



NEWHAM
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
PARTNERSHIP

The Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership Report

October 2019 – March 2020



Contents

Forward	Page 3
The Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Arrangements	Page 4
Data about Children and Young People in Newham	Page 5-8
The Voices of Children and Young People in the Work of the Partnership	Page 9-12
Our Priorities	Page 13-18
Thematic safeguarding priorities – 6 month update	Page 18-25
Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews	Page 25-26
Multi-agency Safeguarding Training	Page 27-30
Partnership Resources	Page 31-32
Conclusions / Recommendations	Page 32-34
Priorities for 2020/2022	Page 34



Foreword

In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, local safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every twelve month period. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice. (*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*). In addition, the report should also include:

- Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers.
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.
- A record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements.
- Ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

This report details the progress made by the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) during its first six months and covers the period from October 2019 until March 2020. The previous annual report covered an eighteen month period from April 2018 until September 2019 <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Newham-Annual-Report-.pdf> and the decision was made to provide an updated report at this point, to enable the Executive to report publicly on the first six months of the arrangements.

The evidence for this current report has been drawn from a range of NSCP documents covering the period along with information from other relevant sources. The safeguarding partners and other stakeholders were invited to submit highlight reports on their agency's contribution to child safeguarding in Newham during the last twelve months and extracts from these appear in this report. These agency reports have been collated into one document which is uploaded to the NSCP website. <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/annual-reports/>. The NSCP training report and safeguarding data contained in the report also cover the full year period from April 2019 until March 2020.

The Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP)

The defined safeguarding partners are Newham Council, NHS Newham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Metropolitan Police through their Basic Command Unit in charge of local policing in Newham. Most services operate within the geographical boundaries of the London Borough of Newham although some like the health service cover several East London boroughs and the Metropolitan Police operate London-wide. Under new arrangements published in September 2019, the three statutory partners have a joint responsibility for child safeguarding in Newham. In Newham, the partners decided that education services would be the fourth partner and would have equal status in all of the arrangements, given their importance to the developing lives of children and young people and how they are kept safe.

An Executive oversees and drives forward multi-agency child safeguarding in Newham. This meets four times a year and holds partners to account through a 'high support, high challenge' culture. The main functions of the Executive are to:

- Agree annual priorities for the Partnership, to be reviewed quarterly, primarily through scrutinising business plan updates
- Hold partners to account through scrutiny of key performance data, the analysis of local issues and what is being done about them and operating a 'golden thread' culture between the Executive and the front line of local agencies so that issues on the ground can be subject to scrutiny and trouble shooting
- Be themselves held to account by the Independent Chair who will with the statutory partners be responsible for driving forward change and service improvements in Newham.
- Allocate resources and funding, including setting the annual budget of the Partnership

Julia Stephens-Row was appointed as the permanent Independent Chair in December 2019.

As well as the Executive there are two sub-groups: the Performance Quality Assurance (PQA) group and the Safeguarding Children Practice Review (SCPR) group. In addition there are two task and finish groups working jointly with the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB), one focusing on all age exploitation and the other on transitions across services. Further details, including the membership and terms of reference of partnership groups can be found in the NSCP published arrangements on its website <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/members-and-partners/>

Data about Children and Young People in Newham 2019/2020

Population

In 2019, there were 96,700 young people aged 0-19 years living in Newham of which 28,400 were aged 0-4 years and 68,300 aged 5-19 years. Children in Newham make up 24% of the population. In 2018, Newham has the second highest birth rate in the UK.

Newham has a higher proportion of households with dependent children compared to other London boroughs and England. Nationally 43% have dependent children aged 0-18. Newham (57%) ranks the second highest in England behind Barking and Dagenham (59%).

Newham has the second highest proportion of households with multiple children in the country. Nationally, 7% of households have three or more children while Newham has 14%.

Diversity

Newham is the second most ethnically diverse area in the UK (2018)

95% of Primary school and 94% of Secondary school children come from an ethnic minority group made up of 46% Asian; 24% Black; 13% White Other; 6% White British; 6% Mixed; 6% Other

Over 200 separate languages are recorded in schools. 73% of Primary and 63% of Secondary pupils have a first language other than English

Economic situation

One in five Newham children under 16 (15,300 children) live in low income families (2016), which represents a significant decrease from nearly one in two in 2006.

Nearly 88,000 children live in families claiming Child Benefit, i.e. over 99% of all children living in Newham (2016).

It is estimated that over 10% of children live in workless households. This rate is in line with national figures.

38% of children are eligible for free school meals (2019)

Newham has one of the most mobile populations in London with a 20% population churn

Temporary accommodation

In 2019 there were 4934 young people (aged 0-18) living in temporary accommodation in Newham. This number has increased by 17% over the past two years. Manor Park and East Ham have the highest numbers of young people in temporary accommodation.

Troubled Families

Over 4,500 families (with 10,769 children) have been identified as eligible for the Troubled Families Programme. 1,280 claims have been made over the course of the Programme. The highest number of families identified has been in Custom House and Canning Town.

Parental risk factors

Using a prevalence formula developed by the National Children's Commissioner, it is estimated that nearly 3000 children (1432 children aged 0-5 and 1503 children aged 6-15) in Newham are living with an adult who experiences all three risk factors of domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse.



Education

Overall Education and Development indicators for Newham show a positive picture, with the exception of the GCSE attainment (average attainment 8 score) which is lower for Newham students (48.8) in comparison to other London Boroughs (49.7) (but still higher than nationally).. While there is no single cause of poor educational outcomes, the key risk factors for vulnerability identified in the Early Help analysis framework may have an impact on children's attainment level. It is an important principle that social workers, teachers, early help and health practitioners offer support that allow all children to make good educational progress.

Further analysis of the attainment levels of children on Child in Need and Child Protection plans could inform strategies to improve educational attainment of more vulnerable children.

The percentage of children achieving expected standard across all early learning goals (73.9%) is higher in Newham than nationally (70.2%) and in London (72.4%) (2018).

Data on development for children from various ethnic backgrounds shows that Newham's children from Black, Asian, Chinese and mixed ethnic groups report higher levels of development than on average in England or London. The percentage of White children achieving a good level of development in Newham is lowest for all the ethnic groups and lower than on average in London.

Referrals to the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 2019/2020

There was a drop in the number of contacts to the MASH this year (17,346) compared to the previous one, (23,579) and a higher number of contacts with an outcome of 'Advice and Information Given'. The percentage of repeat referrals for Children's Social Care also fell from 20% to 17%. These are signs that can be interpreted as improved partnership working.

