



Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board

**Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board  
Annual Report  
2018-19**

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## 1) Foreword from the Chair

This annual report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and is the third annual report to cover the period since my appointment as independent chair to the safeguarding board in October 2016. The annual report is the opportunity for agencies working to safeguard children to report and reflect on what has been achieved in the previous twelve months as well as on the challenges faced in ensuring safeguarding processes in Hounslow are as robust as they can be. The annual report should be read in conjunction with the board's Business Plan, which updates the board's objectives for the next 3 years.

A key function of the safeguarding children board is to provide challenge to ensure that individual agencies hold themselves to account for their performance as well as taking collective responsibility for the performance of the safeguarding system as a whole. A number of live issues were challenged and scrutinised during the year including staffing levels in children's social care, police attendance at case conferences, waiting times for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and female genital mutilation recording and reporting in Health. There was a second audit of neglect cases in December 2018 which identified that the current neglect strategy needed to be more effective. As a result, the board has reinstated neglect as a key priority for the Business Plan 2019-21.

The board has received regular reports on the progress of improvements to the multi- agency safeguarding hub (MASH) resulting from the reports of both the JTAI and the external audit commissioned by the board. The issue of adequate health staff resources in the MASH to enable timely health checks on families still remains a challenge as is managing the high volume of contacts presenting at the 'front door'. Children's social care was subject of an Ofsted inspection in October 2018 with an outcome of Good. The board received the report and its recommendations and will monitor the subsequent action plan.

The multi- agency strategic Early Help Partnership has substantially progressed the move to a new early help offer for Hounslow families. The role of the board continues to be one of assurance. An ongoing challenge is the level of partnership resourcing of the safeguarding board with the council providing the bulk of the funding although other agencies do contribute in kind through the allocation of staff to board sub-groups and other initiatives.

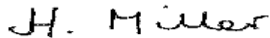
The relationship with schools has been a key board priority and during the year I attended a breakfast briefing for head teachers as well as the first annual safeguarding briefing for head teachers and safeguarding leads. A small group of head teachers worked with the board to reshape the safeguarding audit tool to be more proportionate and user friendly while still complying with legislation and statutory guidance.

In order to provide the necessary levels of assurance for the safeguarding of children in Hounslow and to help inform priorities for the board work plan, a third challenge event was held in March 2019 where agencies presented their key good practice developments and identified their key challenges. Individual agency contributions were subjected to scrutiny by fellow board members. These findings were fed into a development and business planning session held in May 2018 where board members collectively assessed board performance over the previous twelve months and set objectives for the next three years.

The board continues to have committed membership from partner agencies on its various sub-groups. These sub-groups are the heart or engine room of the board and ensure the successful implementation of the board's policies and assurance role. Both the children and the adult safeguarding boards have identified "Think Family" or ensuring a joined up interface between adult and children safeguarding as a priority for their business plans. A key development is the decision to have a joint Training Sub-Group across the adult and children safeguarding boards. The first meeting was held in December 2018. The terms of reference are clear as to its focus on the core safeguarding training needs for both the adult and children workforces, but the group is additionally charged with identifying appropriate training to ensure practitioners are better equipped to take a holistic approach in working with families.

The safeguarding children board does not operate in isolation from other partnership structures within Hounslow as its agenda in safeguarding children has key overlaps with the safeguarding adults board, the community safety partnership and the health and wellbeing board. It is essential that strategy, policy and protocols as well as operational service delivery are all “joined up” to ensure that vulnerable children and adults do not fall through any gap in provision. In order to facilitate this joined up agenda, the chairs and/or key strategic officers of these key partnership boards have met during the year to ensure coordination of effort and avoidance of duplication. The community safety partnership leads on domestic violence, harmful practices e g female genital mutilation and modern slavery. It has been agreed that a report on each of these areas will be presented to both the safeguarding adults and safeguarding children boards each year. This annual report will be presented for information to meetings of both the health and wellbeing board and the children’s scrutiny panel.

Hannah Miller OBE,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Independent Chair Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board

## **2) Introduction**

This report is the third annual review of the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements and the Hounslow Local Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) under the current Independent Chair. The report sets out the progress made by the HSCB and covers the period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to March 2019.

Keeping children safe is a shared partnership responsibility with each agency fulfilling their role to promote the welfare and safeguarding of children in Hounslow. Effective partnership working requires each agency to commit resources to deliver strategic and operational priorities under Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance, pan London child safeguarding procedures and local protocols and guidance.

This report outlines the progress the HSCB has made in relation to its 2018-21 Business Plan which focussed on:

1. Transitions into Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements
2. Thresholds
3. Early Help
4. MASH
5. Relationships with Education Providers
6. Safeguarding Children with Disabilities and Adolescent Mental Health
7. Think Family

The evidence has been collected from the work of the Board, its sub-groups, individual agency reports, training evaluation and its core business function. There is also learning from the multi-agency case reviews and audits, single agency audits, as well as assurance and monitoring activities.

## **3) Hounslow's Context**

### **Population**

Hounslow is the 9th largest London Borough (out of 33) in terms of geographical area and current estimates show Hounslow to be 19th largest by population (274552). The total population of Hounslow is projected to grow by approximately 2,000 per year until 2022 and then continue to rise but at a slower pace – at approximately 1000 per year onwards until 2041; the population aged 0-18 is expected to grow by approximately 600-700 per year until 2021. The population of 0-18-year olds is expected to decline onwards.

The ONS population projection for Hounslow for 2019 showed that the population age 0 to 18 years is approximately 68,220 and makes up 24.8% of the total population. This proportion is similar to the London average (23.8%).

Revised projections show that in 2019, the size of the 0-4 years age group is expected to be 20,168 (7.3% of the population), in 2021 is expected to be 19,585 (7.0% of the population) and in 2026 is expected to be 18,542 (6.5% of the population). Overcrowding, where the household has one fewer room than required, was the same in Hounslow in 2011 (22%) as in London. The wards with the most overcrowding were in Hounslow Central (36%) and Hounslow Heath (34%) and the least overcrowding in Hounslow South (13%) and Chiswick Riverside (13%).

Of the 95,000 households in Hounslow, 5.5% had dependent children living in the household, but no adults in current employment. This is 16% of the 32,800 households in Hounslow where there were dependent children.

## **4) Governance & Accountability**

### **Scrutiny of HSCB Annual Report 2017 -18**

The annual report for the 2017-18 year was written to comprehensively reflect the work undertaken for the year and approved by the Board in September 2018. It was disseminated to all Board partners and published on the Boards website. For the third year in a row the Chair of the Board took the Annual Report through a further governance and scrutiny process, by presenting the report to the Health and Wellbeing Board and to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel in 2018.

### **Governance of Partners Reporting to the Board**

Within the last year, annual reporting cycles for partner agencies have become a part of the Boards forward planning agenda and are regularly included in the meetings for information and challenge. Annual Reports, which have been considered during the year, include:

- Children Missing Education Annual Report 2017/18
- Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing Children Annual Report 2017/18
- Child Protection Annual Report Executive Summary 2017/18
- Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2017/18
- LADO Annual Report 2017/18
- CCG Annual Report 2017/18

## **5) Challenge, Assurance, & Scrutiny**

The work to improve the Boards challenge and scrutiny function of partners has continued to develop over the last financial year; momentum and expectation set by the Chair has been further embedded.

### **HSCB Development Day 2018**

The HSCB held its second Development Day for all of its Board and Sub-Group members on 15th May 2018. The session included a series of group work exercises focussing on the transition of the HSCB to a Safeguarding Partnership, learning from the Serious Case Review for Sasha, the 'Think Family' agenda and the function of the Disability Team 0-25 under the priority of Children with Disabilities.

The outcome of the day was to establish a clearer line of sight between, the HSCB and individual organisations strategic direction and the frontline operational function of services, identifying how to mitigate the challenges of increasing organisational pressure, how to better engage with other providers of child facing services and improve incorporating the voice of the child and the family to shape services. The learning identified was used to review and further develop the 2018-21 Business Plan.

### **Challenge Day 2019**

In March 2019 the HSCB held its third Challenge Day, where it reviewed the progress made against the areas of challenge and improvement identified by partners last year and requested each partner to identify three new areas of challenge and good practice.

Significant steps had been made by all agencies in the last year to progress the areas of challenge identified in 2018 which was positive given the increasing pressure and under resourcing all services are facing. It was evident that despite challenges, there are strong safeguarding practices in place and the multi-agency system continues to improve, and the commitment by partners to ensure children in Hounslow are safe is paramount.

Emerging thematic areas of challenge were identified by all agencies individually prior to the challenge session and triangulated through collective discussion. They were taken forward and

considered as part of the Development Day which led to a full revision of the Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) Business Plan 2019-21 to include:

- Definition of adolescent mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Safeguarding adolescents and contextual risk factors
- Think Family and transitions for vulnerable young people

In the year ahead the HSCP along with its other strategic Boards will continue to explore how to address the Think Family agenda and incorporate the transitions between children’s safeguarding and adults’ services considering resource impact and practice definitions.

