



Annual Report 2025/26

Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP)



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Chair's Introduction and Reflections

Laura Eden, Director of Children's and Young People's Services and Chair of the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (2025/26)

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) during 2025/26. As Director of Children and Young People's Services, I remain incredibly proud of the commitment shown by partners across Newham to work collaboratively to safeguard children, strengthen families and continuously strive to improve the lives of children, young people and families.

This year has been one of reflection, learning and continued development as we have built on the foundations established through our partnership arrangements and responded to the evolving expectations set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and moving to work with the changes set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026. Throughout the year, partners have demonstrated a shared commitment to strengthening multi-agency safeguarding arrangements through robust scrutiny, learning and continuous improvement.

One of our most significant achievements has been the partnership's work to tackle racism, inequality and disproportionality. Following our consideration of It's Silent: Race, Racism and Safeguarding Children, we established a dedicated multi-agency Tackling Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality (TRID) programme. During the year, partners have undertaken self-assessment, analysed local data, developed an action plan and delivered learning to practitioners. Whilst we recognise that addressing inequality and striving for equity is a long-term commitment, this work has established an important foundation for embedding anti-racist practice across the partnership.

Learning from reviews has continued to drive improvements in safeguarding practice. Alongside our Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, we have strengthened our thematic approach to identifying learning across children's experiences. In particular, our work focusing on babies and very young children has highlighted the cumulative impact of domestic abuse, housing instability and neglect, helping to shape future priorities, including the review of our pre-birth arrangements.

Chair's Introduction and Reflections

This year has also seen the launch of the Newham Neglect Toolkit following successful multi-agency development and piloting. The toolkit supports practitioners to better understand children's lived experiences, promotes professional curiosity and strengthens earlier identification of neglect across the partnership. We are grateful to practitioners across agencies who have contributed to embedding this important piece of work.

Developing a strong learning culture remains one of the partnership's greatest strengths. Our Friday Forum has continued to provide a valued opportunity for practitioners across all agencies to come together to share learning from safeguarding reviews, emerging national themes and local practice. Attendance and engagement continue to grow, reflecting our collective commitment to learning together and improving practice.

We have also continued to strengthen our partnership approach to data and performance. This year has seen progress towards developing a more meaningful multi-agency safeguarding dashboard, enabling partners to better understand emerging risks, monitor disproportionality and use evidence to inform strategic decision-making. While this work will continue into next year, it represents an important step towards demonstrating the impact of our partnership activity.

Importantly, we have strengthened opportunities to hear directly from children and young people. Their views have informed our work on youth safety, partnership priorities and the development of more accessible ways of communicating what the partnership does. Ensuring that the voices of children, young people and families influence our decisions will remain a key priority as we continue to develop our safeguarding arrangements.

As we look ahead, we will continue to build on this progress by embedding the learning from our reviews, strengthening our response to neglect, tackling racism and disproportionality, improving our use of partnership data and ensuring we are well prepared for the next phase of the Families First Partnership reforms and The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act .

As my time as Chair of the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership comes to an end, I would like to thank all our partners for their commitment, support and collaboration throughout my tenure. It has been a privilege to chair a partnership that is so dedicated to improving outcomes for Newham's children, young people and families.

Chair's Introduction and Reflections

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together. Through strong partnership working, a shared commitment to learning and a relentless focus on continuous improvement, we have further strengthened our safeguarding arrangements and laid firm foundations for the future.

I am delighted to hand over the role of Chair to Rhona Hunt, Chief Superintendent and BCU Commander for the Metropolitan Police. Rhona brings strong leadership, a collaborative approach and an unwavering commitment to safeguarding children. I have every confidence that, under her leadership, the partnership will continue to build on its achievements, embrace new opportunities and drive further improvements for children and families across Newham.

I wish Rhona every success in her new role and look forward to seeing the partnership continue to thrive through the strength of its collective leadership and shared ambition.

Laura Eden

Director of Children and Young People's Services

Chair of the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (2025/26)



1. About Newham

We are one of the fastest growing, young and diverse boroughs in the country with a vibrant community and a long history of inclusivity. We have seen a significant growth in residents (over 14%) moving into the borough in the last decade and are home to 351,000 people, with the second youngest age profile of any borough in London. 90% of people in Newham are under the age of 65 years and 37% of our resident population are children and young people aged 0-25 years. 72% of our residents are from Black and Global Majority communities.

The largest proportion of Newham's population is Black African, Black Caribbean and Black Other (27.1%), followed by Bangladeshi (18.5%), and White (17.3%). Compared to London overall, Newham has a lower proportion of White ethnicity residents (17.3% vs 36.8%).

Newham has a high proportion of households with multiple children. Nationally, 7% of households have three or more children, while in Newham, 14% of households have three or more children, making it the second highest in England.

We have deep rooted inequalities that are worsened by the cost of living. Over a quarter of our neighbourhoods are in the 20% of most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. Newham is an area with significant social deprivation and a very mobile and transient population. Approximately 21% of

the population are classified as 'low-income families' and over a quarter of our residents are paid below the London Living wage. Around 30% of children are eligible for free school meals, a figure that increased during the Covid-19 pandemic. As of 2026, Newham has the highest rate of child poverty in London, with around 52% of children living in poverty.

With some 242 dialects and languages spoken across all our vibrant neighbourhoods, our ethnically and religiously diverse community is something we are rightly proud of as we celebrated our 60th year as a London borough in 2025.

Our average rents represent 65% of average wages compared to 30% across the UK. Newham has faced a rise in homelessness and crisis in providing temporary housing. The unemployment rate in Newham is higher than that its neighbours at 9.1%, compared with 6.4% and 5.1 % for Inner London and England respectively. Youth unemployment is higher than in Inner London at 7% compared with 6.4% (and 5.1% for England).

For the NSCP, this context reinforces the importance of strong multi-agency working, early help and prevention, tackling inequalities and disproportionality, and ensuring that the voice and lived experience of children, young people and families informs safeguarding practice across the partnership.

2. About the Annual Report

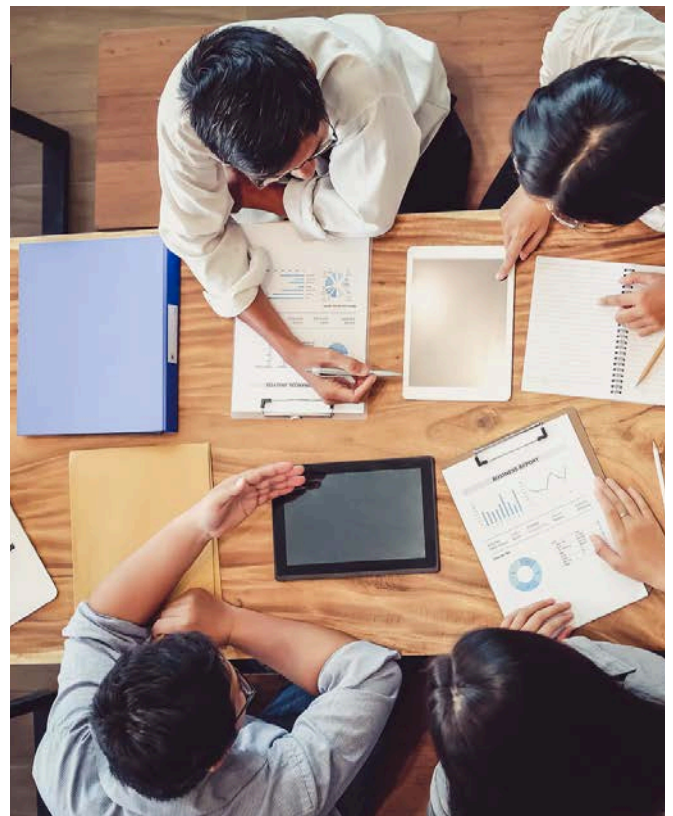
The Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Annual Report for 2025/26 provides an overview of the effectiveness of the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and demonstrates how safeguarding partners have worked together to improve outcomes for children and young people across Newham. It highlights the Partnership's impact, learning and assurance activity, alongside the progress made in delivering its strategic priorities.

The report includes:

- An overview of the NSCP's governance, leadership and accountability arrangements, together with progress against the Partnership's strategic priorities.
- An overview of the safeguarding context in Newham, including key developments, emerging risks and the Partnership's response to local need.
- Learning identified through child safeguarding practice reviews, rapid reviews, multi-agency audits, performance information and other quality assurance activity, and how this learning has informed improvements in policy, practice and service delivery.
- The range, reach and impact of the NSCP's multi-agency learning and workforce development programme.

- Examples of collaborative working across the Partnership, demonstrating how agencies have strengthened safeguarding arrangements and improved outcomes for children, young people and families.
- The Partnership's priorities and areas of focus for 2026/27.

In accordance with statutory requirements, the NSCP Annual Report for 2025/26 will be published and shared with the safeguarding partners, relevant agencies and the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.



3. About the NSCP

The Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) continues to provide strong strategic leadership for safeguarding children and young people across the borough. During 2025/26, the Partnership has continued to embed the statutory safeguarding arrangements set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026), strengthening governance, accountability and multi-agency collaboration to improve outcomes for children and families.

In accordance with the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the three statutory safeguarding partners are:

- The London Borough of Newham.
- NHS North East London Integrated Care Board.
- The Metropolitan Police Service.

Recognising that safeguarding is most effective when all agencies work collectively, the NSCP continues to place education at the heart of its partnership arrangements. Education leaders, including the Director of Education and Headteacher representatives from primary and secondary schools, play a key role in shaping strategic priorities, providing challenge and ensuring that the voices and experiences of education are fully reflected in partnership decision-making.

The Partnership remains ambitious in its commitment to continuous improvement. The appointment of an Independent Scrutineer in June 2025 has strengthened independent assurance, strategic challenge and oversight of the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements. Throughout the year, the Independent Scrutineer has provided constructive challenge, supported partnership self-evaluation and helped ensure that learning, performance and governance remain focused on improving outcomes for children and young people.

During the year, the Partnership has continued to strengthen its governance arrangements through refreshed Executive oversight, the establishment of the Youth Safety Strategy Group, enhanced performance reporting and a greater emphasis on learning from quality assurance activity, child safeguarding practice reviews and multi-agency audits including regarding youth violence, exploitation and tackling racism, inequality and discrimination for our children and families. This has enabled partners to identify emerging risks, respond collectively to safeguarding challenges and maintain a clear focus on impact.

3. About the NSCP

The NSCP has continued to invest in communication, engagement and workforce development across the partnership. The First Friday Safeguarding Forum remains a valued opportunity for practitioners to share learning, discuss emerging issues and strengthen multi-agency relationships. Alongside this, the Partnership has expanded its use of 7-Minute Briefings, enabling learning from rapid reviews, audits and national safeguarding themes to be shared quickly and consistently across the children's workforce.

A programme of multi-agency learning events has supported the Partnership's strategic priorities throughout the year, including youth safety, neglect, tackling racism, inequality and disproportionality, and safeguarding babies. These events have encouraged reflective practice, strengthened professional curiosity and promoted a culture of openness, shared responsibility and constructive challenge across agencies.

The Partnership continues to foster an environment in which partners work collaboratively, challenge one another appropriately and use evidence, learning and performance information to drive continuous improvement. By embedding learning into everyday practice and maintaining a relentless focus on children's lived experiences, the NSCP is continuing to strengthen safeguarding arrangements and improve outcomes for children, young people and families across Newham.

Throughout 2025/26, the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership has continued to be guided by its Outstanding Partnership Principles, which have underpinned a culture of collaboration, openness, professional challenge and shared accountability across the safeguarding system. These principles have supported stronger multi-agency relationships and reinforced the Partnership's commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people.

As the Partnership has evolved and matured, the Executive has agreed to undertake a review of the Outstanding Partnership Principles during 2026 to ensure they continue to reflect the expectations of safeguarding practice, the statutory framework set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026), and the Partnership's ambition for continuous improvement.

During the year, the Partnership has also refreshed its strategic priorities, including the continued development of the Youth Safety Strategy and its associated governance arrangements. This work ensures that the Partnership remains responsive to emerging safeguarding risks, local need and learning from reviews, audits and performance information, while maintaining a clear focus on prevention, early intervention and improving outcomes for children and young people across Newham.

3. About the NSCP

Our 2025 -2027 Priorities:

Cross-Cutting Themes. These will be embedded into **all** strategic plans, partnership groups, audits, reviews, and service delivery models:

- **Early Intervention and Prevention**
Strengthening multi-agency coordination to identify emerging needs and provide timely support to prevent escalation.
- **Tackling Racism, Inequality, and Disproportionality** – Embedding anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice to challenge structural inequalities and improve outcomes for all children and families.

Thematic Priorities

- **Successful Implementation of the Youth Safety Strategy** – Including a stronger focus on the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.
- **Best Start in Life for Every Child** – Targeting neglect, promoting safe sleeping, and preventing unintentional injuries through a preventative, multi-agency approach.
- **Improving the Response to Domestic Abuse** – Embedding the shared practice framework and fully implementing the Circles of Support model to create a culture of relational safeguarding and shared ownership across agencies.

NSCP Executive Members

- **Diane Barrick:** Headteacher, Carpenters Primary School
- **Kevin Gibbs:** Independent Scrutineer
- **Korkor Ceasar:** Associate Director for Safeguarding Children
- **Laura Eden (Chair):** Director of Operations, Children's Social Care
- **Mahfuzul Khan:** Director of Early Help and Safeguarding
- **Rhona Hunt:** BCU Chief Superintendent
- **Sarah Morgan:** Headteacher, Eastlea Community School
- **Scott Ware:** Detective Superintendent, Metropolitan Police
- **Sharon Grainger:** Head of Inclusion & Education Safeguarding

The Groups explained:

- **Children and Adults Safeguarding Joint Group** - The Joint Children and Adults Safeguarding Group brings together the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) to provide strategic oversight of safeguarding issues that span both children and adults. The group promotes a coordinated, whole-family approach, strengthens collaboration across the partnerships, and oversees shared priorities. By working together, the group ensures a more joined-up and effective safeguarding response for individuals and families across Newham.
- **Executive Group:** - The Executive Group oversees the NSCP, ensuring that it continues to promote and support multi-agency collaboration across all safeguarding areas. The local Police, Integrated Care Board, and Local Authority share equal responsibility for the partnership and its outcomes alongside education providers.

