



**Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership Meeting**  
**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022**  
**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
Amanda Lowes	London Borough of Hounslow	Assistant Director: Homelessness, Independence and Preventative Services
Vicki Taylor	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Education & Skills
Clare McKenzie	London Borough of Hounslow	Children's Commissioning Manager, Public Health
Adriana Thomas	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	HSCP Interim Business Manager
Annita Cornish	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Special Educational Needs and Disability
Sharon Richards	London Borough of Hounslow	Head of Front Door and Intake Service
Councillor Lily Bath	Education and Children's Services	Councillor
Lorna Waite	CCG	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children
Siobhan Appleton	CCG	Interim Assistant Director for Safeguarding
Dr Nirmala Sellathurai	CCG	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children
Stephanie Hancock	HRCH	Deputy Named Nurse Safeguarding Children HRCH
Sarah Green	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital	Consultant Midwife for Public Health and Safeguarding
Thomas Webster	West London NHS Trust	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
Sharon Brookes	Police	Detective Superintendent
Niamh Murrell	National Probation Service	Senior Probation Officer
Ian Berryman	Woodbridge Park Education Service	Headteacher (Nominated Special Schools Rep)
Kamm Grewal	Springwell School	Headteacher (Nominated Primary School Rep)
Josephine Daly	Oak Heights School	Independent School Rep
Michael Michaelides	West Thames College	Executive Director Resources & Student Experience
Taruna Rampersad	ARC	Service Manager
Apologies		
Martin Forshaw	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director – Children's Safeguarding & Specialist Services
Phil Hopkins	London Borough of Hounslow	Head of Adolescent Services

Janet Johnson	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Learning & Development Manager
Claire Smith	London Borough of Hounslow	Assistant Director for Children's Commissioning
Elizna Visser	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance
Kelly O'Neill	London Borough of Hounslow	Director Public Health
Permjit Chadha	Community Safety	Head of Service
Sarah Garrod	London Borough of Hounslow	Administration Business Partner FR – Corporate Governance
Sonia Mall	London Borough of Hounslow	Executive Business Partner FR – Corporate Governance
Kumal Rajpaul	HRCH	Interim Director of Nursing & Non Medical Professionals
Parminder Sahota	West London NHS Trust	Director of Safeguarding Children and Adults
Graeme Baker	West Thames College	Head of Quality & Standards
Victoria Eadie	Tudor Park Education	CEO (Nominated Secondary School Rep)
Natasha Wilson	Feltham YOI	Governor
Katie Stone	Feltham YOI	Head of Safeguards
Adam Kerr	National Probation Service	Head of Service Delivery – Hounslow, Kingston and Richmond
Clea Barry	CAFCASS	Service Manager
Christopher Davidson	London Fire Brigade	
Peter Clark	London Fire Brigade	
Matthew Williams	London Fire Brigade	
<b>Not Attended</b>		
Karen McLean	Homestart	Voluntary Sector Representative

### 1) Introductions & Apologies

Partnership members introduced themselves to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed. All members agreed there were no changes or amendments to be made. The action log was updated.

### 3) Action Log

Adriana Thomas took members through the action log.

**Action 4: CAMHS Assurance Report. To plan an exploration of the waiting list population and what support they are currently accessing and where the gaps are.**

Steven Forbes to pursue with Clare Smith and provide report at a future meeting.

**Action 7: Universal 0-5 Pathway and Offer Report. To bring an updated report on the Universal 0-5 Pathway and Offer in six months' time.**

Claire McKenzie will present a verbal update today and bring a report to the January meeting.

**Action: AOB. Child Q. To add seeking assurance that unconscious bias and race issues are being addressed across all matters relating to safeguarding to the Executive agenda.**

This has been added to the forward plan and there have been some follow up discussions on childcare at the Executive Partnership Board and a proposal for a wider childcare local data discussion at the Board.

