Colleges and Early Years, whole School and college staff, Governors, Early Years and Childminders. All of their training covers safe practice and the procedures for dealing with allegations against adults who work with children and young people. They continue to run specific training dealing with managing allegations for managers in the early years and school sector, once an academic year for schools and twice an academic year for Early Years Managers.



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*A total of twenty-three LADO audits were completed by Hackney CFS on three different themes. The themes included cases where the outcome of allegations were unsubstantiated, no further action, substantiated. The audits considered four key areas of practice - referral information, decision-making, partnership working and outcomes. The main recommendations from the audits related to the quality of the initial referral information in supporting the LADO's investigation. Decision-making emerged as a strength with all the audits completed demonstrating evidence of proactive information gathering and timely decision making on the outcome of referrals. Partnership working also emerged as a strength with evidence of good communication and information-sharing across the professional network. In all audits the outcome of referrals were recorded and a clear rationale was provided.*





# Learning & Improvement

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*‘Local Safeguarding Children Boards should maintain a local learning and improvement framework which is shared across local organisations who work with children and families. This framework should enable organisations to be clear about their responsibilities, to learn from experience and improve services as a result.’ Working Together 2015*

Since implementing a revised framework in 2013/14, there has been significant activity undertaken across both the City of London and Hackney. A range of lessons have been identified leading to tangible impact and improvement across the safeguarding system. To identify lessons, the CHSCB applies a focus on the following areas:

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## The Child’s Voice

CHSCB partners have a strong ethos of engagement with children and young people, ensuring they are seen, heard and helped and that their voices influence both their own outcomes and that of how partners better safeguard children. Practitioners from all agencies gather the views of children and young people on a daily basis, from a home visit by a social worker to comments made to a teacher in the classroom. Taking a wider overview of wishes, opinions and feelings, the CHSCB and partner agencies also undertake a range of activities to ensure the child’s voice is central to our collective approach to learning and service improvement. The CHSCB has, however, been clear that it does not wish to replicate existing structures within which children and young people are already engaged and wants to add value by hearing the authentic voice of children and young people who might not ordinarily be part of those forums. This is an area the CHSCB is continuing to strengthen going forward through the work of the Community and Engagement Sub-Group and its focus on responding to the priorities set by children and young people in the CHSCB Business Plan.

Alongside directly engaging CYP, the CHSCB learning and improvement framework also includes schedules for organisations to report on their engagement with CYP and communities, the work undertaken and the difference made. This allows the CHSCB to keep oversight that such engagement is ongoing, that children and young people are being seen, heard and helped and that their voices are considered in practice and used to help shape service development.



In April 2017, CAMHS held its first open day to allow young people in the community an opportunity to better understand the CAMHS provision in Hackney. Young people aged 12- 18 were engaged prior to the event to create a newsletter for service users which they showcased at the event. This group also presented to the open day attendees work they had undertaken while attending the user participation groups. There was also a focus for young people who were from 0 to 11 years where face painting and Easter egg hunts were arranged. Feedback from young people included “It was fun being a helper and welcoming people to CAMHS, I enjoyed helping out with the task and telling people about what a good place it is to come for help” and “I liked the fact that we wanted this day and it happened”.



As part of a BBC Today programme, former England international footballer Sol Campbell met young service users in Specialist CAMHS to talk about the ‘crossroads moment’ that led to him pursuing football. The young people shared their experiences of growing up in Hackney including the exposure to drugs, gangs and violence in school and on the streets from a young age. Like Sol they shared a passion for sports and the routine and discipline it gives them - many expressed an interest in becoming professional sportsmen.



In March 2018, Action for Children carried out the Annual Service User Survey among children and young people supported by the City of London Children’s Services Team.

### Feedback was also captured pictorially for children under 5.

- Very high satisfaction levels with almost all aspects of their care.
- All but one respondent gave their social workers top marks and found their social worker easy to talk to and appear to feel well supported. They gave concrete examples of feeling listened to and generally having their needs met. For many, their social worker seems to be the ‘go to’ person with any concerns or problems.
- Most felt their educational needs were fully or mostly met however, not having laptops was an issue raised by 3 respondents. This was addressed by the Virtual School Head, and young people who require laptops for their education were provided with them.
- Young people know about the Children in Care Council and value the social network and support this offers. They also have a good awareness of the

complaints procedure and how to access advocacy and, to a slightly lesser extent than in previous years, their IRO.

- In the safeguarding section - compared with last year - there was an improvement both in the general sense of safety expressed and in terms of finding support if harmed or bullied. Reassuringly, all respondents felt they had at least one person they could turn to if such crises were to arise.

### Feedback from Care Leavers included:

- 100% of respondents found find it easy to contact their social worker and 77% find their social worker ‘very easy to talk to’.
- 66.6% said they got ‘a lot of help’ from their social worker (compared with 88.8% in 2016) and there was, in the narrative part of the survey, a great deal of appreciation of social workers who have given emotional and practical support (e.g. as the main person to turn to if harmed or bullied or, as a source of health information). Two respondents commented on the vital – even lifesaving - support they received at times of crises and in terms of not giving up (e.g. placement, college courses).
- 88% felt appropriately consulted and listened to and 100% were helped to understand their life story (compared with 33% in 2016).
- One young person raised the issue of needing greater permanency with regards to accommodation and another highlighted the difficulties in transitioning out of foster care, advising (with the benefit of hindsight), that all young people should be encouraged to remain in foster care for as long as possible.
- More young people than in 2016 are currently in education or training and a very high percentage rate it as ‘very good’ (88.8%, compared with 55.5% in 2016). 100% said they knew how to contact the Virtual Head teacher and she was singled out for very high praise for her proactive, helpful approach. Several young people commented that they would like more opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships and most appeared focussed and ambitious with regards to future careers.



Hackney CFS continue to consult young people both before and after their LAC Reviews and are working to devise more interactive ways of gaining feedback e.g. online or text message surveys. Young people are being empowered to take a more directive role in their reviews and there has been an increase of young people chairing their review meetings and devising activities for the attendees to be part of.







*There has also been an increase in the use of advocacy for children and young people subject to Child Protection Plans and Care Proceedings, and with Care Leavers, where their own children are receiving services. The Children's Rights Service has successfully supported young*

*people to attend part of their Conference meeting, to write letters to their parents outlining what they would like to change at home (which has been very powerful for parents to hear) and to express their views to the Courts advising where they would like to live and with whom. The number of young people who continue to contact their advocate and come back to the service once their original issue has been resolved would suggest that they find it a useful and positive service which they feel is accessible when they have difficulties.*



*Homerton Hospital uses Optimum Technology to obtain real time feedback from children, young people and their families when they are seen in children services across the Trust. Age appropriate icons have been developed i.e. Little Paws and Monsters for children and young people aged 0-8 and 8-18 years respectively which are used to give their response to a specific question. Feedback indicates that 99.3% of children aged 0-8 and 98.8% of young people aged 8-18 felt safe, and 96.4% and 97.6% (respectively) felt that staff talked in a way that they could understand. 96% of 8-18 year olds also felt that they had been involved as much as they wanted in decisions about their care.*

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## The Family's Voice

The CHSCB and partner agencies also continued to listen to the views of parents and carers about the quality of services and any matters impacting on their ability to provide good enough parenting. In addition to individual agencies engaging with families at a practice level, the CHSCB scrutinised a range of activities aimed at learning from parents and carers about how services could improve for children and young people. Where appropriate, the CHSCB actively engages parents in Serious Case Reviews and local case reviews. Their voices are reflected in the content of the report and their views used to inform related recommendations where necessary.



*As part of its 'Reach and Resilience', CAMHS have managed a range of projects this year to engage children and young people with CAMHS in Hackney with a special focus on the BAME community. Activity has included a positive meeting with the "BAME fathers" group and the service is looking at further workshop creation alongside BAME leaders in the voluntary*



*sector have also looked at stigma around mental health. In the community an opportunity to better understand the CAMHS provision in Hackney. Young people aged 12- 18 were engaged prior to the event to create a newsletter for service users which they*

*showcased at the event. This group also presented to the open day attendees work they had undertaken while attending the user participation groups. There was also a focus for young people who were from 0 to 11 years where face painting and Easter egg hunts were arranged. Feedback from young people included "It was fun being a helper and welcoming people to CAMHS, I enjoyed helping out with the task and telling people about what a good place it is to come for help" and "I liked the fact that we wanted this day and it happened".*

- *Despite the mostly good relationships between families and social workers, half of the parents in this survey qualified this view with expressions of frustration about how effective the actual support is. Five parents expressed that they needed urgent support with re-housing. Their main preoccupations were with problems around overcrowding, poor health, financial worries and being out of work. In terms of affecting change, this Sub-Group felt that social workers were powerless to provide the specific support they were looking for.*
- *Overall, 75% of respondents commented that they got 'a lot' or 'some' support from their social workers. Parents appreciated the social workers' input with things like 'getting things for the children', general advice (e.g. child's school), help with filling in a Housing application, and someone to turn to when faced with a problem.*



*2017/18 saw the inclusion of families receiving Early Help in the survey for the first time. Feedback was received on behalf of 601 eligible children/young people. Parental feedback included:*

- *Parents were generally very open and positive about being interviewed.*
- *Feedback was consistently positive. For example, all of them said contact and communication with Support Workers was easy (e.g. 100% found it very easy to get in touch with their Support Worker) and they valued the support offered.*
- *Respondents gave many and varied examples of the kind of interventions they found helpful and were particularly complimentary about the interpersonal qualities of the staff they worked with. They also gave some helpful suggestions about the service improvements (e.g. an updated resource list) and additional support needed (e.g. OT, speech therapy).*





*In 2016/17, foster carers for Hackney CFS requested that they be consulted in relation to policy developments in the Fostering Service. This has been incorporated into the policy process, with members from the Hackney Foster Carer Council (HFCC) meeting with the Fostering Service Manager on a regular basis. Examples of policy updates consulted on in 2017/18 include: Foster Carer Financial Policy, Long-term placement, Disruption Policy and Foster Carer Reviews feedback forms. Consultation has allowed CFS to produce policies and guidance with information that foster carers want to know.*

*As part of their Family Feedback programme, Hackney CFS consults parents/carers on case closure of Child and Family Assessments and also CIN and Child Protection Plans. Activity continues to improve the response rate and in 2018/19 will include a revised Child Protection Conference survey for both families and professional participants.*

## The Community's Voice

Both the City of London and Hackney have a vibrant community and voluntary sector (CVS) that continues to support the safeguarding of children and young people and the promotion of their welfare. In addition to the Lay Members and CPA playing a strong role in representing the voice of the community, the CHSCB developed its Community & Engagement sub group during 2017/18. The sub group's overall aim has been to provide a platform to listen, learn and reflect on the experiences and feedback from children and young people, their families and carers. It has also focused on the CHSCB priority of strengthening the oversight and safeguarding interventions across the diverse communities of the City of London & Hackney.

During 2017/18, the following was achieved:

- In partnership with the CHSCB, Hackney Safer Neighbourhood Board built on the work initiated by young people and provided funding for the continuation of a CSE awareness raising project in local schools.
- Ongoing work continued with Hackney Council's Resident Participation team supporting Tenant Resident Associations (TRA) in responding to challenges on their refreshed safeguarding policies. A finalised TRA safeguarding policy was approved, including the approach to DBS checks.
- Training for TRAs was delivered by the CPA and CHSCB Manager to provide clarity for TRA's on what to do if they are concerned about a child and where they go for advice.
- The sub group mapped some of the known groups working with young people in the City and Hackney and this work is ongoing. An engagement calendar was developed in order to facilitate the CHSCB as it continues to capture the authentic voices of children and young people.
- Members participated in a partnership event with the Young Black Men (YBM) project and identified areas of further focus that impacted on YBM and other young people including: mental health, exclusions, exploitation, criminality, SEND and housing. These findings will influence the work of the YBM project and the CHSCB engagement programme.
- Following a survey conducted with young people in Hackney Wick by Hackney Quest, a presentation on the findings and recommendations was made to the sub group by Hackney's Youth Voice Coordinator. A number of young people involved were subsequently invited to participate in the CHSCB Annual Conference in 2018, sharing their views and ideas with a wide range of professionals.



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## Reviews of Practice

Serious Case Reviews are undertaken to learn lessons and improve the way in which local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The CHSCB must always undertake a Serious Case Review (SCR) when the following criteria are met under Regulation 5 of the 2006 LSCB Regulations.

- (a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and*
- (b) either (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.*

Where the SCR criteria has not been met, the CHSCB can also undertake smaller-scale multi-agency case reviews. Whatever the type of review, the principles are still the same with the aim being to share information, identify good practice and establish the key lessons that will help to improve safeguarding arrangements.

- **During 2017/18, the SCR Sub-Group met on five occasions.**
- **Two SCR's were commissioned.**
- **Three multi-agency case reviews were commissioned.**
- **One SCR was published.**
- **Learning from one multi-agency case review was published.**
- **All children were Hackney residents.**
- **A range of learning events were held to disseminate the key findings and lessons from the completed reviews.**
- **Learning is also disseminated via the monthly CHSCB 'Things You Should Know' briefing and an update provided to the Training, Learning & Development Sub-Group and Trainers Forum to ensure relevant lessons are being shared through the CHSCB training sessions.**
- **Comprehensive tracking of the impact that the reviews have made on front-line practice was maintained by the SCR Sub-Group.**

All decisions made by the Chair were communicated with and agreed by the National Panel of Experts. Full details of all the reviews published by the CHSCB are available [HERE](#).



## SERIOUS CASE REVIEW - CHILD M

Child M and his sibling were subject to Child Protection plans following concerns around injuries that Child M's sibling sustained whilst in the care of Child M's father. In 2016, Child M was taken to hospital by his mother and on examination was found to have bruising to his face and transverse fractures to both femurs. In criminal proceedings father was found not guilty in relation to the Grievous Bodily Harm against Child M. Both Mother and Father were found guilty of child cruelty.

### KEY AREAS OF LEARNING IDENTIFIED

- Parental learning difficulties v disabilities.
- Think Family.
- Management Oversight and Supervision.
- Understanding of Psychosocial Meetings.

