



**Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership Meeting**  
**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
**3.00pm – 5.00pm**  
**Virtually, via MS Teams**

<b>Attendees</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Hannah Miller	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Independent Advisor
Steven Forbes	London Borough of Hounslow	Executive Director for Children's and Adults Services
Jo Leader	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Business Manager
Elizna Visser	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance
Vicki Taylor	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Education & Skills
Helen Flanagan	West Area BCU Met Police	Detective Superintendent
Sarah Shingler	HRCH	Director of Nursing
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
Thomas Webster	West London NHS Trust	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children and Young People
Emelia Bulley	CCG	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children
Permjit Chadha	London Borough of Hounslow	Community Safety Manager
Amanda Lowes	London Borough of Hounslow	Head of Housing Client Service
Janet Johnson	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Training & Development Manager
Ian Berryman	Woodbridge Park Education Service	Principle (Nominated Special Schools Rep)
Kamm Grewel	Springwell Junior School	Headteacher (Nominated Primary School Rep)
Sophie Bartle	London CRC	Partnerships & Contracts Manager
<b>Guests</b>		
Ellie Tobin	London Borough of Hounslow	Children's Joint Commissioning Manager
Dr Johan Redelinghuys	West London NHS Trust	Clinical Director, CAMHS & Developmental Services
Lisa Tingle	London Borough of Hounslow	IRO Manager

<b>Apologies</b>		
Martin Forshaw	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director – Children’s Safeguarding & Specialist Services
Councillor Tom Bruce	Education and Children’s Services	Councillor
Annita Cornish	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Special Educational Needs and Disability
Dr Nirmala Sellathurai	CCG	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children
Parminder Sahota	West London NHS Trust	Director of Safeguarding Children and Adults
Graham Baker	West Thames College	Head of Quality & Standards
Michael Michaelides	West Thames College	Executive Director Resources & Student Experience
Clea Barry	CAFCASS	Service Manager
<b>Not Attended</b>		
Kevin Prunty	Cranford Community College	Executive Headteacher (Nominated Secondary School Rep)
Ruben Seetharamdoo	ARC	Service Manager
Stuart Crichton	London Ambulance Service	-
Selene Grandison	HM Prison & Probation Service	Interim Head of Service Delivery – Hounslow, Kingston and Richmond
Toby Kempton	London Fire Brigade	-
Karen McLean	Homestart	Voluntary Sector Representative
Josephine Daly	Oak Heights School	Independent School Rep

### **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) Update from all agencies about their Covid-19 response and service delivery**

#### **Children’s Social Care**

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

Children Social Care (CSC) have continued to deliver ‘business as usual’ with no changes to how children at risk are identified, monitored, tracked and prioritised. There has been no challenges or significant change since the last Board meeting. It has been reported that young people have found it easier to communicate with Child Protection (CP) Chairs via virtual meetings which was positive.

Ian Berryman commented positively on the effectiveness of communication between Education and CSC during Covid-19 which was reassuring. Steven Forbes thanked Ian Berryman for his positive feedback. Steven Forbes informed the Board that two Ofsted inspectors had been redeployed to

support the Local Authorities Special Educational Needs (SEN) services during Covid-19. They were writing their overview report which would be presented to Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and then shared with the Board.

***Action: For Steven Forbes to share Ofsted SEN Overview report with the partnership once completed.***

### **Police**

DS Helen Flanagan gave a verbal update on the response and service delivery during Covid-19 and welcomed comments and questions.

The Black Lives Matter protests and Covid-19 pandemic had impacted significantly on Police resources, but mitigation plans were in place to ensure all areas of policing were responded to. Police have continued to attend all safeguarding meetings virtually. The volume of Domestic Abuse (DA) reports have been stable and in line with national figures. Police have begun to see an increase in missing episodes and will be working with schools and care homes to closely monitor and address this.

The Met Police have relaunched Operation Pan Pan as a means of attempting to mitigate some of the potential gaps in professional oversight of vulnerable children in the community due to Covid-19 restrictions. The operation informs the local neighbourhood policing teams of children and young people who are subject to Child Protection Plans to ensure there is some monitoring in the community.

### **Feltham YOI**

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

There were no changes to the Regime Management Plan which was expected to remain in place until March 2021. There has been a slight increase in violence recently linked to the limited regime. Positively staff assaults and self-harm have remained low. Young people have continued to have access to laptops to communicate with their family and electrical appliances such as DAB radios to maintain their motivation. All staff at Feltham YOI will be tested for Covid-19 as a group. The Advocacy Service will be visiting the establishment to undertake some familiarisation of the risk assessments in place for young people.