3. About the NSCP

- **NSCP Group** - This group brings together Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) from across the partnership, ensuring full representation and engagement from all sectors. The group focuses on advancing the NSCP business plan goals through collaborative efforts.
- **Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup** - This group oversees the performance of the partnership and the related activity of member organisations, including the review of multi-agency data, audits, and action plans that emerge from statutory reviews. The subgroup brings together representatives from across the partnership, including Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), community and voluntary sector representatives and other relevant partners, ensuring that a range of professional and community perspectives inform the Partnership's understanding of safeguarding practice and performance. Their work supports accountability, identifies areas for improvement and promotes continuous improvement in safeguarding practice across Newham.
- **Learning and Workforce Development Subgroup** - Focused on training and awareness, this group coordinates educational and training programs across the borough, ensuring that all partners are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to safeguard children effectively.
- **Child Safeguarding Practice Review Subgroup** - This group is responsible for ensuring the implementation of learning from statutory reviews, including ensuring that lessons are effectively integrated into practice in all agencies to prevent future incidents.
- **Youth Safety Strategy Group** - The Youth Safety Strategy Group provides strategic leadership for the Partnership's response to violence, exploitation and contextual safeguarding. Adopting a 0–25 approach, it brings partners together to strengthen prevention, early intervention and safeguarding, ensuring children and young people in Newham receive a coordinated, multi-agency response that improves outcomes.



4. Our vision and priorities

Purpose

The NSCP's safeguarding arrangements support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare is promoted.
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children.
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively.
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats.
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

Objectives

Our objectives are to:

- Coordinate what is done by each agency to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency and by agencies working together



Vision

Our vision is to make Newham the best place for children and young people. All children and young people in Newham will:

- Grow up healthy, promoting independence, happy and safe
- Flourish in our schools
- Benefit from training and employment opportunities
- Play an active role in our community

5. Strategic Boards and Partnerships linked to the NSCP

The **Newham Health and Wellbeing Board** is a statutory body that brings together the NHS, local authority, and Healthwatch to collaborate on improving local health and care services. The board aims to enhance the health and wellbeing of Newham's residents, reduce health inequalities, and plan the commissioning of services based on local need.

The **Newham Safeguarding Adults Board** is a statutory multi-agency partnership dedicated to ensuring that adults in Newham can live free from abuse and neglect. It holds overall responsibility for coordinating safeguarding adult matters and ensuring that partner agencies fulfill their duties in protecting vulnerable adults.

The **Newham Families, Babies & Children Board** in Newham is responsible for leading partnership decision-making related to babies, children, young people, and families. It sets the strategic direction through the Newham Children and Young People's Plan, advocates for the voices and needs of local children, young people, and families in decision-making, and develops key policies that impact services across the borough.

The **Newham Safety Partnership Board** in Newham is tasked with conducting an annual assessment of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, and re-offending within the borough. These findings inform the creation of the Community Safety Plan, ensuring a coordinated and strategic approach to improving community safety across Newham.

To support joined-up strategic working, leads of all the boards including the NSCP come together four times a year in a shared forum. These joint meetings strengthen collaboration, align priorities, and ensure a coordinated approach to safeguarding, health, and community safety across Newham



6. Membership of the NSCP

In line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, the NSCP works with a broad range of relevant agencies whose contribution is necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Partnership membership reflects local need and enables agencies to work collaboratively to identify emerging issues, agree priorities and improve outcomes for children and families.

Strengthening the Partnership

Throughout 2025/26, the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership has continued to strengthen its governance, leadership and collaborative approach to safeguarding. Partners have taken an active role in leading priority workstreams, reinforcing shared ownership, accountability and collective responsibility for improving outcomes for children and young people.

In June 2025, the Partnership appointed an Independent Scrutineer, strengthening independent oversight and challenge across the safeguarding system. The role has provided objective scrutiny of partnership governance, performance and learning, supported greater strategic challenge, and helped ensure that safeguarding arrangements remain effective, transparent and focused on improving outcomes for children and families.

Alongside the establishment of the Youth Safety Strategy Group and refreshed governance arrangements, these developments have enhanced the Partnership's ability to drive continuous improvement, embed learning from reviews and quality assurance activity, and maintain a strong focus on impact across the safeguarding system.

Snapshot of Membership

The NSCP is made up of over 60 professionals from a wide range of agencies and disciplines, bringing together a rich mix of expertise, experience, and local insight. The partnership includes organisations working with children and families in Newham. Key partners include:

- London Borough of Newham
- Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Metropolitan Police
- Children's Social Care and Early Help
- Primary and Secondary Education providers and Local Authority Early Years and Education Leaders
- Health Services (including maternity, health visiting, and community health)
- Voluntary and Community Sector organisations
- London Fire Brigade

This diverse and committed membership works collaboratively to build a strong, coordinated, and responsive safeguarding system that puts the needs and voices of children, young people, and families at its heart.

7. Partner Contributions

The safeguarding partners are jointly responsible for ensuring that the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership is sufficiently resourced to deliver its statutory functions effectively.

In line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026), safeguarding partners have agreed the level of funding required to support the Partnership's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This includes funding for business support, performance and analytical capacity, independent scrutiny, partnership infrastructure, local child safeguarding practice reviews, quality assurance activity, and the delivery of multi-agency learning and workforce development.

Safeguarding partners continue to review funding arrangements to ensure that resources remain proportionate to local need and enable the Partnership to deliver its agreed priorities and statutory responsibilities.

To address these challenges and maintain the partnership's operations, partners frequently offer their time and resources in kind. This in-kind support is crucial and includes a variety of contributions such as:

- Chairing and participating in sub-groups or task and finish groups: Partners take on leadership roles within these groups to guide specific initiatives or areas of focus.
- Conducting reviews and audits: Partners carry out critical assessments to ensure that safeguarding practices are up to standard and identify areas for improvement.
- Leading and attending workshops: Partners actively engage in professional development and knowledge-sharing activities, contributing to the partnership's continuous learning and improvement.
- Analysing and submitting data: Partners provide valuable data insights and analyses that inform the partnership's strategic decisions and help monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding measures
- These contributions, while not monetary, are vital to the ongoing success and sustainability of the NSCP, allowing the partnership to function effectively despite financial constraints



7. Partner Contributions

Budget and spend 2025/26:

Income

Income source

Barts Health

ELFT

ICB

Police

LBN - CSC

LBN - Education

Housing

Total

£192,500

Income

Amount

£5,000

£10,000

£50,000

£5,000

£107,000 (not including overheads)

£10,000

£5,500

Total

£192,500

Expenditure

Expenditure Type

Salaries

Training/ events

LCSPRs

ICT/ Printing/ Miscellaneous

Total

Expenditure

Full Year Budget

£145,000

£30,000

£13,000

£6,600

£194,600

Expenditure

Year End Spend

£153,000

£23,500

£12,000

£4,000

£192,500

8. Working Together 2026

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026) is the statutory guidance that sets out how organisations and agencies should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The guidance underpins all aspects of the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership's governance, leadership and delivery, ensuring that local safeguarding arrangements are effective, transparent and focused on improving outcomes for children and young people.

Throughout 2026, the NSCP has continued to embed the principles and expectations of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026), strengthening partnership governance, improving accountability, enhancing quality assurance and ensuring that learning from reviews, performance information and frontline practice informs strategic decision-making.

Lead Safeguarding Partner Responsibilities

In accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026), the Lead Safeguarding Partners are responsible for:

- Setting the strategic direction, vision and priorities for safeguarding children in Newham.
- Providing effective governance, leadership and accountability across the safeguarding partnership.
- Approving and overseeing key partnership documents, including the safeguarding arrangements, annual report, threshold guidance and partnership priorities.

- Ensuring learning from child safeguarding practice reviews, rapid reviews, audits, independent scrutiny and national reviews is translated into measurable improvements in practice.
- Ensuring the Partnership has appropriate business support, performance information and analytical capacity to understand need, monitor effectiveness and drive improvement.
- Promoting effective engagement with all relevant agencies, including education, health, police, local authority services, the voluntary and community sector and children and families themselves.

Independent Scrutiny

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 requires the three statutory safeguarding partners-the local authority, the police and the Integrated Care Board-to make arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Independent scrutiny remains a fundamental component of effective safeguarding arrangements, providing objective assurance, constructive challenge and support to strengthen partnership effectiveness.

8. Working Together 2026

Following the appointment of the Partnership's Independent Scrutineer in June 2025, 2025/26 has been the first year in which this role has been embedded within the Partnership's governance arrangements. Throughout the year, the Independent Scrutineer has provided independent oversight of governance, performance, learning and quality assurance activity, offering constructive challenge and supporting the Partnership to evaluate the effectiveness of its safeguarding arrangements. This has been done in a number of ways including attendance at Executive and Partnership meetings, participation in sub-group processes, individual contact with the Delegated Safeguarding Partners and regular contact with the Partnership Business Unit.

The Independent Scrutineer has also worked closely with safeguarding partners to strengthen data collection, promote continuous improvement and ensure that learning from child safeguarding practice reviews, rapid reviews, audits and national reviews is translated into meaningful improvements in policy, practice and outcomes for children and young people across Newham. There has been a specific focus on reviewing the processes within the PQA group and oversight of the development of a focused multi-agency dataset and dashboard across the Partnership.

In summary, the Independent Scrutineer has reported that his experience of the effectiveness of the Partnership this year includes;

- a positive engagement with representatives of the range of communities in Newham reflecting the range of experiences for children and their families who live here.
- A clear ambition for leaders in the Partnership to build on the positive practice already in place without complacency.
- A collaborative and respectful culture within the work of the Partnership with the ability to have honest conversations to make changes happen when necessary.
- A drive to make the learning from reviews of all types prompt and clear. This has led to a streamlined approach to take action plans from this learning forward and challenge any delay.

8. Working Together 2026

- Innovative use of different methods to share information and for staff to learn together. The levels of attendance and engagement observed at the Friday Forums are an indicator of the success of this approach.
- The work across the Partnership with regard to Tackling Racism, Inequality and Discrimination observed by the Independent Scrutineer has led to clear actions with a clear intent to positively respond to these issues in all aspects of the Partnership work.
- The Quality Assurance process produces genuine learning that is being embedded into the practice of partner agencies.

The ambition of the Partnership to continuously improve is positive and the priorities set for the next year are supported by the Independent Scrutineer. In 2026/27, the Scrutineer will be challenging the Partnership to demonstrate outcomes for each of these priorities with an emphasis on using data to evidence improvements in performance as well as developing further ways of involving children in the arrangements to safeguard them.



9. Overview of our priority focus areas

The Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) is committed to ensuring that children, young people and families in Newham receive the right help, protection and support at the right time, enabling them to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The Partnership's priorities are informed by a wide range of evidence, including performance information, quality assurance activity, rapid reviews, child safeguarding practice reviews, national learning, practitioner expertise, and the voices and experiences of children, young people and families. The NSCP Executive reviews progress regularly to ensure that priorities remain responsive to emerging risks and local need.

In March 2025, the Executive undertook a comprehensive priority-setting process, including a dedicated development session and engagement with partners across the safeguarding system. This process resulted in a refreshed set of priorities and cross-cutting themes to guide partnership activity over the period 2025–2027.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

These themes are to be fully embedded across all strategic plans, partnership groups, audits, reviews, and service delivery models. They are not proposed to be standalone work streams but to underpin all activity.

Early Intervention and Prevention

Ensuring that emerging needs are identified and addressed at the earliest stage to prevent escalation and reduce harm. This will need a multi-agency approach, ensuring coordinated support and resources for children and families.

Tackling Racism, Inequality, and Disproportionality

Challenging structural inequalities through anti-racist practice, with a commitment to improving outcomes for children and families from all backgrounds.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Successful implementation of the Youth Safety Strategy

Ongoing delivery of the Youth Safety Strategy, with a targeted focus on the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.

Ensuring the Best Start in Life for Every Child

Focusing on addressing early childhood vulnerabilities through a preventative, multi-agency approach. It is informed by recent thematic reviews and cross-border learning, highlighting the importance of safe environments and robust early years support. Key areas of focus include improving the quality and safety of social housing, tackling neglect, promoting safe sleeping practices, and preventing unintentional injuries in early childhood. The partnership will work collaboratively to strengthen pathways of support, ensuring that every child in Newham has a safe, healthy, and secure foundation for life.

9. Overview of our priority focus areas

Improving the response to domestic abuse through the implementation of a shared practice framework

The Partnership is committed to strengthening its response to domestic abuse by embedding a shared, trauma-informed practice framework across all agencies. During 2025/26, partners agreed to adopt Newham's Circles of Support practice model, promoting a consistent, relationship-based approach that places children, young people and families at the centre of practice. By strengthening multi-agency collaboration, professional curiosity and early intervention, the Partnership aims to improve outcomes for children affected by domestic abuse and ensure responses are coordinated, timely and focused on the child's lived experience.

10. Key achievements and impact – snapshot

During 2025/26, the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) continued to operate in accordance with its refreshed Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA), which were published in December 2024 following a comprehensive review of governance, roles and statutory responsibilities. Throughout the year, the Partnership has embedded these arrangements across its governance structures, strengthening accountability, partnership leadership and multi-agency collaboration. The arrangements remain under regular review to ensure they continue to reflect statutory guidance, emerging safeguarding priorities and the evolving needs of children and families in Newham.

First Friday Safeguarding Forum

The First Friday Safeguarding Forum continues to be a valued by monthly forum for multi-agency learning, professional discussion and partnership engagement. Bringing together practitioners from across the safeguarding system, the Forum provides opportunities to share learning from rapid reviews, child safeguarding practice reviews, audits and national developments, helping to strengthen professional curiosity and reflective practice.



10. Key achievements and impact – snapshot

During 2025/26, the Forum continued to attract strong multi-agency attendance and covered a wide range of safeguarding themes, including neglect, safeguarding babies, youth safety, exploitation, domestic abuse, child sexual abuse, contextual safeguarding and tackling racism, inequality and disproportionality. The Forum provided a platform for sharing learning from quality assurance activity and partnership reviews.

The continued success of the Forum reflects the Partnership's commitment to creating an open learning culture, where practitioners are encouraged to share knowledge, challenge practice constructively and work collaboratively to improve safeguarding outcomes for children and young people across Newham.

