

Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report

April 2022 – March 2023



Local Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Kensington and Chelsea

|

Westminster

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Foreword from the LSCP Independent Chair

As the Independent Chair of the Partnership, I am pleased to present the LSCP annual report which covers the reporting year from April 2022 to March 2023.

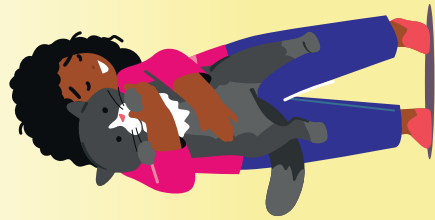
This has been a pivotal year with the additional challenges as we experience the aftermath of the Covid pandemic and cost of living crisis and navigate the impact on our workforce, children, families and communities.

The responsibility for the strategic oversight of the local Partnership arrangements rests with the three safeguarding partners (the Local Authority, the Integrated Care Board, and the Police) working collaboratively to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in our local area and with partners where children are placed elsewhere.

The strength of our partnership lies in our overriding commitment to work together, to challenge each other and to hold each other to account to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our children and young people.

Aileen Buckton

LSCP Independent Chair and Scrutineer



Introduction to our Annual Report

Welcome to Our Annual Report for 2022-2023 for Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster's Local Safeguarding Childrens Partnership.

This year we wanted to capture our **Purpose, Principles and Priorities**, what we pay attention to, how we are shaping and delivering services and how we work collaboratively to **protect, support and safeguard children, young people, their families and the communities in which they live**.

Our Purpose

Our multi-agency Local Safeguarding Children Partnership is built on strong foundations. Established in 2021, our current membership includes senior representatives from the Local Authorities, Police, Health Providers and the Integrated Care Board, Education, Voluntary Sector, Probation, CAFCASS. The partnership meets quarterly to share updates, provide oversight, challenge and scrutiny to all aspects of our work to support, protect and safeguard children.

Central to our Partnership lies our shared understanding and **purpose**. We recognise that building effective relationships and creating meaningful interventions both together and within our respective organisations is vital if we are committed to effect meaningful change in safeguarding children and families.

We do this by ensuring objective oversight and peer scrutiny is firmly in place to hold each other to account, to drive outstanding practice and to identify and strengthen areas for development across our respective services.

Our Partnership's responsibility is to **inform, scrutinise and challenge** professional practice to ensure all multi-agency safeguarding activity is appropriate, effective, robust and sustainable.

Our safeguarding partnership arrangements are determined by our overarching **principles** and agreed **priorities**, informed by our borough profiles, learning from our audits and inspections and by listening to our children, families and communities. These **principles** and **priorities** inform our multi-agency arrangements and shape our delivery.


The LSCP adheres to the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 that sets out the requirements for local partnerships to be established and led by the three safeguarding partners and publish our local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.


Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility





Our Principles


Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, the strength of our partnership lies in a shared set of principles that determine our vision and purpose. Our core principles are:

- 

1 Working collaboratively to ensure our local arrangements for safeguarding are effective in promoting and protecting children's welfare
- 

2 Listening to what children and young people are telling us will keep them safe
- 

3 Promoting a culture of continuous learning and evidence based practice
- 

4 Effective information sharing to inform timely decisions
- 

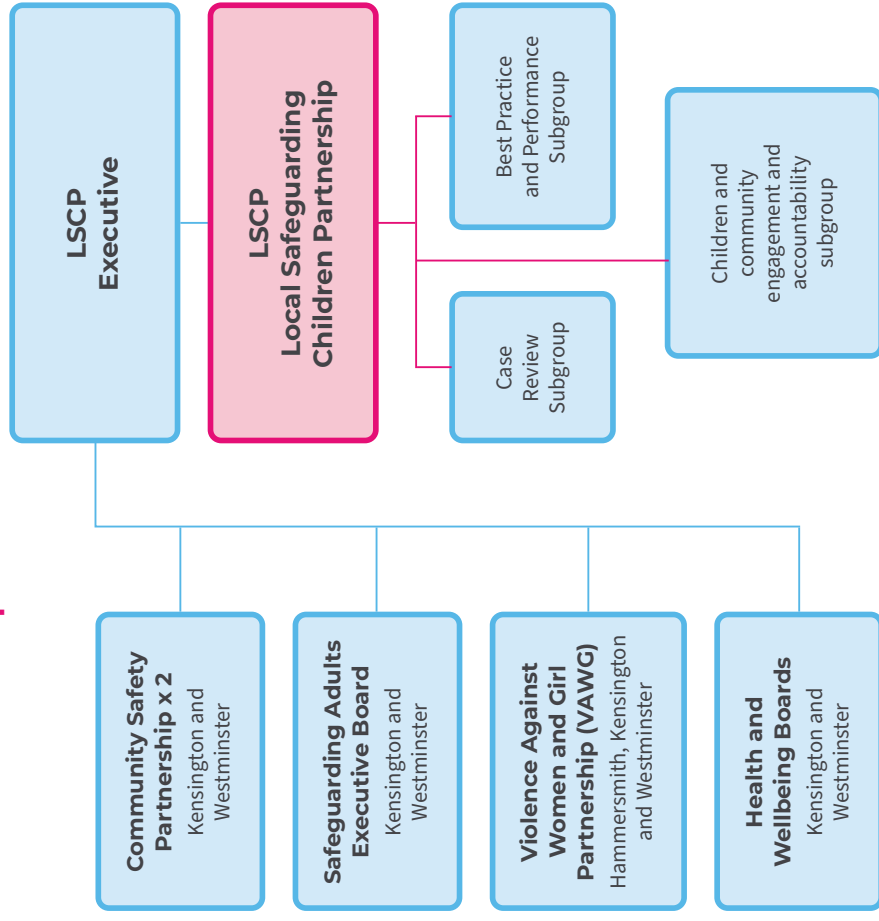
5 Scrutiny: Being open to constructive professional challenge and holding each other to account

Our Priorities

Our principles, alongside analysis of local data, practice audits, reviews, consultation with local partners and listening to what young people and our communities tell us, have informed our current LSCP priorities:

- 1** Reducing the harm from domestic abuse and coercive control
- 2** Safer communities: exploitation and serious youth violence
- 3** Covid-19 recovery and cost of living crisis
- 4** Transitional Safeguarding

Structure of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership



Borough Profiles

Paying attention to our borough stories in Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster shaped and informed our priorities for 2022 to 2023. By agreeing a collective understanding of our local context, we ensured that initiatives and services are delivered in a way that is proportionate to the needs of our communities.

We know that living in poverty, the cost of living crisis and the pandemic have placed increased pressures on families and contributed to a rise in domestic abuse, mental health and homelessness resulting in an increase in referrals to all our services.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Health and Wellbeing JSNA Spring 2023

People

Total population
143,900
 36 per cent from ethnically diverse background

0 to 15 yrs population
20,200
 44 per cent from ethnically diverse background

Working age (16-64)
102,900
 37 per cent from ethnically diverse background

Older People (+65)
20,800
 25 per cent from ethnically diverse background

Daytime/nighttime visitors
250,000



Health and wellbeing
 has been exacerbated by impacts of the Grenfell Tragedy, Covid-19 and the cost of living



1 in 5 children live in poverty
 1 in 4 households in London are at risk from cost of living crisis



Unemployment rate of 5.3 per cent
 Average annual income varies by area (range £30,000 to £65,000)



Air pollution has reduced by half over the last 15 years
 Over half of the borough's open space is located in just four wards



18,400 social rented households
 Concentrated in North Kensington, Chelsea Riverside and Brompton and Hans Town



Place



Over 1 in 4 children have not received 2 doses of MMR
 Uptake varies from 55 per cent in Earl's Court to 83 per cent in South Kensington



Nearly 1 in 5 five-year-olds have decayed teeth
 The biggest cause of hospital admissions for this age group



Over 1 in 3 are overweight by age 11
 Children in Golborne are 2.5 times more likely to be overweight than in Courtfield



Over 1 in 6 children have a mental health disorder
 Common reasons for GP visits are speech and language and depression



Many outstanding schools
 Average GCSE level attainment is lowest in the most deprived areas

Start well



3 in 10 residents have a long-term condition
 Those of Black ethnic groups have almost twice the rate of hypertension



