



Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership Meeting
Monday 28th September 2020
3.00pm – 5.00pm
Virtually, via MS Teams

Attendees		
Name	Agency	Designation
Hannah Miller	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Independent Advisor
Jo Leader	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Business Manager
Janet Johnson	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Training & Development Manager
Steven Forbes	London Borough of Hounslow	Executive Director for Children's and Adults Services
Martin Forshaw	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director – Children's Safeguarding & Specialist Services
Elizna Visser	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance
Councillor Tom Bruce	Education and Children's Services	Councillor
Vicki Taylor	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Education & Skills
Clare McKenzie	London Borough of Hounslow	Children's Commissioning Manager, Public Health
Kerry Jacks	Feltham YO1	Head of Safeguards
Chris Brown	West Area BCU Met Police	T/Detective Chief Inspector
Sarah Green	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital	Consultant Midwife for Public Health and Safeguarding
Tony Bowen	HRCH	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
Thomas Webster	West London NHS Trust	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children and Young People
Emelia Bulley	CCG	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children
Dr Nirmala Sellathurai	CCG	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children
Ian Berryman	Woodbridge Park Education Service	Principle (Nominated Special Schools Rep)
Michael Michaelides	West Thames College	Executive Director Resources & Student Experience
Lizzette Ambrose	HM Prison & Probation Service	Head of Service Delivery – Hounslow, Kingston and Richmond

Clea Barry	CAFCASS	Service Manager
Anil Chatterjee	Service Manager	ARC and HYPE
Guests Attendees		
Priscilla Kurewa	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Head of Early Help and Front Door Service
Apologies		
Permjit Chadha	London Borough of Hounslow	Community Safety Manager
Annita Cornish	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Special Educational Needs and Disability
Sophie Bartle	London CRC	Partnerships & Contracts Manager
Parminder Sahota	West London NHS Trust	Director of Safeguarding Children and Adults
Ruben Seetharamdoo	ARC	Service Manager
Pauline Fletcher	North West London CCG	Associate Director for Safeguarding Children
Fiona Martin	West Area BCU Met Police	T/Detective Superintendent
Not Attended		
Kevin Prunty	Cranford Community College	Executive Headteacher (Nominated Secondary School Rep)
Karen McLean	Homestart	Voluntary Sector Representative
Josephine Daly	Oak Heights School	Independent School Rep
Sarah Shingler	HRCH	Director of Nursing

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. The action log was updated.

3) Early Help Hub Year 1 Progress Presentation

Priscilla Kurewa, Head of Hounslow Front Door Service summarised the report and welcomed comments and feedback.

The Early Help Hub (EHH) was launched one year ago to progress a more co-ordinated approach to early help, to reduce the volume of cases below the threshold being transferred to the Front Door and embed Hounslow's approach of 'early help is everyone's business'.

There has not yet been much evidence of impact of the EHH. The Front Door Service has not seen a reduction in contacts which are below threshold. This is thought to be because the Hub is not being used frequently across all partner agencies. There was an expectation that as time progressed, agencies would refer to Hub instead of the Front Door but that has not happened. There was a need for a better understanding and engagement with the EHH from partner agencies to reverse the trend.

Discussions with partners agencies found that;

- There have been difficulties around the understanding of Early Help, therefore partners would refer cases to the Front Door as it's a familiar route.
- Partners preferred to refer to the Front Door Service as it was a safer route and feared getting it wrong.
- Partners do not want the responsibility to undertake early help work with families themselves therefore they prefer to refer to the Front Door to see if the family would receive a service.
- Partners are unsure of the service the Early Help Hub provides.

A self-assessment was undertaken in the summer 2020 by partner agencies which highlighted that the use of the Team Around the Family (TAF) plans and quality of CFANS had seen the least progress.

Meetings were taking place with individual agencies to discuss the self-assessment and agree actions. There was a need for agencies to understand the purpose of the EHH to utilise it as the first point of contact when there was not a safeguarding concern.

