



**Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership Meeting**  
**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020**  
**2.00pm – 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
Jo Leader	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Business Manager
Janet Johnson	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Training & 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
Vicki Taylor	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Education & Skills
Annita Cornish	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Special Educational Needs and Disability
Clare McKenzie	London Borough of Hounslow	Children's Commissioning Manager, Public Health
Kerry Jacks	Feltham YOI	Head of Safeguards
Fiona Martin	West Area BCU Met Police	T/Detective Superintendent
Sarah Shingler	HRCH	Director of Nursing
Pauline Fletcher	North West London CCG	Associate Director for Safeguarding Children
Sarah Green	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital	Consultant Midwife for Public Health and Safeguarding
Tony Bowen	HRCH	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
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)
Lizzette Ambrose	HM Prison & Probation Service	Head of Service Delivery – Hounslow, Kingston and Richmond
Clea Barry	CAFCASS	Service Manager
Ruben Seetharamdoo	ARC	Service Manager

Parminder Sahota	West London NHS Trust	Director of Safeguarding Children and Adults
Josephine Daly	Oak Heights School	Independent School Rep
Graeme Baker	West Thames College	Head of Quality & Standards
Kamm Grewal	Springwest Academy	Primary School Rep
<b>Guests Attendees</b>		
Keith Ibbetson	-	Independent Reviewer
Jatinder Virk	London Borough of Hounslow	Elective Home Education Lead
Sandra Weir	London Borough of Hounslow	Children Missing Education Officer
<b>Apologies</b>		
Councillor Tom Bruce	Education and Children's Services	Councillor
Sophie Bartle	London CRC	Partnerships & Contracts Manager
Michael Michaelides	West Thames College	Executive Director Resources & Student Experience
Steven Forbes	London Borough of Hounslow	Executive Director for Children's and Adults Services
Thomas Webster	West London NHS Trust	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children and Young People
<b>Not Attended</b>		
Kevin Prunty	Cranford Community College	Executive Headteacher (Nominated Secondary School Rep)
Karen McLean	Homestart	Voluntary Sector Representative

### 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 Safeguarding Strategy Project Proposal

Keith Ibbetson summarised the paper and welcomed comments and feedback.

Following the murder of a teenager in early 2019, the partnership undertook a Systemic Serious Youth Violence Review to explore serious youth violence more broadly in Hounslow. At the Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) Development Day in 2019, it was agreed that adolescent safeguarding should be made a themed priority of the Board with the view to develop a Multi-Agency Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy.

The partnership members were asked to agree the below with regards to the strategy:

- The specific objectives in developing an adolescent safeguarding strategy.
- Whether service redesign should be considered.
- The work that it wants to be done to develop the strategy such as undertaking a new consultation with young people or building on existing knowledge.
- The governance and accountability arrangements for the project.

- The role of a strategy document.

Members gave the following comments and feedback;

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) should be a strong feature in the strategy.
- What professionals see as risk; adolescents do not see it as risk.
- A visionary strategy would be optimal which gives an opportunity to build on.
- Inclusions should be included.
- Primary School children should be considered.

The Chair commented that discussions were held on the creation of an Adolescent Sub-Group to implement and deliver the strategy with Keith Ibbetson as the Chair. Agreement was needed from members to form the sub-group. It was important that all agencies would be represented at the group, therefore membership would be discussed and would be presented to the partnership once it had been decided.

Permjit Chadha informed that Ealing Council has set up a group to explore young people who were linked to cuckooing and the Hounslow Youth Offending Manager and the Adolescent Team Manager were both part of the group.

Members agreed with the development of the strategy and assured that all agencies would contribute to it.

Sarah Green suggested that members had a look at Nadine Burke Harris on YouTube who has done some positive work with young people with trauma.

Subsequent to the meeting, the European report on Preventing Violence and Knife Crime among Young People was shared with members.

#### **4) Education Annual Reports**

##### **Children Missing Education Annual Report 2019/20**

Sandra Weir, Children Missing Education Officer, summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

Due to Covid-19, the Children Missing Education (CME) Team received a number of significant referrals from schools regarding young people who have moved out of the UK to attend schools in their home country because parents work contracts were terminated or not renewed. Families who left the UK were unable to register their children into schools because of the pandemic and some of the children were either learning at home or accessing online learning from their previous school. A number of families had moved to other parts of the UK because of safeguarding issues or temporary housing.

