



# NEWHAM **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN** PARTNERSHIP

## Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Annual Report for 2021/2022

“We are committed to ensuring that vulnerable children and families in Newham are provided with high quality support and protection to achieve the best possible outcomes”



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## Introduction

### Purpose of the annual report

In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activities undertaken, local safeguarding partnerships must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report must set out what they have done because of their local safeguarding arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice. (*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*). This report covers the period April 2021 to March 2022.

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 (or planned to be taken) in the report's period 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.

The report will be published on the NSCP website and sent to the National Panel and the What Works Centre for Children within 7 days of being published.

### The Newham Safeguarding Children's Partnership

The defined safeguarding partners are Newham Council, NHS Northeast London (NEL) 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 arrangements published in September 2019, the three statutory partners have a joint responsibility for child safeguarding in Newham. These partners decided that education services would be the fourth partner and would have

equal status in all the arrangements, given their importance to the developing lives of children 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 for the Partnership.

Julia Stephens-Row was appointed as the permanent Independent Chair in December 2019 and has continued in her role during this reporting period.

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/>.

The NSCP keeps in touch with staff across the partnership through a regular newsletter and through collaborative and reflective on-line workshops and other events. A comprehensive programme of multi-agency training continues to be provided.

## NEWHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP CORE OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES 2020/22

### CORE OBJECTIVES



To co-ordinate what is done by each agency to safeguard and promote the welfare of children



To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency and by agencies working together. The NSCP aims to be a mature high trust partnership in which conflicts are resolved through conversation

### THEMATIC SAFEGUARDING PRIORITIES



All age exploitation – to co-ordinate and drive forward multi-agency programmes and interventions to combat exploitation in all its forms



Transitions – moving from child to adulthood in a safe and positive way. Focussing on care leavers, children with learning disabilities, special educational needs, mental health and young parents



Improving the quality of assessments across the partnership



Response to Covid-19 and impact on local residents – preparing for a rise in safeguarding referrals

## Demography and Responses to Covid-19

### Child Population (2020 data)

There are more than 90,000 children and young people living in Newham who make up 24.4% of the borough's population. 27,217 children are aged 0-4 years and 58,851 are aged 5-17 years. In 2020, there were 3,800 new births, the highest recorded number in London.

### Diversity

Seven in ten residents come from a BAME background: 45.4% are from an Asian background; 27.6% from a White background; 17.8% from a Black background; 5% from a Mixed Background and 4.1% from Other Background.

Over 200 languages are spoken. 58.6% residents speak English as their first language and after English, Bengali, Urdu and Gujarati are the main three languages spoken in the borough. 42% of residents identify as Christian; 32% as Muslim; 8.8% as Hindu and 2.1% as Sikh.

### Deprivation and Poverty

While Newham is moving in a positive direction, it is still within the 10% most deprived boroughs in the country. 50.3% of children live in poverty, the second highest in the UK.

### Housing

Newham has one of the most severe affordable housing shortages in the UK with 28,000 people on the housing list and more than 5,500 families with children living in temporary accommodation.

### Health

Child obesity is a health issue in Newham affecting 23.7% of reception aged children and 42.7% of Year 6 children. The rate for Year 6 children is significantly higher than for London (37.9%) and England (34.3%).

### COVID-19

2021/2022 continued to be dominated by the pandemic, which has had a huge impact on the local community and amplified the impact of disadvantage and structural and health inequalities. Newham also had the highest numbers in London on the government furlough scheme and food banks have operated at full capacity. The impact of financial austerity and hardship on domestic abuse and neglect is recognised.

Newham Council launched a COVID Recovery and Re-orientation Strategy to address the impact of COVID-19 on Newham's communities. This sets out the resources and infrastructure needed to help reduce the consequences of the pandemic and ways to improve future opportunities and new ways of living and working.

As we came out of lockdown restrictions, the NSCP sought assurance about how the system was coping with an anticipated increase in referrals and about the quality of assessments.

An upturn in referrals was experienced at the start of 2022, believed to be related issues that were not referred or picked up straight away due to Covid lockdowns. In response, additional staffing capacity has been provided to the MASH and CSC assessment team. This also provides greater management oversight and direction on cases. We know that analysis in assessment remains good with greater use of chronologies and genograms. The greater input from partners means that plans are better formulated from the assessment and there is evidence to support this through audit and regular dip sampling of cases. This area of performance is scrutinised by the Children's Services Improvement Board, which the NSCP Independent Chair attends, and is also reported to the Newham Chief Executive.



## All-Age Exploitation: A Joint Priority with the Safeguarding Adult Board

### Working Together to Achieve Outcomes

The NSCP and the Newham Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) have jointly commissioned an all-age exploitation group. The group is co-chaired by the Head of Service for Youth Justice, LBN and the Detective Chief Inspector from the Public Protection Partnership, Met Police.

The role of this group is to co-ordinate, oversee and drive forward a multi-agency programme of work in Newham that tackles exploitation in all its forms e.g. financial abuse, modern slavery, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and radicalisation and which works across all ages from cradle to grave.

The goal is to ensure Newham is a safer and more nurturing place to live and work by addressing both the symptoms and the root causes of exploitation.