### Scrutiny and Oversight

The Board has continued to challenge performance and scrutinise improvements across its partners organisations, considering the following areas:

- Staffing pressure in Children’s Social Care
- Engagement of the Community Rehabilitation Company in safeguarding
- School Nursing attendance at Child Protection Conferences
- Police attendance at Child Protection Conferences
- Quality of multi-agency safeguarding meetings
- Waiting list times for CAMHS
- FGM recording and reporting in Health
- Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS) Outcome
- Youth Offending Service Inspection

## 6) Safeguarding in Hounslow

### Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

- There were 18,942 contacts to the front door in 2018/19, of these, 1,425 (7.5%) were considered for MASH checks, which shows an increase of 3.5 percentage points on 2017/18 when it was 4.0%.
- The most common reason for contact being made was Domestic Violence.
- The top three referring agencies continue to be Police, Health and Education providers completing 67.1% of referrals to MASH in 2018/19, which is consistent with previous years.
- Of The 1,425 contacts considered for MASH checks, consent was sought for 1,193 (83.7%) contacts. This was 0.4 percentage points lower, and broadly in line with 2017/18.
- Consent was obtained for 625 (52.4%) contacts considered for MASH checks, which was 13.0 percentage points lower than 2017/18.
- Overall during 2018/19, 68.4% of the MASH checks were completed within 24 hours and 71.3% of the checks were completed within 48 hours.

<b>MASH</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
No. of AMBER and GREEN contacts considered for MASH checks	<b>1425</b>	1,064	1,136
% of contacts considered for MASH checks	<b>7.5%</b>	4.0%	3.7%
% of contacts received from agency - police	<b>35.0%</b>	36.6%	39.4%
% of contacts received from agency - education	<b>14.8%</b>	13.7%	16.9%
% of contacts received form agency - health	<b>17.3%</b>	16.5%	12.6%

% of contacts received from agency - adult social care	<b>8.2%</b>	8.8%	8.5%
% of contacts received from agency - probation	<b>4.0%</b>	3.8%	7.3%
% of contacts received from agency - individual	<b>6.0%</b>	6.5%	5.2%
% of contacts received from other agencies	<b>10.7%</b>	10.4%	6.1%
The most frequent reason for contact - (domestic violence, neglect, parental substance misuse, sexual abuse, arrest of young person)	<b>domestic violence</b>	domestic violence	domestic violence
% of contacts RAG rated RED following MASH checks	<b>33.0%</b>	29.6%	19.6%
% of contacts RAG rated GREEN following MASH checks	<b>50.7%</b>	31.5%	60.2%
% of contacts where consent was sought for the MASH check	<b>83.7%</b>	84.1%	73.3%
% of contacts where consent was not sought for the MASH check	<b>16.3%</b>	15.9%	23.2%
% of contacts where consent was obtained for the MASH check	<b>52.4%</b>	65.4%	72.7%
% of checks for all agencies completed within 24 hours	<b>68.4%</b>	73.6%	n/a
% of checks for all agencies completed within 48 hours	<b>71.3%</b>	81.7%	n/a

## The Front Door

- The percentage of repeat referrals received in 2018/19 was 18.1% and shows a deterioration in performance of 2.8 percentage points on the 2017/18 outturn of 15.3%. The 2018/19 EOY figure was Red against a target of 15%.
- The final percentage of referrals leading to a multi assessment in 2018/19 was 91.2% and shows a deterioration in performance of 5.2 percentage points on the outturn for 2017/18 when it was 96.4%. The 2018/19 EOY figure was Red against a target of 95%.
- The final percentage of assessments completed within 45 working days during 2018/19 was 73.5%. This shows a deterioration in performance of 5.7 percentage points on the 2017/18 outturn of 79.2% The 2018/19 EOY figure was Red against a target of 85%.
- The final percentage of ICPCs held within 15 working days during 2018/19 was 66.7% and shows a deterioration in performance of 17.9 percentage points on the 2017/18 outturn of 84.6%. The EOY figure was Red against a target of 80%.

Front Door	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
No. of contacts completed	<b>18,939</b>	26,759	30,316	28,627	30,352
% of contacts completed that led to a referral	<b>17.2%</b>	9.6%	8.9%	11.4%	11.2%
% repeat referrals started within the last 12 months	<b>18.1%</b>	15.3%	21.4%	17.9%	25.2%
% referrals completed which led to a multi assessment	<b>91.2%</b>	96.4%	94.6%	85.6%	n/a



% of multi assessments completed within 45 working days	<b>73.5%</b>	79.2%	77.9%	76.3%	77.3%
% multi assessments completed with an outcome of NFA	<b>47.8%</b>	44.4%	44.6%	53.5%	n/a
No of Section 47s started	<b>816</b>	693	581	634	573
No of completed S47s with an outcome of ICPC	<b>303</b>	188	181	176	177
% of completed S47s with an outcome of ICPC	<b>38.7%</b>	30.2%	33.1%	28.0%	33.1%
% ICPC occurred within 15 working days of start of S47 enquiry	<b>66.7%</b>	84.6%	77.7%	71.0%	n/a
% ICPC which result in a CP plan	<b>88.1%</b>	90.0%	87.3%	93.4%	85.7%

## Child Protection

- The final percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection plan for a second or subsequent time during 2018/19 was 14.1% (44 children) and shows an improvement in performance of 1.5 percentage points compared with the outturn for 2017/18 when it was 15.6% (41 children). The 2018/19 EOY figure was Amber against a target of 11%. In terms of activity there were more repeat plans in 2018/19, however, performance has improved because there were more new plans issued in 2018/19.
- The final percentage of Child Protection Plans ending after 2 years or more during 2018/19 was 6.5% (19 children) and shows a deterioration in performance of 1.3 percentage points on the 2017/18 outturn when it was 5.2% (15). The EOY figure was Amber against a target of 4%.
- The final percentage of children with a current CP Plan lasting 2 years or more during 2018/19 was 4.5% (11 children) and shows a deterioration in performance of 2.1 percentage points on the 2017/18 outturn of 6.6% (15 children). The EOY figure was Red against a target of 3%.

Child Protection Plans	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Number of CP Plans for Emotional Abuse	81	78	104	92	50
Number of CP Plans for Physical Abuse	5	7	13	8	30
Number of CP Plans for Neglect	141	133	132	108	105
Number of CP Plans for Sexual Abuse	18	11	10	5	9
Number of CP Plans for children with disabilities	14	21	10	15	9
Percentage of children with a second or subsequent CP plan	14.1%	15.6%	13.4%	18.9%	19.6%
Number CP plans ended after a period of 2 years or more	19	15	6	10	22
Percentage of Child Protection Plans ending after 2 years or more	6.5%	5.2%	2.4%	4.5%	8.4%
Number of children with a current CP Plan lasting 2 years or more	11	15	8	3	4
Percentage of children with a current CP Plan lasting 2 years or more	4.5%	6.6%	3.1%	1.4%	2.1%

#### Comparator Data for Child Protection per 10,000

Child Protection Plans	2018/19	2017/18		
	Hounslow	Hounslow	England	Outer London
<b>Number of:</b>				
Children who became to subject of a CP plan	248	228	53,790	4,710
Ceased to be on a CP Plan	294	290	65,720	6,020
<b>Rate per 10,000 for:</b>				
Children who became to subject of a CP plan	38.8	35.7	45.3	37.3
Ceased to be on a CP Plan	46.0	45.4	55.4	47.6

#### Looked after Children

- There were 278 looked after children as at 31 March 2019 which was 30 children more than 2017/18 when it was 248. Of the 278 LAC as at 31 March 2019, 90 (32.4%) were placed in residential care, this shows a deterioration in performance of 5.8 percentage points on 2017/18 when it was 26.6% (66).
- Of the 278 LAC as at 31 March 2018, 17 children (6.1%) were accommodated under Section 20 aged 0 to 14 years. This was lower by 1.2 percentage points on the 2017/18 outturn of 7.3% (18).

Safeguarding Children Looked After	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
The number of CLA at the year end	278	248	250	280	294
Number of CLA in residential care	91	66	40	46	76

Number of CLA under police protection in LA accommodation	<b>0</b>	0	4	0	3
Number of CLA accommodated under Section 20 under the age of 14	<b>17</b>	18	17	27	19

### Comparator Data for Looked After Children per 10,000 as at the year-end

Year LAC	Number LAC	Rate per 10,000 children		
		Hounslow	England	Outer London
2013/14	317	52	60	48
2014/15	294	48	60	47
2015/16	280	45	60	47
2016/17	250	40	62	45
2017/18	248	39	45	64
2018/19	<b>278</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>

### Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children

**Outcome** *To be informed and seek assurances on partnership arrangements to respond to Missing Children and CSE and be sighted on mechanisms to measure the impact of the effort to reduce the number of children going missing.*

#### Child Sexual Exploitation

The Missing and Vulnerable Sub-Group has continued to monitor Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), offering strategic challenge and scrutiny of Hounslow's approach to identifying, addressing and intervening with vulnerable children and adolescents at risk.

The CSE service received positive feedback from Ofsted during the Inspection of Local Authorities Children's Services (ILACS) in October 2018, highlighting that the strategic and operational frameworks that are in place to tackle exploitation are good but with a need to improve recording on individual cases and the minutes of the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE), to support better identification and to improve outcomes, positively this had already been recognised by senior leaders.

#### Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel (MASE)

The Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel reconfigured itself to follow the Victim, Offender, Locations of concern and Themes (VOLT) model, realigning its agenda from discussing individual cases to cohorts of associated young people enhancing the risk analysis and safeguarding response. To support the reconfiguration, the panel was split into two meetings, both meeting once a month. The operational panel focuses on case discussion and the strategic panel considers thematic intelligence to identify and tackle, perpetrators and locations of concerns.

**Table 1: Numbers of cases open to MASE by month**

	April 18	May 18	June 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19
<b>Open cases</b>	12	13	13	15	20	21	19	18	19	19	17	17
<b>Cases Reviewed</b>	6	5	4	8	8	9	10	12	9	10	14	8

*Not all open cases are reviewed every month. This is to allow time to review cases over a certain period and ensure case sustainability before decision is made to remove them.*

**Table 2: Numbers of Referrals to MASE by month**

Month	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Referrals	5	2	3	2	7	3	2	1	2	4	5	2	38
Cases accepted	2	2	3	2	6	2	2	1	1	3	3	1	28
Cases removed	3	1	3	0	1	1	3	2	0	3	5	1	23

**Table 3: Numbers and nature of cases reviewed each month**

	April 18	May 18	June 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Total
<b>Cases Reviewed</b>	6	5	4	8	8	9	10	12	9	10	14	8	103
<b>CIN</b>	2	0	3	2	6	3	1	1	1	3	2	2	26
<b>CP</b>	1	1	1	1	0	2	5	5	4	4	3	3	30
<b>LAC</b>	3	4	0	5	2	4	4	6	4	3	9	3	47

Over the last year there has been a decrease in referrals, evidencing that there has been an improvement in professionals understanding of CSE, with more agencies seeing it as part of their ‘core business’ and only referring appropriate cases.

The profile of the cohort has continued to be in line with the national picture of 13-15-year olds, but analysis had identified that there is a disproportionate number of victims from Polish and Eastern European heritage, many of who are first generation immigrants. Raising awareness around CSE and providing signposting support to the local Polish community is an ongoing action that is being delivered by the strategic MASE panel. Table 3 shows that 47 out of 103 (46%) children reviewed by MASE were LAC, 56 children reviewed by MASE were either subject to a Child Protection or a Child in Need plan.

The MASE panel has worked hard to ensure practical and measurable change, supporting the implementation of specialist CSE girl groups within schools and the community along with supporting schools to access specialist training and direct work tools.

Thematic analysis of data relating to locations of concern identified at MASE evidenced that, Hotels, parks, semi-independent placements, schools, shopping centres and food halls offering free WIFI are locations most at risk to be utilised to sexually exploit children. To strengthen safety within local parks MASE provided monthly updates to the Safer Neighbourhood teams on locations identified at increased risk of CSE and drug dealing which increased targeted patrols.

## Operation MakeSafe

This year, the Police led 'Operation Make Safe' targeted multiple hotels to provide training and awareness raising. As a direct result Police saw an increase in the number of hotels raising CSE concerns.

## NSPCC PANTS WEEK

Since 2016 the Board has been running the NSPCC Talking Pants campaign. The campaign was rolled out in partnership with the NSPCC to protect children from sexual abuse by encouraging parents, carers and professionals to have conversations with children in an age-appropriate way about how to stay safe from sexual abuse.

With ongoing support from the NSPCC, the HSCB was able to run a further Talking Pants week September 2018.



The week included thirty-one different events, reaching approximately 740 parents in schools and children's centres with a life sized Pantosaurus. Parents feedback that:

We are worried about sexual abuse but unconfident about how and at what age to talk to our children.

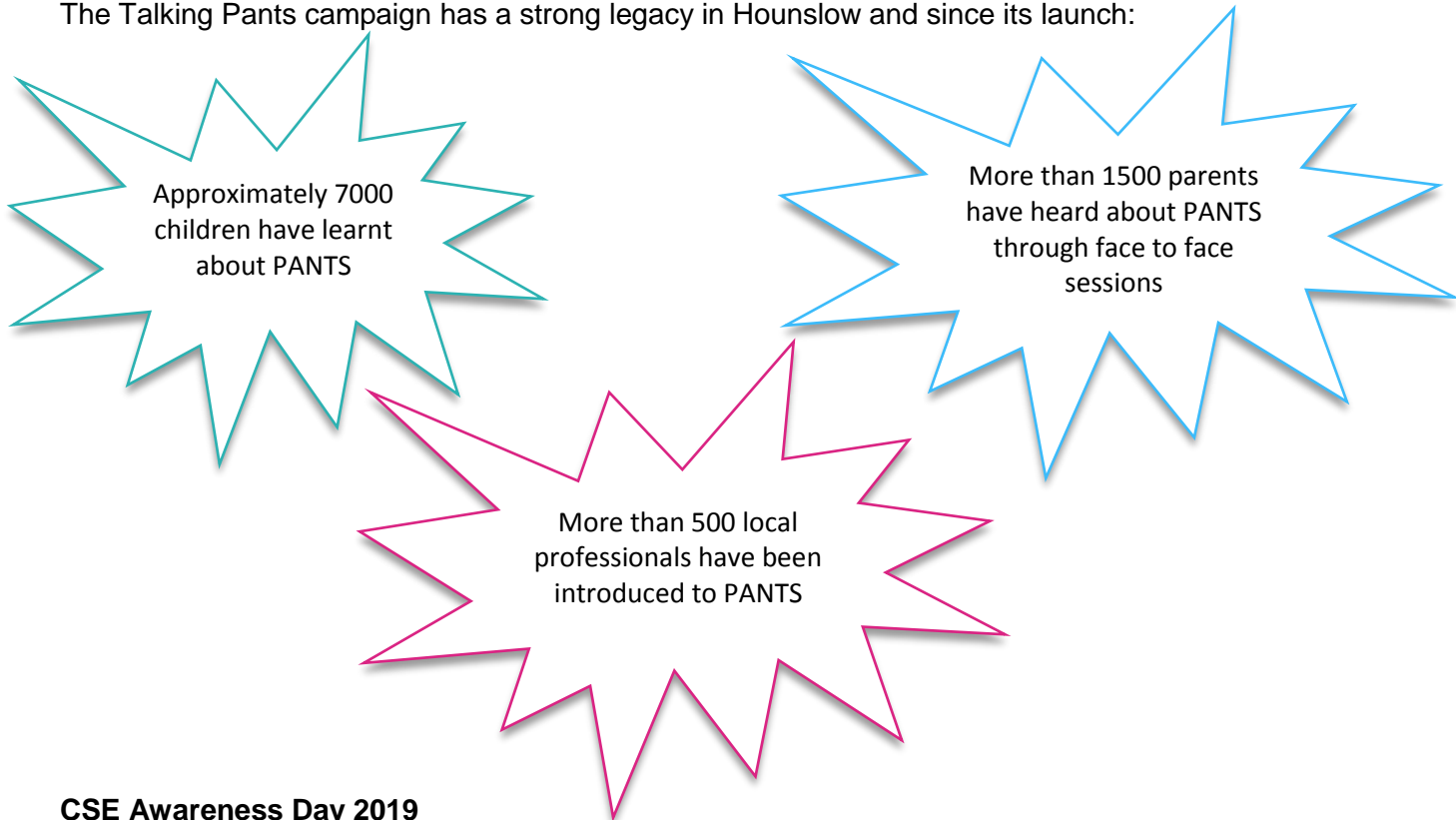
All of this helped us to reach parents and children in Hounslow with information to help to keep more children safe and prevent sexual abuse.

The PANTS materials are useful and reassuring and with professional encouragement we have increased confidence to have this talk with our children when they are younger rather than putting it off to an older age.

As part of the week and to support children with additional needs the Board funded theatre performances of 'Love Life' at three special schools. The performance adapted the Talking Pants rules for groups of children who have autism, emotional and or a learning difficulty or disability. Approximately fifty children attended the performances who were highly engaged and entertained by the actors. They then worked in small groups helping them to understand having uncomfortable feelings and which secrets to keep and secrets to tell.

The actors worked with staff from the schools and Hounslow's respite unit to equip staff with the tools and knowledge to continue to do deliver the adapted Talking Pants safeguarding principles.

The Talking Pants campaign has a strong legacy in Hounslow and since its launch:



### **CSE Awareness Day 2019**

Supported by the HSCB, partners across all services came together to plan coordinated community engagement activity for the CSE Awareness Day. Activities ran throughout March 2019 and included:

- Met wide and local Police awareness raising exercises
- Local Operation Amethyst targeted hotels of concern, taxi firms and licenced businesses.
- Met wide Operation MakeSafe across a whole week
- The NSPCC and Family Planning Association engaged with young people through workshop activity at the local college.
- PEACE Project delivered a presentation on the project's aims with an overview of CSE and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) at the Social Work Day Conference.
- PEACE delivered a workshop on CSE to the Hounslow Youth Local Network.

## Beyond Child Sexual Exploitation

### PEACE Project

The focus for Hounslow, both operationally and strategically has begun to evolve beyond CSE and missing children to consider areas of risk which require further development such as Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and contextual safeguarding.