The panel for Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils who were out of school have given advice to the team in supporting young people who arrived in the UK without an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). In the last academic year, all Independent Schools in Hounslow have completed their starters and leavers returns and work was being done with schools to improve the content of their report to include basic information.

During 2019/20 the Children Missing Education Policy and Off Roll Procedures were reviewed and updated. The council website has been updated with these documents and distributed to schools.

The team would continue to monitor the starters and leavers returns from Independent Schools, to ensure they are returned on a regular basis and was fully completed.

The CME Referral Form has been updated, which includes a full list of reasonable enquires to be made by the school before a referral to CME was made. This will enable the team to focus on more challenging referrals to ensure a swift conclusion.

Members accepted the Children Missing Education annual report.

### **Elective Home Education Annual Report 2019/20**

Jatinder Virk, Elective Home Education Lead, summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The report highlighted some positive work undertaken with families which would continue. There was an ongoing challenge with families who continue to not engage with the team and work was being undertaken to address it.

In February 2020, a review of Elective Home Education (EHE) was undertaken and it went well. There were over 130 families that had not been visited over the years and during the pandemic the team were able to conduct socially distance cold calls to families that had not engaged previously. In September 2020 they managed to engage with all of the families which was positive, and the families welcomed the team enquiring about their children. During the visits the team found that a number of the families had moved and with the support of the CME team they were able to track them. Some families who had elected to home educate their children now requested a school place and the team worked with the inclusion and admission team to support children back in education.

Since September 2020, the EHE numbers have increased to 189 children and this was mostly as a result of Covid-19. Families reported that children would go back to school either in April or September 2021. The EHE team now request an education plan from parents on the curriculum coverage for their children for the coming year. Where there were concerns, there would be regular support and monitoring.

Links had been made with education which would continue to be developed and further engagement would be undertaken with Independent Schools to ensure that notification was completed when families decide to home educate their children.

Vicki Taylor said that the significant increase and impact of parental choice of electing to home educate had been seen nationally. An enquiry was being undertaken by the education committee around this and it was being closely monitored by the Department of Education (DfE) and it was on Ofsted's agenda. Vicki Taylor assured members that capacity was a priority for the Local Authority and funding was being secured to put in additional capacity in the interim. The long-term capacity was being monitored through the internal children Improvement Board.

Ian Berryman informed that the CME and EHE team would regularly present children who have been elective home educated for a significant period of time to the Fair Access panel for discussions and next steps which was reassuring.

The Chair commented that France had planned to ban home-schooling in September 2021 and asked if Hounslow had considered the rationale for the decision locally. Vicki Taylor said that it had not been considered but it was being closely monitored to see what the impact and outcomes would be.

### **Achievements:**

- Quality handover notes received from schools within timescales
- Relationships with EHE families have strengthened through Covid-19 due to regular phone calls, emails and social distanced visits
- Families made use of Community Hub and Food banks during lockdown due to EHE signposting
- Families made use of online resources including 'BBC Bitesize' and 'Oak National Academy' leading to CYP making progress
- Children on EHCPs had contact with EHE coordinator throughout year as well as annual review
- Support was available from HB Law where there are concerns regarding EHE families not engaging
- The Hounslow website was updated to enable easier access to parents regarding EHE
- Children on EHE was shared with CHAS teams' termly
- Continued active participation in Regional Professional EHE Network

### **Challenges**

- The lack of staff resource to ensure quality and quantity overview for number of children
- The lack of resource to make 'inroads' to families who are not willing to engage with EHE team
- Independent education settings not always informing admissions/EHE when children are 'off-rolled'

### **Plans for 2020/21**

- Continue to build effective relationships with even more EHE families
- Training for staff to use Synergy efficiently and effectively
- Foster links with Hounslow home educating parent groups
- Have a better understanding of role of Connexions as linked with EHE YP
- Funding to enable the appointment of a second EHE coordinator

Members accepted the Elective Home Education annual report.

### **Traveller Education Team Report**

Jatinder Virk, Elective Home Education Lead, summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

During Covid-19, vulnerable families accessed the community hub which they would not have done normally. Despite the situation with Covid-19, they have remained in contact with all Traveller EHE families.

Following a bereavement in the traveller community, the Traveller Education Team (TET) provided support to the community and positive communication was received.