### Progress and Impact

A Modern Day Slavery Strategy and Action Plan is now in place with a Task and Finish group to co-ordinate the activities in this plan, led by the Assistant Director for Community Safety, LBN. The group will run until Autumn 2022 and there is a plan to recruit an officer to support the action plan and monitor progress via the Community Safety Service. There will be a relaunch of the Strategy at the Adolescent Exploitation Conference Event, later in 2022, to promote the Strategy and Action Plan progress.

Another key activity this year was a multi-agency audit of safeguarding responses to young people and adults at risk of exploitation. This involved a deep dive of 10 individual cases (males and females) most of whom were aged 16-24 years. The audit considered the impact of experiencing exploitation and how our multi-agency responses can improve outcomes for exploited people.

The audit provided a professional learning environment for multi-agency reflection and scrutiny and highlighted for the partnership areas of strength in practice as well as areas for development. The All Age Exploitation Group will be taking forward the learning and improvement plan from this audit.

### Multi-agency Audit Findings

The findings suggest that we can improve our multi-agency intelligence sharing and our professional curiosity with adults i.e. those over 18 years of age. The audit showed that professionals are more likely to perceive adults as making choices rather than being exploited and that transition is a key period. There is also the added complexity of victim versus perpetrator bias and it is important we continue to challenge ourselves to remember that most 'perpetrators' are themselves being exploited. The response we can take can potentially increase the impact of safeguarding the victim and reducing the exploitation of others.

The main strengths identified are: Merlin police reports for children and young people under 18 provide good, concise and relevant information to inform decision making; multi-agency partners work effectively together when possible; information and intelligence sharing is good for children and young people; planning is good in most cases; professional challenge is increasingly good; taking action promptly is currently good. Multi-agency facilitated reflection, such as the moderation meeting, has a positive impact and improves outcomes for people at risk of or experiencing exploitation. Corrective actions identified through the audit on two individual cases were responded to promptly.

The main areas for development are: a recognition of both victim and perpetrator status in adults; follow-up on National Referral Mechanism cases and providing updates to the partnership, (NRM is the referral framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support). Areas for improvement included intelligence sharing in adult cases; threshold decision-making and taking action promptly. The need for more positive engagement with those at risk of/or experiencing exploitation; signposting adults to specialist sexual exploitation services; identifying multiple exploitation in females and improving our understanding of the lived experience of the person were highlighted. Attendance at multi-agency meetings was identified as important multi-agency safeguarding process to promote increased intelligence sharing.

## Adolescent Exploitation Strategy

### Working Together to Achieve Outcomes

All partners are committed to working together in order to keep young people in Newham safe from harm, exploitation and violence, through effective prevention and early intervention, so that they can have a brighter future.

We listen to young people and value their diverse experiences. We recognise that adolescents are children first.

We understand young people's varied needs and abilities and respond to risks and influences in their lives including their transitions to adulthood.

We involve young people, families, communities, children's workforce and stakeholders at every step of the journey. We have a comprehensive training offer for those working with children and young people.

We provide an overarching response to adolescent exploitation that is a trauma-informed, systemic, relational and restorative approach in response to adolescent risk and vulnerability, including child exploitation and serious youth violence.

### Voices of children and young people



*"Workers who care about the children make a difference-they do something when I am anxious or stressed. Even just helping me to find some time to be away from people who are harmful and giving me the space to be myself helps me a lot"*

*"I would prefer having someone who is a professional to talk to because they are not judgemental but there needs to be a connection with them"*

*"We just want workers to do their jobs and treat us like we matter"*

*"Language is so important - not too professional, we need to know what you're talking about"*

*"Social media plays a big part in how issues are escalated and are hyped"*

*"Before I just didn't care, where I'm going, now I have a direction and I have a vision"*

## Adolescent Exploitation Strategy: Progress and Impact

### **Organisations share information at the right time to understand and respond to young people at risk of harm and exploitation.**

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has demonstrated greater ability to recognise the significance of risk and extra-familial harm. Risk levels decrease with better information sharing amongst the multi-agency partnership. The Prevention of Exploitation and Harm Hub (PECHH) supports data, intelligence and information sharing across all agencies working in the pathway. There has been a reduction in the number of serious incidents of extra-familial harm, meeting the threshold for a rapid review this year, compared to last year. Most importantly, all children and young people that have been identified through the exploitation screening tools have had a rigorous assessment and have had support and safety plans put in place, for early help or statutory support.

### **Respond with the right action at the right time when children and young people are involved in harm and exploitation**

There is a comprehensive range of support for children and young people from getting advice and information, to getting help and receiving risk support. A range of Early Help, Prevention and Statutory providers in different settings, including Youth Zones and Schools provide services. Where there are exploitation concerns, the PECHH works with the subject child and their younger siblings. There has been a significant decrease in referrals for children going missing (down 33% from this time last year). 63% of Return Home Interviews are completed within the 72 hours window, which is above the national average (50%) and the quality of engagement with children is good. In the last year, there has been an 11% reduction in the number of pupils with SEN needs or on an ECHP plan that have been suspended from education settings.

### **Provide a proportionate response to harm, exploitation and group violence and safeguard young people who are perpetrators**

Children that have caused harm to others as well as the victims of serious harm receive appropriate support services and are included in rapid reviews. There is close joint working between CYPS services and the Youth Justice Service. Mentoring for Success shows that outcomes have been fully met for 71% of the cohort and partially met for 20% of the cohort. There has been a 25% reduction of First Time Entrants into the criminal justice system between November to January of this year and a 13% reduction in the number of re-offenders (April 20 to January 21) compared to 2019-20. There has been a 22% decrease in violent offences compared to 2019/20.