The percentage of MASH contacts progressing to Early Help increased from 28% to 37%. The rate of referrals to Children's Social Care per 10,000 under 18 populations has continued to fall over a 3 year period and at 568 per 10,000 is slightly above London and below its statistical neighbours.

In 2018/19, (2019/20 child in need data not yet published) 'Request for support' was the key presenting issue stated in referrals (nearly 18%), followed by domestic violence (16%) and physical abuse (14%). Sexual abuse and CSE combined together are responsible for over 9% of contacts, being the fourth most common issue.

Domestic Abuse

Newham has a high prevalence of domestic abuse. The number and percentage of contacts that identify domestic abuse as a presenting concern has increased from 192/12% in April 2019 to 240/25% in April 2020 . Whether this relates to increased awareness or more robust reporting, or is a real differences a result of the change in peoples living circumstances related to the very early stages of lockdown during Covid requires further exploration.

Families with no recourse to public funds

In 2018/19, 95 referrals (2% of all referrals) were received by Children's Social Care. The team dealing with these families has seen a recent increase in the number of referrals, given the rapid change in some families' economic circumstances as a result of Covid, which has particularly exposed those families where a parent is employed in the cash economy.

Children in need

The rate of children in need in Newham per 10,000 under 18 has continued to fall over the past two years from 456 per 10,000 to 371 per 10,000 though the rate is still higher compared to London and statistical neighbours (350 and 349 per 10,000).

Child protection

Nationally the rate of section 47 child protection enquiries remained stable in 2018/19. The rate of enquiries in Newham (160 per 10,000) was historically lower than that seen in National and Statistical neighbours. However in 2019 Newham's rate rose (193 per 10,000) and despite a slight fall in 2020 (185 per 10,000) is expected to be above the national and statistical neighbour rates.

In Newham in 2018/19 the rate of children subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 was 32 (compared to a national average of 43.7 and a London average of 36.7). In 2019/20 the Newham rate rose to 42 which is a significant increase and while comparator figures are not yet available this rate is more likely to be in keeping with statistical neighbours than in the previous year. On 31st March 2020, the total number of children subject to a child protection plan in Newham was 367 compared to 280 in March 2019.

In 2019/20, 60% of child protection plans ended within six to fifteen months of starting (the expected time for the majority of plans to reach conclusion) while 12% of plans lasted fifteen months or longer. Of significance this year, was the higher number of plans lasting six months or less (28%). This accounted for 95 children of whom 58 were subject to a child protection plan for less than three months which suggests that the increase in the number of plans may not be related to increased risk and families could have been subjected to unnecessary statutory



intervention. These and other findings are presented in the annual report of the Child Protection Conference service findings which will be presented to the Safeguarding Partnership meeting in September 2020.

The number of children in Newham becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time rose in 2018/19 to 13.8% and this year has dropped back down to 10.9% despite an overall increase in the number of plans and Newham continues to perform better than London and its statistical neighbours.

Children Looked After

While the rate increased slightly this year, Newham continues to have a lower rate of children looked after (47 per 10,000) compared to London (50) and its statistical neighbours (55).

The number of children removed from home using Police Powers of Protection immediately prior to becoming Looked After continued to fall for the second year running (28 this year compared to 47 in 2018/19 and 78 in 2017/18) and suggests improved multi agency risk assessment and planning thereby preventing the need for emergency action.

Several ethnic groups are overrepresented in the LAC population, including children from White and Black ethnic groups (which may indicate service access issues for CYP from black communities). However, the difference may also be due to data quality issues and differences in reporting other / mixed ethnicity groups. Males are overrepresented in the LAC population in comparison to the general population of CYP in Newham as are children and young people aged 10 and above.



The voices of children and young people in the work of the Partnership

The voices of children, young people and their families are integral to the work of the NSCP. Young people's views played a crucial part in the selection of the new Independent Chair and in the priorities set by the NSCP in February 2020 for the next two years. Their views about what the future priorities should be were gathered using a survey monkey questionnaire sent via school Designated Safeguarding Leads and to local Youth Clubs and 27 responses received from children aged 5-18 years, the majority being aged 13-15 years.

Comments from young people:

In response to being asked if they ever feel unsafe, many of the respondents said they feel unsafe on the streets and are worried about stabbings and about issues within their own home.

"Yes, because I am Muslim I wear head scarf, after an attack on the bridge me and mummy went to Westfield and people were staring at us like we did something wrong"

"Yes my dad was arguing with my mum I thought he was gonna attack my mum and me"

"Yes sometimes, the issue of knife crime within Newham worries me about my safety"

In response to being asked if they ever feel worried about what they hear or see other young people doing, most responses covered concerns about stabbings and life being taken too young while bullying was also referred to.

In response to being asked what do you think as a group of organisations we should make sure we work on to make sure children and young people feel safe and happy in Newham, the importance of talking to young people and service provision were highlighted:

"Put on events to show and tell people that their safe because there will always be help- more police on the streets"



"Fund organisations and projects that tackle issues such as knife crime and social issues"

"First do workshop about knife and gun crime and also about drugs as well"

"You could create clubs for teens to help them express what they really feel and not be afraid"

"Talk to kids about how they feel"

"Have people do talks to reassure people (children like me) remember how safe they are"
"More youth centres and activities for young people to engage in"



When asked whether the NSCP should keep any of its priorities from the previous year, there was most support for criminal exploitation as a priority although suicide and self-harm were also referred to:

"I think they are all very important but I have selected ones I think most important. I think 'safer places for young people to achieve' should be also added"

"As long as they exist it would help"

"It is important if you want to keep us safe"

"It is important if you want to help young people are saying they are depressed and suicidal and people like that need help"

"Any child who is sweet and kind could easily change by the exposure of violence"

"There are people in this world for some reason do things to harm and make children uncomfortable"

"Keep all priorities; the more there are the more young people feel safer"

"The more programmes there are the more young people feel safe"

"I think suicide and self-harm the main ones to help kids"

User feedback from other relevant sources is also being used to inform the work of the partnership and influence service provision. For example a survey carried out by the Newham Youth Safety Board (NYSB) in December 2019 based on interviews with fifteen young people aged

14-23 years, has informed the Partnership's *Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy*, currently in its consultation phase, which will provide an overarching response to adolescent safeguarding and support the development of holistic approaches to tackling adolescent risk and vulnerability.