The Home Office launched a £13 million 'Trusted Relationships' fund to help Local Authorities work with community organisations to build trusted and protective relationships with children and young people affected by sexual exploitation, gangs, county lines, CCE and trafficking. Following a successful bid, which was fully supported and endorsed by the HSCB, Hounslow received funding of £1.25m (over 4 years) to deliver the PEACE (Protecting, Empowering, Against Child Exploitation) Project.

The project is being delivered in partnership with the Contextual Safeguarding Network, St Giles Trust, The Women and Girls Network, Brentford Community Trust and Creative Futures to help keep children safe in the contexts in which they are exploited, utilising a mixture of assertive outreach work, systemic family therapeutic intervention and contextual safeguarding.

Working with young people aged between 12 and 17 years who are victims of CSE and/or CCE, their family, peers, school and community with realistic and achievable outcomes, the project aims to impact the lives of 27,040 people across four years.

The HSCP will work strategically with the project's leaders to think about and plan how the legacy of the project can be sustained beyond the 4-year funding, to continue to support and positively impact our young people in the future.

## Missing from Home, Care and Education

### Children Missing from Care

The number of children reported missing from care in 2018/19 was 60, this shows an increase of 22 children compared to 2017/18 when it was 38.

Missing Children	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Number of Missing Children	60	38	57	55
Number of Missing Episodes	256	293	313	347
Number of children missing and subject to CSE	3	5	7	13
% of children missing who were subject to CSE	5.0%	13.2%	12.3%	23.6%

### Children Missing from Home

The number of children reported missing from home in 2018/19 was 155 and shows a decrease of 26 children compared to 2017/18 when it was 181.

Missing Children	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Number of Missing Children	155	181	190	115
Number of Missing Episodes	297	261	294	156
Number of children missing and subject to CSE at end	10	10	8	6

% of children missing who were subject to CSE at end	<b>6.5%</b>	5.5%	4.2%	5.2%
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The Missing and Vulnerable Sub-Group has continued to improve its oversight on partnership working to reduce the number of children missing from home and care who are at risk of harm by being missing and there has been a positive reduction in the number and frequency of those children. Further work is needed to refine and embed the processes linked to return interviews outlined in the missing from care and home workflows.

Analysis of children missing education evidenced that there had been an increase in the number of children who had left the UK to return to their home countries without notifying the school and an increase in the number of new arrivals to the UK from outside the EU. To locate and identify the whereabouts of children the Children Missing from Education (CME) Officer has continued to work closely with Education Welfare Service and schools.

As reported last year, there has continued to be a rise in Hounslow of the number of CME children who are arriving in the UK with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and who do not have Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a Statement of Educational Needs (SEN). A panel was piloted to monitor the increase in cases where SEND was a factor and a total of thirty-four children were discussed between January and July 2018. As a result of the pilot seventeen children were placed in a provision and five placements were identified to start in September 2018.

Challenges continued in relation to schools actively sharing information with the Local Authority and utilising the system that supports the process of starters and leavers.

## **Neglect**

### ***Outcome Monitor the early identification and response to Neglect across the partnership in Hounslow***

Over the last 4 years' neglect has consistently accounted for approximately 50% of children made subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP). Roughly half of the repeat CPPs in the same period have been reported under the category of neglect.

The Board recognised that a proactive, co-ordinated, multi-agency approach would be the most effective way to try and achieve better outcomes for children impacted by neglect.

In 2016 the Quality of Care Assessment (QoC) was updated and re-launched, with the HSCB launching its multi-agency strategy the following year in May 2017. Later the same year, the HSCB's first neglect themed multi-agency audit was undertaken. The outcome of the first audit identified a set of recommendations which included wider and more consistent use of the QoC in all neglect cases.

To test how the recommendations from the previous audit had been embedded, the effectiveness of the strategic work carried out, identify areas of good practice and areas for development, a second audit was commissioned and undertaken by an Independent Consultant in December 2018. The specific aim was to determine from a multi-agency perspective, how effective agencies had become at identifying and dealing with families where neglect is the primary issue.

### **What was good**

- ✓ There was evidence of good, collaborative work between the partners agencies.
- ✓ The child's needs were identified and there was focused work to try and improve outcomes for children, in particular evidence of solid relationships between workers and children.
- ✓ All of the cases audited were placed in the correct statutory framework with some evidence of multi-agency collaboration driving the plan forward with tangible progress and improved outcomes.

### **What needs to improve**

- There continued to be disappointing use of the QoC assessment, but, there was evidence of the effective use of the QoC assessment in supervision by partner agencies.



- Gaps were identified in the multi-agency network, including the lack of input from adults' services, was often hampering an effective response.
- The systems around Child in Need and Early Help processes needed to ensure that they mirrored a similar pattern to the response in the Child Protection system.
- The importance of feedback from service users and the voice of families in shaping and influencing service delivery has at times been overlooked.

As a result of the findings ten recommendations were made to the HSCB demonstrating that the current Neglect Strategy 2017-19 had been not been effective in improving the borough's response to children living with neglect. It was recommended to the Board that neglect should be reinstated as a themed priority and included in the HSCP's Business Plan for 2019-21.

## **7) HSCB Targeted Priorities 2018-21**

In March 2018 the Board set its priorities for 2018-21. Below, the report outlines the progress made under each of its priority areas and its core business function throughout the last year, what still needs to be achieved in the coming year, and how practitioners' views and the voice of the community and young people has been sought.

### **Priority 1 - Transitions into Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements**

**Outcome** *To improve the effectiveness of the HSCB within the new arrangements and ensure there are well coordinated responses to regional, national, and local policy developments.*

To comply with the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Hounslow's Safeguarding Partners were required to review their existing arrangements to ensure that they were working in the most effective way to safeguard children. The three safeguarding partners with the inclusion of schools and education settings as its fourth partner, worked together over the last year, agreeing that a minimal change model would be adopted, which was broadly in line with other London Boroughs to provide consistency in practice, while ensuring the structure had flexibility to retain the current strengths of the HSCB, but take advantage of the freedoms offered by the new arrangements to address and reorganise areas of improvement in a way that is most appropriate for Hounslow. **(See appendix B)**

#### **Achievements in 2018/19**

- ✓ Amalgamation of the Missing and Vulnerable and the Quality Assurance and Performance Sub-Groups to form a Safeguarding Effectiveness Sub-Group which will act as the "engine room" of the partnership. It will consider all forms of intelligence and assurance to respond to the partnership's strategic direction, deliver its business plans and better align and coordinate workstreams.
- ✓ One vision, two values and six principles were adopted to frame the work of the partnership, setting the basis for how all child facing services deliver their work to better evidence outcomes and impact for children.


#### **Activity for 2019/20**

- The partnership published its arrangements on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and will work towards progressing full implementation of its structure by 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and will operate as Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP)

### **Priority 2 - Thresholds**

**Outcome** *To monitor the effective use of thresholds in Hounslow by all partners and ensure that the document is embedded and understood.*

Close monitoring of the application of thresholds and how they are informing decision making in Hounslow has continued. To support agencies to identify need appropriately, the Board embarked on a programme of communication and awareness raising with partners to ensure the Threshold Guidance and Assessment Protocol is well established in organisational policy. In October 2019, during the ILACS Ofsted confirmed that:



“Senior Leaders and HSCB have worked successfully together to improve understanding of thresholds”.

As identified in last year’s annual report and confirmed via ongoing quality assurance and monitoring activity in the MASH, one of the key areas of ongoing improvement is the quality of Child and Family Assessment Notifications (CFAN).

### **Achievements in 2018/19**

- ✓ The Threshold Guidance and Assessment Protocol and CFAN are published on the HSCB website and easily accessible to all professionals.
- ✓ A number of the HSCB multi-agency courses have been updated to incorporate the protocol and extensive CFAN training programme was rolled out.
- ✓ The ‘Introduction to Safeguarding Children’ course was revised. The new course ‘Introduction Safeguarding Thresholds and CFAN’ will be delivered in 2019-20 by HSCB and Early Help colleagues.
- ✓ The Board worked closely with agencies where it had been identified that improvements were needed in driving up the quality of the information being shared with the MASH, ensuring that properly informed decisions could be made within timescales and risks are being assessed and responded to appropriately.
- ✓ The Board set the minimum expectation that the named and or the designated safeguarding leads across all organisations should have attended the CFAN training to ensure quality improves and is sustained. This will be tested in the Section 11 Audit in 2020.
- ✓ For the first time, the Board included specific questions about CFAN training, monitoring and quality assurance processes in its Annual Safeguarding Audit of Schools, setting the expectation of training levels and systems to ensure good quality referrals are made.
- ✓ The quality of CFAN referrals has been regularly monitored via the MASH Strategic Board to ensure that good practice is shared, and areas of improvement are challenged.

### **Activity for 2019/20**

- The programme of CFAN training will continue to be delivered as part of the HSCB core training offer until the course is amalgamated into the new Early Help course. This course will be rolled out in late 2019 and hosted under the auspices of the HSCB multi-agency training programme.
- The quality of CFANs will continue to be monitored via the MASH Strategic Board and where ongoing concerns are highlighted they will be escalated to HSCP to challenge practice improvement.
- In order to maintain the improvement in the understanding of thresholds across the partnership, the HSCP will test whether improvements have been sustained in the Section 11 Audit in 2020.