Reflecting on Our Priorities

The NSCP regularly reviews its strategic priorities to ensure they remain focused on the issues that matter most to children, young people and families in Newham. During 2025/26, the Partnership undertook a comprehensive priority-setting process, drawing on a wide range of evidence to refresh its priorities for 2025–2027.

This process was informed by:

- Multi-agency audits and quality assurance activity, providing assurance on the effectiveness of frontline safeguarding practice.
- Learning from Rapid Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and national safeguarding reviews, ensuring that local and national learning is translated into practice.
- Performance information and partnership intelligence, helping to identify emerging risks, trends and areas requiring improvement.
- Feedback from children, young people, families and practitioners, ensuring that lived experience and professional insight continue to shape partnership priorities.
- Engagement with safeguarding partners through Executive development sessions and wider partnership consultation, strengthening shared ownership and accountability.

This evidence-informed approach has enabled the Partnership to refresh its strategic priorities, ensuring they remain responsive to local need, aligned with statutory guidance and focused on delivering meaningful improvements in outcomes for children and young people across Newham. The Partnership will continue to monitor progress against these priorities throughout the period 2025–2027, with a whole-Partnership review of the priorities and progress planned for March 2027. This review will provide an opportunity to assess the impact of our collective work, consider emerging evidence and risks, and determine whether the priorities remain the right areas of focus for children, young people and families in Newham.

10. Key achievements and impact – snapshot

Implementation of 7-Minute Briefings from Rapid Reviews

To enhance the impact of learning from Rapid Reviews, the NSCP continued to deliver 7-Minute Briefings following each review. These briefings provide practitioners with concise, focused summaries of key themes and learning points, and have become a well-established part of the partnership's learning framework.

Key features include:

- Brief, impactful sessions lasting just 7 minutes to maximise accessibility.
- Consistently strong participation, with 40–60 attendees per session.
- High levels of anonymisation to protect the privacy of those involved.

During 2025/26, the briefings explored a range of safeguarding themes, including neglect, child sexual abuse, extra-familial harm, youth safety, and learning from local and national safeguarding reviews. They have enabled the Partnership to disseminate learning rapidly, encourage reflective practice, and support practitioners to identify how learning can be applied within their own services. Feedback from attendees continues to be overwhelmingly positive, with practitioners valuing the opportunity to hear directly about emerging themes and the actions being taken to strengthen safeguarding practice across Newham.

Improvements to Governance and Risk Oversight

Strengthening governance has remained a priority throughout 2025/26. The NSCP has a strategic risk register with Newham Partnership Boards, allowing key safeguarding risks to be identified, monitored, and assigned to Executive Members for oversight and mitigation. This tool has improved the partnership's ability to coordinate its response to emerging challenges, strengthen accountability, and maintain a sharp focus on areas of greatest need.

Ongoing Commitment to Continuous Improvement

Throughout 2025/26, the NSCP has continued to demonstrate its commitment to collaborative working, learning and continuous improvement. During the year, the Partnership undertook a review of the Youth Safety Strategy, resulting in a refreshed set of Youth Safety priorities to ensure the Partnership's response to youth violence, exploitation and contextual safeguarding remains responsive to emerging risks, local need and learning from reviews, quality assurance activity and performance information.

The refreshed priorities were developed in partnership with agencies across the safeguarding system and continue to be informed by the voices of children and young people. By regularly reviewing its strategic priorities and governance arrangements, the NSCP continues to strengthen partnership working, drive continuous improvement and maintain a clear focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and families across Newham.

11. Key challenges and impact – snapshot

Workforce – NSCP Business Unit

The NSCP Business Unit continues to provide the core coordination, governance and operational support required to deliver the Partnership's safeguarding arrangements. The team remains small and consists of:

- 1 full-time Business Manager.
- 0.25 FTE Training Coordinator, responsible for commissioning, coordinating and supporting delivery of the NSCP multi-agency learning programme.
- Administrative support provided by the local authority.

During 2025/26, the Partnership benefited from strong and consistent leadership through the continuation of the Director of Children and Young People's Services as Chair of the NSCP Executive. Her leadership provided stability, effective challenge and strategic direction during a period of significant development for the Partnership, supporting continued collaboration and shared ownership across the statutory safeguarding partners.

The Partnership remains committed to collaborative leadership arrangements that support collective accountability and sustainability of governance

The NSCP Business Unit has continued to support an increasing breadth of activity, including partnership governance, quality assurance, child safeguarding practice reviews, rapid reviews, multi-agency learning, priority workstreams, performance reporting, statutory publications and engagement with partner agencies. Whilst the commitment and flexibility of the small team remains a significant strength, capacity pressures continue to be a challenge as expectations on safeguarding partnerships continue to grow.

These pressures have impacted areas such as the pace of website development and the ability to further enhance analytical and programme management capacity. The Partnership continues to benefit from significant in-kind contributions from partner agencies, including leadership of workstreams, delivery of training, participation in audits and sharing of expertise.

The continued commitment and collaboration of partners remain central to the success of the NSCP, enabling the Partnership to remain responsive, learning-focused and committed to improving outcomes for children, young people and families in Newham.

Strengthened Focus on Tackling Racism, Inequality, and Disproportionality

During 2025/26, the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership continued to strengthen its commitment to tackling racism, inequality and disproportionality, recognising that equitable safeguarding practice is essential to improving outcomes for all children, young people and families.

A key area of focus this year has been the completion of the Partnership's Tackling Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality (TRID) Review. The review provided an opportunity for partners to reflect on safeguarding practice across the system, explore experiences of practitioners and families, and consider how issues such as bias, language, decision-making, identity and power can influence safeguarding responses.

11. Key challenges and impact – snapshot

The TRID Review included extensive engagement and reflective discussions across the Partnership, informed by the learning from the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report “It’s Silent: Race, racism and safeguarding children.” The findings have helped the Partnership identify opportunities to further strengthen anti-racist, culturally responsive and inclusive safeguarding practice.

Following completion of the review, the recommendations have been presented to the Partnership and a multi-agency action plan is being finalised. Progress against these actions will be monitored through the Youth Safety Strategy Group, ensuring that learning from the review is embedded across partnership activity and contributes to measurable improvements. Alongside the TRID Review, the Partnership continues to:

- Embed consideration of equality, diversity and inclusion across governance, quality assurance activity, audits and practice reviews.
- Use data and intelligence to identify and understand disproportionality in safeguarding activity and outcomes.
- Promote learning and workforce development to strengthen anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice.
- Ensure that the voices and lived experiences of children, young people and families inform safeguarding priorities and improvement activity.

Through this work, the NSCP continues to build a safeguarding system that is fair, inclusive and responsive to the diverse communities of Newham.

Budget

The NSCP budget supports the delivery of the Partnership’s statutory functions and priorities, including staffing, independent scrutiny, child safeguarding practice reviews, quality assurance activity, multi-agency learning and workforce development.

The Local Authority continues to provide the largest proportion of funding for the Partnership, with contributions also provided by NHS North East London Integrated Care Board and the Metropolitan Police Service. During 2025/26, safeguarding partners continued to work together to ensure that the Partnership is appropriately resourced to meet its statutory responsibilities and deliver its agreed priorities.

The Partnership is pleased to have been informed that, from 2026/27, the Metropolitan Police Service contribution to Safeguarding Children Partnerships across London will increase from £5,000 to £10,000. This represents a positive step towards strengthening partner contributions and supporting the effective delivery of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The NSCP continues to review its funding arrangements to ensure that resources remain aligned with local need, partnership priorities and the increasing expectations placed upon safeguarding partnerships.

11. Key challenges and impact – snapshot

Partnership capacity

The NSCP has continued to experience challenges relating to capacity across partner agencies, affecting their ability to contribute consistently to partnership activity. These pressures reflect increasing demand for services alongside financial pressures, savings requirements and wider organisational change across agencies.

In particular, the NHS North East London Integrated Care Board (ICB) is undergoing significant organisational change as part of the national restructuring of the health system. This is likely to have an ongoing impact on capacity and representation within the Partnership, alongside the wider pressures being experienced across health and other partner agencies. The NSCP will continue to monitor the impact of these changes and work with partners to maintain effective safeguarding arrangements and ensure that children and young people remain a shared priority.

The Partnership is also seeking to respond to capacity pressures by streamlining processes, reducing duplication and reviewing partnership activity wherever possible. This includes focusing on a smaller number of key deliverables where collective partnership action can have the greatest impact on safeguarding children in Newham. This approach will support the Partnership to make best use of available capacity while maintaining a clear focus on assurance, learning and improving outcomes for children and young people.



12. Safeguarding snapshot 2025/26



12. Safeguarding snapshot 2025/26

During 2025/26:

- 2,820 children were supported through Targeted Early Help.
- We received 19,706 contacts, an increase from 2024/25 (18,427).
- More boys (53%) than girls (47%) were supported; and the age profile varies across the status of children, with significantly more adolescents in care than younger age groups.
- Some global majority groups are over-represented in the figures and therefore there are clear disproportionality which needs further addressing. A detailed 'deep dive' has been completed to assist the areas of focus for tackling this inequality. This looked at the journey through the education, children's social care and youth justice systems for children and young people from different ethnic groups and focused on differences in outcomes. We are aware that children from the Black and Global Majority communities, particularly Black boys, are disproportionately represented. They are more likely to be a victim of child criminal exploitation or serious youth violence, charged with knife possession, be stopped and searched by the police, receive custodial sentences and be remanded in custody as well as less likely to be in long term foster placements and they wait longer to be adopted.
- As of January 2026, 2,975 pupils in Newham schools are classified as receiving an EHC plan, which equates to 4.8% of the school population. This includes residents of other local authorities. In comparison 5.4% of pupils across London and 5.3% of pupils nationally (January 2025).



12. Safeguarding snapshot 2025/26

- As of January 2026, 7,039 pupils in Newham schools are classified as receiving SEN Support provision, which equates to 11.4% of the school population. This includes residents of other local authorities. In comparison 13.2% of pupils across London and 14.2% of pupils nationally (January 2025).

At the end of March 2024/25 (in line with DfE data):

- Our Children In Need rate of 407 per 10,000 was higher than our statistical neighbours average for 2024/25 (327.1)
- Our Child Protection rate of 30.8 per 10,000 was lower than our statistical neighbours average for 2024/25 (38.9) reflecting improvements in our ability to identify and address needs at an earlier stage, preventing the need for a CP Plan
- Our Children In Care rate of 48.0 per 10,000 was lower than our statistical neighbours for 2024/25 (54.1) in line with a long-term trend. Since a peak of 432 children in 2021/22, the figures have been declining steadily and there were 406 children in care on 31 March 2026 reflecting our work to support families earlier where children are at the edge of care and our work to reunify children with their family network.

Early Help Response

During 2025/26, the Partnership has continued to strengthen and embed its Early Help response, bringing together universal, targeted and more intensive support delivered across Children and Young People's Services (CYPS), Public Health, schools and local community and voluntary sector organisations.

A well-established Helping Early governance structure remains in place, with involvement from a wide range of partners including the NHS, East London NHS Foundation Trust, Public Health and the Community and Voluntary Sector. This collaborative approach supports children and families to receive timely and proportionate help at the earliest opportunity, with the aim of preventing needs from escalating and reducing the need for statutory intervention wherever it is safe to do so.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) continues to provide a key point of coordination for safeguarding concerns and requests for help. The Partnership has maintained arrangements through the MASH Strategic and Operational Boards and regular Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) meetings with school safeguarding leads. These arrangements support consistency in thresholds, quality of decision-making and timely responses to children and families.

The MASH consultation line continues to provide professionals with access to timely advice and support. Strategy meetings remain an important mechanism for bringing relevant agencies together where concerns require a coordinated safeguarding response, including in relation to children who are missing.

12. Safeguarding snapshot 2025/26

Thresholds

Partners continue to work to ensure that thresholds are well understood and consistently applied. The Pathways to Help and Support document, aligned to the Pan-London Procedures, continues to provide a shared framework for professionals in identifying the right level of support for children and families.

The application and understanding of thresholds continues to be monitored through the NSCP Performance and Quality Assurance (PQA) Group, supporting the Partnership to identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.

Families First

Families First continues to provide support to families where children and young people are experiencing emotional, social or behavioural difficulties and where an Early Help response is appropriate.

Areas of need include:

- School attendance difficulties and risk of exclusion, including support for young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- Young people at risk of community exploitation where needs remain at the Early Help threshold.
- Emotional wellbeing difficulties.
- Family conflict.
- Domestic abuse.
- Parental mental ill-health.
- Parental substance misuse.

Families First takes a relationship-based approach, working alongside families to understand their strengths and needs and to support sustainable change. The service aims to build resilience, strengthen family relationships and increase families' ability to manage challenges independently, while ensuring that safeguarding concerns are identified and responded to appropriately.

Analysis

The continued use of Early Help demonstrates the Partnership's commitment to supporting children and families before needs escalate. The number of children supported through Targeted Early Help, alongside the wider development of the Family Help approach, reflects a continued emphasis on prevention, early intervention and providing the right support at the right time.

This is particularly important in the context of increasing demand and pressures across children's services and partner agencies. The Partnership will continue to monitor the effectiveness of its Early Help arrangements, ensuring that resources are focused on those children and families who would benefit most from timely, coordinated support.

13. Our priority focus areas

Priority 1 –Successful implementation of the Youth Safety Strategy

The Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership continues to prioritise youth safety, recognising the impact of extra-familial harm, exploitation, violence and contextual safeguarding risks on children and young people.

The Youth Safety Strategy adopts a 0–25 approach, recognising the importance of strengthening pathways between children's and adults' services and ensuring a coordinated response for young people as they transition into adulthood.

Rationale

Extra-familial harm has remained a consistent theme within NSCP Rapid Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and local safeguarding intelligence. The Partnership recognises that effective responses require a whole-system approach, bringing together safeguarding partners, education, community services, voluntary sector organisations and young people themselves.

Planned Impact

Through the Youth Safety Strategy, the Partnership aims to:

- Improve prevention, identification and response to exploitation, violence and contextual safeguarding risks.
- Strengthen partnership intelligence-sharing and disruption activity.
- Ensure children and young people receive coordinated support that reflects their lived experiences.
- Improve transition pathways and support for young people aged 16–25.
- Strengthen place-based safeguarding approaches across Newham.
- Summary of Progress in 2025/26

During 2025/26, the Partnership continued to strengthen its response to youth safety through the implementation and refresh of the Youth Safety Strategy.

