



NEWHAM
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
PARTNERSHIP



NSCP Newsletter

October 2023

Edition

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1. NSCP Independent Chair Introduction

Dear Colleagues

First of all, I wanted to say on behalf of all the partners across the NSCP how sad we were at hearing of Fran Pearson's passing in late July. Fran had been the interim chair of the NSCP prior to my taking up my role in December 2019 and I had worked with Fran previously in her adult roles, particularly on the national stage. Fran and I introduced a regular joint NSCP / NSAB executive meeting to both improve communication and partnership understanding and most importantly to make progress on our joint priorities. She was so committed to the whole safeguarding agenda and she will be immeasurably missed. A more detailed tribute is contained later in this newsletter.

I am really pleased to welcome onto the Executive - Vik Verma in his interim role as Corporate Director of Children and Young Peoples Services, Annabel Bates as the interim Director of Education, Inclusion and Achievement and Matt Hipperson from St Luke's Primary school who is the primary schools head teacher representative.

The NSCP has been revising the Partnership plan and I am really pleased that progress is being made on our joint priorities and those specific to the NSCP. More detail below.

We have also just completed and presented our annual report for the period April 2022- March 2023 to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The link to the report can be found here <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NSPC-Annual-Report-2022-23.pdf>. Please read it and promote it amongst your organisation as it demonstrates our commitment and progress for children and families in Newham.

During the summer there was a consultation process by DFE on a new Working Together 2018 which had a section regarding multi agency partnership arrangements. Within this there is a proposal to have a wider partnership group which is in the document referred to as a designated safeguarding leads group. In Newham the Executive had already agreed to have a similar arrangement and the first meeting of the small Exec with the wider partnership took place in September. We considered information from an audit of 10 children who had recently come into care and explored how we might collectively have responded earlier to their situations.

Finally we are in the process of undertaking a thematic review focusing on *the impact of experiencing physical and domestic abuse in childhood, and agency responses to this, on an individual's vulnerability to criminal exploitation*" This was agreed by the NSCP Executive as colleagues had identified that an experience of intra-familial physical abuse in childhood and exposure to domestic abuse have been core factors identified in a number, if not all, of the rapid reviews undertaken in Newham where exploitation and youth safety have featured. Look out for invites to be part of this work and also once complete the findings will be shared widely.

Best wishes

Julia Stephens-Row

On behalf of Newham NSCP Executive

Independent Chair of Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership



2. FRAN PEARSON REMEMBERED BY COLIN ANSELL

It is with great sadness and regret that I learnt of the death of our Independent Adult Safeguarding Chair Fran Pearson. Fran was the Independent Chair of our Safeguarding Adults Board for 7 years and was previously the Independent Chair of our Children's Safeguarding Board. Fran was a valued member of Newham and worked tirelessly to raise awareness of safeguarding, tackling issues head on and tackling inequalities that exist throughout our system.

Fran was absolutely committed to improving the lives of our residents and also the lives of others both locally and nationally, successfully driving forward safeguarding adults activity with great expertise, dedication, enthusiasm, empathy and sensitivity. She worked with officers, partners, members, residents and their families tirelessly and we will all miss her deeply.

I worked almost daily with Fran during 2020 in response to the pandemic and the profound effect the virus and associated lockdowns had on some of the most vulnerable in our society, this included working on Care Homes, hospital discharge and the impact of COVID on people with Mental Health needs. She supported me, the organisation and our residents through what is one of the most difficult periods for the borough and our society and I will be forever thankful for having the support and dedication from Fran.

Fran leaves a lasting legacy which we will continue to build on, taking collective learning where the services we provide need to improve and how we can ensure people are kept safe.

Colin Ansell

Interim Chief Executive

14/08/2023

3. NSCP Priorities for 2023- 2026 and Joint NSCP/SAB Priorities

Priorities

GOLDEN THREAD:

A golden thread running through the priorities will be the consideration of the impact of poverty and the cost of living. For all priorities a special focus will be given to children with SEND, care leavers, unaccompanied asylum seekers and refugees.