### IMPACT

- Learning disseminated via TUSK briefing.
- Two learning seminars held in the City and Hackney – 82 attendees.
- 91% of attendees said the learning would be useful to them in their work.
- Following report recommendation, a joint safeguarding presentation was delivered to National Probation Service staff to advise new and qualified probation officers on safeguarding issues. Multi-agency training data has also illustrated an increase in NPS attendance at CHSCB training.
- Learning from the review featured in CHSCB 'Difficult Conversations' training.
- Guidance issued on the heightened risk of bruising in pre-mobile children - training discussed with the CHSCB internal trainer forum, included in training materials and will be part of external training agreements going forward.
- Following report recommendation, City and Hackney CCG have issued guidance to GP practices to ensure that any documentation received for a new born child who is not registered, is entered onto a temporary file which can be made permanent when the baby is registered. Information regarding new born babies is no longer filed in the mother's notes but is triangulated at mother and baby post-natal checks.

## MULTI-AGENCY CASE REVIEW - CHADRACK

Chadrack was 5 years old when both he and his mother were found dead at their home in 2016. Chadrack had Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and was non-verbal. From the inquest into their deaths, it was concluded that Chadrack lived alone in the family home for over a fortnight after his mother's death. He was unable to feed himself or seek help. He died of starvation and dehydration.

### KEY AREAS OF LEARNING IDENTIFIED

- The importance of thinking safeguarding first when dealing with absence, attendance and missing from education.
- Understanding the context of the child's life.
- Understanding the carer's context and limitations.
- The practical application of professional curiosity; beyond rhetoric. The need to rule safeguarding 'in or out' as an issue before anything else.
- Keeping children safe in education; proactively asking for information on vulnerabilities which may impact on the child or family network.

### IMPACT

- Learning disseminated via TUSK briefing.
- Two learning seminars held in the City and Hackney – 50 attendees.
- 86% of attendees considered the event will help them safeguard children more effectively.
- The Independent Chair of the CHSCB wrote to the Department for Education (DfE) recommending that a stronger focus on safeguarding is reflected in both the statutory and non-statutory guidance that relates to school attendance. A copy of the Chadrack report was included in the DfE consultation to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) which then included a requirement for schools to ask for additional phone numbers. Communication is ongoing to include wider report recommendations.
- Following report recommendation, HLT sent revised guidance documents to all schools via the HLT schools bulletin. This included: a revised model Attendance / Safeguarding Policy, attendance roles and responsibilities in schools, absence escalation and vulnerability factors. In City of London, Sir John Cass has a form that is given to parents when a child enrolls to capture any sensitive information that the school might need to know about that might be relevant to the care of their child and/or relevant when responding to an emergency.







# Auditing

## SECTION 11 / SECTION 157/175 AUDITING

The Section 11 (S11) Audit is the CHSCB's primary audit to examine the safeguarding arrangements within agencies and provides the Board with reassurance that agencies are doing what they can to ensure the safety and

welfare of children and young people. Section 11 (S11) of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key agencies and bodies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. On a bi-annual basis, the CHSCB undertakes an audit of statutory, commissioned and voluntary sector organisations to establish reassurance that they are compliant with these expected safeguarding standards. Schools also have a statutory obligation to comply, under sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002.

- The audit programme follows a two-year cycle which provides **annual reassurance** of safeguarding standards and arrangements.
- 2017/18 was not a full audit year and therefore CHSCB reassured itself by means of a signed statement of compliance. Statutory organisations and schools were requested to review their audit return and indicate their current position, provide brief details of progressed actions and organisations asked to confirm that Section 11 audits are requested as part of their commissioning process.
- Overall returns provided **reassurance of continued** local focus on progressing safeguarding standards and arrangements.

### PEER REVIEW

In 2015-16, the CHSCB introduced a Peer Review process for Section 11 audit returns to help partner agencies reflect on and improve safeguarding services for children and young people. Peer Review activity in 2017/18 focussed on Private and Voluntary Early Years settings. This decision (via the Quality Assurance Sub-Group) was based on local intelligence which raised concerns that some providers were not compliant with the requirements set out under Section 11 Children Act 2004. In the 2016 Section 11 audit programme, 80+ Private and Voluntary Early Years settings returned an audit tool. A working group was held in March 2017 to review these returns and select organisations for Peer Review. The settings were selected to maximise variety: a mix of quality (according to Ofsted), both private and community providers and nurseries of different sizes. A total of nine settings in Hackney and two in the City of London took part in the Peer Review.



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Individual reports were produced for each setting and a copy provided to the local Early Years teams to provide ongoing support with recommendations. Overarching findings indicated:

- Early Years settings provided an accurate reflection of their safeguarding arrangements.
  - Governance arrangements were deemed appropriate overall although one setting needed to appoint (and train) a Safeguarding Lead on the Executive Committee.
  - Complex and non-user-friendly child protection policies were being used. Policies were growing in size due to the amount of information e.g. Prevent and British Values which have been included by national mandate.
  - Complaints policies are in place although there was not always reference and knowledge of the Ofsted Complaints Policy and Poster.
  - General awareness of safeguarding implications following the Little Teds Nursery SCR. As a result, most settings had a social media policy and could demonstrate how this was used in practice. Most settings however, were not aware of, or had cross-referenced their own policy with, the CHSCB Social Media Policy available on the CHSCB website.
- Most settings would leave updated policies in the lunch areas for staff to read.
- Not all settings had policies on their website. Hard copies were often given to parents on induction, but it is unclear whether these are read or retained. Placing the latest copy of the policies on the website and actively communicating this will help ensure they are widely available.
- Designated Safeguarding Leads were in place and safeguarding training undertaken. Settings provided examples of regular conversations and quizzes with staff members to test their safeguarding knowledge. This was undertaken in both formal and informal settings.



*As an example of good practice, one Nursery Manager ensures that safeguarding is weaved into daily conversations and demonstrated this with an example of a staff member wanting to close the door for intimate care. The Nursery Manager was able to discuss with them the impact in terms of safeguarding. These conversations allow staff to understand decisions rather than follow mandates.*

- Although the frequency varied, team meetings and supervision sessions were in place which provided opportunity for discussions around safeguarding

practice. Copies of supervision minutes/templates were reviewed.



*A nursery demonstrated good practice with a supervision template containing specific prompts for discussion e.g. information to be relayed to the LADO, any change in personal circumstances or any conduct issues since the last supervision.*

- Nurseries were able to demonstrate involving families in service development by using a variety of methods for feedback. These included annual parental questionnaires, suggestion boxes and requesting specific feedback on local initiatives e.g. healthy eating. Children are also consulted in day to day sessions and employees in supervision / team meetings.
- Most nurseries had undertaken safeguarding training via HLT or within their corporate training programme.
- Whilst national themes was disseminated and learning implemented, many nurseries were not aware of the CHSCB training programme or the CHSCB 'Things You Should Know' briefings which provide local updates and learning from local reviews.
- Induction packs were in place and reviewed by the Peer Review Team.



*As an example of good practice, one setting in City of London, provided examples of files for new starters and those who had been in role for a period of time. The files showed a rigorous system of induction, a transparent schedule of training updates and safer recruitment processes. Reviewing the file of a new starter file, a full induction and an in-house safeguarding document with basic safeguarding information was provided. The information was clear and concise and staff sign to state they have reviewed the safeguarding pack.*

- Where asked, settings were unaware of the CHSCB minimum standards for recruitment.
- Some of the settings noted, difficulties in obtaining two written references. One setting noted this difficulty especially from colleges or training providers.
- Nurseries were using DBS checks on appointment and only a few settings were yet to sign up to the annual update service.



*As an example of good practice, one Nursery Manager detailed how DBS certificates are non-transferrable unless using the update service. Most recruitment agencies will not review the DBS for those on its*





*DBS documents are also checked to ensure they are 'live' and suitable for work in England. An example was a member of staff who had a Scottish DBS and was asked to apply for a DBS covering England.*

- On review of material displayed around the nurseries, this was sometimes out of date or included historic information. Some were not clear on who to contact if you were worried about a child.
- Entry and exit procedures varied across nurseries, some parents allowed the Peer Review Team to enter after them whereas in some settings, a prominent sign on the electronically operated internal door warned entrants not to allow anyone else to enter after them. ID was not always requested and visitor books not always legible or clear on who had entered/exited.
- The Peer Review team detailed findings from CHSCB Local Review Chadrack. Most nurseries had a non-collection or attendance policy and ask for a number of contacts.

disseminated to agencies/front line staff via the [Things You Should Know \(TUSK\)](#) monthly briefings. Full details are available on the [CHSCB auditing webpage](#) however strengths and key messages are detailed below.

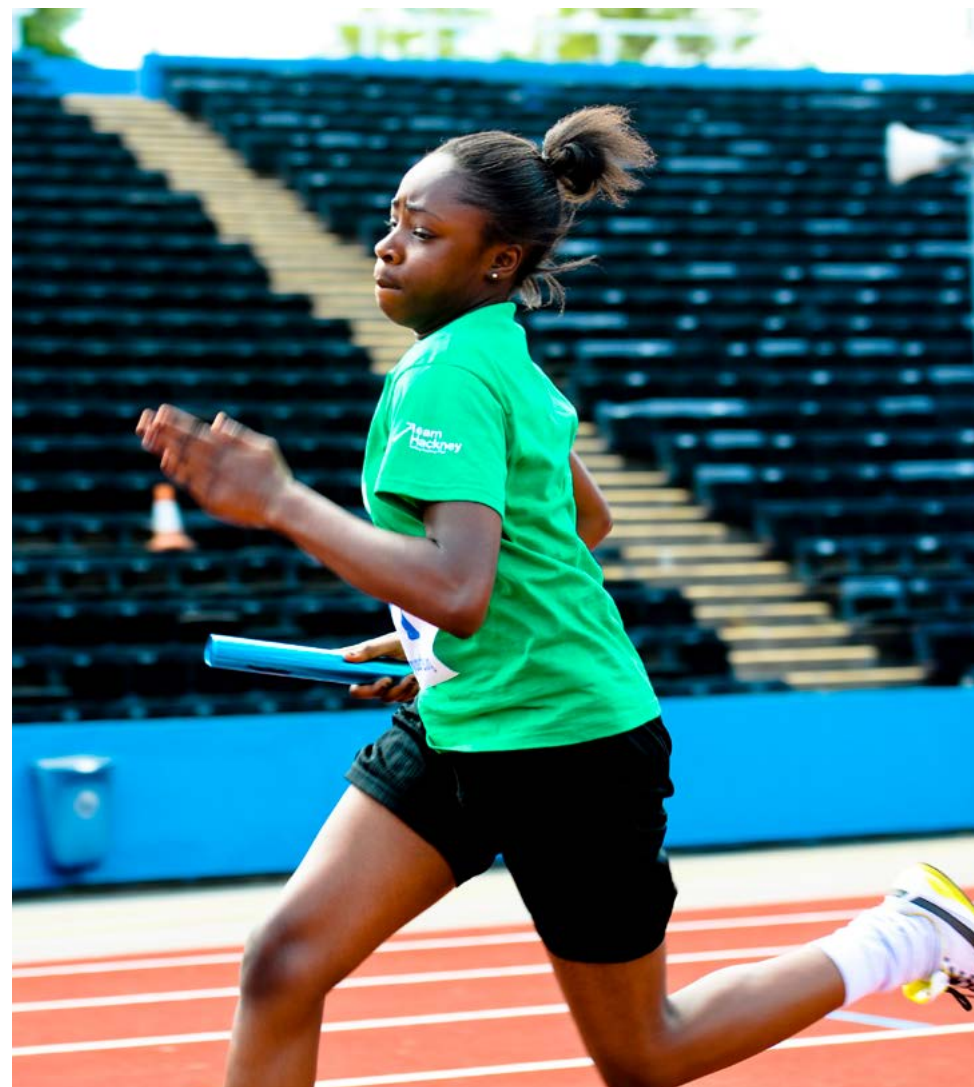
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*One nursery manager asked families who come from abroad (and who are not able to provide local emergency contacts) to provide contact details for their work or neighbours. Another nursery collects up to five emergency contacts and also work contacts should a parent/carer live outside of London.*

### MULTI-AGENCY CASE AUDITS

The CHSCB multi-agency case auditing has identified numerous examples of positive safeguarding practice being undertaken by the partnership. Lessons have also been identified that have led to tangible improvements. Systematic [multi-agency case auditing](#) allows the CHSCB to deliver one of the best learning opportunities for front-line workers; directly engaging them in a process that reflects upon, assesses and measures the quality of professional practice. The CHSCB continues to operate a consistent and regular 6 monthly multi-agency case file audit process, which is carried out across the City of London and Hackney. Due to an increased number of SCRs and Local Reviews underway in 2017/18, one round of multi-agency case auditing was held in Hackney on the theme 'Think Family' and two in City of London on the theme 'Think Family' and 'CSA, CSE and Emotional Harm'. In each round, three cases were reviewed in City of London and five in Hackney.

All audits result in an outcome focussed action plan that the QA Sub-Group use to track and evidence improvements in front-line practice. Learning is also







# City of London - Think Family

## STRENGTHS

### WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Good relationships were developed with parents as seen across all three cases, enabling professionals to:

- hold open and honest conversations
- identify and support mental health issues, and
- engage parents.

### EFFECTIVE MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

The audits highlighted examples of good multi-agency working, essential to effective intervention that focuses on children and thinks family: Timely and well attended CIN meetings and strategy meetings were held ensuring information was appropriately and effectively shared. In Case 2, the partnership also identified and agreed support from CAMHS during the school holidays to ensure the safety of the young person.

### VOICE OF THE CHILD

The audits evidenced professionals actively seeking the views and feelings of the children. In Case 1, professionals were also able to balance their focus on a vulnerable mother without losing their focus on the immediate and long term needs of the children. Professionals sought the voice of the child and captured responses e.g. aspirations in life. Professionals then supported the young person to work towards their goal. In a sibling group of varying ages, the children were also seen and assessed as individuals with differing needs. Case 2 provided evidence of direct work with young people enabling conversations about feelings and risks to emotional health. Professionals were able to interpret the views and feelings of the young person to appropriately risk assess and protect the child, in this case by identifying and referring to appropriate support services.

### TARGETED RESOURCES

Case 1 evidenced professionals assessing the wider needs of the family and putting in place targeted resources to support the family. Thinking Family requires the right professionals, with the right skills, being engaged at the right time to help children, young people and adults. In this case, professionals focused on the wider family needs and a dedicated support worker was put in place to support the parent in the evenings. The impact was positively evidenced with

the parent being better able to organize their day / effectively parent e.g. getting children to school on time.

## KEY MESSAGE

### ESCALATION AND CHALLENGE

The audits highlighted examples of good multi-agency working, essential to effective intervention that focuses on children and thinks family: Timely and well attended CIN meetings and strategy meetings were held ensuring information was appropriately and effectively shared. In Case 2, the partnership also identified and agreed support from CAMHS during the school holidays to ensure the safety of the young person.