Steven relayed that a discussion had taken place at the Executive Partnership Board Meeting on the information given relating to 'Stop and Search' which opened up another line of conversation on the number of children (around 900 children) being stopped and searched within Hounslow and obtaining regular data on that. Colleagues in Hillingdon have been working on creating a dashboard which will be amended to provide data for Hounslow. The dashboard data will then be provided on a regular basis. Steven suggested saving any conversations until some data has been received and reviewed by the Executive Partnership Board and it has been decided what it wants to do with that data.

## **AGENDA (Part A)**

### **4) SEND Written Statement of Action**

Annita Cornish, Assistant Director for SEN and Disability, gave a presentation on the SEND Written Statement of Action.

- The local area joint OFSTED and CQC SEND inspection took place between February and March 2022 regarding the implementation of reforms introduced in 2014.
- The inspection found that generally self-evaluation was accurate and many strengths in the local area were mentioned, particularly the work and joint working between services across the local area and how they rallied together during the pandemic.
- The Written Statement of Action was required to be produced and submitted by 30 August 2022 because some areas were considered as needing significant improvement.
- Hounslow agreed, accepted and heard what was said in the report and committed to making the necessary improvements, particularly in the key areas of communication and co-production that were highlighted.
- A lot of time was spent during June/July developing the Written Statement of Action and collaborating and working with various groups through surveys, focus groups and meetings.
- Key areas identified were
  - Quality of education, health and care plans (particularly around preparing children and young people for adulthood)
  - Poor communication and the lack of co-production with Partners, including the workforce, parents, carers, young people and other stakeholders
  - Weak commissioning arrangements for therapies
  - Weak quality assurance processes
- The submitted Written statement of Action was approved by OFSTED without any further requirement to amend or update.
- Moving forward the Borough Based Partnership has overall responsibility for the Written Statement of Action as the link between the Council and CCG Colleagues. The SEND Operational Board will be important in terms of activity delivery and will regularly feed back to the subgroup for children and young people with disabilities, SEND and complex needs.
- Next steps are to
  - Publish the Written Statement of Action on the Local Offer/Council/CCG websites
  - Establish baselines and set up process for monitoring KPI's
  - SEND Operational Board to lead on activity
  - First monitoring visit January 2023 with DfE SEND Advisor and NHS England SEND

Steven added that there is a lot of work for everybody to do as area reviews and inspections are of the whole system, not just one part, so the plan demands that Social Care, Education and Health all step up and work together to resolve the issues over the next 18 months.

Ian Berryman stated that the therapy situation is a significant issue for them as they don't have any therapies, but are getting students with VHCP's where the therapies are an entitlement and they do not want to wait 18 months for therapies to be brought online and to a positive conclusion.

Annita highlighted the ongoing issues with recruitment and retention of Therapists. Some funding has been devolved for Special Schools and Ian will receive his support via Cedars. It has been extremely challenging for Special Schools that are now recruiting their own therapists. It has been noted that this is a priority issue and Annita is working hard with all Providers and across Commissioners to resolve it as quickly as possible.

## **5) Universal 0-5 Pathway and Offer Updated Report**

Clare McKenzie gave a verbal update on the Universal 0-5 Pathway and Offer.

- Some Government funding has been allocated for Family Hubs which will have a big impact on 0-5 provision within Hounslow.
- With funding coming through 'Start of Life', Family Hubs will focus on 0-2 year olds and a small amount of 3-4 year olds.
- As part of that work collaboration is needed to produce a local strategy and vision around Early Years, with an event planned for early November 2022 to have a system-wide agreed vision strategy for Early Years as opposed to individual agencies having their own priorities, which will then later be built on for older children.
- Family Hubs will focus on universal provision and early intervention.
- Meetings have been held with Services to map what provisions are currently available.
- Workshop strands are being developed in order to bring Partners and workforces together to ascertain how to integrate working better in order for families to have a much more seamless journey through Services.
- The decision on Family Hub locations will be finalised by the end of the year in order for them to go live by April 2023.
- A full report will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Sarah Green informed Members that they have a group of Midwives within West Mid that will be caring for the higher level socially complex/Safeguarding in order to provide continuity and is very keen to link up and do that work alongside/within the Family Hub.

Sharon Richards echoed Sarah sentiment of this being a great opportunity to create a different way of supporting and helping families at early stage and felt there is a sense of real commitment and energy.