All of the young people surveyed by the NYSB had been at risk of harm at some time in the recent past and many had entered the care system at some point, either earlier in childhood or as a consequence of becoming involved in exploitation or offending behaviour. Each of the young people interviewed had a unique life story, but many had experienced loss, violence or hardship while they were growing up. Many described having difficulty at school as a consequence of having special educational needs due to disability or behavioural difficulties, often leading to exclusion from mainstream school. For some young people, there were other pivotal events in their lives including:

- Being arrested – particularly for the first time which was described as traumatic
- Witnessing serious violence which could trigger a series of events putting young people's well-being and safety at risk
- Some young people had become involved in criminal activities such as the illegal drug trade following placement breakdown, losing their accommodation or fearing destitution

Many young people said that their parents or extended family members were their most constant support, although stress, separation and conflict over young people's activities could strain their relationship. Young people said that they valued those professionals who showed genuine human concern, and took the time to listen to them, treated them normally and did not give up on them. They valued youth and social workers who did what they said they would do and really tried to sort practical problems out quickly.

Some young people who were in care but living outside the borough had had good experiences, but access to local services and support from Newham-based workers had been affected by distance. Some young people who had been relocated for their own safety had experienced disruption to their education, relationships and support structures, which had impacted negatively on themselves and their families.

In broader terms, collaborative working between the NSCP and the Newham Youth Empowerment Service is well established and since taking up post, the Independent Chair has made closer links with the Newham Youth Movement Service Lead and the Young People's Commissioner to ensure that joined-up consultation takes place. The Behaviour Support, Exclusions and Alternative Education service in their contribution to this report, commented:



“Through the various services, particularly listening to schools and Youth Empowerment colleagues, who have those daily conversations with young people, it has led to looking and working towards a more robust alternative educational offer for our most vulnerable young people”.

In their contributions to this report, safeguarding partners and stakeholders highlighted the ways in which the voices of children and young people have led to improvements over the 2019/2020 period.

Newham Clinical Commissioning Group

- Health assessments for older young people are offered afternoon appointments as young people have voiced they are more likely to attend their health assessment in the afternoon.
- Quality assurance audits of health assessments by the Designated Nurse Looked After Children has evidenced that the voice of the child features throughout health assessments and the development and implementation of their health action plan.
- Development of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Nurse role for Care Leavers – young people consulted around the development of the role and how they feel the post holder may support their emotional, physical and mental health.

Newham Community Child Health Service

- Launch of a series of You Tube short films in 20/21 after young people in Years 9, 10 and 12 on work placement said they don't normally read the standard health leaflets provided and prefer information via social media
- Development of a 'Chat Health' communication platform for confidential and anonymous health advice
- Voice of the child, views and wishes are included in all health research in the MASH and other partner agency meetings to influence decision making and promote good outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.

Operation Anzen, Metropolitan Police

- Engagement with children and young people is central to Operation Anzen. This has led to direct police safeguarding actions and enabled us to contribute to the knowledge of the team around the child meetings to ensure ongoing safeguarding and support of those that need it the most.

The Newham Youth Offending Service

- Reviewed the interventions offered to young people, to focus on the areas that young people have stated that they would benefit from such as training and employment advice and life skills
- Developed a Youth Board to embed the voice of young people within the service

East London Foundation Trust Newham Mental Health Directorate

- The Voice of the Child was a theme in the Trust's Safeguarding Awareness Week to promote key issues and responsibilities for staff.

Newham Children's Social Care

A rolling programme of training in developing skills in direct work with children including Life Story work with children in care is provided for all social workers to support participation in assessment, planning and intervention.

The views and lived experiences of children, young people and their families are routinely examined when the partnership is carrying out case reviews and case audits and direct user feedback to these processes would enrich and strengthen these. The voices of children come through particularly strongly in Newham's work to tackle exploitation. Some links exist between the partnership and local youth services which could be further built upon. The partnership could also survey families who are receiving child protection services.



Our Priorities October 2019 – March 2020

This section reports on the progress made by the NSCP towards its three overarching objectives. These are detailed in a comprehensive implementation plan with progress tracked by the Executive.

- **A strong and aligned local multi-agency partnership is in place**
- **The Safeguarding Partnership provides effective and meaningful scrutiny**
- **Performance and outcomes are regularly monitored, with risks managed and successes recognised**

And the three thematic safeguarding priorities were carried forward from 2018/19 as it was agreed that further work and scrutiny were required:

- **Criminal exploitation**
- **Child neglect**
- **Child sexual abuse**

A strong and aligned local multi-agency partnership is in place

The Executive has been effective in driving the strategic ownership and direction of services to children and families across the borough and has a collective ambition to be an “outstanding partnership”. It aims to be a mature, high trust partnership in which conflicts are resolved through conversation that are underpinned by a clear set of standards which have a strong focus on strengthening professional communication and joint working. Those standards are

- A culture of early identification and referral to partner agencies when there are concerns about children and young people;
- Open and transparent dialogue between partner agencies even if this means exposing areas of weakness to be addressed in the agency’s own systems and processes
- Respect means responding to the concerns of partners; even if one agency feels the concern has insufficient eligibility for a service or response. Respect means at least having a mature conversation about a child’s needs and the best way forward every time
- Disagreements should always be handled through conversations which seek to arrive at a joint understanding. A lack of communication, confrontational positioning or aggressive e-mailing are all signs of dysfunctional partnership working likely to rebound badly on vulnerable children and young people.

- Partner agencies should have high mutual expectations of one another, based upon prioritising child safeguarding over other priorities, especially when a case is at Level 3 or 4. Outstanding partnership working means there is no weak link in the 'professional supply' chain to a child.

The expectation is that these standards are modelled by all leaders, referenced in training and joint working activities and tested through partnership quality assurance activity. The multi-agency audit form that will be used during 2020 includes a set of questions about the effectiveness of multi-agency working. The NSCP *Escalation Policy* has been updated, circulated and published on its website. <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/policies-and-procedures/>

A key achievement in this reporting period has been the updating and publication of the Newham Guidance document *Pathways to Help and Family Support* and *Levels and Indicators of Need*. <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Pathways-to-help-and-support-2020-21.pdf> this was completed in collaboration with agencies and disciplines including Children and Young People's Services (CYPS), schools, children's centers, community and primary health through a number of focus groups and networks. The guidance is informed by the partnership's recent learning in relation to: exploitation, domestic abuse, neglect, parental mental health and sexual abuse and all documents are accessible online via the NSCP website.

A visit in March 2020 from the Policing Co-ordinator for Child Safety Reforms and the National Head of Safeguarding for NHS England provided external feedback to the Executive Partnership. This commented positively on evidence of a real improvement in partnership working over the last six months, referring to the clarity of purpose for partnership, highlighting its clear priorities and for being outward looking and progressive. The partnership was described as being a group of people who are working well together with the involvement of education not just around the table but integrated. Personal and agency credibility was also noted.