### FATHERS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

All three cases were a reminder of the need to engage and include fathers fathers/ and or significant others in assessment processes. This is important whether they are in the family home or absent. This is especially important in assessments and in cases where only one narrative is being provided. Professionals should consider the role of the father/significant other in children's lives, including not only the risks but also the protective factors.

### INFORMATION SHARING

As the central conduit for health information, the audits highlighted that GPs play an important role in information sharing as they receive/share updates on emerging issues for children and young people and families. GPs are also able to review an individual's health concerns/issues and assess potential impact on other family members.

### SAFETY PLANNING IN RESPONSE TO DV

One of the cases highlighted the importance of DV safety plans being referenced / included in other plans across adults and children's services (i.e. CP or care plans).

### THE 'SILENT' CHILD

Case 2 highlighted need for professionals to have a focus on 'the silent child'. One of the siblings displayed outward behaviours and was engaged by CAMHS services. A fast track re-referral route into CAMHS services was also offered if further support was needed. The other sibling, who was not displaying any outward behaviours was assessed but not offered (or wanted) CAMHS





services at the current time.

## THRESHOLDS

Case 3 highlighted need for all professionals in the Children and Families Team to consistently apply thresholds. This will allow professional challenge (via escalation) by the partnership when a decision is not agreed with.

# City of London – CSA, CSE and EA

## STRENGTHS

- **Timely and accurate assessment** of need including contextualising ‘sexualised’ behaviour in the light of child’s social interaction difficulties and impact of speech and language impairment on understanding.
- Assessment from CAMHS included **observations** / voice of the child and presented a positive experience of health provider services. This was evidenced by parents continued use of behavioural management techniques provided by the CAMHS nurse.  
Although the child moved to an out of borough school, the Educational Psychology service continued their care ensuring that the partnership **did not lose sight of the child.**
- **Timeliness of referrals** to other risk management forums (e.g. MASE, MARAC) and appropriate referral to school nursing service despite not attending school.
- **Positive** communication between school, CSC and voluntary organisation.
- Evidence of **well-coordinated CIN plan** with a consistent message for professionals to focus on helping the young person develop healthy relationships.
- Voluntary organisation provided **young-person led intervention with visits outside of the home.** Ensures an environment is created where the child could focus on their issues without parental distraction and away from the family home.
- Evidence of professionals’ ability to self-reflect and passion to make a positive difference in this young person’s life.
- Professional viewpoint that school has gone ‘above and beyond’ to care for child including years of weekly counselling sessions.

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## KEY MESSAGES

### INFORMATION SHARING

This case highlighted need for CSC to systematically share the outcomes of meetings and investigations with partner agencies. At the time of the audit, the GP was still awaiting feedback from the investigation and had not ‘flagged’ the case appropriately on their systems. Professionals should seek out information from CSC if unclear on outcomes of investigations / meetings or if they are not contacted.

### PROFESSIONAL CURIOSITY AND ‘DIFFICULT QUESTIONS’

This case highlighted that some professionals need support to ask parents what may seem to be ‘difficult questions’ if they feel they are lacking information. This was highlighted by a medical professional noting a referral to a specialist service on their IT system but not enquiring any further during the appointment.

### CROSS BOROUGH WORKING

This case highlighted the need to ensure a systematic response to cases which cross more than one local authority body. The London Child Protection Procedures (Appendix B, section 15, 2017) reinforces the need for a robust approach by requiring a strategy discussion has attendance from both local authority areas. The meeting should include planning of any investigation and how the actions, including the child’s voice, are shared.

### CROSS BOROUGH WORKING

This case highlighted that when working with cross border cases, there may be a number of agencies/professionals who are involved and contacting the family. This can be overwhelming for families and it was felt important that early on in a case agencies should decide the single point of contact for the family and also themselves.

Another difficulty was identified in ensuring the voice of the professional is heard at out of borough meetings. This is especially important when the professional is not in the room to relay their exact thoughts and consideration should be made as to how input is relayed e.g. written vs. verbal.

### MANAGEMENT OF CSE CASES

This case highlighted that by using a CP plan when managing risks outside the family, professionals were using the only mechanism available to put a safety plan around the young person. Families may however feel alienated from professionals





and parents in particular may feel penalised for events outside their control.

Use of child protection plans in these circumstances can also have the potential for diverting attention from the real risks the young person is facing. In this case, the young person was missing from education due to bullying by peers and was later back in mainstream education, but in a different school. These actions may compound the feeling of shame and guilt and although direct work was undertaken with the young person to externalise the abuse (by the VCS organisation), this does not seem to have been echoed in practice by the partnership.

Professionals felt strongly that whilst trying to improve outcomes for the young person, it is often the victim of abuse who is made to move schools rather than work being undertaken to educate the wider cohort (e.g. the impact of sharing images and the legal ramifications).

Contextual Safeguarding activity in Hackney is considering the current system used to manage risks and agencies now have an opportunity to think creatively in the management of cases. Early findings will also be fed back to City of London.

### PROFESSIONAL OVER-OPTIMISM

This case highlighted the impact of professional over optimism in parental ability to change, cases being allowed to drift and parental dependency on support put in place by professionals. This was exacerbated by unclear outcomes for the child and subsequent lack of clarity/evidence where the child's needs were not being met.

### CHALLENGE AND ESCALATION

Complex cases can have a deep emotional impact on professionals and it was evident that professionals cared deeply about this young person. Professionals rely on their strong working relationships but this may at times impede the confidence to challenge, escalate and hold difficult conversations not only with parents but also with members of the professional network. This audit also indicated the importance of professionals having the opportunity to step back and reflect on cases, either in supervision or in a forum for independent review of complex cases.

### INFORMATION SHARING

This case highlighted that the importance of contacting the Safeguarding School Nurse for children of school age who are displaying significant needs. In this case, a number of organisations were working around the child and so this service could have been engaged at an earlier point.

### SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE – PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS OF REMIT

This case highlighted that some professionals may not be aware that the Substance Misuse Services in Hackney accepts referrals for children and young people who live in City of London.

## Hackney - Think Family

### STRENGTHS VOICE OF THE CHILD

The audits evidenced examples of professionals seeking out and recording the voice of the child including:

- In Case 1, Professionals sought opportunity to speak to Child 1 alone about any concerns they may have. CAMHS tried to engage the subject child at school and used creative methods (i.e. drawing) to directly engage them.
- In Case 2, the school undertook a piece of work 'All about me' relating to the young person's aspirations and the parts of the curriculum that they enjoy.
- Case 4 evidenced that the social worker got to know the siblings. When asked, the siblings were able to name school representatives who they could speak to if they were upset. This strong relationship enabled the siblings (living amongst domestic abuse) to devise and share the 'house rules' for their parents and discuss emotive subjects (e.g. the death of a family member)

### RESPONSE TO ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

Case 3 highlighted an example of a systematic response when a child attempted suicide. Information was shared in a timely manner with good engagement from the Police, Homerton and CAMHS. The young person was visited the next day and informed of their stay in the specialised unit. There was a clear safety plan in place (agreed by the partnership) which considered the wider impact on peers etc.





## COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

There were examples of good communication, information sharing and multi-agency working throughout the audit, including:

- In Case 1 there was evidence of frequent and timely information sharing between Hackney CFT and an out of borough hospital team.
- In Case 2 there was evidence of partnership working with good representation, communication and discussion by agencies at Education, Health and Care Plan reviews.
- Case 2 also evidenced good partnership work by Young Hackney who attended MAPPA and school meetings and had regular email contact with Probation services.
- In Case 3 there was evidence of good multi-agency working with a clear safety plan in place and consideration of the impact of the attempted suicide on family and friends. Adult Mental Health were aware of children and risk to them was clearly documented on file.

## ENGAGEMENT OF FATHERS

Cases generally evidenced persistent engagement of parents, alongside professionals specifically trying to engage fathers, as below:

- In Case 1 there was regular attempts to engage father by telephone and current evidence of the Social Work Unit thinking creatively about how to engage him.
- In Case 2 there was evidence of historical non-engagement by a family changing and on release from prison the father being engaged by the professional network, attending meetings and a Non Violent Resistance (NVR) group session.
- In Case 4, CSC professionals built a good relationship with the family and tried to engage father around the domestic violence issues. Although father cancelled visits and is in denial regarding the concerns, he has attended core groups meetings and vocalised his opinions.
- In Case 5, despite mother's initial reluctance to share information about the father with professionals, there is evidence of him being involved from the second CSC assessment and included in interventions. CAMHS and adult mental health professionals also met with him and recorded his interactions with the child.

## KEY MESSAGES

### DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Case 1 highlighted the need for professionals to engage parents in difficult conversations, routine enquiry and challenge. Consideration should also include whether mental health or other issues could be impacting on a parent's reception to difficult conversations.

### INFORMATION SHARING

Case 1 highlighted the importance of information sharing by GP Practices during the course of Children and Families Service assessments. CSC professionals are reminded that a synopsis of the case should be given when requesting information from all agencies and expectations made clear to ensure a proportionate response.

### MARAC REFERRALS

Case 4 highlighted the need for professionals to access and use the domestic abuse risk assessment tool. Where the threshold is met or their professional judgment indicates the client is high risk, a referral should be made to MARAC. Professionals should risk assess and refer even if the case is open to Hackney CFT.

### PRESENTATION OF PARENTS

Case 4 highlighted the need for professionals to consider the wider family when working with an adult client. In one case, professionals noted outbursts of anger and 'verbal aggression' directed from one parent to another. Professionals could have determined the level of risk a child could be exposed to (short and long term) and referred accordingly. If a professional is worried about the presentation of an adult, this must extend to any known children in their contact.

### TRANSFER OF SCHOOL FILES

Case 3 highlighted the need to transfer files in a timely manner when a child moves schools (including alternative provision). In this case, the alternative provision felt they did not receive enough information at the start of working with Child 3. Timely information sharing will equip schools with the knowledge to provide appropriate interventions and identify changes/risks at any early stage.







## Single Agency Case Audits

Partner agencies of the CHSCB have continued to operate a variety of single agency quality assurance frameworks to maintain oversight on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Examples of audits undertaken are below:



### CAMHS

*Review of 19 case files to assess whether the 'record of referral to CSC' form had been appropriately completed alongside a number of secondary outcomes.*



### EXAMPLE AUDIT OUTCOME

*As 7 of the 18 cases had a safeguarding form completed and 11 of the 19 had a risk assessment form completed, both forms were presented and discussed at the whole service meeting to raise awareness of the process and forms. Follow up audit scheduled for May 2018 to review progress.*



### CITY OF LONDON - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TEAM

### EXAMPLE AUDIT OUTCOMES (AUDIT OF 24 CIN CASES)

Review and update of templates following identification that CIN plans on the electronic case management system were not always clear as to the actions and outcomes, as the templates on the system did not support outcome focused planning.

### EXAMPLE AUDIT OUTCOMES (AUDIT OF DECISIONS TO CLOSE 20 CIN CASES):

- 'Think Family' training need identified to support professionals to explore the wider family context in child and family assessments.
- Emphasis is being placed on ensuring that where parents/carers agree, CIN cases are being stepped down to EH before closure.



**HACKNEY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE** - Overall 1,314 audits completed in 2017/18.

### EXAMPLE AUDIT OUTCOME (BRIEF AUDITS – 24 CASES)

A reminder was issued to all CFS staff about the requirement to include health

colleagues in strategy discussions following findings that in 58% of cases discussions with health did not take place with no reason provided. This will continue to be tracked in monthly management reports.

### EXAMPLE AUDIT OUTCOME (SERVICE DEMAND AUDITS – 184 CASES)

Following a focus on thresholds for Child Protection cases for large sibling groups and young people aged 16+, the re-introduction of a consultation stage before Initial Child Protection Conferences has resulted in a 39% decrease in the number of children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan since March 2017.





## Performance Data

*City of London* – Substance Misuse Data: Multi-agency review of data highlighted opportunity for the Hackney Substance Misuse Team to develop a new relationship with the Tower Hamlets Youth Offending Team who deal with City young people.



*City of London & Hackney - Agency Referrals to CSC* – Following ‘Think Family’ activity and local SCRs (i.e. Child H), the dataset has been updated to evidence impact of learning as seen in referrals from adult facing services. This dataset now reflects disaggregated data from CSC or the inclusion of data from Adults Services.

A bespoke report by HCFS was also provided to the partnership allowing greater scrutiny of data e.g. Q1 figures showed that 63% of GP referrals were converting to assessment. Looking at figures across London, Hackney is generally assessing cases more than other areas and this opened up conversation on awareness of early help, deprivation levels in Hackney and when early help is being accessed. Figures fluctuate and in Q2 the conversion rate for GPs had fallen to 38%.



*Hackney – Triangulating data:* In November 2017, the QA Sub-Group noted increase under the CAMHS section of the dataset. HCFS representatives had undertaken an audit on adolescent neglect and young people presenting through CAMHS (for mental health concerns, self-harm and attempted suicide) and noted that when the cases were tracked back, neglect had been an earlier issue. Overlaying local learning ensures intelligence is not considered in isolation. This will also feed into the multi-agency case reviews commissioned by the SCR Sub-Group.

## Front-Line Intelligence

The CHSCB staff survey in 2017 aligned with the Board focus on ‘A Healthy Workforce’ (priority 4 in the CHSCB Business Plan 2017-19) and was designed to measure how organisations support their staff and the subsequent impact on safeguarding practice. The survey was targeted at staff working directly with children and young people and first-line managers. Its findings are set out under the Healthy Workforce section of this report. Other opportunities to engage the front line were available through a series of ‘meet the chair events’. Whilst not attended by many, a number of significant issues were raised and important feedback obtained.



*An adult service practitioner attended a meet the chair event and during discussion, reflected on her concerns with regards to the process of making alerts to the Adult Safeguarding Team. Concerns were expressed with regards the provision of feedback and subsequent clarity on action. The Independent Chair shared this information with the Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board who ensured the practitioner was engaged by the Adult Safeguarding Team to provide appropriate advice and reassurance.*

## External Learning

The CHSCB is a learning organisation and is constantly looking outwards to identify relevant learning opportunities that may help assist in its role of co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the safeguarding systems across the City of London and Hackney. Where relevant, national reviews and inspection reports are considered by the CHSCB, with Board members reflecting on their relevance to local safeguarding arrangements. Links to NSPCC thematic briefings and wider learning from other LSCBs continued to be disseminated to front-line staff via CHSCB training and TUSK briefings.



*Out of borough reviews:* As a standing agenda item at each SCR Sub-Group agenda, the progress from out of borough reviews are considered. Themes and findings from reports (and initial findings) are also considered in the context of local processes and services.



