



Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership Meeting
Monday 26th April 2021
3.00pm – 5.00pm
Virtually, via MS Teams

Attendees		
Name	Agency	Designation
Hannah Miller	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Independent Advisor
Steven Forbes	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Executive Director of Children's & Adults' Services
Jo Leader	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Business Manager
Janet Johnson	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Learning & Development Manager
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
Amanda Lowes	London Borough of Hounslow	Assistant Director: Homelessness, Independence and Preventative Services
Vicki Taylor	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Education & Skills
Kerry Jacks	Feltham YO1	Head of Safeguards
Sarah Green	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital	Consultant Midwife for Public Health and Safeguarding
Tony Bowen	HRCH	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
Yvonne Leese	North West London CCG	Associate Director for Safeguarding Adults
Emelia Bulley	CCG	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children
Dr Nirmala Sellathurai	CCG	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children
Thomas Webster	West London NHS Trust	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
Anil Chatterjee	ARC & HYPE	Service Manager
Sharon Brookes	Police	Detective Superintendent
Phil Hopkins	London Borough of Hounslow	Head of Adolescent Services
Clare McKenzie	London Borough of Hounslow	Children's Commissioning Manager, Public Health
Niamh Murrell	National Probation Service	Senior Probation Officer

Ian Berryman	Woodbridge Park Education Service	Headteacher (Nominated Special Schools Rep)
Graeme Baker	West Thames College	Head of Quality & Standards
Kamm Grewal	Springwell School	Headteacher (Nominated Primary School Rep)
Permjit Chadha	Community Safety	Head of Service
Guests Attendees		
Keith Ibbetson	-	Independent Reviewer
Apologies		
Steve Calder	London CRC	Partnerships & Contracts Manager
Sarah Shingler	HRCH	Director of Nursing
Annita Cornish	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Special Educational Needs and Disability
Pauline Fletcher	North West London CCG	Associate Director for Safeguarding Children
Adam Kerr	National Probation Service	Head of Service Delivery – Hounslow, Kingston and Richmond
Parminder Sahota	West London NHS Trust	Director of Safeguarding Children and Adults
Michael Michaelides	West Thames College	Executive Director Resources & Student Experience
Councillor Tom Bruce	Education and Children's Services	Councillor
Kevin Prunty	Cranford Community College	Executive Headteacher (Nominated Secondary School Rep)
Not Attended		
Karen McLean	Homestart	Voluntary Sector Representative
Josephine Daly	Oak Heights School	Independent School Rep
Clea Barry	CAFCASS	Service Manager

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) Adolescent Strategy progress report

Keith Ibbetson summarised the paper and welcomed comments and feedback.

In November 2020, Board members agreed to develop an Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy. To scope the initial focus of the strategy, the partnership requested information from agencies about services and outcomes for all of the groups that were identified as at risk. The information returned identified priority areas of focus in particular criminal exploitation and sexual harm. It also identified that poor educational outcomes were a key contributory factor to the vulnerability of the young people who fell into the priority risk groups. It was evident that the information across the safeguarding adolescent system was fragmented and there was no one single source of information about children who were subject to criminal exploitation, serious youth violence or risk of serious

harm. Further work was needed to collate a much more detailed understanding of the number of young people who were at risk and vulnerable in order to meet their needs effectively. There was a requirement from key senior partners to ensure that the information was collated and shared with the partnership in a way that was useable to the strategy group so that services could be provided in a more targeted way.

An Adolescent Sub-Group would be set up and commitment was needed from senior partners to ensure good progress was made. The purpose of the group would be to focus on the risk and vulnerabilities of different cohorts of young people and the best place for service delivery.

Steven Forbes said that the Executive Board Members had met to discuss the findings of the scoping work and the main issue was how the HSCP agrees what the potential flags of vulnerability and indicators were across the safeguarding system. Once they were identified, organisations should review the data they already hold within their existing systems to meet the monitoring need.