A HMIP scrutiny visit is due to be undertaken in July 2020. Due to Covid-19, the full inspection regime has been paused, but this is expected to resume in the next few months.

Ian Berryman said that he met with the Governor of Feltham YOI and it was encouraging to hear the progressive and positive work being undertaken for young people in the establishment regarding their education and welfare.

Emelia Bulley commented that a scoping exercise was undertaken in Feltham YOI in relation to health needs. An action plan has been developed from the recommendations which was being progressed. This will be shared with the Feltham YOI Sub-Group.

***Action: For Emelia Bulley to share the action plan with the Feltham YOI Sub-Group.***

### **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.

There has been a positive increase in the attendance rate with 879 vulnerable pupils attending school. The two Ofsted staff on secondment, have communicated with 78 schools which was received positively by all school leads. The Department of Education (DfE) have clarified that schools will be closed as normal over the summer break.

### **HRCH**

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

HRCH is continuing to develop their recovery plan. The organisation has continued to deliver 'business as usual' to safeguard children and young people in the borough. Safeguarding supervision has continued to be offered to staff on a 3 monthly basis and additional AD-HOC sessions when required. A blended approach has been adopted to safeguarding training and staff have been compliant. HRCH have been working with the Learning and Development Team to develop training packages for practitioners. Senior and Service managers have continued to support the operational teams to ensure their workload is manageable and safeguarding remains a priority.

### **West London Health Trust**

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

West London (WL) NHS Trust is developing a recovery plan. The Trust have continued to deliver 'business as usual' with the safeguarding teams back to full capacity following the redeployment of staff. The Trust has increased the supervision offer to staff for both one-to-one and group supervision. Staff briefings are continuing every two weeks and blended training has continued to be offered to staff.

### **CCG**

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

The Safeguarding Hub which was established to manage health issues during Covid-19, was disbanded on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Ealing Children Services have undertaken a piece of work to improve notifications to GPs for Initial or Review CPCCs and now have an embedded process in place. Emelia Bulley has advised Aparna Bevan, Named GP for Safeguarding Children and Young People to liaise with Ealing to develop a similar process for Hounslow as this is an area of improvement. The CCG is in consultation regarding moving towards a Single Operating Model.

### **Chelwest**

Sarah Green, Consultant Midwife for Public Health and Safeguarding provided a verbal update on service delivery during Covid-19 and welcome comments and questions.

Chelwest have continued to deliver 'business as usual' to ensure babies, children and young people remain safeguarded. As the lockdown eases, the Emergency Department (ED) has seen a slow rise in children presenting to hospital with injuries or medical illnesses.

There were concerns that mothers and babies have continued to remain on maternity wards after discharge because of a delay in the provision of timely accommodation by CSC such as foster care. Discharge planning meetings have continued to take place and plans are completed by 36 weeks to mitigate delays. This issue was not exclusive to Hounslow, but it is important that a process was developed to address this.

Sarah Green is developing a safeguarding training strategy from the intercollegiate document to incorporate children and adults as a 'Think Family' approach.

North West London (NWL) Health and Care Partnership will be launching 'Supportive Signposting' on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to support families to enhance their health and wellbeing. Families could be referred by practitioners or could self-refer.

***Action: For Sarah Green to identify specific cases with delays in discharge on the maternity wards and inform Steven Forbes to address.***

#### **4) Covid-19 Recovery Plans**

The Chair enquired about partner agencies recovery plans and what initiatives and innovative practices that would be implemented post Covid-19. Members voiced the below;

- The effective use of technology to maximise attendance at safeguarding meetings for professionals and families
- The benefits of remote working and how staff could better manage their time
- Technology has enabled better participation of families and professionals to attend safeguarding meetings
- Virtual meetings have encouraged better communication between professionals and young people
- To further explore how technology can be used effectively and more often
- To consider the virtual model for safeguarding supervision for staff as this has been positive
- Consideration of the use of webinars for briefings and training

#### **5) HSCP Covid-19 Recovery Plan for coming year.**

Jo Leader gave a verbal update on the HSCP Covid-19 recovery plan for the coming year.

The HSCP's will as far as possible operate 'business as usual' and continue to make progress against its business plan objectives and fulfil the partnership requirements. Overall, the partnership has responded positively in the virtual delivery of its work during Covid-19 restrictions. All meetings have continued to take place virtually, and often with better attendance and participation from partner agencies. During Covid-19, there has been a good uptake of e-learning and work had begun to deliver some of the face to face training virtually.