NSCP and SAB joint priorities

1. All age exploitation - with an emphasis on 16-25 age group with a focus on exploitation and youth violence
2. Modern Day Slavery
3. Cuckooing

Assurance Seeking:

4. Domestic Abuse; *To seek assurance that the domestic abuse strategy and accompanying action plans are reviewed annually and assurance is sought that safeguarding is at the forefront of the activity.*

NSCP Children's Partnership priorities

1. Child sexual abuse including intra familiar sexual abuse and sibling sexual abuse.
2. Child Mental Health.

The next actions are part of the NSCP business office service plan

- Communication and Engagement

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.

- Activity – utilise the well-established groups of YP for their views
- Continue to produce 4 newsletters annually
- Review the NSCP website 6 monthly to ensure this is up to date
- Promoting Practice Improvement

We will work to, and promote, improvements to practice which builds on all aspects of good practice and what we know to be useful when assessing, implementing and evaluating what we do.

The learning and workforce development group brings together workforce development leads from across the partnership, sharing expertise, knowledge and resources. The group agrees the priorities for the NSCP annual training programme and updates to the NSCP website that will promote effective safeguarding practice and the content of partnership learning events. We remain committed to ensuring a focus around the national picture in respect to the adultification of young black children whilst also recognising intersecting aspects of children's identity. The partnership is keen that we not only have a non-racist approach but also an anti-racist one.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review group meets to identify serious child safeguarding cases (in which abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and the child has died or been seriously harmed). This group also ensures that cases requiring a child safeguarding practice review or a local safeguarding review as set out in Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018 are identified and progressed. The group monitors and reviews action plans in order to ensure implementation of the learning and improvements identified. Activity – sharing the learning from Rapid Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and National Reviews

- Multi Agency Data Set
- Multi Agency Audits

The Performance and Quality Assurance group aims to develop a data set which can be used to understand the pressures on the Safeguarding system and respond to emerging issues. The group develops and oversees a programme of multi-agency audits of practice. The group provides scrutiny and challenge to partner agencies in regards to their statutory safeguarding arrangements.

Each of the above groups report every four months to the NSCP executive

4.Booking onto the NSCP Learning and Development programme – New Platform announcement

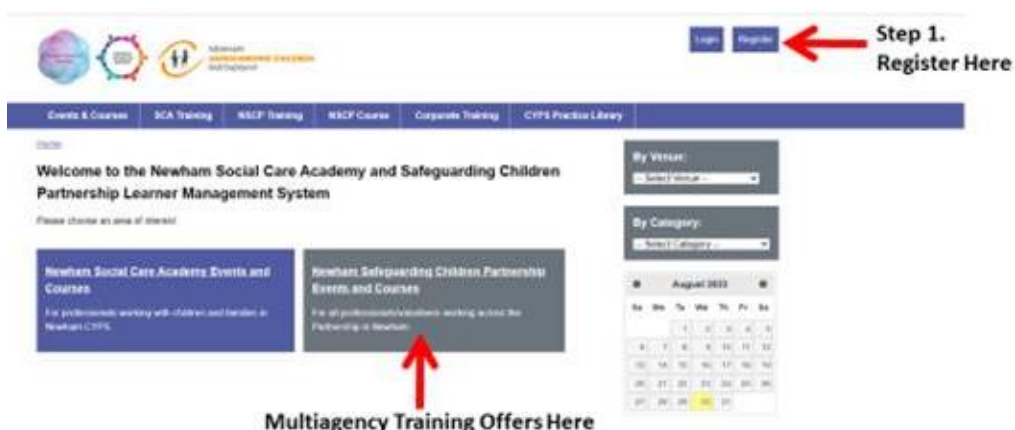


Following approval from the Executive Board NSCP training is now sharing a learning management System (LMS) with Social Care Academy. This will provide a more effective and efficient process for all NSCP members.