**Action: Clare McKenzie to present a full report at the next meeting.**

## **6) Safeguarding with Police**

Sharon Brookes presented a verbal report on Safeguarding with Police.

- Operation Egis is part of a 2-year program throughout the whole of the MET which stays with each BCU for around 11 weeks.
- Operation Egis came to Hounslow on 5 September 2022.
- Due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II everything was paused for a couple of weeks.
- Egis is a central team of around 30 officers who do not form part of the normal complement and visit the BCU's.
- All Egis officers are very experienced in different areas of Public Protection looking at 6 themes with each BCU: 1) Rape and serious sexual offences, 2) Domestic Abuse, 3) Missing Persons (including adults and children), 4) Child Abuse, 5) Indecent Images of Children and Youth Produced Sexual Imagery, 6) Child Exploitation.
- At the start of the 11 weeks a baseline audit is undertaken for which they have a very comprehensive audit program for those key areas with approximately 65 points to review for particular cases.

- It has been established that the West Area BCU do not consistently manage risk as effectively as they could which is mainly due to volume that can then lead to unmanaged risk.
- Officer rotation is a struggle whereby the MET training program for officers regularly rotates them through different types of portfolio to become more rounded, but also leads to a loss of expertise.
- West Area BCU is one of the most challenged in terms of volume, with the highest number of domestic abuse offences, a significant number of missing people and 1/5 of the METS Mental Health incidents.
- The Egis Team come with a unique offer largely centred around helping look at how to be better and more structured at managing high risk. They will spend a lot of time coaching and upskilling officers and have committed to over 700 hours for officers to be trained, including 1:1 training, focus groups, workshops, etc. Uptake has been very good and they have so far used 125 hours of their offer.
- Specific areas Egis will help to focus on are Voice of the child, Intelligence and Research, Forensics and Supervision.
- To monitor success an audits will be undertaken 100 days after the baseline audit and then again 100 days after that.
- The 4 Pillars that are to be focused on are
  - Supporting the BCU during the Pre Pacesetters meeting
  - Improving; working smarter not harder
  - Support sessions offering over 700 hours of support to all BCU Teams
  - Briefings
- Once the 100 day audits have been completed outcomes can be brought back to the Board.

**Action: Outcomes of 100 day audits to be added to the forward plan for 6 months' time.**

## **7) Safeguarding within Integrated Care System**

Lorna Waite gave a brief verbal summary of Safeguarding within the Integrated Care System.

- The North West London ICS covers 8 boroughs and tries to bring everything to work together and deliver against the 4 core national objectives.
- The Leadership Team comprises of Rob Herd as CEO, Charlie Sheldon as Chief Nursing Officer, Darren Jones is Director of Nursing/Senior Responsible Officer and Jennifer Roye as Deputy Chief Nursing Officer.
- The Governance structure is still a work in progress.

Siobhan Appleton added

- Sitting under the Quality and System Quality Group in a Clinical Advisory Group will be a number of subgroups similar to those present in the HSCP, with plans for a Safeguarding Subcommittee to be put in place around April 2023.
- Priorities will be Population Health Management and Health Inequalities, with a drive for a collaborative approach already seen in a number of meetings, such as the Children and Young Person Clinical Reference Group that oversees a number of workstreams related to child and infant health and maternity.
- They are striving to develop a system approach to enable ongoing improvement in care with the engagement of Public Health and Social Care colleagues both at NW London level along with Borough level.
- Funding from NHS England will be utilised to deliver training for the ICB but also span the ICS as well.

The Chair asked if they were confident that the links to be made would be good links.

Siobhan responded that the links across NW London are similar to those in Hounslow and they have a Designated Nurse for Safeguarding and a Designated Professional for Safeguarding Adults within each borough.

Sarah enquired how the Local Maternity Systems (LMS) are feeding in strategically at that level.

Siobhan disclosed that the Maternity remit will sit mainly with the Quality Team but they do get involved if there is a safeguarding concern.

## **8) Six Monthly Assurance Report: Education OFSTED Complaints**

Vicki Taylor presented the Six Monthly Assurance Report on Education OFSTED Complaints.