*“Leaders and managers have invested in a multi-agency coordinated and integrated approach to improve the effectiveness of work with children affected by adolescent exploitation. They have effective oversight of those children most at risk. Social workers show good skill and knowledge in identifying exploitation risks and vulnerabilities that children are exposed to. There is a wide range of approaches and interventions to protect prevent and disrupt, including support teams to provide intensive relational work with children and families. Social workers plan with agencies to support children in renewing interest in education, training and work and developing positive routines. Children benefit from persistent support from social workers in their attempts to engage with them. Social workers work closely with mentors and youth workers, where such relationships are established.”* Ofsted Monitoring Visit, March 2022.



## The experiences of children and young people

**A aged 15 years** came into care after being the victim of a serious incident and then subsequently arrested for an attempted robbery involving a weapon.

***What has worked well for you?***

A said he enjoys where he is now living and the activities provided.

***What do you think could have been different?***

A said that he did not want to move out of the area and wanted to stay in East London. He said he would have avoided busy places in order to keep himself safe, meeting up with a few friends and his girlfriend.

He scaled a **7 out of 10** for his experience of being supported by services and did not reflect any negative experience with any of the agencies involved. He now wants to get back into education and to train as an engineer.



**S aged 14 years** came into care as a result of child sexual exploitation and regularly being missing from home.

**Intervention** focussed on safety planning (disruption), education and improving family relationships. Her relationship with a grandparent was identified as a protective factor and key to her future re-integration home.

**Outcomes:** improved family relationships and increasing consistency in parenting across the extended family; increased education support and better understanding of S's special educational needs; reduction in missing episodes; planned reintegration to family, with a family led safety plan.

**W is a care leaver** whose home was being used by gang members for criminal activities and who was identified as being at the highest risk due to this situation.

**Intervention** focussed on safety planning and as part of the plan, W was moved to supportive accommodation.

**Outcomes:** W is settled in their new home and is now working. W receives ongoing support from a Leaving Care Personal Advisor and this relationship has improved. The risk assessment for W has moved from red to green.



**K aged 13 years** was identified by their school at being at risk of online exploitation by adults. K received an early help and preventative service through the PECHH.

**Intervention** focussed on targeted health education and support from a local service providing programmes of relationships and sex education (RSE) for identified groups or individuals, including young people with SEND and support for young people to access clinical services, where there are barriers or there are significant risks.

**Outcomes:** an assessment of autism has helped to address K's education and social needs. K's perception of herself and self-identity has improved. The risk of exploitation has not been completely removed but this risk has been reduced by the support provided.

## Children and Young People's Safety

### Working Together to Achieve Outcomes in the Reducing Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan

Support the assessment and impact of violent incidents over the past 24 hours in order to provide a co-ordinated and comprehensive response.

Prioritise knife and acid under age test purchases, and on a wider joint programme incorporating the responsible retailer agreement to remove illegal weapons.

Make identified hotspot locations safe, with collaborative partnership working, taking into account feedback from young people, adult and the communities.

Listen to, include and empower young people to get involved in developing local violence prevention work



### Progress and impact against these outcomes

Partnership Violence Assessment meetings are held 3 times a week, chaired by a Met Police Chief Inspector with multi-agency attendance. Key themes discussed include: update on incidents over last 24 hours, locations and people of concern, community communication and engagement and any violence incidents against women and girls.

Newham carries out 300 Test Purchases per year and covers all age-restricted products, including knives and blades. Compliance is monitored and enforcement action taken when required. A Responsible Retailers knife sales scheme was launched in November 2021. Days of action are completed in partnership with multiple agencies and alongside the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to conduct weapons sweeps, targeting in particular areas with high foot fall such as parks/open spaces with community members encouraged to take part.

MPS Safer Neighbourhoods Teams have identified locations and are working with businesses and partners to ensure work is being done to make them safe and reduce crime. This includes working with young people closely to seek their views - via both the Street Safe Survey led by the police and the youth safety led Concern Survey. The data from this survey could really have a major impact against both the community approach/locality based-work programme, as well as the wider safe spaces and places agenda.

There is an increase in youth consultation/engagement in the borough specifically through the delivery of the Citizen Youth Assemblies, with a view to developing more effective interventions to support young people's growth. The launch of the youth empowerment fund reinforced this view. The commitment to create a different view and perception of what young people bring to the borough is supported by Next Gen Newham and the 'Year of the Young Person' (2021). A Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) is developing an action plan against what they feel are the main policing concerns in Newham. The YIAG cohort training plan includes workshops from the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

## Safeguarding Transitions - A Joint Priority with the Safeguarding Adults Board

### Working Together to Achieve Outcomes

Transitions and preparing for adulthood is a key priority for both Adults and Children's services, which has been further elevated by the outcomes of recent Local Area SEND inspection. This year, we focussed on the following key areas: Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) with a Written Statement of Action being developed; Preparation for Adulthood; support for care experienced children; support for school phase transitions; improving pathways into Adult Services for those residents who use our services and embedding a strengths based approach to practice.