Over 2 in 5 adults are overweight or obese
 Residents of Black ethnic background have almost 3 times the rates of obesity and diabetes



1 in 4 adults report high levels of anxiety
 Depression is more common in those living in deprived areas



1 in 7 adults smoke
 Most likely in manual jobs, in the north of borough and people of Mixed ethnicity



3,600 residents are at high risk of drug dependence
 Drug related deaths are among the top five causes of death in the under 50's

Live well

The City of Westminster Health and Wellbeing JSNA Spring 2023

People

Total population
205,100
 45 per cent from a global majority background

0 to 15 yrs population
26,700
 60 per cent from a global majority background

Working age (16-64)
153,400
 45 per cent from a global majority background

Older People (+65)
25,000
 30 per cent from a global majority background

Daytime/nighttime visitors
up to 1 million

Place

1 in 4 children live in poverty
 1 in 4 households in London are at risk from the cost of living crisis

Unemployment rate of 5 per cent
 Average annual income varies by area (range £27,000 to £56,000)

1,700 people seen rough sleeping
 Life expectancy for people sleeping rough is 30 to 40 years less than average

Air pollution has been reduced
 Westminster has over 200 parks and open spaces

26,810 social rented households
 Including Queens Park and Mozart Estate, Lisson Green Estate and Warwick and Brindley Road Estates



Start well

Almost 1 in 3 children have not received 2 doses of MMR
 Uptake varies from 54 per cent in Bryanston and Dorset Square to 84 per cent in Knightsbridge, Belgravia and Hyde Park

2 in 5 five-year-olds have decayed teeth
 The biggest cause of hospital admissions for the age group

Almost 1 in 2 are overweight by age 11
 Children in Church Street almost twice as likely to be overweight than in West End

Over 1 in 6 children have a mental health disorder
 Common reasons for GP visit are speech and language, depression and autism

Many outstanding schools
 Average GCSE level attainment is lowest in the most deprived areas

Live well

30 per cent of residents have a long term condition
 Residents of a Black ethnic background have twice the rate of hypertension

1 in 2 adults are overweight or obese
 Residents of a Black ethnic background have 3 times the rates of obesity and diabetes

Over 1 in 4 adults report high levels of anxiety
 Depression is more common in those living in deprived areas

1 in 9 adults smoke
 Most likely in manual jobs, living in the south and identifying from a Mixed ethnicity

Almost 7,000 residents are at high risk of drug dependence
 Most common cause of in death in under 50s in the most deprived areas

Our Children and Young People data – 31 March 2023

	Kensington and Chelsea	London average	Westminster	Source	Activity Trend since March 2022
Children aged 0 to 18	24,310	60,412	32,997	Age 0 to 18 census	
Children aged 0 to 25 with SEN	759	2,594	1,368	Age 0 to 25 EHCP	←
Children living in relative low incomes families	9.9%	16.4%	14.2%	Under 16s living in relatively low incomes	←
Pupils eligible for free school meals	33%	25.8%	37.6%	FSM eligible schools data	←
Number of pupils with an education health and care plan (EHCP)	5.9% (797)	4.6% (60,404)	4.5% (964)	EHCP schools data	←
Referrals to Children's Social Care (month of March 2023)	1,855	N/A	1,803	Children and Young People data	→
Children in need cases March 2023	726	2,120	1,309	CIN March 2023 DfE	→
Child Protection Plans March 2023	42	230	85	CPP March 2023 DfE	→
Looked after children March 2023	105 (34 UASC)	294 (42 UASC)	182 (49 UASC)	CLA March 2023 DfE	→
Early Help referrals April 2022/March 2023	596	N/A	381	Monthly performance report	→

The above table sets out the base line children's activity from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, with a trend comparison to enable partners to consider the changes from the previous financial year.

LSCP Principle One: working collaboratively to ensure our local arrangements are effective in promoting and protecting children's welfare

Our Partnership works collaboratively across a range of multi-disciplinary settings to both inform and achieve our priorities. Our strength lies in the designated safeguarding roles appointed in our key partner organisations and services to ensure a co-ordinated and consistent approach in promoting safeguarding arrangements across all our services for children and young people.

Education partners

Schools and Colleges: Headteachers and representatives from schools and education settings attend the LSCP and subgroups.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) also attend termly forums coordinated by the local authority Safeguarding Lead for Schools and Education, in collaboration with partners in health, police and social care. The forums enable the Partnership to hear directly from education settings, whilst also delivering key safeguarding messages, best practice and promote ongoing partnership working and cross-engagement from all education settings.

Early Years Settings: DSLs working in early years settings across both boroughs meet each term to share information and practice at the Early Years DSL forum, facilitated by the Local Authority Early Years Strategic Lead and the LSCP Business Manager. This year the forum considered learning points from

- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report 2021
- Local school learning review
- Update to London Safeguarding Children Procedures
- Updates to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022
- National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson

Health partners

Northwest London Collaboration of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), transitioned to Northwest London (NWL) Integrated Care Board (ICB) from the 1 of July 2022. The NWL Integrated Care System is made up of eight London boroughs which include the Royal Boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster.

The ICB's Deputy Chief Nursing Officer attends the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) Executive meetings, whilst the Assistant Director for Safeguarding Adults and Children and the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children attend the LSCP Partnership and subgroup meetings. The LSCP Partnership and subgroup have representation from each of the local NHS Trusts. This ensures that our Health partners are fully engaged in the LSCP priorities.

A co-ordinated approach with health providers continues to be maintained through the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children who sits on the LSCP and provides a crucial link to local health providers through Grand Round meetings with Local Provider Named Professionals. This year the **Grand Round** meetings considered:

- **Audits:** ICB Three Borough Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Health Problem Profile audit, Provider Service Child was not Brought Dis-engagement or Child not seen policy (audit to review efficacy)
- **Case Studies** with key issues on patients' access to primary care records and national review child safeguarding practice reviews. Maternity Cases – maternal alcohol and substance misuse, perinatal mental health, multi-agency information sharing, application of the LSPC Threshold Continuum of Needs Matrix

Over the past twelve months, several safeguarding themes have been embedded through the quarterly GP forums that run for GPs in both boroughs. The forums are led by the Lead Safeguarding GP and attended by the Designated Lead for Safeguarding Children and the LSCP Business Manager. Some of the areas of learning were:

- Safeguarding children with disabilities and special educational needs and disability in light of the recently published [national review](#)
- Parental alienation – how to spot signs and the impact of parental separation and alienation on children
- **Myth of Invisible Men Report** – encouraging professional curiosity around enquiry of new partners who could pose potential harm or fathers who may be protective in the child's life
- Adultification and the Hackney [Child Q Child Safeguarding Practice Review](#)
- CAMHS update and support for mental health in adolescent groups in light of local Rapid Reviews
- Prospective online access safeguarding considerations in cases of domestic violence and abuse looked after children and vulnerable families
- Partnership work to develop the Was Not Brought Podcast to promote better use of language in children who miss health appointments
- Partnership work with the Alternative pathway to the Initial Child Protection Conference/Safeguarding Family Group Conference Pathway Pilot ensuring coding was embedded within primary care documentation



The Early Help Offer

The Partnership continues to recognise the importance of early intervention and early help for all our residents. Many of our families will face challenges and sometimes need support. Early Help is about providing support as soon as possible to tackle difficulties for children, young people and families before they become more serious. Our early help services take a whole family approach to delivering their support. This preventative work, carried out alongside many of our local partners, especially in the voluntary sector, is an integral part of our approach to putting the needs of children and families at the centre of everything we do. Early Help is represented on our LSCP Case Review Subgroup and colleagues contribute to our thinking and learning across the partnership.

Early Help Kensington and Chelsea:

Work has continued to enable closer integration with statutory and voluntary children and family services within the borough. Forums such as the Team Around the Family Hub, and the Youth Hubs Partnership Board have been developed to look at the need on a locality-based family hub level.

This year, Early Help began the implementation of the integrated delivery pathway for pregnancy to five, which consists of a targeted Health Visiting and Early Help intensive home visiting programme offer, alongside a more integrated core universal offer in the two hubs in the North and South of the borough.

A new training programme focusing on family work skills and trauma-informed training focused on schools and the police will roll out in Autumn, with over 159 partners and council staff attending previous training.