We hope for a smooth transition and have provided some guidance to create your account on the site and also on how to book a course.

Use the link below to access the site but it can also be accessed on the NSCP website.

<https://newhamsca.event-booking.org.uk/>



You can view our 'How to' videos on registering and booking a course by using the following links:

[How to create an account on the SCA Training System](#)

[Watch 'Booking a course on the SCA Training System' | Microsoft Stream \(Classic\)](#)

The NSCP website has been updated for all available E learning courses [linked here](#). You will find a free, short, accessible course for all professionals working with children on Identifying and responding to intra-familial child sexual abuse. Please share any feedback you have about these courses.

Any concerns email LSCB.Administrator@newham.gov.uk

5. Tribute to Mel Phillips



Melanie Phillips passed away in June 2023.

Mel was knowledgeable and a skilled facilitator for over 23 years and over 36 years as a qualified social worker. She was so dedicated and passionate about safeguarding and equality for the most vulnerable, be this the client or the workers. Her work on discrimination is recognised and findings from her research were embedded into her work and other places.

She was part of a group of Black, Asian, and minority ethnic individuals who became social workers in the early 1980s. Melanie was passionate about protecting Black and Asian children and worked tirelessly to improve support for their families.

Melanie provided the Cultural Competency workshop for the NSCP until last April 2022 when she could no longer do so due to her health. During this time, she finished all commissioned work to enable her to get her affairs in order.

Some in CSC were lucky enough to have her as a coach as her approach and delivery were so person-centred – she was able to get across difficult concepts and ideas across to social workers.

She was a lovely person who was knowledgeable and approachable her passion was sharing her knowledge and she will be greatly missed.

Mel made contributions to publications such as

- The Child Protection Handbook (1995),
- Micro-Commissioning:
- A Way Forward for Child Protection? (1995) and
- The Child's World (2009),

Mel wrote about the persistence of the view that Caribbean mothers were aggressive and neglectful, and that Asian mothers were passive and unable to protect their children. She noted that when the differing experience of Black and Asian families was discussed with colleagues and managers, it almost always led to a focus on culture as an explanation, with a reluctance to acknowledge or accept that racism played any part.



6. How to access 7 minute briefings – Learning from Rapid Reviews and Child Practice Reviews

NSCP have introduced 'seven minute briefings' to allow Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) to deliver briefings to staff on the key learning identified from our Learning Reviews – they can also be used to support reflective discussion with practitioners.

Research suggests that seven minutes is an ideal time span to concentrate and learning is more memorable as it is simple and not clouded by other issues and pressures. Their brief duration should also mean that they hold people's attention, as well as giving managers something to share with their staff.

The expectation is that DSL's will present briefings to their staff, on a regular basis – seven minutes is manageable in most services so why not discuss one in your next team meeting? There is a password protected area containing learning related to Newham specific cases. As the DSL you will have been provided with the password to access the confidential arena within. If you have not received the password please contact your NSCP safeguarding representative who will arrange for you to gain access.

To document your learning you can access this tool, which can evidence and track the learning within your agency. This area should be used to share good practice and learning within Newham.

Here is the link to the open access area where you will find a helpful introduction to how to use 7 minute briefings and non confidential briefings. <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/7-minute-briefings-intro/>

To request access to the confidential area and share contact us on LSCB@newham.gov.uk
This comes with responsibilities;

- That you disseminate the information within your establishment – Supervision, Team meetings, training
- Complete action plan to document and evidence change and outcomes
- Share your action plan with the NSCP

Feedback is always welcome on your use of this page and tools. Contact us on LSCB@newham.gov.uk

7. Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan



We want Newham to be a place where everyone can thrive. As part of this we recognise how challenging life can sometimes be and the importance of being able to access and offer the right support at that time. The purpose of the Newham's Suicide Prevention Strategy is to reduce the local suicide rate and support those affected or bereaved by suicide. Many of its actions will also strengthen mental health across population groups.