## Priority 3 - Early Help

**Outcome** *Oversight and assurance of the effective coordination and delivery of Early Help Services reducing the rate of children in need including those on a Child Protection Plan and Children becoming looked after*

As reported last year, the HSCB undertook to challenge the Local Authority to gather pace in developing an Early Help Strategy for the borough. Subsequently, the Early Help Transformation Programme started in the summer of 2018 to build on the work that was already undertaken to develop a culture that "early help is everyone's business".

Throughout the year substantial progress has been made in understanding the need of a multi-agency response and consideration of how to resource the offer. The strategic approach was agreed, and work was undertaken to look at the systems required to deliver the offer. The aim of the programme was to bring together the wider providers of Early Help into a single strategic partnership to work together with clear roles, responsibilities and pathways to form Hounslow Early Help Partnership.

The HSCB's role has largely remained one of assurance with the delivery led Children's Delivery Group. The Board has received periodic reports to monitor progress of the strategy and fulfilling its membership role on the Early Help Strategic Group.

### Achievements in 2018/19

- ✓ The Board's Chair and Business Manager participated in multi-agency workshops to consider the Early Help Strategy and committed to the HSCB forming part of the governance structure, providing challenge, scrutiny and oversight of the effectiveness and impact of the strategy on the safeguarding system once its launched.
- ✓ The HSCB has been represented at the Early Help Strategic meetings throughout the year.
- ✓ Early planning began to develop the Early Help training course.
- ✓ A dedicated Early Help page was launched on the HSCB's website offering professionals and families information and support about what is available within the Early Help offer in Hounslow.

### Activity for 2019/20

- The HSCP, in collaboration with the Early Help Partnership will launch the Early Help Strategy and Early Help Hub on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019, with guest speaker Professor Mark Bellis, an international expert in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) from Public Health in Wales.
- Led by Early Help Hub practitioners, the Board will finalise the training programme and support its effective delivery under the auspices of the HSCP's core multi-agency safeguarding training offer ensuring maximum engagement from all organisations across Hounslow.
- The Safeguarding Effectiveness Sub-Group will develop its reporting links to receive performance analysis from the Early Help data scorecard to monitor engagement from partners agencies and scrutinise the impact of the strategy.
- The HSCP will support the delivery and implementation of Early Help Strategy and with the Children's Delivery Group will consider how the legacy of the Early Help programme can be sustained beyond its current two-year funding.

## Priority 4 - MASH

**Outcome** *To have effective oversight of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and better oversight of the beginning of the child's journey through services*

The MASH has progressed significantly since its inception and as outlined in last year's annual report, improvements have been made since the multi-agency audit in December 2016, the JTAI in March 2017 and second multi-agency audit at the end of 2017. The service has continued in the same vein over the last year and this has been as a direct result of the strong leadership provided by the MASH Manager, as well as the service raising its expectations of its partners in sharing safeguarding responsibility, which has been supported in the increase of onsite MASH partners.

The impact of Health under resourcing and reduced capacity at the Front Door has continued to impact the timeliness of checks. The Board has challenged Hounslow Richmond Community Health (HRCH) to find a solution via the MASH Strategic Board, however, given the delay in progressing improvements, throughout the next year the HSCP will escalate its challenge of HRCH to quickly find a resolution.

### Achievements in 2018/19

- ✓ The Board has continued its regular monitoring and scrutiny of the MASH performance through reports at each Board meeting allowing members to be properly informed about service developments and performance.
- ✓ The Business Manager on behalf of the HSCB, supported the moderation of an internal audit undertaken by the MASH Manager to monitor the quality of CFAN's.
- ✓ There has been targeted scrutiny and monitoring of the performance of health partners via the HSCB and the CCG, but this has not yet had impact.
- ✓ The physical colocation of partners and reduction of virtual partners in the MASH team has significantly improved since the multi-agency audit in 2017. This will be closely monitored by the HSCP to ensure that the commitment of partners agencies is maintained.

### Activity for 2019/20

- The HSCP by jointly working with the MASH Strategic Board, will as part of its core business function, continue to support the MASH team and partner agencies to maintain the improvements made over the last two years and continue to challenge practice and quality improvements.
- HRCH will provide monitoring and performance reports to each partnership Board meeting and MASH Strategic Board until all actions identified for improvements are accelerated, implemented and sustained.

## Priority 5 - Relationships with Education Providers

**Outcome** *Engagement with education providers in Hounslow is strengthened and meaningful and schools are engaged with the changing face of safeguarding*

As part of its Development Day in 2017, the Board identified a gap in participation from schools and education providers in the strategic safeguarding of children and young people in Hounslow. It recognised that it needed to proactively reach out, communicate and consult with education providers, as strong engagement and good relationships would ensure that the issues that

schools face are understood and that they are supported in responding to the increasing complexities of safeguarding.

Over the last year, the Board has embarked on extensive engagement programme with schools, which included consultations and awareness raising events, involvement in targeted work on priority areas and the revision of the Annual Safeguarding Audit for Schools.

Hounslow named Education as its fourth safeguarding partner in its Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children Arrangements which were published on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

### **Achievements in 2018/19**

- ✓ The Chair and Business Manager attended the Local Authorities Headteacher Breakfast Meeting to give safeguarding messages, share the themed priority areas and give education leaders in Hounslow an opportunity to tell the Board about the safeguarding challenges that they face.
- ✓ The Board facilitated its first annual briefing sessions for headteachers and safeguarding leads, in November. The event was well attended with over thirty-four schools represented. The session covered, the priorities of the Board, the Annual Safeguarding Audit of Schools, safeguarding training, as well as presentations on Private Fostering, the P.E.A.C.E project and contextual safeguarding.
- ✓ Education is the biggest partnership sector in Hounslow, and education providers have continued to be among the heaviest users of training provided by HSCB particularly the online programme offering schools flexibility.
- ✓ The safeguarding audit was revised to better prepare schools to meet their new obligations as the "Fourth Safeguarding Partner" as outlined in the new Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance 2018, along with compliance under Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018, Section 175 /157 of the Education Act 2002 and Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004.
- ✓ 83 audits were sent out to schools and 59 audits were returned compared with 47 in 2017. The audit analysis evidenced that:

#### **Strengths**

- ✓ Overall safeguarding practice is good
- ✓ Child Protection responses are strong
- ✓ Parents and children are involved in shaping school life
- ✓ NSPCC PANTS has a legacy
- ✓ Training and response to CSE and eSafety is strong
- ✓ Commitment to operational multi-agency and collaborative working

#### **Improvements**

- Supervision for safeguarding leads is not common
- Training and understanding of local Thresholds needs to be embedded
- CFAN training and quality assurance of referrals needs to improve
- Awareness, reference and application of the HSCB Escalation Policy needs to be better utilised when there are disagreements in decision making
- Strengthen awareness of the breadth of the work of the HSCB.

### **Activity for 2019/20**

- The HSCP will continue to strengthen its links with schools as its safeguarding partner via established consultation forums, such as the Hounslow Education Partnership and improve communication systems.
- The HSCP will hold its second annual briefing session to headteachers and safeguarding leads in November 2019, sharing key safeguarding issues, and deliver a programme of topical presentations and discussions, which are in line with the strategic direction of the partnership and improvements that have been identified.

- The Annual Safeguarding Audit will be reviewed and refined further in consultation with Headteacher and Safeguarding Leads and cascaded again in 2020.

## **Priority 6 - Children with Disabilities and Adolescent Mental Health**

### ***Outcome HSCB to understand and respond to children with disabilities and adolescent mental health improving outcomes for vulnerable children***


In last year's report, the Board recognised that safeguarding children with specific vulnerabilities had been a themed priority area for some time and whilst some work had been achieved, it had not received the same focus as other priority areas.

Over the last year, the Board has continued to make some progress in understanding the services and responses to this particularly vulnerable group of young people. Assurances continued to be provided from the integrated 0-25 Disabilities Team within Children's Services, that the number of children in need and those children that were on Child Protection Plans are monitored and the team continued to work well to engage with partner agencies. The service has continued to be involved in the thematic quality assurance programme, taking part in the second multi-agency audit of neglect in 2018.

As an outcome of Development Day 2018, the Board agreed that due to the improving integration of the service with partner agencies, it would adjust its focus to look more specifically at adolescent mental health. To understand and respond to its complexities, the priority was redefined and re-prioritised in the HSCP's 2019-21 Business Plan.