### **Plans for 20/21:**

- Continue to support schools and families with attendance at educational settings
- Signpost and support families to appropriate provision for young people
- To continue to work with families to ensure young people are accessing suitable education

Members accepted the Traveller Education Team annual report.

### **5) HRCH Safeguarding Children Annual Report 2019/20**

Tony Bowen, Named Nurse Safeguarding Children, summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

It was a busy year for HRCH, but staff remained focus and were supported throughout the organisation. In 2019, there was a reduction in safeguarding supervision for practitioners because three members of staff left the organisation. Once the post was filled there was a significant improvement in supervision which was maintained with additional sessions being offered. HRCH was fully staffed and offered supervision to skill mixed teams and overall, there had been good compliance. It was a challenge offering supervision to the Urgent Care Centre (UCC) because of the nature of their role. To address this the Named Nurse was offering virtual sessions to staff at the UCC and was joining the huddles.

There were no concerns regarding compliance with training and compliance above 90% was being achieved. The uptake in the Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training was low in quarter one but that had improved by 90% in November and was being maintained. Last year there was a specific focus on the MASH Service and the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and the improvement of the timeliness of the health intelligence reporting. The key indicators were still being maintained and timescales were being met. A Business Support Officer was successfully recruited which was working well.

Overall progressed had been made on key areas. The trust had no areas in their workplan rag rated as red which was positive. One of their key themes was around neglect. Training had been developed around routine enquiry and risk assessment and work was being undertaken with the Quality of Care Tool, particularly with health visitors.

Sarah Shingler, Director of Nursing for HRCH commented that although the trust struggled with staffing over the last 12 months, safeguarding children remained a priority and the team worked really well to improve MASH performance, safeguarding supervision and training.

Dr Nimmi Sellathurai commented that the HRCH report did not capture the work undertaken by the Community Paediatricians and the improvements made in quality activities undertaken by the Named Doctor and it was important that the annual report showcased that. Sarah Shingler commented that due to Covid-19, the Trust was advised that the annual report should be succinct due to staff pressure. The work with Looked After Children (LAC) and CP medicals had been shared with the Trust Board and was happy to share it with partnership members.

Subsequent to the meeting, Tony Bowen shared the Safeguarding Children Combined Quarter 1 and 2 Report which was circulated with members of the partnership.

Members accepted the HRCH annual report.

## **6) WL NHS Trust Annual Report 2019/20**

Parminder Sahota, Director of Safeguarding Children and Adults, summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

In July 2019, WL NHS Trust further expanded their services to offer physical health services in Ealing. Due to Covid-19, the Trust ceased training from March until May 2020 with a revised training programme in place and was working towards a 90% compliance level by 2021. A new Safeguarding Strategy was developed in December 2019 and the aim was to achieve compliance with safeguarding documents in 2021. There were six goals identified in the strategy to be achieved over a 3-year period.

- Standardisation of Safeguarding processes across the Trust
- Develop a data set to support and identify areas of need
- Staff to feel confident in decision making
- Audit the quality of Safeguarding referrals to support Safeguarding practice in February 2021
- Making Safeguarding Personal – Listening to the child, young person, adult service users and their families/carers
- Working in partnership with multi agencies to provide an effective Safeguarding response

There had been a 9.5% increase in safeguarding referrals across the Trust and a 4% decline in child visits. The Trust has been busy with Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews with nine across all three boroughs. Practitioners were requesting more support with complex cases which was positive.

Jo Leader commented that it was important for the partnership to improve on actioning learning from reviews as early as possible. Lots of learning could be identified and actioned during the Rapid Review process to make improvements quickly and then built upon during the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR).

Members accepted the WL NHS annual report.

## **7) Chelwest Annual Reports**

### **Safeguarding Children Annual Report**

Sarah Green, Safeguarding Midwife, summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

Safeguarding supervision was offered to staff on a regular basis and was achieved through 1:1, group supervision, weekly huddle, monthly meetings and AD-HOC sessions. There were safeguarding hubs within the Trust that practitioners could access when needed. Due to the pandemic, a safeguarding surgery was set up and was available every Friday with good access by staff particularly neonatal staff and this would continue.

Chelwest would continue to review safeguarding training in line with the recommendations from the updated Intercollegiate Document to achieve over 90% compliance. A “Think Family” Strategy was being considered and safeguarding training would be redesigned, particularly in maternity to encourage a joint think family approach. A training passport was developed for staff to capture all safeguarding training, so compliance was maintained.