The strategy was developed in partnership with multiple teams across the Council and external partners, including the NHS and voluntary and community organisations, as well as being informed by data and evidence, for example, a three year audit of suicides in the borough.

Who is the strategy for?

This strategy is for anyone living in Newham. It covers all ages.

How will the strategy help?

The purpose of the Newham Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023-26 is to reduce the local suicide rate and support those affected or bereaved by suicide using the best evidence we can. We aim to achieve this through taking action across seven priority areas in partnership with residents, the NHS, community and voluntary organisations and other partners.

Four goals for this strategy informed by its consultation include:

1. Improve awareness of Newham's suicide prevention strategy and local support services to create greater understanding of available help.
2. Make best use of community assets together with closely aligned borough strategies and programmes of work to help reduce risk. This includes working with communities and residents to help inform and co design how support can be Accessible, Relevant and Trusted (ART) by higher risk population groups.
3. Improve data collection and intelligence through working with health partners, the Coroner's office and London's Real Time Surveillance System (RTSS) to gain better understanding of population risks for Newham.
4. Continue to strengthen mental health support for children and young people in Newham to build resilience before adulthood, with the most recent audit data showing highest numbers of suicide in Newham between 20 to 40 years of age.

The priority areas are:

- **Priority Area 1:** Reduce risk of suicide in high-risk groups
- **Priority Area 2:** Reduce rates of self-harm
- **Priority Area 3:** Strengthen mental health and early intervention support
- **Priority Area 4:** Support for those bereaved or affected by suicide
- **Priority Area 5:** Reducing access to the means of suicide
- **Priority Area 6:** Support the media to reduce suicide risk
- **Priority Area 7:** Leadership, research, data collection and monitoring

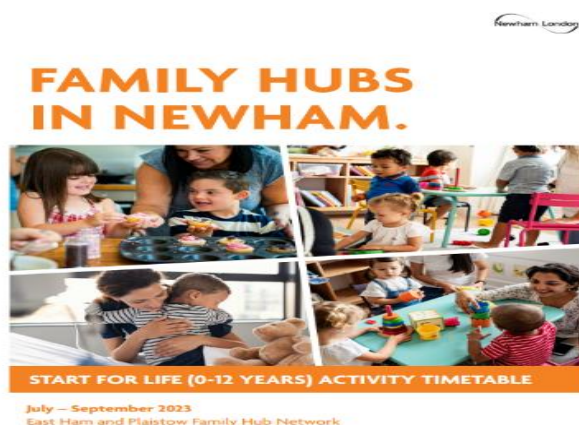
[Find out more about Mental Health support services in Newham](#)

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/5838/newham-suicide-prevention-strategy-v6>

[Newham Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan Summary \(PDF\)](#)

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/5841/newham-suicide-prevention-strategy-evidence-for-action-pack>

8. Newham's Family Hubs



The Family Hubs Network has officially launched in Newham!! Family Hubs are designed to offer early support to children, young people and families, building upon the existing Early Help offer, and acting as a 'one stop shop' for general advice and guidance on a range of needs and services. Families can access various support including health services (antenatal, maternity, health visitor, school nurses); infant feeding support, early years education and childcare, youth services, parenting and relationship support and much, much more!

Please click on the brochure to find out what is going on across the East Ham and Plaistow Family Hubs Network. [Link here](#)

The first pilot hub launched in April in the East Ham and Plaistow locality and offers local families a range of support and guidance. A number of hubs will be launched over the next two years. We will keep you informed of all the new developments here.

9. National Panel Learning: Working with male carers to reduce non-accidental injury to infants under 1 year old

The Panel is responsible at a national level for identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which, in its view, raise issues that are complex or of national importance. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 provided for the creation of a new Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, and statutory guidance on 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' sets out how the Panel operates and works with safeguarding partnerships.

This joint briefing from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) and Foundations – What Works Centre for Children & Families, shares information arising from

work undertaken by the Panel and Foundations with safeguarding partners and those working in child protection.

