



**Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership Meeting**  
**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020**  
**1.30pm – 3.00pm**  
**Virtually, via MS Teams**

<b>Attendees</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Hannah Miller	Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership	Independent Chair
Jo Leader	Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership	Business Manager
Steven Forbes	London Borough of Hounslow	Executive Director for Children's and Adults
Jennifer Hopper	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Head of Safeguarding & Support
Elizna Visser	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance
Annita Cornish	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Special Educational Needs and Disability
Dr Nirmala Sellathurai	CCG	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children
Sarah Green	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital	Consultant Midwife for Public Health and Safeguarding
Tony Bowen	HRCH	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
Kerry Jacks	Feltham YOI	Head of Safeguards
Parminder Sahota	West London NHS Trust	Director of Safeguarding Children and Adults
Thomas Webster	West London NHS Trust	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children and Young People
Permjit Chadha	London Borough of Hounslow	Community Safety Manager
Pauline Fletcher	North West London CCG	Associate Director for Safeguarding Children
Siobhan Appleton	Hillingdon CCG	Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children/Care Leavers
<b>Apologies</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Martin Forshaw	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director – Children's Safeguarding & Specialist Services
Emelia Bulley	CCG	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children

Vicki Taylor	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Education & Skills
Helen Flanagan	West Area BCU Met Police	Detective Superintendent

## **1) Introductions & Apologies**

Partnership members introduced themselves to the meeting. Apologies of members unable to attend were noted.

## **2) Minutes of the last meeting & matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and no matters arising were discussed.

## **3) Overview of Service Delivery during Covid 19 – April 20 (Information only)**

Following the last Partnership meeting, an overview of service delivery during Covid-19 was developed from the information provided by partner agencies to monitor challenge and risks across the system. This will be updated after every meeting and shared with members.

## **4) Assurance of core statutory safeguarding service delivery during Covid-19 (April – May)**

### **Children’s Social Care**

Elizna Visser, Interim Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance summarised the report for Children’s Social Care and welcome comments and questions.

Children Services have continued to deliver ‘business as usual’ to ensure that children at risk are identified, monitored, tracked and prioritised. Most visits are undertaken virtually with children and families, which have had no impact on the ability to fulfil statutory duties. There is a contingency plan should there be a need for families to be seen face-to-face in the office in an emergency.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding meetings such as Child Protection (CP) Case Conferences and Strategy meetings have continued virtually with better engagement from young people and families who were previously hard to engage.

There has been no evidence to suggest a significant increase in domestic violence, child sexual exploitation or child criminal exploitation, based on current referral rates, however this will be closely monitored as it is likely to change once the lockdown has been lifted.

Staffing levels have been maintained throughout Covid-19 with robust oversight of staff who are isolating. Supervision with staff have continued as normal.

Steven Forbes added that in terms of recovery, the Partnership should consider what the ‘new normal’ would be for the next six months, as the expectation that services would not go back to normal until 2021 particularly with schools.

Jo Leader said that discussions on agencies Covid-19 recovery plans for the coming year could take place at the next meeting in June 2020.

## **Feltham YOI**

Kerry Jacks, Head of Safeguards summarised the report and welcome comments and questions.

The new Regime Management Plan remains in place to safeguard children in the establishment. Feltham YOI have continued to receive a small number of young people into the unit and it was the expectation that numbers would increase as courts were due to be opened shortly. All new arrivals would be isolated for 14 days to ensure that they do not have any symptoms of the coronavirus.

Looked After Children (LAC) Reviews are undertaken virtually.

Young people have been given electrical appliances such as game console, laptops and DAB radios to help maintain their motivation and interest. Young people are given 30 minutes visits with family once a week. Each young person has 45 minutes fresh air with an additional 45 minutes offered to young people in small groups for physical activities.

Young people are handed a number of in room activity packs from services including education work packs which are collected and assessed daily by teachers. Discussions are being held with the Governor and Head of Education regarding the safe return of education on site in June 2020, in line with government guidance.

Young people have continued to have access to healthcare services such as nurses when required. The Dental and Optician service has been suspended until it's safe to return on site.

Self-harm and violence have remained low. Staff have continued to maintain a good relationship with young people which is positive. There are no young people currently on Falcon Unit, which is a separation unit.

Staffing levels have been closely monitored and reported daily to GOLD command with 56 staff off sick from 130. The establishment now have quicker access to tests and PPE is available when needed.

Siobhan Appleton questioned if there has been an increase in young people's mental health during Covid-19. Kerry Jacks said that there was no increase in young people's mental health. Young people are identified by health and wellbeing or staff and would be assessed regarding their vulnerability, needs and behaviour to determine what level of support they would need. Depending on their level, green, amber or red would depend on how often they would be seen which could be weekly, three times a week or daily. This is discussed weekly.