The NSCP *Implementation Plan* contained a number of specific objectives (set out below) to strengthen partnership working.

Establishing a stronger working relationship between the Partnership and Education

There is strong representation on the Executive with two head teacher representatives from primary and secondary heads. One of the Head Teachers chairs the Performance and Quality Assurance sub-group. An Education and Health Safeguarding group co-chaired by Education and the LBN Early Help Lead has also been established. The revised NSCP *Escalation Policy* was written to provide greater clarity for Education staff when they feel the highest level of concern about a child are not being heard by the wider system and by social care in particular. Through Operation Encompass, the Metropolitan Police alerts schools and colleges to children subject or witness to police-attended incidents of domestic abuse, see link here <https://www.operationencompass.org/>

Bi-lateral work to improve joint working between police and children's social care

The improvement in communication noted in the last annual report and the positive impact of the Complex Safeguarding Hub where teams are working together and sharing information has continued. The data for 2019/20 (see page 8) shows a notable reduction in the number of children subject to police protection prior to becoming looked after which can be interpreted as as one indication of improved partnership working between the Police and Children's Social Care. There is an on-site Borough Police officer within the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub and Missing Children and Child Sexual Exploitation teams are shared with the neighbouring borough of Waltham Forest. Operation Anzen focuses on children most at risk from criminal exploitation. The Borough Command Gangs and Policing teams are well-resourced for tackling perpetrators targeting vulnerable people and the NSCP. The All Age Exploitation Sub-Group (see below) is chaired by a senior police officer and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group is co-chaired by a senior police officer



Unified arrangements across the Safeguarding Children's Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) where this will lead to more efficiency and improvement

Closer co-operation between the two partnerships continued over this reporting period and included a joint planning event in February 2020 where the following two priorities were agreed and are being taken forward with clear lead and support arrangements in place. Joint SAB and NSCP Executive meetings have taken place regularly and the SAB is looking to adapt therapid review process for carrying out its Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

All Age Exploitation Group – the purpose of this group is to co-ordinate and drive forward multi-agency programmes and interventions in Newham which combat exploitation in all its forms e.g. financial abuse, modern slavery, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, radicalisation and criminal justice. This group was established at the end of the reporting period and has an agreed work plan for the coming year.

Transitions Group – its purpose is to ensure that child to adulthood transitions take place in a safe and positive way. The group was established in the second quarter of 2020/21 and will focus on care leavers, children with learning disabilities and special educational needs, those experiencing difficulties with mental health and young parents.

Alignment with other Partnerships

There is good strategic alignment of the work of the NSCP with other partnerships and these are referenced in its priorities for 2020/2022 on the final page of this report. The *Newham Children and Young People Services Improvement Board* to drive fundamental improvement in Children's Social Care services in response to an 'inadequate' Ofsted inspection in 2019 explicitly references the NSCP as presenting *"a great opportunity to deliver shared outcomes, co-produce solutions and align approaches. This includes identifying a small number of key priorities for development and improvement. It will also provide a clear pathway to escalate issues and develop resolution"*. Safeguarding partners from Education, Health and the Police are all represented on this Board.

There is an objective within the NSCP Implementation plan to dovetail its work with the development of the new Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in Newham and achieve better co-ordination over time between key aspects of public service which overlap e.g., child safeguarding and community safety. The NSCP Independent Chair has met with the Newham Council Interim Corporate Director of People, Policy and Performance, to discuss this work and the process is being led by the Local authority. In the meantime, the NSCP Independent Chair is reinforcing the need for chairperson of the different partnership boards to meet regularly to avoid duplication or issues falling through the gap.

The Safeguarding Partnership provides effective and meaningful scrutiny, strengthened accountability and evidence of holding partners to account

The standards referred to in p13 and 14 above support a strong culture of accountability. Bi-monthly Executive meetings took place during 2019 and these were increased to weekly, then fortnightly during the Coronavirus outbreak. The Independent Chair has regular one to one meetings with statutory partners as required. Challenges and issues are raised as necessary.

The NSCP *Implementation Plan* identified a number of specific areas for their scrutiny:

-Ensuring residential units and unregulated settings are brought within the scrutiny role of the Partnership and establishing the Newham Safeguarding Network.

Scrutiny is essential to ensure that the welfare of children living in these settings (known to be particularly vulnerable) is being promoted to the highest possible standard. At the end of the reporting period, some key aspects of this work were being progressed by the LBN Joint Contract Monitoring Team and it was agreed that the NSCP needed to link into this work and that this area of responsibility would come within the remit of the NSCP Performance and Quality Assurance (PQA) Group. An update provided at the end of the Quarter 1 2020/2021 provides evidence of progress made.

-Establish the Newham Safeguarding Network based upon active communication with all school, nursery and health settings and where possible with community organisations supporting children and all settings through which potentially vulnerable children pass such as London City Airport. The network will work through appointed Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs).

The aim to expand the number of DSLs and support them as a managed network did not progress as planned and is an area of focus for the coming year. A first newsletter was produced by the NSCP while the road-shows due to take place in February 2020 had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. However, a briefing and training power point presentation has been uploaded to the NSCP website which is being promoted via DSLs across the partnership.

Multi-agency audits

Audits provide qualitative information to help the NSCP monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of frontline practice. It is worth noting that 'outstanding' practice with children and families is currently judged by the partnership to be the exception rather than the rule. While the standard within the Newham Safeguarding Children Board arrangements was to conduct two multi-agency audit processes each year this was not achieved while the transition arrangements into the new partnership were being decided. Multi agency audits led by the PQA group are set to begin in the second half of 2020 and an audit of seven children with 'missing episodes' has already been scoped and planned. A separate audit of cases by the All Age Exploitation group is also planned.

In previous years, the PQA group has scrutinised safeguarding audit reports from single and joint agency audits and discussed how agencies might align their safeguarding audit programmes. Such collaborative approaches can enrich information about the quality of practice without requiring additional resources and the PQA group may wish to consider these options.

Performance and outcomes are regularly monitored, with risks managed and successes recognised

A key objective in the reporting period was to establish an **integrated dataset** to help identify safeguarding areas of focus, enable challenge and inform rapid action where required. While this work remains in progress, it is important to note that a variety of data is already available to the NSCP, including:

- Children's Social Care Improvement Board score card
- Domestic abuse data, LBN
- Early Help needs analysis
- Metropolitan Police data
- Youth Safety Board data

The PQA group has been tasked with bringing together an agreed multi agency data set relevant to the NSCP priorities by September 2020. This presentation should build on the data that is

already available, make this more accessible, and include impact and outcome measures for its agreed priorities.