Sarah Green commented that from a midwifery perspective, they would find it challenging to lead a TAF as previously the safeguarding midwife would deal with all safeguarding issues and now would find it easier to go to the Front Door. There is a designated professional undertaking supportive signposting for the hospital.

Steven Forbes said that from the EHH presentation it was important that members asked themselves whether they were able to confidently say that the EHH was having an impact. Hounslow Local Authority has invested into the EHH as a point of triage and it is unclear if the intervention and outcomes corresponded with the triage actions. The previously agreed funding arrangements were coming to an end and decisions would need to be made about how the offer was delivered in next year. It was important that work was done to address the contacts that are below threshold that were still going to the Front Door.

Steven Forbes and Martin Forshaw will have a conversation to address what they consider Early Help.

Martin Forshaw commented that the current model and system was unsustainable and could impact on children and young people. The contacts to the Front Door Service were increasing significantly and there was a need to address this.

Ian Berryman commented that an internal audit undertaken by Woodbridge Park Education Service (WPES) found that the local threshold document was clear, understandable and comprehensive.

The Chair requested that an assurance paper was presented to the partnership in June 2021.

Action: For Martin Forshaw to present an assurance paper on the Early Help Hub to the partnership in June 2021.

4) Covid-19 Update - All

The Chair enquired about partner agencies recovery plans and how they are hoping to deal with a potential second wave of Covid-19.

CCG

Emelia Bulley gave a verbal update on the CCGs response for a potential second wave of Covid-19 and their recovery plans and welcomed comments and questions.

The CCG has been in consultation regarding a potential second wave and have not been given any instructions on redeployment.

Children's Social Care

Steven Forbes gave a verbal update on the response and service delivery during Covid-19 and welcomed comments and questions.

Children Social Care (CSC) have managed exceptionally well during Covid-19, staff are being supported and the strategic function has been maintained, therefore there was no need to make any changes. Children and young people are back at school and services are entering the flu season which would cause an impact of community response, local agency response and a national response. More schools are reporting that children and young people and staff are having to isolate because of Covid-19.

Early Intervention Education Special Needs and Children with Disabilities

Vicki Taylor gave a verbal update on the response and service delivery during Covid-19 and welcomed comments and questions.

Hounslow had a pupil attendance rate of 85.2% after the school holiday which was favourable. There was a 92.4% daily response rate from schools about the return figures and Covid-19 cases to ensure good tracking. In total across all schools, 375 pupils were told to self-isolate across all of the year groups and during the week of the 21st September 2020., approximately 400 pupils were self-isolating.

Police

Chris Brown gave a verbal update on the response and service delivery during Covid-19 and welcomed comments and questions.

The normal safeguarding response from the Police remained in place. A Safeguarding Daily Grip /Risk Review meeting is held twice daily and has a representative from each safeguarding department. The meeting is chaired by the Safeguarding Duty Officer and looks at ongoing or anticipated risks and Covid-19 related sickness.

HRCH

Tony Bowen, Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children gave a verbal update on the response and service delivery during Covid-19 and welcomed comments and questions.

HRCH have continued to deliver 'business as usual' to safeguard children and young people and business continuity plan were being developed for the organisation. Safeguarding training continued to be delivered virtually and staff have been compliant. Staff have continued to participate in safeguarding meeting via Microsoft Teams. HRCH was assessing the clinical skills of staff for potential redeployment and was waiting on guidance regarding a second wave of Covid-19.

Chelwest

Sarah Green, Consultant Midwife for Public Health and Safeguarding gave a verbal update on the response and service delivery during Covid-19 and welcomed comments and questions.

Chelwest continues to ensure that safeguarding children remained a priority and safeguarding plans are still in place. The organisation was prepared for a second wave and could relaunch the Standard Operating Procedures if needed. All safeguarding training is being delivered virtually with no face-to-face training. A safeguarding Level 3 training course was being developed for practitioners which would be considered face-to-face even though it would be delivered virtually. The hospital has not seen many Covid-19 positive cases.