In Kensington and Chelsea, the 2022-2023 annual report updates on the work of the two Family Hubs, the in-house Early Help Family Support and the Children's Centres teams and an update on the second year of delivery of the North Kensington Inclusion Project (NKIP).

Police

The Central West BCU Detective Chief Inspector for Public Protection attends the LSCP. Detective Inspectors with a safeguarding remit attend a range partnership forums and boards.

For example, each borough has a Youth Crime Prevention Partnership (YCPP), a management board that oversees the local delivery of responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for Youth Justice Services. The two YCPPs are chaired by the Executive Director of Bi-Borough Family Services and provide strategic direction to prevent offending and



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

re-offending by children. The respective YCPPs are accountable to the Safer Westminster Partnership and Safer Kensington and Chelsea Partnership.

Across the Partnership there is active involvement of the Police in different strands of work, including child exploitation, missing, VAWG, MASH, Right Care, Right Person, Safer Schools and more. There is good information sharing at both operational and strategic levels to inform partners and help keep children safe.

The above partnership arrangements assist in providing oversight and scrutiny of local delivery of services to meet our priorities. Highlighted below are the key deliverables against each of our LSCP priorities.



LSCP Priority One:

Reducing the harm from domestic abuse and coercive control

Domestic Abuse is a significant reason for referrals to Children's Social Care. Reflecting The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, that identifies children subjected to domestic abuse as victims, the LSCP retains oversight of a range of interventions in this priority area.



Activity	Purpose	Impact	What next?
<p>Development of the Westminster Restart Project</p>	<p>This is a domestic abuse service delivered by the Drive Partnership, Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) and the charity Crounstoun. Restart helps to keep families safe at home by providing effective early intervention. The programme provides training and support for children's social care teams to recognise patterns of abusive behaviour as early as possible and to ensure specialist support for victims.</p> <p>Supports housing teams in the development of new approaches to domestic abuse and family safety. This includes, where appropriate, access to accommodation pathways for the person causing harm in order to keep families safe at home whilst creating space for action and change.</p>	<p>To date, 25 families have been referred to the programme.</p>	<p>Referral rates have been lower than anticipated for this programme. The LSCP will invite partners to reflect on this and present their learning from the programme in order to share best practice.</p>
<p>Roll out of Safe and Together Model Training</p>	<p>An accredited programme designed to support children, family services and their systems to improve outcomes for families impacted by domestic abuse and ensure competency across the workforce.</p>	<p>Social care practitioners have accessed case consultations from the Safe and Together implementation lead. Since the start of the programme, 52 case consultations have taken place. The offer has included introduction training days for multi-agency partners to share overarching principles, develop a shared understanding and language and embed good practice.</p>	<p>The learning from this roll out has been shared with Family Services leaders in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, who will roll out the programme to practitioners from April 2024.</p>
<p>IDVA role in Kensington and Chelsea</p>	<p>Consultation and support to frontline social care practitioners from the independent domestic violence advocate (IDVA).</p>	<p>Quality assurance work is undertaken within Family & Children's Services with respect to Domestic Abuse. The role of IDVAs is evidenced within this work, contributing to safeguarding conversations and assisting in the assessments of risk and safety planning. IDVAs provide a key role in strengthening the support to families, enabling social care practitioners to be curious about the victim/survivors lived experiences. They also provide signposting to specialist services for support and protection.</p>	<p>The LSCP will continue to engage with the CYP-OG. The LSCP will also continue to seek an education representative to join the operational group and bring a useful perspective to our work.</p>

Activity	Purpose	Impact	What next?
<p>VAWG Children and Young People's Operational Group</p>	<p>The Children and Young People Operational Group (CYP-OG) plays a crucial role within the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategic partnership, promoting an aligned and consistent approach to addressing domestic abuse affecting children and young people. The CYP-OG works closely with the LSCP.</p>	<p>The CYP-OG were approached by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to contribute to thematic review published on domestic abuse. The CYP-OG was commended as a model of good practice.</p> <p>In March 2023, representatives from the CYP-OG were invited by the National Panel to present at their national webinar, showcasing the work of the partnership and our commitment to implementing the 'Safe & Together' model. View the full webinar here.</p>	
<p>Domestic Abuse Prevention in Schools Programme</p>	<p>A programme working with schools to raise awareness of healthy relationships – this is a key aspect of preventing violence against women and girls (VAWG). The programme helps schools to develop a whole school approach to domestic abuse prevention.</p> <p>The programme is free to education settings. It includes training and capacity building support for all school staff to improve their knowledge about coercive control and its impact, equip them with skills in facilitating disclosures safely and raise their confidence levels in using resources to create lesson plans and run classroom activities. Through this programme, schools can access resources and support around policy developments, staff wellbeing, local referral pathways and support services.</p>	<p>Feedback from a teacher in a Westminster School:</p> <p>'The Domestic Abuse in Schools Programme Lead is always readily available and she is willing to share her knowledge with us.</p> <p>She wants to empower school staff as well as learners to know signs/symptoms of Domestic Abuse and what support to seek if someone has experienced Domestic Abuse. Because of her support and input Domestic Abuse awareness and knowledge has been strengthened in our school.'</p>	<p>The programme will continue to be promoted to schools.</p>
<p>Operation Encompass</p>	<p>Operation Encompass is a police-led initiative where the police notify schools when a domestic abuse incident has occurred so that the school can provide the appropriate pastoral support needed for children who may have experienced domestic abuse at home.</p>	<p>Currently, Operation Encompass does not collect data from schools regarding how they use the information shared with them for this project. However, the LSCP is seeking to gather further information from schools via our upcoming schools safeguarding audit.</p>	<p>An ongoing priority for the LSCP is to ensure that all schools are signed up to the initiative, including where possible, our independent schools.</p>



LSCP Priority Two: Safer Communities – Exploitation and Serious Youth Violence

Our priority reflects both the regional and national priority for children and young people at risk of exploitation and serious youth violence. As a partnership, we play close attention to the national picture to ensure our local activity is both reflective and responsive to emerging need.

Activity	Purpose	Impact	What next?
<p>National Referral Mechanism: Home Office Pilot Project (June 2021)</p>	<p>Children's Services in both boroughs successfully bid to the Home Office for a devolved decision-making pilot to test different approaches to determining whether children are victims of modern slavery in collaboration with local safeguarding partners.</p> <p>Children's Services and key partners are piloting the use of devolved decision making in relation to thresholds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonable grounds decision (where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the child is a victim) Conclusive grounds decision (where on the balance of probabilities a child is a victim) was met and what the child-centred safeguarding plan would be through monthly review panels 	<p>In September 2022, the partnership undertook an audit of all the cases referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to better understand the difference the project was making.</p> <p>The audits looked closely at practice prior to the NRM referral, the quality of decision making and the impact that the NRM decision making had on the young person. The audits also considered how closely the voice of young people was understood and incorporated into the process.</p> <p>The audits highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence that work did focus on understanding the young person's views, particularly about risk and safety, along with their wishes and feelings. Outcomes of using the NRM panel process for young people who were exploited on their journey to the UK to claim asylum were positive with young people speaking positively about this work. Support offered through the NRM process decreased isolation. NRM decision making led to a quicker and simpler process in determining a young person's asylum claim, which reduced isolation as it supported to build better networks in the UK and to pursue their educational and career goals at an earlier age. Some evidence that young people with a positive conclusive or reasonable grounds decision might experience the criminal justice system differently than if they did not have this decision: courts were less likely to give them a custodial or lengthy sentence if they had a positive NRM decision. <p>Independent Child Trafficking Guardians work with young people subject to this process who have no one with parental responsibility in the UK. Child Trafficking Guardians were viewed as positive and there was clear evidence of information being shared with the young person.</p>	<p>The Pilot has been extended through to March 2024</p> <p>The LSCP will monitor the use and impact of the NRM decision-making has on the young people and how the voice of young people is understood and incorporated into the process.</p>