*TUSK Briefings:* External learning is also disseminated and considered by the wider partnership by means of the monthly ‘Things You Should Know’ briefings. Examples shared across 2017/18 cover a wide range of learning and include: County Lines Guidance; NSPCC Guidance on Bruising, Fire Risks from Household Appliances; DfE study into responses to Safeguarding and Radicalisation; NICE Guidance on child abuse and neglect; London Councils Briefing on Universal Credit; and the Independent Inquiry into Non-Recent Sexual Abuse.





# The Child Death Overview Panel

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	The Board	Communication	A Healthy Workforce	Technology & Social Media	City Safeguarding Context	Progress in the City 17/18	Hackney Safeguarding Context	Progress in Hackney 17/18	Learning & Improvement	<b>The Child Death Overview Panel</b>	Training & Development	Priorities or next year & beyond	What you need to know	CHSCB Membership	77
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The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is chaired by the Director of Public Health. The full CDOP Annual Report for 2016/17 can be found [here](#). The 2017/18 CDOP report will shortly be published here on the CHSCB website.

### CDOP FACTS AND FIGURES 2017/18

- **266 deaths of children and young people have been reviewed and completed since April 2008**
- **15 deaths of children and young people who lived in Hackney and the City (decrease of 44% (12) from 27 in 2016/17)**
- **5 unexpected deaths**
- **13 cases were reviewed and completed by CDOP in 2017/18**
- **The rate of infant mortality (deaths of children under the age of 1) in Hackney is 5.0 per 1000 live births (2015 -17). An increase of 0.1 from 4.9 per 1000 live births in 2014 -16.**

The rate of deaths of children and young people aged 1-17 in Hackney and the City of London has decreased to 11.0 per 100,000 children in 2014-16 from 14.4 in 2013-15 . The current rate is statistically similar to the England and London average of 11.6 per 100,000 children and represents the Boroughs lowest rate since 2010. Reflecting the trend in most London boroughs, of declining rates in child mortality. As part of its functions, the CDOP is required to categorise the preventability of a death by considering whether any factors may have contributed to the death of the child and if so, whether these could be “modified” to reduce the risk of future child deaths. During 2017/18, the CDOP identified modifiable factors in only 3 (23%) of the deaths reviewed. This is slightly less but similar to the England average of 27% for 2016-17 (data for 2017/18 is yet to be published). The CDOP is confident that all cases are reviewed comprehensively, and that professional challenge remains a central part of the review process.

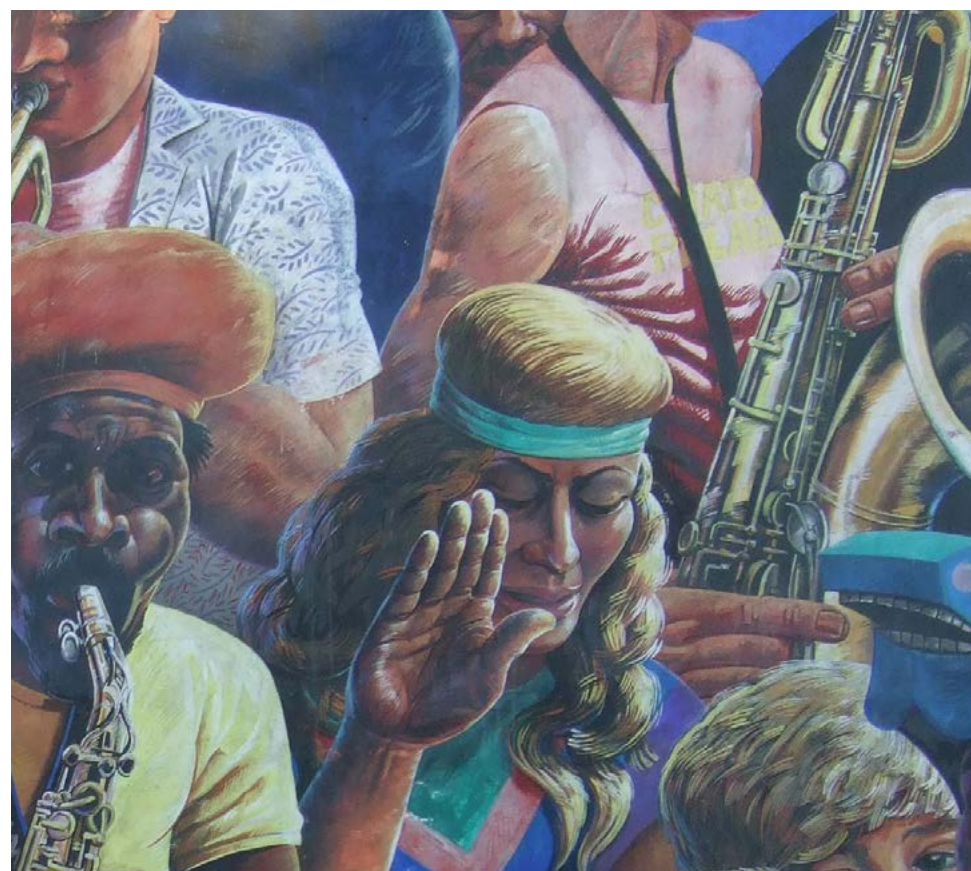
### CDOP IMPACT 2017/18

**Training:** The CDOP identified as good practice, GP’s following up patients not picking up prescriptions to ensure treatment adherence and completion. The City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) that oversees GP activities in the Borough, implemented this by issuing reminder notices in its newsletters.

**Care Plans:** A CDOP rapid response meeting identified the need for further review into a case by CHSCB. The Learning Review undertaken resulted in a Regulation 28 being issued by the Coroner and recommendations made to the Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families that a child’s absence from

school should be thought of in the context of their potential vulnerability. Locally recommended actions such as, outlining the minimum expected information that schools should hold on any child including at least three (next of kin / emergency) telephone numbers, undertaking an assessment of vulnerability or potential vulnerability and using this assessment to determine how the school responds to episodes of absence, has been implemented within schools in City and Hackney.

**Partnership Working:** The CDOP alerted the Coroner’s office that an inquest for a school child scheduled during the exam period could cause distress to fellow students. The inquest was moved to fall outside the exam period.



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# Training & Development

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The CHSCB remains confident that single and multi-agency training continues to be of high quality, is valued by participants and is helping contribute towards positive outcomes for children and young people. The training opportunities offered by the CHSCB are designed to meet the diverse needs of staff at different levels within the wide range of organisations that work with children, young people or adult family members. Supported by a [Multi-Agency Training Strategy](#) that was refreshed in early 2016, the CHSCB training programme focuses on areas of practice prioritised by the Board, with learning from local and national case reviews fully integrated into the training material.

### CHSCB MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING PROGRAMME SUMMARY 2017/18

- 39 Courses
- 1 Annual Conference
- 1001 training places accessed

Despite the small reduction in training courses offered in 2017/18 (39 courses and 1 conference compared to 42 courses, 3 learning seminars and 1 conference in 2016/17) the overall number of recorded places taken up has increased from 946 people in 2016/17 to 1001 in the 2017/18 period – an increase of 55 people.

Of the 1245 training places that were made available in 2017/18, 1180 (95%) were booked. Of these 1001 places (85%) were attended, leaving 179 places (15%) that were not attended after booking.



*Overall training attendance from across the boroughs remains relatively stable. Gains made in securing City of London attendance in 2015/16 which were maintained in the 2016/17 period have fallen slightly from 14% to 10%. Given the corresponding increase in those attending from both the City of London and Hackney this could simply be due to more accurate reporting of the borough worked in. Although the majority of courses were held in the Hackney area, five courses were held in the City of London to try to facilitate participation.*



*There are some limitations in the way that we are able to compare data on agency attendance from 2016/17 and 2017/18 due to changes in agencies themselves as well as changes in the way agency data is captured and reported by CHSCB. 2017/18 continued to see an increase in attendance from Hackney Children & Families Service staff, rising from*

*127 in 2016/17 to 146 in 2017/18 (19% of overall attendees). Other agencies that have seen significant increases in attendance include Hackney Children's Centres, Nurseries, Schools and Further Education which rose from 52 to 146 and Hackney Neighbourhoods and Housing which rose from 11 to 33.*



*Increases seen in attendance from London Metropolitan Police in 2016/17 were not maintained in 2017/18, falling from 24 to 7. Other agencies to see significant falls in attendance include ELFT (from 69 to 32); HLT from 51 to 30 and VCS Community from 186 to 137. No attendees were recorded from CAFCASS or the London Community*





## AGENCY ATTENDANCE AT CHSCB MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING

Agency Training Attendance 2017-18	2016/17 places	% of total places	2017/18 places	% of total places	Trend
CAFCASS	1	0.1%	1	0%	↘
City & Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group	6	0.8%	5	0.6%	↘
City of London Children's Centres/ Nurseries	55	7%	9	55	↔
City of London Corporation			14	2%	
City of London Housing			4	0.5%	
City of London Police			4	0.5%	
City of London Schools and FE			21	3%	
City of London Other			3	0.4%	
East London NSH Foundation Trust - Adult Mental Health	69	9%	14	2%	↘
East London NHS Foundation Trust - CAMHS			11	1%	
East London NSH Foundation Trust - Specialist Addictions			7	1%	
Health Other	8	1%	32	4%	↗
Homerton University Hospital	33	4%	27	4%	↘
LBH: CFS (including Young Hackney)	127	16%	146	19%	↗
LBH: HLT	51	6.5%	30	4%	↘
LBH: Health & Community Services	3	0.4%	8	1%	↗
LBH: Neighbourhoods & Housing	11	1%	33	4%	↗
LBH: Children's Centres/ Nurseries/ Schools and FE	52	6.6%	134	17%	↗
LBH: Other	33	4.2%	21	3%	↘

London Metropolitan Police	24	3%	7	1%	↘
London Probation Service (including London CRC)	6	0.8%	10	1%	↗
Public Health	5	0.6%	7	1%	↗
VCS and Community Services	186	24%	13	18%	↘
Whittington Health	7	1%	9	1%	↗
Other	110	14%	78	10%	↘
<b>TOTAL PLACES:</b>	<b>787*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>771*</b>	<b>100%</b>	

\*The total attendance figures for 16/17 and 17/18 excludes 159 and 230 delegates respectively who attended the Annual Conference and Learning Seminars.

### TRAINING BY THE CHSCB COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ADVISOR 2017/18

In addition to the main training programme, the CHSCB also deploys its Community Partnership Advisor to deliver bespoke learning opportunities to a range of different stakeholders. This enables the CHSCB to directly extend its reach and influence to further improve the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUNE 2017 – 'REFLECTIONS OF NEGLECT'

The CHSCB held its annual conference in June 2017 to explore the impact of adolescent neglect on safeguarding and children and young people. The event welcomed attendance from **230 professionals from across the City of London and Hackney.**

Feedback gathered from delegate evaluations was extremely positive overall with 98% stating that the learning from the conference would have an impact on their safeguarding practice.

Evaluation data also confirmed a high degree of satisfaction with the quality of the presentations, with the majority of attendees (85%) rating them as either good (37%) or excellent (48%).



The two sessions delivered by survivors of neglect **Collette Elliott** and **Jenny Malloy** clearly resonated with attendees and were rated 78% and 97% excellent respectively amongst delegates.

### EVALUATION AND IMPACT OF TRAINING

Supported by its [Training Evaluation and Analysis Framework](#), the CHSCB continues its practice in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, for professionals in the area. Work undertaken to review the quality of training in 2017 / 18 has enabled the CHSCB to gain important insight into the difference it is making towards improved outcomes for children and young people.

The recipients of CHSCB training are diverse, as are the operating environments

they work in. In measuring the impact of learning on safeguarding practice and improved outcomes for young people, the CHSCB recognises that training is only one way in which practitioners develop expertise, with learning often being the result of a complex set of experiences that include the quality of line management, effective and reflective supervision, peer support and self-learning.

Notwithstanding the above, based on evidence gathered during the 2017 /18 period, the CHSCB remains confident that the training programme continues to strengthen the partnership response to safeguarding; evidenced through the good practice seen in audits, direct front-line practice observations, the scrutiny of partnership performance data, feedback from children and families and comments from training participants themselves. A range of participant evaluations are set out in this report with the full assessment of the quantity, quality and impact of training being available in the CHSCB Multi-Agency Training Annual Report for 2017/18.

### SAME-DAY EVALUATIONS

In line with usual practice, all attendees of training courses were asked to complete a same day course evaluation form. From the 771 places taken up on multi-agency training courses, a total of 734 forms were completed (95% completion rate). This was identified as an area for focus in 2017/18 and represents a significant increase from the 2016/17 period (72% completion rate). Same-day evaluations provide an immediate assessment on the courses delivered with questions covering areas such as content, style, venue and the quality the trainer. Importantly, the evaluation also asks participants to consider whether or not the training will impact on their ability to safeguard children and young people. 97% of those attending CHSCB training over 2017/18 considered that it would.

“I will be more aware of subtleties & if my gut tells me something isn't right I'll act on it.” *School Leader*

“To always remain professionally curious and always discuss my concerns about a young person's welfare & wellbeing with my manager.” *Youth Support & Development Worker*



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## POST COURSE EVALUATIONS

Continuing with its assessment of the impact of training, the CHSCB undertook a sample of post course evaluations to further test the impact and influence on outcomes for children and young people. These evaluations took place a number of months after the training had been received, with participants being asked to provide narrative evidence to support their response. 85% stated that the training had influenced their safeguarding practice.



*"To be more observant and open minded to the different forms of abuse."*



*"It has helped me to think more from the parent/carer 'side' and increased my awareness in regards to blocks in communication and safeguarding."*



*"The training allowed me to reflect on my work and question certain areas of practice and what benefit does that 'task' have for the family concerned - Is it useful? Will it encourage change? etc."*



*"I am more vigilant, and know how to respond were I to see something out of place."*

The CHSCB also contacted a sample number of delegates and their line managers to get feedback at both levels as part of its 3 Month Post Course Evaluation process. Managers were asked whether the training their staff attended in 2017/18 had influenced their practice in regards to safeguarding children and young people.



*"I believe this training was very useful and relevant to her work. There are many issues that need to be discussed, that can be hard to talk about with the children and families that she works with, either due to them being painful, sensitive issues and also for cultural reasons."*





# Priorities for next year & beyond

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The Board

Communication

A Healthy Workforce

Technology & Social Media

City Safeguarding Context

Progress in the City 17/18

Hackney Safeguarding Context

Progress in Hackney 17/18

Learning & Improvement

The Child Death Overview Panel

Training & Development

Priorities or next year & beyond

What you need to know

CHSCB Membership



# Children and young people in the City of London and Hackney are seen, heard and helped; they are effectively safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together.