At the last Executive Partnership Board meeting in April 2020, it was discussed that given the predicated mass job losses at Heathrow and British Airways Hounslow could be significantly impacted, particularly normally resilient families. Health also informed of an overall decline in children and young people who have presented to Emergency Department (ED) and Urgent Care Centre (UCC) with medical illnesses. Members were asked to be mindful of the potential increase in

neglect during the recovery period. The partnership may have to prioritise neglect post Covid-19, to respond effectively.

Members acknowledged that there could be an uplift in referrals once restrictions are lifted and children and young people are able to make disclosures. The Chair stressed that all services must quickly inform the partnership if there was a sharp increase in referrals to ensure it has the oversight of how services are managing.

Thomas Webster mentioned that the partnership should have a plan in place in preparation for a second wave of Covid-19 this winter as health professionals could potentially be redeployed again.

Clare McKenzie said that all partners should consider the learning from the first Covid-19 outbreak to address issues for young people, particularly vulnerable groups, in preparation for a second wave.

Emelia Bulley asked whether the Safeguarding Adults' Board have identified themes that could potentially impact children and young people. The Chair responded that nothing significant was raised at the last Adult Board meeting which impacted children and young people.

Sarah Green voiced that consideration should be given to staff members who could potentially be experiencing DA. She also questioned whether there were termination clinics in the borough for women wanting to terminate pregnancies but could not access a service.

***Action: For Clare McKenzie to liaise with the sexual health team about access to termination clinics and update Sarah Green.***

## **6) CAMHS Service Delivery**

Ellie Tobin, Children's Joint Commissioning Manager and Dr Johan Redelinghuys, Clinical Director, CAMHS & Developmental Services summarised the report and welcomed comments and questions.

The report was requested by the partnership following concerns raised at the HSCP Executive Partnership Board to seek assurance that young people's mental health needs were being adequately addressed and in a timely way as there had been historic concerns about waiting list timescales.

There has been significant progress and improvement in the Hounslow CAMHS Service to ensure more children and young people were able to access mental health and wellbeing support. This has been demonstrated by a reduction of waiting times and the increase in the rate of young people accessing mental health and wellbeing service.

Young people are risk assessed and managed appropriately according to the risk assessment to ensure that they are appropriately safeguarded. In cases where young people do not meet the threshold for specialist CAMHS intervention, they are signposted to alternative provision including the Mental Health Team Support or the Hounslow Youth Counselling Service (HYCS).

In 2019, WL NHS Trust received a significant investment from Hounslow CCG to clear static waiting list and achieved a maintainable waiting time within 18 weeks from December 2019. The Tier 2 Community CAMHS Team have redesigned their model of care, reducing the waiting time from 52 weeks to 5 weeks. Due to staffing shortages pre Covid-19, the waiting time has risen but has stabilised at approximately 15 weeks. Work will be undertaken with the team to reduce the waiting list again.

The waiting time was variable from when young people were assessed however a young person would be provided with appropriate provision after assessment. From a clinical perspective, cases are assessed and reassessed weekly and if the service are made aware of any information that changes the risk assessment, it would be acted on. There are approximately 3000 cases a year which are prioritised and communicated.

An Intensive Positive Behaviour support service was developed for children with learning disability (LD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at risk of placement breakdown or hospital admission. Targeted mental health support has been put in place for vulnerable groups who may be less likely to engage with CAMHS. The voluntary and community sector such as MIND, provides support for young people who do not meet the threshold for CAMHS.

The Mental Health Team has been in place for a year. They are based in schools providing support from mild to moderate mental health needs and is integral to joint working with education.

The biggest challenge for CAMHS after waiting times has been the recruitment for specialist CAMHS post. The team consist of 5/6 professionals and it has been difficult to fill that post which meant that there is less capacity within the team to deliver adequate clinical hours to meet the increasing demand. CAMHS recognised that there are still areas for improvement.

During the Covid-19 period, 25% of staff were off sick or self-isolating, despite that only 30% of activity has been lost. Some teams have delivered the same activity as they would prior to Covid-19. Overall, teams have managed well and the 15-weeks waiting time only applied to the Tier 2 service.

Historically there has been a misunderstanding of the services that specialist CAMHS offer which has led to inappropriate referrals and delays in getting the right support.