Refreshing the Youth Safety Strategy

Following review of the existing strategy and priorities, the Partnership refreshed the Youth Safety Strategy to ensure it remains aligned with emerging risks, local intelligence and the experiences of children and young people. The refreshed priorities provide a clearer focus on prevention, early intervention, exploitation, violence reduction, contextual safeguarding and improving outcomes for young people.

13. Our priority focus areas

Strengthening Governance

The Youth Safety Strategy Group was established to provide strategic leadership and oversight of this work. The Group brings together partners to coordinate activity, monitor progress and ensure that safeguarding responses are joined up across agencies.

The move from the former All-Age Exploitation Group to the Youth Safety Strategy Group has provided a more focused approach to addressing the complex factors that contribute to youth vulnerability, including exploitation, violence, online harms and risks within community spaces.

Intelligence Sharing and Partnership Response

The Partnership continues to strengthen intelligence sharing and multi-agency responses to emerging safeguarding risks. Information-sharing arrangements support partners to identify patterns, understand locations of concern and coordinate preventative and protective responses.

Workforce Development and Learning

The NSCP continues to provide learning opportunities for practitioners to strengthen understanding of exploitation, contextual safeguarding and youth safety. Learning from reviews, audits and frontline practice continues to inform training and partnership improvement activity.

Focus for 2026/27

The Partnership will continue to focus on:

- Delivering the refreshed Youth Safety Strategy priorities.
- Strengthening responses to exploitation, violence, online harm and weapon-related harm.
- Developing place-based safeguarding approaches in locations where children and young people spend time, including schools, parks, transport hubs and community settings.
- Ensuring the voices and experiences of children and young people inform partnership activity.
- Strengthening prevention and early intervention approaches across the partnership.

Priority 2 – Best Start in Life for Every Child Rationale

The NSCP is committed to ensuring that every child in Newham has the best possible start in life. The early years are a critical period where effective support, early identification of vulnerability and coordinated multi-agency intervention can have a significant impact on children's safety, health and development.

This priority was established in response to learning from Rapid Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, thematic reviews and wider partnership intelligence, which highlighted the importance of strengthening preventative approaches, improving support for families and ensuring that risks to babies and young children are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity.

13. Our priority focus areas

The Partnership recognises that early childhood vulnerabilities are often complex and interconnected, requiring a whole-system response across health, early years, housing, children's services, education and community partners.

Areas of Focus

The Partnership's work has focused on:

- Strengthening the response to neglect and cumulative harm.
- Promoting safer sleeping practices and reducing risks associated with sudden unexpected infant death.
- Preventing unintentional injuries in babies and young children.
- Improving the quality and safety of home environments, including through partnership approaches with housing providers.
- Strengthening early help pathways and support for families experiencing multiple vulnerabilities.
- Ensuring learning from reviews translates into improved practice across the partnership.

Progress During 2025/26

During 2025/26, the Partnership continued to strengthen its approach to improving outcomes for babies and young children through learning, quality assurance and practice improvement activity.

Following learning from reviews involving infants and young children, the Partnership has focused on ensuring that actions are coordinated, monitored and embedded across agencies. This has included strengthening links between review learning, the Best Start in Life priority and wider improvement activity.

A key area of development during 2025/26 has been the development of the Newham Neglect Identification Tool. The tool was developed in response to partnership learning and the need to strengthen consistency in how neglect is identified, assessed and responded to across agencies.

During the year, the Partnership worked with practitioners and partner agencies to develop the tool and prepare for implementation. Engagement with services, including education, housing and community partners, helped to ensure that the tool was practical, accessible and reflected the needs of professionals working across the safeguarding system.

The tool will be launched in June 2026 and implementation activity is planned to include including awareness sessions, practitioner engagement and opportunities to gather feedback. The Partnership remains committed to embedding the tool into practice, supporting earlier identification of neglect, strengthening professional curiosity and improving shared understanding of risk across agencies.

13. Our priority focus areas

Learning and Improvement

The Partnership continues to use learning from safeguarding reviews, audits and frontline practice to strengthen its approach to babies and young children. Key themes identified include:

- The importance of understanding the lived experience of children within their family and wider environment.
- The need for strong professional curiosity when families experience multiple vulnerabilities.
- The importance of effective information sharing and coordinated planning across agencies.
- The value of early intervention and preventative support to reduce escalation of risk.

Ongoing Focus

The Partnership will continue to focus on:

- Embedding the Neglect Identification Tool across agencies and monitoring its impact on the identification, assessment and response to neglect and cumulative harm.
- Strengthening multi-agency responses to neglect and cumulative harm, ensuring that emerging concerns are identified early and that children's experiences remain central to assessment and planning.
- Continuing to improve safer sleeping awareness and practice, particularly in light of learning from reviews of infant deaths.

- Supporting families earlier through coordinated prevention and Family Help approaches, including the continued development and embedding of a relationship-based model that builds on family strengths, promotes resilience and reduces the need for statutory intervention where it is safe to do so.
- Supporting the implementation of Family First reforms, ensuring that changes to the way services are organised and delivered strengthen early intervention, improve collaboration between agencies and maintain a clear focus on children and families.
- Strengthening the partnership response to domestic abuse, including the continued development of approaches that recognise children as victims in their own right and ensure that the lived experience of children, including babies and young children, informs assessment, planning and intervention.
- Continuing to use learning from Rapid Reviews, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Serious Incident Notifications to identify themes, strengthen practice and improve outcomes for children and families.
- Ensuring learning is shared across the Partnership and, where appropriate, beyond Newham, particularly where children are placed outside the borough or where wider system learning can strengthen safeguarding practice.

13. Our priority focus areas

Through this priority, the NSCP remains committed to ensuring that every child in Newham has the best possible start in life, with families receiving the right support at the right time and safeguarding risks identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity.

MASH Integrated Front Door

Following the successful completion of the Integrated Front Door Test and Learn Pilot, the model was rolled out borough wide in September 2025 and is now fully embedded within the MASH. The integration of the IFD into the MASH has strengthened Newham's ability to respond to children and young people presenting with emerging emotional wellbeing and mental health needs through coordinated, multi-agency Front door approach.

The IFD brings together professionals from Children's Social Care, Early Help, CAMHS, education based services to support timely triage, information sharing and decision making.

During 2025/26, the IFD Supported 435 children and young people, providing early intervention for children presenting with needs such as anxiety, emotionally based School avoidance, low mood, low self esteem and wider emotional wellbeing concerns. By enabling needs to be identified and responded to at an earlier stage, the IFD continues to reduce escalation into statutory services where appropriate.

The model remains underpinned by the principle of providing families with the right support at the right time through coordinated multi-agency planning. The IFD panel meets regularly to undertake joint triage and develop support plans that draw upon Early Help, Educational support, Community Resources and specialist mental health pathways where required. As the IFD becomes embedded within the MASH, it has also strengthened Newham's wider approach to prevention and early intervention, contributing to a significant increase in EH outcomes across the MASH and supporting the borough's ambition to delivery integrated Family Help services.

Focus for 26/27

- Complete an evaluation of the IFD to understand its' impact on outcomes, timeliness, and multi-agency decision making
- Continue to strengthen pathways between the MASH IFD, EH, CAMHS and emerging Family Help arrangements within the Social Care Reforms, to ensure children and families receive the right support at the earliest opportunity.
- Increase our understanding of disproportionality within emotional wellbeing and MH pathways, ensuring services are responsive to the needs of all children and young people.
- Further embed relational, systemic and child centred practice within the IFD, ensuring the voice of children and families informs both decision making and service development
- Strengthen performance and outcome monitoring to better evidence the difference the IFD is making for children and young people.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

Domestic abuse continues to be a significant safeguarding concern for children and families in Newham. Children may experience domestic abuse directly, as well as being affected by the impact of abuse within their family and home environment. The Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership has therefore continued to support a whole-system approach that places children's experiences and safety at the centre of the response, alongside effective support for adult survivors and robust interventions with perpetrators.

During 2025–26, partnership activity has continued to strengthen the response to domestic abuse, with a particular focus on early intervention, perpetrator accountability, culturally responsive practice and improving coordination between safeguarding, housing, health, police and specialist domestic abuse services.

Strategic and System-Wide Progress

Domestic abuse remains a priority within Newham's wider community safety and safeguarding arrangements. The Newham Safety Partnership Strategic Plan 2025–28 identifies the reduction of victimisation and repeat victimisation, improved access to appropriate support, increased confidence in reporting and holding perpetrators to account as key priorities. The strategy also recognises the importance of placing the voices of survivors and residents at the centre of the local response.

During the year, partners have continued to build on the findings of the SafeLives whole-system review of Newham's domestic abuse response. The review provided an important opportunity to identify strengths and areas for further development across the partnership, including access to support for marginalised and minoritised survivors, perpetrator management, information sharing and coordination.

The NSCP has continued to work alongside the wider partnership to ensure that learning from domestic abuse practice is reflected in safeguarding arrangements and that the experiences of children are not lost within a predominantly adult-focused response.



14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

Safe and Together and Workforce Development

The Safe and Together model has continued to provide an important framework for strengthening practice across Children's Social Care. The approach supports practitioners to recognise the impact of domestic abuse on children, partner with the non-abusing parent and hold the perpetrator accountable for their behaviour.

Training, practice development and management oversight have continued to support practitioners to apply these principles in assessment, planning and direct work. There has been an increasing emphasis on understanding the lived experience of children, identifying patterns of coercive and controlling behaviour, and ensuring that responsibility for managing risk is not placed disproportionately on the non-abusing parent.

The continued embedding of Safe and Together provides an important foundation for developing greater consistency across Children's Social Care and the wider partnership, including Early Help and services supporting adolescents and young adults.

Perpetrator Response

Newham has continued to develop a multi-agency approach to working with perpetrators of domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel, established in 2024, has supported improved coordination and clearer pathways into appropriate interventions.

The Culturally Informed Family Approach (CIFA) continues to provide a culturally responsive intervention, recognising the diversity of Newham's communities and the importance of understanding family and cultural context while maintaining a clear focus on perpetrator accountability.

Newham has also continued to participate in the Drive programme for high-risk perpetrators. Together, these approaches support the partnership to move beyond a victim-only response and increase the focus on disrupting perpetrator behaviour, reducing risk and improving safety for children and adult survivors.

Children and Young People

A key area of development during 2025–26 has been strengthening the recognition of children and young people as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

The Domestic Abuse Hub, established in February 2025, has provided an important foundation for developing a more direct response for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The approach seeks to intervene earlier, reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children's outcomes and provide age-appropriate support to help children and young people understand healthy and harmful relationships and recognise risk.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

Particular attention has been given to the needs of Black and minoritised children and young people and to reducing barriers to accessing culturally appropriate support. This is particularly important in Newham, where responses need to reflect the diversity of children, young people and families across the borough.

The developing Child Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (CIDVA) approach also provides an opportunity to strengthen specialist support for children affected by domestic abuse and ensure that their experiences are identified and responded to alongside those of adult survivors.

The partnership will continue to strengthen the pathway between children's and adult services so that support does not stop when a young person reaches adulthood and that transition arrangements are better coordinated.

Housing and Specialist Support

Effective links between domestic abuse services, Children's Social Care and Housing remain critical to keeping children and families safe. Newham continues to work with specialist providers, including Hestia, to support survivors and their children with safety planning, accommodation and access to wider support.

The Council's published domestic abuse service offer includes specialist IDVA and casework provision, support for survivors experiencing multiple disadvantage and harmful practices, MARAC coordination and specialist refuge provision.

The partnership approach recognises that safe accommodation is an important component of safeguarding and that housing, social care and specialist domestic abuse services need to work together to reduce risk and support sustainable safety.

Learning and Continuous Improvement

Domestic abuse learning continues to be incorporated into safeguarding practice through case reviews, audits, Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews and wider partnership learning.

Children's Social Care continues to contribute to Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews in the borough, ensuring that the experiences of children and the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding responses are considered alongside the wider circumstances of each case. Learning is shared across services and used to inform practice development, supervision, training and partnership improvement.

The NSCP will continue to use audit, performance information and learning from reviews to understand not only whether domestic abuse is being identified, but whether the response is making a meaningful difference to children's safety and outcomes.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

Priorities for 2026–27

The partnership's focus for 2026–27 will be to:

- Continue to strengthen the whole-system response to domestic abuse, ensuring that children are consistently recognised as victims in their own right.
- Monitor and implement learning from the SafeLives whole-system review and use this to inform partnership improvement.
- Further embed Safe and Together principles across Children's Social Care and strengthen alignment with Early Help, Youth Justice and wider partner agencies.
- Strengthen the Domestic Abuse Hub and CIDVA offer, ensuring children and young people can access direct, age-appropriate and culturally responsive support.
- Continue to strengthen perpetrator accountability and intervention, including the effective use of CIFA, Drive and the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel.
- Improve multi-agency data and information sharing, particularly between MASH, MARAC and other partnership forums, to support earlier identification of risk and more effective allocation of support.
- Strengthen the transition pathway between children's and adult services, ensuring continuity of support for young people affected by domestic abuse.
- Continue to ensure that the voice and lived experience of survivors and children informs the design, commissioning and evaluation of domestic abuse services.

Inspection of Newham local authority children's services; November 2025.

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Outstanding
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Outstanding
The experiences and progress of children in care	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness	Outstanding

Children in Newham continue to benefit from consistently effective services that improve and enhance their experiences. Since the last inspection in 2022, when the overall effectiveness judgement was good, senior leaders have continued to strengthen and improve services to benefit children and their families. When children are identified as being at risk, there is a very effective response to children. Equally, children in care and care leavers receive excellent support and benefit from very stable relationships with their workers who know them extremely well. The highly ambitious and accessible senior leadership team has driven high-quality, child centred practice across all service areas. Clear strategic leadership, strong political support for children's services, well-established partnerships and investment in the workforce have created positive working conditions that enable frontline practitioners to make a real difference to children's lives.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

A standout feature is the impressive focus on children remaining within their kinship networks, and on ensuring that their voices are central to planning and decision making. The ongoing investment in the clinical team and the social work academy has undoubtedly strengthened practice and contributed to a culture of learning and Inspection of Newham local authority children's service. Workers show an in-depth knowledge of the authority's practice model and are able to articulate the positive impact this has had on consistency and the quality of practice with children and their families.