- The Assurance Report was developed following discussions across the Partnership and the raising and sharing of awareness of the amount of Education OFSTED complaints being received by the Local Authority in the last academic year, which have increased, with the conclusion being drawn that it is due to some of the impact coming from the pandemic.
- During 2020/2021 there was an increase from 13 to more than 30 complaints, with 12 complaints at Primary level (5 not upheld), 17 at Secondary (8 not upheld) and 1 for Special Schools, which was not upheld, with themes
  - Parent unhappy with how school dealt with bullying
  - Anxiety of parents/pupils
  - Malicious
  - Mental health/wellbeing
  - Allegations made against staff
  - Schools with multiple complaints, one of which triggered an inspection resulting in the outcome 'Good'.
- Each allegation as to be investigated and have a report written and submitted to OFSTED which takes up time and capacity.
- They are recruiting an additional fixed-term post to sit under the School Effectiveness Team as a Safeguarding Advisor to link with the Social Worker and the Designated School Lead and will be the key person to investigate any such complaints received.
- They are also reviewing the process and the standardising of the report and moderating those reports and having regular meeting with LADO.
- The Safeguarding audit highlighted a gap in the education of the Designated Governors as to what their role is under the OFSTED framework, so an event has been scheduled for November in order for key Partners to come together to set out information and guidance and support for them.

The Chair asked Vicki to elaborate on the role of the new Safeguarding Advisor.

Vicki advised that the Safeguarding Advisor will reach out to the DSL's in all schools and also touch base with the Designated Social Worker for those schools and be the point of contact for complaints received in order to understand the complaints and initiate some sort of dialogue with the schools.

Councillor Lily Bath conveyed that in the short time that she has been in post she has received a number of complaints from parents about schools with very similar themes and would be interested to see how good practice and communication with schools can be implemented.

Sarah highlighted the amazing work done by Ian Berryman and his group of schools looking at a trauma-informed basis for the whole of their learning and suggested it would be beneficial if he presented a report on this to the Partnership as they are getting very good outcomes and it could help other Partners to perhaps see how they could filter some of that into their own schools.

Steven suggested that the best place for that to be discussed would be where it would have most impact, which would be with other schools rather than the Safeguarding Partnership.

Vicki relayed that a number of schools apply the trauma-based approach and they could share that good practice through the HEP Partnership.

The Chair noted that this was the first time this report has been presented at the Safeguarding Board and enquired if it would continue to be presented on a regular basis.

Vicki confirmed that it would be presented on a regular basis and suggested that an annual report would be more beneficial.

## 9) Training Update

Janet Johnson was unable to join the meeting due to IT issues so Adriana provided a brief overview of Janet's report.

- Janet has asked for Partners to promote the courses and training events as people are not accessing it.
- The recent DBS Workshop had 68 attendees but all other courses have been low on uptake, including the Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) course.
- Often when there have been a good number of applicants, there are many no-shows. At the recent CSA course 5 people did not attend which means that the HSCP cannot justify colleagues and other busy people giving up whole days to provide training if people fail to attend without prior notice.
- As it is a Board priority, all courses provided are highly relevant training courses for which the brochure was circulated many weeks prior for Partners to promote but the HSCP has received several enquiries since then from people stating that they have not received the brochure.

The Chair reiterated the need for Board Partnership Members to ensure that these messages do actually get relayed within their own organisations and that information is appropriately passed on. She expressed her disappointment about the CSA course given the audit the previous year which highlighted some issues that could be improved on.

Lorna has discussed with Janet if there is some Partnership standards that could be sent to people to make them aware that if there are not enough bookings they may be forced to reconsider running the training. She suggested that the recent return to face-to-face training could be affecting the number of bookings or those who attend.

Sarah, Ian and Thomas Webster echoed that the return to face-to-face training could be impacting on the numbers of people attending training due to the other aspects concerned such as time to travel to training, time away from work and ability to book a venue, among other things.