Members raised the below concerns;

- Referrals going to the wrong team
- The waiting time was reduced to 5 weeks and was currently at 15-weeks and there were concerns it could increase further given staff capacity
- Management of any further increase in referrals due to Covid-19 with the lack of staff and capacity

Ellie Tobin and Dr Johan Redelinghuys said that they were already having conversations on how to manage anticipated surge when lockdown has been lifted.

Hounslow CAMHS have established strong joint working with partner agencies but acknowledged that more work could be done to better improve their services for young people.

Members suggested that workshops could be delivered to professionals on the expectation of the wider CAMHS service.

The Chair said that some elements of the reports were reassuring while some were working progress. The Partnership would request a further assurance report from CAHMS in 6 months.

***Action: For the Partnership to request an updated assurance paper from CAMHS in 6 months.***

## **7) Appropriate use of Police Protection.**

Helen Flanagan gave a verbal update on the appropriate use of Police Protection.

There have been concerns around young people being placed in timely and suitable accommodation when taken into Police Protection (PP) and clarification about the conclusion of plans once protection ends. In some cases, there is a lack of understanding with newer Police Officers about the requirements of legislation and ensuring it is applied properly and concluded effectively. There were occasions when placements or plans were not actioned quickly and children were kept in a police station as a placement which was inappropriate, unless exceptional circumstances. Steven Forbes suggested that a joint review was undertaken between Police and CSC to establish a consistent approach and application of the legislation and ensure collaborative working between Police and CSC to identify the most appropriate placement.

During Ofsted's Focus Visit in January 2020, how PP was recorded on the case management system was an area of improvement.

The Chair commented that the appropriate recording of PP for cases should be progressed with urgency as it has been highlighted in the last Ofsted Inspection.

Steven Forbes suggested that a separate meeting was convened with Police and CSC to better understand the issues and plan a joint review.

***Action: Jo Leader to coordinate a meeting with appropriate representatives from Police and CSC to respond to issues of appropriate use of Police Protection.***

***Action: CSC and Police to provide an update on the progress of the review into Police Protection at the next Board meeting.***

Subsequent to the meeting, Elizna Visser informed that changes have been made to the contact record to enable professionals to record PP as a contact reason on cases.

## **8) Children's Social Care Improvement and Ofsted Focus Visit progress**

Elizna Visser, on behalf of Martin Forshaw summarised the report and welcomed comments and feedback.

CSC have developed service level Improvement Plans and were in the process of developing an updated, overarching departmental plan, to replace the plan shared with the Partnership in December 2019.

At the last Focus Visit, Ofsted found an improvement in areas which were identified as requiring improvement in the ILACS inspection in 2018. Ofsted acknowledged the effective work undertaken by the Hounslow LADO particularly the work with Feltham YOI. There has been an improved offer of support, accommodation and care to 16-17 year olds who present as homeless. Targeted work has been undertaken to address the timeliness and quality of assessments which has significantly improved.

The case audit tool has been modified to focus on outcomes and the child's lived experience. A revised monthly audit process was rolled out on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Health contribution at multi-agency strategy meetings remains an area of focus and the Interim Head of Early Help and Front Door Service continued to monitor compliance and challenges. The HSCP Neglect Strategy was launched in January 2020 but all aspects of the strategy have not yet progressed to full implementation including social work attendance at the HSCP neglect training. This implementation plan will be monitored at the next two Safeguarding Effectiveness Sub-Group to ensure swift progress is made.



The updated overarching improvement plan will be presented at the next partnership meeting in September 2020.

**Action: For CSC to present the updated overarching improvement plan at next partnership meeting in September 2020.**

### **9) Timeline for changes to Child Protection Conferences and expectation of the multi-agency system**

Lisa Tingle summarised the report and welcomed comments and questions.

The new conference model is child-centred and encourages collaborative working. The model places a strong importance on planning and preparation by professionals and with families. The families will be given the reports beforehand and professionals who have submitted reports are expected to contact the family to discuss the content of the report. This process will allow reflective discussions in the conference on areas of risk, protective factors and threshold. Qualitative data will be collated and reviewed quarterly on how well the conferences are facilitated.

Following the multi-agency safeguarding audit in 2019, assessing the effectiveness of safeguarding meetings, a multi-agency Task and Finish Group was set up to address the recommendations including revising the CPCC model. The meeting agreed that multi-agency guidance would be developed outlining expectations at conferences. The effectiveness of the CPCC model will be monitored by the Safeguarding and Effectiveness Sub-Group.