The full report is available [here](#)

Care Leavers

Overview

Throughout 2025/26, Newham's Leaving Care Service has continued to strengthen support for care-experienced young people, ensuring they are safe, supported and equipped to achieve positive outcomes as they transition into adulthood. Building on the significant transformation of the service in recent years, the Local Authority has maintained momentum in delivering a comprehensive Local Offer and responsive services that reflect the lived experiences, aspirations and evolving needs of care-experienced young people.

Accommodation and Independence

Terry Waite House has remained a key component of Newham's accommodation pathway for care leavers. Operating at full capacity throughout the year, the scheme has provided 30 high-quality, fully furnished homes for young people making the transition to independent living.

Feedback from residents has highlighted increased feelings of stability, safety and confidence, with young people reporting positive experiences of developing independent living skills within a supportive environment. Continued partnership working with housing services has also strengthened pathways into sustainable long-term accommodation for care leavers moving on from supported accommodation.

The Cove: A Hub for Support and Development

The Cove continues to be a valued and well-used hub for care leavers, providing access to advice, support, social connection and personal development opportunities. Located in the heart of East Ham, it remains a central point of engagement for care-experienced young people.

During 2025/26, The Cove delivered a range of workshops and drop-in sessions, including:

- Wellbeing and mindfulness
- Sexual health awareness
- Independent living skills
- Cooking on a budget
- Education, employment and training support

The Cove was also recognised as a C-Card distribution centre, increasing access to sexual health resources and advice for care leavers across the borough

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Supporting the emotional wellbeing of care leavers remains a key priority. The dedicated Emotional Wellbeing Nurse within the Leaving Care Service has continued to provide direct support and facilitate faster access to specialist mental health services.

This targeted approach has improved access to early intervention and strengthened the Local Authority's ability to respond effectively to emotional and mental health needs.

Participation and Co-Production

The Care Leavers Forum has continued to develop as an important mechanism for participation and co-production. Chaired by a care-experienced young adult, the Forum provides a meaningful platform for young people to influence policy, practice and service development.

Feedback from Forum members has directly informed service improvements and contributed to the refresh of Newham's Local Offer, ensuring that services remain responsive to the needs and aspirations of care leavers.

Local Offer for Care Leavers

During 2025, Newham refreshed and relaunched its Local Offer for Care Leavers. Available in both digital and printed formats, the Local Offer provides clear information regarding entitlements, services and opportunities available to young people.

Local Offer for Care Leavers

The refreshed offer includes:

- Enhanced financial support
- Access to education and training opportunities
- Employment, apprenticeship and internship pathways
- Leisure and cultural activities
- Housing and health services

Employment and the Family Business Model

On 30 July 2025, Newham launched the Family Business Model Task and Finish Group, a strategic initiative designed to embed lifelong corporate parenting across the Council and partner organisations.

The initiative aims to create clear pathways into employment, apprenticeships, work experience and supported internships for care leavers. It also establishes governance and accountability arrangements to ensure that care leavers are actively prioritised within workforce and employment opportunities.

This work supports Newham's vision that corporate parenting should extend beyond statutory duties and create lasting opportunities that improve long-term outcomes for young people.

Digital Innovation: Launch of The Cove Collective App

A significant milestone was achieved on 13 August 2026 with the launch of The Cove Collective App, developed to improve accessibility and engagement for care leavers across Newham.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

The app provides a single digital platform through which care leavers can access support, services and opportunities at any time. Key features include:

- Access to the Local Offer and care leaver entitlements
- Direct contact information for Personal Advisers and support services
- Updates on events, workshops and activities at The Cove
- Information on education, employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities
- Housing, health and wellbeing information
- Real-time access to key services and support networks

The launch of The Cove Collective App demonstrates Newham's commitment to modernising services and ensuring care leavers can access information and support in a way that is convenient, accessible and responsive to their needs.

Equality and Inclusion

Newham continues to demonstrate leadership in supporting care-experienced young people following its landmark decision in May 2024 to recognise Care Leavers as a protected characteristic. This commitment reflects the borough's dedication to addressing disadvantage, promoting equality of opportunity and ensuring that the voices and experiences of care leavers are recognised across policy development and service delivery.

Priorities for 2026/27

Key priorities for the coming year include:

- Commencing discussions with NHS regarding The Cove as a recognised Health Spot.
- Further enhancing The Cove Collective App to improve accessibility and engagement.
- Launching a Leaving Care Information Video to support young people preparing to transition into the Leaving Care Service.
- Continuing to improve accommodation pathways and tenancy sustainment.
- Strengthening emotional wellbeing and mental health support.
- Expanding education, employment and training opportunities.
- Implementing Newham's Local House Project in partnership with the National House Project to support young people in developing the skills and resilience required for independent living.

Children Missing Education and Children Electively Home Educated

The Education Access and Sufficiency Service provides strong strategic oversight of Children Missing Education (CME) and Elective Home Education (EHE), supported by a multi-agency CME Strategic Board which meets every two months to ensure robust governance, consistent practice, and effective safeguarding across the borough.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

Attendance outcomes continue to improve, with overall school attendance for 2024/25, measured by Schools Census, at 94.1% (0.5% above national, percentile rank 35th), and overall absence 0.5% below national, alongside significant improvements in national ranking across primary and secondary phases. Persistent absence (PA10) was 17.6%, (0.2% lower than national), and severe persistent absence (PA50) was 2.1% (0.1% above national). Targeted Attendance Support has reached 99% of schools through 170 meetings and is recognised by the DfE as exemplary, underpinned by strong early intervention, multi-agency working, and effective use of enforcement and CME tracking processes.

All children with a social worker have their attendance regularly monitored to ensure the most vulnerable children are attending school and accessing education. Use of CME referrals, verified and unverified leavers processes, with training provided for school staff, allows for pupils to be removed from roll legally. Need is identified using an early intervention support process based on child and family circumstances, allowing support to be put in place to prevent unnecessary absence. We use an inclusion process and framework, with reporting of excluded pupils and those on reduced timetables.

We make reasonable adjustments to meet the child's educational needs, in partnership with health partners, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), early help and hospital outreach learning. Robust systems are in place for EHE, including close partnership with Children's Social Care, joint visits for vulnerable children, and clear pathways for reintegration where education is unsuitable. As a result, children are identified earlier, receive timely support, and are better safeguarded and supported to access and remain in education.

Currently there are 5 children who are electively home educated (EHE) and supported by a CIN Plan and one child EHE and supported by a CP Plan (15 June 2026). Next steps focus on further reducing persistent absence, strengthening early intervention, and improving outcomes for vulnerable cohorts and those transitioning into and out of EHE. This includes preparation for implementation of the strengthened arrangements for EHE and child protection in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

Youth Justice:

Over the course of 2024/25, the Youth Justice Service (YJS) in Newham has continued to build on the structural integration achieved in previous years. Now fully embedded within the Adolescent Safeguarding Service (Reset) and closely aligned with Children's Social Care, the YJS ensures that children receiving both statutory social work and youth justice interventions benefit from a single, holistic plan. Safeguarding, offending behaviour, education, health, and emotional wellbeing are now addressed collectively through joint planning, review mechanisms, and trauma-responsive, child-focused support.

The service continues to champion the **Child First** approach, which remains a cornerstone of the Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB) strategy. Children are viewed as children first, with an emphasis on development, wellbeing, and participation. A refreshed participation strategy ensures their voices are central to shaping services, with regular feedback mechanisms contributing directly to service design.

Key achievements in 2024/25:

- **The Break** has developed into a hub for skill-building, mentoring, and engagement, hosting themed workshops, guest speakers, and practical sessions tailored to young people's interests.
- **The child-friendly reception area** continues to provide a welcoming space for children and families, reducing barriers to engagement and promoting trust with practitioners.
- **Assessments** have become more reflective and dynamic, with a stronger focus on risk, need, and strengths. A robust audit cycle and increased managerial oversight have improved timeliness and consistency.
- To tackle **disproportionality**, the YJS partnered with local and regional agencies to deliver training on anti-racist practice and unconscious bias. Disaggregated data is routinely analysed at YJMB level, with emerging trends informing targeted early interventions.
- A **joint protocol with Children in Care Services** has been introduced to prevent unnecessary criminalisation of looked-after children. Staff are trained in restorative and trauma-responsive approaches, particularly within residential settings.

Focus for 2025/26:

- Further improve the **timeliness and consistency of assessments**, particularly for children with complex needs or multiple agency involvement.
- Develop **contextual safeguarding pathways** in partnership with Early Help teams to better support children at risk of exploitation or serious youth violence.
- Expand **The Break the Cycle** programme to include accredited learning opportunities such as digital skills, financial literacy, and peer mentoring.
- Build on progress in **reducing disproportionality** through deeper community engagement, reflective practice sessions, and enhanced analysis of ethnicity and outcome data.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities



Private Fostering

Newham's approach to Private Fostering continues to align with national guidance and remains broadly comparable with other London boroughs in terms of notification and activity levels. During 2025/26, 28 notifications were received, an increase from 25 in 2024/25, with 11 arrangements confirmed as private fostering. The service has continued to focus on quality assurance, regulatory compliance, safeguarding oversight and partnership awareness.

Key developments in 2025/26:

- The Private Fostering workflow was strengthened following integration into the Family Support and Safeguarding Service, with private fostering guidance incorporated into the Child and Family Assessment and Review process, supporting earlier identification and more consistent consideration of private fostering within assessments.
- Statutory monitoring remained strong, with 100% compliance with Regulation 8 visits throughout the year. Initial Regulation 4 and 7 visit compliance was 75%, with missed timescales primarily linked to difficulties arranging visits with carers.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

- The service strengthened its focus on professional curiosity and safeguarding, particularly in complex arrangements involving absent parenting, immigration concerns, child trafficking, modern slavery and exploitation. Two cases were escalated to wider safeguarding services during the year and subsequently supported through Child in Need and Child Protection processes.
- Awareness raising and partnership training continued across health, education, Early Help, housing, CAMHS, Family Hubs, Children's Social Care and Youth Justice. Notifications from health increased during the year following targeted engagement, although notifications from faith groups and independent schools remain an area for further development.
- The service continued to contribute to regional and national learning, including CoramBAAF forums and the national Private Fostering Survey, supporting the sharing of good practice and ongoing development of the service.
- Practice learning activity found the service to be robust and fundamentally sound, with evidence of timely assessments and reviews, child and family involvement, and culturally responsive practice.

Focus for 2026/27:

- Strengthen early identification and notification of private fostering arrangements across the safeguarding partnership, particularly through health, education, independent schools, faith groups and community organisations.
- Maintain robust statutory compliance, quality assurance and management oversight of all known arrangements.
- Continue to strengthen professional curiosity regarding children living away from their parents, including potential trafficking, exploitation, immigration and safeguarding concerns.
- Develop further targeted awareness and community engagement, particularly with faith and cultural organisations and communities where arrangements may be underreported.
- Strengthen partnership understanding of private fostering responsibilities and referral pathways, including continued engagement with GP safeguarding leads.
- Continue to share learning through regional and national private fostering networks and review local guidance to ensure it remains aligned with legislation, national standards and emerging safeguarding practice.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Newham continues to deliver a coordinated multi-agency response to meet the complex needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrant families through its established **Migrant Health Operational Group**. The Group brings together Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, Health, Public Health and a range of partner agencies to ensure safeguarding, access to healthcare and wider support are coordinated for those seeking sanctuary in the borough.

Welcome Newham continues to play a vital role in supporting newly arrived families. This Council-led weekly one-stop service provides practical advice and support for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), helping families to access education, healthcare, financial and emergency support, clothing, food, social connections and community services. The service remains an important mechanism for promoting integration, reducing isolation and ensuring that safeguarding concerns are identified at the earliest opportunity.

Throughout 2025/26, the Partnership has continued to build on learning from previous responses to refugee and asylum-seeking populations. Multi-agency safeguarding visits to contingency accommodation have continued, with close collaboration between the London Borough of Newham, NHS North East London and accommodation providers. These visits have supported improvements in safeguarding awareness, strengthened escalation pathways and increased confidence in identifying and responding to concerns involving children, families and vulnerable adults.

Joint work has also supported:

- Improved safeguarding awareness and responses amongst hotel staff.
- Delivery of targeted safeguarding training for accommodation providers and partner agencies.
- Stronger partnership arrangements and clearer routes for escalating safeguarding concerns.
- Continued oversight of safeguarding risks affecting children and families living in contingency accommodation.

Whilst progress has been made, partners recognise that challenges remain, including ensuring timely access to healthcare, supporting emotional wellbeing, reducing isolation and responding to the complex needs of families who may have experienced trauma, displacement and uncertainty.

Focus for 2026/27

During 2026/27, the Partnership will continue to strengthen its safeguarding response for refugees, asylum seekers and migrant families by:

- Strengthening access to primary healthcare, mental health services and early help support for children and families.
- Working with education, health, voluntary and community sector partners to improve engagement, reduce isolation and promote inclusion for newly arrived children and families.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

Focus for 2026/27

- Continuing to influence regional and national partners to ensure accommodation arrangements appropriately consider the safeguarding, welfare and wellbeing needs of children, young people and families.
- Monitoring emerging risks and learning to ensure safeguarding responses remain responsive to the changing needs of refugee and asylum-seeking communities in Newham.

Safer Workforce

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) continues to play a vital role in ensuring that allegations and concerns relating to adults who work or volunteer with children are managed in a timely, independent, fair and proportionate way, with the protection of children remaining central to decision-making.

During 2025/26, the LADO Service experienced a significant increase in demand and complexity. The Service received 591 consultations, compared with 375 in 2024/25, alongside 165 formal referrals, of which 107 met the threshold for LADO oversight. This represents a substantial increase in both consultations and cases meeting the threshold and reflects, in part, increased awareness of the LADO role, continued partnership outreach and stronger relationships across the children's workforce.

The majority of referrals continued to come from the education sector, reflecting the high level of contact between education professionals and children. Referrals and consultations were also received from Children's Social Care, Police, Health, Early Years, fostering, leisure, voluntary and community organisations and the faith sector.