Our strategic intent in making our collective vision a reality is set out in our [Business Plan for 2017/19](#), developed following a process of robust partnership dialogue across the City of London and Hackney. Within our plan, we have enhanced our focus on responding to the priorities of children and young people that live in the City of London and Hackney, based on what they have specifically told us matters most to them and what needs to happen to make them feel safer and be safer.

**HEARING AND ACTING ON OUR VOICES** - Children and young people have told us that often, they don't feel listened to and that adults don't act on the issues or concerns that they raise.

**SUPPORT FOR FRIENDS** - Young people have told us that they are concerned about mental health / emotional wellbeing of their friends - arising from a range of sources such as social media, school exams and friendships.

**SAFE PLACES** - Children and young people have told us that they feel less safe in some areas.

## PRIORITY 1: THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CONTEXT

**Outcome:** Children and young people have access to effective support that helps them deal with a range of pressures arising from the different contexts in which they live their lives.

**Action:** To work with partners to deliver comprehensive, multi-agency arrangements that tackle the identified safeguarding priorities set out below; and to evaluate their impact on children and young people.

- Safeguarding children and young people in the context of their access to technology and use of social media.

- Vulnerable Adolescents.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- Safer Workforce.
- Strengthening oversight and safeguarding interventions across the diverse communities of the City of London & Hackney.

## PRIORITY 2: EARLY HELP AND EARLY INTERVENTION

**Outcome:** Children and young people receive effective early help and appropriate interventions when needs are identified and/or problems arise.

**Action:** Partners will further evaluate the effectiveness of early help arrangements across both the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney.

## PRIORITY 3: STRONG LEADERSHIP & STRONG PARTNERSHIP

**Outcome:** The CHSCB leads the safeguarding agenda, challenges the work of partner organisations, and commits to an approach that learns lessons, embeds good practice and is continually influenced by children, young people and their families.

A key focus within Priority 3 is how the CHSCB and partner agencies commit to **Making the Invisible Visible**.

This reflects the importance that the CHSCB and partner agencies apply to **ALL** children and young people living in the City of London and Hackney being seen, heard and helped.

**Action:** In the context of the Children and Social Work Bill and the proposed





abolition of LSCBs, partner agencies will continue to commit to engaging in robust arrangements that coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of how children and young people are safeguarded.

The CHSCB and partners successfully deliver against the Business Plan and associated work plans set for the CHSCB and its sub groups / working groups. Continue to strengthen the governance interface between the CHSCB and other key strategic forums and Chairs.

Maintain the CHSCB Learning & Improvement Framework; scrutinise & challenge performance; identify, disseminate and embed lessons; engage with children, young people and families and evaluate the impact on outcomes.

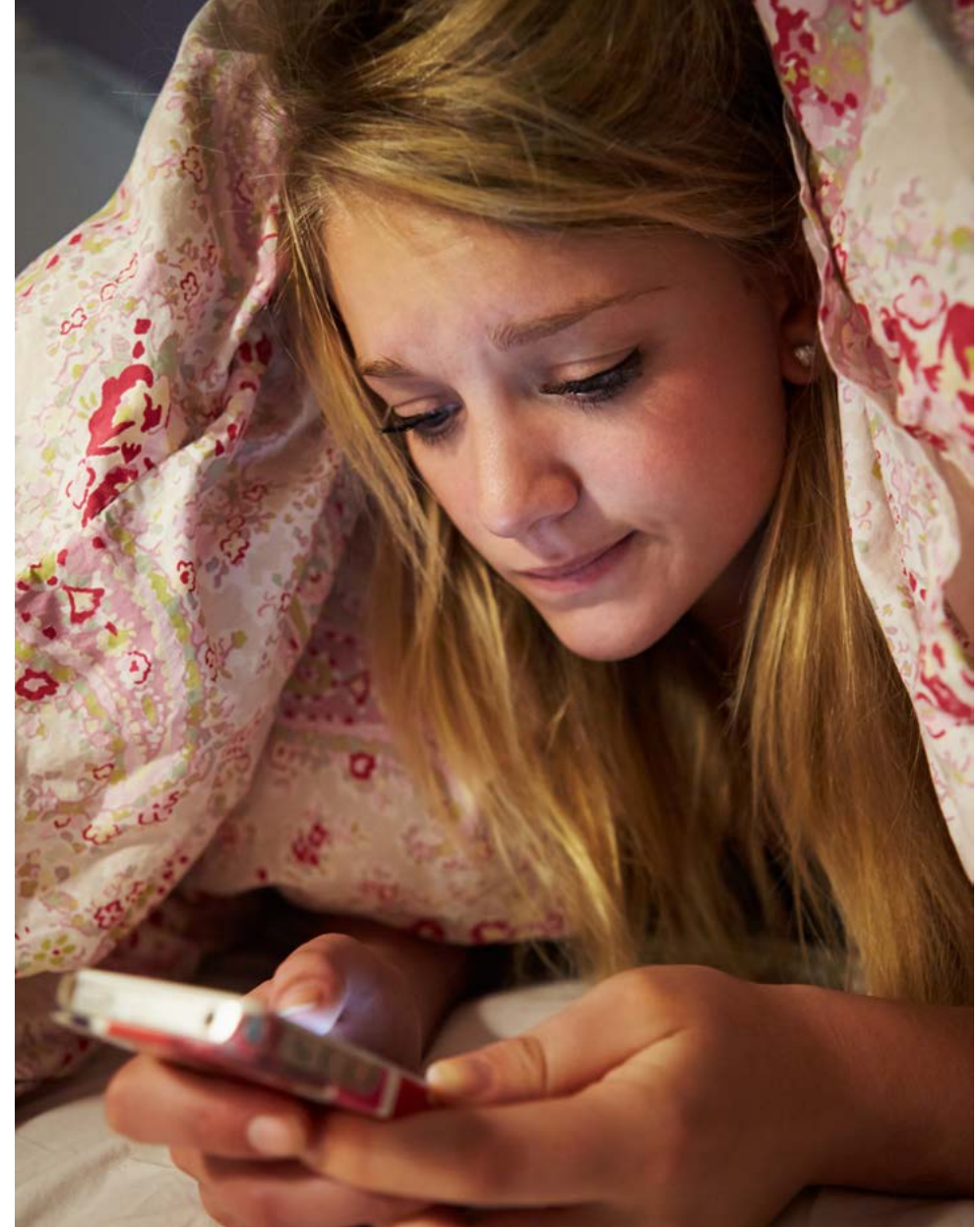
To communicate and raise awareness about safeguarding to individuals, organisations and communities.

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#### PRIORITY 4: A HEALTH WORKFORCE

**Outcome:** In the context of reducing public sector funding, the CHSCB is assured that agencies have in place effective arrangements to support their staff deliver high quality safeguarding practice.

**Action:** The CHSCB sets up a task and finish group to lead on designing and implementing a thorough health check of the organisational arrangements in place to support effective safeguarding practice.





# What you need to know

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## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Nothing is more important than making sure you are safe and well cared for.
- As adults, sometimes we think we always know best...we don't..... and that's why your voice is so important.
- This is about you and we want to know more about how you think children and young people can be better protected.
- We want to talk to you more often and we want to know the best way to do this.....please help.
- If you are worried about your own safety or that of a friend, speak to a professional you trust or speak to ChildLine on 0800 1111

## PARENTS AND CARERS

- Public agencies are there to support you and prevent any problems you are having getting worse...Don't be afraid to ask for help.
  - Tell us what works and what doesn't when professionals are trying to help you and your children.
- Make sure you know about the best way to protect your child and take time to understand some of the risks they can face.
- You'll never get ahead of your child when it comes to understanding social media and IT – but make yourself aware of the risks that children and young people can face.
- You can also call the NSPCC Child Protection helpline on 0808 800 5000

## THE COMMUNITY

- You are in the best place to look out for children and young people and to raise the alarm if something is going wrong for them.
- We all share responsibility for protecting children. Don't turn a blind eye. If you see something, say something.
- If you live in Hackney, call the [First Access Screening Team \(FAST\)](#) on [0208 356 5500](#)
- If you live in the City, call the [Children & Families Team](#) on [0207332 3621](#)
- You can also call the [NSPCC Child Protection](#) helpline on [0808 800 5000](#)

## FRONT-LINE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN OR ADULTS

- Make children and young people are seen, heard and helped... whatever your role.
- Your professional judgement is what ultimately makes a difference and you must invest in developing the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to effectively safeguard children and young people. Attend all training required for your role.
- Be familiar with, and use when necessary, the Hackney Wellbeing Framework and/or The City of London Early Intervention Framework to ensure an appropriate response to safeguarding children and young people.
- Understand the importance of talking with colleagues and don't be afraid to share information. If in doubt, speak to your manager.
- Escalate your concerns if you do not believe a child or young person is being safeguarded. This is non- negotiable.
- Use your representative on the CHSCB to make sure that your voice and that of the children and young people you work with are heard.
- If your work is mainly with adults, make sure you consider the needs of any children if those adults are parents.

## LOCAL POLITICIANS

- You are leaders in your local area. Do not underestimate the importance of your role in advocating for the most vulnerable children and making sure everyone takes their safeguarding responsibilities seriously.
- Councillors Anntoinette Bramble (Hackney) and Dhruv Patel (The City of London) are the lead members for Children's Services and have a key role in children's safeguarding – so does every other councillor.
- You can be the eyes and ears of vulnerable children and families... Keep the protection of children at the front of your mind.





## CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND DIRECTORS

- You set the tone for the culture of your organization. When you talk, people listen – talk about children and young people.
- Your leadership is vital if children and young people are to be safeguarded.
- Understand the capability and capacity of your front-line services to protect children and young people - make sure both are robust
- Ensure your workforce attend relevant CHSCB training courses and learning events.
- Ensure your agency contributes to the work of CHSCB and give this the highest priority. Be Section 11 compliant.
- Advise the CHSCB of any organisational restructures and how these might affect your capacity to safeguard children and young people.

## THE POLICE

- Robustly pursue offenders and disrupt their attempts to abuse children.
- Ensure officers and police staff have the opportunity to train with their colleagues in partner agencies.
- Ensure that the voices of all child victims are heard, particularly in relation to listening to evidence where children disclose abuse.
- Ensure a strong focus on MAPPA and MARAC arrangements.

## HEAD TEACHERS AND GOVERNORS OF SCHOOLS

- Ensure that your school / academy/ educational establishment is compliant with ‘keeping children safe in education’ (DfE, 2015)
- You see children more than any other profession and develop some of the most meaningful relationships with them.
- Keep engaged with the safeguarding process and continue to identify children who need early help and protection.

## CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS

- CCGs in the health service have a key role in scrutinising the governance and planning across a range of organisations.
- Discharge your safeguarding duties effectively and ensure that services are commissioned for the most vulnerable children.

## THE LOCAL MEDIA

- Safeguarding children and young people is a tough job.
- Communicating the message that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility is crucial - you can help do this positively.
- Hundreds of children and young people are effectively safeguarded every year across the City and Hackney. **This is news.**





# CHSCB Membership

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The Board

Communication

A Healthy Workforce

Technology &  
Social Media

City Safeguarding  
Context

Progress in the City  
17/18

Hackney  
Safeguarding  
Context

Progress in Hackney  
17/18

Learning &  
Improvement

The Child Death  
Overview Panel

Training &  
Development

Priorities or next  
year & beyond

What you need  
to know

CHSCB  
Membership



### Independent Chair

Jim Gamble QPM



### CHSCB Team

Rory McCallum  
Angela Bent  
Sandra Reid  
Alma Reisel  
Kerry Littleford  
Lauren Smith  
Sarah Seymour

Senior Professional Advisor  
Board Manager  
Business and Performance Manager  
Community Partnership Adviser (joined Sep 2017)  
CDOP Co-ordinator  
Training & Development Co-ordinator (left Feb 2017)  
Board Co-ordinator (joined Oct 2016)



### Participant Observers

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble  
Cllr Dhruv Patel

Lead Member for Children's Services, London Borough of Hackney  
Lead Member for Children's Services, City of London Corporation



### Board Members

Andrew Carter  
Chris Pelham  
David Mackintosh  
Paul Barnard  
Anne Canning  
Sarah Wright  
Lisa Aldridge  
Pauline Adams  
Steve Bending  
Maurice Mason  
Sian Davies  
Andrew Lee  
Jane Keeley  
Janice Thomas  
Annie Gammon  
Simon Laurence  
Sue Williams  
Catherine Edginton  
Charmaine Laurencin

City of London Community and Children's Services, Director  
City of London Community and Children's Services, Assistant Director People  
City of London Community Safety, Team Leader  
City of London Police, Detective Chief Superintendent  
Hackney Children Adults & Community Health, Group Director  
Hackney Children & Families, Director  
Hackney Children & Families, Interim Head of Service, Safeguarding & Learning  
Hackney Children & Families, Head of Service, Young Hackney  
Hackney Safer Communities, Head of Service (left Jun 2017)  
Hackney Children & Families, Community Safety & Partnership Manager (joined Sept 2017)  
Hackney Learning Trust, Interim Head  
Hackney Learning Trust, Assistant Director  
Haggerston School, Headteacher  
Sebright School, Executive Headteacher (left Jul 2017)  
Stoke Newington School, Headteacher (joined Dec 2017)  
Metropolitan Police Service – Hackney Borough, Borough Commander (left Sep 2017)  
Metropolitan Police Service – Hackney Borough, Borough Commander (joined Mar 2018)  
Metropolitan Police Service – Hackney Borough, Detective Chief Inspector (left Dec 2017)  
Metropolitan Police Service – Hackney Borough, Detective Chief Inspector (joined Dec 2017)



Stuart Cheek  
Keith Paterson  
Penny Bevan  
Kristine Wellington  
Michael Scorer  
David Padfield  
Jonathan Warren  
Lorraine Sunduza  
Tony Madden

Child Abuse Investigation Team, Acting Detective Chief Inspector (left Feb 2018)  
Child Abuse Investigation Team, Detective Chief Inspector (joined Mar 2018)  
Public Health, Director  
Hackney Council for Voluntary Services, Head of Safeguarding Children and Families  
Hackney Neighbourhoods & Housing, Director of Housing Services (left Dec 2017)  
Hackney Neighbourhoods & Housing, Director of Housing Services (joined Mar 2018)  
East London NHS Foundation Trust, Director of Nursing (left Sept 2017)  
East London NHS Foundation Trust, Director of Nursing (joined Dec 2017)  
East London NHS Foundation Trust, Director of Specialist Services



Dermot Ryall  
Tracey Fletcher  
Sheila Adam  
Marcia Smikle  
Clare Highton  
Pauline Frost  
Mary Lee

East London NHS Foundation Trust, Associate Director - CAMHS (joined Mar 2018)  
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Chief Executive  
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Chief Nurse & Director of Governance  
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Head of Safeguarding Children  
NHS City & Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group, Chair  
NHS City & Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group, Interim Programme Director Children & Maternity  
NHS City & Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group, Designated Nurse  
NHS City & Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group, Named GP  
NHS City & Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group, Designated Doctor



Dr Emma Tukmachi  
Dr Nick Lessof  
Vanessa Lodge  
Karen Miller  
Alison Blakely  
Paula Kelly  
Melinda Cassel  
Aveen Gardiner  
Susan Jolly  
Stuart Webber  
Sally Glen  
Shirley Green  
Belinda Blank

NHS England, Director of Nursing (left Mar 2018)  
Whittington Health, Head of Safeguarding  
London Ambulance Service, Quality Governance & Assurance Manager  
CAFCASS, Service Manager (Public Law) (left Dec 2017)  
CAFCASS, Service Manager (Public Law) (joined Mar 2018)  
London Community Rehabilitation Company, Area Manager (North London) (left Dec 2017)  
London Community Rehabilitation Company, Area Manager (North London) (joined Mar 2018)  
National Probation Service, Assistant Chief Officer  
Hackney Lay Member  
Hackney Lay Member  
City Lay Member







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<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b> <b>Item 6 – Outcome from School Exclusion – Progress</b>	<b>Item No</b>  <b>6</b>
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**Outline**

As part of its work programme for 2018/19, the Commission agreed to undertake an in-depth review of the outcomes of school exclusions.