There had been a steady stream of referrals into Children Social Care (CSC). The organisation was trying to increase referrals to the Early Help Hub to ensure that women and families receive support at the earliest opportunity. Work was being done with the Early Help Team to improve referrals into their service instead of the MASH and an Early Help practitioner was linked to the hospital to offer support. The organisation was concerned that during the earlier stages of the pandemic there had been a decline in babies and children that presented to Emergency Department but that had stabilised.

A Safeguarding Children Deep Dive Audit was undertaken in May 2019 at the West Middlesex University Hospital (WMIUH) and the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital site and some of the recommendations have been addressed.

The psycho-social meetings have continued to take place virtually to have good oversight of safeguarding cases and were working well.

The new pilot programme “Supportive Signposting” was launched within maternity and Chelwest had the most referrals. An audit was undertaken for the first 3 months and the feedback from families was that it had improved their emotional wellbeing. The programme was successful and was agreed for a further 3 months. Discussions were being held with NHS England on how it could be embedded.

There were continued challenges with supporting the daily MARAC and conversations were being held on the best way forward. A guidance was developed by the domestic abuse coordinator regarding immediate safety planning for women identified as being victims of domestic abuse. If the woman could not be asked safely over the phone about domestic abuse, a face-to-face appointment would be made.

The trust has a safeguarding children health network which was held monthly to discuss general issues.

Sarah Green Co-Chairs the National Maternity Safeguarding Network which has been in place for 18 months and it was a good platform to link into to see the national issues.

Members accepted Chelwest Safeguarding annual report.

#### **Safeguarding Board Domestic Abuse Report 2019/20**

Sarah Green, Safeguarding Midwife, summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

A process was being developed to continue to support contribution to the daily MARAC. The organisation has trained 86 Domestic Abuse Leads (DALs) which was a 59% increase from 2018/19 with a total of 285 leads across the organisation.

Members accepted Chelwest Domestic Abuse annual report.

#### **Learning Disability and Transition Annual Report 2019/20**

Sarah Green, Safeguarding Midwife, summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The Trust continued to make progress in improving their services for patients with a learning disability or autism or both by developing its approach to inclusion, information, access, support, service provision and partnership working with families and carers, in line with the national agenda.

Members accepted Chelwest Learning Disability and Transition annual report.

### **8) Children Social Care Annual Reports**

#### **Child Protection Chairs Annual Report 2019/20**

Elizna Visser, Acting Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

The Team Manager post was vacant from November 2019 until May 2020 when a permanent appointment was made. In 2018, there were concerns regarding the timeliness of Initial Child Protection Case Conferences (ICPCC) and last year there was a 94% improvement. Historically, the



Review CPCC timeliness was an area for improvement which was achieved and had been maintained at 99%.

Last year, the team had five priorities, one of which was to embed the new CPCC model which was rolled out in July 2020 with good support from partner agencies. An initial dip sample was undertaken to look at the impact of the new model on developing SMART plans and the findings were positive, with a more in-depth audit planned to look at impact. Previously the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and Child Protection (CP) Chair had been combined, however following consultation the role had been split to support improved oversight and challenge. Two staff had left throughout the year, but recruitment was quick, and all staff were permanent.

As part of the new CPCC model, feedback forms for parents and professionals have been revised to ensure participation and ongoing improvement in practice.

The Participation Service had moved into the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service which was positive as they were supporting the work to improve the participation of children and young people at their conferences. Advanced Practitioners were working with the CP Chairs to develop bespoke practice guidelines to prepare children for conferences and there was support from Action for Children in providing regular access advocacy services, especially when attending their conferences.

Embedding the neglect strategy and the consistent use of the Quality of Care Tool was a priority for service.

This year, the number of children known to CSC on a CP plan was 12% against the target of 15%. Recently plans were taking longer to conclude, and this could be because of Covid-19. There was a slight increase in CP cases taking longer than two year which was being monitored through the CP scrutiny panel.

It had been a challenging year for the service, but the team mobilised quickly and CPCCs took place virtually from March 2020. The feedback had been positive from both partners and families and participation and engagement has been 'business as usual'.