Members agreed that it was important that professionals were supported to understand the expectations of them under the new model and welcomed the guidance.

Members endorsed the new model and requested that the partnership board be given regular assurance updates until the process is fully embedded.

### **10) Reduction of Police attendance at Review Child Protection Conferences**

Helen Flanagan gave an update on Police attendance at Review Child Protection Cases Conferences (CPCC).

Prior to the completion of amalgamating all of the safeguarding teams into the Safeguarding Command of the West Area BCU, the attendance of Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) at CPCCs was poor, although this was a trend across London. Over the last year the West Area BCU have tried to maintain 100% attendance at all CPCC which was a challenge and become unsustainable due to staff shortages and workload pressure across the three boroughs. A central decision has been made that police across the met would attend all ICPCC and 60% of RCC.

Members raised concerns on how the 60% would be defined and the lack of Police input at review CPCCs. Helen Flanagan informed that attendance at RCC's would be categorised based on risk level and research completed for the review period.

Members noted that with the reduction in Police and Health attendance at RCC's it would be a challenge to meet the multi-agency decision making requirements outlined in the London Procedures. Elizna Visser shared that she had spoken with DCI Wendy Bassett regarding the reduction of Police attendance at review CPCCs and would closely monitor its impact.

### **11) Domestic Abuse Position. Police and Community Safety (incl update re Maternity participation in daily MARAC).**

Permjit Chadha and Helen Flanagan summarised the report and welcomed comments and questions.

There has been a significant increase in referrals in DA referrals across specialist community DA agencies. Contacts and referrals into CSC and the Hounslow Domestic and Sexual Violence Outreach Service (HDSVOS) for 2020 show marked increases of 60% and 139% respectively, from 2019. The Police show a 13% increase in DA offences compared with last year, which was a much smaller increase than experienced by community partners, which was due to the differences in thresholds.

There was an increase in incidences and decrease in offences with the highest point of arrest being 42% which is the highest rate in Hounslow since May for the last 12 months. There has been an increase in domestic violence protection orders. Currently, Police have not seen an increase in DA however this may be as a result of school closure. There is an expectation that when children and young people return to school, they may have an increase in disclosures.

The National DA Helpline has seen a 67.3% increase in Hounslow calls which is more than double the London average. The Victim Support's London Victim and Witness Service has seen an increase in DA referrals. Cranstoun's group programme for perpetrators of DA is over capacity in Hounslow.

The Local Authority is exploring how to safely manage the increase in demand and conversations are ongoing with Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to offer support.

Helen Flanagan and Permjit Chadha are working together to address the issues.

### **Update on Daily MARAC**

At the last meeting the partnership was made aware of the challenges faced by midwives in undertaking research for daily MARAC during Covid-19. The HSCP was assured that the Community Safety Partnership and the Domestic Abuse Lead at the hospital were having discussion on how to resolve the issue but in the interim, midwives will continue to undertake the research.

### **12) HRCH MASH Timeliness**

Tony Bowen gave a verbal update on MASH timeliness.

HRCH have been manually collecting data as there was no access to MASH scorecards. Timescales are being met by 90% to 100% which is positive. A substantive post holder was back in post and a full time Business Support Officer has been in post since April 2020 providing administrative support. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) was being updated to consider how the daily MARAC would form part of the MASH Practitioner's role.

## **Part B Agenda – Confidential**

### **13) Part B Agenda Items**

There were no Part B agenda items discussed at the meeting.

### **Standing Agenda Items**

### **14) Any Other Business**

### **MASH**

Helen Flanagan gave a verbal update on Police checks in the MASH.

Prior to Covid-19, Police checks in the MASH were well managed with no backlog. In the last few months a backlog has developed across the BCU in police undertaking checks within timescales. Its thought this was primarily due to staff capacity during lockdown, Helen Flanagan acknowledged that it was a concern and staff have been redeployed from other departments to manage the backlog which should be cleared by the end of July 2020. Further remedial action would take place to ensure the backlog did not resume.

Jo Leader highlighted that the MASH Strategic Board had not met for some time and it would be useful to reinstate the meeting particularly during and post Covid-19 to monitor and have oversight of the potential increase in MASH referrals. Steven Forbes said that a discussion will be held following this meeting regarding resuming the meeting.

### **Detective Superintendent**

The Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership thanked Helen Flanagan for her support, effort and contribution as an active member of the Partnership and wished her the very best in her new role.