Activity	Purpose	Impact	What next?
<p>Relaunch of the shared MACE Panel</p>	<p>The Partnership have worked together to relaunch the MACE panel, which covers Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster. This is a multi-agency panel that aims to deliver a holistic and effective response to children at risk of exploitation. The panel also aims to identify and remove barriers to providing a child centred approach to reducing and disrupting child exploitation in our boroughs.</p> <p>The membership of the panel was reviewed and revised, and a new term of reference agreed. Multi-agency attendance and participation has been good.</p>	<p>The shared MACE meeting panel has developed and continues to refine a problem profile with data from police and health partners to inform our local approach. The Panel has identified themes emerging from practice, including cross-borough issues, vulnerability of children looked after and also of girls being asked to store weapons.</p> <p>Panel members have also contributed to the Pan-London MACE review and continue to support the implementation of recommendations in order to further strengthen their work.</p>	<p>The LSCP to monitor the impact and oversight of MACE Panel through bi-annual reporting.</p>
<p>Safer Schools Officers</p>	<p>Safer Schools Officers in the police provide cover for all secondary schools across the partnership including independent schools. Each school will have a named point of contact for the officer that can provide a visible and familiar point of contact with their assigned school.</p> <p>The role of the Safer Schools Officers is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a visible and familiar point of contact with their assigned school. • Advise headteachers and their staff on policing issues and work in partnership to deal with emerging issues. • Make pupil referrals to intervention and diversion schemes to safeguard the child's welfare and/or divert them from criminal activity/anti-social behaviour (ASB). • Develop strategies to keep young people safe, in partnership with the school. • Deliver key messages to pupils around general policing themes of crime prevention and facilitate delivery on more specialist themes. 	<p>The Safer Schools Officers have run engagement sessions on a number of topics, across a wide range of education settings in Westminster and Kensington. Topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grooming, indecent images and malicious communications • Stop and Search • Stay Safe Anti Robbery • Anti-social behaviour, Online Safety, and Careers in the Police • Gangs • Online Bullying <p>The Safer Schools teams have also hosted coffee mornings with parents/carers in order to help explain safeguarding topics and what steps families can take to keep their children safer.</p> <p>“Thank you very much for arranging the parent coffee morning and for inviting PC Knight. Please can you pass on special thanks for the way he shared and responded to questions. Such events go a long way to building up good relations and safer communities.”</p>	<p>To continue to host regular coffee mornings with parents/carers to build trust and strengthen relationships with local communities.</p> <p>To continue to engage with local schools to foster links between the Police safer neighbourhood teams and other education facilities who do not have an assigned Safer Schools Officer.</p>

Did you know?

In June 2022, Ofsted carried out a focused visit inspection of Children's Services on the theme of extra-familial risk.



Ofsted Focused Visit Inspection of Children's Services – Theme of Extra-Familial Risk

In the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, inspectors noted in their [report](#) that children who are vulnerable to extra-familial risk receive excellent support from social workers and partner agencies. They also commented that professionals have a good understanding of vulnerability and share concerns about children who may be at risk. In schools, for example, professionals are alert to changes in children's attendance or behaviours that might indicate risk of extrafamilial harm, quickly notifying either the early help service or locality social work teams. The inspectors further noted that leaders have developed strong relationships with police services. The effective exchange of information enables child-centred planning and strengthens boroughwide mapping activity to identify risks and plan disruption activity.



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

In the City of Westminster, the inspectors noted in their report that children at risk of extra-familial harm receive excellent support and services. The [report](#) stated that protecting children and supporting their families are at the heart of a whole-council, partnership and community-based approach. Senior leaders and partners understand the interconnected complexities and barriers to tackling exploitation. They critically evaluate the impact partnership work is having on improving children's lives. The report also noted that children in Westminster are quickly signposted to the right service and for the most relevant support. Early help assessments identify children's needs, vulnerabilities and risks of extra-familial harm. Workers use a range of direct work tools to understand children's relationships and experiences. They bring a 'team' around the family, creating multi-agency plans and achieving positive change.



City of Westminster




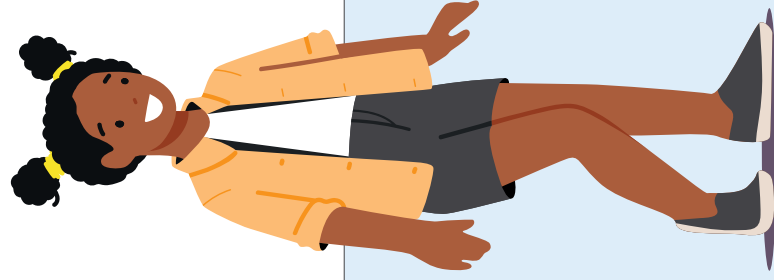
LSCP Priority Three: Recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic and the Cost of Living Crisis

The Local Safeguarding Children Partnership has recognised the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our local children and families, as well as the impact on local services.

Children have been impacted by the disruption to their access to education during the pandemic lockdowns and given that we recognise that being in education is a protective factor, we are keen to ensure that this is minimised in the future.

Activity	Purpose	Impact	What next?
<p>Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Plan</p>	<p>Health partners and the local authorities collaborated together to develop Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Plan 2022-2024. The Plan highlights the importance of increasing support available for education staff, expanding early intervention services, and providing support for parents and carers for children and young people with special education needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of a Whole School Approach by specially trained school nurses, Designated Mental Health Leads, and Mental Health Support Teams for every state school in the borough. We enhance support for special schools through MIND, invest in school staff and parent wellbeing, and deliver training and from Education Psychology (ELSA). • Community Based Support enhances the wider community offer as some CYP don't access support via schools or Primary Care. We invest in Mental Health Workers in youth clubs, deliver Mental Health First Aid to front line practitioners and have trauma informed practice in Early Help. • Promotion of the offer including digital accessibility, eg with "We Got U, U Got This" with a campaign to increase awareness of support available. We signpost to online resources and helplines, and have produced videos to reduce the stigma around mental health. • Support for vulnerable groups. There is effective interface between the Systemic approach delivered in Family Services and CAMHS. We ensure there is delivery and a clear focus for those at risk of exclusion, serious youth violence and domestic abuse. 	<p>The LSCP will invite key partners responsible for the delivery of the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Plan to report back on progress achieved in 2022-2023.</p>
<p>We got U, U Got This Campaign</p> 	<p>Developed across both Boroughs 'We got U, U Got This' aims to empower children and young people to access support for mental health and wellbeing. The campaign includes a new web page for mental health services, co-produced videos and phased in-person engagement in youth settings.</p>	<p>To empower people to feel confident in accessing services to support their mental wellbeing with a focus on early intervention services such as MIND and Kooth.</p>	<p>Young people will continue to lead the online and offline campaign over the next few months, including our young ambassadors in both boroughs.</p> <p>The Partnership will continue to help promote the We Got U, U Got This campaign and seek feedback from children and young people about how this has helped their access to mental health and wellbeing support.</p>

Activity	Purpose	Impact	What next?
<p>School Inclusion Strategy 2022</p> 	<p>Delivery of the strategy has been a partnership endeavour involving Children's Services, local schools, Ormiston Academies Trust, CAMHS, and the wider voluntary sector. Oversight has been provided by the Education Partnership Board in each borough, where the membership includes headteacher and school governor representatives.</p> <p>Continuing the work of the Equality and Diversity Working group hosted by the local authorities to build leadership and embed best practice in whole school approaches to anti-racism.</p>	<p>Supporting schools to develop trauma informed training via the Early Help Partnerships that seeks to understand and develop tailored responses to pupils' behaviour.</p> <p>In-school pilot at secondary stage in three schools to monitor how interventions can impact on attendance, engagement in school and pupil behaviour.</p> <p>Additional years funding for North Kensington Advocacy Pilot to provides specialist advice and advocacy on education matters for children and parents. Increase in referrals and positive feedback from parents/carers secured the additional funding.</p> <p>Funding has been secured from the from the Violence Reduction Unit to deliver mentoring programmes at Beachcroft and Latimer Alternative Provision Academies and the two managed intervention centres.</p> <p>Whole school approach to anti-racism-including masterclass sessions for senior leaders in schools and a professional development programme for Equality and Diversity leads in schools.</p> <p>Inclusion – Working with providers of alternative provision to develop and implement individual intervention plans that will outline clear next steps for pupils referred to transitional places in alternative provision.</p> <p>Improving the range of online materials via the local authority and schools websites to ensure parents and carers are better informed and supported around their rights and responsibilities.</p>	<p>Our education partners will continue to strive to ensure that pupils can access inclusive education settings that nurture and support all of our pupils and seek to minimise the use of exclusions, so that all children have an opportunity to thrive and succeed.</p>





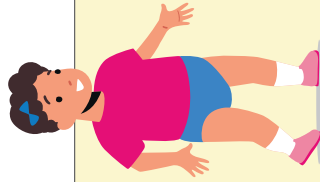
LSCP Priority Four: Transitional Safeguarding

Recognising the changing and emerging needs of young people aged 16 to 25, the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) have worked in partnership with the Safeguarding Adults Executive Board (SAEB) to develop a framework that will inform how we safeguard young people aged 16 to 25.

