



NEWHAM
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
PARTNERSHIP



NSCP Newsletter

May 2021 Edition

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

Welcome to the NSCP Newsletter

1. Introduction from NSCP chair
2. National Suicide Bereavement Report - Findings
3. Children's Commissioner for England – The Big Ask
4. Webinar - Serious Youth Violence
5. First Friday Forum - Safeguarding leads monthly learning event
6. Upcoming Training
7. Published Reports; Review of New Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements & Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel; Annual Report for 2020



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1. Introduction and NSCP Executive Partnership Update

Welcome to the NSCP newsletter which we aim to produce every eight weeks. If you have any Safeguarding items that you wish to include please contact LSCB.administrator@newham.gov.uk. Our earlier newsletters can be found on the NSCP website www.newhamscp.org.uk/

The Executive has continued to meet bi monthly to review the business plan priority areas of all age exploitation and transitions which are shared with the Adult Safeguarding Partnership, and also improving assessments. Due to the changes in the nature of challenges the NSCP faces and the constraint on finances and resource, a decision has been made to revise the 2020-2022 business plan to reflect this with a reduction in priority areas. The focus will remain on all age exploitation and transitions, however we are placing a greater emphasis on promoting practice improvement particularly from learning from reviews and audits; and communications and engagement.

The Executive has continued to meet regularly to review the response to Covid priority and receive updates from across the partnership. This has now been incorporated into the Business plan with an emphasis on Covid.

We are sadly still receiving details of children and young people where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected **and** the child has died or has been seriously harmed. Later in this newsletter are details of a First Friday Safeguarding forum which meets term time on the 1st Friday of every month (or first Friday after half term) this is the forum to share the learning from such tragic events and other key safeguarding message. The representation from across the partnership has unfortunately only been from a couple of areas and it is vital for all partners to be represented, as these events are key to cascading the learning across every agency working in Newham. So please do make every effort to ensure that someone from your organisation /area attends.

As we are moving into business as usual we will continue to see increased safeguarding reports. Thank you on behalf of the partnership for all you do in supporting Children and young people and families in Newham. These continue to be challenging times and the part you all play is vital. Julia Stephens-Row

Independent Chair Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership

2. National Suicide Bereavement Report – Findings



Dr. Isabelle Hunt and Dr. Sharon McDonnell have presented the findings from the national suicide bereavement report to The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Suicide and Self-harm Prevention ONLINE meeting on 23rd March 2021.

For those that are not aware, Dr. Sharon McDonnell led a national suicide bereavement survey on behalf of the University of Manchester and SASP. 7,158 people completed the survey, making it the largest suicide bereavement survey internationally. The findings generated national and international interest.

Presenting findings from this report, to the APPG, was timely especially when two documentaries were aired on TV, recently about suicide and its impact on the bereaved.

Roman Kemp shared his vulnerabilities, losing his friend to suicide, to help others, reduce stigma and to influence change. We need to keep the momentum going. Presenting the Collective Voice of 7, 158 people bereaved/affected by suicide to politicians (APPG meeting) is a step in the right direction.

Suicide Bereavement UK commissioned Jenny Berry to write two poems about suicide bereavement, to open and close their international conference.

- The first poem entitled '*They Say Nout*' focuses on stigma <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPelb35PHtY>
- The second poem entitled '*In it Together*' focuses on hope <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQIYQi7sO7s>

Please help raise awareness of the national suicide bereavement report by sharing one of the poems, depending on your preference, to anyone of influence or those who need to understand the vulnerability and needs of those bereaved/affected by suicide.

The full report can be found here [From-Grief-to-Hope-Report.pdf](#) (suicidebereavementuk.com)

Contact Details:

Email: sharon.mcdonnell@suicidebereavementuk.com

Twitter: @SJMcdonn @SBUK11

Website: www.suicidebereavementuk.com

3. Children's Commissioner for England – The Big Ask



I'm the new Children's Commissioner for England, and I'm asking for your help.

My role is to speak up for children and young people across England. As the government starts to plan how to rebuild after the pandemic, I want children to be at heart of it. I need your help to gather children's views and priorities for the future, so that I can make sure the government takes them into account.

I've just launched the [Childhood Commission](#), a once-in-a-generation review of the future of childhood. This review will identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their full potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

The first stage of this work is gathering the views, opinions and experiences of all children. I will carry out the largest ever consultation with children in England, called [The Big Ask](#), to find out what children's concerns and aspirations about the future are. My ambition is to reach every child – the more I hear from, the stronger this work will be.