The Youth2Adulthood Hub for 18-25 year olds (males and females) on probation in Newham and 17 year olds due to transition from the Youth Offending Service to probation is a government-funded pilot aiming to reduce reoffending amongst young adults. The Hub based in the Newham probation office and provides a trauma-informed, multi-disciplinary team co-locating commissioned services and support alongside probation. The Hub was established in September 2021 and will run until March 2023 with full implementation of the pilot in April 2023.

The positive outcomes from the Youth2Adulthood Hub include the following:

Reductions in: offending, risk levels and homelessness

Increases in: compliance, maturity, mental health and resilience, communication, physical and mental health, thinking and behaviour skills, support networks, employment and family relationships.

The learning from the Youth2Adulthood Hub pilot can potentially be applied to other areas of transition that are being developed in Newham.



### Progress and impact

There are many programmes of work and governance structures, which reference Transitions and Preparation for Adulthood, but there is the absence of one joint programme structure and governance, which is required to oversee, assure and deliver an ambitious programme of work. There is a widely accepted set of principles and ambitions that we would like to collectively work towards, but this has not been formally articulated and developed into a joint vision and action plan.

The All-Age Autism Strategy and Adults Learning Disability Action Plan will provide a strategic framework and vision, but it has been agreed that a Transitions vision and programme of work is required to achieve our ambitions in this area. The Transitions programme will be key to supporting the delivery of this wider Strategy and progress on the action plan will be reported.

To ensure progress in the coming year, there will be one programme of work with a clear vision, delivering the core objectives linked to Transitions. A new governance structure, with a representative Board and mechanisms in place for co-production with residents who use our services as well as their parents/carers will be established. For practice, ensure there is a robust and consistent approach for Quality Assurance.

A strategic performance and outcomes framework will be developed which is accessible and connects to operational activity. There will be a transparent relationship with other governance structures – where they receive updates at key agreed points on the work and progress of the new Transitions Board.

## Education and Safeguarding

### Working Together to Achieve Outcomes

The Education Partnership Board has set safety and wellbeing as one of our 3 priorities for 2021-2022, which will encompass safeguarding of children. A new safeguarding culture and practice review service for schools was launched in September 2021, which extends our annual S11 safeguarding audits from compliance and policy to practice and culture linked to vision and values set by governors in schools. These have proved popular with schools wishing to receive a deep-dive into the lived experiences of pupils and staff in relation to curriculum, learning, enrichment, environment and relational safeguarding.

Safeguarding priorities are being addressed through:

- Consultation and implementation of the new RSHE curriculum
- Responding to the National Child led 'Every One's Invited Challenge' to tackle peer on peer abuse through leadership and governance briefings
- The development of a Critical Incident Response Protocol for schools to support a joined-up response to students involved in serious incidents, within school and between schools.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) Forum meets monthly to provide training and information. Weekly newsletters are circulated to all Head teachers and to the Chairs of Governors.

The appointment of a Safeguarding in Education Lead Officer (SELO) linked to the MASH is bringing closer our relationships with this partnership. The DSLs have said that they value the MASH consultation service to discuss possible referrals. The use of virtual technology has enabled greater participation in safeguarding strategy meetings. The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and SLOE provide an individual and organisational response to safeguarding concerns.

### Progress and Impact

The Safer Schools Partnership is a schools-led programme to prevent and reduce child exploitation and to increase safety. The components of the programme offer have been mapped so that it is clear who will benefit from these and at which point in their educational journey. The programme includes training for staff and peer champions and tailored 1-1 mentoring programmes for children and young people.

Safer Schools Officers are in place across all educational establishments. Each school will have a community ward panel that will meet with the schools police officer and police sergeant from Safer School Team every term to discuss their concerns and fears. This will then be fed back to the local authority, neighbourhood police officers and anyone else relevant. Safer Schools Police will conduct a walk through with the local councillor and young people to review how we can make this safer. The feedback has been positive and all schools and colleges are being supported to engage with this offer.

*"We met with Newham School police officer and Police Sergeant on two separate occasions this year. Supported us to highlight the needs of the school. It enabled the school and police to outline expectations and be explicit about the needs of the school."*

*"Police have been in to meet with students who have engaged fully with the process. It would be great to see some change as a result of the meetings for example the students indicated B. Road being a 1 way street might help with safety".*

*"We now have strong links with the SPLO team and communication is much improved".*

## Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding

### Working Together to Achieve Outcomes

Domestic abuse remains a significant and growing issue in Newham, both in terms of numbers (second highest in London) and severity of cases. We seek assurance from community safety partners through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Board that safeguarding issues are considered throughout the response to domestic violence and abuse.



### Progress and impact

*“Work with children who are affected by issues of domestic abuse is showing clear signs of improvement and increasing impact. Direct work with children is more firmly embedded, helping workers to understand the impact on children of living in such environments. Work with parents, including work with fathers through the ‘Caring Dads’ programme, is increasingly evident. Joint work with family coaches is having a positive impact for families to effect change. Training in this area has helped increase social workers’ knowledge and awareness and enabled them to deliver interventions themselves to families rather than being dependent on referral to outside agencies”. Ofsted Monitoring Visit, March 2022.*

### Strategy and Practice

The new Domestic Abuse strategy is being developed by a multi-agency partnership of Newham residents and Domestic Abuse survivors/ service users and is expected to be launched in August 2022. It will additionally align with the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which states that children and young people who experience domestic abuse should now be equally viewed as survivors in their own right and our local strategy will reflect this supported by a new set of core values. A multi-agency Domestic Abuse Working Group to implement the ‘Safe and Together’ programme has been successful in bringing the safeguarding partners together to embed new approaches to prevention, intervention and working with Domestic Abuse perpetrators. Further development work is being implemented to improve MARAC responses to children in high risk and repeat cases. The NSCP Executive will be scrutinising this area of safeguarding practice in 2022/23.