### **Achievements in 2018/19**

- ✓ The Board continued to deliver the 'Introduction to Safeguarding Children with Disabilities' course with the aim to expand on hidden disabilities, highlighting the sexual exploitation of children and young people who have learning disabilities and further develop consideration of the ethical dilemmas associated with safeguarding disabled and very ill children.
- ✓ Hounslow was selected by NHS England as a trailblazer for a project to deliver Mental Health in Schools, with designated mental health leads in every school and creating two Mental Health Support Teams.
- ✓ The Board has continued to offer its 'Understanding and Working with Young People who self-harm' and 'Introduction to Suicide Awareness and Prevention' courses, as a result of thematic learning identified by the Cases Sub-Group.
- ✓ Adolescent mental health was identified by Care Leavers as a particular area of vulnerability for them. The HSCB consulted with members of the Leaving Care Council to identify ways in which they could be supported and begun to explore developing a similar course to Mental Health First Aid that could be delivered to young people by young people.
- ✓ Representatives from the Leaving Care Council attended a Board meeting to discuss and challenge members about their concerns of isolation and mental health in adolescence.
- ✓ The Board retained seven of the original twelve of its local instructors qualified to deliver the Mental Health First Aid programme. They remain highly motivated and the Board has successfully negotiated with new employers for them to continue to deliver the training on behalf of Hounslow for the next two years.
- ✓ There continues to be excellent take up of the nationally recognised programme. The course has delivered five sessions this year to a total of fifty-nine professionals including professionals from Feltham YOI. The ongoing level of demand for the course suggest that professionals are increasingly called upon to respond to young people's mental health needs.
- ✓ Feedback from professionals has been very positive, and the level of demand for the course has shown that their understanding and confidence has increased, and the stigma of mental ill health has been challenged. Feedback included:



Sensitive and well delivered

This is a must for every practitioner

Best training, I have done for quite a while

### Activity for 2019/20

- To continue to work hard to gain a stronger understanding of support offered for all young people for whom adolescent mental health is a concern.
- As part of its refreshed priorities for 2019-21, the HSCP will develop a clear programme of work to address adolescent mental health and emotional wellbeing, ensuring that the system is responding effectively.

### Priority 7 - Think Family

**Outcome** HSCB to ensure professionals working with children consider other family members who may need support.

The HSCB with the Hounslow Safeguarding Adults' Board (HSAB) have acknowledged that over the last year it has been slow to make progress in relation to Think Family, and it has been retained within the HSCP 2019-21 Business Plan as a targeted priority.

Hounslow, like many other areas nationally, understands that traditionally services have been organised to view the child and adults needs in the same family separately, outside of when acute issues are identified.

There are no additional resources available to make large scale change, but to make progress, a clear understanding is needed of how all organisations are working together across the children's and adults' workforce. To introduce a change and build on the strengths and systems that are available across Hounslow, the HSCP and HSAB, via its joint Training Sub-Group will start by developing an interactive seminar programme, delivered jointly to multi-agency professionals, across both workforces, with the intention to gather feedback which can inform the strategic direction and shape workstreams that are developed.

### 8) Feltham YOI (FYOI)

The Board has worked hard to sustain its relationships with staff at FYOI, as well as delivering a programme of independent mechanisms for monitoring performance. To bolster strategic oversight locally, and create links nationally with other YOI's via LSCB's, the Independent Chair of the Board took over chairing the dedicated sub-group in December.

Following on from the extensive quality assurance programme undertaken throughout 2017, the Board revisited the use of restricted regime, also known as Good Order or Discipline (GOoD) undertaking a second audit in April 2018. The re-audit found that Rule 49 and the GOoD process was still applied lawfully and in line with legislation and there had been a reduction of the number of young people subject to the regime. Communication with staff about the appropriate use of the process had improved and young people were more aware of the rationale for Governors making the decision to place them on restrictions. During the audit, the Board actively sought the views

of thirteen young people who were selected at random. They all reported that they felt safe with staff at FYOI.

The HSCB ratified and supported the embedding of the LADO Protocol and led in sharing good policies and practice examples which have been developed locally at a national workshop to improve links, engagement and consistency with YOI's more broadly. There has been a considerable increase on the burden on the LADO service in Hounslow and given the volume of cases for the South East a proposal for an increase in capacity will be put to ALDCS to explore funding streams from other Local Authorities.

A recommendation from the inspection in January 2018 was that the site should be operating as two separate establishments to ensure the safety of the young people under 18 years residing on Feltham A. Positively, the recommendation was achieved and FYOI began operating as two separate establishments including a separate Care, Separation and Reintegration Unit providing a cool down area as opposed to isolation.

FYOI achieved a full complement of permanent staff last year establishing a consistent workforce to the young people. The HSCB recognised the positive impact that full staffing levels would have on the regime but queried that with the age for first entrant officers was lowered to 21 years old. Given the reduction in age, the workforce would be relatively inexperienced and undertook to regularly challenge the training levels of new staff via the sub-group.

The establishment was re-inspected in January 2019 which saw a decline in safety since the previous inspection in 2018 from level three to level one. A contributory factor to the decline in standards had been the vacancy of a Governing Governor for a period of five months until the current Governor took up the post in December. Whilst the decline in standards was concerning inspectors once again identified the positive and collaborative relationship between the Local Authority, the HSCB and FYOI.

## **9) Learning, Improvement and Workforce Development**

### **Training Evaluation**

As planned, in December the HSCB and HSAB Training Sub-Group merged to reflect the increasing collaboration of the two safeguarding Boards and support joint priority areas such as Think Family.

The HSCB Training offer for 2018-19 continued to support the overall learning and improvement aims of the HSCB and its partners organisations through the provision of multi-agency and single agency training, seminars and the e-learning offer and was more closely aligned to the themed priority areas.

Attendees who participated in face to face sessions continued to be largely from Children's Social Care, Health, Schools, Early Intervention and Early Years. Evaluation of the online courses which were completed by users were found to be satisfactory or very satisfactory in meeting their needs.

**(See Appendix D & E)**

### **Familial Sexual Abuse Training**

As outlined last year, a needs assessment was completed to explore professional's confidence in addressing familial sexual abuse. The evaluation of the assessment identified that one of the biggest gaps for professionals was the absence of adequate training to offer them the confidence to address sexual abuse.

The Board has commissioned The Lucy Faithfull Foundation to deliver the course 'Child sexual abuse in the family environment. An introductory course'. The course has been designed to respond to areas that professionals identified as challenging:

- Types of adult intra-familial sex offenders.
- Different patterns of offending, including online.



- A model to understand sexually abusive behaviour, prevalence and likelihood of disclosure.
- The impact of offender attitudes beliefs behaviour, on the children and young people they abuse; and impact on the protective parent, other family members and their consequent likely reactions/responses to professionals.
- Helpful and effective ways to engage children and young people to speak about possible abuse or harmful sexual behaviour

## **Learning from Case Reviews**

In October the HSCB, HSAB and Community Safety Partnership Board held a joint seminar relating to two Serious Case Reviews (SCR) and a Serious Adult Review (SAR) following the murder of Angela Wrightson, a vulnerable adult by two teenage girls known to services in Hartlepool. The seminar engaged of 70 professionals across the Hounslow workforce. The review was considered in the Cases Sub-Group, generating a discussion about practice, complex case management and strategic organisational management and provided useful learning for Hounslow to consider its own structures and approach.

## **Serious Case Reviews**

### **Sasha**

In 2017, the Board commissioned a SCR into the suicide of a young person. The SCR identified five recommendations which were accepted by the HSCB. A detailed action plan was developed by the Cases Sub-Group and agreed at the HSCB in January 2019. The action plan will be monitored via the Cases Sub-Group with regular progress assurances provided to the Board until its completion.

The recommendations fell into thematic categories which were:

1. Think Family
2. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
3. Extra Familial Risk
4. Placements
5. Adolescent Mental Health and Anti-Social Behaviour

The HSCB and HSAB had already begun work in relation to Recommendation 1 as outlined earlier in this report.

A range of learning activity was developed from the recommendations, particularly in relation to recommendation 2, 3 and 5. A seminar with guest speaker Karen Triesman was planned for May 2019, exploring the impact of trauma and ACEs, with over 120 multi-agency professionals having secured places to attend.

Dr Carlene Firman was scheduled to attend the HSCB's Development Day in May 2019, to support the partnership in understanding contextual safeguarding and extra familial risk factors and develop an agreed position in Hounslow for understanding and assessing risk outside of the home.

The HSCB reviewed its core substance misuse training programme content to include findings from the review in relation to drug use and the impact on adolescent mental health. The course attendance data will be monitored via the Training Sub-Group to ensure a broad range of agencies have up to date training.

Recommendation 4 relates to Children's Social Care processes and detailed actions were contained within a single agency action plan developed in response to the SCR and cross referenced into the department's strategic improvement plan.

Due to the inquest not beginning until May 2019, the report had not been circulated outside of Board members and remained strictly confidential. However, the Board initiated its learning cycle

in relation to the findings and recommendations from the review, holding two practitioners feedback sessions facilitated by the independent author. Key thematic learning and messages were delivered to the multi-agency sessions, which were well attended and representative of the entire multi-agency network in Hounslow. The presentation from the session was cascaded to all Board members requesting internal and local discussions in their organisations to ensure learning was widely disseminated.

### **Child K**

A SCR was initiated following an incident in which a one-year old baby and his mother were stabbed by his father in June 2018 and the review is ongoing.

The family were known to a range of services across Slough, Hounslow, Newham and then back to Hounslow which is where the incident took place.

The SCR was co commissioned with Newham where the family spent significant amount time with additional input from Slough.

The review has already identified and feedback to agencies early issues of importance which include:

- Levels of understanding amongst universal agencies of the children's circumstances, recognition of needs / risks and referrals.
- Quality of assessments and impact of reported and confirmed domestic abuse and associated referrals, capture of children's wishes and feelings, recognition of possible honour-based violence, relevance of immigration status, significant males, appreciation of personal histories.
- Efficiency and effectiveness of information sharing and transfer in highly mobile families.
- Management and supervision of practitioners in all agencies.
- Estimations of levels of risk of domestic abuse and variations linked to agency remits and assessments.