I'm writing now to ask you to consider how you could help me to reach as many children as possible.

The Big Ask launched on Monday 19 April as an online questionnaire, I would be very grateful if you could share this information throughout your organisation and with other local organisations supporting children and families, so we can reach as many children as possible. Your cooperation will be crucial for us to ensure that vulnerable and 'hard to reach' children have their voices heard.

Thank you in advance for helping me put children and young people at the heart of the country's plans to rebuild for the future. If you have any questions, please get in touch with a member of my team at big.ask@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England



In Newham we have been progressing at a speed to gain the views of young people with the work led by the Children Commissioner Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney. Next Gen. Workshops have been hosted, joined by children, young people and parents to support decision making about where to focus efforts over the next quarter to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in Newham.

The outcomes of the discussions are formatted into the amazing visual minutes within this newsletter, created by Anna Geyer. You can also find here a [Miro board](#) where the comments have been captured and organised these into themes to help all understand the key points that emerged from the discussions.

In order to identify those areas in Newham where we can shift the dial and improve outcomes for children, young people and families we need to continue having these conversations and they must be in collaboration with our children, young people and families.

Next Gen are looking to have a sustained meaningful conversation with young people and families. And to do this in the spaces of their choosing in which they feel comfortable, these spaces already exist and our residents are already telling us vital insights about their experiences. We just need to hear them.

Hopefully you're starting to get a sense of what Next Gen Newham is all about and the aims. You will find a link to the introductory video [here](#).

If you want to discuss anything further don't hesitate to contact the service via NewhamCYP.Commissioner@newham.gov.uk



4. Webinar - Serious Youth Violence

With the current focus on child criminal and child sexual exploitation, the need to understand notions of vulnerability and childhood has never been timelier. This interactive virtual webinar explored led by Keith Ibbotson. In April Keith Ibbotson, Chair of Havering SCP and author of a number of reviews including the murder of adolescents and serious injuries outside of the home presented on the findings of reviews as outlined below.

Selected learning from reviews of deaths and serious injury due to serious youth violence

Section 1 How can further reviews increase our understanding?

Theme 1 - Learning from serious incidents of exploitation and serious youth violence (national and local reviews)

Section 2 Overarching and strategic themes for partnerships

Theme 2 - Strategic oversight of services and collaboration between partnerships

Theme 3 - Adverse events and background factors creating vulnerability and risk for children and young people

Theme 4 - The impact of serious youth violence on black and minority ethnic young people and families, and service responses

Section 3 Schools, FE colleges and education services

Theme 4 - Involuntary moves from mainstream secondary school (including exclusion, managed moves) and the quality of alternative provision

Theme 5 - The role of FE colleges in safeguarding adolescents

Section 4 Themes highlighting learning for specific services and professional practice

Theme 6 - Speech, communication and language needs and services for young people

Theme 7 - Involvement of fathers / male extended family members

Theme 8 - Multi-agency response to county lines

Theme 9 - The role of social workers in this work and the responsibilities given to youth-oriented workers (whether in the local authority or voluntary organisations).

Theme 10 - Some authorities are moving away from the use of child protection procedures for extra-familial harm, but there is no agreed approach.

Theme 11 - Relocation of young people and their families because of the risk of serious youth violence

Following this the NSCP has been looking at how we can respond and will be asking ourselves a range of questions which we will update you on in due course.

5. First Friday Forum - Safeguarding leads monthly learning event

To date the NSCP has hosted 2 first Friday forum events, the next one is scheduled for 11th June. This is a platform for sharing good practice and to demonstrate how we can work in partnership to improve the experiences of families in Newham. They run on the first Friday of each month (or 1st Friday after a half term) with the exception of August.

The forum is for Designated and Named Safeguarding Leads (and equivalent) in Education, Health, Housing, Children's Social Care, Police, Adult services and any other public services who are members of the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership. Over 400 people are invited to attend, we have yet to reach over 100 attending and we are also expecting a variety of agencies to be in attendance, please encourage participation within your agency.

The purpose of the forum is to;

1. Disseminate the learning from NSCP rapid and local practice case reviews and embed the improvements through changes to local working practice. We have been sharing the 7 minute briefings produced.
2. Share findings and improvement plans from multi-agency audits to ensure that safeguarding partners are working together to meet shared, quality standards.
3. Launch key strategies, policies and procedures for safeguarding children and young people.
4. Provide a regular platform for key staff in the safeguarding partnership to meet, learn and improve safeguarding practice together.
5. Provide a feedback loop to the NSPC Executive Board on what is working well, with examples of success stories, and where further improvements are needed, how these can be achieved
6. Forums will be uploaded to the secure space on the NSCP website

Your role is key!