Children Social Care (CSC), have had ongoing discussions regarding their most vulnerable young people. The data analysis team had collated information from the education database and were able to map 44,000 school children in the borough. Police, Health and the Criminal Justice Service was not included in the information because data was not requested from them at the time.

During the Serious Youth Violence Systemic Review, a number of bespoke reports were commissioned from Police and it was important that data from Police was received. Sharon Brookes said that Police did not have administrative analytical capacity within West Area BCU and would have to be commissioned. Sharon Brookes was happy to take the request and see how Police could best support the strategy.

Permjit Chadha said that there was a piece of work being undertaken by the Intelligence and Insight team and a member of staff had security clearance in accessing Police data directly. The data agreement was yet to be signed off and Permjit Chadha was happy to provide members with an update on the progress of that work.

The Chair said that it was important that partners prioritised the request for information for the strategy group.

The returns strongly highlighted that there were key groups of young people and important locations for service delivery and how best alternative provision such as schools could be accessed.

Graeme Baker commented positively on the report and welcomed routine discussion on the different stages of education for young people and the need for earlier intervention.

4) Threshold document

Martin Forshaw highlighted key areas of the document which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

For context, CSC has an extremely busy Front Door Service and routinely receive over 20,000 contacts per year related to more than 10,000 children, and 17,000 of those contacts do not result in a referral. Anecdotally, professionals were making referrals because it was the safe thing to do however this was causing a vulnerability to the Front Door Service and there was a concern that something could be missed. There was a need to do something unique and different in Hounslow. The emphasis on the threshold document was for professionals to take the responsibility to reflect on the reason for the referral before sending it through to the Front Door. There was an acknowledgement that some professionals were experienced enough to reflect of their rationale for

contacting the Front Door however there was an opportunity for professionals to have discussions with their managers and Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) before making a referral if they were unsure.

The threshold document was presented to the Safeguarding Effectiveness Sub-Group in November 2020, and subsequently in March 2021, for members views and comments on the document. Following the meeting, Martin Forshaw received comments from members particularly from health which were incorporated in the document.

Sarah Green agreed that something different needed to be done to manage inappropriate contacts in order to identify the significant cases. Sarah Green suggested that a quick guide of the Quality of Care (QoC) Assessment tool could be included in the CFAN referral form to support professionals in their decision making. Martin Forshaw explained that the CFAN referral form serves two purposes; it was a referral for a statutory intervention, and it is the assessment for an Early Help case therefore was hesitant to make changes to the form.

Ian Berryman said that Janet Johnson undertook training with Woodbridge Park Education Service (WPES) which was positive, and it included the PAN London Chart to support professionals in making a decision on whether a case needed CSC intervention which was useful. This had helped to strengthen their understanding as a service and suggested that the matrices from the London Procedures could be included in the document. The newly formed link meetings between CSC, Youth Offending Service (YOS) and schools was a strength and open and honest conversations could be held with schools regarding the number of referrals that were being received which were not appropriate. There was a need to explore what was driving professionals to make inappropriate referrals.

Martin Forshaw said that there were links to key documents including the London Child Protection Procedures. There were different forums in place such the school liaison meetings and psycho-social meetings to discuss these cases before or instead of making a referral to the Front Door. The focus was to invest resources in those forums with the expectation that it could change the culture in Hounslow. Due to the significant number of contacts being received by the Front Door, the team did not have the capacity to contact agencies to inform them that the case did not meet the threshold for a referral.

The Met Police were exploring their Merlin process and notifications to the Front Door as there was an acknowledgment that threshold was not being applied and cases were being referred for information only.

There was an agreement that schools should encourage their staff to have a discussion with their DSLs before making a referral. There was a need to ensure that the Early Help offer was robust to help reduce the significant number of contacts. Martin Forshaw said that Early Help was everybody's responsibility and there was a need for agencies to consider what support was needed before making a referral. As part of the ongoing recovery plans for the Council, there were some changes regarding the lower level Early Help, which was called Community Solutions. Hounslow was in the process of mapping the more targeted level just before the Front Door or overlapping with statutory services to ensure that the link was robust.