Children's Social Care services have been subject to DfE scrutiny since the 'inadequate' Ofsted grading in March 2019. At the last Ofsted monitoring visit in March 2020, which focused on Looked After Children and Care Leavers:

"Inspectors found early signs of progress in improving permanence planning for children.

The pace of improvement since the inspection in March 2019 has been slow. The recent appointment of an experienced and skilled director of children's services has given the improvement journey much-needed direction and impetus. Appropriate plans are now in place, underpinned by strong corporate support. Some of these plans have either just been initiated or are yet to be delivered, so the impact is limited. Now that the foundations are in place, and additional management capacity has been secured, the pace of change needs to accelerate to achieve positive impact for children in care. Social workers report good morale within the service; they are committed to the changes and express confidence in the proposed plans.

Covid 19

The end of this reporting period coincided with the outbreak of the Covid 19 Pandemic which tested the partnership's risk management response. The Executive has held virtual meetings on a weekly then fortnightly basis and there has been a robust and collaborative partnership response to safeguarding children and families whose vulnerabilities may have been further exacerbated as a result of Covid. A three weekly report from Newham Council to Ofsted and the DfE provides key data to show how the most vulnerable children and families are being supported during this time with details of risk assessments, reviews and visiting schedules. Each report has a clear set of recommendations with timescales that are closely tracked and emerging trends are highlighted.

Thematic safeguarding priorities – 6 month update

The NSCP carried forward three thematic safeguarding priorities from 2018/19 where it was determined that further work and scrutiny were required and the next section provides an update against each of these.

Criminal Exploitation of Children and Young People

Data/profile

There is no authoritative figure for the number of children and young people from Newham who are exploited and as described in reports by the Children's Commissioner the number of young people at risk is likely to be larger than children who are known by services or the police to be involved in gangs/criminal exploitation or child sexual exploitation in Newham as elsewhere. In their work during 2019, the *Youth Safety Board* drew on a range of sources to develop a profile

describing what is known about violence and exploitation in Newham, when and where it occurs, and who is affected and involved.

Newham has amongst the highest number amongst London authorities of individuals of all ages thought to be involved in county lines drug supply. Evidence from the pan-London Rescue and Response project aims to understand, target and respond to county lines has suggested there are 265 Newham-based individuals of all ages who are linked (or suspected to be linked) to county lines activity. Across London most of those involved in county lines are male (89%) with a predominant age range of 15 to 19 years (46%), followed by 20 to 25 years (29%).

The profile of those young people (under 25 years) provided with casework support by the project, highlights a range of vulnerabilities linked to exploitation. 70% of the young people supported were aged between 15 and 18 years, 83% were male, 20% were looked-after children, 43% of those of school age were known not to be attending school, 58% were known to CSC and 36% were recorded as having a gang link, with 72% having had at least one missing episode at the point of referral.

In addition to county lines exploitation, some children and young people in Newham are criminally exploited as part of local drug lines, or to undertake theft. The Rescue and Research project, and Newham staff, note that the profile and risk factors for young people who are criminally exploited locally are similar to those for young people exploited through county lines. In the view of many professionals, child sexual exploitation in Newham, mostly affecting girls, tends to be closely linked to the activities of organised criminal groups.

From April 2019 until March 2020 Operation Anzen has conducted a number of investigations into county lines and children at risk of child criminal exploitation. One such line was discovered to have as many as 10 vulnerable children and young people connected to it. The line holder was identified and the line shut down. All 10 children were safeguarded and ongoing support put in place to prevent them being further exploited.

Data from Newham University Hospital, NHS Trust Bart's Health showed that from April 2019 until March 2020, 24 referrals had been made to the MASH concerning youth violence and 13 of these had been made since January 2020.

Progress update, impact and outcomes



Violence, exploitation and vulnerability to exploitation are taken seriously in Newham and the borough has developed a robust response to tackling violence and exploitation affecting young people led by the Mayor of Newham. The launch of this work began in 2019 and a major consultation event against this agenda took place in January 2020 and fully incorporated the voices and view of over 200 children, young people, their families and community members.

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/83/youthsafetyboardmainreport>

The Youth Safety Board Implementation Group (YSBIG) structure was implemented in June 2020. The YSBIG is made up of corporate directors from key service areas across the council as the key corporate space to maintain grip and review of all Youth Safety Board Working Groups against the 4 key outcomes of the Youth Safety Board agenda, which are:

Outcome 1 - All young people feel safer and more confident in Newham's physical and social spaces

Outcome 2 - Vulnerable children and young adults are kept safe from exploitation and violence through effective prevention and early intervention

Outcome 3 - Children and young people who are at the greatest risk receive effective and timely support so they and others are safe and they can get their lives back on track

Outcome 4 - Building capacity to support children and young people (**cross-cutting**)

The YSBIG will provide quarterly progress updates to the main Youth Safety Board, which is co-chaired by the Mayor.



The implementation of the recommendations from the '*Chris' Serious Case Review* published in (2018) has led to some fundamental changes in service delivery and practice. A multi-agency Complex Safeguarding Hub was created in October 2019 and located in Children's Social Care. A range of new practice tools and support mechanisms has been developed for practitioners to help them to identify risk arising from exploitation. Work is now underway to further improve the strategic and operational alignment of work with this cohort of young people by integrating cross council and partnership offers into a broader response to the changing landscape of gangs and county lines and builds upon what has been learned and achieved through the Complex Safeguarding hub.

The Police have reported that a number of Newham children have been safeguarded from Criminal Exploitation over the course of the last year and with the engagement of over 100 Newham children many are showing reduced missing periods. Partnerships and mapping meetings are helping to fill intelligence gaps. Operation Anzen is well known across the Newham partnership and advice is regularly sought. This good local practice has been shared and adopted across the wider Metropolitan Police Service.

The Police have reported a decline in girls and young women at risk of child sexual exploitation being reported missing. There has been an improvement in the time an investigation into child sexual exploitation is open which is indicative to the efforts the partnership have made to safeguard those at risk.

A *Multi-agency Vulnerability and Exploitation panel* has been established to enable partners to discuss and plan for those children for whom there are significant concerns in relation to missing, criminal exploitation and sexual exploitation. As well as a focus on individual children (nominated by each agency represented), the Panel also maps concern across groups of children and shares intelligence with regard to places and perpetrators to maximise opportunities for safeguarding interventions and disruption activity. Further development work is in progress to create a strategic steering group into which this operational panel will report on a quarterly basis, led by the Director of Children's Social Care and Director of Brighter Futures.