**The Caring Dads programme** has maintained its impact and has continued to deliver its programme in full during COVID-19.

The Met Police and Children’s Social Care have introduced changes to strengthen their use of the **Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)**.

**Barts NHS Health Trust has made stronger links with Victim Support.** An Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) is co-located with the Safeguarding team.

**CYPS** has increased its partnership working with specialist voluntary sector organisations (in addition to the main provider Hestia).

**MASH** has recruited a Professional Development Social Worker to support social workers to have conversations with families that are based on relational and systemic practice.

**Launch of the ‘Safe & Together’ training model** based on the principles of keeping child Safe&Together with non-offending parent; partnering with non-offending parent as a default position; intervening with perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to child.



## Promoting Practice Improvement

### Working Together to Achieve Outcomes

Family Shared Practice is a Children's Social Care (CSC) cross-service project that aims to improve our approach to collaborating with families. Each service area is working on different parts of the child journey and areas of practice to improve our approach.



### Underpinning principles of Family Shared Practice

We approach our work with families with positive intent.  
We do with families and not to families.  
We see relationships as interventions.  
We use permission seeking to help deconstruct power.  
We value and act on feedback.

We recognise that parents have a unique relationship in their child's circle of support. We involve parents in all meetings about their child. Practitioners involve parents using listening, empathy and relationship building.

### Progress and Impact

**50 families with children on Child Protection Plans and 30 families with children on Child in Need plans were offered the 'Change Together' Programme at the start of these plans.**

Qualitative feedback showed: relationships between family and social services improved; an increase in parental autonomy and building on parental strengths; families reporting that they felt heard and better understood by CSC. Social workers were able to remain focussed on the intervention and create a planned intervention around this purpose. Social workers and family members said that they were able to think about things differently and the work helped them generate new ideas.

**Consultation with 5 parents of children in care to increase parental participation in meetings about their children.**

We know that the barriers to parental participation include: parents feeling judged; not listened to; meeting times not convenient; purpose of meetings unclear.

We learnt from remote working during the Covid-19 pandemic that parents could join more easily and be part of the discussion. Data and access to wifi were barriers that could be addressed. The decision for children about the meeting venue – foster carer's front room versus neutral venue became a lot easier.

Parents told us that the consultation document was intimidating and just needed three questions: What is working well? What are worried about? What needs to change? They told us that the feedback form is not completed because it is sent out too late and requires written answers.

The next steps are to:

Make the changes to the form and process

Seek parents's feedback on the roll out of 'SLIDO' – an interactive meeting tool

Expand the parents group to include other parents

## Family Shared Practice: Feedback to the Disabled Children and Young People's Service from Families and Staff

### Feedback from staff

Families will understand we want to work in partnership with them to identify and address their difficulties

Social Workers will have more skills and tools that help them work effectively with families

Importance of using a strengths-based approach, working with empathy and appreciation for the families

Creating conditions and a culture where good practice can be sustained

Understanding expectations from both sides – parents and social workers

Developing shared understanding of what a good first child in need visit looks like

Creative methods of communication and IT systems that support working in this way

### Feedback from parents

Being aware of our culture and considering this before and during the visits is important to us!

I like it when you use my name and don't call me 'mum'

I liked it when the social worker shared what they remembered about our family from the last time they visited

We like it when you talk to us about our child's strengths as well as their difficulties

We like it when social workers arrive on time and we do not feel rushed during visits

It is good when you are curious about all members of our family

Being clear about why you are visiting. What will happen at the visit and what will happen next is important to us

It is positive when each side is giving each other mutual respect

We like it when you get on the floor to engage with our children

Spending the time purposefully is important to us

## Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

### Data

Twelve children were involved in incidents of serious harm or child death that met the threshold for a rapid review, which is a similar number to last year.

One teenager tragically died because of stab wounds and five teenagers were arrested for murder.

Two other teenagers survived separate stabbing incidents. In one of these incidents, another teenager was arrested for attempted murder.

75% of reviews (nine children) incidents of serious harm outside the family.

25% of reviews (three children) involved intra-familial sexual abuse.

One child safeguarding practice review was completed this year, following the death by suicide of a 17-year-old young person referred to as 'Pip'.

A multi-agency learning event, led by Health Partners, was held with practitioners to address the safety and wellbeing needs of children with additional learning and mental health needs in residential care.

### Evaluation of the impact of learning on practice

There has been a whole system change in our approach to safeguarding children from harm in the community, because of the learning from safeguarding reviews.

### Dissemination of Learning from reviews

Learning from each review is disseminated through a 7-minute video briefing held in a confidential section of the NSCP website. Four new briefings have been produced this year: Harmful sexual behaviour; Pip review; Intra-familial sexual abuse and sibling sexual abuse. The briefings are an accessible way to share learning with a wide audience, through the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Safeguarding Forum, NSCP training and within partners own agencies.

