



NEWHAM  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**  
PARTNERSHIP



# **NSCP Newsletter**

## **July 2020**

### **Edition**

## **Welcome to the NSCP Newsletter**

1. NSCP Executive Partners Update
2. Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Plan for 2020-2022; progress and new developments
3. Learning and Development - Booking onto the training
4. Neglect Strategy – Out now!
5. Pre-birth protocol – coming soon
6. Newham; School holiday schemes
7. Domestic Abuse: Support for Newham families
8. The NHS is open for business as usual – we want to see children and young people in need of care



## **1. NSCP Executive Partnership Update**

Thanks to those strategic leads who were able to join in on the Zoom call on 1st July and it was good to hear some of the issues you are facing and are concerned about and how some of these are being addressed.

As identified previously - domestic abuse; county lines and other forms of exploitation; children's mental health; and concerns as to those children who have become vulnerable as a result of the pandemic continue to be at the forefront of your issues. Getting children back to school in September is a really important focus and being on the lookout for those secondary school leavers who need to transition into other provision to ensure that those most vulnerable do not slip through the net.

The NSCP Executive working with the Newham Safeguarding Adults Board have now got an added priority looking at what the plans are in place to respond to an increase in Safeguarding referrals particularly as the opportunities to report concerns increases..

A number of useful documents and information was shared which are referenced later in this newsletter.

Of particular importance is the learning from reviews package, information will be available soon to cascade to the workforce using the DSL network. We will also hold a Zoom session for strategic leads to ensure that we are all aware of the key learning coming out from this process.

There is a good package of support available to those youngsters who have an increased vulnerability in the form of different types of holiday activity and our colleagues in youth services will play a vital role in this.

As a reminder, as a Safeguarding partnership we have our core objectives to coordinate what is done by each agency to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency and agencies working together. We aim to be a mature high trust partnership in which conflicts are resolved through conversation. I hope in the autumn, there will be range of activities that will support our objectives and through more focused wider partnership events, we can start to strengthen and expand the reach of the partnership.

As the summer break approaches, we want to reflect and acknowledge the huge commitment across the partnership to Safeguarding. I have been in touch with a number of you in recent months and I have continued to be impressed at the professionalism, resilience and can do approach at such a challenging time.

I hope that you are all able to take some to recharge your batteries over the next few weeks and focus on yourselves and your families for a while.

Thank you once again for your commitment to protecting and supporting the most vulnerable children and families in Newham.

Julia Stephens-Row  
Independent Chair Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership



## **2. Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Plan for 2020- 2022 progress and additional priority; June 2020**

In the May Newsletter, we shared the business plan. We have since added an additional joint priority with Newham Safeguarding Adults Board to reflect the current situation in order to prepare services across the partnership for the expected rise in safeguarding referrals.

### **Preparing for a rise in Safeguarding referrals - joint with Newham Safeguarding Adults Board**

- To ready the system for an anticipated increase in safeguarding referrals once lockdown starts to ease.
- Focusing on impact of domestic violence; risk of harm through all types of exploitation; impact on mental health; special educational needs; and where families have become vulnerable through lack / loss of income.

The safeguarding adults and children's Executive members have been meeting regularly to discuss the details within this priority ensuring the partnership and workforce is prepared to address the demand for services. The children's Executive Partnership have also met fortnightly to review COVID19 issues and to plan ahead.

Other work the board have been focusing on has been All Age Exploitation and Transitions.

The All Age Exploitation group has been meeting regularly and has made some real development mapping the services available across Newham, Some exciting work will be progressing in this area. The group is ambitious and is aiming to be leaders in the area of work looking at innovative ways to work with the wide variety of people exploitation has an impact on. A useful link relevant to this work is:

**Hidden in Plain Sight' – A Youth Work Response to Gangs and Exploitation during COVID-19**

<https://nya.org.uk/2020/06/hidden-in-plain-sight/>; please share.

## **Launching 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

### **Operation Harbinger - Golden Hour information exchange for children in custody.**

Newham are going to be part a new pilot for initiated by Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) as a result of their HMIC inspection of the Met, which raised the importance of exchanging information with local authorities for children in custody. The pilot involves the following:

1. Within one hour of a child being booked in at the custody suite, the local authority is contacted by the MPS and given the child's name, address, DOB, arrest details and details of the AA/guardian, called the "Golden Hour"
2. Within an hour of being contacted, the local authority will call back and inform custody of any safeguarding or welfare concerns which could impact on the child's safe stay in the custody suite.
3. The MPS record the fact there has been a conversation on the custody record and any information disclosed is raised with the officer in the case and inclusion on the Merlin if appropriate.

There are a number of local authorities already involved including Hackney, Croydon, Waltham Forest, Barking & Dagenham and Redbridge. They have provided positive feedback in respect to early planning for potential accommodation and sharing important information about the child such as any history of mental health, poor coping mechanism and self-harm.