A verbal update will provided on work completed, further evidence to be collected and any emerging conclusions to date.

**Action**

The Commission is asked to review progress to date and to highlight any emerging conclusions and recommendations.

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<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b> <b>Item 7 – Work Programme (Current and Future)</b>	<b>Item No</b> <b>7</b>
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**Outline**

The work programme for 2018/19 is attached for review.

At the last meeting of the municipal year, the Commission is asked to review the items taken in 2018/19 and to make suggestions for topics for inclusion for the 2019/20 work programme.

To support this discussion, the Overview & Scrutiny Officer will present the work programme development process for 2019/20.

**Action**

The Commission is invited to review the work programme for 2018/19 and to make recommendations for topics for inclusion within the 2019/20 work programme.



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## Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme June 2018 – April 2019

*Please note: this is a working document subject to change.*

Date	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
<b>18<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>  Papers deadline: 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2018  Agenda dispatch: 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Election of Chair and Vice Chair	Sanna Melling, Scrutiny Team/ Chair CYP	
	Update on School Admissions and the Childcare sufficiency Assessment	Marian Lavelle, Head of Admissions and Pupil Benefits, HLT Angela Scattergood, Head of Early Years, HLT Tim Wooldridge, Early Years Strategy Manager, HLT	
	Review update – Childcare: the introduction of extended (30-hour) free childcare in Hackney.	Angela Scattergood, Head of Early Years, HLT Tim Wooldridge, Early Years Strategy Manager, HLT	
	Work Programme 2018/19	Sanna Melling, Scrutiny Team	To discuss and agree the work programme.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> September 2018</b>  Papers	Executive Response - Unregistered Educational Settings in Hackney	Anne Canning, Group Director, Children, Adults and Community Health, LBH Andrew Lee, Assistant Director Education Services, Hackney	

Date	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
deadline: 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2018  Agenda dispatch: 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2018		Learning Trust Paul Kelly, Head of Wellbeing and Education Safeguarding Education Services, Hackney Learning Trust	
	Executive Response - Recruitment and Support to Foster Carers review.	Sarah Wright, Director of Children & Family Services Deborah Ennis, Service Manager - Safeguarding and Learning Children and Families Service	Including an additional short written update on the project to provide additional support to unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
	SEND Reference group - update	Cllr Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years and Play Cllr Gordon, Vice Chair CYP Scrutiny Commission	Update to cover terms of reference, progress and remit of reference group.
	Outcomes of Exclusions – DRAFT Terms of Reference	Sanna Melling, Scrutiny Team	
	Work Programme 2018/19	Sanna Melling, Scrutiny Team	To review and monitor progress

Date	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
<p><b>10th October 2018</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018</p>	<p>Evidence session – Review: Outcomes of Exclusions in Hackney</p> <p><u>Guests:</u></p> <p>Kiran Gill, founder of the charity The Difference</p> <p>Executive Head and Head of School, New Regent’s College</p> <p>Head teacher, Garden School</p> <p>As well as representatives from the following alternative provisions;</p> <p>ELATT</p> <p>The Boxing Academy</p> <p>BSix College</p> <p>Inspired Directions School</p> <p>The School at Hackney City Farm</p>	<p>Sanna Melling, Scrutiny Team</p>	<p>First evidence session with key stakeholders</p>
	<p>Work Programme 2018/19</p>	<p>Sanna Melling, Scrutiny Team</p>	<p>To review and monitor progress</p>
<p><b>15<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p>Annual Question Time with</p>	<p>Cllr Christopher Kennedy</p>	<p>The Commission has identified 3 areas</p>

Date	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
<p><b>November 2018</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years and Play</p>		<p>for depth questioning in advance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children's centres and nurseries</li> <li>• making Hackney a child friendly borough</li> <li>• troubled families</li> </ul>
	<p>Children and Families Service Bi-Annual Update – End of Year Report to Members</p>	<p>Sarah Wright, Director of Children &amp; Family Services Lisa Aldridge, Head of Service, Safeguarding and Learning Deborah Ennis, Service Manager - Safeguarding and Learning Children and Families Service</p>	<p>CFS End of Year Report 2017/18</p> <p>Including a narrative about the increased demand on the service and a breakdown of abuse type over the past year and information about trends.</p>
	<p>Work Programme 2018/19</p>	<p>Martin Bradford, Scrutiny Team</p>	<p>To review and monitor progress</p>
<p><b>19<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b></p>	<p><b>Joint Meeting with Health in Hackney:</b></p> <p>Integrated Commissioning – CYP and Maternity Workstream</p> <p>Vaccine preventable disease and childhood immunisations</p>	<p>Amy Wilkinson, Workstream Director Children, Young People and Maternity Services Integrated Commissioning Workstream</p> <p>NHSE London GP Confed Public Health CCG Rep of an Anti Vac campaign</p>	<p>Long item on Childhood Immunisations to address concerns about the borough's performance and key issues for the stakeholders engaged in trying to increase the uptake of immunisations.</p>



Date	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
<p><b>14<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: 3<sup>th</sup> January 2019</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019</p>	<p>Outcomes of Exclusions in Hackney – Evidence Session</p> <p>1) <u>Report back of site visits and or focus groups.</u></p> <p>2) <u>Local Policy and Practice</u></p> <p>3) <u>Comparative Policy and Practice</u></p> <p>4) Legal advice for children and</p>	<p>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Officer</p> <p>Paul Kelly, Hackney Learning Trust</p> <p>Rachel Thompson &amp; Jack Newling, Re-Integration Unit, Hackney Learning Trust</p> <p>Marian Lavelle, Fair Access Panel, Hackney Learning Trust</p> <p>Sarah Wright, Director of Children and Families Service Lisa Aldridge, Head of Service, Safeguarding and Learning Pauline Adams, Principal Head of Service, Early Help and Prevention</p> <p>Jan Parnell, Assistant Director of Education, LB Hammersmith and Fulham</p> <p>Suzanne Frazer, Islington Law</p>	<p>Members have notes of site visits and focus groups to identify emerging key issues.</p> <p>Ensure that Members and review participants are aware of the TOR for the review.</p> <p>For data on children and young people, Hackney's statistical peers are Brent, Enfield, Greenwich, <u>Hammersmith and Fulham</u>, Haringey, Islington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, and Waltham Forest.</p>

Date	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
	their families excluded from school.	Centre	
	Annual Question Time with Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care.	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	The Commission to identify 3 areas for depth questioning in advance.  To include budget and performance monitoring of service area - to look 'beyond' data set to gain a better understanding of complex issues. In order to promote 'investigative rather than for information'.
	Work Programme 2018/19	Scrutiny Officer	To review and monitor progress

Date	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
<p><b>25th February 2019</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019</p>	<p>Support to LGBT students in Schools in Hackney</p>	<p>National /local overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helena Burke, Hackney Learning Trust</li> <li>• Amy Wilkinson, Integrated Commissioning</li> <li>• David Wright, Young Hackney</li> </ul> <p>Work in local schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard Brown (Exec) &amp; Sue Parillion (Head), New Regents College</li> <li>• Dr Elly Barnes, Director, Educate &amp; Celebrate</li> </ul> <p>Views of young LGBT students</p> <p>Needs of LGBT young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susy Langsdale/ Maya Walker, Project Indigo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline of support and resources for individual LGBT+ students, families and school staff and;</li> <li>• An update on current practices that ensure LGBT+ issues are raised where relevant throughout the curriculum, including through humanities and literature as well as through PSHCE and;</li> <li>• Discussion around how to ensure that the whole school community demonstrate an accepting and supportive approach to and around LGBT+ issues, including through policies to tackle bullying and harassment.</li> </ul>
	<p>Well-being and Mental Health Services (WAMHS): early intervention and support to schools</p>	<p>WAMHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sophie McElroy, CAMHS Alliance Project Manager</li> <li>• Helena Burke, HLT</li> <li>• Waveney Patel, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Homerton Hospital (CAMHS)</li> </ul> <p>Case Studies Baden Powell Primary</p>	<p>To include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report on schools progress against the action plans that were put in place following the audit;</li> <li>• Any patterns and trends that have emerged as a part of the auditing process and;</li> <li>• Summary of work undertaken by the CAMHS worker including reflections on the pilot programme so far;</li> </ul>

Date	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
		Cardinal Pole Secondary  In attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greg Condon, Mental Health Programme Manager, NHS City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group</li> <li>• Ruth Kossoff, Joint Head of Service, East London Foundation trust</li> <li>• Amy Wilkinson, Integrated Commissioning Workstream Director, Children, Young People and Maternity Services</li> <li>• Laura Smith, Clinical Lead, Children’s Social Care, Hackney Learning Trust</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next steps.</li> </ul>
	Outcomes of Exclusions – report back from site visits.	Martin Bradford, Scrutiny Officer	
	Work Programme 2018/19	Scrutiny Officer	To review and monitor progress
<b>25<sup>th</sup> March 2019</b>  Papers deadline: 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	6-month recommendation update on Recruitment and Support to Foster Carers review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Wright, Director of Children &amp; Family Services</li> </ul>	To review and monitor progress on implementation of recommendations.
	Children and Families Service Bi-Annual Report to Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Wright, Director of Children &amp; Family Services</li> </ul>	Including a separate paper on the outcomes of and the tracking of the

Date	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
Agenda dispatch: 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lisa Aldridge, Head of Service, Safeguarding and Learning</li> <li>• Deborah Ennis, Service Manager - Safeguarding and Learning</li> </ul>	social and emotional development of children in Temporary Accommodation
	Annual Update on Achievement of Students at Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sara Morgan, Principal Adviser Primary, Hackney Learning Trust;</li> <li>• Anton Francic, Principal Secondary Adviser, Hackney Learning Trust – TBC</li> <li>• Tim Wooldridge, Early Years,</li> </ul>	<p>As agreed at CYP Commission in March 2018. The HLT will provide a narrative outlining in more detail the progress in regards to the SEN and Education Health and Care plan cohorts as a part of the annual update, and to provide a document showing each cohort's progress from Early Years through to Key Stage.</p> <p>Further to include, above to provide additional narrative for groups including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupil Premium</li> <li>• Black British/ Caribbean boys</li> <li>• Turkish boys</li> </ul> <p>Anton Francic (HLT) to provide update on Attainment 8 and Progress 8 ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>FSM eligibility and applications / impact in respect of Universal Credit - Marian Lavelle</p> <p>Strategies to close the attainment gap –</p>



Date	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
			Sara Morgan and Anton Frankic
	'Curriculum - including how we maintain creative subjects and experiences' - TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HLT</li> </ul>	Chair and Director of Education to meet and agree purpose.
	Work Programme 2018/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrutiny Officer</li> </ul>	To review and monitor progress of work programme, including the review.
<p><b>30<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019</p>	6 month recommendation update – Unregistered Educational Settings review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anne Canning, Group Director, Children, Adults and Community Health, LBH</li> <li>• Andrew Lee, Assistant Director Education Services, Hackney Learning Trust</li> <li>• Paul Kelly, Head of Wellbeing and Education Safeguarding</li> <li>• Education Services, Hackney Learning Trust</li> </ul>	
	Annual Report City and Hackney Safeguarding Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim Gamble, Chair of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board – TBC</li> <li>• Rory McCallum, Senior Processional Adviser</li> </ul>	
	Outcomes of Exclusions – Update	Martin Bradford, Scrutiny Officer	
	Discussion of 2019/20 work programme	Martin Bradford, Scrutiny Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from consultation with key stakeholders;</li> </ul>

Date	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission to identify, suggest and agree possible topics for inclusion within the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission work programme for 2019/20.</li> </ul>

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<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b> <b>Item 8 – Minutes</b>	<b>Item No</b>  <b>8</b>
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**Outline**

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 are attached.

**Action**

The Commission is asked to note any actions and to review and agree the minutes.

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## **Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission**

### **25<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

#### **Attendees:**

- Sophie Conway (Councillor) (Chair)
- Margaret Gordon (Councillor) (Vice Chair)
- Ajay Chauhan (Councillor)
- Humaira Garasia (Councillor)
- Katie Hanson (Councillor)
- James Peters (Councillor)
- Clare Potter (Councillor)
- Caroline Woodley (Councillor)
- Jane Heffernan (Co-optee)
- Jo MacLeod (Co-optee)
- Maariyah Patel (Co-optee)
- Aleigha Reeves (Co-optee)

#### **In attendance:**

- Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
- Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Early Years and Play
- Anne Canning, Group Director, Children Families and Community Health
- Sarah Wright, Director of Children & Families Service
- Lisa Aldridge, Head of Service, Safeguarding and Learning
- Deborah Ennis, Service Manager, Safeguarding & Learning
- Annie Gammon, Head of Hackney Learning Trust & Director of Education
- Sarah Morgan, Principal Primary Adviser, Hackney Learning Trust
- Anton Francic, Senior Secondary Adviser, Hackney Learning Trust
- Tim Wooldridge, Early Years Strategy Manager, Hackney Learning Trust

There were no members of the public present.