Members requested a few anonymous case examples of the referrals that do not meet the threshold for CSC intervention to use in safeguarding training for frontline practitioners to help support the reduction of contacts to the Front Door.

Members formally accepted and agreed the Threshold document.

5) HSCP Partnership Board forward plan

Jo Leader gave a verbal update on the plan and welcomed comments and feedback.

The forward plan was circulated so members were aware that it exists. The plan included all of the items that were planned to be reported into the partnership. This should support members in identifying when presentations and reports were due. Members could contribute to the forward plan and it would be circulated throughout the year.

6) HMIP inspection of FYOI

Kerry Jacks summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Since the last inspection, Feltham YOI had made significant progress particularly during Covid-19, to safeguarding young people in the establishment. Despite a significant number of staff contracting the virus, there were few cases in young people which was positive. During the pandemic, young people were split into small groups to access activities and education which had improved the relationship between young people and staff. Face-to-face education had started to be delivered consistently from June 2020 and young people were encouraged to attend in a safe way.

The inspection reviewed data, from the last six months and also six months prior to Covid-19 to provide a fair reflection of the position. Self-harm had reduced significantly with only 5 incidents reported in the last 6 months compared to 242 in the last inspection. The inspectors spoke to young people during the inspection and only 5 young people said that they felt unsafe.

The Enhance Support Unit (ESU) had been relaunched and young people were encouraged to spend more time out of their rooms including access to intervention for the most vulnerable boys. Time out of rooms had also improved since the last inspection and this included the 'reverse cohorting unit.' Young people had a consistent regime and they were provided with a weekly timetable.

The concerns from the inspection were;

- Young people did not feel involved in their sentence or remand plan.
- Welfare should have continued despite young people getting more time out of their rooms.
- The threshold for the LADO referral was not appropriate and the establishment was working with the LADO to address this.
- Quality improvement had improved but there was no clear plan on how they were going to improve it going forward.
- In November 2020, there was an increase in group assaults. The establishment was working with agencies to address this.
- The use of Purple visits was low.
- Few young people attended their review meetings and work was being done to improve this.

Positives practice in the establishment;

- A small gym was built on the 'reverse cohort unit' which was beneficial to young people.
- Legal and professional visits were still being undertaken.
- The dental service had reopened as an Urgent Care Centre which was positive for young people.
- Managers and leaders had a robust oversight of violence.
- Communication around restrictions was good.
- There was an improvement to the adjudication process and a restorative approach had been adopted to support young people to reflect.

- There was positive feedback on Falcon Unit which is a separation unit. The rooms were clean and free from graffiti. For young people who were separated, their days had reduced from 11 hours to 6 hours.
- 56% of young people said that they felt cared for by staff compared 19% in the last inspection.
- Use of Force oversight and documentation had improved significantly. Meetings are well attended and there was a quality assurance process in place.
- The National MMPR team reviewed the pain inducing techniques and the establishment had not had any for a few months.
- Young people had telephones in their room and were provided with £10.00 credit which was a benefit during Covid-19.
- 91% of young people attend education. Education was continuing with GCSE's.
- The library had reopened for young people to access.

Inspectors noted that there was a commendable improvement since the last inspection. Although the establishment had fewer young people than usual, there were some robust processes in place and the challenge would be to build on the progress when the establishment did receive more receptions.

Dr Nimmi Sellathurai informed that the community paediatricians had not received referrals for Child Protection (CP) medicals in the last four months and asked if there was a need to be concerned. Kerry Jacks said that there were no concerns and the point in the report was regarding the SWISS.