- Designated and Named Safeguarding Leads (and equivalent) in Education, Health, Children's Social Care, Police, Adult and other public services who are members of the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- A tailored, extended event for safeguarding leads in the non-statutory sector and wider community will be organised twice a year.
- The role of Forum members is to regularly attend and take responsibility for embedding learning and improvement through changes to local working practice, within their own agency.
- Members can invite other key operational or clinical colleagues to the Forum.

We look forward to seeing you at the forums



6. Upcoming Training

NSCP Learning and Development June- July 2021

Cultural Competence and Safeguarding	02/06/2021
Impact of Substance Abuse	03/06/2021
Radicalisation Awareness Workshop(AM +PM)	08/06/2021
Safeguarding Children cared for away from home	08/06/2021
Criminal Exploitation	09/06/2021
Protecting Young Children Online	10/06/2021
Child Sexual Abuse, and Harmful Sexual Behaviour	15/06/2021
Think Child, Think Family - Think Everyone has a Life story	16/06/2021
GCP2 Surgery - Beyond the Training(AM+PM)	17/06/2021
Early Help Framework and Team Around the Family	22/06/2021
Self-Harm Suicide and Young People	23/06/2021
Domestic Abuse Advanced	24/06/2021
Perinatal Mental Health	24/06/2021
Introduction to Complex and contextual safeguarding and Tools	28/06/2021

Complex Safeguarding- Risk & Strengths linked to faith & belief	30/06/2021
Extremism: Understanding the Impact on Young People	01/07/2021
Safeguarding and disable children	05/07/2021
Child Neglect: Assessing the Quality of Parental Care - Using GCP2 Tool	06/07/2021

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

7. Reports published:

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel – Annual Report for 2020

Link: [The Child Safeguarding Annual Report 2020 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Summary provided by James Thomas, DCS Tower Hamlets, ADCS lead on Safeguarding Reform

Methodology

Report drawn from Serious Incident Notifications; Rapid Reviews; Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR); 30 Serious Case Reviews published in 2020; the Panel's National Reviews; Qualitative analysis of all LCSPRs and 25% sample of Rapid Reviews; Analysis of safeguarding partners yearly reports (What Works Centre Children's Social Care).

"...a period of unprecedented test and challenge.... the still relatively new national architecture for safeguarding... there is much more to do to enhance the impact and effectiveness of local and national learning....Over the next 12 months, the Panel will be looking to strengthen its reach and relationships with all its stakeholders, including safeguarding partnerships and across government." Three headline messages:

1. To give a real and strong voice (and influence) to children.

2. The urgency of addressing what might be described as stubborn and perennial problems in multi-agency child protection practice. Issues such as weak information sharing, communication and risk assessment.

3. The need to understand and evaluate robustly the impact of learning from rapid reviews as well as local and national practice reviews.

Six key practice themes to make a difference

1. Understanding what the child's daily life is like

2. Working with families where their engagement is reluctant and sporadic

3. Critical thinking and challenge

4. Responding to changing risk and need

5. Sharing information in a timely and appropriate way

6. Organisational leadership and culture for good outcomes

Other key points in the Panel's analysis

- Quality of Rapid Reviews and LCSPRs is too variable, too often weak on analysis and LSCPRs too often look like old-fashioned SCRs and too often not published.

- Covid risk factors most marked in relation to those factors most prevalent in Notifications: NAI in children under 1, SUDI and suicide.

- Emerging trend: notifications relating to children who had committed suicide noted that gender identity issues had emerged as a significant factor in 7 of the incidents in the sample.

- Disproportionality particularly marked among black teenagers and among mixed ethnicity children of all age groups. In a number of rapid reviews, the ethnicity of the family does not feature in the characteristics described or analysed.

- 51% Child Deaths either SUDI or Suicide

- National review of SUDI in families where the children are considered at risk of harm: development of a 'prevent and protect' practice model has the potential to reduce the risks of SUDI.

- Preventing self-harm and suicide – Panel's analysis of 98 Notifications where the child had committed suicide. The themes included: abuse or neglect from others, bereavement, relationship issues, substance misuse, children missing from home and bullying in an educational setting.