Feltham YOI

Kerry Jacks gave a verbal update on the response and service delivery during Covid-19 and welcomed comments and questions.

The Regime Management Plan remains in place to safeguard young people in the establishment and safeguarding arrangements continue to operate as normal. There is an opportunity to undertake tests for Covid-19 in the establishment. There was research completed on Covid-19 which resulted in three positive test the led to 45 members of staff being off sick and a total of 70 members of staff off sick in total.

Ian Berryman said that the Hounslow Public Health briefings has been useful to staff to keep them updated and calm.

Jo Leader would inform Kelly O'Neill of the positive feedback and thank her on behalf of the partnership.

Probation

Lizzette Ambrose gave a verbal update on the response and service delivery during Covid-19 and welcomed comments and questions.

Probation would continue to see low to medium risk offenders via a mixture of face to face and virtual meetings with some staff going into the office to see high risk offenders face to face. Staff have been identified as key workers and free flu jabs were available for them. The organisation would return to the measures that were in place at the beginning of Covid-19 to ensure safety of staff and clients.

West London Health Trust

Thomas Webster Named Nurse Safeguarding Children and Young People gave a verbal update on the response and service delivery during Covid-19 and welcomed comments and questions.

West London NHS Trust continuity plans were in place. There were two staff members on standby in case of redeployment to the Nightingale Hospital. The trust has continued to deliver 'safeguarding as business as usual'. All training was being held virtually to support compliancy and no face-to face training would be undertaken until February 2021.

The Chair said she will keep partner agencies Covid-19 response and preparations under review and if additional meetings special meetings were needed, they will be convened.

5) Domestic Abuse Update

Chris Brown gave a verbal update on Domestic Abuse and welcomed comments and questions.

Police have not seen a persistent, sustained and high-level increase in domestic abuse across all boroughs since March 2020. There has been an increase in enquires DV Helplines and access to community services, but it had not translated into Police action.

Martin Forshaw said that in March 2020, the Front Door anticipated an increase in referrals, but it had not happened and as lockdown eased a further increase in referrals was anticipated which also did not happen. Martin Forshaw commented that families are often more resilient than Professionals sometimes view them to be.

Priscilla Kurewa said that referrals into the Front Door had remained consistent despite the Community Safety Team reporting an increase in demand to their services. The differences and translation of demand from the community into services and Police action was being closely monitored.

The Chair said that the position in Hounslow was not the same for other boroughs and at a meeting of Associate Directors of Children's Services, it was reported that one borough had seen five very young children hurt in domestic abuse incidents.

Sarah Green commented that West Middlesex University Hospital had been an increase in Non-Accidental Injury (NAI) but was unsure of how many from Hounslow.

6) HSCP Annual Report 2019/20

The Chair summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The report reviews the activity of the Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) (March 2019 – September 2019) and the Hounslow Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) (September 2019 – March 2020) over the 2019/20 financial year.

Dr Nimmi Sellathurai suggested that benchmarking on data could be added to the report.

Jo Leader said that the data flow into the Board had always been a challenge which was not the case in other Local Authorities. The partnership had agreed a dataset with core indicators and work was underway with agencies on how the data they already collect could be shared regularly with the partnership along with supporting analysis.

Tony Bowen highlighted an amendment regarding the MASH in the annual report. Tony Bowen would liaise with Jo Leader to revise the wording.

The Chair requested that further comments should be sent to Jo Leader by the 16th October 2020.

Action: For members to send any further comments to Jo Leader on the HSCP Annual Report by 16th October 2020.