14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

There was a further increase in enquiries from parents and members of the public, rising from 11 in 2024/25 to 22 in 2025/26. This is viewed positively as an indicator of growing awareness of the LADO role and provides an important route for concerns to be appropriately considered, addressed or signposted.

The LADO Service continued to emphasise the value of early consultation, enabling concerns to be considered at the earliest opportunity and supporting proportionate decision-making, appropriate information sharing and timely safeguarding action. 95.8% of referrals were responded to within one working day, demonstrating a strong level of responsiveness. At year end, 10 cases remained open, with the majority of longer-running cases linked to ongoing Police investigations, including complex forensic enquiries and information gathering.

Physical abuse remained the most frequently reported category of concern, accounting for almost half of all referrals (49.7%), followed by sexual abuse (21.2%), emotional abuse (15.8%) and neglect (13.3%). The LADO Service is reviewing its categorisation of concerns to better capture issues such as professional conduct, standards of care, suitability, personal life concerns, risk by association and historical allegations, providing a more accurate picture of the range of safeguarding concerns being managed.

A key area of partnership learning continues to be disproportionality and inequality. The LADO data identifies differences in the representation of children and adults from different ethnic backgrounds and an over-representation of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), who accounted for approximately 25% of children referred to the LADO, compared with around 10% of school pupils in Newham recorded as having SEND. However, significant gaps in ethnicity data, including a high proportion recorded as unknown, mixed or other, limit the ability to draw firm conclusions. Improving the quality and completeness of data will therefore remain an important area of development.



14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

Safer Workforce

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The LADO has continued to strengthen partnership working across Education, Police, Health, Early Years, Adults Safeguarding, Children's Social Care, the voluntary and community sector and faith organisations. Outreach and training have remained an important part of this work, including LADO training delivered through the NSCP workforce learning and development programme. Engagement with the faith sector remains a particular priority, with no referrals received during 2025/26 despite the significant number of faith-based organisations and settings operating across the borough. The LADO Service will work with the NSCP to develop more targeted engagement with this sector.

The LADO Service also continued to contribute to regional and national LADO networks, supporting the development of greater consistency in practice. The National LADO Handbook remains under development and consultation, with the aim of establishing greater consistency in terminology, thresholds, processes and quality assurance across LADO services nationally. Newham also participated in a peer review by the Enfield LADO, which concluded that the service operates well and that the current arrangements are appropriate.

The LADO arrangements were also considered as part of the November 2025 Ofsted inspection of Children's Services, with the Lead Inspector commending the arrangements and the service's swift and robust decision-making.

Focus for 2026/27:

- Continue to strengthen early consultation, timely decision-making and oversight of allegations against staff and volunteers.
- Develop targeted outreach and engagement with under-represented sectors, particularly faith organisations and other providers working with children.
- Promote the LADO information leaflets developed for children, parents and subjects of allegations, increasing understanding and confidence in the process.
- Continue to strengthen data quality and analysis, including ethnicity, SEND and other equality information, to support identification of disproportionality and inform targeted safeguarding activity.
- Maintain regular quality assurance and case audits, with a focus on recording, outcomes and timeliness.
- Strengthen partnership working with Police and employers where criminal investigations contribute to delays in concluding LADO processes.
- Continue to deliver LADO training through the NSCP workforce learning and development programme and explore new opportunities for informal partnership engagement.
- Continue to contribute to the regional and national LADO networks and support the development and implementation of the National LADO Handbook when available.

14. Progress on other safeguarding priorities

DBS Checks – Partnership Best Practice Standards

Learning identified through the NSCP Section 11 assurance process highlighted the need for greater consistency and clarity across partner agencies in relation to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

In response, the NSCP developed its own Best Practice Standards and Expectations for DBS Checks, setting out clear expectations for safeguarding partners and relevant organisations in relation to DBS processes and safer recruitment. The standards were agreed by the NSCP Executive and subsequently promoted across the partnership through the NSCP Friday Safeguarding Forum and publication on the NSCP website.

This work demonstrates the NSCP's approach to using partnership assurance activity to identify areas of variability, develop practical improvement resources and promote greater consistency in safeguarding practice across agencies.



15. Learning from the system

Learning from a recent Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) has informed enhancements to the partnership's Domestic Abuse Guidance. In particular, the guidance is being strengthened to place greater emphasis on the lived experiences of children aged 0–5 years who are affected by domestic abuse, recognising them as victims in their own right. It promotes a stronger focus on the child's daily experience, developmental needs, attachment relationships and the cumulative impact of living with domestic abuse, ensuring that the voices and experiences of young children are central to assessment, planning and intervention.

During 2025-26 there were 4 Serious Incident Notifications made to the National Child Safeguarding Panel, concerning: the sudden and unexpected death of a six-week-old infant; a young child who died suddenly and unexpectedly with cocaine found in their system; an older child who alleged rape whilst in our care; a younger child who was physically harmed whilst not in the care of his parents. Local learning reviews have been held on all 4 children, with learning in relation to the child in care being shared across London to strengthen cross border collaboration where children in care are placed in other boroughs.

Themes and Analysis

Learning from serious incidents and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews continues to identify opportunities to strengthen safeguarding practice across the Partnership. A key theme emerging from the recent LCSPR was the need to ensure that young children affected by domestic abuse are consistently recognised as victims in their own right, with their lived experience, developmental needs, attachment relationships and the cumulative impact of domestic abuse reflected in assessment, planning and intervention.

- The four Serious Incident Notifications during 2025/26 also highlight the range and complexity of safeguarding risks facing children in Newham, including unexpected child deaths, substance exposure, allegations of sexual abuse and physical harm. While each incident requires consideration of its individual circumstances, the Partnership has used local learning reviews to identify and respond to wider practice issues and opportunities for improvement.

15. Learning from the system

Themes and Analysis

- A further theme is the importance of effective multi-agency learning and collaboration. Learning from all four incidents has been considered locally, with relevant learning shared beyond Newham where there is potential to strengthen safeguarding practice more widely. In particular, learning relating to a child in care has been shared across London to support stronger cross-borough collaboration, recognising the challenges that can arise when children in care are placed outside their home borough.
- Overall, the learning demonstrates the importance of maintaining a strong learning culture, where serious incidents and reviews are used not only to understand what happened to individual children, but to identify recurring themes, strengthen practice and improve safeguarding arrangements across the whole Partnership.

Key Themes

- Children's lived experience – particularly ensuring babies and young children are seen and understood as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.
- Cumulative harm and vulnerability – recognising that safeguarding risks can be complex and interconnected.
- Multi-agency working – ensuring learning is shared across agencies and, where appropriate, beyond Newham.
- Children in care placed outside the borough – strengthening cross-borough communication and safeguarding arrangements.
- A learning culture – translating reviews and incidents into tangible improvements in practice

NSCP Rapid Review Standards (Ongoing Implementation)

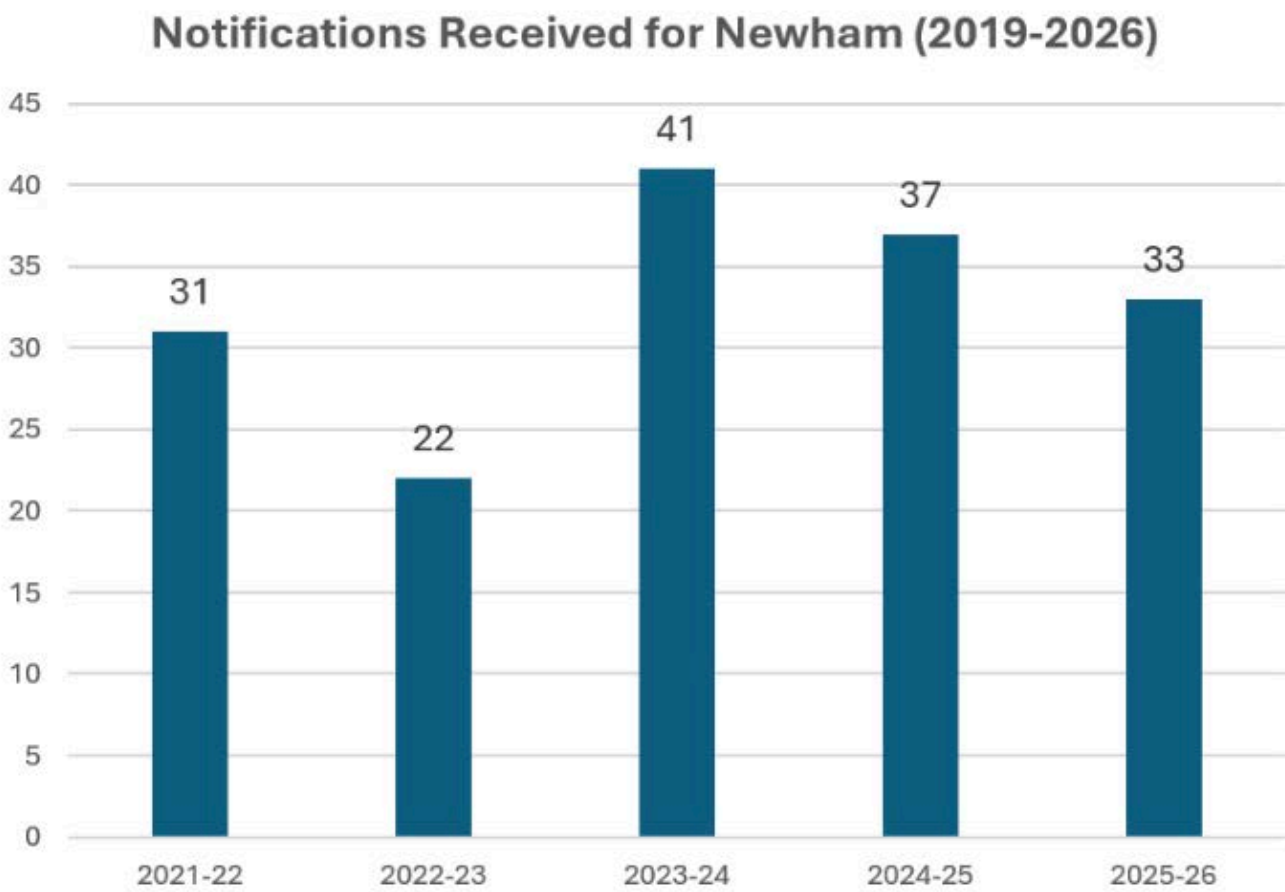
- Standard 1: Children's voices and lived experiences are amplified and reflected in reports.
- Standard 2: Practitioner collaboration is central, including 7-minute briefings and feedback loops at team meetings.
- Standard 3: Clear and accountable Learning, Development and Improvement Plans are in place, reviewed at 3–6 months.
- Standard 4: Staff wellbeing and debriefing support following traumatic or complex incidents is a priority.
- Standard 5: All reviews are completed within statutory timescales, with improved coordination across partners.

Focus for 2025–26

- **Implement Newham's Anti-Racism Strategy**, ensuring safeguarding practice is actively anti-discriminatory.
- **Expand the Thriving Communities Hub and Risk Outside the Family Home Assessment** to improve early identification of exploitation risks.
- **Enhance parental support** in high-risk families, including housing, domestic abuse, and NRPF support.
- **Review and strengthen escalation procedures** when systemic safeguarding risks persist across agencies.
- **Continue embedding lived experience** into all reviews and responses, ensuring child and family voice shapes system change.

15. Learning from the system

Learning from Child Deaths (CDOP)



Completed CDOP reviews by age group and ethnic group – Newham (2025-26)

- Asian or Asian British
- Black or Black British
- Mixed
- Other
- Unknown
- White
- Total

15. Learning from the system

- Newham had a decrease in the number of child deaths in 2025-26 when compared to the previous year. Fluctuations across all areas year on year are typical, and the average number of child deaths in Newham over the past five years is 32.8 per year.
- In 2025-26, 36% of child deaths occurred in the neonatal age group (up to 28 days) with the next highest in the under 1 age group (21%). This is consistent with the pattern observed in other boroughs within North East London (NEL) and England during the year.
- From 2019 to 2025, the national child death rate was highest for children of Asian Pakistani ethnicity (58.4 per 100,000 population), followed by black African (54.6 per 100,000 population), any other Asian background (52.4 per 100,000 population) or black Caribbean (51.6 per 100,000 population). Similar patterns were observed in cases reviewed locally in 2025-26 with 80% of cases being of Asian or Asian British and Black or Black British ethnic groups.
- Of the 35 cases reviewed for Newham, 14 were found to have modifiable factors. The most common primary categories of death were perinatal/neonatal events and chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies.
- The initial phase of a quality improvement exercise identified a range of opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness, consistency and timeliness of the local Child Death Review (CDR) process. A programme of improvement work will be undertaken during 2026/27 to streamline existing processes, strengthen governance and panel arrangements, workforce development, improve family voice representation, and ensure the quality and consistency of data recording. This work will include opportunities to improve review timeliness, strengthen collaboration across partner agencies, and review support available to bereaved families. Progress of this improvement will be taken forward by the CDR Hub Manager and monitored through the existing governance arrangements on a quarterly basis to support continuous improvement across the CDR process.

16. Ensuring effective multi-agency safeguarding practice

Youth Safety and Tackling Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality (TRID) Review:

Building on learning from previous thematic reviews relating to youth safety, extra-familial harm and contextual safeguarding, the NSCP commissioned a Tackling Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality (TRID) Review during 2025/26. The review formed a key element of the Partnership's commitment to ensuring safeguarding practice is equitable, culturally responsive and informed by the lived experiences of children, young people and families.

The review explored how race, identity, inequality and systemic factors influence safeguarding practice and outcomes for children in Newham. It was informed by practitioner engagement, partnership workshops, reflective discussions, quality assurance findings and national learning, including the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report "It's Silent: Race, racism and safeguarding children."

Key Findings and Themes

Youth Safety and Disproportionality

The review identified the need to strengthen partnership understanding of how disproportionality impacts children and young people affected by violence, exploitation and contextual safeguarding concerns. It reinforced the importance of ensuring that safeguarding responses are proportionate, trauma-informed and centred on children's lived experiences.

Professional Curiosity and Reflective Practice

Practitioners recognised the value of creating safe reflective spaces to explore how unconscious bias, language, culture and assumptions can influence assessment, decision-making and professional relationships with children and families.