We will keep you informed on the impact this pilot will have on young people.

### **Transitions work**

The Transitions group has started to make progress. Leads across the partnership have been identified and will take the work forward. The group will support the detailed work to support the move from child to adulthood in a safe and positive way, focusing on care leavers; children with learning disabilities and special educational needs; those experiencing difficulties with mental health; young parents

If you have an interest and can contribute to the work of these groups please contact your safeguarding lead who can liaise with the partnership to ensure your input is reflected in the work we do.



## **2. Booking onto the NSCP Learning and Development programme**

In May we updated with the proposal for NSCP training; we now have a full programme available for bookings. The programme is offered on the virtual platform such as Zoom until further notice and guidance. To ensure there is the opportunity for all to attend we have scheduled the programme to run from September 2020 to July 2021.

### **Important information:**

On the virtual platform there are usually 16 places available per event open to Health, School, Children's Social Care, Police, Probation, NSPCC, YOT, CAFCASS, Youth Service, Fire Service, Adult Services, Community and Voluntary Sector, Children's Centres and Private Nurseries. If your agency is not listed this does not mean you cannot apply, please contact the NSCP administrator for clarification

The purpose of the Multi-agency training is to enable staff to work effectively both within their own agency and across organisational boundaries. To help develop better outcomes for children and young people by ensuring we understand how other agencies in the borough enabling us to work more effectively in partnership.

With this in mind a maximum of 4 staff from voluntary and private agencies will be permitted to attend a training session.

### **Registration:**

Participants should register online for their course of choice at <http://www.newhamlscb.org.uk/events/>

Following registration, you should receive an automatic confirmation outlining course venue, date and time or to you registered email.

If you have any additional queries, or did not receive confirmation, please email [LSCB.administrator@newham.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB.administrator@newham.gov.uk)

### **Additional Learning Requirements:**

Any requirements that would make your learning or participation any better, please use the section on the application form to inform us of this. We will make every effort to meet these needs and if this is not possible, we will contact you to discuss.

### **Non-Attendance and Cancellation Charges (implemented 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019)**

Due to high number of non-attendance, we are now implementing a charge to delegates/agencies/services who book a place and fail to attend. There is no cost incurred to attend LSCB training, however, please note that there will be a charge of £100.00 (£50.00 for half-day courses) for non-attendance. If the place is cancelled 48 hours prior to training session via email only to: [LSCB.Administrator@newham.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB.Administrator@newham.gov.uk) or the delegate is replaced on the day, then no charge will be incurred. All charges recuperated are directed back into the training budget.



## **4. NSCP Neglect Strategy: have you seen it yet?**

Everyone working with children and families in Newham needs to families themselves with this partnership strategy. The data tells us that Neglect is the main reason for children being subject to child protection plans and learning from serious case reviews have highlighted the particular need to identify neglect for children with disabilities, to recognise neglect over time and adolescent neglect. This document may become more important to practitioners as we ease out of lockdown and children return to nurseries, schools and colleges or even at the youth clubs and sports clubs that have been closed for so long.

Take note and head to the website to get the full details on how you can make that difference for children and young people in Newham.

- The strategy recognises the four types of neglect identified by Howe. D (2005) as the basis for understanding what causes neglect in order to work with children and their families effectively.
- Emotional neglect
- Disorganised neglect
- Depressed or passive neglect
- Severe deprivation

Follow the link for the Neglect 2020 document and share across your workforce  
<https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/policies-and-procedures/>



## 5. Pre Birth Protocol – coming soon

We have been working hard to pull together a document fit for all practitioners across the partnership – what is the role we can all have to ensure unborn's and families have to support them during vulnerable times. The main purpose of a Pre-birth assessment is to identify:

- The needs and risks to the newborn baby;
- Parental capacity in relation to the needs and risks;
- Whether the parent(s) has appropriate capacity to recognise these and is willing and able to engage and work with professionals so that the identified risks, are addressed to safeguard the unborn baby.
- What support the parent(s) may need;
- What support is available in the wider family and community, a genogram and ecomap would be beneficial as part of the assessment.
- Plans to ensure the needs are met and risks are addressed.

The documents are currently being ratified and ready to be agreed by September 2020. All relevant training delivered will incorporate the new protocols and links to the documents will be shared across the workforce – look out it is coming soon!



## 6. Newham; School holiday schemes

There will be an exciting and varied programme of activities, events and opportunities, for all age groups and abilities, seven days a week. Beginning on 21 July, they will take place at parks, other open spaces, the docks area, all in a safe, socially-distanced way, as well as virtual online spaces.

This coordinated offer is aimed at 0 to 25-year-olds and their families. Some activities will be targeted at vulnerable children and young people, some of whom may have Special Educational Needs, be at risk of being drawn into concerning behaviour or those who may have struggled during lockdown.