Both partnerships recognise that many young people are transitioning into adulthood with a history of having experienced other transitions which impact the way in which they face moving from children to adults' services across education, social care, health, and the criminal justice system.



Activity	Purpose	Impact	What next?
<p>Development of Transitional Safeguarding Steering Group (July 2022)</p>	<p>Set up in July 2022 to consider how effectively our current services and systems are in identifying young people aged 16 to 24 at risk of harm and what support we offer in order to safeguard them. These discussions have supported the development of a project plan, which is helping both partnerships to explore opportunities to share more effective ways of working.</p> <p>The project plan focuses on the lived experiences of young people and raising awareness about transitional safeguarding with LSCP and SAEB members, as well as front-line staff and managers.</p>	<p>It is too early to be able to demonstrate the Partnership's impact for this area of work, nevertheless, we remain committed to developing our approaches in order to provide appropriate support to young people aged 16 to 24.</p>	<p>In 2023-2024 the transitional safeguarding steering group will co-ordinate a data task and finish group to seek and examine current data about the cohort of young people aged 16-24.</p> <p>In doing so, we hope to better understand the potential needs of this group and determine whether or not there are any gaps in service provision that may be able to assist them further as they transition into adulthood.</p> <p>We also aim to host an extraordinary joint LSCP/SAEB partnership meeting with strategic leads to share the findings and stimulate cross partnership discussions about the next steps we need to take.</p>



LSCP response to new and emerging safeguarding issues:

Supporting Afghan Evacuees and Ukraine Refugees

Provision for Afghan Evacuees

Many of our partners have collaborated to support the needs of the Afghan evacuees who arrived in our area in August 2021 following the withdrawal of coalition armed forces from Afghanistan.

In Kensington and Chelsea, the Afghan Social Care Team (ASCT) was set up to provide a trauma-informed service to support these evacuees up until February 2023 when the families were relocated by the Home Office. 804 Afghan Evacuees were placed in the borough across 3 bridging hotels. The programme had a total of 465 children and 182 households.

804

Afghan Evacuees received help

465

Children benefited from the programme

183

Households were used as accommodation

Home Office Contingency Hotels

In addition to the work undertaken to support the Afghan evacuees, multi-agency partners have continued to provide support to children and families placed by the Home Office in contingency hotels in each borough. There is a dedicated response service in each borough to enable the right support to be coordinated for hotel guests.

The Partnership has recognised the need to upskill the hotel staff to ensure that they are able to make appropriate referrals to Children's Social Care when concerns are identified.

A programme of safeguarding training has been developed, which builds on our experience of delivering similar training to the staff working in the bridging hotels.

Ukraine Response

Both boroughs have seen an influx of Ukraine citizens arriving because of the breakout of war in Ukraine in February 2022. A Ukraine Response Service was set up to advise, support and assist the central Government programme for the resettlement of those fleeing the conflict. The local authorities and partners have:

- supported residents to sign up to the scheme as sponsors.
- carried out checks on accommodation being provided.
- provided welfare checks for families and individuals arriving from Ukraine.
- supported access to education for children and young people.
- provided wider signposting to support services where this was required.

In addition to services provided by statutory partners, there has been a coordinated effort by partners in the voluntary sector, including the Ukrainian Community Centre and St Mary's Ukrainian School to support those displaced by the conflict.

Achievements:

- Supporting education and employment, staff were proud that they were able to support families to access school places, and empowering adults to secure employment.
- Strong partnership working: this ensured appropriate signposting and high levels of service – including with midwifery and school admissions.
- Activities for families: team members enjoyed supporting people's first experiences of activities in London.
- Team set up: Staff reflected that the multi-disciplinary set up of the team was very effective, with children's and adults' services co-located and working together.

Learning:

- Staff support: the team emphasised the importance of team meetings and established specialisms.
- Working with partners: the team felt the programme would have benefited from better support for families around benefits and additional safeguarding training for hotel staff, which was later provided by the LSCP.
- Building Independence: Staff recommend giving more information to families on benefits systems, GPs, housing, bills, and offering choice around essential and personal items.
- Holistic support: staff reflected on the importance of ensuring an efficient system of support.

LSCP Principle Two: listening to what children and young people are telling us will keep them safe

Children and Young People's Plan 2022-2025

The LSCP has been particularly keen to ensure our priorities reflect and align with the priorities highlighted in the Local Authorities' Children and Young People's plan for 2022-2025. Informed through extensive engagement and consultation with residents, partners and children and young people from a range of settings, these priorities have shone a lens on the importance of ensuring robust safeguarding arrangements are in place across the partnership and beyond.

Children and Young People's priorities 2022-25	
1	All children have the best start in life, needs are identified and supported early and they are school ready at five.
2	Children and young people have access to high-quality education and training opportunities, have good attendance at school and achieve their full potential.
3	Children and young people feel safe, and are protected from serious youth violence, harm, harmful practices, abuse, and neglect at home, online and in the community.
4	All young people, and particularly those who are vulnerable can realise their ambitions and take advantage of opportunities and life skills which prepare them for adulthood.
5	All our young people feel listened to, empowered to take action and have opportunities to co-produce/co-design services that affect them.
6	All children and young people are happy and healthy, with access to a diverse range of activities and opportunities to support their physical, mental health and emotional wellbeing within the post- pandemic context, environmental challenges, and rising cost of living pressures.

Supporting our Children in Care in Kensington and Westminster

It is the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) to ensure that all partners are meeting the needs of our children looked after and care leavers. IROs provide internal scrutiny and challenge to the local authority and partners. They are an integral part of the quality assurance process and in holding all partners accountable for delivering positive outcomes for this cohort of children and young people.

A summary of the key data and further information can be found in the annual reports produced by the IRO service in each borough.

Some of the key highlights from the work of the IRO service are:

- The number of children in care increased during this reporting period. This is influenced by the continuing rise in the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arriving in our boroughs.
- There has been an improved timeliness of Looked After Child Reviews, with 99% undertaken within the statutory timescales.

- **The voice of children and young people is key to all discussions and care planning arrangements.** Children are invited to contribute to their reviews and most children speak for themselves at their review. This is a slight decrease on last year. A hypothesis for this is that older children may have become accustomed to using virtual platforms for meetings (as we did during the pandemic) which means that in-person review meetings now may be less favourable to them.

It is important to note that in the last year, the **Independent Review of Children's Social Care** was published and the DfE provided a response that confirmed the intention to support and to continue to strengthen the role of the IRO.



What next for the IRO service in 2023-2024

The IRO Services will:

- Continue to ensure that all details of new looked after children are recorded timely on the case management system so the correct electronic processes are triggered.
- Map informal alerts which relate to late notifications, which will be shared periodically with Heads of Service with the aim of improving the timeliness of notifications.
- Strengthening the working relationship with the Business Intelligence team to ensure coordination in the way LAC reviews are recorded to minimise any discrepancies in the data that is being collected.

Participation work for our Looked After Children and Care Leavers

What have our Children Looked After and Care Leavers been up to in 2022-2023?

- Regular attendance for the Thursday Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers (in Kensington and Chelsea) and the Children and Young People’s Panel and Tuesday Group in Westminster.
- February 2023: The Stepping Up Awards were held to celebrate children’s achievements in Kensington and Chelsea.
- Young People wrote the introduction to the latest Children’s Services Self-evaluation.
- Young people gained work experience through interview panels.
- Young People regularly contributed to consultations, with the most recent discussing mental health, a youth review for council services, and the borough Health and Wellbeing Strategy for both boroughs.
- Young people continue to support foster carer recruitment, with an event held at Westfield.
- Young people have helped shape new online safety training for foster carers.