Partnership Leadership

The review highlighted the importance of visible leadership in promoting anti-racist practice, creating an organisational culture where constructive challenge is welcomed and ensuring accountability for addressing inequality across the safeguarding system.

Children's Voices and Lived Experience

The review reinforced the importance of understanding children's identity, culture, community and lived experience when assessing risk and planning interventions, ensuring safeguarding responses are personalised and culturally responsive. Strategic Response.



16. Ensuring effective multi-agency safeguarding practice

The recommendations from the TRID Review were presented to the Partnership during 2025/26 and have informed the refresh of the Partnership's strategic priorities, including the continued development of the Youth Safety Strategy.

A multi-agency action plan has been developed and will be implemented across the Partnership, with progress monitored through the Youth Safety Strategy Group. This will ensure that recommendations are embedded into governance, workforce development, quality assurance activity and frontline practice.

The review has also informed the Partnership's ongoing commitment to:

- Embedding anti-racist and culturally responsive safeguarding practice.
- Strengthening reflective practice and professional curiosity.
- Improving the use of data to understand and address disproportionality.
- Ensuring the voices and lived experiences of children and young people inform strategic decision-making.
- Delivering learning events and workforce development to support sustainable culture change across the safeguarding partnership.

Looking Ahead

During 2026/27, the Partnership will focus on implementing and monitoring the TRID action plan, evaluating its impact and ensuring that tackling racism, inequality and disproportionality remains embedded as a

cross-cutting theme across all areas of the NSCP's work. Particular emphasis will be placed on supporting the delivery of the refreshed Youth Safety Strategy and improving outcomes for children and young people who experience disproportionate safeguarding risks.

Performance Data

During 2025/26, the Partnership Quality Assurance (PQA) Group continued to provide strategic oversight of safeguarding performance across the partnership through the scrutiny of multi-agency data, thematic audits, practice reviews and learning from Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

The Group received and challenged performance information from Children's Social Care, Education, Health, Police and other safeguarding partners, using both quantitative and qualitative information to identify emerging risks, monitor trends and provide assurance regarding the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across Newham.

A significant area of work during the year has been the continued development of the NSCP's multi-agency performance framework. Building on previous work, the Partnership reviewed and refined its core safeguarding dataset to ensure it better reflects the Partnership's strategic priorities for 2025–2027 and the expectations of Working Together to Safeguard Children. The refreshed dataset places greater emphasis on outcomes for children, early intervention, disproportionality and partnership impact.

16. Ensuring effective multi-agency safeguarding practice

Alongside the performance framework, the PQA Group continued to oversee the Partnership's programme of multi-agency audits, ensuring that performance information is considered alongside learning from quality assurance activity, safeguarding reviews and practitioner feedback to provide a comprehensive understanding of safeguarding practice and children's lived experiences.

Towards the end of the reporting year, a new Chair has been appointed and a refreshed leadership will oversee the next phase of the Group's development, including implementation of the enhanced performance framework, agreement of the future multi-agency audit programme and continued strengthening of the Partnership's evidence-based approach to assurance and continuous improvement.

Focus for 2026/27

The Partnership will continue to strengthen its use of performance information by:

- Embedding the refreshed multi-agency safeguarding performance framework.
- Developing a more outcome-focused performance dashboard aligned to the Partnership's 2025–2027 priorities.
- Strengthening analysis of disproportionality and inequality to better understand the experiences and outcomes of children and young people.
- Agreeing a new programme of thematic multi-agency audits under the leadership of the new PQA Chairs.
- Using data, audits and learning from reviews to provide greater assurance to the NSCP Executive and drive continuous improvement across the partnership.

Multi-Agency Case Auditing

The NSCP's multi-agency audit programme continued to provide robust assurance of safeguarding practice during 2025/26, focusing on priority areas identified through performance information, Rapid Reviews, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and partnership intelligence. The audit methodology continues to receive positive feedback from partners, with each audit resulting in an outcome-focused action plan that is monitored through the Partnership Quality Assurance (PQA) Group and shared with practitioners through the First Friday Safeguarding Forum and other learning events.

Audits completed during 2025/26 included:

- **Section 11 Multi-Agency Audit** – The Partnership completed a refreshed Section 11 audit across partner agencies, providing assurance that organisations continue to meet their statutory safeguarding responsibilities. The audit identified areas of strong practice, opportunities to strengthen governance and workforce development, and informed partnership improvement planning.
- **Targeted Quality Assurance Activity** – Throughout the year, the PQA Group continued to review findings from single-agency audits, Rapid Reviews and safeguarding performance information to ensure learning was embedded across the partnership.

16. Ensuring effective multi-agency safeguarding practice

Thematic Reviews

During 2025/26, the Partnership completed its Youth Safety Tackling Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality (TRID) Review, which became one of the Partnership's most significant pieces of assurance work during the year.

The review examined how race, inequality and systemic factors influence safeguarding practice and outcomes for children and young people in Newham, with a particular focus on youth safety, contextual safeguarding and disproportionality. Through extensive engagement with practitioners, leaders and partners, the review explored professional experiences, decision-making, language, organisational culture and opportunities to strengthen anti-racist practice across the safeguarding system.

The recommendations from the review have informed the Partnership's refreshed priorities for 2025–2027 and will be delivered through a multi-agency action plan overseen by the Youth Safety Strategy Group.

Other PQA Activity

During the year, the PQA Group also:

- Continued to scrutinise learning from Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Reviewed national safeguarding learning to ensure local practice reflected emerging evidence and statutory guidance.
- Continued development of the Partnership's multi-agency performance framework and safeguarding dashboard to strengthen strategic oversight.

Focus for 2026/27

The appointment of new Chairs to the Partnership Quality Assurance Group provides an opportunity to further strengthen the Partnership's quality assurance arrangements.

During 2026/27, the Group will:

- Agree the future programme of multi-agency thematic audits aligned to the Partnership's 2025–2027 priorities.
- Monitor implementation and impact of the TRID Review recommendations through the Youth Safety Strategy Group.
- Continue to monitor implementation of recommendations arising from the Child Sexual Abuse audit.
- Embed the refreshed multi-agency performance framework and safeguarding dashboard.
- Strengthen the evaluation of impact by ensuring learning from audits and reviews leads to measurable improvements in safeguarding practice and outcomes for children and young people.



16. Ensuring effective multi-agency safeguarding practice

Working Together 2026 Implementation

In March 2026, the revised **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026** statutory guidance came into effect, introducing further expectations for safeguarding partners and reinforcing the importance of strong multi-agency leadership, accountability, information sharing and continuous learning.

Recognising the significance of the revised guidance, the NSCP established a multi-agency task and finish group, reporting to the Partnership Quality Assurance (PQA) Group and the NSCP Executive, to oversee implementation across the partnership. During the final weeks of this reporting period, the group undertook an initial review of the new statutory requirements, assessed Newham's existing arrangements against the revised guidance and began developing an implementation plan to ensure compliance.

The Partnership also commenced a review of its governance arrangements, partnership priorities, quality assurance framework and performance reporting to ensure they remain aligned with the expectations set out in Working Together 2026. This work will continue throughout 2026/27 and will support the Partnership in strengthening safeguarding arrangements, improving assurance and enhancing outcomes for children and families.

Focus for 2026/27

During 2026/27, the Partnership will:

- Complete implementation of the requirements set out within Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.
- Review and update the NSCP's published Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements where required.
- Ensure partnership governance, performance reporting and quality assurance arrangements reflect the revised statutory guidance.
- Continue strengthening multi-agency leadership, accountability, information sharing and learning across the safeguarding system.
- Provide assurance to the NSCP Executive that the Partnership is fully compliant with the revised statutory requirements and that implementation is leading to measurable improvements in safeguarding practice and outcomes for children and families.

17. Improving skills and knowledge in the workforce

The Social Care Academy, in conjunction with Newham Safeguarding Children’s Partnership provide a comprehensive training programme in response to the needs of the multi-agency safeguarding partnership. The programme emphasised the importance of collaboration between organisations to safeguard children, young people, and families effectively and was accessible online and in-person. Consultation with staff across the service and partnership, who work directly with children, and their families, as well as with the quality assurance staff and manager, has informed the programme, how it is delivered, and to whom;

this was part of the annual training needs analysis. Surveys for children and families to input their views were introduced this year, though with low uptake. This is an area for development.

From the period 01/09/25 to 17/07/26 the overall attendance rate for training was 62%, which is a decrease from last year which was 70%. The training programme was reduced as planned with less event occurrences and events than last year, streamlining the programme.

See below for a data overview.

Events	Event Occurrences	Places offered	Bookings	Attended	Cancellations	No shows
29	33	1186	519	335	52	198 (included cancellations)

17. Improving skills and knowledge in the workforce

The number of practitioners booking onto training this year was almost the same has dropped, though this is to be expected as there were less events and significantly less occurrences. Attendance last year was 560 across 31 events with 51 event occurrences.

As with the Social Care Academy training, increased promotion and targeted marketing is required on an ongoing basis, to increase attendance, due to the under-utilisation of the offer.

E-learning is not included in the data above and is shown below for the same academic year period.

Bookings	Not started	Cancelled	Started	Passed	Ongoing
253	61	1	61	118	74

Furthermore, Adultification and Reflective sessions were facilitated by Listen Up who managed the bookings and attendees, as these were sessions were available for multiple boroughs.

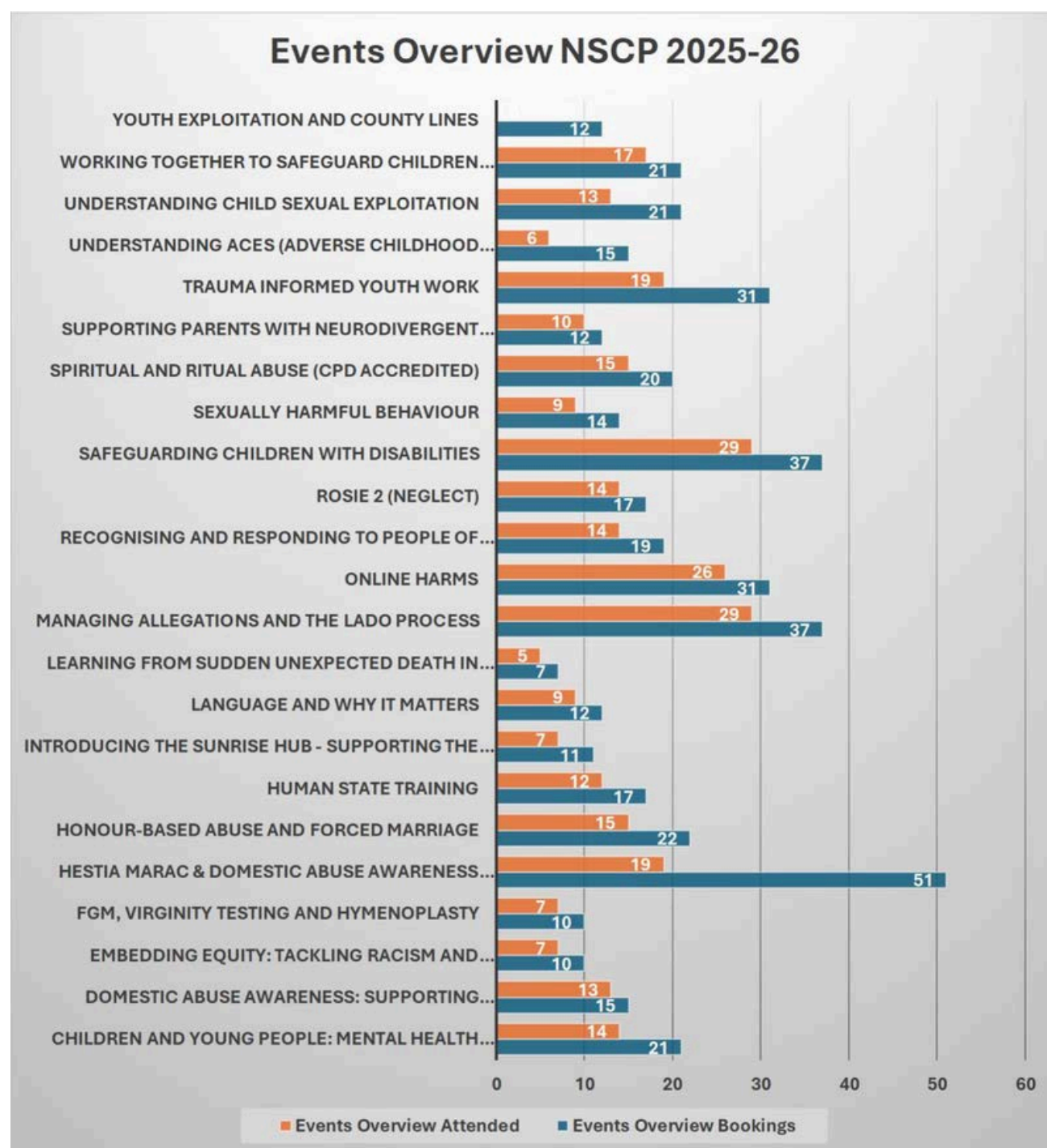
Session	Date	Attendees
Awareness Session	17 November 2025	25
Awareness Session	20 November 2025	25
Reflective Learning Session (1 of 3)	23 January 2026	12
Reflective Learning Session (2 of 3)	23 February 2026	8
Reflective Learning Session (3 of 3)	23 March 2026	30

17. Improving skills and knowledge in the workforce

The chart below is an events overview showing the course titles for the partnership training and the booking information, linking to the data overview table above.