7) FYOI HMIP Scrutiny Visit Outcome and MMPR Annual Report

Kerry Jacks summarised the reports which were circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

HMIP Scrutiny Visit Outcome

The HMIP Scrutiny Visit was completed on the 7th July 2020 across two Young Offender Institutions, HMYOI Feltham and HMYOI Werrington and highlights the positive work undertaken by the establishments to keep young people safe during Covid-19.

Since Covid-19, there has been a reduction in violence against young people and staff. There has been good communication between staff and young people regarding the restrictions. During the lockdown, young people spent 22 hours a day for 15 weeks in their rooms which was difficult for them. Young people now get 7 hours out of their rooms and are in groups of twelve.

During the restrictions, face-to-face Education provision for young people had completely stopped and education was limited to in-cell packs. Young people are now receiving education once a day and young people who are unable to attend education received it on the unit.

Kinetic Youth Workers were seconded to provide support to young people. Family visits were suspended during the restrictions. The establishment had a laptop that could be used for video calling to families but the take up was low.

Following the approval to move to level 3 of the National Framework Recovery, the establishment had the below plans in place to deliver additional activities;

- Face-to-face contact was reinstated.
- A laptop for contact visits via video calling for young people.
- On-sight visits were resumed for parents and carers and PPE was available to support them.
- Young people had access to Physical Education (PE) and had moved indoor.
- The dental provider registered as an Urgent Care Centre (UCC) and offered a response service to the establishment.

Feltham YOI was due to have a full HMIP Inspection but instead a two-day scrutiny visit, which will be joint with Warrington on the response to Covid-19.

MMPR Annual Report

Prior to the Urgent Notification (UN) process, the regime was poor which increased Use of Force.

Since then there had been the following improvements:

- 47.5% decrease in total number of incidents in quarter 1, compared with quarter 4
- 50% decrease in individual YP's involved in incidents each month from quarter 1, compared with quarter 4
- 38.91% decrease in high level holds from quarter 1, compared with quarter 4
- 67.30% decrease in low level holds from quarter 1, compared with quarter 4

Quality Assurance and paperwork was up to date. Young people were de-briefed every 48 hours. The establishment have continued to build relationship with partner agencies within the establishment to better support and safeguard young people. The custodial manager in charge of child protection was able to further develop a closer working relationship with the LADO and Hounslow Local Authority.

There are robust processes in place to manage Use of Force. Feltham YOI aims to ensure all actions implemented throughout the UN, were fully embedded and would continue to improve outcomes for young people in the establishment. The establishment plans to come off the UN.

The Chair commented that she chairs the Feltham YOI sub-group and the outcome of the last scrutiny inspection which was reassuring.

Jo Leader commented that the HSCP has undertaken two unannounced visits with the Youth Custody Service and Feltham YOI in January and February this year. The report was shared with the Governor, Deputy Governor and Sub-Group members. The partnership and the YCS were exploring how visits can be reinstated and conducted in a safe way during the current restrictions.

The HSCP will be undertaking an audit on the use of isolation on the 14th and 15th October 2020 and the report will be shared with the FYOI sub-group for discussion.

The Chair thanked Kerry Jacks for presenting the report and assured the partnership that the annual report would be submitted to the YCS as required and a redacted version would be published on the partnership's website.

8) Children's Social Care Improvement Plans

Martin Forshaw summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The report highlighted the progress, timeliness and improvement of areas of development for CSC. The implementation plan would be developed into service improvement plans which were a live document and would be reviewed regularly to ensure targets were met and outcomes sustained.

One of the initiatives was that CSC was being proactive and liaising with schools once a week to have a conversation about children of concern with the aim to reduce the number of contacts from Schools to the Front Door. Timeliness of response to contacts has improved further which was positive. The timeliness of completed assessment 2020-21 has increased to 92.4% with assessment being completed in 30 days rather than 45 days.

CSC has not always been able to evidence health engagement at strategy meetings. A dip sample exercise was undertaken to explore health engagement in 107 strategy discussions. The exercise found that 88% of health engaged in discussions which was a significant improvement. CSC would continue to embed health attendance at all strategy meetings as well as broadening multi-agency involvement as standard practice for strategy meetings.