## **10) Quality Assurance & Performance**

Throughout 2018 quality assurance and performance has continued to remain high on the Boards agenda and been a focus for the Quality Assurance and Performance Sub-Group.

As discussed throughout the report, the HSCB has maintained its audit activity of key issues supporting ongoing auditing in MASH, a second thematic audit of Neglect, re-auditing in FYOI and the Annual Safeguarding Audit of Schools. In addition, it has considered and scrutinised a range of single agency quality assurance and performance activity, such as:

- GP's Section 11 Audit
- Health Visiting Safeguarding Audit
- School Nurse Safeguarding Caseload Audit
- Pre-Birth Assessment Audit
- CAMHS Attendance at Child Protection case Conferences Audit
- Ongoing challenge of the disbandment of the core LSCB MPS dataset.

## **11) Private Fostering**

The number of cases reported remains low, however there has been considerable activity within Children Social Care to ensure that professionals, agencies and the community understand private fostering and know how to report it.

The Board has continued to support the identification of Private Fostering Champions in all agencies including Housing, Police, Health and Education and awareness raising activities by using established forums such as the HSCB Safeguarding Briefing to schools to improve identification and increase in referrals.

## **12) Safeguarding Awareness in the Wider Community, Faith Groups, Voluntary and Community Sector**

Hounslow has an active and diverse voluntary and community sector (VCS) which is made up of more than 90 not for profit organisations. The HSCB has committed to enhancing the relationship between the Board, the VCS and, the Faith and Community Sector to promote safeguarding. The Board benefits from having a representative from the Hounslow Voluntary Sector as a member of the Board and its sub-groups.

During the Safeguarding Week, volunteers from the Board targeted several schools across Hounslow and were able to reach over 600 parents to raise awareness of child safeguarding issues. The CSE and CSA work undertaken outside of statutory services has increased the awareness in the local community and the voluntary and faith sector.

Further work is needed to engage community groups and the Board will seek to work harder to achieve this through the life of its 2019-21 Business Plan.

## **13) Voice of the Child**

In last year's annual report, the Board recognised that it had not consistently sought the voice of the child through its work and in turn had identified it as a key priority area of improvement. As highlighted throughout this report progress has been made throughout 2018 to include the voice of the child in the Boards activities. The voice of young people is particularly evidenced in the ongoing work of CSE, emerging work on CSA, targeted work in neglect, adolescent mental health and directly in the work with FYOI. The Board has improved its link with the Participation Service for Looked After Children, attending Children in Care and Leaving Care Council meetings.

In a step to strengthen the involvement of young people further, incorporating their view as a systematic approach to shaping the Boards work, the voice of children and young people has been included in the core business of the 2-year Business Plan.

## **14) Conclusion**

In the last year the Board has continued to grow in the way partners challenge and hold each other to account and they have consistently demonstrated a genuine willingness to work together and the progress made against themed priorities has been positive. This was acknowledged by Ofsted in 2018.

The HSCB learning and development function has supported the delivery of the targeted priority areas, particularly in relation to CSE and the delivery of the core multi-agency training for HSCB. We have consistently delivered well in relation to this area of work and there is evidence of significant changes to ways of working that have improved outcomes for children and young people with services who are focused on supporting victims as well as acting to find and stop would be perpetrators. The scrutiny of CSE and the MASE will continue to be governed by the Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP). There is evidence that the response to missing children is improving but more work is needed to understand the patterns and learn how to reduce repeat episodes in a child focused way.

The targeted priorities of Early Help and assurances that the MASH 'front door' to services is working effectively have seen positive outcomes. A multi-agency Early Help Strategy is ready to be launched in September 2019 supported by an Early Help Hub and the performance of the MASH is significantly improving. With more work to do in health responses and timeliness, the achievements have been and will continue to be supported by strong partnership engagement. The continued scrutiny of contact and referral trends provided assurance to the HSCB that thresholds are applied appropriately by all agencies which was ratified by Ofsted inspectors in 2018, commenting that partners have an improved understanding of thresholds.

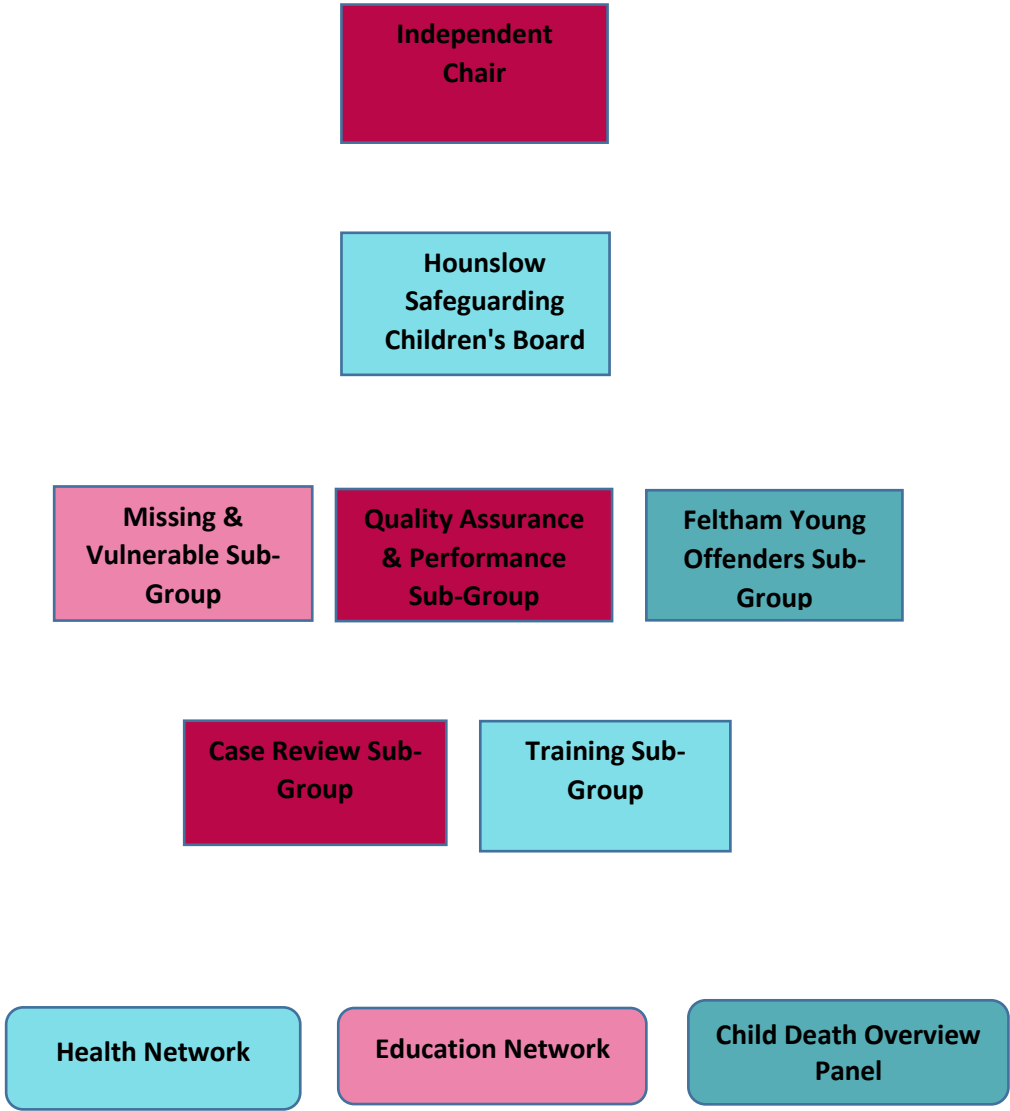
The HSCB has focused on neglect and CSA as part of its core business function and following discussions at the Development Day in May 2019 and the recognition that much more targeted efforts were needed, both areas re-categorised as themed priorities for the next two years.

Improvements have continued in the board's quality assurance activity, helped to understand how effective the safeguarding response is, particular in relation to neglect. Tracking of actions and recommendations has improved however there are further improvements to be made especially in ensuring that all agencies are listening to the voices of children, young people and their families, and are achieving a positive impact on children's lives as a result of their own quality assurance processes. Where possible we have sought assurance that feedback from those who access and deliver safeguarding and child protection services is taken into consideration. For the second year in some areas of work, such as the completion and analysis of the dataset is still not yet fully embedded and will continue to be an ongoing core task for the HSCP.