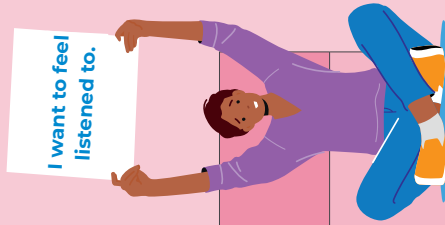
Health Assessments

They form part of the corporate parenting responsibilities for children cared for and care leavers. In a recent consultation we asked care experienced children and young people (children cared for and care leavers) about their experiences of the ‘Health Assessment’, overall health and wellbeing, and health support available to them once they become a care leaver. In addition to this information, we are hoping this will be able to help us answer the question ‘What does a corporate health parent look like to you?’

- Young people spoke positively about their experiences of their health assessments.
- Young people wanted to maintain connections to their LAC nurse even after health assessment concluded post-18.
- All young people had a trusted adult they could name for who to speak to about their health.



Following the Ofsted Focused Visit in June 2022, Children’s Services convened conversations with young people who attend the Tuesday and Thursday leaving care groups in both boroughs.



Children and Young People Said	We did
<p>You wanted more information about how to feel safe on-line.</p>	<p>We will deliver a session on online safety which we want you to help us develop. Please look out for this information from your social worker and the newsletter.</p>
<p>You said you feel lonely sometimes.</p>	<p>We have safe spaces where you can get support such as Tuesday group and Future Union. We will have sessions at both these groups where you talk to a therapist. You can also access KOOOTH online and the Elements project (therapeutic arts course).</p>
<p>You said you wanted to know how authorities such as police could keep you safe and what your rights were.</p>	<p>Police are going to come and talk to you about your rights when you are stopped and searched and you will get the opportunity to ask your own questions. This will take place at the Tuesday Group and/or Future Union. We will do a brief summary of this in the newsletter.</p>
<p>You said you felt unsafe sometimes in the community due to knife crime and gangs and hate crime</p>	<p>You will be offered the opportunity to talk about your worries and make a plan to keep yourself safe. We call this a safety plan. You can do this anytime with your social worker/ personal advisor and can be changed/ adapted depending on what is happening for you.</p> <p>We get someone from the Community Safety team to come and talk to you about how to keep yourself safe in your area.</p>
<p>You said you felt unsafe sometimes in your semi-independent accommodation</p>	<p>If you are worried about what is happening in your accommodation, you can get help and advice from the advocacy service to raise issues and make a complaint. You can also talk about this in your safety plan.</p>

What next for Participation in 2023–2024

- Recruitment panels will continue alongside training more young people to be part of the main interview panels of council staff.
- Trips/experiences during the school holidays.
- Stepping Up Awards and Looked After/Care Leaver Celebrations in 2024 to celebrate achievements.
- The development of a care-leavers alumni network in each borough and how young people will be involved in this going forward, including proposing the name of this network.
- Co-design of materials and publications with young people around the support available, as well as the support the service provides including a newsletter. Summer Plus Programme (2023), including workshops and shadowing/work experience opportunities.



SCP Principle Three: To promote a culture of continuous learning and evidence based practice

The LSCP seeks to share learning across the partnership through a variety of means as outlined by the activity below.

Introduction to Systemic Practice

The LSCP is built on a relational approach in the way we work together. This relational model is fundamental to systemic practice, a practice model embedded in children's social care since 2018. In response to a request from partners the Centre for Systemic Practice has delivered an introductory training to systemic practice for LSCP partners.

- Workshops offered in this period include but were not limited to:**
- Introduction to Safeguarding Children
 - Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Child Protection Workshop (level 3)
 - Understanding Child Trafficking and Modern Slavery
 - Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children
 - Child and Adolescent Mental Health and CAMHS services
 - Meet the LADO and Safer Recruitment

LSCP Multi Agency Training

During March 2022–March 2023, the LSCP delivered 55 multi-agency safeguarding children training workshops including core training, specialist training and managerial training to delegates across the partnership. Delegates came from a wide range of disciplines and settings, including schools, early years, GPs, social care, early help, the voluntary sector and housing.



Training with Police: In May 2022, the LSCP collaborated with the Met Police to host a learning event specifically for Police and Social Care staff on the theme of modern slavery and child exploitation. This was well attended by over 70 delegates across the LSCP footprint.

Training evaluation and Mystery shopping: All training is evaluated to inform the content and style for future delivery.

Evaluations: The LSCP actively seeks feedback from delegates at the end of each workshop to help us to quality assure the training we provide.

#like

Feedback: How will this workshop impact your practice and ability to safeguard children?

I am the lead for DV in my team and it has renewed my confidence in the knowledge of DV since the last time I attended training.

Although I'm not a frontline worker the training helped me understand the responsibility of organisations working with young people.

Having a team of professionals to bounce ideas off and the life like case studies to discuss, was very beneficial.

Understanding that the possibility of a consultation is possible is very helpful.

I have a better understanding of how triage, and special services work.

It was great to know where things can be reported and knowing what signs to look out for.

Mystery shopping: This year, two members of the LSCP attended our Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children workshop to help evaluate the content of the training as well as the skills and knowledge of the trainers. The feedback from this mystery shopping exercise was positive and this exercise will be included as part of our evaluation process moving forward.

Education partners: have participated in a range of training through the LSCP Training team, such as Safer Recruitment and Meet the LADO. In addition to the multi-agency training led by the LSCP, schools have accessed the single agency training offer which is delivered by the local authority Safeguarding Lead for schools and Education. The workshops offered under this programme include:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Refresher
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 briefing.
- Risk Assessment & Decision Making Beyond the Front Door – advanced training for DSLs.
- Reflective practice sessions, where the Designated Safeguarding Leads discuss a particular safeguarding topic in more detail with their peers.
- To respond to our LSCP training needs analysis and offer more workshops face to face, as well as continue to deliver online sessions where most practical, with increased availability of online learning tools such as short podcasts/webinars.
- To deliver more workshops on specific topics such as Working with Interpreters and Adultification and Young Carers.
- To further develop our pool of co-trainers with practitioners from across our multi-agency to further enhance the safeguarding training offer with views and expertise from local practitioners and managers.
- Continue to collaborate with the London Safeguarding Children Partnership on the creation and delivery of pan-London training workshops on relevant topics including Information Sharing and the Pan-London Threshold of Needs Guide.
- Deliver the planned LSCP Safer Organisations Learning Event.
- To continue to dip sample longer term evaluations from delegates to try and measure the impact of our training on their practice, 3 to 6 months after attending a workshop.

What next for LSCP multi-agency training:

Our commitments to future learning:

Learning from Local Reviews

Holland Park School Learning Review

The LSCP initiated a local learning review of Holland Park School, following concerns shared by former students and staff. The independent reviewers appointed by the Partnership considered the organisational culture of the school and how other agencies were supporting the school, with a view to identifying improvements to strengthen safeguarding practice.

The review made a number of findings that included: Complaints had not been systematically reviewed, school policies had not been approved by the former governing body or reviewed annually in line with best practice, lack of sufficient oversight of behaviour policy, inadequate training records for staff according to the statutory guidance for schools at the time (Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021), consistently high staff turnover was left unchallenged by the former governing body, safeguarding records were inadequate with lack of oversight from the former school leadership.

The review also made a recommendation for the LADO Service to review how low-level concerns about children's settings (that do not meet the threshold for referral to the LADO) are recorded and tracked in order to help identify patterns and trends that may indicate further concern.

The school's new leadership have been working to an action plan and both the school and the LADO service have provided assurance and updates about progress at the school to the LSCP Case Review Subgroup and the LSCP.

Other learning reviews initiated

In January 2023, the LSCP decided to initiate a non-statutory review following the death of a care leaver in Westminister.

In March 2023, the LSCP, together with the SAEB also proactively initiated a non-statutory review following the death of an elderly resident who had arrived from the Ukraine, whose family had been supported by our local services responding to the families displaced by the war in Ukraine.

We will report the findings for both these reviews in our next annual report for 23/24.

Learning from National Reviews

As well as reflecting on local learning, the Partnership considers the learning from national reviews and makes adjustments to local LSCP training, policy and practice where applicable.