Events Overview data

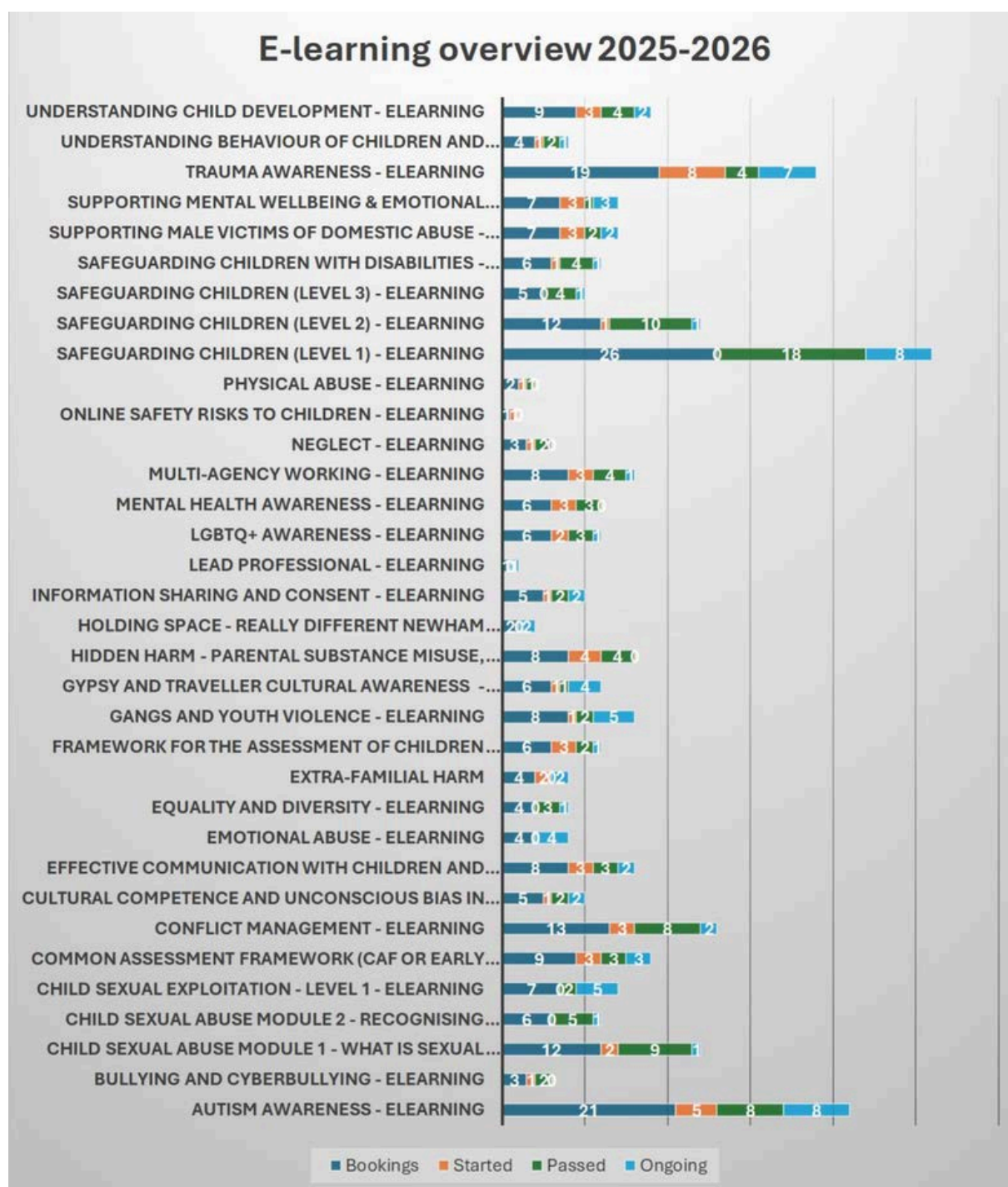
Events Overview data



17. Improving skills and knowledge in the workforce

E-learning

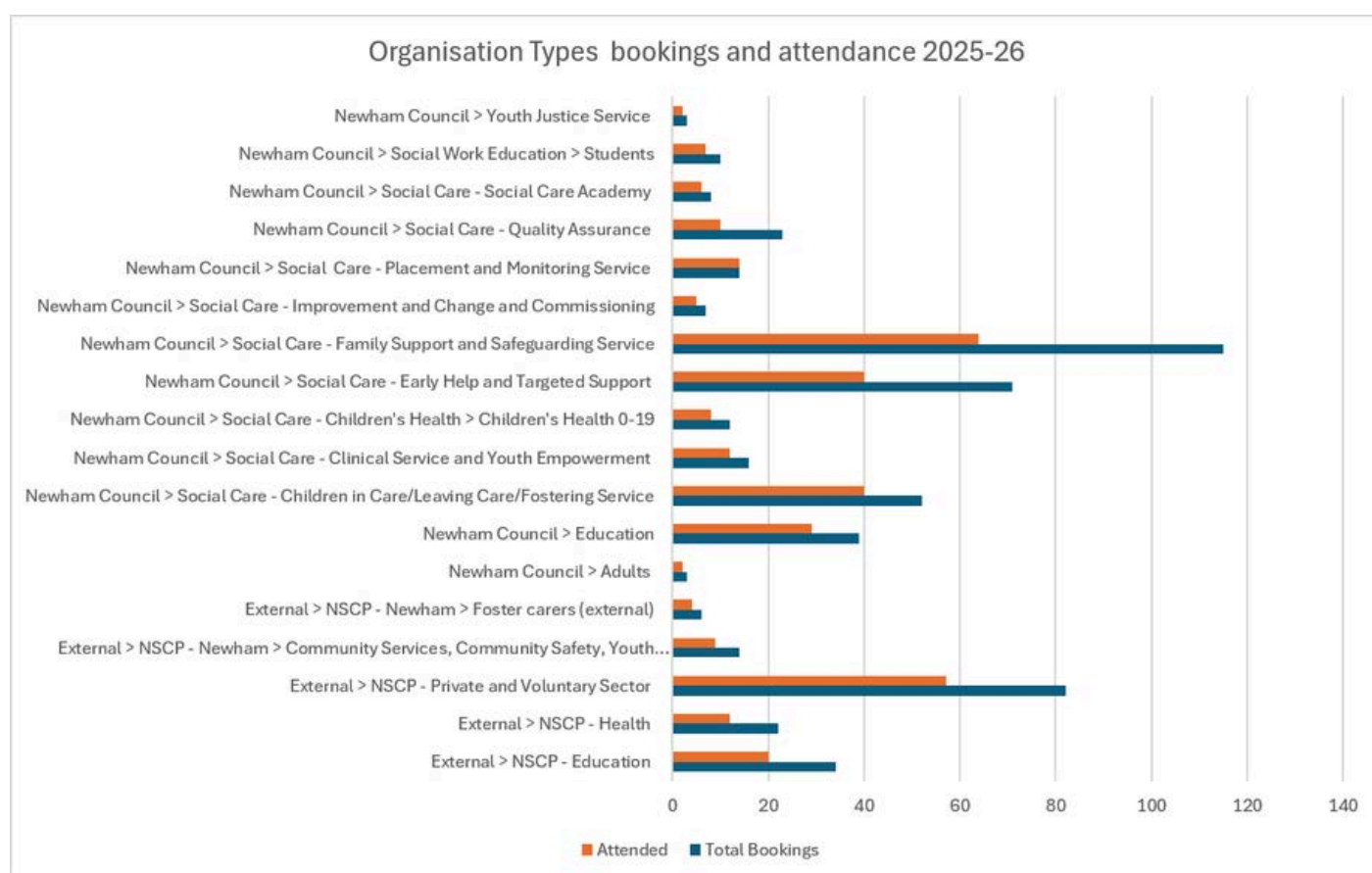
All courses below were commissioned via Melearning, an external provider, except the following, which were commissioned individually: Extra Familial Harm, the Unconscious Bias webinar, and Holding Space podcast.



17. Improving skills and knowledge in the workforce

Organisation types – booking and attendance

The chart below shows a breakdown of the booking attendance via organisation type. As with previous years, attendance is highest from staff in Children and Young Peoples Services, LBN, the private and voluntary sector, in Education, and health, though these are . There was no attendance from the PRU's, police, ambulance service, fire brigade, probation, GP's, dentists, or CAMHS so these are services that can be targeted.



17. Improving skills and knowledge in the workforce

NSCP subgroup for Learning and Workforce Development

The NSCP subgroup for Learning and Workforce Development was established in late 2022 and has continued to grow. The group has been able to commit more time to ensuring that the training is a key focus. Data has been shared regarding uptake and cancellations, and impact is focused upon.

During the current academic year, the time and day of the meetings was changed, to enable consistent attendance. Attendance has improved since this was changed and partner presence is increasing.

Key activities

- A training needs analysis, including a survey, was undertaken between February and May 2026 with good engagement from across the partnership.
- Quality assurance of the training programme
- Launch of the Newham Child Neglect Toolkit (June 2026, following a pilot period). A listening event had an attendance of 29.

Feedback and Impact

- ☒ Positive feedback on the training programme including the content and activities in sessions.
- ☒ The global learning gain figure is extremely positive at 20.8% for all courses on the LMS, for the 25-26 period, for completed post course evaluations (compared to pre).
- ☒ Collaboration with the VCFS sector has improved, including a presentation at the Newham Youth Partnership, regarding the training programme.

17. Improving skills and knowledge in the workforce

'I learnt about how to manage risks and what kind of approach/tools to apply when working with families showing signs/concerns of neglect.'

Participant of Rosie 2 (neglect)

'It improved knowledge and confidence allowing me to fulfil my role as foster carer'.

Participant of Children and Young People: Mental Health Awareness

'The course help me to understand the importance of exercising curiosity and challenging actions rather than people's beliefs'

Participant of Spiritual and Ritual Abuse

'I improved my understanding of domestic abuse indicators, MARAC procedures, and effective multi-agency collaboration'

Participant of Supporting Parents with Neurodivergent children.

'The definitions of terminology was very useful. I like how neurodiversity was discussed from a strengths approach rather than deficits based approach'

Participant of Supporting Parents with Neurodivergent children



17. Improving skills and knowledge in the workforce

‘One of the best trainings I have attended and have recommend it to everyone’.

Participant of Online Harms.

Positives

- The quality assurance of the training programme by the sub-group has progressed positively this year with 6 sessions having been evaluate, between November and June.
- The feedback was positive overall, including regarding trainer approaches and exercises used.
- The feedback will directly influence commissioning for 26-27.

Areas for development

- Technical/IT, lack of clarity for a break our room task, handouts being circulated prior to a session, and considering a title change for a session.
- To ensure the feedback loop is useful, the NSCP BSO will send anonymised evaluations to trainers consistently. So far, this has happened where trainers have requested them, but not for all courses. This will be important for all trainers, and particularly where they will be running courses again for the NSCP.

Ongoing priorities for 2026-27

- The 26-27 programme will be streamlined, the number of sessions reduced further to improve bookings and attendance.
- The e-learning suite will be further promoted, along with bite sized materials and 7 minute briefings.

- An updated mailing list for the NSCP namely, to include a subscribe and unsubscribe button. This is outstanding due to turnover of staff though the project is now with a Business Relationship Manager in Digital, Data and Technology, who is supporting with finding a solution.
- More webinars
- Increasing the number of staff registered on the LMS, and increasing third sector and faith sector bookings.

Summary

Training information and relevant data is shared with safeguarding partners throughout the year, to review their uptake of the training offered and identify any steps they will be taking to increase this; this includes via the bi-monthly NSCP learning and workforce development sub-group, the bi-monthly Friday Forum, NSCP meetings, and the NSCP annual report.

Significant progress has been made against the solutions proposed last year, to improve the uptake of the training offer: the number of training topics and sessions has been reduced, an e-learning suite was commissioned, a webinar was commissioned, Friday Forum was re-promoted and a variety of internal and external speakers have presented, training promotion has been consistent, and a message about the benefits of training was sent out via the DCS newsletter; key training is also listed on the PSW newsletter.

18. Our Plans for 2026/27

The coming year will focus on consolidating progress, embedding learning from 2025/26, and responding to both local and national priorities. We will continue to strengthen partnership working and ensure that our approach remains dynamic, evidence-informed, and responsive to emerging safeguarding needs.

Cross-Cutting Themes

These will be embedded into all strategic plans, partnership groups, audits, reviews, and service delivery models:

- **Early Intervention and Prevention** – Strengthening multi-agency coordination to identify emerging needs and provide timely support to prevent escalation.
- **Tackling Racism, Inequality, and Disproportionality** – Embedding anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice to challenge structural inequalities and improve outcomes for all children and families.

Thematic Priorities

- **Successful Implementation of the Youth Safety Strategy** – Including a stronger focus on the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.
- **Best Start in Life for Every Child** – Targeting neglect, promoting safe sleeping, and preventing unintentional injuries through a preventative, multi-agency approach.
- **Improving the Response to Domestic Abuse** – Embedding the shared practice framework and fully implementing the Circles of Support model to create a culture of relational safeguarding and shared ownership across agencies.

18. Our Plans for 2026/27

Key Actions for 2025/26

1. Implementation of Working Together 2026

Complete the implementation of the revised Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 guidance, ensuring that governance, multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, quality assurance, performance reporting and partnership practice fully reflect the new statutory requirements.

2. Delivering the Partnership Priorities 2025–2027

Drive delivery of the Partnership's refreshed strategic priorities, ensuring a coordinated multi-agency approach to:

- Best Start in Life for Every Child.
- Successful implementation of the Youth Safety Strategy.
- Strengthening the partnership response to domestic abuse through a shared practice framework.

3. Embedding the Youth Safety Strategy

Implement the refreshed Youth Safety Strategy and associated action plan, with a continued focus on preventing violence, exploitation and contextual safeguarding risks, whilst monitoring the impact of interventions on outcomes for children and young people.

4. Delivering the Tackling Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality (TRID) Action Plan

Implement and monitor the recommendations arising from the TRID Review, embedding anti-racist and culturally responsive safeguarding practice across the partnership and strengthening the Partnership's understanding of disproportionality through data, learning and quality assurance.

5. Strengthening the Partnership Response to Neglect

Embed the Newham Neglect Identification Tool across partner agencies, ensuring practitioners are confident in identifying, assessing and responding to neglect consistently, supported by ongoing training, implementation support and quality assurance.

6. Strengthening Performance, Quality Assurance and Learning

Embed the refreshed multi-agency safeguarding performance framework and dashboard, agree a new programme of thematic audits through the Partnership Quality Assurance Group and continue to use learning from reviews, audits and practitioner feedback to drive measurable improvements in safeguarding practice.

7. Measuring Partnership Impact

Continue to strengthen the Partnership's approach to evaluating impact by demonstrating how learning from reviews, audits, training and strategic initiatives leads to improved practice, stronger multi-agency working and better outcomes for children, young people and families across Newham.