- Learning from practice reviews indicates that the recognition of cumulative neglect and its impact continues to be a key challenge for practitioners, with incidents of neglect too often treated in isolation

- Responses to incidents of domestic abuse were most effective where there was a robust analysis of risks to the victim and support for them; swift action to ensure safety of the children and provide on-going support in recognition of emotional abuse; and

purposeful work with the perpetrator, followed up to monitor the extent of sustained engagement and positive outcomes

- From a sample of 89 cases where LAC had died or suffered serious harm, the analysis focused on 48 incidents where children became looked after as a result of abuse or neglect. Key findings were that these were primarily late entrants to care having experienced long-term parental abuse and neglect, with significant trauma, criminal exploitation continued once in care, high incidence of risk-taking behaviours and placement breakdown.
- The strategic use of feedback from families is less well developed.
- Partnerships are looking to implement more systematic approaches to learning, but too often lack of evidence of impact. The evaluation of the impact of learning (including training) is a key area for development across safeguarding partnerships. This will be a focus for the Panel in 2021.
- Notifications: 38% of areas made 1 or 2; 43% made 3 to 6
- Most open to varying local interpretation have related to SUDI, suicide and some criminal harm such as knife wounds – considering if further guidance helpful.
- 21% of Rapid Reviews in 15 days – recognition of Covid impact.
- 35% of Rapid Reviews lead to a LCSPR. Partnerships are increasingly making more nuanced decisions about whether new learning will result from undertaking an LCSPR. Panel agreed with 69% of decisions. If a rapid review has indicated that there is more learning to be gained, safeguarding partners should move to an LCSPR. There are no other types of review needed or allowed within WT 2018

Looking Ahead

The Panel has agreed a number of priorities which will inform and shape its work programme over the next one to two years:

- explore how best to make sure that the voice and perspectives of children and families are at the heart of safeguarding reviews and system learning
- enhance appreciation of the impact of culture, race and ethnicity on safeguarding practice
- extend ways in which the Panel engages with local and national leaders and policy makers, maximising its influence through timely and effective communications.
- assess our impact so that we better understand the difference we make and how we can enhance our contribution
- develop, with others, our approach to learning and change, so that learning is effectively embedded.

“We are not minded to commission too many national reviews without evidence that we, and the system as a whole, has the capacity to respond.”

Wood Report – Review of New Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987928/Wood_Review_of_multi-agency_safeguarding_arrangements_2021.pdf

Summary provided by James Thomas, DCS Tower Hamlets, ADCS lead on Safeguarding Reform

Context: Covid impact and positive partnership responses; this Report submitted to Care Review; early days of the new arrangements.

Key Issues

Overall grounds for optimism; resources “under much stress” with reference to the ADCS Safeguarding Pressures report; central government does not demonstrate a joined-up culture.

Focus upon: accountability and judgement of the local partners; lack of joined up approach from inspectorates; variability in respect of engagement of all local partners, specifically of schools; need to build evidence base on impact of independent scrutiny; attention needed specifically to the actions of the named senior leads – CEX, CC and COO; government initiatives from single departments without consideration of multi-agency partnerships; lack of guidance for Elected Mayors, Police and Crime Commissioners, council leaders, councillors and chairs of NHS boards.

Survey Results – 117/132 partnerships

- 90% positive about the reforms.
- Over half asking for further guidance.
- Key challenges: differences in geography & scale between the 3 partners; resourcing challenges; contextual safeguarding, domestic abuse and mental health.

Leadership: Too much delegation to junior officers (police in particular); inequitable funding contributions – Police in London highlighted; escalation to resolve issues not always working; senior three leaders typically not meeting together on safeguarding; question of whether partnerships are too operational and insufficiently strategic; question of LA dominating leadership and carrying the support functions for partnerships; anomaly of statutory guidance for LA roles but not the others.

Relevant Agencies: The complexity of engaging with several hundred schools requires a detailed network of representation; highlighted issue of unregistered schools and EHE.

Independent Scrutiny: wide range of approaches; not always focussing on the impact for children; not sufficiently focused on the impact of the joint leadership of the three statutory partners. Highlighted work of Jenny Pearce (Uni of Beds) and the Six Steps Model.

Inspection: inspectorates only taking single agency perspectives and therefore partial view; suggestion of the use of JTAI.

Government: still characterised by single department approaches; national agenda sitting at junior level of civil servants including the Safeguarding Children Reform Implementation Board; MHCLG should join as a 4th department.

21 Recommendations focused around:

- Central government join up, senior leadership and additional guidance
- Joint inspection arrangements
- Just one recommendation for Local Partnerships to review the level of support, analysis and intelligence in place

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 children, young people and families in Newham

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