The Chair asked what support was given to CP Chairs to appropriately challenge other partner agencies in conferences, as this had been a concern previously and the headline findings from the Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Audit was that there was a lack of robust professional challenge. Elizna Visser said that she would need to explore the issue in more detail, however the Team Manager had reviewed the internal and external challenge process and confirmed that there has been good internal challenge but would gain an understanding of how robust it was in CPCCs. Jo Leader said that this had been highlighted not only in the CSA audit but in Rapid Review meetings and it was important that members took a view on how challenge was being delivered in the next financial year.

Members accepted the Child Protection Chairs annual report.

### **IRO Annual Report 2019/20**

Elizna Visser, Acting Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

From March 2020, meetings were taking place virtually. The IRO support for young people in care had been significant and ensured that the child or young person could have their say in their review and that their voice was heard. Looked After Children (LAC) reviews timeliness has remained

consistent at over 90%. There were four and a half IROs in post and the roles were embedded in service.

One of the key priorities was to establish a process for young people to be given the opportunity to Chair their own looked after reviews but this was delayed by Covid-19. A model has been developed and would be piloted from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and would start with young people who want to do it. There has been an improvement in the timelines of completing LAC review minutes and were keeping to the timescales of 15 days. The participation of young people in their LAC reviews had improved which had been supported by the virtual platform. The IROs have been engaging in issues of placement stability earlier to ensure they were getting it right.

Going forward the report would be made more child friendly so young people could understand what was being said about the service that supports them.

Members accepted the IRO annual report.

### **LADO Annual Report 2019/20**

Elizna Visser, Acting Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

Since October 2018, the LADO role has been covered by interim post holders. From September 2019 to May 2020, an interim LADO set the foundation for the service in ensuring that there was consistency in decision making and advice. In January 2019, during an Ofsted Focus Visit, the LADO service was identified as an area of strength for the organisation and the positive work with Feltham Young Offenders Institute (FYOI). In May 2020, a permanent LADO was recruited with additional capacity of a part time LADO in October 2020. The new LADO had maintained a good working relationship with Feltham YOI.

A consultation form has been developed to record discussions between the LADO and Feltham YOI staff on cases that did not meet the threshold for a LADO referral which was to ensure that discussions are recorded in a timely manner. The majority of LADO referrals are from Feltham YOI and there had been a small reduction in referrals because of safeguarding training and the improved relationship developed between Feltham YOI and the LADO service.

In April 2020, a spreadsheet was re-embedded to track referrals and timeliness. Dip sampling was undertaken to explore the timeliness and threshold referrals for suitability and there were no issues.

Regular multi-agency review meetings would be held for LADO cases that have remained opened for more than four weeks.

The bespoke training offered to agencies by the LADO had been hampered by Covid-19. Briefing sessions have been used and the LADO profile had been re-embedded in safeguarding teams. Further work was needed to roll out the briefing sessions to Adult Services and agencies including health and Police.

The 'lessons learned' initiative was established by the last permanent LADO to assist in reviewing cases and the learning with professionals once an investigation has been completed and how training could be supported. This will be progressed over the next few months to re-embed the process and templates and Terms of Reference were being created.

In terms of Allegations against Staff and Volunteers (ASV) outcomes for unfounded and unsubstantiated allegation, the Hounslow LADO had formed a West London LADO meeting to

consider benchmark data and collective learning. The unfounded and unsubstantiated allegation is an area of work that further dip sampling work was required in 2021 to gather better analysis and understanding of trends, particularly in areas that have a Young Offenders Institution (YOI).

Janet Johnson commented that the 'meet the LADO' sessions, were positively received by partner agencies.

Kerry Jacks commented that the last interim LADO did good work with FYOI and the new LADO has maintained the progress made.

Members accepted the LADO annual report.

Martin Forshaw commented that there was a need to present all annual reports to the partnership much earlier in the year and agreed that professional challenge should be captured in the reports for the coming year.

## **9) Covid-19 Update – All**

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 have continued to deliver 'business as usual' to safeguarding children and young people in Hounslow and have managed direct contact services. Last week, there was a concern of infection across the workforce and Hounslow House was closed while staff testing was being undertaken. Tests were returned as negative and the face-to-face service was re-established within Covid-19 guidance. There was an immediate response to safeguarding referrals when schools returned however the rate had been lower than last year. Despite the lower referral rate, Section 47 referrals have increased and there were questions on whether it was being initiated too quickly. Going forward, CSC were expecting referrals rates to be lower following conversations with referring agencies regarding support that could be provided from the Early Help Hub in the first instance, before a safeguarding referral was made.