Newham's summer festival this year is unique to other years, so please do take a moment to look at some of the key messages: Stay Connected, join in and have fun. Events will be both physical and online and will include:

- street dance
- multi-sports
- cross curricular
- discussions and debates
- bike repair courses
- games nights
- self-development
- music production
- boxing
- creative writing
- arts activities
- films
- rowing

- courses... and lots, lots more.

If you are working with a young person, ensure this message is shared on all your social media links – let's get Newham young people involved in positive activities.

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1609/summeractivitiesprogramme-40pp-revised>



## 7. Domestic Abuse: Support for Newham families

The UN has described the worldwide increase in domestic abuse as a "shadow pandemic" alongside Covid-19.

It is thought cases have increased by 20% during the lockdown, as many people are trapped at home with their abuser.

A long list of support is available; share these with colleagues to ensure the support reaches those in need or put these links on your websites; did you know that support can be sourced whilst shopping?. Superdrug, boots pharmacy and Morrison's can help anyone in suffer abuse using Hesita's; UK SAYS NO MORE' campaign

<https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/superdrug-safe-spaces-for-domestic-abuse-victims-a4434141.html>

Newham council has a web page dedicated to providing information Help and advice for those who have, or are suffering from domestic violence. Also on this page, you can find out about reporting domestic violence if you suspect someone is in danger, and where to get help in Newham if you are suffering abuse. Useful for your individual agency websites;

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/health-adult-social-care/domestic-violence-support/1>

Other links that you can use are;

- [Home Office – Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse](#)

- [The Human Trafficking Foundation Covid-19 Resources Page](#) is regularly updated with resources, advice and policy information affecting those working with victims of trafficking and exploitation. Please see webpage
- [Children's Commissioner - Children, Domestic Abuse & Corona Virus](#)
- [Refuge](#) have released a series of [safety tips](#) for survivors during isolation. Their tech abuse [chatbot](#) function is particularly useful should the perpetrator be controlling the survivor's devices. **Telephone: 0808 2000 247**
- [Women's Aid](#) have released a series of [safety advice](#) for survivors who may be trapped in the house with perpetrators
- [SafeLives](#) have produced [advice](#) for practitioners and survivors of domestic abuse
- [Surviving Economic Abuse](#) webpage for survivors, friends, family, neighbours and practitioners regarding the impact of COVID – 19 on those experiencing economic and financial abuse is available [HERE](#)
- [Rights of Women](#) has published guidance for women trying to work out child contact arrangements during this difficult time. You can find the guidance here: <https://rightsofwomen.org.uk/get-information/family-law/coronavirus-and-child-contact-arrangements/>. Rights of Women continue to provide legal advice to women affected by gender based violence, the opening hours of their advice lines are subject to change – dull information can be found [HERE](#).
- **Criminal Justice – victims and witnesses** if your staff are unsure of where to signpost victims and witnesses, please remind them of the [London Victim and Witness Service \(LVWS\)](#) provided by a partnership led by Victim Support. The LVWS can be contacted on 0808 168 9291 from 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturday. Outside of those hours, you can call Victim Support's Supportline on freephone 08 08 16 89 111.
- London's Rough Sleepers offered hotel beds to self-isolate. See [press release](#) for further information
- [National Rape Crisis Helpline and Live Chat](#). The National Rape Crisis Helpline will remain open on **0808 802 9999**. Free, independent and confidential support is available every day between **12.00pm - 2.30pm** and **7.00pm - 9.30pm**
- [Samaritans](#) are a registered charity focusing on suicide prevention, there to listen without judgement, no pressure, and help you work through what's on your mind. Call for **free** on 116 123, or alternatively on 0330 094 5717. Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)
- [Shout](#) is a 24 hour, 7 days a week text messaging service support in a crisis. The team of trained Crisis Volunteers will help take you from a crisis to calm 24/7, whenever you need them. Text Shout to 85258, [info@giveusashout.org](mailto:info@giveusashout.org),

- [Good Thinking](#) website for adults looking for resources to support their mental health and wellbeing:



## 8. Newham hospital is open for business; share the message

In the last few months, many parents may have been worried to take their children to A&E due to covid-19. Here is what some Newham children's and young people have to say about it. Watch this video and share – do you recognise anyone?

<https://youtu.be/m3xBUR5FI9I>

Another great video, prepared by Newham young people is for children and young people who are admitted to the Rainbow Centre for inpatient and day care. The Rainbow Centre also houses the children's outpatients department.

Please take time to watch this amazing video - Rainbow Unit NUHT - children presenting!

<https://children.bartshealth.nhs.uk/newham-university-hospital>

Follow this link for more information and contact details of all the Executive Members. There is also further information and links to support the fantastic work you do for children, young people and families in Newham

<https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/>