## **1. Apologies**

### **1.1 Apologies for absence were received from:**

- Cllr Clare Joseph
- Cllr Soraya Adejare
- Shuja Shaik
- Graham Hunter
- Michael Lobenstein
- Ernell Watson

### **1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from:**

- Cllr Clare Potter

## **2. Urgent Items / Order of Business**

2.1 At item 6, Children Social Care B-Annual Report, an update would also be provided to the Commission on the outcome of the recent focused visit of children's social care by Ofsted.



### **3. Declarations of interest**

3.1 The following declarations were received by members:

- Cllr Chauhan was a teacher at secondary school in another London borough and a member of the NEU.
- Cllr Peters was a governor at the Garden School.
- Cllr Gordon was an Advisory Lawyer for DWP
- Jo Macleod was a governor of a local primary school.

3.2 Cllr Gordon indicated that given her role as an Advisory Lawyer for DWP, she would have a conflict of interest in the discussion of Free School Meals at item 4 and would therefore leave the room.

### **4. Annual Update on School Achievement**

4.1 The Chair welcomed Annie Gammon, Sarah Morgan, Anton Francic, and Tim Wooldridge to this meeting.

4.2 Each year the Commission receives an update on pupil achievement at schools across Hackney which records achievement at Early Years Foundation, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. This report will allow the Commission to have year-on-year oversight of pupil performance in Hackney. The following is a summary of key points from this discussion.

#### Early Years Foundation Stage

4.3 Early Years Foundation stage assessment is at age 5 which is carried out at all maintained schools, free schools, academies and independent schools. In this context this assessment is different to others (KS1, KS2 etc.) as this includes children from the independent sector. The main measure in this assessment is known as the 'good level of development' (GLD). A child has achieved a GLD if it reached the expected standard in:

- Communication and language;
- Literacy and Maths;
- Physical development;
- Personal, social and emotional development.

4.4 In 2018, 70.1% of children in Hackney at age 5 had reached a GLD which was 1.4% lower than the national average, which ranked the borough 101<sup>st</sup> out of all local authorities and 29<sup>th</sup> in London.

4.5 It was highlighted to the Commission, that when children that attend PVI settings are excluded, the percentage of children which achieve a GLD in Hackney is 77% which is substantially higher than the national average. At Table 4 in the submitted report, the Commission noted that the proportion of children that achieved a GLD from the PVI sector in 2018 was significantly lower (27%) than those in maintained settings (77%). Therefore this figure depressed the overall result for children that had achieved a GLD in Hackney.

## Questions

4.6 The Commission sought to understand why the PVI sector was underperforming in comparison to maintained sector for children that had achieved a GLD. It was noted that many of the independent schools were in the Charedi community where many children had English as a second language. This would inevitably present language and communication issues for children at these schools as the tests were undertaken in English and assessed English language skills. It was also suggested that, unlike the maintained sector, there was no requirement for Qualified Teachers to be present in the independent sector. Thirdly, the curriculum in Charedi independent schools was substantially different to that offered in mainstream settings, in that the curriculum focused on just two areas the Khol (secular) and the Kodesh (religious) which meant that there was less time devoted to English language and literacy.

4.7 In light of the issues outlined above, the Commission questioned officers on what development work had taken place to help improve performance of children within the independent sector, particularly those from the Charedi community. It was reported that Early Years' service had worked with all schools and practitioners within the independent sector to develop the teaching of phonics and English. It was acknowledged however, that these barriers remained significant and work would be ongoing to support this sector.

4.8 Compared to other boroughs, Hackney had large number of independent schools in early year's sector. In this context, whilst officers did meet with other boroughs, there was little comparative learning to be gleaned from other boroughs. It was noted that whilst there was a large Charedi community in Haringey, much of the community chose to access education and health services in Hackney.

4.9 The Commission noted that there was a gender gap between the proportion of girls and boys that had achieved a GLD in Hackney, though this gap was much smaller than national figures. Other key demographic variances in achievement at Early Years Foundation Stage were highlighted to the Commission which included:

- The Orthodox Jewish community in general, though in particular boys within this community;
- Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot community and again, particularly the boys within this community;
- Children with a SEND;
- Children who were entitled to free school meals.

## Key Stage 2

4.10 This measure of attainment is for children age 11 who were leaving primary school to attend secondary school. In 2018, 71% of children reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, which ranked Hackney 15<sup>th</sup> out of 152 local authorities. It was noted that in terms of performance overall at KS2, Hackney was in the 'outstanding' or 'good' quartile for all performance measures.

4.11 Boys achievement was lower than girls for most measures and this impacted on the overall achievement figure at KS2. Black Caribbean boys and boys from Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Community were also underachieving and these groups remained a priority with all local schools.

4.12 The achievement level in maths at KS2 in Hackney was lower than for reading and writing, and in general, scores for this assessment were lower than in previous years. The Commission noted that schools use a range of schemes to teach maths and therefore the focus of the HLT was to ensure that these were being taught effectively. One particular area of local weakness was in maths reasoning where children were required to explain their answer which would suggest that language issues were also at play in this assessment.

#### Questions

4.13 There were only two local schools which could be considered as coasting, one in the maintained sector and one in the academy sector. It was noted that this measure would no longer be relevant after this year, as this been removed from the new accountability measures.

4.14 Black Caribbean boys were a priority for local development and improvement work as this group continued to underachieve at KS2. HLT was particularly focusing on improving the reading ability and scores of Black Caribbean boys as this may help across all assessments and help to narrow the gap between this group and other cohorts of local children. An officer from HLT was dedicated to working with schools to identify and support work with young Black Caribbean boys. It was also noted that additional resources had been allocated to work on the education component of the Young Black Men's Project: an ex-primary head will be working two days a week to develop this body of work from September to ensure that young black boys were being engaged in both learning and in the culture of the school.

4.15 As the underperformance of black Caribbean boys was a long established trend, the Commission were keen to explore what factors might be behind this. There were many factors at play including cultural competence of schools and practitioner, racial identities of young people and unconscious bias. It was clear that this was not only a problem between schools but also within individual schools, with black Caribbean boys still underperforming in high achieving schools.

4.16 There were a number of projects which had demonstrated some measure of success, such as the black father's project which had contributed to a small fall in in exclusion and upturn in pupil confidence. Hackney was not alone, as other authorities such as Lambeth, Barnet, Harrow and Haringey also experience similar discrepancies in performance of black Caribbean boys. It was suggested that this was a very complex issue but the authority continued to reflect and learn on its own practice and would continue to focus work to help narrow the gap in attainment between black Caribbean boys and other pupils.

#### Key Stage 4

4.17 Hackney continued to perform above the national average at both attainment 8 and progress 8 level (progress over the secondary school period) at KS4 for the past 3 years. Two-thirds of local children now receive a grade 4 and above for English and maths. Whilst it was acknowledged that the performance at KS4 varied between schools, the authority was on the whole satisfied with KS4 results which showed that Hackney was in the top quartile for 5 out of the 7 key measures:

- Progress 8 score overall;
- Progress 8 Score English;

- Progress 8 score maths;
- Attainment 8 score;
- English Baccalaureate average points score.

### Questions

4.18 The Commission sought to understand whether off-rolling, where underperforming children were encouraged to be home- schooled or educated in another setting, was a growing problem in Hackney. This was in response to a report by the Children’s Commissioner which had indicated that the number of children being moved in to home-education had increased by 238% in the two year period 2016-2018 in Hackney.

4.19 HLT had noted the report and was looking into these. It was noted that off-rolling should always be in the interest of the child and not the school. HLT had undertaken some analysis of the 2018 year 11 cohort to understand how many children had moved from end of year 10 to beginning of year 11. This analysis suggested that approximately 3-4% of children moved across schools in this period, some to go to alternative provision, some had gone overseas and a really small group were electively home educated. HLT had visited two schools with the highest rate of moves where reasons behind each child’s move were assessed to be both legal and valid and not constitute illegal off-rolling. HLT would continue to scrutinise these moves and to raise awareness amongst school governors.

4.20 In its work with school exclusions, the Commission found that in many instances parents and children had little understanding of the school processes and often were not able to offer any effective challenge. In this context, the Commission sought to understand if any work had been undertaken with parents and children to confirm whether the moves facilitated by the school were understood and acceptable to them. HLT noted that two young people had attended the Exclusions Board recently and described how confusing the process had been to them and their families, which would appear to confirm this view. There would be a need to ensure that Head teachers are made aware of this issue and ensure that they positively engage with over represented groups.

**Agreed:** The Commission requested that a formal item on off-rolling to be taken at a future meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

### SEND and EHC

4.21 When the Commission looked at this item in 2018, it requested additional commentary around the performance of pupils with SEND or with an EHC plan. Officers from HLT summarised the submitted report and the key points from this discussion were highlighted below.

4.22 A Special Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice was established in 2015 which stated that schools must:

- Address the needs of pupils with SEN
- Ensure that SEN pupils engage in activities alongside other pupils;
- Designate a QT as a SENCO;
- Inform parents when they are making SEN provision;
- Publish an SEN information report.

4.23 Table 1 in the submitted report provides information on the number of children with SEN and with an EHC plan across individual schools in Hackney. A number of schools were noted to have higher rates of children attending with SEN or EHC (e.g. Millfields and Tysen) as these schools had special provisions to cater for children with additional needs and were placed there by the admissions team. About 3% of children attending these schools will be on an EHC plan and about 15-17% with an assessed SEND need.

#### Questions

4.24 There was a SENCO forum to enable the dissemination of good practice in supporting children with SEND or with an EHC plan. These forums addressed frequently by those schools with specialist knowledge in this area, such as the three designated special schools (The Garden, Ickburgh, Stormont House). A local SENCO conference had been held in 2018 and additional resources had been allocated to further SENCO training in the year ahead.

4.25 It was reported that attendance at the SENCO Conference totalled 60 local SENCO, which represented about 75% of the SENCO cohort. Attendance at SENCO forums did however vary. These forums were held after school which meant that an additional time commitment was required by SENCO to attend. Efforts were being made to ensure that these forums had appeal to both Primary and Secondary SENCO's.

4.26 The report demonstrated that educational achievement of those children with a SEND or EHC plan was higher in Hackney than the national average, which would suggest that there is good practice locally. It was therefore important to understand that this learning was shared locally to help raise performance further. An exchange visit had recently taken place between a number of local schools, special schools and alternative providers which had been very informative in terms of developing awareness of the restorative approach.

#### Cllr Gordon left the room

#### Free School Meals

4.27 As part of its work programme for 2018/19, the Commission indicated that it would like assess free school meal (FSM) entitlement, and the impact that the roll-out of Universal Credit had on FSM entitlement. In addition the Commission indicated that it would like to assess the impact of the transition to an on-line application system for FSMs.

4.28 A number eligibility criteria were described for the Commission for children to receive FSM entitlement. These included if the parent was in receipt of certain benefits (e.g. Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance). If a child has been entitled to FSM or has been in the last 6 years, the school will receive a Pupil Premium Grant. Eligible parents are therefore encouraged to sign up for FSM given the additional funding this attracts to support their child.

4.29 The proportion of children that were eligible for FSM in Hackney in 2018 was 26%, but the number of children who were disadvantaged is higher at about 32%, given the application of the 6 year rule.

4.30 There had been some additional restrictions placed on the eligibility criteria for FSM in recent years which had led to a reduction in the proportion of children who were entitled to this service. In Hackney, the proportion of children on the school roll who were entitled to FSM's fell from 34% in 2013 to 26% in 2018. Similar reductions were recorded at both national and regional levels.

4.31 The Chair thanked officers from the HLT for attending and responding to questions from the Commission.

Cllr Gordon returned

## **5. Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers**

5.1 The Chair welcomed Sarah Wright and Korinna Steele to the meeting.

5.2 It was reported to the Commission that for a number of years the Council has been reliant on the independent foster carers to care for looked after children in Hackney. It was estimated that some 2/3 of placements were made with an independent foster carer rather than a foster carer working for the Council. Because of cost and quality issues, the Council had been trying to redress this imbalance and increase in-house provision. With the exception of about 19 or 20 children in residential care, the majority of children in the care of the authority are looked after by a foster carer.

5.3 The Director noted that the service had recruited just 15 new foster carers this year which was below the target of 23 set and agreed by the Commissions review in 2018. As there had been no resignations from the internal pool of foster carers however, this would show a net increase of 15 which was better than expected. The Commission also noted that the service was also recruiting higher numbers of foster carers than neighbouring boroughs. Significant challenges in recruiting foster carers remain, however most significant is the current housing pressures, where few people have spare bedrooms to enable them to foster.

5.4 The Director reported that progress had been made on all of the recommendations made by the Commission and highlighted a number of key developments:

- The sufficiency strategy was being updated and would be finalised by the summer;
- The service is still working to increase the number of Level 2 and level 3 foster carers in the internal pool - this year 4 have moved to level 2 and 2 have moved to level 3;
- The service has undertaken some targeted recruitment within the LGBTQi community and among single people and have received more applications from single male foster carers this year;
- The service has adopted the policy of making larger council rented properties available to foster carers who want to foster more children and one family has moved into a larger property this year;



- The housing service had not however been able to provide additional housing to enable older children in fostering households to move out and allow the foster parent to take on more foster children;
- A dedicated officer has been employed to specifically match looked after children with the Council's in-house team of foster carers which has resulted in a 12.5% rise in the number of children looked after by an in-house foster carer;
- A Mockingbird Model trial was being developed and the hub-carer had been recruited and the model had been well received by foster carers and this model would officially launch in spring 2019;
- The service was now part of a consortium with other east London boroughs to improve commissioning arrangements (quality and costing) for high need care placements;
- The service continued to work in partnership with its north London partners in terms of specialised training and recruitment for foster carers.

### Questions

5.5 Having the spare housing capacity was clearly critical in the foster carer application process, therefore the Commission wanted to know what targeted recruitment had taken place amongst this demographic? It was acknowledged that there was a new demographic resident in the borough and the service would work out ways to incorporate these groups into marketing programmes.

5.6 The Commission wanted to know if anything further could be done to increase housing capacity for those potential foster carers with the right skill-set to enable them to offer foster care placements? It was reported that it was not practical to assess potential recruits without the spare room capacity as currently there would be limited potential for any foster care placements.

5.7 As there had not been any resignations from the in-house foster carer cohort, no exit interviews had been undertaken thus far in 2018/19. Systems were in place however to record departing foster carer's views if resignations did take place.