Specialist training in relation to criminal and sexual exploitation is delivered through NSCP training programme and is complemented within CSC by in-service practice workshops and events that have also been open to the partnership e.g. a Research in Practice event: 'That Difficult Age: Adolescents at Risk' in December 2019. In addition, a specialist consultant has been used in the development phase of the Hub to offer reflective supervision and support best practice within the Hub. The partnership continues to learn from practice on an operational level and the partnership arrangements in place create sufficient flexibility for the system to be able to make changes relatively quickly to improve responses.

Targeted early intervention has also been developed by the '*Keeping Safe*' team from the Early Help and Intervention Service (LBN). This project enabled Newham to develop an intervention to support young people to engage positively with mainstream education. The pilot developed practice working intensively with young people who were displaying risk factors associated with

criminal exploitation to ensure that they transitioned positively between primary and secondary school.

Building on the work all Early Help Hub staff are being trained to deliver this approach to ensure that children identified by primary schools as being at risk will continue to benefit from transitions plans.

The Youth Safety Board Implementation Group is currently exploring the most effective way to ensure all children in this cohort are systematically identified by schools and other professionals, and that all children have access to a robust transition plan that will act as a bridge between the primary school and receiving secondary school to ensure these plans have support in place.

Future Improvements/Plans

As part of the continuing development of contextual safeguarding and interventions to reduce family violence, a new '*Divert Service*' in CYPS, LBN is bringing together the Complex Safeguarding Hub and Edge of Care teams in line with a broader development of resources for older children and their families. As part of this development a new post of '*Caring Dads*' Lead was appointed to in April 2020. This post holder will offer group sessions to fathers and young men in the community, develop and share resources to help practitioners to have more helpful conversations with fathers and men in children's lives together. As part of a workforce development offer some practitioners will have the opportunity to become Caring Dads facilitators and the Caring Dads Lead role will deliver workshops/training within the partnership offer.

The All Age Exploitation Group will coordinate and drive forward multi-agency programmes and interventions in Newham which combat exploitation in all its forms e.g. financial abuse, modern slavery, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and radicalisation. A mapping tool to capture all the service provision commissioned and delivered directly for people who are vulnerable is under development and will be introduced in 2020. An audit of the cases of missing children and an audit of adult and children exploitation cases are also planned.

Child neglect

Data/profile

There is no authoritative figure for the number of children and young people from Newham who are experiencing neglect but evidence from different sources can help to build up a picture of child neglect in Newham. Family and environmental factors can increase children's vulnerability to neglect and health risk factors including obesity, low weight at birth, dental problems and gaps in immunisation can be early indicators of lack of parenting skills or neglect. Health indicators show a mixed picture with some of rates for Newham being significantly worse than in other parts of London:

- 29% of children have one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth

- 17% of 2 year-olds do not have MMR vaccination coverage
- Almost 4% of full-term babies have low birth weight
- Over 27% of children aged 10-11 are obese

Newham's rate for Children in need is higher than across London and compared to its statistical neighbours. (see page 7). *Children in need are defined in law as children who are aged under 18 and:*

- *need LA services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development;*
- *need LA services to prevent significant or further harm to health or development;*
- *are disabled.*

In 2018/19, there were 516 children representing 9% of contacts to the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) resulting in referral to CSC, which identified neglect as a presenting issue. Neglect continues to be the most common category recorded for children having a child protection plan (45% of all plans) and this is in line with the national picture. Quality assurance activity by the former LSCB in 2018/19 found that a significant number of children with child protection plans for neglect lived in families with an adult who was experiencing domestic abuse, mental health or substance misuse, Given a relatively high prevalence of these issues (see page 6) supporting children in these families is rightly recognised as a priority for action in Newham.

Progress update, impact and outcomes

Newham's *Early Help Needs Analysis* and the updated *Pathways to help and Family Support* have strengthened Newham's approach to tackling child and adolescent neglect. The following priority cohorts have been identified as likely to have emerging needs, which if not tackled promptly, could possibly manifest into more complex needs, with greater detriment on the child or young person and a source of significant demand across a range of public services:

- Children living in poverty
- Children at risk of homelessness, living in unstable housing, at risk of family relationship breakdown
- Children at risk of domestic violence, aggression or sexual abuse
- Young carers
- Children living with adults experiencing multiple issues, including domestic abuse, poor mental health or substance misuse,
- Children with special educational needs and disability (SEND)
- Parents and children with multiple health problems, e.g. obesity, long term conditions, mental health issues

Pathways to Help and Family Support contains a comprehensive set of indicators and drivers to guide practitioners in responding to situations where there are unmet child health and well-being needs. The *Early Help Hub* sits alongside the *Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub* to advise and

support practitioners in their interventions and the Families First service provides more intensive level family support.

The Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) is a standardised tool for practitioners to use when there are concerns that a child's needs are not being met. A re-launch of the GCP2 in December 2019 was intended to strengthen inter-agency practice with the expectation that the tool is used for all children on child protection plans for neglect as well being more widely used as part of the early identification of neglect. The availability of GCP2 training (6 sessions) and post training support (13 sessions) is generous, has been well promoted and well attended and at the end of 2019, the GCP2 tool was loaded onto the AZEUS and RIO recording systems. A report for the period December 2019 until March 2020 showed that eight GCP2 had been started and completed indicating that the tool is currently being underused. The Safeguarding Partnership intends to scrutinise use of the tool within its 2020/2022 priority to improve the quality of assessments across the partnership.

Neglect was evident in the Newham Child L Serious case review conducted in 2018. L is a child with complex needs who had been well known to agencies throughout her life and the review highlighted concerns about poor home conditions and low levels of supervision. All recommendations for action have been completed with one due for completion in October 2020. This is to finalise a new system for identifying a key worker/lead professional for children with complex needs. There is an on-going action for the NSCP to receive regular reports on the progress and timeliness of Education and Health Care Plans provided to children with complex needs and to be satisfied that plans are in place to ensure each child entitled to a plan has one. Additional funding has been made available via the *Special Educational Needs and Disability Improvement Board* which has governance responsibility for these arrangements and 60% of outstanding plans have been completed with a plan to complete in full within two years.

Future Improvements/Plans

The training strategy for practitioners to recognise and intervene effectively in situations where children's needs are not being met is in place for 2020 together with a plan to scrutinise the use of the GCP2 as a tool to improve the quality of assessments.