## **Early Intervention Education Special Needs and Children with Disabilities**

Annita Cornish summarised the report and welcome comments and questions.

Two Ofsted staff have been redeployed to assist the Local Authority to quality assure risks assessments of vulnerable pupils in Hounslow as set out by the Department of Education (DfE).

The Children with Disabilities Team currently had a 119 Child in Need, 6 Children Protection (CP) and 9 LAC cases.

There has been a low attendance rate in schools. The Disability Team are working closely with partners with out of borough children and children that are not attending schools.

Update on schools;

- 6 schools remain closed
- 621 primary school pupils attended
- 116 secondary school pupils attended
- 23 special school pupils attended

There has been a good return on risk assessments of pupils on an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. Schools are contacting vulnerable children/families daily or weekly dependent on the vulnerability and the Elective Home Education (EHE) team have continued to make welfare calls to key children identified. Multi-agency conference calls are being held with all headteachers of special schools to avoid duplication and agree actions to monitor the most vulnerable pupils.

The SEND service has continued to deliver 'business as usual' using technology. All risk assessments have been completed for nursery and private and voluntary settings.

Staffing ratios are being managed and no risks have been identified.

Siobhan Appleton questioned the bullet point in the report stating 'After reviewing all the data provided by schools regarding high risk pupils, we propose it may be helpful to sample those identified as having different lower levels of risk in order to moderate judgements across providers in the LA'.

Annita Cornish said that this was specific work undertaken by Ofsted staff who were supporting to have a complete overview of the school system.

Siobhan Appleton asked if Early Help still exist and how was that being monitored. The Early Years providers were closed. The Early Help Hub continues to operate as normal and have been supporting schools and professionals with sign posting.

Children Social Care are working closely with the Head of Early Years and Childcare which was having an impact in identifying the vulnerable group and offering help and support.

## **HRCH**

Tony Bowen, Named Nurse for Safeguarding, summarised the report and welcome comments and questions.

There were no changes to how children at risk were identified and all staff continued to follow the safeguarding policies and procedures. A specialist Safeguarding Nurse has returned from redeployment and another staff member was due back the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 following the cessation of pandemic multi-agency response team (PMART).

Safeguarding supervision has continued to be offered to staff on a 3 monthly and AD-HOC basis but monthly to newly qualified health visitors. Telephone advice and support is available to staff when needed.

The safeguarding workload continues to be monitored on a daily/weekly basis and any concerns would be escalated to the Director of Nursing.

Staff have continued to virtually participate in CP Case Conferences and Core Group meetings using Microsoft Teams.

HRCH is working on a recovery plan.

### **West London Health Trust**

Parminder Sahota, Director of Safeguarding Children and Adults gave verbal update and welcome comments and questions.

There has been no change to the arrangements to safeguard children and adults. Thomas Webster, Named Nurse Safeguarding Children and Young People has returned to the organisation from redeployment. Another member of staff was due back the week commencing the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 returning WL NHS Trust to a full complement of staff.

Safeguarding Children and Adult training have continued to be offered online via e-learning and webinars. Supervision for staff would increase from June 2020.

### **CCG**

Pauline Fletcher, Associate Director for Safeguarding Children gave a verbal update welcomed comments and questions.

The North West London (NWL) CCG Central Safeguarding Hub is fully operational and working well across North West London to respond to adults and children safeguarding issues. The Hub operates seven days per week and staffing is regularly monitored and reviewed to meet the Hub's activity.

The Hub is managed by the Associate Director for Safeguarding Children and the Associate Director of Safeguarding Adults who report directly to the Chief Nurse & Director of Quality. Any safeguarding themes and exceptions in practice are reported to the Senior Management Team.

Participation at HSCP's meetings has continued via Microsoft Teams.

Safeguarding children themes identified through the Hub (not Hounslow specific) include:

- More complex safeguarding children cases
- Increase of Domestic Abuse concerns in general practice and presenting in provider services
- Concerns about delayed presentation for children of non-Covid-19 illness and injury.
- Virtual consultations presenting challenges in identifying safeguarding children concerns
- Identifying and responding to needs of parents/carers before situations breakdown
- Concerns that other forms of abuse and neglect may get less focus during this period, for example Modern Slavery
- Reliance on e-learning for safeguarding children training and competence
- Safeguarding children supervision

Areas of development identified through the Hub (not Hounslow specific) include:

- Creation of a Covid-19-related safeguarding adults and children resource page for GPs which includes tips for concerns about domestic abuse during virtual/telephone consultations, providing transferable techniques for other concerns.
- NWL provider safeguarding network has facilitated sharing of information, good practice, provision of advice and support for concerns.
- Working with Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships in relation to promotional materials for the community about domestic abuse.
- Work underway by providers and Named GPs for safeguarding children to plan and develop interactive training to supplement the e-learning as the distancing measures continue.
- Designated Professionals in the Hub are offering supervision for named professionals using Microsoft Teams.