5.8 Given that the majority of looked after children were placed with foster carers outside of Hackney, the Commission wished to clarify if the Mocking Bird model would be viable in this context? It was reported that there was potential to develop hubs in other places outside of London, particularly where there was a grouping of in-house Hackney foster carers (e.g. in Kent).

5.9 It was reported that the service had benchmarked the financial package of grants and allowances that foster carers receive against other neighbouring authorities. This demonstrated that the level of financial support to foster carers was broadly similar to other authorities. New figures had also recently been issued by the Fostering Network and the service would ensure that local financial packages would reflect these recommendations.

5.10 Members of the Commission wished to note a number of positive aspects of the fostering service through their work as Councillors:

- There had been an increase in the number of advertisements encouraging fostering from non-traditional foster carers;
- The fostering team was present and actively recruiting at local events.

**Agreed:** The Commission would like a further update on the recommendations from the review of the Recruitment and Retention of Foster carers to be taken in the 2019/20 work programme.

5.11 The Chair thanked officers for attending and for responding to questions from the Commission.

## **6. Children's Social Care Bi-Annual Report**

### Ofsted focused visit to children's social care

6.1 The Chair welcomed the Group Director for Children, Families and Community Health to the meeting and Director of Children and Families who would update the Commission on the outcome of the recent focused visit to the Children and Families Service.

6.2 The Commission understood that the current HMI Ofsted inspection regime for children's social care operated on a three year cycle. An Inspection of Local Authority Children Services (ILACS) would take place at some point within the three year cycles. The last Ofsted inspection undertaken in Hackney was in 2016. In the intervening years it is expected that a 'focused visit' or a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) would take place.

6.3 HMI Ofsted undertook a focused visit in February 2019. The focus of this visit was on 'children on child protection and child in need' plans. This was welcomed by the service as this was a very complicated and challenging area of service provision for which external assessment would be beneficial. The visit took place over 2 days and the visit focused on an analysis of casework in this service, where inspectors mostly talked to social workers, as well as social work managers and senior managers.

6.4 As a result of the focused visit a number of priority actions were identified by inspectors which required the authority take 'swift and decisive' action to address weaknesses in child protection. These were:

- The timeliness and effectiveness of social work practice and interventions to safeguard children from harm;
- The quality and effectiveness of managerial oversight and supervision to ensure that children's circumstances improve within their timeframe.

6.5 Whilst the inspectors identified a number of strengths in the service including good social work practice, good social work assessments and social work support, the review of more complex cases suggested that improvements could be made to the way these families were supported. It was noted however, that none of the cases reviewed identified children at risk or which required immediate remedial action.

6.6 As a result of the focused visit, Ofsted identified a number of areas which required improvement;

- Children's daily lived experiences to be central to all work;
- The application of thresholds to protect children on child in need plans when risks escalate or children's circumstances do not improve within children's timeframes;

- Performance data regarding the timeliness and impact of social work practice to improve children's circumstances;
- Plans to be more specific and detailed about what needs to change and by when;
- The greater consideration of men, including abusive partners, in risk assessments.

6.7 It was acknowledged that the outcome of this focused visit had come as a surprise to the service, as the internal audit and evaluations procedures employed within the service gave no indication that this was an area of weakness. In light of this, the service would be checking and validating internal audit processes to ensure that these remained robust.

6.8 The service recognised that the stability and continuity of the workforce in this situation was of critical importance, and the Group Director and Director had moved quickly to reassure the workforce that there would be additional support to the service over the coming months. Additional capacity would be provided where needed and some external work had been postponed to allow the service to focus on internal development issues. This would help the service respond to the priority actions set out by Ofsted.

6.9 A key criticism of the service was that too much emphasis was placed on working with adults to stabilise the family, rather than on the ongoing lived experience of the child in that family. In response, some immediate service changes had been made to case assessments to ensure that young people's experience was fully recorded and assessed. New check points had been added within case management processes so that there was additional management oversight to determine whether sufficient family progress has been made.

6.10 A draft action plan was being developed by the service in response to the priorities and actions set out in the Ofsted inspection letter. This draft action plan was required to be submitted to Ofsted within 20 working days with a full finalised action plan to be published within 70 working days. It was expected that once the action plan has been agreed and improvement work in train, a further full ILACS (see 6.1) inspection would take place in the period from September 2019 onwards. This would be a wider inspection of the service. The audit and review systems put in place to respond to the focused visit would be used to prepare for this wider inspection.

6.11 It was reported in the focused visit that social workers felt that their caseloads were manageable. It was acknowledged by officers present that whilst case-loads were slightly higher than neighbouring boroughs, social workers operate on a unit model in Hackney where administrative support is provided and therefore allowed them to focus more on social work practice.

6.12 It was acknowledged that the next 6 months would be difficult for the service and staff as they respond to the shortfalls identified within the focused visit. Given the importance of this service area, both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor planned to visit children and families staff to reassure them that there would be full organisational commitment and support to help the service respond positively and effectively to the outcomes of the focused visit.

6.13 It was noted that the focused visit report had been shared and discussed at the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB). This reiterated the importance of a multi-agency approach to safeguarding children and underlined the commitment of local agencies to work in partnership to safeguard local children.

6.14 One of the challenges of safeguarding children was around the application of social care thresholds. It was important to note that considerable work had been undertaken through the CHSCB with community partners to help build confidence in the social care system and to emphasise that this was an opportunity for social care support rather than punitive action. This approach has been instrumental in bringing communities into the ambit of social care and the service would therefore need to be mindful as to the implications of the application of any new thresholds in these communities.

### Questions

6.15 In light of the assessment made by the inspectors '*... a significant number of children continue to experience harm. Thresholds are too high and decisions are too slow for too many children living in circumstances of pervasive neglect and domestic abuse, and they wait too long for adequate help and protection*', what action was taken in respect of the cases assessed by inspectors?

- The Group Director responded that not all cases that the inspectors looked at were identified to the service by inspectors, but for those cases which had been identified and assessed, it was acknowledged that a number of children had been in the system for too long without sufficient progress and improvement being made within those families. The Group Director reassured the Commission that in these cases there was no instance where inspectors had identified a child was at risk of significant harm or when the service should have taken immediate action. These cases would be assessed on a more regular basis to ensure that the experience of the child was fully recognised and that there was sufficient improvement within the family.

- The Director also reported that the service had systematically reviewed all Child In Need cases which had been open 18 months or longer and reviewed all decisions taken in these cases. This process would be repeated for cases that had been open for 15 months or longer and again for 12 months or longer.

- The Group Director indicated that practitioners needed a more structured way to help them decide when 'enough was enough' and that the introduction of check points would help facilitate this. It was acknowledged however, that this was a very complex assessment.

6.16 The Commission sought to understand how this focused visit outcome might compare to other inspections at other authorities?

- The Group Director reported that focused visits were part of the new inspection framework we, but all visits and inspections were reported openly and publicly. This focused visit was the first one on this topic (children on Child Protection Plans and Child in Need Plans) undertaken in London, so there was little to compare it with. It was acknowledged however, that the focused visit had identified priority actions which was a serious judgement on the service.

6.17 The Commission noted that a number of previously highlighted areas for service improvement for children's social care were central to the shortcomings identified by

inspectors in their assessment of children in need. Did the service need to look again at these issues?

- The Group Director noted that the new performance management system planned go-live date was in the week of the inspection. Performance data would be part of the action plan in response to the priority actions, and would ensure that data is used in a more timely way. It was noted that in terms of performance indicators, Hackney was not an outlier amongst the other 141 unitary boroughs providing children's social care. It was acknowledged however that whilst the service had the data, this needed to be used in a more proactive way.

- The Director indicated that the use of 'disguised compliance' in the focused visit report was a problematic term as it suggested that families deliberately mislead professionals, whereas in fact, many families may misinterpret what might be needed and how they need to change. This had been picked up before and training days had been provided, though in retrospect, this could have been sharper and more could have been done to embed this learning.

- The Group Director noted that additional checkpoints within the case work assessment and monitoring process would allow for greater management oversight and judgement into these very difficult issues, which should at least alert the service to any problems in non-compliance.

6.18 The Commission sought to understand if the identified shortcomings were on the self-evaluation which the service was required to complete ahead of inspection?

- The Group Director indicated that this self-assessment did not require the service to indicate the level of service provided (e.g. good or satisfactory), but to highlight the areas of audit and systems appraisal and reflection on the learning from those processes. Whilst the data and audits did not suggest it, Children in Need was felt as an area which would benefit from external scrutiny which was why it was suggested as an area for review to Ofsted. As said earlier, the service would need to re-evaluate the internal assessments and audits to identify and failings in these.

6.19 What steps does the service plan to take to ensure that the lived experience of children is given greater emphasis in social work assessments?

- The Group Director reported that whilst the front end assessment of the child will remain much the same, the introduced check-points in the case management will provide an additional juncture at which to assess family progress and the impact the family situation is having on that child. This will be done in a much more overt way than has been done up until now. There will of course be ongoing legal challenge to this process through the courts, which is there to ensure that the service has done everything it can to support that child and the family.

6.20 The Commission sought to understand that if as a result of this focused visit more children would end up in care? And if so, will there be the necessary resources to meet this need and other priority actions set out in the focused visit outcomes?

- The Group Director reported that all children's services have experienced cuts over time and like many other authorities, Hackney had sought to protect front-line services by reducing management capacity within the service. This approach has been supported by the Council. A financial plan was already in development which would see the refocusing of resources to meet the identified priorities in the action plan. The service was confident that these resource needs would be met by the Council.

- The Group Director reported that it was not possible to tell at this stage whether more children would end up in care as a result of this focused visit. It was sometimes difficult to predict what the consequences would be of an action taken in one part of the social care system would have elsewhere, but the service was alert to such impacts and would monitor the situation carefully. If a threshold change was required, this would be of interest more widely outside the borough as the implications could be far reaching.
- The Director reported that the rate of children in care in Hackney was not dissimilar to other authorities which would suggest that assessment, thresholds and decision making processes are in line with other authorities.

6.21 The Commission sought to clarify if there was any connection between the decision of the service to de-layer management as a cost saving measure and the outcomes of this focused visit which highlighted the lack of management oversight of children in need cases?

- The Group Director reported that was a much more complex situation with many factors at play, including changes in case work handing and assessment, the volume of caseloads as well as managerial oversight and input.

**Agreed:** The Children and Families Service would be invited to the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission to present the finalised action plan and progress.

#### Children's Social Care Bi- Annual Report

6.22 This was the mid-year report of the Children's Social Care Report up to September 2018. The Director highlighted a number of key aspects of the service performance over the past 6 months which included:

- The Contextual Safeguarding Project continued to progress and had received in excess of 50 enquiries from other authorities who wanted to learn more. This information was now available on the Council website for other authorities to access;
- As part of the Contextual Safeguarding Project, a multi-agency family risk panel met every two weeks to consider risks about gangs, criminal exploitation or other risks outside the family (it was important to make connections between cases to identify common risks which could be addressed);
- The referral rate to the Children and Families Service had decreased in the first 6 months of the year and this trend would be monitored;
- 21% of children became the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time between April and September 2018 which was a concern to the service, though more recent data (February 2019) would suggest that this figure has reduced to 15%;
- The number of looked after children rose slightly to 381 in the 6 months to September 2018, this trend would appear to be upward where the most recent figures for February 2019 showed that 396 children were looked after by Hackney;
- Most children that entered care were aged between 14-17 years old, this trend had continued for a number of years;
- Placement stability of children in care had also improved in the 6 month period to September 2018.

6.23 The Director noted that workforce stability was a key issue for the service as this was central to the continuity of care for looked after children or children in need. Here it was noted that Hackney had a lower turnover rate lower vacancy rate and lower staff



absence rate compared to both England and Inner London averages. The Commission noted that Hackney did have a higher rate of agency staff usage than other authorities.

#### Questions

6.24 The Commission sought to understand those service areas which were facing budgetary pressures for the year end 2018/19. Will the service be in budget at year end?

- The Group Director reported that an overspend of approximately £400k was projected for the Children and Families Service. It was noted that there were a number of service pressures which contributed to this including, the use of agency staff.

6.25 The Commission noted that there had been speculation about the future of the Troubled Families programme and sought to clarify future plans for the service.

- No further information had been provided from central government on the future of the Troubled Families programme. The Council was however, on target to reach the number of claims under the payment by results scheme, but would look to accelerate claims over the coming months. The Council was in the second tranche of authorities which entered in to this programme so it would be a challenge to ensure that claims were submitted in the required time period. Long term planning for the Troubled Families Programme had been difficult given the lack of national guidance for this policy area.

#### Temporary Accommodation

6.26 The Commission requested an update on the outcomes and tracking of the social and emotional development of children in temporary accommodation. Children and Families Service had submitted a report which detailed the findings from a piece of work undertaken through the Troubled Families Programme.

#### Questions

6.27 A summary of the key findings were presented to the Commission which included:

- There were 738 children living in temporary accommodation in Hackney of which 510 did not meet any of the Troubled Families qualifying criteria;,228 met 1 criteria, 50 met the education criteria and 15 met the education criteria plus one other criteria;  
- From the data it was inferred that living in temporary accommodation had a significant impact on families, but this may not be the only factor which may be generating needs;

6.28 The Commission sought to ascertain what impact temporary accommodation had upon achievement of children?

- The Group Director indicated that this would be interesting to ascertain what impact residential status had on a child's attainment, but noted that a significant problem with this work is that over half of the children in temporary accommodation had been placed out of borough which made tracking difficult.

### **At 9.57 The Commission agreed to extend the meeting until 10.10pm**

6.29 Members of the Commission noted that a substantial part of a Councillor caseload involved supporting families living in temporary accommodation and dealing with issues that arose from this (e.g. cramped conditions). It was evident that in some cases this had a severe physical, mental and emotional impact on children. Memembrs

suggested that such health and social care issues should be tracked and monitored, particularly as some families may be in temporary accommodation for 6 years or more.  
- The Director indicated that this issue was very much on the agenda of the Children and Families Service and it would work proactively to help identify families at risk and limit the impact.

## **7. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

7.1 Matters arising from the minutes:

- The new guidance on sex and relationship education had been circulated to the Commission.
- A letter on the outcomes and recommendations of the support to LGBT young people at school in Hackney to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children's Services was still being drafted, but would be circulated to the Commission once agreed.

7.2 The minutes were agreed.

## **8. CYP Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2018/19**

8.1 The Commission noted that the final report of the Exclusions review would be presented at June meeting as evidence was still being collected for this work.

8.2 The work programme to the end of the municipal year was agreed.

## **9. Any other Business**

9.1 There was no other business.

9.2 The date of the next meeting was the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

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