CSC has revised their audit process to be a much more informative for social workers. A quarterly audit report will be presented to the Performance & Learning Board in October and subsequently to the Safeguarding Effectiveness sub-group of the partnership.

The supervision template was revised to make it a reflective conversation. It has been implemented on LCS and a dip sampling would be undertaken at the end of September 2020 to see improvements, in the timeliness and the quality of supervision and recording.

Task and Finish groups have been set up to improve;

- The completion and quality of return interviews for young people missing from home or care.
- The timeliness of family finding where long-term fostering is agreed. An interim Head of Service for Fostering was in post and the expectation was that the panel would be more effective.

- The Strategic and Operational MACE was being reviewed as a recommendation from the Serious Youth Violence (SYV) Systemic Review. The task and finish group will report to the Safeguarding Effectiveness Sub-Group.

The Chair said that this was picked up in the Serious Youth Violence Systemic Review and the improvements on the timeliness of assessments was positive.

New activity in the plan includes:

- The refresh of the Placement Sufficiency Strategy. This is intended to support placement stability by addressing in-house foster care and residential capacity, accommodation for young people over 16 and early intervention to prevent young people becoming looked after.
- The introduction of new processes to review the use and monitoring of risk assessments for care leavers.
- The Adolescent Team and YOS are piloting the allocation of a named social worker to each Hounslow secondary school. This commenced at the beginning of the new school term.

Elizna Visser said that monthly meetings would be held with Anita Cornish regarding timeliness of assessments in the 0-25 team to adopt the same process as is embedded in the safeguarding and support teams to review progress.

Ian Berryman raised concerns that when children and family do not engage with agencies, the case would be closed because of disengagement, which is commonly seen in the cases discussed at the Fair Access Panel.

Work was being undertaken with management to progress the actions that have not started. Most of the improvements were made during Covid-19 which was positive and showed the commitment to increase the pace of the improvements. CSC acknowledge that the progress that has been made must be sustained and embedded in practice.

A self-evaluation would be done in October and updated twice a year which will be informed by using information gathered through quality assurance, performance data and national practice developments.

The Chair confirmed that the revised threshold document would have multi-agency input before it was sign off.

A brief overview will be presented at the next meeting and the self-evaluation will be presented to the meeting when it has been completed.

9) Multi-Agency Safeguarding Meeting Audit Findings Progress

Elizna Visser summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The partnership became concerned about the effectiveness and participation of multi-agency safeguarding meetings, following challenge at partnership meetings, quality assurance activity and feedback from Ofsted during the ILACS inspection in 2018.

A Task and Finish Group was set up to address the fourteen recommendations and met four times between January to September 2020, with oversight from the Safeguarding Effectiveness Sub-

Group. Despite the challenges with Covid-19, significant progress has been made against the action plan with consistent attendance and participation from multi-agency representatives.

Significant work has been undertaken to improve attendance by partners at multi-agency meetings, in particular strategy meetings which has been supported by the virtual platform. The HSCP developed a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) list of all health professionals who could be contacted to help identify the appropriate health professionals to attend the meeting.

Children Social Care (CSC) undertook a dip sample audit exploring health attendance at strategy meetings which found that 88% of school nurses and 95% of health visitors had been present and in cases where health was not represented there were appropriate reason were noted.

Further work was needed to ensure that complex strategy meetings include all professionals working with the family such as specialist health services, specialist agencies and education providers to ensure that risk is properly identified and fully considered.

Practice standard have been agreed and will remain in service plans.

The new Revised Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC) model, revised report template and supporting multi-agency guidance went live in July 2020 and the feedback at the group was that the new approach was embedded and professional were clear about the new requirements to better support the identification of risk and decision making.