The NSCP webpage on Neglect has been refreshed to interface directly with the Early Help strategy. Data to capture the impact of early help assessments and interventions for children at risk of neglect should be sought as part of NSCP Priority 3 for 2020/2022 to improve the quality of assessments across the partnership.

Child sexual abuse

Data/profile

Sexual abuse was in the top five presenting issues for contacts with MASH in 2018/19 with 414 cases representing over 7% of all contacts. At the 31st March 2020, 28 children in Newham had child protection plans due to sexual abuse which represented 7.6% of all plans, slightly higher than the national figure (4%).

Progress update, impact and outcomes

Child sexual abuse (as with neglect) is also clearly referenced in the *Early Help Strategy* and the guidance makes a link between sexual abuse and other forms of abuse including neglect and domestic abuse. A new training course *Child Sexual Abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour* was commissioned and delivered this year which focuses on how to: recognise and refer cases, risk assess and strengthen children's resilience.

'Tiger light' a new service from Barnardos is now offering early emotional support for children and young people in Newham and other parts of East London who have disclosed sexual abuse and providing support and early help to deal with traumatic experiences.

An NHS audit of self-harming presentation suggested that a high proportion of children had experienced child sexual abuse (May 2019) . This was of particular concern for 16-18-year olds who were not covered in the same way as younger children by admission procedures to hospital. The concern that these young people do not necessarily get equitable care in this regard and may well present with higher risk was an issue identified to take forward in future planning. A follow-up audit of cases with a history of sexual abuse by Health and Children's Social Care was considered but not progressed in this reporting period.

Future Improvements/Plans

A Rapid Review of 'Becky' who had been living with a registered sex offender was undertaken during this reporting period. The learning from this case highlighted the importance of updating risk assessments in the light of new information and the need for referrers to escalate their concerns if they consider that a different safeguarding response and intervention is required.

Between now and the next reporting period, the Safeguarding Partnership may wish to assure itself about the impact of multi-agency work with children that have been sexually abused and the outcomes for children, as the evidence available in this reporting period is somewhat limited. For example, receiving a report on the difference that the Tiger Light service is making and how the learning from the Becky Rapid Review is being used to improve practice.

Child safeguarding practice reviews

Between July 2019 and March 2020, Newham have conducted nine rapid reviews and contributed to four conducted by other authorities. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has approved the local review process in each of these cases.

Six of the nine cases involved incidents of serious criminal violence and in three of the cases where young people were the victims of violence two young people tragically lost their lives. These fatal incidents were the result of escalating conflict in school or college and took place on the way home and were not related to organised crime. An escalation of conflict between young people though not seen as significant by adults was recognised by other young people and the role of social media appeared to be a contributory factor that needs to be better understood by professionals working with young people. Of the three perpetrators, two had previously been arrested for minor offences and one had been the prior victim of a stabbing. These reviews also highlighted the need for earlier identification of vulnerability by recognising the impact of 'Adverse Childhood Experiences' for young people and the role of protective factors and services.

The other three rapid review cases involved children who had been exposed to abuse and neglect within their own families and one child had sadly died due to the harm caused to them. The need to improve information sharing between agencies and thus improve the quality of the risk assessment was a common theme in all three cases and each of these identified training needs where current safeguarding procedures had not been followed. A Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review is being undertaken in respect of the child death.

Within this reporting period, Newham has contributed to Serious Case Reviews undertaken by two other Local Authorities. Both were started in the previous year and have been concluded in 2020. <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-03-16-SCR-child-C-final-for-publication-.pdf> and <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/HSCP-NSCP-Family-K-Serious-Case-Review-Final-September-2020.pdf>. Both of these cases have highlighted learning in relation to domestic abuse, parental alcohol misuse and the importance of pre-birth assessments in order to analyse the risks posed, parenting capacity, how historical concerns might impact on safe parenting and how to reduce these risks.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review group has responsibility for the safeguarding practice review process in Newham. At each meeting, the group reviews the action plans of two cases to ensure the group has a grip on the responsibilities of the agency allocated to the action. This has been working well, with challenge and support offered during discussions. As these actions close they are shared with the Performance and Quality Assurance group to embed and test the learning through multi-agency audit and other quality assurance activity.

Agencies across the Partnership have engaged well with the rapid review process and the process for sharing the learning from practice reviews is to be improved with the introduction of 'seven minute briefings'. The idea behind these is based on research which suggests that seven

minutes is an ideal time span to concentrate and learn, will be manageable in most services and learning is more memorable as it is simple and not clouded by other issues and pressures.. The NSCP training courses are regularly updated in order to illustrate the learning from practice reviews.

Multi-agency Safeguarding Training

Progress Update

Newham has a well-established and popular multi-agency training programme. The commissioning and delivery functions continue to be led by the Safeguarding Children Workforce Development Lead. A refreshed training strategy and programme for 2020/2021 reflecting the NSCP's new priorities has been agreed by the Safeguarding Partners. All commissioned safeguarding training will have a strong focus on professional curiosity, collaborative leadership, systems leadership at every level and outstanding partnership principles. A number of changes have been made to reduce expenditure on training and to achieve smarter learning.

A key change is the removal of Level 1 training as the partners expect all this training to be delivered by each individual agency. The London Safeguarding Board has a generic safeguarding power point which can be obtained from their website and agencies in Newham are expected to adapt and incorporate agency specific protocols as well as NSCP safeguarding protocols. The NSCP Safeguarding Workforce Development Lead will be developing means to ensure training quality and consistency across the agencies.

Other changes to the programme include:

- Rapid dissemination of the messages from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews through Designated Safeguarding leads using a '7 minute briefing formula'
- Domestic Abuse training will be delivered by the LBN service provider
- Impact of Parental Mental Health on Children – will be offered at level 2 or through conference events due to the specialist nature of topic

Following the Covid 19 pandemic, future training will be live-streamed rather than classroom based (initial pilots have been successful) and the programme will run over an academic year from September 2020.

Course Delivery and Attendance 2019/20

Courses are advertised using a variety of communication methods and there is an easy to use booking system on the NSCP website which is used to collate data on attendance and record participant feedback. Due to the impact of Covid 19, it was not possible to complete an end of year exercise to find out how participants have been using the training in their practice. The following tables show detail of the training courses, number of sessions and delegates and breakdown of delegates by agency. The higher number of delegates in 2018/19 was due to a

series of larger partnership events that took place to disseminate learning from serious case reviews and to the roll out of exploitation and vulnerability training. A full training report is available here <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/annual-reports/>

Year	Courses delivered	sessions	Delegates booked
2017 – 18	32	116	1101
2018 - 19	33	110	2119
2019 - 20	24	124	1014

Partnership Resources

Budget

The NSCP is funded by contributions from its key partners and there was a significant income reduction in 2019/20 compared to previous years. A reduction in Health partners' funding by the Newham Clinical Commissioning Group was partially offset by first time contributions from Bart's Health Trust and the East London Foundation Trust. The Executive is responsible for the NSCP budget and during 2019 approved proposals to eliminate a projected deficit of £13,972 which included reducing expenditure on training and premises hire and case review costs.