Child Q – Child Safeguarding Practice

Review from City and Hackney LSCP (March 2022). Both the LSCP Case Review Subgroup and LSCP Partnership meeting considered the review findings, partners were asked to disseminate across their agencies. The Police and Local Authorities reviewed data regarding stop and searches involving children and were able to provide assurance that no such intimate searches of children had taken place in our local schools.



The local Safer Schools Officers and the Safeguarding Lead in Schools and Education discussed the learning in the DSL forums for schools & colleges and the case has also been included in our core LSCP training. Partner agencies have reflected on the need to continue to develop anti-racist practices and upskill staff about the risks of adultification bias.

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs in Residential Settings Phase 1 report (October 2022)

In anticipation of the publication of the report, all local authorities were tasked by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the DiE to undertake quality and safety reviews for all children with complex needs and disabilities placed in residential specialist schools registered as children's homes and for host authority LADO for such establishments to review LADO referrals, complaints and concerns over the last three years. Our Children's Services completed the above checks and provided assurance to both the LSCP and the Corporate Parenting Boards about the small number of such placements facilitated by the local authorities.

Child Protection in England (June 2022)

The LSCP held an extraordinary meeting in January 2022 to discuss our local practice in the immediate aftermath of the media reporting of the deaths of Star and Arthur.

The final report from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel was published in June 2022 and looked at the circumstances leading up to the children's deaths in 2020, addressing why the services designed to protect them were unable to do so. The LSCP Case Review



Subgroup and the main Partnership Board reflected on the learning from this review and partners were asked to cascade the report to their teams. The Partnership agreed to wait until the DiE published their response to the review before any further decisions could be made about next steps as we await the outcomes from DiE Pathfinder programmes testing new ways of working, such as developing specialist child protection teams.

The Partnership has also acknowledged the publication of the Government's response to the **Independent Review of Social Care**, with their report **Stable Homes, Built on Love**.

Learning from case of Awaab Ishak (December 2022)

In December 2022, our LSCP Case Review Subgroup discussed the Prevention of Future Deaths report prepared by the Coroner in Rochdale following the death of Awaab Ishak, aged two, whose cause of death was recorded in part as due to environmental mould exposure at his family home.

The January 2023 LSCP meeting requested that Housing partners in each borough present their assurance to the Partnership about the extent of damp and mould issues and what actions were being taken to address these them, particularly for families with children.

As a proactive step, housing partners in each local authority shared (and the LSCP further disseminated) a contacts list for housing staff for residents and partner agencies to use if they were concerned about damp and mould in their properties.

Learning from Inspection Reports

Children's Home Inspection Report – Ofsted 17 November 2022

Olive House was the only children's home in the LSCP footprint. The home was subject to a routine Ofsted inspection and the overall judgement was rated as 'good'. This was the final inspection before Olive House was repurposed into accommodation for our care leavers.

Learning from other partnership arrangements

Private Hospital Network

The Private Hospital Network is a provider-led forum (supported by the ICB Safeguarding Team) for sharing good practice, learning, concern, and innovation regarding safeguarding children. The Children's Social Care Head of Safeguarding, the LSCP Manager and an NHS Provider Consultant Midwife for Public Health and Safeguarding were invited to last year's meeting. Some of the themes discussed around clinical cases presented for learning were:

- Perinatal Mental Health
- Transient Families
- Information sharing between Private Psychiatry provision and Maternity services
- Consent and the risk of harm to the unborn child
- Surrogacy

Northwest London Child Death Review Team

The purpose of Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) is to ensure that when a child under the age of 18 dies there is a comprehensive and independent review of the circumstances. This team consists of expert nursing staff who

coordinate Child Death Review Meetings, convene the Child Death Overview Panel and ensure that families who have suffered the loss of a child are supported.

Achievements of the Child Death Review Panel 2022-2023

- Introduction of multidisciplinary team training, and continued utilisation of lunch and learn workshops.
- Clearance of a backlog of cases: only cases with police investigations from 2019-2021 remain open.
- Cooling blankets have been provided for community teams.
- Stronger attendance at Joint Agency Response meetings, Child Death Review Meetings, and Child Death Review Panels.

Learning from the Child Death Overview Panel

- The CDOP has an opportunity to ensure we understand how mental health services work together to ensure young people aren't lost.
- Pre-assessment of children attending the UK from abroad for surgery is a key process.
- Basic Life Support is necessary in the community.
- There is a gap in the provision of mental health wellbeing for children where a parent has been imprisoned, and for young people aged 16-18 years old interacting with CAMHS when they engage on their own terms.

What next for the Child Death Review Team in 2023-2024

- Increased training events including joint teaching alongside police, trusts, and community teams as well as our own events.
- Knife crime event in June with the Pan London Child Death Review Panel.

- Increased collaborative working with hospice services to provide bereavement support for families across Northwest London, not only in the case of expected deaths.
- Continued work on the asthma network for Pan London Guidelines.
- Continued work with Public Health and data analysts to further explore child deaths across NWL.

LSCP Principle Four: effective information sharing to inform timely decisions

Policies and Procedures that ensure compliance

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

is the statutory guidance that sets out what is expected of agencies, organisations and individuals to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. It sets out the expectations for the systems that provide help, support and protection for children and their families, providing clarity for practitioners and organisations to provide effective services. It is anticipated that an updated version will be published at the end of 2023.

The Partnership also adheres to the [London Safeguarding Children Procedures](#), and Threshold of Needs Guide.

We intend to **build upon existing good practice** highlighted in the Ofsted Focused Visit – Protection of Vulnerable Children at Risk of Extra Familial Harm in RBKC and WCC in May 2022, **which is summarised on page 26**.

A Safer Workforce: The management of allegations

The LSCP ensures all agencies in the children's workforce have procedures for managing allegations made against staff or volunteers working with children. These should be consistent with the London Safeguarding

Children Procedures. Organisations should have a designated safeguarding lead who will take responsibility for consulting with and referring to the local authority designated officer (LADO) when they become aware of an allegation where a member of staff or volunteer has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk to children.
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

The LADO service manages and has oversight of allegations across the children's workforce. The LADO service will provide guidance and oversight to employers about their next steps, including any fact finding or internal investigation that should take place. The LADO service coordinates the safeguarding network, including liaison with the police where required.

Overall, there has been an increase in the number of referrals to the LADO service in both boroughs. This year, the number of allegations where the threshold for investigation is met is high. Schools and education settings were the highest referral source, followed by early years provision. The LADO service continues to receive referrals from the health sector including medical professionals and care workers, with reports such as domestic abuse, drugs, and small number of child protection cases.

Due to the increasing number of referrals, there is heightened pressure on schools, police, referring child workforce agencies, regulatory bodies, and the Local Authority Safeguarding team.

Most settings are now beginning to gain a greater understanding of how to manage low-level concerns and can seek consultation with the LADO service and take internal action.

A low-level concern is any concern that any adult has acted in a way that is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, and doesn't meet the threshold of harm or is not considered serious enough for the setting to refer to the LADO service in the local authority.

Outcomes of allegations referred to the LADO Service

Outcomes	RBKC	WCC
Unfounded	6%	6%
Unsubstantiated	52%	30%
Substantiated	23%	28%
Advice Only	—	32%
No further action after initial consideration	10%	—
Open for investigation	—	4%

These outcomes are in line with expectations.

A review of cases in quality assurance indicates that thresholds for referral to the LADO were appropriate.

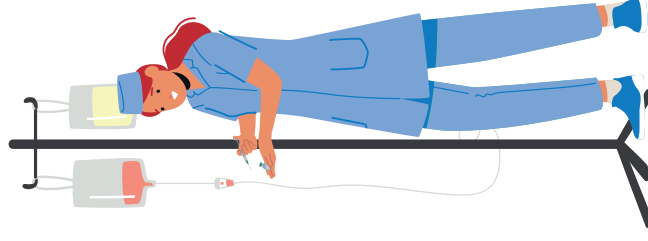
Impact of LADO training and awareness raising

An increased uptake of LSCP training, including opportunities to 'Meet the LADO', or attend Safer Recruitment training, has ensured that a greater number of professionals are aware of when, and how, to make a referral. Training for low-level concerns has also been essential and has allowed the LADO service to equip agencies and partners with the skills needed to identify and address issues with their staff and volunteers.