NWL CCGs are working on recovery plans informed by regional and national guidance.

### **Chelwest**

Sarah Green, Consultant Midwife for Public Health and Safeguarding provided a verbal update and welcome comments and questions.

Chelwest continues to ensure that safeguarding children remains a priority. During this time the organisation has experienced and acknowledged that there has been an overall decrease in children and young people presenting to hospital including the emergency department with injuries and medical illness. A continued effort is made during virtual clinics to speak with the child as well as the parent/carer on the telephone.

The safeguarding team have continued to virtually participate in multi-agency safeguarding meetings including CP Case Conferences, Strategy and CIN meetings using Microsoft teams. Midwives have reported that they found virtual meetings easier to attend and that it would be useful to consider in the future.

Screening for domestic abuse remains a priority despite the reduce face-to-face contact. The domestic abuse safeguarding lead has issued guidance to assist staff to safely ask about domestic abuse over the phone. Staff are encouraged to routinely ask women about domestic abuse who are discharged from antenatal and postnatal wards.

A Daily face to face handover meeting has continued with paediatric doctors and a safeguarding practitioner and cases are discussed. The weekly emergency department psychosocial meeting has continued to take place during lockdown, however not all members are able to participate face to face therefore the Named Nurse has maintained communication by email between the multi-disciplinary teams.

Safeguarding Care Plans are being reviewed monthly to ensure that midwives are up to date with plans for discharges and all information in place including contact details. A safeguarding supervision phone line is in place for staff to dial in three times a week to discuss cases.

The National Major Trauma Network has launched an evidence-based programme called 'ICON: 'Babies Cry, you can cope' to support parent/carers manage normal infant crying. The intervention has shown to be positive in reducing serious injury and deaths in babies and all maternity units are

encouraged to have a conversation with parents particularly when the male partners are present before discharge.

A dedicated professional is trying to progress social prescribing in maternity and was awaiting agreement from the LNS.

It has become increasingly challenging for Midwives to undertake research for daily MARAC in addition to a high workload particularly during Covid-19. The list provided for research is not divided into pregnant and non-pregnant women therefore it is difficult to go through the full list to identify the pregnant women. This has been escalated to the Local Authority.

Permjit Chadha (PC) commented that Hounslow MARAC has been operating since December 2018 and a better understanding was needed by agencies on the expectation and operation of MARAC in its current form. The daily MARAC discusses 4 cases a day while the more complex cases are discussed monthly. PC said that her understanding was that research would continue to be undertaken for daily MARAC and the concerns raised was in relation to the interim arrangements.

Jo Leader stressed that issues in relation to the multi-agency response to domestic abuse have been identified in the borough, therefore the partnership needs to be assured that the daily MARAC is operating as it should with daily research on cases undertaken and routine information shared. It was suggested that further discussion was held outside of the meeting and assurance was provided to the partnership on midwifery engagement with the daily MARAC.

***Action: For Sarah Green and Permjit Chadha to have a discussion about midwifery engagement in daily MARAC and provide update and assurance at the next Board in June.***

#### **London Ambulance Service (LAS)**

A letter was shared with members from the London Ambulance Service (LAS) outlining changes to the safeguarding actions during Covid-19. Members had no concerns or comments regarding the letter.

#### **5) Domestic abuse rates and responses during Covid-19**

Helen Flanagan was unable to attend the meeting to present the reports which were circulated to members prior to the meeting. This item will remain on the agenda to monitor domestic abuse offences and the response.

Permjit Chadha commented that although Police are not seeing an increase in domestic abuse, local specialist services are seeing an increase. Last year, there were 47 referrals made to IDVA and April 2020 119 referrals.

It was agreed that domestic abuse continued to be closely monitored to ensure that all partnerships can be assured that agencies are effectively responding to domestic abuse, particularly with the increase concerns raised by partner agencies during Covid-19.

Due to Covid-19 the Domestic Abuse Systemic Review has been delayed until September 2020.

***Action: For Permjit Chadha to present Hounslow's current domestic abuse position at the next meeting.***

## **Part B Agenda – Confidential**

### **6) Part B Agenda Items**

This item was discussed as a Part B confidential agenda item and has been recorded separately.

### **8) Standing Agenda Items**

#### **Any Other Business**

Members welcomed Thomas Webster back from redeployment. No other business was raised.