### 'Pip' Review: Evaluation of the impact of learning on practice

The Pip review highlighted individual circumstances that increase vulnerability and the impact of intersectionality on children's lives. The review learnt that professionals lacked knowledge of the 'Duty to Refer' Homelessness and that the risk indicators in the Newham Suicide Prevention Plan were not well known or used. Following the review, a number of changes were made to local practice.

Following the introduction of a Joint Protocol and Pathway for 16/17 year olds at risk of homelessness, a recent case audit showed evidence of improved collaboration and confidence in multi-agency working, reported by a social worker:

*Direct work with S helped me identify risk of homelessness*

*Attendance at the training assisting my understanding of the duty to refer.*

*Referral made to housing and a 3 way meeting arranged with S. All options were explained and she will get housing when she turned 18*

*I supported S with benefits and financial management training*

*I worked with education, health and CAMHS to ensure S was supported*

Pip found it difficult to attend CAMHS appointments as these clashed with revision classes. CAMHS can now offer a more flexible appointment system, outside of school hours.. A 24-hour crisis service operates out of the local hospital for children and young people seeking help outside of normal working hours. When Pip sought help from her GP, her needs were not considered holistically and information from external agencies was not sought. A new training package, covering risk factors, NICE guidance on the management of depression in children and young people, anti-depressant prescribing; and communication with schools has been well received by GPs. The NSCP has adopted and publicised the Newham Suicide Prevention plan. The Youth Empowerment service has supported young people to run their own training, for other young people, to raise awareness of the issues.

## Communication and Engagement

### Working Together to Achieve Outcomes

We will ensure that the views of children and young people, and their parents and carers, contribute to developing best practice, and that frontline staff and managers are integral to informing learning and improvement.

We will ensure all agencies within the partnership are engaging with children and young people regularly and the Voice of the Child is inherent in all partnership work to ensure robust decision making and priority setting.

We will update and promote the NSCP website as a single point of information for all audiences.



In a recent survey of senior leads from the partnership, rated their own engagement with the Partnership (and vice versa) as 7/8 out of 10. The rating was lower for their agency as a whole 5/6 out of 10.

### Progress and impact

This is evident in the work on exploitation and in the work to improve the quality of practice. Front line staff and managers are involved in rapid reviews, child safeguarding practice reviews and learning events.

In December 2021, the safeguarding partners were asked to assess themselves using the 'Hart Ladder' which measures participation and co-production. All respondees had reached step 5 (consultation is happening) and some had reached higher steps across the different areas of participation. All saw themselves working towards step 7 (co-design) and step 8 (co-production).

This work is ongoing and increased use of the website is evident as more agencies are accessing the 7-minute video briefing which is the main tool to disseminate learning from case reviews to a wide audience. *"7 min briefings give a good overview of the case and key lessons to learn from this to reflect on and improve our own setting's practice."*

Regular newsletters are produced and circulated and the feedback is that these are informative. The monthly 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Safeguarding Forum, hosted by the NSCP presents each of the 7-minute briefings and other current safeguarding topics. The forum is well attended by over 70 staff and the Mentimeter interactive tool is used to facilitate engagement. A survey in December 2021 found that the forum was achieving its objectives, for those attending.

*"Useful to hear how other agencies presenting at the forum support children and families in the borough and some of the challenge they face. 7 min briefings also informative."*

*"They are very informative and some of the information is shared with staff and our senior team"*

*"Yes they can be really useful - sometimes they are very focused on older children and although this is good to be aware of it would be good to have a focus on younger children and families and see it as a progression"*

*"Useful when they give me links to organisations or strategies I can immediately use in my college" These give a good overview of the case and key lessons to learn from this to reflect on and improve our own setting's practice."*

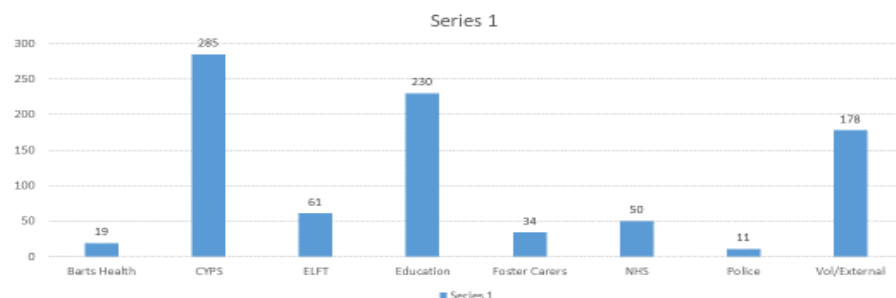
## Multi-agency Safeguarding Training

### Overview

This year, a comprehensive programme of safeguarding training has been offered on the virtual platform due to COVID-19 restrictions. The programme runs over an academic year, each course is offered termly as a minimum, and some courses are run more frequently in line with partnership priorities. For details please click on this link <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/training-brochure/>

### Attendance

#### Overview of Booking by Agency



### Evaluation and feedback

#### *Child Exploitation Modular Training*

*245 delegates attended across this offer*

- Introduction to Child Trafficking, Modern Slavery & Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation & Trafficking – Module 2
- Safeguarding & Disruption (Child trafficking, modern slavery & exploitation) Module 3
- Complex & Contextual safeguarding into & tools
- Complex and Contextual SG Training 8 modules
- Criminal Exploitation Workshop
- Cultural Competence and Safeguarding
- Digital Safeguarding Training
- Healthy Relationships & Online Sexual Content