A budget for 2020/2021 has been agreed together with a mid-year review of expenditure in October 2020.

INCOME	2019/20
Bart's Health Trust	5,000
East London Foundation Trust	10,000
Newham CCG	35,000
LBN CYPS	100,000
LBN Housing	5,500

London Fire Brigade	500
Police	5,000
National Probation Service	2,000
TOTAL	162,550
Carried forward underspend from previous year (as previously decided)	22,198
	185,748

EXPENDITURE	2019/20
Independent Chairs (plus expenses)	37,400
Business Manager	58,000
Safeguarding Children Workforce Development Officer (Training)	31,248
Performance & Workforce Development Manager	6,100
Recruitment Agency Costs	13,974
Consultancy Costs	32,400
Printing	3,000
ICT software	5,000
Training programmes and events	30,000
Premises Hire and catering	5,000
Serious Case Reviews	11,600
TOTAL	233,722

**** The shortfall between the expenditure and income was met by the local authority. ****

Communication

The NSCP have a well-established website that is managed and updated by the NSCP team. Bi-monthly newsletters routinely include: key messages from the Independent Chair, learning from Safeguarding Practice Reviews and information on forthcoming training. The partnership has identified that additional capacity to refresh and develop its communication strategy in order to reach as wide a network as possible, including Newham's community based organisations is needed and this will be provided by Communication Lead for Children and Young People's services (LBN) from summer 2020.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Leadership by the Executive and Independent Chair is strong with a stated commitment to become 'outstanding' and this is ensuring that safeguarding arrangements in Newham are effective. There is a culture of openness, challenge and working together to solve problems in a positive way. There has been progress on all agreed priorities and a robust response to the Covid 19 crisis. Budget issues have been addressed. Establishing a partnership data set so that performance can be measured and tracked with early warning systems to highlight emerging trends is recognised as a priority.

Newham's *Early Help Needs Analysis* and the updated *Pathways to help and Family Support* have strengthened Newham's approach to recognising vulnerability and preventing abuse. The impact of early help assessments and interventions for children at risk of neglect should be included in Priority 3 2020/2022 to improve the quality of assessments across the partnership.

At an operational level there has been good innovation most notably the Complex Safeguarding Hub and anecdotal reports indicate that collaborative working has improved. The quality of communication, information-sharing and risk assessment should continue to be tested going forward.

In relation to the three thematic safeguarding priorities carried forward into 2019/20 from the previous year, there is good progress in relation to tackling criminal exploitation, some progress in relation to tackling neglect and less information regarding child sexual abuse.

The voices of children come through particularly strongly in Newham's work to tackle exploitation. Some links exist between the partnership and local youth services which could be further built upon. The partnership needs to put in place mechanisms to seek and utilise direct feedback from children and families when carrying out its case review and case audit activity and agree how feedback from families in receipt of child protection services might be obtained.

Child safeguarding practice reviews are well established and arrangements to identify and disseminate learning are in place. The introduction of the Rapid Review process in Working Together 2018 was with the intention of producing learning in 'real time' without the delay encountered within Serious Case Reviews. This is presenting some level of challenge in Newham given the volume of Rapid Reviews undertaken. While it is evident how recommendations from

the previous 'Chris' serious case review (2018) have been implemented and led to tangible improvements in service delivery the partnership needs to review the dissemination of learning from this (and future) reporting periods and what changes if any have resulted from this.

The multi-agency training programme is annually refreshed and links directly to NSCP priorities. Training is of high quality and incorporates local protocols and local case review examples. Data and feedback are collected and there are plans to re-establish post course feedback from participants. Online and live stream training courses have been introduced following the Covid 19 pandemic.

It is recommended that:

1. The work to produce an accessible integrated data set is finalised, building on the data that is already available and including impact and outcome measures for the NSPC's 2020/2022 priorities.
2. A mid-year review of budget expenditure is carried out to ensure that projected expenditure is kept within budget.
3. There is a stronger focus on multi agency quality assurance across the partnership
4. The Safeguarding Partnership agrees how it can assure itself about the impact of multi-agency work and outcomes for children that have been sexually abused.
5. Direct feedback from children and families is sought and utilised when the NSCP is carrying out case reviews and case audits. The safeguarding partners agree mechanisms for capturing feedback from families in receipt of child protection services and include this feedback and how it has been utilised in end of year reports.
6. The partnership monitors the dissemination of its partnership learning and can identify tangible improvements that this has led to.
7. The training report for 2020/2021 updates on how the new training delivery model is working in practice and includes feedback from practitioners about how they are using training to improve outcomes for the children and families they are working with.
8. Safeguarding partners make sure the final version of this report is widely available. A copy will be published on the NSCP website and sent to the national *Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel* and the national *What Works Centre for Children Centre* within seven days of being published.



Priorities for 2020/22

1. All age exploitation - jointly with Newham Safeguarding Adults Board to coordinate and drive forward multi-agency programs and interventions in Newham which combat exploitation in all its forms e.g. financial abuse, modern slavery, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and radicalisation.

2. Transitions - jointly with Newham Safeguarding Adults Board to move from childhood to adulthood in a safe and positive way, focusing on care leaver, children with learning disabilities and special educational needs, those experiencing difficulties with mental health and young parents.

3. Improve the quality of assessments across the partnership. This will include the voices of children and young people, professional curiosity and use of Graded Care Profile 2 to assess neglect.

A new priority was agreed in June 2020 to prepare for a potential increase in Safeguarding referrals. This is a joint priority with the Safeguarding Adults Board and has an emphasis on the 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.

In addition to the above, the NSCP will seek assurance with regards to:

a) Domestic Violence and Abuse - We will seek assurance from Community Safety partners through the Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse sub group that safeguarding issues are considered throughout the response to domestic violence and abuse.

b) Trigger trios of mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse - we will seek assurance from Public Health

c) Children Missing Education - we will seek assurance from work being undertaken by the Local Education Authority.

With regard to Children and Young People feeling safe - which was a key element of the feedback from Children and Young People we will ensure that we are aligned with and support the delivery of the priorities and activities of the Youth Safety Board