### **Police**

DS Fiona Martin gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

Police continued to engage, encourage and explain and were enforcing Covid-19 restrictions with more rigor. Across the West Area, Police have had to dismiss big weddings and parties during the Covid-19 pandemic. Within the workforce, offices were Covid-19 secure, however the extremely vulnerable officers continued to work remotely.

### **FYOI**

Kerry Jacks gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

Following the start of the National Lockdown in November, Feltham YOI had a two-week outbreak and a limited regime was provided to young people as there were 60 members of staff isolating. Education was being delivered on the units, however they have now returned to going into the education department, despite a significant amount of staff off due to Covid-19. There had been one positive case of a young person and he was taken to the 'reverse cohort unit' and was doing well. In

October 2020, there was an increase in Use of Force due to the amount of young people involved in incidents and as a result of young people spending a lot of time out of their rooms in comparison to the last few months. In November 2020, there was a reduction in young people assaults and staff assaults. The establishment was now delivering a full regime and the relationship between staff and young people had improved.

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

Vicki Taylor gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

From September 2020, there have been 124 staff and 294 pupils who have tested positive for Covid-19 across 64 schools. The average daily attendance was maintained at approximately 88%. The biggest challenge for schools continued to be the number of staff self-isolating and two schools had to be closed due to the number of the senior leadership staff who were off and during this period, children and young people accessed online learning. The support from the school liaison social worker allocated to schools were well received. Education providers have engaged in the 'meet the LADO' sessions and would continue to do so. The capacity within the EHE service was an ongoing priority and was being closely monitored. Assurance was needed regarding the safety of online learning for children and a discussion would be held at the Local Authority Liaison meeting regarding the safeguarding measures in place to ensure children were safe during online learning.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Annita Cornish gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

The service delivery from the team was 'business as usual' and there was reassurance that contacts were being made with children when they were not in school. Special schools in the borough were under the same pressure as mainstream schools due to staff self-isolating. Despite this, staff had worked hard to maintain a good service for children and their families. There had been regular updates received from the SEN Advisor as part of the DfE monitoring regarding children on EHCPs.

### **HRCH**

Tony Bowen gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

HRCH has continued to deliver 'business as usual' to safeguarding children. The Trust was planning for a potential redeployment of staff and had a hub and SOPs regarding redeployment. All clinical staff had completed clinical skills questionnaire to support potential redeployment.

There was a blended approach to safeguarding training for staff and safeguarding supervision had continued to be offered both face-to face and virtually. HRCH was rolling out testing for frontline staff twice weekly with the expectation that staff would also test themselves.

The Trust reviewed their business continuity plans and at the moment they were not redeploying any safeguarding staff.

### **West London NHS Trust**

Parminder Sahota gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

The Trust had continued to deliver 'business as usual' and referrals were still being received. Contact with services had increased and they were more involved in the handover of cases. Since Covid-19, the Trust has hosted webinars every month which were available for partner agencies to access.

There had been good attendance at the Webinars with over 100 professionals taking part and there had been good feedback. Work has been done with the PREVENT team to deliver a session and with a member of the SISP team to explore 'Think Family'. The Trust was working closely with partner agencies to support learning to strengthen safeguarding.

Emelia Bulley commented that the webinars have been useful and had been shared with GPs to attend.

### **CCG**

Emelia Bulley gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

The CCG had completed the first part of their Single Operating Model consultation and staff were being interviewed and being placed in new roles and this was ongoing. There had been no information on the redeployment of Designated Nurses. The CCG was continuing with their programmes around flu, Covid-19 testing and the pending vaccination. In terms of discussions with the Named professionals from different Trust, they have seen an increase in the presentation of complex cases. Safeguarding assurance was being received from health providers through the SHOF. In terms of staffing, the CCG was working in line with the Agile Working Policy for North West London (NWL) CCG and risk assessments were completed for staff. Staff were working through the digital platform and training was being delivered via webinars. Training for GPs was being developed and would start on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.

Dr Nirmala Sellathurai said that there had been no changes regarding redeployment for Designated doctors.

### **Chelwest**

Sarah Green gave a verbal update on Covid-19.

There was an increase in adult's who have children who had presented to hospital as very ill with Covid-19, mental health issues and self-harm and the children's safety was appropriately considered. In maternity, there was an increase in women who were identified as at risk of domestic abuse or trafficking who were booking late or not at all.