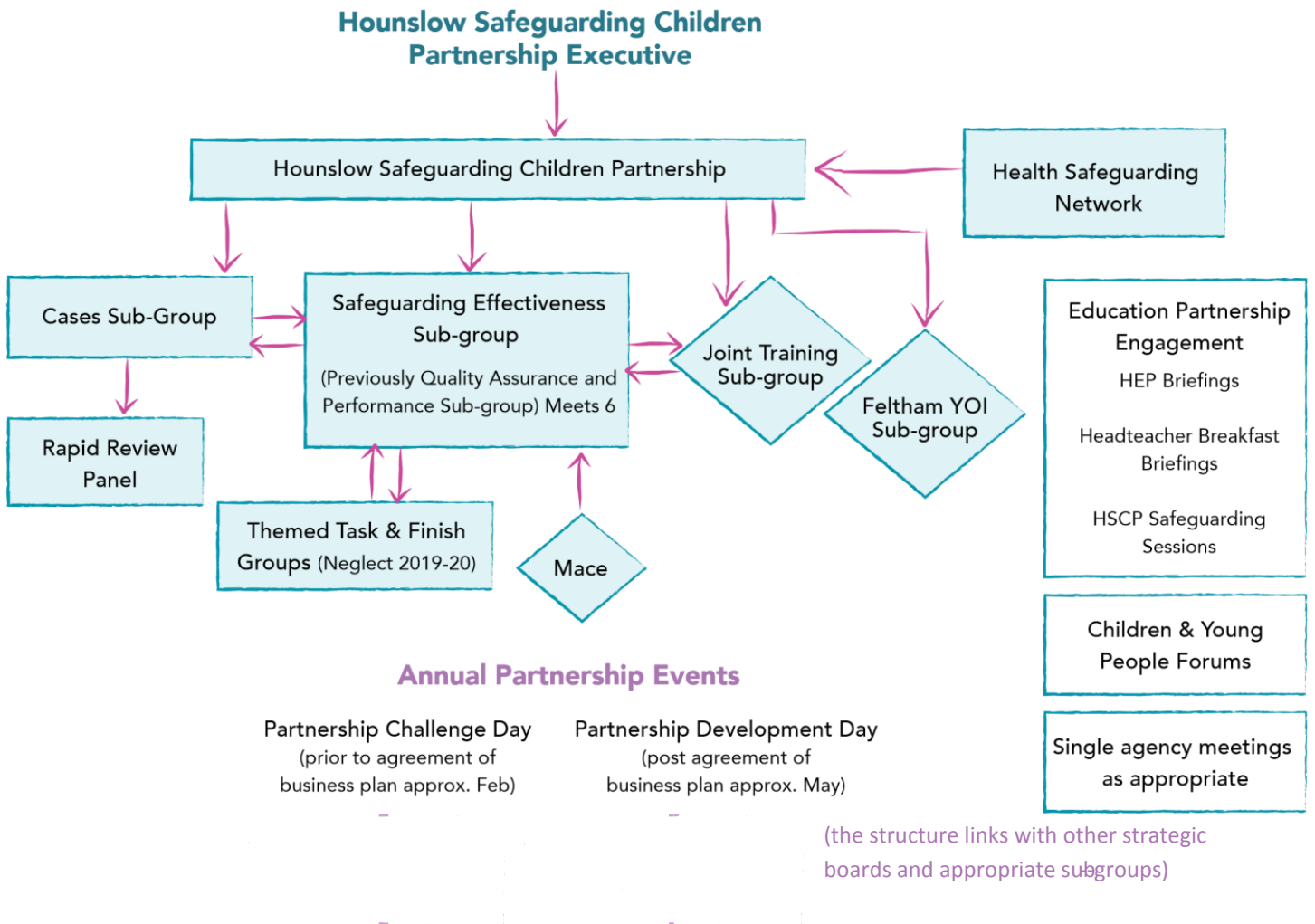
The work of Child Protection and safeguarding in the multi-agency forum is increasing in complexities and quick solutions are not always available. The year ahead will see the HSCB reform as required by the Children and Social Work Act 2018 and become the Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP). With some realignment of the sub-groups responsibilities in the new arrangements and continued scrutiny and challenge from the Independent Advisor, previously the Independent Chair, the HSCP will continue to build on the progress it has made over the last few years, challenge itself with new priorities aligned to the needs of Hounslow's young people and respond to the national safeguarding agenda and with an ambitious programme of work to deliver its 2-year business plan 2019-21 and drive whole system change and improvements for children and young people.

The safeguarding partners will publish their safeguarding arrangements and new priorities by June 2019.

**Appendix A - Structure of the HSCB 2018 - 2019**



**Appendix B – Add new HSCP Structure**



## Appendix C

### HSCB Board Membership and Attendance April 2018 - March 2019

Representing	Name	Title	Attendance
HSCB	Hannah Miller	Independent Chair	5/5
Local Authority	Mary Harpley	Chief Executive	0/5
Local Authority	Alan Adams	Executive Director Children's, Housing, Adults'	2/5
Councillor	Tom Bruce	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services	4/5
Lay Member	Bhupinder Lakanpaul	-	0/5
Children's Social Care	Jacqui McShannon	Director of Children's Specialist Services	4/5
Children's Social Care	Lara Wood	Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance / Chair of Missing & Vulnerable Sub-Group (December '17 – Present)	4/5
Children's Social Care	Martin Forshaw	Head of Safeguarding Specialist Services	3/5
Education	Michael Marks	Director of Education & Early Intervention / Chair of Education Network	5/5
Education (Secondary School)	Ray Whyms	Assistant Headteacher	3/5
Education (College)	Graeme Baker	Executive Director of Performance, Development and Student Experience	1/5
Youth Offending Service	Chris Domeney	Head of Youth Offending Team / Chair of FYOI Sub-Group	4/5
Community Safety Partnership	Permjit Chadha	Community Safety Manager	4/5
Community Safety Partnership	Vicky Wallas	Head of Community Safety	1/5
Housing	Amanda Lowes	Head of Housing Client Service	4/5
CCG	Dr Nirmala Sellathurai	Designated Dr for Safeguarding Children	5/5
CCG	Julie Hulls	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children / Chair of Health Network	5/5
CCG	Sue Pascoe	Associate Director for Safeguarding, CCG	1/5
HRCH	Tony Bowen	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children	5/5

WLMHT	Dr Johan Redelinghuys	Director of Safeguarding / Chair of Cases Sub-Group	2/5
WLMHT	Monica King	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children	4/5
IHear	Kylee Brennan	Service Manager	2/5
Police CAIT	DCI Sebastian Florent	Detective Chief Inspector	2/5
Police Borough	DCI Helen Flanagan	Detective Chief Inspector / Chair of Quality Assurance & Performance Sub-Group	4/5
Feltham Young Offenders	Sharon Pearce	Head of Safeguards	4/5
National Probation Service	James Jolly	Head of Service for Hounslow, Richmond and Kingston	1/5
National Probation Service	Linda McDonald	Director	2/5
Adviser to the Board	Jo Leader	HSCB Business Manager	5/5
Adviser to the Board	Janet Johnson	HSCB Training & Development Manager	4/5
London Fire Brigade	Greg Ashman	Borough Commander	0/5
CAFCASS	Marcia Lennon		1/5
WMUH	Marianne McIlroy	Nurse	1/5
Public Health	Clare McKenzie	Children's Commissioning Manager, Public Health	5/5
London Fire Brigade	Richard Arnold	-	1/5
Homestart	Karen McLean	Voluntary Sector Representativ0065	2/5
London Borough of Hounslow	Laura Maclehouse	Acting Director of Public Health	0/5
Springwell Junior School	Kamm Grewal	Headteacher	2/5
London Community Rehabilitation Company	Vik Seenayah	Partnership Manager	1/5
HM Prison & Probation Service	Selene Grandison	Interim Head of Service Delivery – Hounslow, Kingston and Richmond	1/5
London CRC	Sophie Bartle	Partnerships & Contracts Manager	1/5
Chelsea & Westminster Hospital	Sarah Green	Consultant Midwife for Public Health and Safeguarding	1/5



**Appendix D – HSCB Face to Face Course Feedback 2018-19**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Course aims met Rated 1-10</b>	<b>% of delegates rating the course good or excellent</b>	<b>Knowledge shift. 1 point per shift e.g. fair to good or good to excellent</b>
Multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC)	10	100%	1.0
Management of allegations	10	100%	0.6
Child Sexual Exploitation: Trauma Focused Approach	10	100%	0.7
Private fostering	10	100%	1.3
Child sexual exploitation	10	90%	0.6
Introduction to safeguarding	10	95%	0.7
Domestic violence: work with women	9.5	100%	1.0
Core groups	9	100%	0.8
Distinguishing non-accidental injury	9	100%	1.1
Domestic violence: an intro	9	100%	1.0
Familial child sexual abuse	9	96%	0.6
Early help	9	92%	1.0
Self-harm	9	88%	0.9
Forced marriage and honour-based violence	9	83%	1.0
Introduction to safeguarding: disabilities	9	83%	0.8
Engaging with perpetrators of DV	8	100%	0.8

**Appendix E – HSCB Face to Face and e-Learning Training Figures 2018-19 (ranked highest to lowest)**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>e-Learning</b>	<b>Face to face</b>
Education	1310	120
Health (Use organisation e-learning package)	-	122
Children's Social Care	343	217
Adults' Services	227	32
Early Years	110	167
Voluntary Sector	90	27
Customer Relations	13	-
Library Services	13	-
Resident Services	12	20
Feltham YOI	8	9
Reception	5	-
Hounslow Youth Counselling	5	-
Joint Commissioning	4	2
Direct Payment	3	-
Property Services	2	1
Public Health and Leisure	1	10
Probation / CRC	-	5
Fire Brigade	-	1
Police (access internal training)	-	1
Community Safety	-	3
Strategic Planning / Regeneration	-	4
Other / Unknown	29	3