Overall, it was a successful Task and Finish Group and the challenge moving forward would be to ensure practice is embedded and sustained.

The Chair commented that she attended a Safeguarding Effectiveness Sub-Group meeting and there is a strong commitment to make progress and was pleased that with the oversight from Elizna Visser as Chair of the group progress was being made. The Chair thanked all members to the sub-group for their continued commitment and support.

10) CSP Violence Reduction Plan

Steven Forbes gave an update on the CSP Violence Reduction Plan.

Steven Forbes commented that the Violence Reduction Plan from MOPAC was ambitious and in parts unachievable given that many actions were pre-populated for local areas to address without consultation. There had been some challenges in populating the plan and ensuring organisational leaders sign off as there had been a relatively short lead time for the plan to be considered and then submitted to MPOAC within timescales.

It was agreed that the plan would be populated quickly and submitted this year, but that there would need to be longer given to developing the plan fully next year. Steven Forbes updated the partnership, that during the discussions with Community Safety about the plan and the findings from the SYV review, he had clarified that the safeguarding responsibility, including those involved in serious violence and criminality, for anyone under the age of 18 years old was the responsibility of Children's Social Care and the multi-agency safeguarding system with oversight from the HSCP. Any collaboration on cross over issues would need to be properly discussed and identified who would be the most appropriate agency or service to take the lead and who would support the work.

Part B Agenda – Confidential

11) Serious Youth Violence Systemic Review Report

12) Family K Serious Case Review Report Publication

Standing Agenda Items

13) Any Other Business

Professional respect and challenge

The Chair said that she was receiving anecdotal feedback that there had been an increase in the inappropriate way professionals were challenging one another and not doing so with respect and the appropriate use of escalation. There was a partnership escalation policy which is published on the partnerships website and would be recirculated to members to remind them of the principles of effective and appropriate challenge and escalation.

Complex Cases

The Chair said that there appeared to be an increasing need for a forum for complex cases which are challenging the operational professional network to be discussed by senior organisational leaders who can influence allocation of resources. This will be explored further by Jo Leader and Elizna Visser.

Review of the Partnership

The Chair reminded members that it had been one year since the new arrangements of the partnership were implemented. A first-year review of the partnership function would be undertaken in the last quarter of the current financial year and a conversation would be held with Executive Partnership on how best to approach the review.

Feltham YOI – Child Protection (CP) Medicals

At the last Feltham YOI Sub-Group meeting in September 2020, the Chair became aware that there had been a change in the CP process in the establishment and draft protocols were being developed by HRCH. The new process raised some concerns which is being addressed alongside the YCS, FYOI and CSC. When the process is agreed it will be presented to the partnership for approval before signing it off.

Neglect

It has been a challenge to tackle neglect in Hounslow. Two audits have been undertaken in 2017 and 2018 which found that the outcome of both audits was not significantly different. The HSCP moved neglect from a core business to a themed priority area for 2019-2021 to improve Hounslow's response. A new Neglect Strategy was developed and relaunched in January 2020, and as yet little impact has been seen. The partnership has seen an increase in neglect cases being considered for learning and two cases have been presented to the Cases Sub-Group which have resulted in Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews being undertaken. A second Task and Finish was set up to embed the strategy and to ensure that neglect was being tackled in an effective way. It was important that the Quality of Care (QoC) Assessment tool is consistently and regularly used. A third multi-agency neglect audit would be undertaken next year to see if any progress has been made.

The Association of Safeguarding Partners (TASP)

The Association of Safeguarding Partners (TASP) is a newly established charitable Membership Association aimed at promoting the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people by supporting the different forms of Partnerships that exist to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of joint working arrangements to protect vulnerable people. The Chair said that if the Partnership signed up to the association, members would have access webinars, annual conferences, documents and have access to safeguarding partnerships nationally. There would be a reduction in fees in the partnerships London wide signed up.

The Chair asked for the approval of members to sign up to TASP and it was agreed.