This paper explores current practice and the evidence base relating to working with fathers to reduce non-accidental injury (NAI) in infants under 1 year old. Our rapid reviews and Safeguarding Child Practice Reviews have not included working with male carers or infants under 1 year old. However, we aim to disseminate and share knowledge gained from other parts of the country.

The aim of this briefing is to support safeguarding partners in reviewing their current policies on working with male carers, and to make recommendations on how the evidence base and national guidelines can be further developed.

Link to the full report here: <https://foundations.org.uk/our-work/reports/working-with-male-carers-to-reduce-non-accidental-injury-to-infants-under-1-year-old/>

10. National Panel Newsletter



Child Safeguarding
Practice Review Panel



Welcome

In this newsletter we provide information about upcoming regional roundtables with safeguarding partners across the country. We hope that as many of you as possible can join us to discuss issues of shared interest and concern about work to safeguard children.

We also share the Panel's responses to the recent Government consultations on Stable Homes, Built on Love and Working Together 2018, and hope these are of interest and useful to you.

Over the summer we have finalised details for enhancing the Panel's data insight capability and are delighted to announce that we are now working with the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) to strengthen analysis of data from serious incidents and reviews.

In this Issue

- Regional roundtables

- Consultation responses:
 - Stable Homes, Built on Love
 - Working Together 2018
 - Information sharing
 - Mandatory reporting
- VKPP partnership
- Stakeholder news
 - Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership learning video
 - Recruitment for national safeguarding facilitators

Published Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

[Link to full newsletter here](#)

Have Your Say

If you have any feedback on this newsletter, please don't hesitate to email us at

Mailbox.NationalReviewPanel@education.gov.uk

Your colleagues can sign up to our newsletter online here: http://eepurl.com/g6z_Tf



Newham NSCP is a member of TASP.

TASP has been established to be a National Voice for Safeguarding with the view to invite organisations whose interest is in improving and developing safeguarding systems and professional knowledge. Being a member of TASP allows the partnership to have access to webinars.

TASP Webinars are run on regular basis, taking place **EVERY 4th Monday of each month at 4:00pm to 5:15pm**. Do add this as a re-occurring appointment in your diary, so you can keep it free if of interest! On occasion, we are required to move these dates, due to availability from speakers or because of other clashing events. We will provide as much notice as possible of any changes and you can always check here to see what webinars are coming up. You can always check to see the latest webinars by going to the [webinar page](#).



11. Cyber Choices

Attention all Designated Safeguarding Leads – the Metropolitan Police’s Cyber Choices team needs you!

We want your help to spread our message and services to all schools in London.

As you may know, Cyber Choices now forms part of the [Department for Education’s – Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023, p145](#)

Cyber Choices is a national referral programme led by the National Crime Agency (NCA), developed to assist in the fight against cybercrime.

We seek to intervene, then educate and divert young people, who may be vulnerable to becoming involved in cyber-dependant crime or who have first come to notice for committing offences under the Computer Misuse Act.

We need our services to be well known and established within the heart of education, so we can divert the maximum amount of young people away from cybercrime.

We have four fundamental aims:

- To educate young people about the Computer Misuse Act 1990
- To make sure they know the difference between legal and illegal cyber activity
- To encourage young people to make informed choices when using technology
- To work with young people with high-level cyber skills who could be vulnerable to cyber criminality, encouraging them to use their skills legally, and diverting them away from crime.

Please contact us if you would like additional information, a visit, or just to discuss any questions that you may have.

Please go to the following websites for more information about what we do:

www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/cc/cyber-choices/

www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/cyber-crime/cyberchoices

If you or your service would like to contribute to the next newsletter please get in touch via LSCB.Administrator@newham.gov.uk

Follow this link for more information and contact details of all the Executive Members. There is also further information and links to support the fantastic work you do for children, young people and families in Newham <https://www.newhamscp.org.uk/>