Martin Forshaw acknowledged the great work undertaken by the establishment and questioned whether there was a timeframe for increasing the population or was more time being given to embed progress. Kerry Jacks said that there was an agreement to keep the numbers at 110, so young people could remain in small groups and engage in activities. The establishment had currently 65 young people and this was because the court process had slowed down.

The Chair and members congratulated Feltham YOI on a commendable inspection and the positive progress that had been made particularly during the pandemic and hope it would be maintained as the numbers increased.

7) Health inclusion in the safeguarding system follow up from Challenge Day

Yvonne Leese gave an update on health inclusion in the safeguarding system.

The CCG was committed to continuing to work with the partnership in a collaborative way. It was evident from the Challenge Day that there was some good and productive work being undertaken and all partners were committed to delivering better outcomes for children.

It has been a challenging year with unprecedented demand on all agencies and services. Following the new safeguarding arrangements for all local areas, Hounslow has a good record of working together. The reason for the comment from the designated professionals at the Challenge Day was that there was a view that the partnership could further strengthen how partners work together in a more collaborative way. There were a few pieces of work that was undertaken during the pandemic that could be strengthened further but it was acknowledged that many services were redeployed, and safeguarding activity had to continue. .

The NHS was going through an organisational restructure therefore there was a need to understand the role of the Designated professionals within the NHS. Discussion had started between the CCG

and NHS England regarding the changes of the safeguarding arrangements within the NHS and what it will look like as they move towards the Integrated Care System.

Yvonne Leese would deliver a presentation on the role of the CCG and the designated professionals at the next Board meeting in June and would also provide feedback on the changes regarding the safeguarding arrangements.

Steven Forbes said that the presentation would be useful. At the Challenge Day the comment was regarding health partners not feeling included in the safeguarding processes and there was not an equal contribution. There was a need to address any practical issues that was not allowing equal contribution to the partnership from the three partners.

The Chair agreed that if there were any areas that needed strengthening from a CCG perspective, it could be discussed at the next HSCP Executive Partnership Board meeting in May 2021.

8) Assurance of core statutory safeguarding service delivery coming out of Covid -19:

The Chair requested an update on Covid-19 from each agency.

Children's Social Care

Martin Forshaw gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

CSC had continued to deliver 'business as usual' to safeguarding children and young people in Hounslow. There had not been any huge impact on service delivery, and none was anticipated as the lockdown continue to ease.

Police

DS Sharon Brooks gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

Police had a fully resourced service conducting 'business as usual.' The organisation was reintroducing training specifically around the advance safeguarding course. There had been an uplift in Public Protection specifically around missing children and an increase involvement with CSE and CCE. As lockdown eased young people were making unwise decisions and were socialising with older risky children which were causing issues for Police. Police was anticipating a busy summer, and this was being monitored closely. Domestic Abuse had significantly increased with over one hundred offences between February and March for West Area BCU. Missing persons had doubled. Sharon Brookes reassured members that Police were fully deployed and ready to tackle the issues.

FYOI

Kerry Jacks gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

There are no issues regarding staffing as most staff were back from sick leave. The LADO would be attending some meetings in the establishment from the 9th May 2021.

Early Intervention, Education Special Needs and Children with Disabilities

Vicki Taylor gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

No concerns had been shared regarding children with disabilities. Schools were back and it had been quiet.

HRCH

Tony Bowen gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

HRCH had continued to deliver 'business as usual' to safeguarding children and young people. There were no significant issues to report from the last board meeting.

West London NHS Trust

Thomas Webster gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

Safeguarding had continued to be a priority for the Trust and continued to deliver 'business as usual.' The three staff members who were redeployed to support the vaccination hubs had returned to their roles.