#### *Suicide and self-harm*

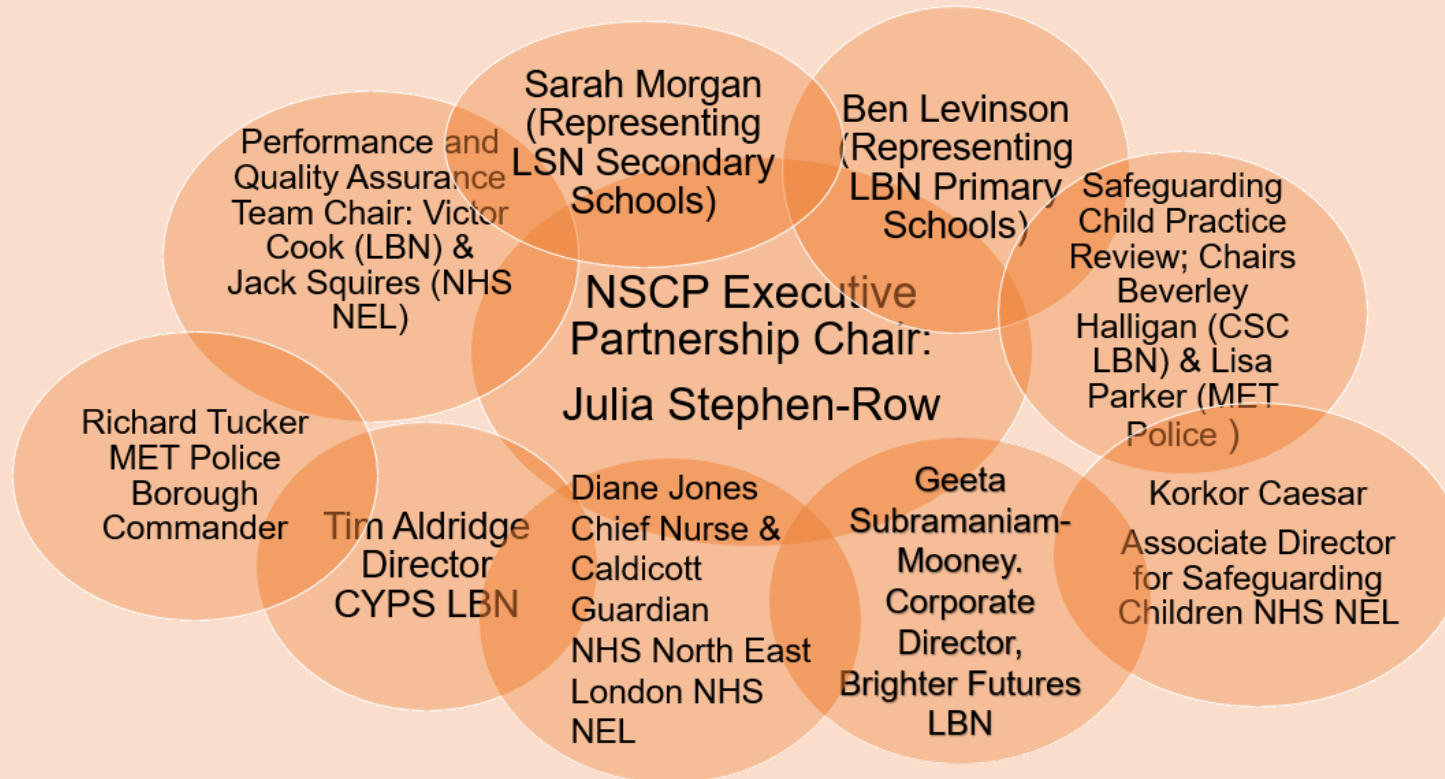
*63 delegates attended this training and a further 65 delegates attended the 2-hour briefings to share the learning from the Pip CSPR. In addition to this, the 7-minute video briefing has been shared with the safeguarding partners for dissemination within their own agencies.*

### Future plans

In 2022/2023, we intend to recommission the training programme for child sexual abuse in the light of the learning from this year's rapid reviews. We will continue to offer the Child Exploitation Modular Training.



## Members of the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership



## Safeguarding Partnership Budget and Resources

### Commentary

The local safeguarding partners each contribute to the NSCP budget, which is annually reviewed.

In addition to the three salaried staff, (Independent Chair, Business Manager and Safeguarding Workforce Lead), the safeguarding partners contribute their time and expertise to the activities of the partnership. These activities include attending regular partnership meetings, contributing to safeguarding reviews and multi-agency audits. Newham Council meets the cost of the business support and the performance data functions for the partnership.

There is a model of joint chairing for sub-groups. The Principal Social Worker for CSC and Chief Inspector from the Borough Command Unit chair the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group. The Head of Service for Quality Assurance, CSC and the Designated Safeguarding Lead Children, NHS NEL chair the Performance and Quality Assurance group. The Head of Service for Youth Justice and a Detective Chief Inspector, Borough Command Unit chair the All Age Exploitation Group. Senior staff from the partnership contribute to chairing rapid reviews, senior staff share in the responsibility for chairing rapid reviews, undertaking child safeguarding practice reviews and chairing CSPR panels.