Since Covid-19, the law has changed, and women could have termination tablets outside of the clinic, 'Abortion by Post' which was a concern regarding safeguarding. This has been raised with the CCG and the Designated National Team.

## **Part B Agenda – Confidential**

### **10) None**

#### **Standing Agenda Items**

### **11) Domestic Abuse Update – Permjit Chadha / Fiona Martin**

Fiona Martin gave an update on domestic abuse.

The domestic violence offences the week of the 16th November 2020 had reduced by 50% compared to the same time last year. Domestic violence with injury had remained static in line with normal figures. The 16 Days of Action against Domestic Violence would commence from 25th November 2020 to 10th December 2020. In response to domestic violence, one of the areas of

learning identified from internal audits was capturing the voice of the child. Training had been undertaken to get the message across to response officers on the importance of speaking to the child to ensure they were okay during a domestic violence incident.

A system was being developed to capture child abuse data more easily. A new team called the Predatory Offenders Unit was launched to focus on finding and arresting high harm offenders who pose significant risk to children and adults. The team would focus on crimes including domestic abuse, child abuse and human trafficking. The number of outstanding suspects had been reduced, which meant they were getting dealt with quickly which was positive.

There were 900 referrals to MASH per month. Discussions had been held with Children Services regarding Section 47 and thresholds.

## **12) Letter to Safeguarding Partnerships in North West London**

A letter was shared with safeguarding partnership regarding the local health response in relation to the placement of asylum seekers in North West London. The Home Office was responsible for providing accommodation, food, personal supplies and advice and application.

Amanda Lowes said that there were concerns regarding nutrition and a lack of varied diet. Amongst the cohort were pregnant women and children. The issues had been raised through the Refugees Welcome Voluntary Sector Group. Contact has been made with Clearsprings Ready Homes regarding concerns as they were not fulfilling what they were supposed to. There was a voluntary sector network that was happy to help but the Home Office was supposed to provide everything that was necessary to look after them. This was becoming an increasing problem particularly with pregnant women in the environment and was discussed at NHS England and maternity action.

There was no consistent approach across partnerships in terms of what they were doing to seek assurance on the number of children in the hotels. If parents register with a GP, children under 5's would be linked to the health visiting services but this created a gap for over 5's. Communications have been shared with GP practices to ensure that they understand the needs of the vulnerable group and they are referred appropriately where necessary.

A letter was shared with other partnerships to highlight the vulnerable groups and referred to the health letter and providing assurances of what was happening with the vulnerable children. As a result of the letter it was agreed that there would be a coordinated response to the cohort so members could give assurance that they were aware of the them and there were processes in place.

The Chair suggested that the partnership could write to partner agencies to notify them of the group to obtain assurance of awareness.

## **13) Feedback from TASP Session re Alan Wood Review 2020**

Jo Leader gave a brief overview of the Alan Wood Review 2020.

Sir Alan Wood was appointed to review how the new partnerships were addressing the issues outlined in the Wood Review in 2016 regarding the role and function of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

The key areas of focus in the review were;

- Funding of the partnerships
- Leadership and Accountability

- When nominated professionals attend and participate in decision making, how effectively it was cascaded back to the named safeguarding partner.

Sir Alan Wood received feedback on the challenge of Local Authorities increasingly trying to work with health services and Police covering a bigger geographical area whilst the Local Authority continued to cover one single area. Sir Alan Wood advised that the most effective partnerships avoided silo meetings between individual agencies and aimed to the right professionals in the room, having transparent conversations and making quick decisions.

Jo Leader stressed that the questions that partners should keep asking themselves was that “what impact are we having on the system and what value are we adding.” If this could not be identified, a different approach was required.

Going forward, partnerships would be regulated again by Ofsted and there would be a revision of Working Together in 2021.

A preliminary report will be available in early 2021.

The Chair reminded members that the main priority of the partnership was to work effectively, transparently and collaboratively to safeguard children in Hounslow. It was important that there was appropriate professional challenge when needed and the partnership received assurance that could be signed off. There were still concerns around neglect and the partnership continued to undertake work to ensure it was embedded.

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

The CCG Annual Report was waiting to be signed off and will be presented at the next meeting in January 2021.

The CDOP Annual Report would be presented at the next meeting in January 2021.

The Child Sexual Abuse audit findings was circulated to key professionals for feedback and comments and a report would be presented to the next meeting in January 2021.