CCG

Emelia Bulley gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

As of the 1st April 2021, the eight CCG's have merged to form North West London CCG. The vaccination programme had been the priority for the CCG and practitioners who were redeployed had started to return to their roles. The CCG had continued to receive some of the Quarterly Safeguarding Health Outcome Framework Reports from Health Providers. Emelia Bulley had been invited to their internal Safeguarding committee meetings for their assurance. Safeguarding Children Supervision had continued to be offered to the safeguarding leads. NW London CCG (Hounslow) have started work on Integrated Care Pathway Work streams and Emelia Bulley was part of the Children and Young People stream.

Chelwest

Sarah Green gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

The Safeguarding team continued to maintain 'business as usual' to safeguarding children and young people. One of the safeguarding leads in maternity had been off sick however there was appropriate cover in her absence. Covid-19 cases were gradually reducing and there were no positive cases in the trust. The organisation had continued with the supportive signposting programme in maternity and found that the key issues raised were regarding finance and housing. Martin Forshaw would liaise with Elliot Brooks, Director for Community Solutions in the Local Authority to contact Sarah Green regarding the issue.

The Chair commented on the unemployment rate in Hounslow due to Heathrow's position and asked whether there were any concerns regarding families post Covid-19 and dealing with the pressures.

Steven Forbes said that the partnership must monitor the impact of the pandemic as a priority as the lockdown eased, and furlough came to an end. Hounslow's major employment route, Heathrow would not recover for a substantial number of years, therefore the pressure will continue on families and would need to be closely monitored and kept on the agenda.

Probation

Extracted from the MS Teams Chat

Niamh Murrell updated that a similar picture for Probation services. Though it remained in Exceptional Delivery Model it was business as usual in respect of safeguarding procedures.

9) Feedback from 1:1 Board Members Conversations

From January to March 2021, the Chair undertook 1:1 virtual meeting with twenty-one individual Board members which was positive. The Chair undertook a similar exercise five years ago which highlighted a negative picture of the Board with a lack of transparency and little challenge. Members who sat on neighbouring Boards negatively compared Hounslow at the time, however the feedback was now that Hounslow was compared favourably.

The conversations reinforced that the partnership was working well, it was inclusive and was tackling the key issues that were affecting safeguarding children in Hounslow.

A list was developed by members for exploration to include in the partnership;

- Inclusion of a layperson on the main partnership meeting
- Better links with Youth Council –to include presentations and meetings with young people
- Housing management representative
- Independent schools
- CNWL Trust
- NHSE Specialist Commissioning

Members anticipated the same themes for the next Business Planning Cycle;

- Children with Disabilities
- Elective Home Schooling
- Assurance across all agencies on Early Help/ prevention

Members recognised that it was not always easy to evidence that partners were delivering the outcomes for children / young people. As part of the new partnership arrangements the Missing & Vulnerable Sub Group and the Quality Assurance Sub groups were merged to form the Safeguarding Effectiveness Sub Group. The group was Chaired by Elizna Visser and members gave positive comments on the success of the subgroup with tangible outcomes. A key issue raised by members was how could the voice of the child be strengthened across all partnership meetings. Members gave a number of ideas such as to baseline what each agency is doing to hear the voice of the child and how it is used to inform policy and practice.

The support from the partnership Operational Team was acknowledged by members as having an impact on the effectiveness of the HSCP function. The Chair found the exercise very useful for her role. The findings from the conversation could support the Challenge Day and Development Day.

Steven Forbes said that Claire Bridge was working on a new Hounslow wide engagement with young people as part of the development of a new young people and children strategy and suggested that a conversation was held with Claire Bridge to tie in that work. There was a need to strengthen the link of governance outside the partnership particularly from statutory partners. This should be explored this coming year to be robust and ambitious.

Standing Agenda Items

10) AOB

London-wide Multi-Agency Safeguarding Data Sharing Agreement

Jo Leader informed that lots of schools and key agencies in the borough had signed the multi-agency safeguarding data sharing agreement. The document had been signed off and would be published on the HSCP website.

Part B Agenda – Confidential

11) HSCP Executive Board Meeting Update

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

12) AOB

No other business was discussed as a Part B confidential agenda item.