Steven conveyed that if as Partners they are all finding the same reasons that staff are not attending training then it is incumbent upon them as the Partners to change how it is delivered. He suggested Elizna have a conversation with Janet about what can be done if a change in delivery mechanism is needed.

Lorna reported that with regard to the CSA training co-facilitated by herself and Nimmi, the intention was to review attendance and feedback received following the return to face-to-face training, of which there have only been 2 sessions so far, and compare it to the virtual sessions. She would bring it to the SE Subgroup but suggested it could be brought back to the Board in order for Partners to give feedback.

The Chair enquired if there was room to mix and match virtual and face-to-face training experiences.

Nimmi Sellathurai reflected that since the beginning the uptake of CSA training has been very low, with the lowest attendance from Children's Services, with better representation from Education and Health. She felt that a combination of face-to-face and online training would be a better option moving forward.

**Action: Training delivery mechanisms to be put on the next SE Subgroup agenda.**

## 10) Arthur and Star Review – Key Messages for Safeguarding Partners

The Chair informed Members that she asked Adriana to look at the report and extract the key messages for Safeguarding Partners.

Adriana Thomas gave a brief overview of the key messages.

- All Partnerships across the country have been asked to assure themselves that a set of practice issues are being dealt with effectively without delay.
- These include
  - Understanding of the child's daily life, including adults trying to obscure this, and assuring that Practitioners of good direct work skills are able to critically reflect what children are saying.
  - Listening to the views of the wider family and those who know the child well.
  - Specialist skills and expertise for working with families whose engagement is reluctant or sporadic with another area.
  - Practitioners working confidently with diverse communities and being supported and challenged through supervision to unpack biases and assumptions that may impact how they perceive and assess risk to the child.
  - Appropriate responses to Domestic Abuse.
  - Specialist skills and expertise for undertaking Child Protection investigations, particularly regarding interrogating and analysing evidence.
- Safeguarding Partnerships need to assure themselves that robust multi-agency strap discussions are always being held whenever a child is suspected of being at risk of suffering significant harm and sufficient resources are in place across all agencies to allow for necessary multi-agency engagement and Child Protection processes.
- Robust information sharing arrangements and protocols need to be in place across the Partnership.
- Referrals are not deemed malicious without a full and thorough multi-agency assessment.

The Chair added that it is important to note when talking about those Safeguarding Practice issues that they are not aimed solely at the Local Authority but are aimed at the whole Partnership, so she is looking for some mechanism whereby individual agencies can look at these practice issues within their own agencies. She will ask Elizna Visser and Lorna Waite as Co-Chairs of the Safeguarding Effectiveness Subgroup to review the practice areas and advise how best to do a check on that.

Steven relayed that it was at far too early a stage to home in on the National Recommendations as, although the Government has said that it fully accepts all the recommendations of the Independent Review it made little comment about the recommendations. Some of the themes that have arisen in terms of assurance could be looked at and he suggested that Lorna and Elizna have the Safeguarding Effectiveness Subgroup look at whether the systems are in place to find evidence to provide assurance to the Partnership.

## **STANDING AGENDA ITEMS**

### **AOB**

Lorna gave an update on behalf of Aparna Bevan, Named GP for Safeguarding, to make Partners aware that as of 1 November 2022 access to GP records is going live nationally for anybody aged 16 and over and will not include proxy access or parents/carers at this time. There will coding systems put in place for GP's to make decisions as to the appropriate people to have access to certain records. She suggested that, time and date allowing, Aparna attend a future Board meeting to provide a progress update.

***Action: Aparna to be invited to a future Board meeting to provide a progress report on access to GP records.***

The Chair observed that a Draft Annual Report is usually taken at this particular meeting but due to staffing issues this is not quite ready. When the Annual Report together with The Chairs Statement of Assurance are ready it will be circulated to Members in order for them to make comments. If no amendments are needed they can be signed off and put on the system.

Sarah gave a quick update on the Telemedicine and the termination of pregnancy issue, especially with young people. During COVID, pills were being posted out to anybody wanting a termination and was made law post-



COVID despite challenges that it was perhaps not the best way to practice. Since then a recommendation has been agreed and accepted that under 18's should also be seen face-to-face.