The LADO service have also observed our community's growing knowledge of how to raise allegations, as more information about this is accessible online, which makes it much easier for the members of the public to raise concerns and for professionals to whistle blow.

What next – LADO Service Plan for 2023/2024

1. Further upskill partner agencies in the identification of low-level concerns and acting now to minimise raising impact later.
2. Essential development of our Case Management System (Mosaic) to be undertaken to ensure that LADO activity and effective case recording are in place.
3. Contribute to the LSCP training programme to ensure we meet the need across the children's workforce.
4. Contribution to the LSCP Safer Organisations Learning Event



LSCP Principle Five: scrutiny, being open to constructive challenge and holding each other to account

Single Agency Audits – the LSCP Best Practice and Performance Subgroup has been informed by a number of single agency audits undertaken by partners.

CLCH: an Audit on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) was conducted to understand if the workforce felt skilled in recognising exploitation and sexual abuse. 81% of staff felt confident in their role to identify and act accordingly. 15% indicated they had no knowledge or awareness. Responses indicated showed slightly less awareness of sexual abuse in boys and children with disabilities.

Recommendations have been adopted and include sessions in confidence building in having difficult conversations with service users, skills in using techniques and tools to assess risk, access to support in supervision, and the dissemination of CLCH's new CSA policy to all staff.

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust: 'Was Not Brought' Cases. The audit explored how well the Trust's 'Was not Brought' (children) and 'Did not Attend' (pregnant mothers) policies were followed. The topic was selected for audit as it is recognised in research that failure to attend medical appointments, including antenatal appointments, can be an indicator of a family's vulnerability and may also have an impact on a child/unborn's health outcomes. The dip sample of these cases found overall that the Trust's policies were being followed correctly. Good practice included that follow up calls were made to pregnant women and



Multi-agency audits

There have been good examples of multi-agency collaboration in service design, including working with Headteachers and DSLs to re-design the Section 175 audits for 2023/2024. However, to date there have not been any multi-agency audits for this year. To address this, we have considered capacity, the need for an agreed audit tool for all partners to use vs partner agencies using service specific audit tools and we will collaborate further on agreed information sharing governance arrangements.

What Next for multi-agency audits in 2023-2024:

To further assist with the roll out of our LSCP multi-agency audit programme, the LSCP aims to develop a tier 2 information sharing agreement with local agencies specifically in relation to multi-agency audits. This will help us to minimise delays and challenges when needing to share information about children as part of our LSCP quality assurance. Lastly, in 23/24, we will re-launch our LSCP Section 11 audits to help local partners reflect on the effectiveness of their own organisation's safeguarding children arrangements.

Independent Scrutiny

The LSCP is required, as per the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children, to set out how it will enable independent scrutiny of our multi-agency arrangements. The Independent Scrutineer provides objective and constructive feedback to the Partnership in order to help drive continuous improvement.

Challenged by long term sick leave of the Independent Chair & Scrutineer, the LSCP has been proactive in developing a workplan for 23/24 for independent scrutiny that includes but is not limited to:

- Scrutiny of housing responses to issues of damp and mould impacting on children and families.
- Scrutiny of the LSCP multi-agency safeguarding children training programme.
- Scrutiny of our published LSCP partnership arrangements and developments in light of revised Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 expected to be published in December 2023.
- Scrutiny of the Section 11 audit submissions requested by the Partnership in 23/24.
- Feedback and challenge around nationally important issues such as reviews published by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.
- Scrutiny of the work of the LSCP subgroups and how we incorporate the voice of children throughout our work.



Appendix 1

Members of the LSCP

LSCP Executive		
Sarah Newman	Bi-borough Executive Director of Children's Services	Children's Services RBKC/WCC
Jennifer Royle	Interim Chief Nurse	NHS North West London ICB
Lucy O'Connor	Detective Chief Inspector Public Protection Investigations	Central West BCU, Metropolitan Police
Members of and Advisers to the LSCP		
Aileen Buckton	Independent Chair and Scrutineer	
Sarah Newman	Bi-borough Executive Director of Children's Services	
Glen Peache	Director of Family Services, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	Children's Services RBKC
Nicky Crouch	Director of Family Services, Westminster City Council	Children's Services WCC
Angela Flahive	Bi-Borough Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	Children's Services RBKC/WCC
Shelley Duffy	Principal Lead Advisor, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster City Council	Education
Trevor Papworth	Headteacher, St Thomas More Language College, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	Education
Naomi Leaver	Executive Headteacher, Robinsfield Infant School and George Eliot Primary, Westminster City Council	Education
Cllr Catherine Faulks	Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (Observer)	Councillor RBKC
Cllr Tim Roca	Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure, Westminster (Observer)	Councillor WCC

Louise Butler	Interim Head of Safeguarding and Quality, Adults Social Care, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster City Council	RBKC/WCC
Bernadette Fry	Assistant Director Neighbourhoods	RBKC Housing
Janet Durrant	Community Safety Manager	Westminster Housing
Rekha Brigue	Interim Head of Public Protection and Stakeholder Engagement	National Probation Service
Sue Sheldon	Assistant Director for Safeguarding Adults and Children	North West London Integrated Care Board
Emelia Bulley	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding	North West London Integrated Care Board
Melanie Guinan	Lead Nurse for Paediatrics, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital	Health – ChelWest
Nicci Wotton	Deputy Director of Nursing and Consultant Nurse for Safeguarding	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
Trish Stewart	Head of Safeguarding, Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust	Health – CLCH
Emma Kay	Head of Safeguarding Children, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	Health – Central North West London Mental Health Trust
Debbie Saunders	Head of Nursing, Safeguarding Children for Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust	RoyalBrompton and Harefield Hospitals
Chermal Williams	Senior Project Manager, Health Team, Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse	Voluntary Sector
Emma Biskupski	LSCP Business Manager	Children's Services
Mark Staples	Detective Chief Inspector, Central West Basic Command Unit	Metropolitan Police
Angela Adams	Service Manager	CAFCASS
Angela Spence	Chief Executive Officer	Kensington and Chelsea Social Council
Mark Chalmers	Head of Community Safety	WCC
Stuart Priestley	Chief Community Safety Officer	RBKC
Manju Lukhman	Bi Borough Violence against Women and Girls Strategic Lead	RBKC/WCC

Appendix 2 Glossary

Adultification: this is a form of discrimination where children from black and other global majority backgrounds are perceived as being more adult-like. It is where they are seen through a lens of deviancy and not necessarily acknowledged as deserving victims, and where their innocence and vulnerability is erased over time.

Alternative Provision: education provision for children who are unable to access mainstream provision for reasons including school exclusion or behavioural issues.

CAMHS: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

Child Protection: part of the safeguarding process, focusing on protecting children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Corporate Parenting Board: board to advise, guide and provide leadership to the council on issues relating to children looked after and care leavers.

CSA: Child Sexual Abuse

CSE: Child Sexual Exploitation

DfE: Department for Education

DAHA: Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

EHC: Education Health and Care Plan

EPB: Education Partnership Board

ICB: Integrated Care Board

KCIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education – statutory guidance for all schools to follow

Kooth: an online mental health platform providing digital mental health support for children and young people.

LAC: Looked After Child

LADO: Local Authority Designated Officer. Role based within the local authority that coordinates the management of allegations against staff and volunteers in the children's workforce.

MACE: Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panel

MOPAC: Mayors Office for Policing and Crime

CSPRP: Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

NRM: National Referral Mechanism

SAEB: Safeguarding Adults Executive Board

VAWG: Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Partnership

VRU: Violence Reduction Unit

Appendix 3 LSCP Financial Arrangements 2022 to 2023

Income	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	City of Westminster
Children's Services	£49,800	£61,800
North West London ICB	£20,000	£20,000
Metropolitan Police	£5,000	£5,000
Probation	£893.37	£1611,21
LSCP training	£6,354.37	£6,354.37
TOTAL	£82,047.74	£94,765.58

Expenditure		
Staffing	£81,379	£81,379
Reviews	£26,454	£0
LSCP Training	£900	£900
Other	£437.50 (TASP Membership Fee)	£437.50 (TASP Membership Fee)
TOTAL	£109,170.50	£82,716.50
Variance	(£27,122.76)	£12,049.08

Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report

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