Additional funding was allocated to employ a part-time safeguarding specialist to support the partnership's safeguarding review function and for preparation of the annual report. This capacity has ensured that learning themes are collated, analysed and disseminated and improvement actions are monitored and tracked through to completion.

The Safeguarding partners have agreed that additional capacity will continue to be required in 2022/23 and will be agreeing the increased funding for this. This year's underspend of £10,253 will be carried forward into the 2022/23 budget.

Budget Income	2021/22
Carry over of underspend from 2020/21	18,752
Bart's Health Trust	5,000
East London Foundation Trust	10,000
NHS Northeast London (NEL).	50,000 (15k increase)
LBN Children and Young Peoples Services	100,000
LBN Housing	5,500
London Fire Brigade	500
Metropolitan Police	5,000
National Probation Service	2,100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£196,852</b>
Budget Expenditure	2021/22
Salaries	104,296
Training	30,700
Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews	0.00
Additional Resources: Annual Report Rapid Reviews and SPRs	45,603
ICT and Printing	6,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£186,599</b>
<b>End of year position</b>	<b>£10,253 underspend</b>

## Progress and Impact of the Partnership

The partnership is ambitious in its aims and objectives to safeguard children and young people in Newham. There is strong evidence of impact to improve outcomes for children affected by child exploitation and domestic abuse. It is acknowledged that the progress on safeguarding transitions has been limited. The reasons for this have been analyzed and there is a clear plan to put new arrangements in place.

Time and effort has been invested in building relationships between the safeguarding partners to allow for greater levels of scrutiny, challenge and support. Open and transparent dialogue takes place between partners and disagreements are handled through conversations that seek to arrive at a joint understanding. There is better awareness of the Escalation Policy and how to use this. These changes in culture demonstrate the partnership's desire to be an outstanding one.

The partnership has a clear structure and governance arrangements. Additional resources to support its work have been agreed for 2022/23. There is close alignment with the Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Partnership, to achieve joint outcomes.

Communication and engagement mechanisms have improved over the period and partners have worked together to address the challenges caused by Covid-19. Participation and co-production with children, young people and their families, by safeguarding partners, was a focus for scrutiny this year, and the exercise will be repeated again, using the same tool.

Communication, data and information- sharing through the PECHH, MASH and Police-led Intelligence Hub have significantly strengthened the safeguarding system. Robust arrangements were in place to respond to the expected rise in safeguarding referrals as Covid 19 lockdown ended.

Safeguarding reviews are being held following serious safeguarding incidents. The learning from these is disseminated quickly, using the 7-minute video briefing format, and learning is applied to improve safeguarding practice and systems.

Progress overall, is rated by the NSCP partners as 7 out of 10.

## Emerging Themes

**Child sexual abuse** – the need to improve our safeguarding response and intervention with children who are experiencing child sexual abuse, that is not disclosed, has been highlighted by learning from our rapid reviews.

**Impact of financial austerity** on child neglect and domestic abuse and early interventions with primary age children that have had adverse childhood experiences.

**Impact of exclusion and disproportionality** on certain groups of children and young people and the '**adultification**' of exploited children and young people.

**Working with parents** – evaluating local practice in the light of the National Panel Research 'Myth of Invisible Men – Safeguarding children under 1 from NAI caused by male carers and the National Child Safeguarding Practice review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson.

**Constraints on capacity** within the partnership have reduced the number of multi-agency audits this year and progress to update some areas of policy, e.g. Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

## Recommendations for 2022/23

### **1. Exploitation**

- 1.1 NSCP and SAB Training Evaluation and impact report commissioned.
- 1.2 Review and challenge any evidence of practice or policy that works against achieving best outcomes for children.

### **2. Transitions**

- 2.1 Safeguarding Transitions Strategy to be produced.
- 2.2 Regular progress updates to the joint SAB/NSCP Executive.
- 2.3 Review how the learning from the Probation Transitions Hub might be applied to other areas of transition.

### **3. Promoting Practice Improvement**

- 3.1 Use the learning from 'Sadie' CSPR to develop effective interventions with children where child sexual abuse is indicated but not disclosed. Establish a child sexual abuse task and finish group.
- 3.2 Review and evaluate the safeguarding partner's approaches to working with parents in light of the National Panel reviews (Myth of Invisible Men and the Murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson).
- 3.3 Safeguarding partners complete a self-assessment process to provide assurance on how the learning from safeguarding reviews has been acted on; changes to systems, service delivery and practice as result of learning; performance and impact linked to NSCP priorities; embedding safeguarding and the voice of the child.
- 3.4 Scrutinise the impact of the new Domestic Abuse strategy to ensure that the safeguarding needs of children are considered throughout multi-agency responses to domestic abuse.

### **4. Engagement and participation**

- 4.1 The safeguarding partners report to the NSCP on the activities they are carrying out to engage with children, young people and their parents, the feedback received and how this feedback is being used to improve service delivery.
- 4.2 Feedback from children, young people, and their parent/carers and from frontline staff is routinely sought when the NSCP is carrying out activities to evaluate local safeguarding practice e.g. Case audits, case reviews and evaluation of training.

### **5. Outcomes Framework**

- 5.1 To increase auditing capacity and intelligence about multi-agency safeguarding practice the Performance and Quality Assurance sub-group utilises the safeguarding quality assurance activity that is planned and carried out by the safeguarding partners.